

Council Minutes 1st Week Michaelmas 2008 (Friday 17th October)

The Chair took the opportunity to see how many new CR Presidents & OUSU Reps there were and explained some of the rules of Council, such as clapping, noise and questions. The Chair also noted that at 10pm he made a ruling, and that some copies of this were distributed at council or can be obtained by emailing him.

c. Ratifications in Council:

The Chair ruled that "Approval of the Technical details of the elections" printed on the agenda as n. 3 is in fact a Ratification in Council and will therefore be put to Council under c. 1.

c.1. Approval of the technical details of the election

Madeline Stanley, LMH: Council have to ratify these technical details before the election.

No opposition: Ratification passes.

e. Reports from the Sabbatical Officers

Lewis Iwu, President: Glad to see everyone back, lonely in Oxford. Report outlines things I've done over the summer. The financial situation is good with more money for the SU. All the operations we've carried out have been successful. Although not now in the country, I would like to thank Hannah, Herman, Heather and Becci for all their hard work. Would like to bring to your attention that the SAFAM position will be advertised, and Rich Hardiman will take up the position on a temporary basis. Good luck for Council.

Rachel Cummings, VP (Women): Please read the report. Student parents campaign: please if you meet any tell them to get in touch with me. Posters at the back of the room – please take them.

Rosanna McBeath, VP (Welfare & Equal Opps) introduced **Lisa, the new Student Advisor who said:** I was an undergraduate at Harris Manchester as a mature student and was president there. I've now come back to look after all of you. Please, if people in your common rooms ask what OUSU does, say the Student Advice Service. If you need to get in touch email advice@ousu.org

Kaushal Vidyarthi, VP (Graduates): Please look at my report. Looking this term at the graduate admissions process. We have the Mature Students Campaign up and running for the first time. Please write to me graduates@ousu.org

Jack Wellby, VP (Charities & Community): Please look at my report – there's even a joke for those who can spot it. Mandated to look at the timing of Council. From the survey we've decided to delay making a decision until the new committee structures come into place. There was no conclusive good time but it's clear that Friday afternoons are not good. Please get your students to do something good. Please get charities or green reps in your JCR. Email charities@ousu.org

Paul Dwyer, VP (Access & Academic Affairs): There will be study skills sessions for first year students: 4 for humanities and 5 for science students. You can email me access@ousu.org

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

Kat Wall, Women's Officer: Gender Equality Week. WomCam, OUSU, gender campaigns – flag them up to students in your college.

Daniel Lowe, Environment & Ethics Officer: Sorry there's no report – I didn't want to waste paper.

g. Questions to Members of the Executive

None

h. Emergency Motions

The Chair noted that after studying an Emergency Motion he had received he judged it to be a Point of Order and can be introduced as such during the relevant point in Council.

Madeline Stanley ,LMH, reported in her capacity as OUSU Returning Officer: 1) Looking for Deputy Returning Officers. If you're interested email ro@ousu.org – it's a good way of getting involved in OUSU. 2) At 13:39 I made a ruling. Can't officially discuss them in Council but no official candidates. For a copy email ro@ousu.org. The first ruling was in response to OxStu article regarding unofficial debates. There will be none, due to S.O. c.3.e. There will be severe penalties for those that break this. The second ruling was due to OxStu's publication of names of apparent candidates, although there are no official candidates as yet. There will be no websites or Facebook pages/groups until candidates have been officially listed.

i. Passage of Motions Nem Con

n.2. Junior tribunal passed Nem Con.

k. First readings of Motions to Amend the Constitution or Standing Orders

The Chair ruled that “Authorisation of a referendum on the new constitution” printed on the agenda as k. 1. in fact falls under Other Motions and will therefore be put to Council as n. 1.

n. Other Motions

1. Authorisation of a referendum on the new constitution

Proposition: Lewis Iwu, New: In order to be a charity need to be governed by Memorandum and Articles of Association. Should have been alongside the new committee structure changes. Need to sign an agreement with the university. The NUS deadline has been pushed back. NUS will be releasing guidance in January. For this reason we will strike out everything from the constitutional changes except for those parts about creating committees. This is in addition to 4 or 5 clauses and additions to Standing Orders. So far, the Policy Working Group has given us the principles to work on, and in Trinity we passed a motion which has given us a direction of travel. Now we are discussing who should sit and vote in these structures. The debates in Council are getting more and more complicated with more and more motions. Not too different: there are certain people on certain committees; that makes sense. Haven't added anything about emergency motions, and there are mentions of current officers. This would come into force in Hilary.

SFQs

John Maher, Keble: When is the deadline?

Lewis: University Lawyer said October and a year onwards. He said we have it on good authority.

Paul Dwyer, Keble: Will we discuss the issue of emergency motions today?

Lewis: Yes. Open to suggestions.

Sarah Hutchinson, St. Cross: How would this change the wording of motion?

Lewis: I will write an amendment.

Katherine Terrell, St. Hilda's: How many people are needed to call a referendum?

Lewis: Either a petition from 500 people, 10 CRs pass a motion, or Council passes a motion calling for one, as is the case here.

Question from unknown about whether people will vote. Lewis: The election will be in Michaelmas during election time, on-line and over 3 days so we're confident people will vote.

Unknown, Wadham: question about Council's power to amend motion

Lewis: This is simply a process to bring about a referendum – the changes will not happen today.

The Chair asked whether the procedural motion (presented as an Emergency Motion) would be put to Council.

Joel Mullan, St. Peter's: Given that everything is off the table now withdrawing the procedural motion.

Motion tabled until later in the meeting (Chair's ruling). No opposition.

2. Junior Tribunal passed Nem Con.

3. Approval of the Technical details of the election had been ruled a ratification and passed.

4. Fees Working Group

Proposition: Paul Dwyer, Keble: Next year 2009 fees review. We don't want the cap raised even though were not against fees altogether. We just want a working group so we can discuss.

SFQs

Sarah Hutchinson, St. Cross: Is this just related to undergraduate fees?

Paul: Yes.

Joshua Monahan, Merton: How are the four open spaces going to be allocated? More than four places?

Paul: They will be allocated by Election in Council.

Kaushal Vidyarthi, Wolfson: Why is there an MCR contribution?

Paul: It will affect people who are going on to graduate study.

Kaushal: Are we targeting MCR presidents?

Paul: All contributions are welcome.

David Barclay, Worcester: What will it involve?

Paul: It won't involve a great deal.

Jim O'Connell, Univ: Is it relevant to home or international students?

Paul: Home students.

Amendment to change "tuition fees" to "undergraduate tuition fees" in C.R.1 and insert "to be elected in Council" at the end of C.R.2. Amendment passed as friendly.

No opposition to motion as amended. Motion passed.

1. Authorisation of a referendum on the new constitution (Tabled earlier)

Amendment:

- to change "Constitution" for "constitutional changes" in C.R.1,
- to delete C.R.2 and insert in its place C.R.2 to read "To amend the wording of the Standing Orders to reflect the SAS review constitutional reforms, should they pass in Michaelmas Term 2008"
- in appendix "Changes to Council section 8" in To Add b) (page 1) after the words "All motions" insert the words "except emergency motions".

Passed as friendly.

SFQs

Joel Mullan, St. Peter's: Has the original wording of C.R.2 been scrapped?

Lewis Iwu, New: Yes

Joel: When would it be implemented

Lewis: Referendum in 6th Week, then changes in Michaelmas 09.

Speech in Opposition: Joel Mullan, St. Peter's: Why are we talking about the detail now rather than just the principle. How come all the detail is being put through.

Point of information: Lewis Iwu, New: If students vote yes then we need the detail for this and for the referendum.

Joel: I do not think there's been enough debate on what's in the document.

Lewis Iwu, New asked the Chair if he could respond. The Chair noted that it would have to be brought as a point of information, if accepted by the speaker.

Joel: I cannot see why we're discussing this now. There has been no debate. I do not think the decision being made by Council now is informed enough – people haven't had enough time.

Daniel Lowe, SEH: How much will it cost?

Lewis: Effectively zero because it uses an on-line system we've already bought.

Debate

Lewis Iwu, New: The Policy Working Group spent a long time researching this. Council ratified this. The referendum is not just a rubber stamp. We should have strong "yes" and "no" campaigns. That's why we need to do it now. If we do it in Hilary and Trinity then we don't have time to sort out the committees. And later we have the Articles of Memorandum and Association to sort out.

Joel Mullan, St Peter's: I'm in favour of a referendum not just on this document. I think instead we should be debating the broader principles and not 4 pages of regulations on complaints committee. I think it would be far better.

Paul Dwyer, Keble: Broad principles have been discussed. We need to say what kind of committees we want or it's going to be longer and longer before we get the committee structure off the ground.

Sam Wheeler, LMH: Are we taking the general principle or the quite specific regulations.

Summary Speeches

In Proposition: Lewis Iwu, New: Key that we make students listen. If we vote on principle we're back to where we were 6 months ago.

In Opposition: Joel Mullan, St. Peter's: These changes aren't coming into effect until Michaelmas next year.

Vote: Motion clearly passes (2 votes against)

o. Any other business

Daniel Lowe, SEH, reminded everyone to collect their paper to be recycled.
Rachel Cummings, Somerville, drew attention to the posters at the back.

Election of Bar: Wetherspoons.