

OUSU

student council minutes

1st week Michaelmas 2006

Meeting Opened: 14:38

Chair welcomed newcomers, including new JCR presidents and the new sab team. Chair briefly outlined the agenda.

- a. Minutes of the previous meeting: not presented. Iain Simpson asked for them and failed to present them: will have them next time.
- b. Since there are no minutes, there can be no matters arising.
- c. There are no ratifications.
- d. Chair ceded to the RO, Daniel Johnson (CCC). 2 candidates for JT. Candidates requested to hust. Helen Bagshaw (Balliol) husted: much election experience; has been DRO and RO and has minuted JT. Laith Dilaimi not in attendance but sent a written statements.
Questions: Political affiliations? Helen: Labour Club.
Do they matter: HB: I follow the procedures in the SO, my affiliations are not important.

Election for Exec: candidate Max Lewis-S (Pembroke).

OUSU is a great organization and has done a lot for Oxford. Have been a delegate and as an OUSU rep. I have a lot of experience of what JCRs want and what is required from someone not being from a JCR. Secretary of ChemSoc. I can add to OUSU Council.

Questions: Will you restand at the end of term?

Max: Cross that bridge when I come to it.

What's the role of the exec?

Max: Listen to council and create policy from there.

What portfolios? Out of order - allocated afterwards.

Political Affiliations? Former member of OULC.

- e. Reports:
 - Alan Strickland, President, Merton
Refer to written report. My job to make OUSU work in a coordinated way. Oversee OUSU's campaigning – we are a strong political force. Work with JCR presidents, support, advice, cross-campus issues like rent and accommodation.
Nothing to add to the report
 - Ed Mayne, Mansfield, VP Finance
I'm responsible for finance, website, pubs. Nothing to add to my report, will return to council with more info. NUS central affiliation: around £11,150 for all of Oxford to be split between affiliated common rooms. Calculated similarly to how OUSU affiliation fee is. If you have an NUS referendum, please have it soon. If more common rooms affiliate, it becomes cheaper.
 - Jamie Frew Keble, VP Welfare
Nothing to add.
 - Jennifer H-McC – VP Women.
Highlight wom cam event cakes and conversation next week in Ousu. Dignity period event with woman from Zimbabwe – uplifting and interesting, 18th October.
 - Andrea Miller, VP Grads – not in attendance, at a meeting, along later.
 - Helen Bagshaw, VP AccAcAff
Committees, target schools, representing students' views, student advice service. Uni shortly to appoint a learning adviser for study skills – we're going to be helping to interview them. Contact me if you have ideas for how they work in the University.
 - Imran Khan – VP CAC

Rag, alternative careers service etc. Bungee jump at the end of third week, anyone who's interested get in touch. Funding for job secure for this year and next year – error in report.

Monday 7pm – President and VP Education of NUS coming to Oxford to talk about admission impossible. Will email.

f. No exec officers wished to make reports.

g. Questions: Martin McCluskey St Hugh's - to Ed – Freshers didn't get a handbook at Freshers' fair. When?

Ed – no plan yet, going to get hold of names of Freshers who didn't get one and going to get them out. Boxes and boxes in the office.

Christine Q BNC: When is the financial report coming out?

Ed – lots to put in one report, all very confusing. I do understand them, but problem with pubs is that invoicing is complex. If no errors in pubs – mid way through this term. Especially to do with Uni loan.

Frank Hardee Oriel – 22 JCRs interested in NUS, how many MCRs?

Ed – no idea – 5 maybe? Going to talk to VP Grads.

Martin McCluskey: NUS cards – how many people have them already?

Ed: 70, but we have 8 thousand.

h. Emergency motions.

New Bod Opening Times

Helen Bagshaw, Balliol: brought to my attention by a tutor. This term new Bod is going to close at 7 not 10, but every survey says that people want longer hours. No consultation, and no indication of a good reason. Going to see curator on Monday to bring this up and see if there is a reason. If not, campaign.

SFQs: Jamie Frew, Keble: who says what is a valid reason?

Helen: council. Most likely, they just decided or want to cut costs.

No opposition: Motion passed.

Election Results:

JT: SBV 1 RON 4 Dilami 12 Bagshaw 28 DILAMI AND BAGSHAW ELECTED

Exec: SBV 0 RON 8 Lewis-S 37 LEWIS-S ELECTED

Motion 2 passed, motion 3 passed.

k. SO change

Helen Bagshaw Balliol: VP AccAcAff should have third place on University Council automatically. Has been elected to it anyway recently. Student members who do degrees don't grasp issues as well as sabs. Lots of my committees report to council, so I know the issues well.

SFQs: Ed Mayne Mansfield – what is University Council?

Helen: like governing body of a council, has to ratify decisions of lower committees. Most committees have to report to it.

No Opposition: passed.

Motion 1 for election regulations: Proposed RO, Daniel Johnson CCC

Daniel: substantially the same as last year. JMB entries changed because of change in OxStu size, slight rise in expenditure, regs to cover NUS candidates.

SFQs: James Lamming Merton: how are postal votes anonymous?

DJ: you have to trust the team and me.

Frank Hardee Oriel: when does a candidate become a candidate?

DJ: when he nominates. Helen: when nomination period is closed and has been accepted.

Opp: Frank Hardee Oriel: I object to regulations on activists having to be registered even before a candidate is a candidate.

Helen Bagshaw: that's an erratum; it should say polls not nominations in section H.

Passed.

NUS:

DG: meeting in 1st week trinity where policy passed against promoting NUS cards. Believed making students pay was a bad idea. Working in OUSU over the summer whilst details came through, and it has become apparent that the underlying reasons are still valid, the previous policy is restrictive. Making students a failing on the part of the NUS, and should fight against this, but that we should have some leeway to give out information to students on what the card is. We won't be advocating it, just giving unbiased information. At the moment sold 70, have 8,000.

Ed: Sale or return but need to get people to know about them.

SFQ.

Jack Hawkins (Balliol): Difference between discount booklet and NUS Extra booklet.

DG: Discount booklet in Oxford, NUS across the country. NUS also ISIC card

Charlie Steel: Do you think that having a university card is sufficient?

DG: Tried to get into many places, doesn't work.

Jenny: Part of the deal is that NUS negotiate with these people only.

Lizzie (Balliol): How do colleges not affiliated get the card?

Ed Mayne: They can't.

Christine Quigley: Does the previous policy prevent JCRs from promoting the cards?

DG: No, just that OUSU weren't allowed to promote these to JCRs or to individual students.

Samina Bhatia (Hertford): Are we going to get a list of discounts?

Ed: On the website www.nusextra.co.uk

Charlie: When promoting, would it be better to give a table of information on which discounts you get for different cards?

DG: Not my decision.

Ed: The reason we published the discount book is to make students aware of the discounts available to students within Oxford. We need to work out the best way to get this information out. We can send out the information on maillists.

Iain Anstess (Magdalen): If your college isn't affiliated, can you as a member of OUSU get the card?

Ed: Dealt with badly, but done so that colleges have to affiliate and only those members can get cards. If you have voted to pay that bill, then you can get the cards. Had interest but had to turn them, away.

Lewis Iwu (New): How much?

DG: £10

Ed: The way that the card has been set up – OUSU keeps £2 and the college keeps £2. Some colleges are forfeiting the £2 and others are paying the £6 so that students can pay the remaining £2 to OUSU. A lot of students have been buying online so difficult to change.

Carys Ofoko: Are OUSU withholding democracy cards?

Ed: No

Dom Weinberg (Balliol): are these cards for a year?

DG: yes

MTD

Frank Hardee: People's comments are turning into points.

Ed: Complex issue, stick with questions.

Vote – passed

Amendment:

Frank Hardee (Oriol) add resolves 3. But will concentrate on getting out democracy cards to Freshers at affiliated common rooms.

Reason I put this forward is that affiliated colleges are not getting what they have been paying for. Can't expect people to pay extra.

Against:

Ed: Agree with the sentiment, but would be irresponsible. The whole concept of having two cards is silly – if we pushed the democracy cards, people might end up thinking they could get discounts with them.

James lamming: oxford students are smart and can work out. We should distribute the cards that they can have.

Phil Davies (Magdalen): just had discussion of central affiliation: one of the main parts was access to democracy cards and they are aware of that.

DG: accepted as friendly because doesn't affect substance of the motion. Michaelmas term a good length of time to balance the system.

MTV

Charlie: perfectly clear and people have views.

Against

Max Lewis (Pembroke): issues not addressed.

2/3 vote so passed.

Vote on amendment:

Frank Hardee: everyone heard point – compliments not contradicts.

Against

Ed: amendment not necessary. Don't have the resources to concentrate on the issue.

Clearly passes.

St Johns: tearing off the covers – not that hard.

Jenny: Seconded motion. Against the principle of the cards as they fill in a gap in NUS's finances. The way to stop this isn't to prevent students from getting discounts. Vote against it at NUS conference not here.

MTV proposed – passed.

DG: Arguments have been made. Could be as simple as emailing out the information, not going to take up large amounts of resources.

Clearly passes.