

### **OUSU Council Minutes - 1st Week MT03**

The Chair reminds everyone to remember to please print out their own agendas and reports and bring them along to council. This is in line with OUSU's environmental policy.

#### **a. Minutes of previous meeting**

Helena Puig Larrauri (St.Hilda's): Apologies for the lack of minutes from last council. They have gone missing.

#### **Procedural motion**

Dan Paskins (Magdalen): I move that motions 2, 3, 5 and 7 are moved up the agenda to after the Executive reports. I think it would be a good idea to have motions pertaining to graduate issues first on the agenda. Graduates make up a third of OUSU's members and we need to increase their involvement. They often have more time commitments than undergraduates, so it would make it easier for them to have their say on motions relating to them if they are first on the agenda.

No opposition - motion passes.

#### **e. Reports from the Sabbatical Officers**

Helena Puig Larrauri (St.Hilda's), President:

There is an article in the Times Higher this week in which Colin Lucas, the University Vice-Chancellor lays out his views on top-up fees. This is still a very important issue. Please come on the National Demo on the 26th October and encourage your freshers to wear gold ribbons at Matriculation. Also, it had been a really nice summer as all the sabs have got on.

Rodrigo Davies (Wadham), Vice-President (Finance):

We do indeed get on very well! Please let people know about the opportunity for clubs and societies to use OUSU Live to set up email lists. It is open to all and there has already been a massive take-up. Email me if you are interested.

Rosie Buckland (St.Hilda's), Vice-President (Welfare):

Surveyors have been in to look at the new offices and things are moving ahead in terms of improving wheelchair access. It may be possible for access to be gained through the church at the front.

Catherine Wallis (Keble), Vice-President (Women):

Nothing to add other than the Nightbus phone seems to be broken so it might not be running tonight. Will get it sorted out as soon as possible.

Dan Paskins (Magdalen), Vice-President (Graduates):

I have met with the Dean of Mature Students this week. And, there will be a mature students' ghost tour on the 29th October.

Louise McMullan (Wadham), Vice-President (Access and Academic Affairs):

This Wednesday was the term's first meeting of Academic Affairs committee and we had 17 college reps there. Next Wednesday, there will a JCC forum in the offices, so encourage any JCC reps to come along.

Josefa Henry-Bochan (Wadham), Vice-President (Charities and Community):

Please read my report. Look at [www.getinvolved.org](http://www.getinvolved.org). Also, there is the Rag Matriculation Beerfest on Saturday.

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#### **Questions to Sabbaticals**

Adam Turnbull (Balliol): To VP (Finance). Can you please explain to me what the link is between the numbers of freshers a college has going to Freshers' Fair and their requirement to provide stewards.

RDD: There is no link. It is possible that the Freshers' Fair organisers thought there was but if they did put that across they did so in good faith. I'm sorry if you felt there was compulsion. Problems arose from the organisers being appointed so late on.

Dominic Curran (St.Hugh's): To VP (Finance). Do clubs and societies have to be registered with the Proctors to use OUSU live? And do they have to be University-wide, or can college clubs use it?

RDD: No, they don't have to be registered with the Proctors and there would be no problems with college clubs using it. All clubs have to sign the terms of agreement for the service.

David White (Wadham): To VP (Women). Is it true that St.Hilda's Governing Body is having another vote on whether the college should go mixed this term?

CW: I have only hearsay to go on. It would be best to ask someone from Hilda's.

Helen McCabe (St.Hilda's): I have spoken to the Principal about the rumours of a vote and she won't confirm or deny them. She says it is confidential.

David Follows (Oriel): To VP (Finance). What advantages does OUSU Live have over OUCS email lists?

RDD: The OUSU Live lists are easier to administer. People can sign up and also leave the list without you having to add or remove them. It is also possible for messages to be sent to different year groups, for example just to freshers. It has a lot of potential and I'm happy to show people how it works.

Greg Stafford (St.Peter's): To VP (AcAcAff). Your report starts off rather strangely..?

LMM: Yes, that's a mistake. There's some missing from the beginning...

Michael Girling (SEH): To President. I've had a request from the NUS to make a submission to a report. Is OUSU doing so?

HPL: Best for LMM to answer.

LMM: The University is responding to the document. The Student Union is allowed to put a response and it is better for OUSU to do this than individual JCRs.

Jonty Oliff-Cooper (Magdalen): To President. What is happening with the new licensing act? Have you heard anything?

HPL: I think DP can answer this one.

DP: I'm about to sit on the new licensing committee! The local authority is now deciding on late licenses instead of magistrates so they are likely to be looked upon more favourably.

Fiona Coady (Hertford): To President. Have you seen the new Private Industry and Security Act? What are your views on the idea of training students as security for bops etc.?

HPL: I have only read it briefly. I will discuss it in more detail when I have had more time to look at it.

#### **f. Reports from the Executive Officers who wish to make reports**

Louise Radnofsky (Univ) sends her apologies and is happy to take any questions by email

John Blake (St.Hugh's): F&F - we need as many freshers wearing gold ribbons at Matriculation as possible. International Students' committee will be discussing the issues arising from the new charges for the extension of Visas. It meets Wednesdays of even weeks at 5.30pm in the OUSU offices.

Rebecca Wilkinson (SEH): Promoting Choice committee is getting up and running again this term, so

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Rebecca Wilkinson (SEH): Promoting Choice committee is getting up and running again this term, so please email me to get involved if you have a particular view or interest in the issue.

Laura West (St.Catz): There was an entz consultation meeting this week but we still need more feedback. OUSU Reps committee is meeting on Wednesdays of odd weeks at 6pm in the offices. It is a very important forum so please encourage your OUSU reps to come along.

#### **d Elections in Council**

Chair: Please add the RO election onto the ballot paper. There are 2 candidates, Conor O'Neill from Wadham and Angela Kail from Worcester for 1 place, and there is no RON option. The President will be RO for these elections.

##### Election for RO

Neither candidate has any declarations

Conor O'Neill (Wadham): It is important for the OUSU RO to be fair, impartial and decisive. I have shown that I have these qualities from the jobs I have done in OUSU. I was Chair of Council for 2 terms and I showed that I could be fair under pressure and was impartial. I served on OUSU Complaints Board where we worked together to assess evidence in a fair, impartial manner. I have assisted in college elections so I have knowledge of how to use election regulations. The ideas that I have to improve the elections, I will be putting to council if I am elected. They include the formalisation of the endorsement process, clarifying the ban on attempting to influence people when they are voting and clarifying whether or not Tribunal rulings count as election material.

Angela Kail (Worcester): I served on Junior Tribunal for the OUSU elections last year and I have been CRO in my college. Time and effort is required to run elections well. I am fair and I am impartial. I showed this in the many Junior Tribunal meetings I sat on last year.

Questions:

Louise McMullan (Wadham): Should Sabs serve on Elections Committee or Junior Tribunal?

AK: No, I don't think that they should. There tends to be a problem, though, when there are not enough people to fill the positions.

CON: Sabs are bound to be impartial by the Standing Orders. I don't think that they should sit on Tribunal but they are often needed on Elections Committee.

Georgia Toynbee (Balliol): Do you both have flexible enough timetables to deal with the time demands of the job?

CON: I'm a first year graduate and my timetable is very flexible.

AK: Yes. I showed this last year when as a member of Junior Tribunal I was called to meetings at all times of the day and night!

Pete Morton (Somerville): Are you happy with the Single Transferable Vote system?

AK: Yes, I have counted STV before.

CON: I have counted it and am very happy with it.

Torsten Henricson-Bell (Mansfield): How do you see the role of the student press in the elections?

CON: The election regulations deal with interview procedures. I think it is very important to separate activists from the press to maintain credibility and trust in the press.

AK: The student press plays a very valuable role in the elections. A contact is needed but we mustn't forget how valuable the press is.

Torsten Henricson-Bell (Mansfield): How do you see the role of the student press in the elections?

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AK: The student press plays a very valuable role in the elections. A contact is needed but we mustn't forget how valuable the press is.

#### Complaints Board Election

2 candidates for 6 places.

Declarations:

Daniel Rees (Merton): I am a member of OULD and the Liberal Democrats

Katherine Richardson (St.John's): I am a member of OUCA.

DR: I am standing because I think it is an important and worthwhile thing to do. I am suitable for the job because I am fair and impartial - I am not friends with people involved in OUSU.

KR: The best way to judge an organisation is how it deals with things when they go wrong. I have very little connection to OUSU, so I can be impartial. I am used to dealing with complaints through my work on the Access Committee.

Questions

Laura West (St.Catz): Last term Will Straw put through some reforms to the Complaints Board process making it more informal...

Ros Dampier (St.Hilda's): Point of information. The executive rejected the reforms.

LW: OK. I'll rephrase my question. How would you view reforms to the complaints process to make things more informal?

DR: I was there in the Exec meeting when the reforms were put. Some parts of them were good. More flexibility would be useful but the option of making a formal complaint should remain.

KR: It is vital that complaints are recorded, so verbal complaints are problematic. Formalisation is needed to ensure that there can be proper recording of the progress of a complaint. There are ways in which complaints procedures can be made more accessible without getting rid of record keeping.

Conor O'Neill (Wadham): Is it appropriate for people on Complaints Board to be involved in its reform?

KR: The people who have served on Complaints Board will be the ones who know best about how it works. The committee should be consulted but someone else should decide the changes.

DR: I agree with Katherine. Complaints Board should not have sole power but can play a useful advisory role. Changes would have to come to Council, anyway.

Helena Puig Larrauri (St.Hilda's): New Standing Orders mean that we don't have to hear husts for uncontested positions unless someone requests them. Does anyone want to hear the other husts?

Ros Dampier (St.Hilda's): I would.

#### Humanities Divisional Board Rep Election

One candidate for one place. No declarations.

Linsey Cole (St.John's): I have sat on the History JCC and on the University JCC. I have a good awareness of the issues. There are problems that JCC Reps are not always aware of.

No questions.

#### Life and Environmental Sciences Divisional Board Rep Election

One candidate for one place.

No questions.

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One candidate for one place.

Sarah Cooper (Wadham) is not present to hust.

#### OUSU Executive Election

2 candidates for 2 places.

Declarations:

Greg Stafford (St.Peter's): I'm a member of OUCA, the Conservative Party, but not Conservative Future.

Matthew Richardson (St.Peter's): I'm also a member of OUCA and the Conservative Party and am a member of Conservative Future.

GS: I am a 3rd year and the Finalists' Officer at my college, St.Peter's. I was previously the OUSU/NUS Rep. I went on NUS conference and then disaffiliated the college. The NUS is a waste of time as it currently stands. I have a sense of belief in OUSU. I served on Junior Tribunal; I think we met once. I will be a safe pair of hands for the rest of the term.

MR: I have a cold. I was actually elected in a cross-campus ballot on a joke manifesto. I was the only one of the Executive to go to every single Diversity Week event. I had to resign due to having finals last term; I didn't feel that I had enough time to devote myself fully to the job of Exec. Now, I don't have finals. Restore me to office.

Questions

Georgia Toynbee (Balliol): The way I see it, there are two parts to the job of Exec - the hard work and the political stuff. Firstly, are you willing to work hard? Secondly, what portfolios would you like to work on?

MR: When I was last on Exec, I had Oxford Student Scholarships and NUS as my portfolios. I worked hard for OSS and got a little Vietnamese kid into St.John's. I hear that this is the term with the most to do for OSS. I would also quite like NUS back.

GS: I have no interest in particular portfolios - I'm willing to fill the gaps. I have been involved in the 'Take the shirt off my back' campaign so I would be interested in F&F.

Rob Vance (Wadham): Have you stood for this position before and, if so, how many times?

GS: Yes, and this is my third time.

MR: Yes, this is also my third time.

Pete Morton (Somerville): How many OUSU events have you been to this week?

MR: None

GS: None

#### Oxford Trade Unions Council Election

2 candidates for 2 places. No declarations.

Shayna Strom (New): I'm a politics postgrad. I was very involved when I was an undergraduate with labour issues on campus. I have already met with Unison; this position seems like a natural progression for me.

Charlynn Pullen (St.Hugh's): I am the Green Rep on my JCR, so I have been going to Environment Committee and involved in their work on recycling schemes. We have been researching with the Council to allow colleges as well as locals to recycle. I would like to work on increasing the links between students and the local community. I am also a Target Schools co-chair so will be interested in any access issues that come up.

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## Questions

Daniel Rees (Merton): What do you think the relationship between OUSU and the trade unions should be?

CP: OUSU and trade unions should work together.

SS: Students have a clear interest. The relationship between students and workers is very important. That doesn't mean we need to support everything that they do.

Louise McMullan (Wadham): How important is it for us to have solidarity with the workers' movement in general?

SS: I'm not sure exactly what that means. Obviously, we should support workers' rights. It is important for us to share information.

CP: It is important to have solidarity with the movement.

Jamie Ballin (St.Anne's): What does OUSU do that is directly relevant to trade unions?

CP: Many things. For example, recycling, access, the campaign against top-up fees. Many of our policies can also be relevant to workers.

SS: The work of the Community Committee is particularly relevant. Students are also residents of the city.

Tom Goodhead (Magdalen): In the US, there have been issues with workers' pay at universities. What should our response be if similar issues arise here? Should OUSU support similar strikes?

SS: I come from the university that had the most strike action. It is not my role to tell OUSU what to do.

CP: It would be important to consult OUSU members.

Tom Hart (Univ): The issue of differential rates of student loan for different parts of the country has come up recently. Trade unions oppose differential pay for their workers. Do you support this?

Georgia Toynbee (Balliol): Point of information. That is not the case. Some unions support the differential rates.

Question withdrawn.

## **h Passage of Motions Nem Con**

No motions passed nem con

## Motion 2 - Election Regulations - by-election for VP (Graduates)

Proposed: Helena Puig Larrauri (St.Hilda's)

Seconded: Catherine Wallis (Keble)

HPL: The changes in this motion will only apply for this year. There was a mistake made when appointing Dan Paskins as VP (Grads). This motion is the best way to resolve this. Please ask me questions.

## Short Factual Questions

None

## Opposition

Conor O'Neill (Wadham): This is against the constitution. JCC will have problems with it. It would be better for Dan Paskins to be ratified by Council.

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None

Opposition

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Debate

HPL: I have two problems with what Conor said. Firstly, we have already gone against the constitution due to the mistakes made. Secondly, whilst we could just ratify Dan that would mean we would have someone serving for a year who has not won an election.

Dominic Curran (St.Hugh's): What happens if PGA is inquorate?

HPL: PGA is just where the vote is being held - it won't actually just happen during the meeting.

Gavin Lowe (Keble): Won't it be problematic if someone who has been led to think they have the job for the year doesn't get elected, so loses their job?

Michael Girling (SEH): OUSU needs to identify where these problems arose and not allow this to happen again.

Lucie Low (Magdalen): How long has he been doing the job?

HPL: Since 1st September.

DC: Why can't we hold the election cross-campus, at the same time as the other elections?

HPL: It would be confusing for graduates as they would be voting for two VP (Grads) at once. Also, it would mean that Dan would have to wait until 6th week to have his position legitimised.

Tom Goodhead (Magdalen): Is there not a problem that PGA could be packed?

HPL: That is the case with any election. The ballot will not just be held during PGA, the box will be open for several hours.

## Motion passes

### Motion 3 - OUSU VP (Graduates) election 2004-5

Proposed: Dan Paskins (Magdalen)

Seconded: Nicholas Cole (Univ)

DP: It is most convenient for undergraduates to have the elections for Sab posts in Michaelmas, this is not the case for graduates. There are problems with the timing of the VP (Grads) election for courses and tutor's permission. This is cutting off the potential for good candidates. To increase participation, we should move the election later in the year.

SFQs

Nicky Ellis (Queen's): When is the latest that the election would be held?

DP: That depends on what graduates say. It would probably be before 3rd Week Trinity Term.

Dominic Curran (St.Hugh's): Is there just going to be a single consultation on the issue or will a new one be carried out annually?

DP: There will be one consultation to try to find the best solution but if it is seen not to work then we can try again.

Nicky Ellis: Will the election still be cross-campus, with ballot boxes?

DP: Yes, unless there is a strong feeling against this in PGA.

Debate

Greg Stafford (St.Peter's): I think this will be too expensive.

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Nicky Ellis: Will the election still be cross-campus, with ballot boxes?

DP: Yes, unless there is a strong feeling against this in PGA.

Debate

Greg Stafford (St.Peter's): I think this will be too expensive.

Rodrigo Davies (Wadham): I'm the VP(F) and aware of the money available. This is do-able. And graduate involvement is more important.

Move to a Vote. No opposition.

**Motion passes.**

Announcement of results of RO election:

Conor O'Neill: 52

Angela Kail: 24

SBV: 8

Conor O'Neill is elected RO for MT03

Motion 5 – Student Submission for the QAA

Proposed: Louise McMullen (Wadham)

Seconded: Dan Paskins (Magdalen)

LMM: This is our part of the QAA, to represent students' views. It's an epic document. I have shown it to the University and discussed it with Exec. Exec has made some amendments and the University is broadly happy with it.

SFQs

Duncan Weldon (Somerville): Will this have an effect on OUSU's funding?

LMM: No.

Adam Turnbull (Balliol): Will OUSU have any other role in this?

LMM: Later in the year, 10 students will be interviewed.

No opposition – **motion passes.**

Motion 7 – Centres for Excellence in Teaching and Learning

Proposed: Dan Paskins (Magdalen)

Seconded: Louise McMullen (Wadham)

DP: This isn't the most gripping subject, but could potentially mean a lot of money for the University. The University was originally ideologically opposed to it but will work with OUSU. This will be a major project and is a sign of the University taking OUSU seriously.

SFQs;

Laurie Burton (Wadham): Is this depriving other universities of money?

DP: All universities can make bids but only 3 will receive the funding. So, in a way, yes.

Adam Turnbull (Balliol): Are there any stipulations attached?

DP: There are criteria for what it can be spent on but they are quite vague. I'd like to see it put towards training for graduates who do teaching.

No opposition – **motion passes.**

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Adam Turnbull (Balliol): Are there any stipulations attached?

DP: There are criteria for what it can be spent on but they are quite vague. I'd like to see it put towards training for graduates who do teaching.

No opposition – **motion passes**.

#### **j. First readings of Motion to Amend the Constitution or Standing Orders.**

Motion 1 – Ethnic Diversity Campaign

Proposed: Rosie Buckland (St.Hilda's)

Seconded: Zakir Hussain (Trinity)

RB: The campaign felt that the title was too negative. It's not a massive fundamental change.

SFQs:

John Blake (St.Hugh's): Why was the previous name negative?

RB: The campaign wanted something more proactive.

Rob Vance (Wadham): Is it affiliated to NUS Anti-Racism?

RB: No.

Duncan Weldon (Somerville): How is the new title more proactive?

RB: It just is.

Jack Roper (Keble): We will still fight racism. The name change just makes the campaign's remit broader.

Gareth Long (Keble): How much will it cost to change the name?

RB: Nothing.

No opposition – **motion passes**.

#### **m. Other motions.**

Motion 1 – Election regulations.

Proposed: Helena Puig Larrauri (St.Hilda's)

Seconded: Catherine Wallis (Keble)

HPL: It's all there in the motion.

SFQs:

David White (Wadham): How do these work with the Standing Orders?

HPL: These are regulations for this term only.

Ros Dampier (St.Hilda's): Can you clarify the relationship of these to the old Standing Orders. Do these refine or extend them?

CW: These are not new Standing Orders – they only stand for this election.

HPL: They fill the gaps.

Daniel Rees (Merton): Is (h) specific enough in its definition of activists?

HPL: The definition is already in the Standing Orders.

James Coatsworth (Mansfield): There is no mention of editors commenting in editorials if they decide to endorse. What will the contract say about this?

HPL: That is up to the RO.

Helen McCabe (St.Hilda's): Who decides whether an organisation 'holds or promulgates views of a political nature'?

HPL: The definition is already in the Standing Orders.

James Coatsworth (Mansfield): There is no mention of editors commenting in editorials if they decide to endorse. What will the contract say about this?

HPL: That is up to the RO.

Helen McCabe (St.Hilda's): Who decides whether an organisation 'holds or promulgates views of a political nature'?

HPL: The RO will produce a list.

Tom Goodhead (Magdalen): Do these require political affiliations to be shown on the ballot paper?

HPL: Yes – that is in the Standing Orders.

Greg Stafford (St.Peter's): If you noted down everyone in your college as an activist, would that be allowed?

HPL: Possibly. They would have to have agreed to activate for you, though.

Conor O'Neill (Wadham): Point of Information. Lying to the RO is an offence.

Debate

Conor O'Neill: I have an amendment to propose to add some more regulations.

HPL: I'm happy to accept this amendment.

Opposition to friendly amendment.

Debate on amendment

(Proposed: Conor O'Neill (Wadham))

Seconded: Rob Vance (Wadham))

Nicky Ellis (Queen's): Move for the amendment to be taken in parts.

No opposition.

Part one:

Add i) Voting

It shall be an offence to attempt to influence a voter whilst they are in the Polling Area as defined by C4(e)9 of the Election Standing Orders, regardless of where the activist is located. Such an offence to be punishable by the exclusion of the activist concerned from the college in which that Polling Area was situated.

CON: When people are voting, we need to stop people screaming at candidates. This isn't good for the integrity of OUSU. People should not be able to stand outside the 3m area and still attempt to influence people whilst they are casting their votes. This amendment will provide an immediate deterrent.

Georgia Toynbee (Balliol): Would this amendment wipe out the 3m rule?

CON: No.

GT: And do you mean that you would ban an activist from the entire college?

CON: Yes.

Ros Dampier (St.Hilda's): I think the idea of preventing people influencing votes is sensible. But, I'm concerned about the level of power this gives to the RO. Usually, a candidate can appeal to the Junior Tribunal – would they still be able to do this when their activist gets thrown out of a college?

Daniel Rees (Merton): How is this enforceable? How can you expel someone from a college. That should be the job of a CRO in consultation with college porters, not the OUSU RO.

Duncan Weldon (Somerville): I agree with what was just said. It will be even more difficult if the activist is in their own college.

Greg Stafford (St.Peter's): What if I was talking to someone else, but someone casting their vote overheard me?

Conor O'Neill: Nothing in this regulation limits the right to appeal. None of OUSU's regs are highly

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Greg Stafford (St.Peter's): What if I was talking to someone else, but someone casting their vote overheard me?

Conor O'Neill: Nothing in this regulation limits the right to appeal. None of OUSU's regs are highly enforceable but the candidate is held liable for the actions of those active on their behalf. If you are in your own college then you just have to be careful. The issue of influencing voters would be subject to interpretation.

Ros Dampier: I want to reiterate the appeals issue. This is something that would come down entirely to one person's word against another's. Where does the burden of proof lie – with the activist concerned or with the RO. The 3m rule already exists and covers the issue of influencing people when they are voting. This just adds unnecessary bureaucracy.

Nicky Ellis (Queen's): There is also no redress available to the candidate if they have had their activist removed from a college.

Move to a vote – passes

Summations

CON: Nothing that has been raised in the debate is insurmountable.

RD: We already have a very long set of election regulations. This is unnecessary and will only cause further problems.

**Amendment passes.**

Part 2 – j) Endorsements

All endorsements claimed by a candidate or slate, whether used in printed election material or not, must be accompanied by a statement, lodged with the RO, from the endorser, confirming their endorsement. Such a statement should include whether that endorsement is made in a personal capacity, or in the capacity of any position they may hold.

CON: This is pretty clear. There were issues with endorsements last year.

Dominic Curran (St.Hugh's): My JCR sees no real point in endorsements. They add nothing and turn the election into a popularity contest. We should focus on information about the candidates, not endorsements.

MTV

Rodrigo Davies (Wadham): It does exactly what it says on the tin.

Bex Wilkinson (SEH): We haven't heard any opposition.

MTV fails

Bex Wilkinson: I understand the sentiment behind this. But, if you are the chair of a club and you endorse people in different capacities, what does that then mean?

Omar Salem (St.Hugh's): The division doesn't work for those who have held a position in the past.

Conor O'Neill: Good point. Add to the end of the amendment '*or have held*'.

Greg Stafford (St.Peter's): What about phone endorsements?

Laurie Burton (Wadham): What would the practical difference be between 'personal' and 'professional'?

CON: People can just use a name. There is a difference between John Smith or John Smith, VP (Food), endorsing you.

Daniel Burton (Merton): What if the Union President had a personal endorsement? Official position

Greg Stafford (St.Peter's): What about phone endorsements?

Laurie Burton (Wadham): What would the practical difference be between 'personal' and 'professional'?

CON: People can just use a name. There is a difference between John Smith or John Smith, VP (Food), endorsing you.

Daniel Rees (Merton): What if the ex-Union President endorses you - they have no official capacity now.

CON: If s/he was the current Union President it would have to be cleared - it depends on the rules of the society.

Nicky Ellis (Queen's): So, no one can endorse unless their whole JCR endorses?

CON: Only if their JCR constitution specifies that.

Ros Dampier (St.Hilda's): Point of Information. You can't seek endorsements from a collective body.

**Amendment passes.**

Part 3: k) Rulings

The public copies of rulings of the RO, Junior Tribunal and Senior Tribunal, displayed on the OUSU noticeboard shall not be considered election material, but they shall be considered election material if they are subsequently duplicated, distributed and/or displayed by anyone active on a candidate's behalf.

No opposition - **Amendment passes.**

Part 4: e) 2.

Those active on a candidate's behalf shall not be involved in the production of student media during the election period.

CON: It's a good plan. We can't have a situation where someone covers the elections in the press and is also involved in someone's campaign.

David White (Wadham): Is this just about the Cherwell and OxStu or also college bogsheats?

James Coatsworth (Mansfield): Will the editors be liable?

CON: No, the candidate would be. And I suppose it does also refer to college publications.

Ros Dampier (St.Hilda's): Last year, the interpretation of this issue was unclear but the problem was certainly only with those who were activists working on the news section of papers. I think this amendment is sensible but needs more clarification. Including college bogsheats isn't sensible; we will stop too many people from being involved in the elections.

Michael Girling (SEH): There is a wide team of people working on a newspaper. This needs clarification.

CON: OK. I'll change the amendment to read '*cross-campus student media*'. I still think that it applies to anyone working on the paper, though. If the Sports Editor is in the office a lot, they can have an influence on the elections coverage.

Ros Dampier: So then we should ban everyone who goes in the offices. What about the editor's housemates? They may well have a greater influence on the editor than the Sports Editor does.

James Coatsworth (Mansfield): The Sports Editor is one thing, but what about my mate who emails in a review?

CON: I can see the problems. I'll change the wording to '*involved in the production of election coverage for cross-campus student media*'.

Ros Dampier: So then we should ban everyone who goes in the offices. What about the editor's housemates? They may well have a greater influence on the editor than the Sports Editor does.

James Coatsworth (Mansfield): The Sports Editor is one thing, but what about my mate who emails in a review?

CON: I can see the problems. I'll change the wording to '*involved in the production of election coverage for cross-campus student media*'.

No opposition – **amendment passes.**

Part 5 – h) 2

It shall be an electoral offence for an unregistered person to be active on a candidate's behalf.

CON: This is just a clarification. There is no point in having registration of activists if there is no penalty for not registering them.

Chris Allen (Somerville): Who is deemed to have committed an offence?

Nicky Ellis (Queen's): There could be a problem when you get randoms saying that they like one candidate better than the other but who aren't registered.

CON: The Standing Orders define what an activist is. That is what Junior Tribunal is there for – something like that would be a matter for interpretation.

Dan Paskins (Magdalen): I think this discourages people from getting involved in the elections.

Helena Puig Larrauri (St.Hilda's): This is a clarification. If people have objections to the registration of activists, they should bring them up later.

**Amendment passes.**

New amendment

To remove part j) (registration of activists)

Proposed: Ros Dampier (St.Hilda's)

Seconded: Pete Morton (Somerville)

RD: The last time we had a proper review of the election regulations was the one carried out in 2002 by Antonia Bance. She consulted a wide range of people and the report was accepted by Council. She concluded that registration of activists discouraged people from participating in the elections and added unnecessary bureaucracy to the process. (Reads from report). There are still rules to prevent cross-slating. These additional election regulations should be clarifications of the existing regulations, not adding things in that have already been removed by two votes of Council. This report was accepted and passed into the Standing Orders. Whilst adding this back in is a technical possibility, I think we should avoid doing so. It seems decidedly dodgy.

Conor O'Neill: There is another democratic argument in that registration was put into the regulations that went to Council last term and only just failed. On a fundamental point, the ten activists rule makes no sense without registration of activists – it's a farce. You can be involved without being an activist. Candidates talking more to each other might be a good thing.

Helena Puig Larrauri (St.Hilda's): The issue before was that people had to sign a bit of paper to say they were activists. This is not being put back in. Candidates will already have lists of their activists; they just have email them to the RO. I don't think this makes things any more difficult.

MTV

CON: We have heard arguments on both sides.

RD: I want a chance to respond to the point made. This is important.

MTV fails.

Rodrigo Davies (Wadham): In theory, these topics are very boring. Last year, the RO asked for a list

they just have email them to the RO. I don't think this makes things any more difficult.

MTV

CON: We have heard arguments on both sides.

RD: I want a chance to respond to the point made. This is important.

MTV fails.

Rodrigo Davies (Wadham): In theory, these topics are very boring. Last year, the RO asked for a list of activists because he found things difficult without. The overlap of ten activists is impossible to see without these lists. You are opening up the election to look like a farce.

Dave Gillbe (Merton): Ros's main point was that we shouldn't change the regulations we put in a couple of years ago. I disagree – things have changed and we can decide to change them again.

RD: My point wasn't that we shouldn't make any changes, only that the decision to stop registering activists was one made following a thorough review and report of the procedures. Last year's election regs were rejected by council, so they have no relevance to this discussion. There is a logic flaw in the idea that registration will help to detect cross-slating in the form of activist overlap. If candidates have to register activists, they will check their lists with each other and ensure that they don't have ten shared activists and hide their cross-slating. Last year's RO found a lot of things difficult, including counting STV and producing an acceptable report! I don't think we should take him finding something difficult as evidence for a need to change things. We should discuss the issue of registration of activists, but as part of an electoral review, not just in one Council.

MTV – passes.

Summations

Against – CON: All of the points for registration have been made.

For – RD: This should have more discussion. It won't help stop cross-slating.

**Amendment fails.**

MTV on main motion

CON: We have gone through all the necessary changes and issues. The rest of the regs are uncontroversial.

Dominic Curran (St.Hugh's): I have an amendment to propose.

MTV fails.

New amendment

To strike (j) and add as follows:

Candidates must not use endorsements in their campaign, either in their publicity material, their hustings, or in any other forum.

Proposed: Dominic Curran (St.Hugh's) Seconded: Tom Goodhead (Magdalen)

DC: We have discussed this in my JCR. Endorsements turn the elections into popularity contests. Candidates should be judged on their own merits.

Rodrigo Davies (Wadham): People who endorse know about the position they are endorsing for and do have ideas about who is best to do the job.

Bex Wilkinson (SEH): People support who they think will do the job best; who they genuinely think is the best candidate.

MTV

Michael Girling (SEH): We have discussed this before.

Jonty Olliff-Cooper (Magdalen): I would like to hear some more arguments.

MTV fails

Cathryn Wallis (Kidd): Dominic is right. We should have more discussion about the candidates and the

Bex Wilkinson (SEH): People support who they think will do the job best, who they genuinely think is the best candidate.

MTV

Michael Girling (SEH): We have discussed this before.

Jonty Olliff-Cooper (Magdalen): I would like to hear some more arguments.

MTV fails

Catherine Wallis (Keble): Dom is right in some ways. People should vote for candidates in terms of their merits but sometimes endorsements can tell you that. For example, one candidate may have held a position on a committee for a short time and the other have been heavily involved for several years but never held an official position. An endorsement could show the electorate that that person had been involved.

Rob Vance (Wadham): I voted last year, as a first year, and I found the endorsements helpful signposts.

Ros Dampier (St.Hilda's): We shouldn't dismiss this offhand. It is naive to assume that endorsements are genuine. Someone is bound to endorse their friend or their boyfriend or girlfriend, not because they have carefully decided that they are the best candidate.

Jack Roper (Keble): I think we are overemphasising the importance of endorsements. They are only one of many signposts for voters. People do read endorsements but they are only of limited impact in terms of who they decide to vote for.

Georgia Toynbee (Balliol): It is important to remember that people do look at endorsements. They can differentiate between those that are from people who are in good positions to make them and those that are only there through popularity.

MTV passes

Summations

For – DC: It is impossible to differentiate between endorsements. This is about democracy and ordinary voters. It is different from membership of political parties being disclosed. Candidates should be judged on their ideas alone.

Against – Adam Turnbull (Balliol): Some endorsements may indeed not be genuine. This is, however, about democracy. We don't want to be excessively paternalist; we should leave it up to the voters. If they have doubts, they can just ignore the endorsements.

**Amendment fails**

Voting on motion as a whole

HPL: Please vote for this

**Motion passes.**

Motion 4 – Oxford University Sports Federation Wednesday Afternoon Proposal

Proposed: Libby Payne (Brasenose)

Seconded: Helena Puig Larrauri (St.Hilda's)

Speaking rights granted to Libby Payne.

LP: I am the Sports Federation Sab. This motion is about the University keeping Wednesday afternoons free for BUSA matches. We aren't in the position of other universities where this already happens. This will enable students to engage in discourse with the University.

SFQs:

Georgia Toynbee (Balliol): How are you going to 'urge' the University?

LP: We will consult with them.

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SFQs:

Georgia Toynbee (Balliol): How are you going to 'urge' the University?

LP: We will consult with them.

Dan Paskins (Magdalen): Is this just about undergraduates?

LP: No, for all students.

Rosie Buckland (St.Hilda's): Have you tried approaching anyone about this already?

LP: Not yet.

Ros Dampier (St.Hilda's): What about keeping Friday afternoons of odd weeks free so people can attend OUSU Council?

HPL: We could think about it.

No opposition – **motion passes**.

#### Motion 6 – OUSU Entz

Proposed: Helena Puig Larrauri (St.Hilda's)

Seconded: Laura West (St.Catz)

HPL: We already provide entz. I thought it was a good idea to consult people before going any further with this plan. This would involve setting up a separate company to deal with entz.

SFQs:

Duncan Weldon (Somerville): Will this be a company like OSSL, set up with its own trustees?

HPL: Yes

DW: Will it retain its own profits or give them back to OUSU?

HPL: It will probably be done in proportions, so it can build up reserves but also give some back to OUSU. I will bring the statute of the company back to Council.

James Coatsworth (Mansfield): What about CUSU: the 'Creation' entz scheme there failed?

HPL: I have spoken to the CUSU Entz Manager, Business Manager and President. They all agree that this is the way to go about doing entz, not a big one-off event like they tried.

Dave Gillbe (Merton): I have two issues? Firstly, is this too risky with the current state of OUSU's finances? And, is it a good idea for OUSU to do entz?

HPL: It doesn't have to be risky. The current agreements that we have with clubs involve virtually no risk.

DG: But, do we need this?

Ruled out of order – not short, factual question.

Greg Stafford (St.Peter's): Does ZOO already exist?

HPL: The name exists; the company, not yet.

David White (Wadham): Have any events happened already?

HPL: Some club nights have been organised.

Dan Paskins (Magdalen): How much time will this involve for you and Digo.

HPL: Some extra time – we'll work beyond our hours.

Opposition

David Follows (Oriol): I don't think it's OUSU's job to provide entz. There are plenty of club nights already going on in Oxford.

Debate

## Opposition

David Follows (Oriol): I don't think it's OUSU's job to provide entz. There are plenty of club nights already going on in Oxford.

## Debate

Laura West (St.Catz): I have been working on entz for OUSU for a long time. We do need to have a debate about OUSU's role in providing entz but not now. This is working on the current job descriptions which specify that entz is the responsibility of the President. Helena has a mandate to provide entz.

HPL: Point of information. Entz is not in my job description; it has just always been the president who has dealt with entz.

LW: OK. But we already provide entz. It is true that there are already college entz and other cross-campus entz but his would be cheaper, safer and all the revenue would go to OUSU.

## MTV

Georgia Toynbee (Balliol): We are running out of time.

Conor O'Neill (Wadham): This is important and we have only been discussing it for 3 minutes.

MTV fails.

Conor O'Neill (Wadham): This is fundamental to the future of OUSU. We currently have very no control over our primary revenue sources: advertising revenue from big business and University grants. This could give OUSU serious financial independence.

## MTV

Greg Stafford (St.Peter's): That was a very good point.

John Blake (St.Hugh's): It was charming, but wrong.

MTV fails

Louise McMullen (Wadham): Conor is fundamentally wrong. Expanding to provide entz will change OUSU from a Student Union into a huge, commercial organisation.

Michael Girling (SEH): I disagree with the last point; that's just a political idea. Students currently don't care about OUSU. They don't see it as relevant. This will make OUSU more relevant to people.

Dave Gillbe (Merton): Oxford is different from other universities because it is collegiate. JCRs are also student unions and they provide their own entz

MTV – withdrawn.

Laura West (St.Catz): This does not commit OUSU to providing entz. We are a campaigning student union and this motion doesn't challenge that. This just gives us the machinery to provide entz.

## MTV

Greg Stafford (St.Peter's): Laura West has rounded off the debate.

John Blake (St.Hugh's): I have something to say.

MTV fails.

Chair's ruling – to limit speeches to 30 seconds.

Rodrigo Davies (Wadham) objects.

Two thirds vote to overturn not obtained – ruling stands.

John Blake (St.Hugh's): We shouldn't make this decision in terms of financing OUSU. The question is whether or not we want to provide cross-campus entz. This will not encourage more people to get involved in OUSU.

Rodrigo Davies (Wadham): There are three good things about this proposal. The risks are limited; we are providing a real service – services is not a dirty word; and it will give us more money for campaigns. Give us a chance to try this.

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Rosie Buckland (St.Hilda's): The financial arguments are overstated. We shouldn't rush into this.

Dan Paskins (Magdalen): We should try this. It complements what JCRs and MCRs already do. I want the President to concentrate on campaigns and this scheme could utilise the expertise of all our members.

MTV

Jamie Ballin (St.Anne's): We have already spent a long time on the election regs – this is just taking up more time.

Dave Gillbe (Merton): I want to hear more.

MTV fails.

HPL: It is possible to campaign and do entz. I find the idea that I am not capable of both offensive.

Dominic Curran (St.Hugh's): The point about whether Student Unions should provide services has already been made. Yes, we should.

MTV

Matthew Richardson (St.Peter's): My entire time as an Executive Officer has been taken up with this discussion!

Dave Gillbe (Merton): There is more to hear.

For: 45

Against: 8

Abs: 2

MTV passes

Summations

For – HPL: This can really make a positive difference to what the student union does. If it starts to go wrong, I will bring another motion to stop it. It will be a public company and democratically accountable.

Against – Dave Gillbe: We don't know whether this is going to make us any profit. Why do we need a separate company and not just an OUSU committee? Should OUSU be providing entz?

**Motion passes.**

### **c. Ratifications in Council**

Zoe Flood (Keble) and James Coatsworth (Mansfield) ratified as editors of the Oxford Student.

#### Motion 8 – Campaign in Support of Women's Colleges.

Proposed: Catherine Wallis (Keble)

Seconded: Rosie Buckland (St.Hilda's)

CW: I have spoken to the CUSU Women's Officer about this and also to St.Hilda's where there may possibly be another vote on whether the college should go mixed this term. The votes coming up all the time undermine the life of women at Hilda's. Women's colleges have a bad image in Oxford (worse than in Cambridge), but they are a good thing for many reasons. I have written in my section in the QAA report about the way that women really do suffer at Oxford, both academically and socially. Oxford is also committed to access and the loss of St.Hilda's would be an issue for ethnic minorities.

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### SFQs

James Coatsworth (Mansfield): Will there be another JCR referendum at Hilda's?

CW: Ask someone from Hilda's.

Helen McCabe (St.Hilda's): The last referendum was only in Hillary term and JCR policy lasts for 3 years.

Dave Gillbe: Are there any men's colleges?

CW: No, except for PPHs.

Bex Wilkinson (SEH): Is it possible to create single-sex environments in other, mixed colleges?

CW: It is difficult. I have talked to colleges about the idea of women-only accommodation and they have refused to consider it.

Omar Salem (St.Hugh's): What is the situation at Durham?

CW: The last women's college there went mixed this year.

Tom Goodhead (Magdalen): What are the percentages of men and women at Oxford?

CW: Percentages of women are 49% undergraduates, a third of graduates and 20.1% of tutors.

James Coatsworth (Mansfield): Have Lucy Cavendish, Newnham and New Hall had referendums on whether to remain single-sex?

CW: I don't know. Cambridge is generally a lot more in favour of women's colleges than Oxford.

### Opposition

Bex Wilkinson: If Hilda's went mixed it would force the university to make changes.

### Debate

Georgia Toynbee (Balliol): I disagree. Hilda's does distort the statistics to some extent but it is the University that needs to take a reality check. Certain groups of women need single-sex accommodation.

Ros Dampier (St.Hilda's): It isn't the case that Hilda's going mixed would push the University to improve things for women. That didn't happen when Somerville went mixed in '93. The university needs to make the first move and ensure that women are no longer discriminated against.

### MTV

Tom Hart (Univ): Everyone is in favour of this.

John Blake (St.Hugh's): We should still have a proper debate.

MTV passes.

### Summations:

For – CW: I've already started the campaign and we don't want to waste money. Please vote for it.

Against – BW: No.

### **Motion passes.**

### Election results:

**Motion passes.**

Election results:

Oxford and District Trade Union Council

Shayna Strom: 55

Charlynne Pullen: 19

RON: 5

Shayna Strom and Charlynne Pullen elected.

OUSU Executive

Gregory Stafford: 30

Matthew Richardson: 26

RON: 22

Gregory Stafford and Matthew Richardson elected.

Humanities Divisional Board Rep

Linsey Cole: 76

RON: 1

Linsey Cole elected.

Life and Environmental Sciences Divisional Board Rep

Sarah Cooper: 63

RON: 9

Sarah Cooper elected.

**n. Any other business**

Omar Salem: Remember gold ribbons for matriculation.

Conor O'Neill: Come and see me about any RO stuff or general queries about the elections.

