

Council Minutes

1st Week Hilary Term 2017

1st Week Council started at 5:30pm prompt, 5:30pm, on Wednesday 18th January 2017, at Flora Anderson Hall, Summerville College.

We aim to make Council as accessible as possible, and ensure that it is always in accessible venues. However, if there are any accessibility requirements that we are not meeting for yourself or others, please contact OUSU's Democratic Support Officer on 01865 611831, or at dso@ousu.ox.ac.uk.

Current OUSU Council Discretionary Fund: £920

If you have any questions about OUSU Council, please feel free to contact the Chair, Marina Lambrakis, at marina.lambrakis@sjc.ox.ac.uk.

- a. Oxford Bells Performance
- b. Minutes of the Previous Meeting
- c. Matters Arising from the Minutes
- d. Elections in Council
- e. Reports from and questions to the Sabbatical Officers, Executive Officers, Representatives of the OUSU Campaigns and RAG (*Raise and Give*)
- f. Items for Resolution
 1. End students visiting colleges being admitted only within narrow 'visitor' opening hours (especially larger ones)
 2. Motion to Oppose Policy Platform of Donald Trump
 3. Iffley Open House – People Need Spaces, Spaces Need People!
 4. Condemning Richard Brooks, NUS VP Union Development
- Below the Line*
 5. Selecting RAG charities
 6. OUSU Divisional Board Rep Ratification
- g. Items for Debate
- h. Any Other Business

* We mark some items as “below the line” if we think they are uncontroversial – these will not be discussed unless someone in Council requests this, and at least ¼ of voting members present agree.

Please Note:

OUSU's team will be filming elements of Council as part of a new marketing and communication plan to promote OUSU Council. If you are not happy to be filmed or would like to remain out of the footage please contact Matt Tennant, Membership Services Manager (msm@ousu.ox.ac.uk) or Jo Gregory-Brough, Communications Manager (commsmanager@ousu.ox.ac.uk)
OUSU may be trialling the use of electronic voting pads in Council. These will be explained at the beginning of Council.

Fraser Boistelle (Current Returning Officer) takes the role of Chair as no nominations for the Chair have been received.

a. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes of Meeting Approved

b. Matters Arising from the Minutes

No Matters Arising

c. Elections in Council

Beth Currier (Corpus) RO's elections as Fraser Boistelle is Acting-Chair.

No Hust's Requested.

Deputy Returning Officer – assists the Returning Officer in overseeing elections, referendums and Council. To serve for Hilary Term 2017.

Matthew Collyer (New College)-58
RON-10

Matthew Collyer Elected

Scrutiny Committee (x2) – to interview the Sabbatical officers and write a termly report to Council, in order to scrutinise the officers' work. To serve for a year until the end of Michaelmas Term 2017.

Matthew Collyer (New College)-52
RON-14

Matthew Collyer Elected

d. Reports from and questions to the Sabbatical Officers, Executive Officers, Representatives of the OUSU Campaigns and RAG (*Raise and Give*)

Beth Currie (VP WEO)-End of Terms clear out and Christmas partners went well. HT-Housing is going to be a big issue from a motion from MT16 and a project on Graduate employment in terms of rights as workers at Oxford.

Jack Hampton (President)-Jack gives update from mandates. 1) Miners motions. Letters to Home Secretary & VC sent. 2) OUP Motion-contacted the Registrar's office and haven't had a reply. Reminder to OUSU that Sunday 29th-Winter Conference. Rent negotiation happening this term.

Tom-(St Hughes) When is the quality mark for Clubs and Socs going live?

Jack Hampton (President)-Going to trial this term with 4 Clubs and then hopefully roll out to a wider audience in Trinity 2017 and then on to Michaelmas 2017.

Sandy Downs (VP Welfare & Equal Opps) Appointed the new Director of Student Welfare & Support Services who is currently Senior Tutor at Wolfson. Currently working on resources for students abroad including a upcoming event.

Orla White (VP Women) University is rolling out Sexual Violence report/guidelines which there is student representation. Student Sex workers welfare needs survey closes. Elections-Process for requesting assigned gender should be much easier.

Eden Bailey (VP Access & Academic Affairs) -Eden gives updates on the TEF Campaign. Bill has gone to House of Lords-500 amendments tabled from the Lords, including a 7 hour debate. Eden gives a update on the NSS boycott project, encouraging final year students not to fill out the NSS and gives explanation to why we shouldn't. Access and admissions work. Eden also gives a reminder that elections are happening and to run for positions.

Marina Lambrakis (VP Graduates)-PGR research survey. Finalising a survey on the experience of Dphil students. Brexit: going to be working on a project. Developing some resources/guidelines for employment of graduate students with Beth.

e. Items for Resolution

1. End students visiting colleges being admitted only within narrow 'visitor' opening hours (especially larger ones) MOTION WITHDRAWN AS PROPOSER NOT PRESENT.

OUSU Council NOTES:

1. A considerable amount of colleges have opening hours
2. These opening hours in some cases are fairly restrictive

OUSU Council BELIEVES:

3. These opening hours seem not to promote a community spirit within the University
4. These opening hours are frustrating when visiting friends
5. These opening hours are disliked by many students
6. These opening hours relegate members of the university to view or enter colleges at peak times when tourists are allowed, which does nothing but increase congestion and/or inconvenience the student from a different college.
7. It is not a considerable number of students who would be visiting any one college at any one time, so the opening hours benefit colleges so negligibly and hinder students of the university markedly, that they should be repealed.

OUSU Council therefore RESOLVES:

- 1.To condemn these opening hours as not in-keeping with the inter-collegiate community spirit
- 2.To oppose that these opening hours for other students actually benefit the college in any real way
- 3.To propose that members of the university, on presentation of a valid bod-card, should be admitted to a college (at very least before college doors shut for the night)
- 4.To mandate the Head of the Student Union to lobby the policymakers of the various Oxford colleges with strict opening hours to implement the above resolution.

Proposed by: Stephanos Iossifidis, St Peter's College

Seconded by: Alex Zelenka-Martin, St Peter's College

2. Motion to Oppose Policy Platform of Donald Trump

OUSU Council notes that:

1. Donald Trump is the President-elect of the United States.
2. President-elect Trump has been condemned by the Southern Poverty Law Center and other rights groups for “denigrating people because of their race, their religion, their ethnicity, their gender, and more”.
3. Among the policies espoused on one or more occasions during the campaign include (but are not limited to) banning immigration to the United States by Muslims and/or by people coming from countries with a “history of terrorist violence”, putting Muslim-Americans on a register, “punishing” women for having abortions, and deporting up to 11 million undocumented people with a new “Deportation Force”.
 - a. All of these policies could arguably be regarded as contravening either international law or US constitutional law.
4. Since Donald Trump’s election protests against the result have broken out in Oregon, California, Ohio, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Colorado, New York, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Maryland, Texas, and other states.
 - a. Many of these protests were spearheaded by students like us.
5. President-elect Trump does not enjoy a popular mandate, having received less votes than Hillary Clinton, and won only by virtue of the Electoral College system.
6. President Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, and others have urged unity behind President-elect Trump.
7. The British government has expressed a desire to build on its “enduring and special relationship based on the values of freedom, democracy and enterprise”.

OUSU Council believes that:

1. The policies espoused by Donald Trump throughout the presidential campaign represent a grave threat, especially to people of marginalised and disadvantaged racial, gender and religious communities.
2. These policies, if enacted, would constitute civil rights violations, and peaceful protest, civil disobedience, and nonviolent resistance would constitute proportionate responses.
3. A Trump Administration, combined with a Republican Congress, gives us little reason to believe that some or all of the policies he has espoused would not be enacted.
 - a. If this is so, displays of unity behind the elected President are no longer an appropriate response.
4. It is necessary for people in the UK and around the world to express friendship and solidarity with those who could be harmed by the effect of those policies.

5. While the “special relationship” between the US and the UK is important, it should not be used as an excuse to turn a blind eye to, or assist in, potential US policies which do not abide by international law or human rights norms.
6. People voted for Donald Trump for a wide variety of reasons, and neither they nor the United States as a whole should be automatically condemned, but rather the specific policies and comments of President-elect Trump.
7. As students and as citizens of a diverse range of nations, we should be at the forefront of opposing xenophobic and racist policies, and must express our solidarity with other students and members of our communities who are rightly worried about the prospects of a Trump administration.

OUSU Council resolves:

1. To express our support for Americans, especially those who are Hispanic, African-American, women, LGBTQIA+, Muslim, or members of any other group who may be harmed by US policy over the next four years.
 - a. By “Americans” we refer to all inhabitants of the United States, including undocumented immigrants.
2. To express our hope that President-elect Trump, in office, will chart a moderate course, in light of his lack of a direct popular mandate and the deep divisions in the country.
3. To express our solidarity and support for Americans who, if particular Trump policies are carried out, engage in acts of civil disobedience, nonviolent resistance, and peaceful protest to support the members of marginalised communities and impede the conduct of government operations.
4. To assist individuals and organisations who oppose the policies of President-elect Trump, by for example seeking to provide space or logistical support for speakers.
5. To express the view that the British government should continue to be critical of the policies espoused by President-elect Trump, so that such policies do not become normalised political rhetoric, and he cannot claim foreign support for his actions if they do not merit it.
6. To express our opposition to acts of violence by all sides.
7. To advance the above resolves by mandating the Sabbatical Officers to write a letter to the Foreign Secretary detailing our concerns and sentiments.

Proposed by: Tom Zagoria, St. Anne’s College
Seconded by: Pranay Shah, St. Anne’s College

Motion 1-No student in proposition of the motion after a 2nd email reminder. No request for debate/discussion. Motion FALLS. Eden Bailey (VP Access & Academic Affairs) reminds council to make sure proposer turns up to give opening address.

Tom, St Anne’s College. Tom gives opening speech explaining why the motion was written post US elections results. Since then, there have been a number of policies that have caused problems with minority groups in the US. Lots of people in the US are very concerned about their futures after various comments by Donald Trump.

There is a history in both the US and UK around groups mobilising against social issues and policy changes. The motion expressing our solidarity with a number of groups both inside and UK/US. The

motion focuses more on Trump's policies around human and civil rights. We support people resisting the restriction of these rights through civil action and non-violence disobedience.

AS OUSU, we need to stand up and say these policies are not normal and support those who wish to resist them.

Short Factual Questions

Cameron (Unknown College) Question around resolution 6-act of violence. If people are being attacked violently by the US governance and their right to self-defence-so we need resolve 6?

Tom, St Anne's-We don't want to be encouraging armed violence-such as gun crime. Strong way of opposing policy position to emphasis point around civil disobedience.

Oli, Corpus-Is this specifically Trump's administration or those connected to those who has voted for him?

Tom, St Anne's- Isn't a general condemnation of Trump's supporters. This is more towards the policies that have been suggested/put forward.

Eliz, Queens-Does OUSU have a history of opposing other policy platforms for other foreign leaders?

Marina Lambrakis (VP Graduates), St Johns-We've opposed a people based on a range of views-such as Marina LaPen who spoke at the Oxford Union.

AMENDMENT 1: Take as friendly.

To amend Resolves 6 to read:

'To express opposition to state violence that amounts to abuse of human rights'

Tom, St Anne's Intent is not to imply that violence is the desired way to gather support.

Danny, Jesus-Do you think that in certain situations its appropriate to condemn violence committed by civil rights groups?

Tom, St Anne's-I don't think the recent shootings in Dallas should be taken as a principle for looking at violent action. We need to distinguish things like targeted murdered of police officers (for example) and resistance of restriction in Civil Rights.

Derick, St Peters-In Resolves 3, is this motion encouraging people to break the law?

Tom, St Anne's-To a certain extent yes. We are referring to to where restrictions of Civil Rights are happening: similar to anti-segregation policies in the 50's and 60's and I think justifiable.

Alastair, St Johns Resolves 4 is quite broad such as '*groups*' and '*support*'-how do you see that being more specific?

Arianna, Linacre-What are Students Unions/Students/NUS doing more broader?

Tom, St Anne's-Very happy to look into.

(Can't hear students name), Wadham-Would this mean that we give support anyone who opposed any policy proposed by Trump?

Tom, St Anne's: No-but await for the friendly amendment to come through

Amendment 3:

To change Resolves 4:

Accepted as friendly

'To consider how OUSU can best assist individuals and organisations who oppose policies of President-elect that may negatively affect marginalised groups'

Open Debate

Sam, Merton-Hard to understand why as OUSU should we taking a position. Don't think this is a good use of time/resources from OUSU. There isn't the need for it here.

Simon, Trinity-OUSU really shouldn't be taking a side. We don't say what policies that we are going to oppose. Motion perpetuates the feeling that OUSU is a liberal organisation that supported Hilary. OUSU doesn't have a history of condemning other world leaders who have committed human rights abuses.

Fraser, St Hughes- Argue that motion is relevant to students as we aren't condemning all right wing policies. We aren't jumping to a conclusion to suggest that he's going to have damaging polices.

AMENDMENT 4:

To add a resolve (8):

Accepted as friendly.

'To consult with other Universities and NUS in order to bring these concerns to a wider audience if possible?'

Arianna Linacre-How politically aware should students and how much should they we aware?

Lucas-Wadham, We should be happy to oppose trends politically around the world, and there are close links between the US/UK. We should oppose this trend and not normalise it and we shouldn't take Trump as a normal political.

Sam Merton-Students should take a position, however OUSU shouldn't. OUSU is here to serve the students here at Oxford and should only take political views when we need to.

Oli, Corpus-Students should take positions, however OUSU shouldn't be. Understand the spirit of the motion, however the content is a bit vague. From the outside that seems like we are condemning a whole government. Individuals should voice that opinion themselves, but a SU shouldn't have such a political position.

Tom, St Anne's-There wasn't much thought into the title of the motion. Can we change the title?

Orla White-VP Women, We have a range of policies such as anti-racism policy, anti-sexism policy that stretch wider than the direct student body. Its vital to show that we support a range of issues such as abortion rights, and live their life free from violence etc. These polices mean that we should support the motion.

Oli, Corpus-Title isn't just the main issue-but the content itself.

Fergus-Trinity, Donald Trump was democratically elected as the President and we should respect that mandate. By opposing policies you are obstructing democracy. Hilary's campaign accepted donations from countries which have terrible human rights records.

Fraser, Chair-Reminder not to heckle in the room.

Arianna Linacre US President has a significant position to influence policy and we should take that into consideration.

Procedural Motion:

Move to Vote

PASS

Summary Speeches:

Tom, St Anne's A very lively debate! Donald Trump has been elected, he did however lose the democratic votes. The motion doesn't call for him to be overthrown-we are calling for a condemnation for particular policies. There are many students here at Oxford that are within the groups that maybe affected by his policies.

Sam, Merton International issues are important to students, but I don't think there is enough of a call from OUSU to take a stance. We are also prioritising US policy over any other country around the world

37 FOR

11 AGAINST

22 ABSTAIN

MOTION PASSES

3. Iffley Open House – People Need Spaces, Spaces Need People!

This Council notes that:

1. On New Year's Eve, a group of residents, rough sleepers and homeless people legally occupied an empty building on Iffley Road in order to find shelter on some of the coldest nights of the year.

2. The residents of Iffley Open House are asking for leave to stay in the space for three months.

C) They have been served a possession order and are facing possible eviction.

D) The building is owned by Wadham College, but currently leased by Midcounties Cooperative. The possession order has come from Midcounties Cooperative.

3. The community has been extraordinarily supportive of Iffley Open House, offering supplies, over £2000 in donations and messages of solidarity.

4. A) Wadham College has issued a statement citing its concerns for the health and safety of residents and volunteers at Iffley Open House.

B) The residents and volunteers at Iffley Open House have worked hard to ensure that the building is safe and comfortable to live in.

5. A) The numbers of rough sleepers in Oxford has risen drastically in the last few years.

B) Services for homeless people and rough sleepers have been cut.

C) Recently, people sleeping rough on UK streets have died due to freezing temperatures.

This Council believes that

- 1.It is fundamentally absurd, and deeply outrageous, that people in our community should be at risk of death and serious harm from sleeping rough, while buildings lie empty.
- 2.That as Wadham College is proud of its history and image as a progressive establishment with strong social values, it should do everything within its power to ensure that the residents can safely remain for three months.
- 3.As Midcounties Cooperative is proud of its history and image as a progressive establishment with strong social values, it should do everything within its power to ensure that the residents can safely remain for three months.
- 4.Given the dangers of rough sleeping, especially in freezing weather, Wadham’s concerns for the safety of residents and volunteers at Iffley Open House are not a reason to evict them.
- 5.Iffley Open House is an incredibly valued part of our local community.

This Council resolves to

- 1.Unequivocally support the actions of Iffley Open House.
- 2.Support the residents and volunteers in their fight to occupy the space for the next three months.
- 3.Mandate the Sabbatical Officers to use their platform to increase publicity and awareness of Iffley Open House, through sharing petitions, donation pages and information.
- 4.Mandate the Sabbatical Officers to oppose and resist any attempted eviction.
- 5.Mandate the Sabbatical Officers to encourage Oxford students to offer practical help, such as legal expertise, marketing skills, donations and volunteered time.

Proposed by: Orla White (Brasenose)

Seconded by: Bethany Currie (Corpus Christi)

¹ <http://www.cherwell.org/2017/01/09/wadham-making-every-effort-after-squatters-appeal-for-use-of-temporary-homeless-shelter/>

² <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-37790288>

³ <http://www.cherwell.org/2016/11/25/cuts-to-local-authorities-force-two-oxford-homeless-shelters-to-close/>

⁴ <http://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/homeless-man-found-dead-coldest-12279457>

⁵ <http://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/news/liverpool-news/rough-sleeper-dies-after-being-12418860>

Orla White (VP Women) On New Years Eve, a group of local residents occupied a empty building on Iffley Road. It’s owned by Wadham college and the free-hold is owned by Midlands Co-Opt. There was a court ruling last Friday which was adjured and there is a hope that the occupants can stay in the building.

Part of the reason we have a VP C&C is that students are part of the community and have a sense of volunteering within the local community. The motions call for us to give support to the occupation, and for us to oppose any attempt to evict within the 3 months unless alternate accommodation is provided.

Lucas, Wadham, Wadham SU has passed a motion in support. Also encouraging Wadham to open the flats above the property. Would it be okay to amend the motion to alter the dates mentioned in the motion.

Tim Merton, In regards to making the building space: from reports in the student press-there maybe asbestos in in the building. What is going done to deal with that?

Orla White (VP Women)-Areas are being cordoned off. Been checked by two electricians. Also vetted for fire safety.

Oli Corpus, Is the only problem asbestos?

Orla White (VP Women), Some very questions-the main issues with the asbestos. Mid-Counties Co-Opt visited the space to check to see the safety of the building and was confirmed all is okay.

Amendment

AMENDMENT 5:

To Replace Believes 2

“For three months” with “Until demolition begins”.

To Replace Believes 3:

As above

To Replace Resolves 2:

As above

Accepted as friendly.

No requests for Debate.

MOTION PASSES

4. Condemning Richard Brooks, NUS VP Union Development-MOTION WAS WITHDRAWN BY PROPOSER

The following statement was submitted to Oxford University Students’ Union following the withdrawal of the motion at 13.59pm ‘Condemning Richard Brookes, VP Union Development’ from OUSU Council on Wednesday 18th January 2017.

The proposer, Sean O’Neill asked for the following to be read to OUSU Council following the motions withdrawal:

We have decided to withdraw our motion of last week. Since it was proposed, various investigations and enquiries have now been opened, including by Thames Valley Police and the NUS. Following recent revelations in the national media, including the Daily Mail and the BBC, concerning illegal activities of the Israeli embassy directed against a minister of the British government, committees of

parliament, civil society, and student representatives, authorities are looking into several instances of university students being falsely accused of anti-Semitism as a means of intimidating student campaigners for Palestinian rights at Oxford, and evidence of foreign interference in democratic processes on our campus. As these are serious allegations, we think it is appropriate to wait until the results of these processes are concluded, and the findings published, to put forward a motion.

We apologise to Council for any inconvenience.

Original Motion:

OUSU Council NOTES that:

1. A documentary aired by al Jazeera on 11 January contains evidence that Richard Brooks, NUS Vice President (Union Development), has been working alongside figures in the Israeli Embassy to bring down the democratically elected NUS President, Malia Bouattia, bringing the Union as a whole into disrepute.
2. NUS, and those it elects, have a duty towards students and sabbatical officers to act in a professional manner, and in the interest of students.
3. Brooks won his election on a platform that strongly emphasised furthering NUS democracy, and is currently spearheading NUS' democracy review.
4. NUS has policy to endorse boycott, divestment, and sanctions against Israel, which they adopted in 2014 after Israel's attacks on Gaza that summer, and all elected officers must adhere to NUS policy.
5. This incident takes place in a climate where student activists, NUS, and the NUS President have been systematically undermined, attacked, and harassed for expressing support for Palestinian rights.

OUSU Council BELIEVES that:

1. It is unacceptable for somebody in Brooks' position to work with a government official to undermine and damage one of the largest democratic institutions in the UK, which represents over 7 million students.
2. The actions of Brooks have undermined NUS' democratic structures - the very structures that elected him into his position - and have made a mockery of student democracy.
3. The decisions of students and student democracy should be sovereign within our union: these cannot be ignored or subject to whims of government influence, or of officers' personal agendas.
4. Political disagreements between elected officials are inevitable, but they must be negotiated in transparent and accountable ways, which has not happened here.
5. Brooks' actions constitute a gross breach of the trust placed on him to build stronger bonds between the NUS and students, and have made his position untenable.

OUSU therefore RESOLVES to:

1. Call for Richard Brooks to issue a full and unequivocal public apology.
2. Call for his resignation from his position.
3. Mandate the OUSU Sabbatical Officers to write a public letter to Brooks explaining our union's grievances, as laid out in this motion.
4. Continue pushing for Oxford University to introduce measures to ensure the protection of students to express themselves democratically, without bureaucratic or ideological interference.
5. Reject all undemocratic attempts to unseat democratically elected officers.

Proposed: Sean O'Neill

Seconded: Rayan Fakhoury

Below the line

5. Selecting RAG charities-NO REQUEST FOR DISCUSSION-MOTION PASSES

Council Notes:

1. For the past four years cross-campus ballots have taken place in order to choose the RAG charities.
2. The selection process of RAG charities is due to take place this term.
3. In the past, four charities are selected annually of which two of which are local and two national or international.
4. Nominations are open to all members of OUSU, as is voting.
5. Successful charities are supported for one full OUSU/RAG financial year starting on 1st August.
6. A shortlist of these nominations is compiled by the RAG Executive Committee, under rules agreed by the committee in collaboration with OUSU's Returning Officer.
7. The current regulations have succeeded in encouraging many nominations for a range of charities but a recurring feature of the ballot is that the same charities are chosen year on year.
8. Updated regulations (Appendix 5, Annexe A) for shortlisting RAG's charities have been agreed by RAG's Executive Committee, along with an explanation of any changes.

Council believes:

1. That these changes to the regulations enable RAG to work with proactive and supportive charities whilst helping OUSU meet its obligations to the local community and promoting student leadership and ensuring that charities do not rely on RAG funding to cover core costs.

Council Resolves:

1. To hold a cross campus ballot for the 2017-18 RAG charities using the Single Transferable Vote system.
2. To mandate the Returning Officer to administer the selection process and ballot on behalf of RAG, under Campaigning and Conduct Guidelines set out in Appendix 5, Annexe C.
3. To adopt the shortlisting criteria set out in Appendix 5, Annexe A.
4. To use the selection procedure set out in Appendix 5 Annexe B.
5. To mandate the RAG Executive to execute the shortlisting process set out in Appendix 5 Annex A.
6. To mandate the RAG Executive to adhere to the results of the cross campus ballot in selecting the 2016-17 charities.
7. To mandate the RAG Executive to publicise nominations and the ballot.
8. To mandate the VP (Charities & Community) to produce an annual report upon the conclusion of the RAG charity selection process, explaining why particular charities were or were not shortlisted

Proposed: Joe Hill (LMH)

Seconded: Bethany Currie (Corpus Christi)

Annexe A: Proposed Criteria for Shortlisting RAG Charities

1. Charities that are not registered in the United Kingdom with UK Bank Accounts will be excluded from consideration.
2. Charities which display an overt political stance or a strong link to a religious movement will be excluded from consideration.
3. The marginal impact of receiving funds from OUSU RAG will be considered, with charities which can display significant benefits from obtaining RAG funding given preference.
4. Charities which have been recognised by an independent body for their cost effectiveness will be favoured in the shortlisting process.
5. Charities that can display a large degree of involvement from current students of the University of Oxford will be given preference in the shortlisting process.

6. Charities which have received multiple nominations in one year will be given preference in the shortlisting process.
7. Charities which have been chosen to be a RAG charity the preceding three years will receive a penalty concordant with the recency of its association with RAG.
8. Providing false information about a charity in the nomination form will result in said charity's exclusion from consideration.

Revisions to Last Year's Shortlisting Process

As in 2016, a points system will be used to determine the shortlisted charities. In 2016, the process was as follows:

2.5 points were awarded to any charity which is student run (as defined in the OUSU Council motion passed in 1st Week Council HT 2016 - i.e. students maintain executive control of the charity)

0-5 points were awarded on the basis of an average of RAG Executive votes in that range for

- a. Cost effectiveness of the charity
- b. Impact of RAG's funds
- c. Ability/likelihood for the charity to help RAG with its work

1 point was then added for each nomination for that charity*

While it was noted that scaling the scores between 0 and 5 made no difference to the final selected charities, it was recommended for future years to have a specific system for this.

The RAG Coordinator, RAG President, RAG Charities Liaison Officer and OUSU VP Charities and Community resolved to revise this system for the 2017 shortlisting. Firstly, it was agreed that a points system of 0-5 provided too much scope for individual interpretation, so it was determined to reduce this points system to 0-3, 0 and 3 being extreme examples of a given charity and 1 or 2 demonstrating moderates of negative and positive, respectively.

Secondly, it was felt that the definition of student-led charity excluded many of the ways students may be involved in charities (particularly local) in non-executive functions. It was also felt that 2.5 points gave such a charity too great an advantage in the process. Thus, it was decided to accord 1.5 points instead to a charity which can display evidence of strong student involvement, as described in the accompanying nomination form.

Thirdly, it was noted that a recurring feature of the charity ballot has been that of the same charities being chosen year on year. To combat this, a 3 point deduction to nomination charities which were chosen as a RAG charity in the immediately preceding year, the deduction of a single point if said charity was a chosen charity three years previously, and two points if a chosen charity two years previously has been agreed. Three years reflects the average length of an undergraduate course at the university.

Finally, the category 'Ability/likelihood for the charity to help RAG with its work' has been removed, as RAG no longer believes this relevant stipulation to the shortlisting process.

Thus, the ranking process runs as follows:

Ranking the charities for shortlisting

The ranking process is administered by the RAG Executive Committee, the RAG Charities Liaison Officer and the OUSU VP C&C, following a period of research and discussion, which functions as follows:

1. 1.5 points were awarded to any charity with a large degree of student involvement.
2. 0-3 points were awarded on the basis of an average of RAG Executive votes in that range for
 - a. Cost effectiveness of the charity
 - b. Impact of RAG's funds
3. 1 point was then added for each nomination for that charity
4. 3 points were deducted for any charity that had been a RAG charity in the year previous, 2 points deducted for any charity that had been a RAG charity 2 years previous and 1 point deducted for a charity that had been a RAG charity 3 years previously

Annexe B: Selection Procedure for RAG Charities

1. Nominations will open Thursday 19th January at 12:00 (1st Week)
2. The deadline for nominating charities shall be Thursday 26th January at 12:00 (2nd week).
3. The shortlist of nominated charities will be announced within 48 hours of the close of nominations.
4. Polling shall take place from Tuesday 7th February (4th Week) at 08:00 and conclude at Thursday 9th February at 18:00 (4th Week).
5. The Returning Officer shall resolve complaints about the Charity Selection process.
6. Two charities will be selected from each category.

Annexe C: RAG Ballot 2016 Campaigning and Conduct Guidelines

1. There are no explicit spending limits for the period of the election. However, in consideration of the fact that it is an election for charities, it is not considered appropriate that large amounts of money are spent on an election campaign that could be donated to charity.
2. Despite this, printed material such as posters can be made and put up where allowed as this is a good way of drawing attention to the ballot.
3. Online campaigning, such as through Facebook and Twitter, is encouraged. This includes making groups, status updates and using chat on Facebook, and tweeting and creating a hashtag on Twitter. However, it is not recommended nor deemed appropriate to use these media for spamming.
4. Verbal campaigning is effective, and whilst door knocking is discouraged, speaking to friends and people in their college about the ballot is a great way to spread the word.
5. Where possible, it would be preferred if you could direct people to the information page for the elections [x]. This has all the information about the ballot including information about each different charity and information on the nominations procedure.
6. Negative campaigning is strongly discouraged. It is recommended that campaigners focus on the positives of the charity for which they are campaigning, rather than the negatives of other charities.
7. You are allowed to campaign for more than one charity, both between different types of charities (student-run, local and international) and charities within the same contest.
8. Use of mailing lists such as JCR or Society lists is allowed, with the approval of whoever is in charge of the list.
9. While the lack of explicit regulations makes complaints unlikely, should you have any, please get in touch with the RO at ro@ousu.ox.ac.uk.
10. If you or someone you know of is unaware as to how to vote, ask them to contact the RO.
11. If tweeting then the hashtag #ragballot2017 is recommended.
12. Any member of OUSU is permitted to formally campaign on behalf of the shortlisted charities, with the exception of any member of the RAG Executive Committee, the sabbatical trustees, the OUSU Returning Officer or any other party that is part of the nominations, shortlisting or ballot process.
13. Members of OUSU are free to express their opinion as to preferred charities, except for those named in 12.
14. The Returning Officer shall produce guidelines on campaigning to the nominators of the shortlisted charities.
15. Violation of these regulations may result in a nominated charity being removed from the ballot at the discretion of the Returning Officer.

6. OUSU Divisional Board Rep Ratification NO REQUEST FOR DISCCUSION-MOTION PASSES

Council Notes:

1. In Hilary 2016, OUSU conducted a review of the appointment, support, and role of the Divisional Board Representatives after consultation with various stakeholder groups. The result of the review was to move the appointments of Divisional Board Reps from OUSU Council election to an application and appointment based system.

2. The appointment of several Divisional Board Reps in 1st week Council of Michaelmas Term 2016 for the academic year 2016/17.

3. In Michaelmas Term 2016, OUSU successfully conducted another application process for the remaining vacant Divisional Board Rep positions:

- Postgraduate Humanities Divisional Board Rep
- Postgraduate Medical Sciences Divisional Board Rep
- Postgraduate MPLS (Mathematical, Physical & Life Sciences) Divisional Board Rep

4. OUSU Council are still required to ratify the appointments.

Council Resolves:

1. To approve the appointment of:
 - a. Gabriel Lawson as Postgraduate Humanities Divisional Board Rep
 - b. Jonas Bovijn as Postgraduate Medical Sciences Divisional Board Rep
 - c. Arianna Schuler-Scott as Postgraduate MPLS Divisional Board Rep

Proposed by: Marina Lambrakis (St John's)

Seconded by: Eden Bailey (Magdalen)

f. Items for Debate

No Items for Debate

g. Any Other Business

Chair reminds members of Council to run in the upcoming election.
