

# OUSU

council minutes

## 1st week Council held at 5.30pm on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October in the Lecture Theatre of Corpus Christi College

- a. Minutes of the Previous Meeting
- b. Matters Arising from the Minutes
- c. Ratifications in Council
- d. Elections in Council
- e. Reports from the Sabbatical Officers
- f. Reports from the Executive Officers who wish to make reports
- g. Questions to Members of the Executive
- h. Emergency Motions
- i. Passage of Motions Nem Con
- j. Motions of No Confidence or Censure
- k. First readings of Motions to Amend the Constitution or Standing Orders
- l. The Budget or Amended Budget
- m. Motions Authorising Capital Expenditure
- n. Other Motions
  - i. motions affecting ousu members as ousu members
  - ii. motions affecting ousu members as students at Oxford University
  - iii. motions affecting ousu members as members of the student movement
  - iv. motions affecting ousu members as residents of Oxford
  - v. motions affecting ousu members as residents of the United Kingdom
  - vi. motions affecting ousu members as citizens of the world
- o. Any Other Business

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### a. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Chair (Joseph Wales, St. Hugh's): Are there any matters arising from the previous minutes?  
None from termly trinity Council minutes  
None from 8<sup>th</sup> week trinity term Council minutes  
Minutes deemed passed

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### c. Ratifications in Council

#### I. Technical Details of the Voting System for the Michaelmas Term Elections

Council notes and approves:

- I. The appended technical details (Appendix I)

**Proposed: Joseph Wales (St. Hugh's)**

Chair given to David Barclay (president)

(RO: Joseph Wales, St. Hugh's): The voting system is basically the same as last year. Please pass them otherwise we can't have elections.

Chair: Are there any SFQ?

Question: Is the system going to work?

RO: yes

Chair: Any opposition speeches?

None

Ratification passed

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## 2. Appointment to Elections Committee

Council notes and approves:

1. The appointment of Kershia Parris to Elections Committee by the Returning Officer on 2nd August 2010.

### **Proposed: Joseph Wales (St. Hugh's)**

Chair given to David Barclay (president)

(RO: Joseph Wales, St. Hugh's): Kershia has been appointed to the Elections Committee as she can send out unique vote codes. From her computer she can also use mail merge, which will be required with the new system

Chair (David Barclay, president): Any SFQ? none  
Any opposition speeches? None

Ratification passed

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## d. Elections in Council

**The following positions will be elected in OUSU Council of 1<sup>st</sup> week. To nominate for any of these positions please e-mail a completed nominations form to [enquiries@ousu.org](mailto:enquiries@ousu.org) as soon as possible, as the deadline for nominations is midday on Tuesday, October 12**

### **2 Deputy Returning Officers.**

Deputy Returning Officers are responsible for assisting the Returning Officer in running elections, including this term's annual cross-campus elections. Successful candidates will serve for **ONE TERM**, and will be required to chair hustings, undertake administrative tasks in the OUSU offices, and to support the Returning Officer generally. The Returning Officer is happy to meet with any prospective candidates to talk through what will be involved, and can be contacted via [ro@ousu.org](mailto:ro@ousu.org)

### **8 Divisional Board Representative (2 for each Division – 1 graduate & 1 undergraduate).**

Divisional Board Reps are responsible for representing their peers directly to the heads of faculties and division. Successful candidates will serve for **ONE YEAR**, and further information can be obtained from Alex Bulfin, VP (Access and Academic Affairs) at [access@ousu.org](mailto:access@ousu.org).

**Complaints Committee (6 Vacancies)** Complaints board deals with any complaints raised through OUSU's statutory complaints procedure. Successful candidates will serve for **ONE YEAR**, and further information can be obtained from Jack Matthews, the Common Room Support Officer, via [commonrooms@ousu.org](mailto:commonrooms@ousu.org).

**Nominations Committee (2 vacancies)** Nominations Committee is responsible for nominating candidates for the post of External Trustee. Successful candidates will serve for **ONE YEAR**, and further information can be obtained from David Barclay via [president@ousu.org](mailto:president@ousu.org).

RO (Joseph Wales, St. Hugh's): We would like to trial the system of using an election booklet instead of hustings. But if anyone would prefer 3 minute speeches from each of the 13 candidates then we can.

RO (Joseph Wales, St. Hugh's): Please read the election booklet during council and vote by the end of council  
Put number 1 next to your first choice, 2 next to your second choice and 3 next to your third choice for the position  
You are not required to use up all 3 of your votes.

There will be more elections at next council in 3<sup>rd</sup> week. If you would like to run for those positions that aren't running this time, please get in touch with the RO. You may also still run for the positions open on the Complaints Committee or Nominations Committee.

Deputy RO:

Two candidates, two posts.

Candidates: Cameron Dobbs and Johnathon Edwards

Elected: Cameron Dobbs and Johnathon Edwards

Divisional Board Rep - Undergraduate Humanities:

Two candidates, one position open.

Candidates: Hannah Cusworth and Elena Lynch

Elected: Hannah Cusworth

Divisional Board Rep – Undergraduate MPLS:

One candidate, one position open.

Candidate: Jack Matthews

Correction on the ballot paper, Jack Matthew is running for MPLS rep (maths and physics), not medical sciences.

Elected: Jack Matthews

Divisional Board Rep – Postgraduate Social Sciences

Two candidates, one position open.

Candidates: Jonny Medland and John Frame

Elected: Jonny Medland

Complaints Committee

5 candidates, 6 positions open

Candidates: Jonathon Edwards, Jesse Hauber, Sarah Hutchinson, Jonny Medland and Jim O'Connell

Elected: Jonathon Edwards, Jesse Hauber, Sarah Hutchinson, Jonny Medland and Jim O'Connell

Nominations Committee

One candidate, two positions open.

Candidates: Jack Matthews

Elected: Jack Matthews

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

Chair, Joseph Wales (St. Hugh's): Would anyone like to add anything to their report?

Daniel Lowe (VP Charities and Community):

There was a mistake in my report. The RAG ball is on the Saturday of 7<sup>th</sup> week. Please come along

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

Chair, Joseph Wales (St. Hugh's): Would anyone like to add anything to their report?

Jack Matthews (St Peters): One night in 2<sup>nd</sup> week at 6pm I will have a meeting to discuss how to set up a society. I will send an email around, please tell your common rooms.

## **i. Passage of Motions Nem Con**

### **1. Election Regulations**

Chair is given to David Barclay (president)  
There is opposition to the motion

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### **2. Junior Tribunal Shortlist**

#### **Council Notes:**

1. The appended shortlist for Junior Tribunal (appendix 3)

#### **Council Believes:**

1. That the persons named on the shortlist are suitable to serve on Junior Tribunal

#### **Council Resolves:**

1. To approve the appended shortlist for Junior Tribunal

**Proposed: Joseph Wales (St. Hugh's)**

**Seconded: Daniel Lowe (St. Edmund Hall)**

No opposition, deemed passed

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### **3. Campaigns Committee for Higher Education Funding**

#### **Council Notes:**

2. The Independent Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance by Lord Browne has reported its findings to the government.
3. OUSU has policy in support of the Graduate Contribution.
4. OUSU has recently discussed how it should campaign on issues important to students.

#### **Council Believes:**

1. OUSU should have an effective campaign representing the views of students on the matter of Higher Education Funding.
2. Campaigns are stronger when more people get involved.
3. That is it important to have representatives from as many Common Rooms as possible on a Higher Education Funding Campaigns Committee so as to be able to efficiently disseminate information as well as easily hear the views of students across Oxford.
4. OUSU not only needs to campaign to external bodies, but better inform students about the Higher Education Funding debate.
5. A progressive and fair system is required to fund Higher Education.

#### **Council Resolves:**

1. To create a campaign committee specifically on the issue on Higher Education Funding, that will campaign in line with OUSU Policy, and work to educate and involve students in the debate.
2. To mandate the OUSU President, VP Access and Academic Affairs and VP Charities and Community to work jointly on this issue.
3. To request each Common Room to send one person, selected by that Common Room in a manner they see fit, to the campaigns committee.
4. To make the meetings and events open to anyone who wishes to attend.

**Proposed: Elena Lynch (Wadham College)**

**Seconded: Tom Scott (New College)**

No opposition, deemed passed

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**4. A Stars**

Opposition

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**5. Criteria for External Trustees**

**Council Notes:**

1. The introduction of an OUSU Trustee Board as part of the process of Charity Registration.
2. The formation of the Trustee Board as laid out in the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and in particular the need for four external trustees.
3. The motion which OUSU Council passed in Trinity Term 2010 to establish a nominations committee which would bring criteria for external trustees to 1st week Michaelmas Council.

**Council Believes:**

1. That the external trustees should have both a proper understanding of the role of the Trustee Board and be able to provide relevant experience and skills in order to fully contribute to the work of the Board.

**Council Resolves:**

1. To adopt the appended criteria (appendix 4) as the criteria for external trustees.
2. To disseminate these criteria to interested parties, with a view to allowing nominations committee to bring forward candidates for ratification by OUSU Council later in Michaelmas term 2010.

**Proposed: David Barclay (Worcester)**

**Seconded: Alex Bulfin (Univ)**

No opposition, deemed passed

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**n. Other Motions**

**1. Election Regulations**

**Council Notes:**

1. The appended Regulations, issued by the Returning Officer under Standing Order J.1.2 on October 5 2010 (Appendix 2)

**Council Believes:**

1. That these Regulations should apply to this term's elections

**Council Resolves:**

1. To approve these Regulations

**Proposed: Joseph Wales (St. Hugh's)**

**Seconded: Daniel Lowe (St. Edmund Hall)**

Chair is given to David Barclay (president)

There is opposition to the motion

RO, Joseph Wales (St Hugh's): I proposed the motion so I could explain how the regulations have changed

The changes are explained, as of Appendix 2.

Joint Manifesto Booklet (JMB) sizes have changed. They will be printed 5<sup>th</sup> week. The change is because we have changed printers

Expenditure limits are the same

The wording of point 7 has changed

The regulations are the same for point 8

Point 9 about Facebook has changed from last year, but is effectively the same

Removed regulation 10, so no longer have to do

Chair, David Barclay (president): Are there any SFQ? none

Are there any opposition speeches? none

Motion Passes

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## **2. Junior Tribunal Shortlist**

No opposition, deemed passed

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## **3. Campaigns Committee for Higher Education Funding**

No opposition, deemed passed

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## **4. A Stars**

### **Council Notes:**

1. The introduction of A\* grades at A-Level and their use in conditional offers of university places, most notably at the University of Cambridge.
2. That a decision on whether or not Oxford should begin using the A\* in offers in the 2011/12 admissions cycle would have to be made by the end of Michaelmas 2010 in time for it to be included in the University's admissions publications for next year.

### **Council Believes:**

1. That Oxford's system of using all the information candidates currently present through UCAS, plus written submissions, admissions tests and interviews additionally requested by Oxford, are a fair and suitable mechanism for judging the academic ability and potential of candidates.
2. That demanding A\* grades from applicants is very likely to disproportionately favour those students who have attended fee-paying schools.
3. That such a system may well have a detrimental effect on Oxford's ability to admit talented students from poorer backgrounds and schools with little or no history of sending students to Oxford.
4. That at present there is insufficient evidence to judge the merits of these A\* grades, and most importantly their use in identifying academic potential.

### **Council Resolves:**

1. To mandate the OUSU President and Vice-President (Access and Academic Affairs) to lobby against Oxford making A\* offers in the 2011/2012 admissions cycle.

**Proposed: Tom Meakin (Magdalen)**

**Seconded: David Barclay (Worcester)**

Chair, Joseph Wales (St. Hugh's): There is a mistake in the agenda under Council Resolves point 1. It should say 2011/2012 (not 2010/2011)

Tom Meakin (Magdalen):

At the moment at college and uni level there are committees discussing offering A\* for admission

David and I believe it discriminates those from state schools

Why? There are many arguments

A star is awarded to those who get 90% or more. Student must learn the syllabus back to front to get these grades. The facilities available to different schools, their level of funding etc, effect how well students do.

Statistics show that students from independent schools do better than students from state schools when A\* is used for admissions (Tom gives lots of statistics).

The statistics are in favour of independent school students and discriminates against students from state schools

There is no evidence to test this new A\* system over the system that is already in place

In a worse case scenario vote with David and I simply because you want to wait until there is more information available before the University makes a decision.

Best case scenario vote with David and I because you believe that the A\* system will not be fair to all students

Question (St Johns): How will this effect GCSEs?

Alex Bulfin (VP Access and Academic Affairs): There is no proposal that they will stop looking at GCSEs

Tom Meakin (Magdalen):

Oxford University uses a wide range of aptitude tests in addition to the normal admission procedures, which shows they don't have complete faith in the current system. This gives more reason to be cautious of using A stars.

Q: What are the stats if we just look at state and independent schools (and ignore A\*)?

Alex Bulfin (VP Access and Academic Affairs): Offer rates are almost the same for public/independent and state schools

About 26% for one, and 27% for the other, with independent schools having the slightly higher percentage

Q: could you just offer A stars to students from independent schools?

Alex Bulfin (VP Access and Academic Affairs): We would not want to have different systems for different types of schools. This is a road we would rather not go down, but if we found this is what the student body wanted then we can look into it.

Q: If they can successfully differentiate with the IB, then can't they can differentiate with A star?

Alex Bulfin (VP Access and Academic Affairs): answers

Chair (Joseph Wales, St. Hugh's): Are there any speeches in opposition of the amendment to motion 4? none

Motion now stands amended

Motion passes

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## **5. Criteria for External Trustees**

None, deemed passed

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Council closed at 6pm



## Appendix I – Technical Details

### 1. The System

- a. The Election will be conducted via the Mi-Voice electronic voting system.
- b. Mi-voice is a product of iMeta Technologies Limited.

### 2. Counting Method for Single Transferable Voting

- a. Mi-voice Participation uses the Electoral Reform Society '97 calculation algorithm. Further information on this calculation algorithm can be found on the on the Electoral Reform Society's Website – <http://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/article.php?id=48> <<http://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/article.php?id=48>>

### 3. Voting Procedure

- a. Mi-Voice generates Unique Voter Codes (UVCs).
- b. All voters receive a UVC via email.
- c. Voters visit [www.mi-vote.com](http://www.mi-vote.com) <<http://www.mi-vote.com/>> and enter their UVC. They are then able to vote in all elections in which they are eligible to vote.

### 4. Counting

- a. All counting is conducted electronically.
- Mi-Voice provides a detailed breakdown of the results and counting stages.

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## Appendix 2 – Election Regulations

### 1. Size of Joint Manifesto Booklet (JMB) entries

The size of JMB entries shall be limited to the following:

- 1.1. One full tabloid page (340mm up by 285mm across) for each candidate for Sabbatical office;
- 1.2. One quarter page (170mm up by 142.5mm across) for each candidate for Executive of Graduate Executive office;
- 1.3. One eighth page (85mm up by 142.5mm across) for each candidate for NUS Delegate or Student Trustee.

### 2. Expenditure Limit

The expenditure limits for candidates shall be the figures laid out in SO C.3.c.1.

### 3. Media Participation

The RO will only allow candidates to be interviewed by the media in connection with the election campaign if the editor(s) concerned agree to the conditions laid out in SO C.3.a.5, and that the interview shall not be conducted by anyone who is either a candidate or an activist for one of the candidates being interviewed. The RO shall reserve the right to require the editor(s) in question to agree to be bound by a written contract.

### 4. Definitions

4.1. Notice" to a candidate, agent, activist or other subject shall mean:

4.1.1. Notice in person, in writing, or by fax to his/her home address, or other such address or fax number (if any) as previously agreed, by e-mail to such e-mail address (if any) as previously agreed, or via telephone call (including the leaving of a voicemail message) to such telephone number as previously agreed, or via SMS or pager to a previously agreed number. Such notice shall be deemed to have been given upon delivery.

4.1.2. A candidate or subject who is informed that they have information awaiting collection from the OUSU Offices shall be deemed to have received it 60 minutes after receipt of such a message, or from when they collect it from the OUSU Offices, whichever is sooner.

4.2. "Political Organisation" shall mean:

4.2.1. A political party; or

4.2.2. An organisation affiliated to a political party; or

4.2.3. A partisan, political organisation, including all subdivisions thereof; or

4.2.4. An organisation that holds and/or promulgates views of a political nature.

4.3. "Electoral Official" shall mean any member of Elections Committee, or any member of OUSU staff carrying out duties on behalf of any such member.

4.4. "Activist" shall mean any person who is active on a candidate/slate's behalf, as defined in SO C.2.g.4.

#### **5. Construction**

5.1. No electoral official shall be held to account, and no complaint upheld, in respect of:

5.2. Any omission in the fulfillment of their obligations under these Regulation, or under the Standing Orders, where that omission was wholly and unavoidably caused by outside events; or

5.3. The exercise of any discretionary power granted under these Regulations or the Standing Orders, unless the exercise of that power was either purposely unfair to anyone involved in the elections, or where it was exercised by an official in a situation where s/he did not have the authority to exercise such a power.

#### **6. Activists**

6.1. Every candidate shall be responsible for registering with the RO, or a person appointed by the RO for this purpose, any person who is active on his/her behalf 24 hours prior to the opening of polls.

6.2. Any person endorsing a candidate shall be deemed to be an activist.

6.3. Up to, but not more than, ten people may be active on behalf of the same two candidates or slates without this sharing of activists in itself being evidence of cross-slating.

6.4. No agent or candidate may be an activist for another candidate unless on the same slate.

6.5. No activist may disseminate in any form, including via Facebook, any unlawful, false or misleading statements.

#### **7. Endorsements**

All endorsements listed on any JMB entry, website, or other election material must be followed by a statement that these endorsements are made in that individual's personal capacity, unless the candidate or slate in question has provided the RO with sufficient documentary evidence to the contrary from the principal decision-making body of a society or institution. Any such statement that an endorsement is made in an individual's personal capacity must appear in the same size, font and colour as the most prominent part of the text detailing the endorsement.

#### **8. Websites**

8.1. All websites (not including Facebook "groups", for which later Regulations will apply) must be registered. To register a website, a candidate or agent must submit to the RO, either via [ro@ousu.org](mailto:ro@ousu.org) or in person, the following:

8.1.1. Proof of purchase of the domain name;

8.1.2. A signed statement or forwarded e-mail from any person actively involved in creating the website that s/he/they collectively were entirely responsible for creating the website. If anyone actively involved in creating the website has been paid, a receipt must be submitted, and the amount deducted from the candidate's expenditure limit.

8.2. Websites shall be deemed to be election material, and shall be subject to the relevant Standing Orders.

8.3. To ensure fairness in costing websites, all domain names must be purchased specifically for the purpose of the Michaelmas Term OUSU Elections. Domain names must contain some reference to the election or a candidacy, such as [www.voteforA.com](http://www.voteforA.com) or [www.BinOUSUElection.com](http://www.BinOUSUElection.com).

#### **9. Facebook**

9.1. Candidates may create a "Group" on Facebook, as outline in SO C.3.b.6.

9.2. Members of such a group will not be considered activists if they do nothing more than join the group.

9.3. Candidates may not send messages via their Facebook group. Any such action shall be deemed to be an infringement of SO C.3.b.6.a.

9.4. The RO, or a Deputy Returning Officer nominated for the purpose, must be a member and an administrator of all Facebook groups. Only the candidate, their agents and the person named under this Regulation may be an administrator.

9.5. Candidates' Facebook groups shall be considered election material, and are bound by all provisions in the Standing Orders, Electoral Regulations and Rulings relating to election material. Candidates must, therefore, remove any comment posted in their group's "wall" that contravenes such provisions within 24 hours, after which time they shall be responsible for the content of the comment.

9.6.Candidates are entitled to shut down the Facebook “wall” application on any group advertising their candidacy, and do remove any posting they do not wish to appear on the wall of such a Facebook group, regardless of whether it breaches any of the provisions for elections material.

9.7.The “related groups” application on any candidate’s group must be shut down.

9.8.A Facebook message shall be deemed an e-mail.

9.9.Candidates may not create Facebook “fan” pages.

9.10.Candidates should note the Standing Orders and Regulations above pertaining to cross-slating and activism on behalf of more than one candidate or slate, and those Standing Orders and Regulations pertaining to campaigning.

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## **Appendix 3 – Junior Tribunal Shortlist**

Pursuant to Standing Orders C.5.h.1 and C.5.h.2, the following former members of OUSU are, in order of seniority, eligible to sit on Junior Tribunal.

Stephen Moses	Returning Officer MT97
Tony Lord	RO MT00
Stuart Hudson	RO HT01
Anthony Fairclough	RO MT01
Nick Bennett	RO MT02
Conor O’Neil	RO MT03
Steve Harper	RO TT04
Angus Hebenton	RO MT04
Daryl Leeworthy	RO MT05
Tana Das	Deputy Returning Officer MT04
Kimberly Gillingham	DRO MT04
Dominic Curran	DRO MT04
Matt Baker	DRO MT05
Kirsty McNeil	President 2000
Steph Gray	Vice-President (Finance) 2000
Jane Blumer	V-P (Women) 2000
Rhodri Thomas	V-P (Access & Academic Affairs) 2000
Eleanor Fletcher	V-P (Finance) 2001
Antonia Bance	V-P (Women) 2001
James Rowlands	V-P (Welfare) 2001
Will Straw	President 2002
Sean Sullivan	V-P (Finance) 2002
Sonia Sodha	V-P (Access & Academic Affairs) 2002
Andrew Copson	V-P (Welfare) 2002
Helen Puig Larrauri	President 2003
Rodrigo Davies	V-P (Finance) 2003
Dan Paskins	V-P (Graduates) 2003
Rosie Buckland	V-P (Welfare) 2003
John Blake	President 2004
Alan Strickland	President 2006

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## **Appendix 4 – Criteria for External Trustees**

### **The purpose of a Trustee Board**

OUSU’s trustee board will exist to provide strategic direction and leadership to the organisation. It will act as the ultimate decision-making body within the organisation and will be charged with tasks such as the setting and implementation of strategic plans and the creation and monitoring of HR, Legal and Financial policies. OUSU’s Chief Executive will report to the Trustee Board, as will several sub-committees. The trustee board will not be

involved in the policy-making of the Student Union, but will exercise a veto over any decisions which are felt to be against the interests of the organisation as a whole.

### **The purpose of External Trustees**

External trustees will provide much-needed professional experience and expertise on a range of issues which affect the work of the Student Union. They may be involved in specific sub-committees of the trustee board and will provide input into all aspects of the work of the trustee board.

### **General Criteria for External Trustees**

#### **Essential**

- Ability to attend approximately six meetings a year in Oxford
- An interest in the work of the Student Union
- Professional experience
- Good interpersonal skills
- A professional working manner

#### **Desirable**

- An understanding of the University of Oxford
- An understanding of OUSU

### **Specific Criteria for External Trustees**

Candidates should be able to demonstrate that they can contribute one or more of the following:

- Legal training and experience, ideally in education or charity law
- Business management experience, including the setting and monitoring of budgets
- Human resource and staff development experience
- University administrative experience
- Experience of working at a senior level in Higher Education