

OUSU 1st week Council minutes 14th October 2005

DS: If anyone has any questions about procedure please ask. In future please bring your own agendas.

DS: Minutes of previous meeting?

IS: CC has a small segment, will be with next council.

DS: Ratification of rule of interpretation regarding referendum on V-P (Women)

EN: I received a request for a rule of interpretation. I have ruled that only women will be allowed to vote in this referendum. [EN explains rule]

Ben Spreeman, Pembroke: Have you considered that it states in the constitution that all members will be able to vote in referendum, and that this Council will then be bound without all members being able to vote.

EN: This is an anomaly, we have allowance for restrictive polling. I don't think it's intended to suggest that anyone can vote, as only women can vote for the V-P (women). I see it as an inconsistency.

Ed May, Mansfield: Does this ruling mean we can't amend the amendment to strike the women only part?

DS: If this is voted down then I make an interim ruling. Amendments to motions cannot considerably change the nature of the motion, if we couldn't amend it like that then it might be possible the motion couldn't be put.

TD: It says the subject of the motion can't be considerably changed, not just the motion.

? Hughes, Hertford: what about d I (c)?

EN: That is about no-conning, but it adds to the point.

Daniel Spring, Pembroke: Isn't it clear that an indicative poll is asking for an opinion and does not bind Council, but a referendum does.

EN: No, because we could limit the vote in Council, this is the only specific instance in which this isn't allowed.

LS: I think it would make it impossible to bring an amendment if this ruling was passed.

DS: MTV, 2/3 majority required.

Ratification in Council:

Lee Jones ratified.

DS: I will pass the chair to the returning officer.

Daryl Leeworthy (Oriel): I will take the chair.

Laura Gilbert, LMH to be added to ballot sheet as graduate representative health and welfare.

MB: I'm Matt Baker, a member of p-t exec, I'm standing for DRO. Have been involved since Michaelmas, have good knowledge.

Believe I'm in a position to make sure all elections are free and fair.

Political affiliations: Amnesty and OUCA although that was resigned a while ago, sorry.

Benny Spreen, Pembroke: Do you believe in implementing the constitution?

MB: Yes

LS: Letter of the law or the spirit of the law?

MB: I hopefully will be in a position where I can equalise both.

DL: No further questions.

DL: Exec officer candidates to front for hust.

Charlie Steel, Merton: I want to get involved in the student union, OUSU makes people's lives different where as the union just embellishes them.

Lydia Prieg, ChCh: Managing director of a young enterprise company, got involved in peer support stuff. I'm interested in the welfare of the student body, the campaigns and the publications.

Laura Feldmand, HMC: Be able to represent mature students as often under-represented. Need to push forwards on equal rights.

Past experience in positions of responsibility. Passionate and committed.

DL: Affiliations?

CS: OUCA

LP: Amnesty

LF: None

?: How raise profile of OUSU?

LP: Weekly updates in OXStu?
LF: Emails and student newspaper
CS: Dismissing untrue rumours.

CA: Previous involvement in OUSU?
LF: None
CS: None
LP: Peer support

Nick Bell, Somerville: Are you aware of the time requirements?
CS: Yes
LP: Yes
LF: Yes

MB: Do you think OUSU is politically biased and if so how/why?
LP: Yes, based on the reaction to OUCA, and good if more people involved.
LF: Yes, but should try and get bias down.
CS: Would be good to dismiss rumours, by having mixture of people

LS: Campaigning or services?
LF: Services
CS: Services
LP: Voice of student body, representation.

IS: Role of part time executive officer?
LS: Administrative, specific portfolios, campaigning
CS: Doing portfolio work with rest of exec
LP: Portfolio, helping out at busy times, raising the profile of OUSU to compete with the union.

RV: MB elected 53-15-1

DL: Graduate exec to the front
Alisa Voznaya: Previous experience as president and vp (f) at previous student union.
Sau Wai Law: Previous involvement with student politics, believe I can make a positive contribution and offer hard work to help with campaigns.

Tom Packer St. Cross: Previous university, how different?
AV: This is much more intense
SWL: This is much larger, but will be getting used to it.

IS: Political affiliations?
SWL: No
AV: Red Cross

LS: How many hours per week could you offer?
AV: Not sure, quite a few.
SWL: If I didn't have the time I wouldn't stand for it.

HS: What kind of things do you think you could do to get graduates involved in OUSU?
SWL: Raise awareness of OUSU
AV: Link between MCR and OUSU and link with graduates across campus

EJ: How get more graduates involved in OUSU as a whole?
AV: Have to get used to OUSU structures before I can answer you.
SWL: Tell people about campaigns.

DL: JCC election
EN: Two candidates for JCC, this is where we can have access to the university, this is the first talking point for anything we want to take to the university. Important position.

Olivia Brindle: When I told people I wanted to run for OUSU they laughed at me. OUSU is a proper student union which gets things done, on proper issues which concerns students and makes a difference, therefore I think it's important to get involved. Previous involvement in JCR and PPE society.

Aaron Bobora: We're now living in times of great uncertainty and change, such as library provision and college inequality. JCC has achieved notable successes, but still much to be done. JCC required commitment, organisation and teamwork. I have been involved in committee work for several years now through student politics and labour club.

IS: Political affiliations?

OB: I am formerly an OUCA member, but political views not relevant to JCC.

AB: Labour party and MBA

TP: Big problem is people not attending, would you be able to make it with a week's warning.

OB: Shouldn't be a problem

AB: Shouldn't be a problem.

EJ: In the past OUSU has submitted reports to JCC, will you work with JCRs and OUSU?

AB: Yes

OB: Yes

?: Past experience with SCR?

OB: Yes

AB: Limited

DL: Anyone want husts for JT?

Various: No

DS: Reports from sabs

EN: Talking to JCC about SRI, have been blanked 3 times and now blanked by University Council, thinking about bringing a paper to University Council in 5th week. OUSU cards have been delayed because the University and OUCS haven't given us the names yet. Promise you'll have them by 3rd week.

CA: If you have questions about OSSL stuff you can ask me in Council, apologies to HMC for leaving you out of the Oxford Handbook, page was done but didn't get transferred to the printers. Sorry to OUCA we upset you by moving your flags. On Sunday open bar 8-9 for JCR Presidents and entz reps in exchange for us talking to you about Zoo.

AR-C: Thanks to Helen and Iain, primary care trust have now got in touch with me. Condom machines are happening. If anyone wants to get involved as a health and welfare co-chair let me know. I've got handbooks if anyone wants one.

EC: I want to draw everyone's attention to student parent handbook, considerably updated. ED guide full credit to Bex, women's handbook I really need to thank Rich Hardiman. Women's campaign looks to be a success, already had best attended meeting for several years.

CP: Are co-ordinating events, will be doing some new stuff on Target Schools, I do need some TS co-chairs and anyone who's interested let me know.

OR: Next Wednesday NUS lobby of Parliament, anyone wants to come with us let me know.

HS: Have met with environment committee and will be doing a lot more with them. Big thanks to Lorna who helped with RAG mag.

DS: P-t exec reports?

TP: Clubs and societies, leaflets will be going out soon, anyone wants stuff on that. NUS will be having a meeting soon.

DS: Questions to anyone?

Nick Bell, Somerville: Impact of central grant?

EN: Are looking for a supplementary grant for OUSU.

NB: Policy book on website?

EN: Yes, soon

NB: Restructuring campaigns?

EN: Will report to Council soon.

?: OSSL legal advice?

EN: Some contradictions in it that need to be cleared up before I can give it to Council. Once I've cleared those up will tell Council.

?: Why have 3 p-t exec resigned?

EN: I don't want to speak on behalf of p-t exec but as far as I'm aware it's due to work commitments not complaints.

Jo Le Mo, ChCh: Will you clarify relationship between OSSL and JCRs later?

EN: Yes, basically will tell all later.

TP: Something about Cherwell doing a survey and Emma ignoring it?

EN: Cherwell contacting me and I passed them to CP

CP: I will bring a motion to 3rd week Council hopefully about libraries.

Ed Mason, Trinity: At the end of the last term I understood that there would be several directors in effect appointed by Council. I understand that over the summer there were directors appointed, should they resign and then be reappointed.

CA: We can't put it into effect until a general meeting has been called to change the memorandum. Motion last term suggested they be changed but didn't.

? Harrison, Queens: Would you accept the JCRs getting less money and OUSU getting more?

EN: No, we want OUSU to get more money but not take away from JCRs, stuff will come to Council.

TP: How many turned up to WomCam

EC: 15-20

Eddie May, Mansfield: Where will central grant money come from?

EN: HEFCE

NB: OR, visits to MCR's a good idea?

OR: My predecessor advised me to do it, I think it's a good idea.

Ed Mason, Trinity: If Trinity disaffiliated this weekend from OUSU will we still be liable for our fees. Impact on publications.

EN: If an individual asked for handbook we're still obliged to provide them, but we wouldn't give anything to the common rooms, this would mean the other JCRs would have to subsidise Trinity.

CA: In general we ask people to tell us before the start of the academic year, there would be some sort of charge for Freshers' Fair.

DS: Emergency motions

DL: This will mean Oxford no longer has facilities for all Olympic sports. Will no longer be able to have a full athletics meet.

Rob Robinson: Costs getting slightly higher, university isn't willing to pay

HS: How many people are involved in hammer throwing in the university?

DL: 2, but if remove provision then people can't take it up.

Will Dawsy, ChCh: Who in ChCh were you planning to write to?

DL: I will find out.

JLM, ChCh: I don't really understand. Can you explain factual circumstances about removal of hammer cage.

DL: There used to be a cage on the playing fields.

Trina Goodman, Balliol: If the university won't reinstate it, can OUAA put one up on Iffley Road?

DL: Costs £20,000 so probably not.

???: Does this affect discuss as well?

DL: Yes

CA: If ChCh put it back would cost £10,000 per participant?

DL: Removes the potential for people to do it as well, also discuss.

Daniel Burnford, New: Have you talked to Sport England about this?

DL: Haven't yet, looking at OUSU's opinion?

Chris Hughes, Herts: Why emergency?

DL: My fault

?, Queens: How long do they last?

DL: Many years

AR-C: Who do you want to write the letter?

DL: Anyone.

HS: Maintenance costs?

DL: I don't know

IS: MTD

Opposition

IS: I now know lots about hammer cages

LS: Means can have debate with all info

MTD passed.

JLM: This motion is badly written, is aimed at making one college pay for something the university should do. I respect the spirit of the motion, and would support it if it was rewritten.

DS: Need to bring a point of order.

JLM: I bring a point of order.

Nem con, postponed to next week.

IS: I move to give Christos attendance rights.

Passed

EN: Electoral regulations are pretty common sense, any questions?

CA: Typo?

EN: I put amendment to chair.

Tim Bennett: What does g2 mean?

EN: Stops frivolous complaints.

Chris Hughes, Hertford: Why h taken out last year?

EN: I don't know, perhaps because it was hard to administer. But makes sense and should be done.

?: What is an activist?

EN: Anyone who endorses or campaigns.

TP: Does candidate include referendum campaigns?

EN: Yes

LS: It will say 24 hours before polls open when amended then?

EN: Yes

DS: Amendment on table

DS: Amendment passed nem con

Motion passes Nem Con

DS: Passage of motions nem con

1, 2, 3, 4

Motion I

Speech in favour

LS: This is about reopening debate on V-P(Women). So many women I know are uncertain about the position of VPW, and I think women should be allowed to say if the position of VPW, and it needs a firmer ground. This gives VPW a very strong mandate if it goes through, this is a catalyst for change if it doesn't go through. We can't find a better way to review women's representation in OUSU. No one will turn up to discuss it, and this is the way to take the question out to women. This is the clearest question we could find. This referendum is a way of kick-starting debate and ensuring people either get behind VPW or say what else they want. We welcome amendments to make it clearer what will happen to people who are already running.

Claire Chalmers: What would happen with a no vote?

LS: Would mean that exec would have to submit motions to remove VPW.

EC: Previous involvement in WomCam?

LS: No

CP: Formal consultation prior to bringing this?

LS: No

Nick Bell, Somerville: Even if this went through could Council still decide to keep VPW?

LS: Yes

Tom Packer, St Cross: Do other student unions not have women sab?

LS: Yes

TP: Would this abolish it for when contracts with VPW run out?

LS: Yes

MTD

?: Lets move to debate

?: Still have some SFQs

Not 2/3, still in SFQ

Jennifer ?, Merton: What would happen to the VPW portfolios if this passed?

LS: That would be looked at after a negative result in the referendum.

Frank Hardy, Oriel: When would this happen?

LS: Probably after TT2007

AR-C: What would this do?

LS: This would give us policy that VPW should not continue, would need to correct rest of policy in Council.

AR-C: So could I bring policy referring to VPW?

LS: For as long as there was a VPW

DS: Referendums overrule Council, would have to bring motions specifying how position would be dismantled, but nothing in here suggests timeframe.

LS: I expect this would take some time to sort everything out.

Claire Chalmers: What representative work does VPW?

LS: Would Ellie Cumbo like to answer?

EC: No

LS: VPW sits on a number of communities, student parents, WomCam, nightbus, finals gap.

Ashley Garey, Corpus: How much referendum cost?

CA: Nothing, as at same time as everything else.

EJ: How would this affect election for VPW?

LS: That's why I said should be amended to read after TT2007.

MTD

EC: Debate on women's representation should not be swept under the carpet. Anyone who is interested in equality for women wants this job to go, but only when it has nothing else to do. Still huge gender inequality, WomCam is stronger than it has ever been. Huge problem only 1/3 of graduates are women. A referendum is really not the best way of having this debate. This will be 5 weeks after freshers have arrived, they won't be in a position to know what's going on. I feel there is little justification in having a referendum now.

DS: I have received 3 amendments.

Amendment 1 that both men and women can vote in this election.

Edward May, Mansfield: My JCRs money is going towards this position, therefore I believe I should be able to vote on it. This doesn't give all an equal say in OUSU.

EN: On a point of order I have already given a rule of interpretation.

DS: I rule this amendment out of order

Amendment 2: to amend resolves 1 to "paid, full time position"

OR: I object, all V-Ps must be

TP: I will withdraw it and rewrite

Amendment 3: To replace referendum with an indicative poll.

Ed Mason: So that Council has final say.

DS: A referendum is the only mechanism in OUSU which can bind OUSU Council. An indicative poll is not binding, but the President is required to formulate a motion on the results of the indicative poll.

TP: Risks having Council torn between indicative poll and personal feelings. If asking students what they believe, should follow that.

Nat Ogborn: Would this indicative poll be limited to women only?

DS: Yes

EM: In past OUSU referendums the turnout has been so low that I think the common room reps are more representative.

?, Hertford: We will get killed if we vote against an indicative poll, we need to go all or nothing on this.

?: Saying we want your opinion but want to be able to ignore you

Joe Chick, Corpus: Should be indicative poll because if it's a close referendum want Council to have a say.

JLM: I am so worried about Council's ideas of democracy. If we claim to represent the students of Oxford we let them vote in a properly binding referendum.

MTV

Opposition

?: Need to get onto the rest of the debate

?: Still important points to be made

Jenny ?, Merton: I think having an indicative poll gives people a chance to debate it in Council properly. Gives a chance to have a discussion on this issue.

EN: Having it yes or no, doesn't allow for discussion with student body. Might as well have the referendum on this issue.

Frank Hardy, Oriel: If people vote no in this referendum gives no time to dismantle the position.

Ed Mason, Trinity: This is about protecting minorities, indicative poll would give Council and JCRs the flexibility to have a proper debate.

Tom Packer: Can't have a situation where students say one thing and Council say another. Either we believe in democracy or we don't.

Amendment fails

Amendment 4: To amend to "the sabbatical position V-P (women)"

TP: I don't want people to get the impression that we can't have a women's officer. This makes it more obvious to the average student.

Mohsin, Wadham: Friendly amendment to "OUSU sabbatical position V-P (Women)

?: I don't think the question is the right place for this amendment

Amendment passes

Amendment 5:

LS: Amend to OUSU sabbatical position V-P (Women) TT 2007

TP: I totally agree to what Lorna is trying to do, but I think you should amend the motion to have it in the resolves.

LS: I withdraw the motion.

AR-C: Very few students actually know exactly what the job entails, but one of the most important services OUSU provides is the SAS. If we got rid of the V-P women then might not have a female member of the student advice service. My concern is that students will see this and will just see the political and ignore the student advice service.

EJ: Students expect not to be discriminated against on grounds of gender. Oxford is male dominated still. Student union should be aiming to correct gender imbalance. Not fair for VPW to have to campaign to keep job, as will successor.

Amendment:

To have TT2007 inserted in resolved.

Passed nem con

Jenny ?, Merton: I think a proper forum for debate is needed. I think it would be terrible to have freshers' subjected to this. VPW does enormously important stuff related to VPW. Rushing a referendum through.

TP: This does not abolish the post of VPW, but what it does is let the students have a say on it. People have said that students just won't grasp the issue. Saying that we can't let the women of Oxford choose what representation they want is patronising.

CC: We have to very seriously think about whether we want a referendum now, and whilst I think debates on VPW are a good idea not sure how to do this.

Valver Vigaroff: The essential problem with this referendum is the charade of democracy. Can't consider whether or not this position should be kept before you're aware of the alternatives. Should have debate first then have referendum once alternatives has been arrived at.

Alan Strickland, Merton: I think this is the clumsiest way to have a debate on this issue. Has huge consequences with regards to activists being split between campaigning for candidates and campaigning for referendums. Should have longer consultation where people can talk to women of Oxford and find out what they think.

CP: There has been no formal consultation with women's campaign or JCRs. As someone who was involved in writing the women's campaign submission, there was significant support for the position of VPW at the time. In the F&F report it was recommended that we have 5 sab officers, one of whom should be the VPW. To say that whilst having 5.

Clumsy and inappropriate in the current climate

His wad: interesting questioning the role of the vp women. Comes down to individuals; haven't spoken to people questioning the role of the vp women myself. People question existence of ousu. Makes vp women's role harder.

MTV opposed

Lorna – 5.05

Aidan – still points

Passes

Summary speech LH: Try have review

EC: Let me do it

Clearly falls by overwhelming majority

Coca-cola

TomDale (CCC) – Core motion about workers in Columbia, violent threat intimidation etc from company's like Coca-cola.

Workers Union have sent out global call for solidarity by boy-cotting

We are voting share holders in NUS and NUSL supplies all student unions. By passing this motion we'll be joining with students around the country, as there are multi-million pound contracts. With the OxStu adverts, it's a resource we should be using. On the basis of our legal advice we can mandate for those adverts to be carried. OUSU is the place for this, it doesn't restrict choice because students don't buy their coke through NUSL. This increases choice as currently NUSL has a sole contract with coke.

TP: Does the democratic government in Columbia approve of this?

TD: I don't know.

Peter Hughes: Have coke made statements?

TD: Yes, I'm sure you can guess them.

?: Ultra vires?

EN: Ultra vires is ruled on after debate.

Quorum count

35

Rachel Stanny, Hildas: Any other SUs passed similar motions?

TD: Yes

Michael ?, Wadham: OUSU have any other boycotts?

TD: Fruit of the loom and some advertising bans.

TP: Move to table to next Council.

TP: I haven't had time to do all the research. No one here knows Coca Cola's side of the story or legal implications. My fault for not having done research.

EN: Anyone could have looked into other side of the argument.

Falls

TP: Did you sign it OUSU President? The letter.

EN: No

MTD

TP: This will do very little good. I'd be amazed if NUSSL boycotted it. Even if they did it would make very little difference. Columbia has democracy. Won't benefit people in Columbia by taking away jobs and commerce. This company is reasonably ethical by Columbian standards. This will further discredit us in the eyes of students.

CA: Interesting argument that we shouldn't go to NUSSL in case we lose the vote. Not a problem if we make the stand and lose. If every student venue in the country boycotts coke it will have a different.

IS: Pepsi it made a difference, this is the sort of thing we can and should take a stand on.

Peter Hughes, Hertford: I can't stomach the argument that because they're a big company they should be immune to public pressure.

MTV

?: All the points have been raised, it's 5:30

TP: All points haven't been made.

MTV passes

TD: I don't know how TP got his information seeing as he said he hadn't done any research.

TP: Majority of students would not support this, and it won't make CocaCola change one bit.

Motion passes.

JCC Olivia elected

Exec all elected

Grad Exec all elected

Grad health and welfare elected.

JT: All elected

Motion 3

Quorum count 33

Wheatsheaf elected as bar