

Council Minutes

1st Week Michaelmas Term 2014

1st Week Council took place at 5:30pm, on Wednesday 15th October 2014 in Corpus Christi College Auditorium.

- 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 and Divisional Board
Representatives who wish to make reports
 - g. Questions to Members of the Executive
-
- Verbal Report from the Student Trustees
-
- h. Passage of Motions without discussion
 - i. Motions of No Confidence or Censure
 - j. Emergency Motions
 - k. Motions Authorising Capital Expenditure
 - 1. Supporting Free Education Demonstration in November
 - l. Other Motions
 - OUSU
 - 2. Junior Tribunal List
 - 3. NUS Delegate Voting Procedure
 - 4. Council holding the Executive Committee to account
 - University
 - 5. University Committees
 - 6. E&E Divestment Campaign
 - National
 - 7. Affiliation to Action for Trans* Health
 - m. Any Other Business

a. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

None

b. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None

c. Ratifications in Council

None

d. Elections in Council

LGBTQ Officer – Adam Ward (Exeter) nominated.

No hust requested.

Adam – 71

RON – 3

SBV – 3

Adam was elected.

2 Positions for Deputy Returning Officer – Joe Smith (Somerville) and Wharton Chan (Pembroke) nominated.

No hust requested.

Joe – 44

Wharton – 23

RON – 3

SBC – 7

Joe and Wharton were elected.

3 Divisional Board Representatives:

- **Humanities Postgraduate** – Kristina Carney (Hertford) nominated.

No hust requested.

Kristina – 67

RON – 2

SBV - 8

Kristina was elected.

- **MPLS Postgraduate** – Olayinka Oduwole (Kellogg) nominated.

No hust requested.

Olayinka – 69

RON – 2

SBV - 6

Olayinka was elected.

- **Social Sciences Postgraduate** – Hilary Chow (Kellogg) nominated.

No hust requested.

Hilary – 67

RON – 4

SBV – 6

Hilary was elected.

3 Positions for Steering Committee – Will Obeney (Regent's) nominated.

No hust requested.

Will – 69

RON – 4

SBV – 4

Will was elected.

5 Positions for Complaints Committee – Nick Cooper (St John's), Will Obeney (Regent's), Adam Roberts (Wadham), Joe Reason (Wadham) and Marina Lambrakis (St John's) nominated.

Hust requested.

Nick – Stated that he is the current chair of Complaints Committee. Encouraged any students with complaints regarding elected officers to email them over.

Will – Stated that he has been involved in OUSU for just over a year and is now in a position to make the most of this role. Pledged to review the Complaints Procedure if elected.

Adam – Sent apologies.

Joe – Absent.

Marina – Explained that she has already been on the committee for a year and hasn't yet had the opportunity to deal with any complaints. Added that she has experience in welfare roles in which she deals with confidential information which is necessary for the Complaints Committee.

Jack Matthews (University) – Suggested that prevention is better than cure, and asked the candidates if they would be standing for Scrutiny Committee.

Marina – Answered that she would consider it.

Will – Stated that he already chair.

Nick – Explained that he has just resigned and will not be re-running.

Nick – 32

Will – 9

Adam – 2

Joe – 3

Marina – 28

RON – 2

SBV - 1

Adam Roberts elected after re-distribution.

All candidates were elected.

2 Positions for JS(EC)SM (Joint Subcommittee of the Education Committee with Student Members) – Nick Cooper (St John's) nominated.

No hysts requested.

Nick - 71

RON - 3

SBV - 3

Nick was elected.

2 Positions for Rules Committee – Adam Roberts nominated.

No hyst requested.

Adam – 72

RON – 2

SBV – 3

Adam was elected.

1 Position for the Consultative Committee for Health and Safety – Jack Matthews (University) nominated.

Hust requested.

Jack - Stated that health and safety is an issue for him, and added that he is not simply running for a CV tick. Explained that he has been affected as a student by both lax rules and over-zealous rules, and cannot see a reason why we can't find a balance between the two.

Eden Tanner (St John's) - Requested that Jack elaborate on his personal experience and questioned if he is an adequate voice for all lab environments.

Jack - Answered that as a geologist and a scientist, he has done many risk assessments, and has experience in both lab work and field work.

Jack - 68

RON - 8

SBV - 7

Jack was elected.

e. Reports from the Sabbatical Officers

James Blythe (Brasenose) – Introduced himself to council as the new VP Access and Academic Affairs. Informed council that he had been attending meetings for two years, and that part of the reason he was enjoying it so much was because he felt honoured to be following on from his two predecessors. Informed council that he would be bringing the Undergraduate Bursaries and Fee Waivers & Access Programmes 2016/17 to receive their formal response. Explained that he cannot legally publish this on the website so it would be available as an appendix beforehand. Encouraged undergraduates in the MPLS division to run for the final vacant space to be a divisional board representative, and encouraged language students to run for the Language Centre Committee, as someone well-informed in this area would be a better candidate to attend than himself.

Chris Pike (St Edmund) – Introduced himself as the new VP Welfare and Equal Opportunities. Stated that he would particularly like to go through relevant issues that it would be great to have support on from students. Listed one of these issues was increase the number and activity of liberation reps in colleges, who he wishes to support in taking motions to their common rooms. Creating a database of gender-neutral toilets and campaigning for one in every college, department, library etc.

Ruth Meredith (Brasenose) – Thanked Xav and Emily, her PTE, for all of their hard work and help. Updated that there has been progress with community wardens who are now trained and ready to go out door knocking. Informed council that she is working with RAG to look at their governance to make it run as efficiently as possible. Working with Louis on voter registration. Encouraged council to contact her if they have any questions about any aspect of her work.

Anna Bradshaw (Wadham) – Updated council on her very busy summer were sexual consent workshops have been a huge piece of work. Has already beaten her manifesto goal on this, with 30/30 JCRs running workshops, 22 of which are compulsory, and 11/30 MCR running workshops, 4 of which are compulsory. Secured sponsorship for the Women's Leadership Development Programme. Working on opening up access to student parents in OUSU. Encouraged students to come and chat to her about getting women involved in elections.

Yasser Bhatti (Green Templeton) – Introduced himself to council and stated that it is a privilege to be working as a part of the OUSU team. Explained that he has broken his report down into 'wins' and 'in progress'. The wins included Mature Students' Campaign's first ever orientation and 'in progress' includes his work with James and Matt (Academic Representation Officer) on academic representation and Postgrad funding where lots of scholarships will happen!

Louis Trup (Brasenose) – Sang a song to council updating them on the work achieved so far over the summer period and requested that they get in touch with him if they have any questions.

f. Reports from the Executive Officers and Divisional Board Representatives who wish to make Reports

Eden Tanner (St John's) – Updated council that the PTE handbook is now complete and available in hard copy. Thanked all that were involved. Advertised St John's Gender Equality Festival taking place next week. Encouraged people to come along to as many events as possible.

Will Neaverson (Christ Church) – Welcomed back Oriel and Trinity and announced that all JCRs are affiliated to OUSU. Informed council that he is setting up a new common room information survey and requested that common room presidents complete it. Encouraged members of disaffiliated MCRs to get in touch.

Jamie Wells (Corpus) – Has been in touch with Erasmus admin about visiting students' welfare. Advertised the publication of the Aut of Communication.

Ray Dattani (St Peter's) – Informed council that he met with the secretaries in the division this week. Flagged the GMC review which is about to happen and stated that now is the time for voices to be heard.

James Elliott (St Edmund) – Stated that he is currently focusing on ensuring colleges have disabled student officers and encouraged people to contact him about this. Updated council that cuts to the DSA have been postponed and he is waiting on further direction from the NUS before proceeding further with the campaign.

Annie Teriba (Wadham) – Requested that students get in touch if involved in any access projects.

Lucy Delaney (Wadham) – Updated council that feedback forms have led to work towards constitutional change. Over 150 people present at WomCam on Monday. Reiterated Anna's comments on the fantastic success of the consent workshops.

g. Questions to Members of the Executive

Jamie Wells (Corpus) – Asked Ruth for OxHub updates.

Ruth Meredith (Brasenose) – Stated that this information is available in her written report, which includes details of who to contact with further details.

Will Obeney (Regent's) – Informed Louis that council still don't have a great level of understanding regarding your future plans and requested more information. Informed Anna that

at Regent's they use NUS rather than OUSU material for consent workshops as the University Counselling Service claims that this is superior. Asked Anna if she will be working on any revisions.

Louis – Answered that the first part of his report attempted to highlight his plans for the year but stated that he is happy to convert this into a written report if that is useful and will do so for next council.

Anna – Responded that OUSU were training people before NUS material was even available. We are getting feedback and sending surveys regularly and constantly reviewing and considering our material in response to this. Added that the University Counselling Service and the Equality and Diversity Unit are working on gender quality and it is hoped we can put our work in to this. Concluded that she does not personally believe that the NUS material is superior to the OUSU material.

Anna Bazley (St Peter's) – Informed council that she had received some questions to members of the Exec by email from Helena Dollimore (St Hilda's):

President

1. Please can you update OUSU Council as to the status of the investigation into the rigging of the NUS Referendum? Though this is being conducted by the proctors, it is important that we as students are told how it was able to occur and what the University is doing to identify and punish the people/person responsible. If you are unable to report to Council on the investigation, can you invite the proctors to?

2. Can you add the latest Trustee Board Minutes to the OUSU website? They're not on there.

VP Access

3. What efforts have you undertaken to combat and rebut the negative press attention we have received as a result of the film 'Riot Club' on access efforts?

VP Welfare

As the student representative responsible for health, what efforts are you aware of that are being taken by the university to prepare for, and minimise the risk of an Ebola outbreak? For example, has the university drawn up any sort of plan for containing an outbreak?

Louis - Stated that the Trustee Board minutes would be online shortly. Informed council that this really is entirely in the hands of the proctors, who have a greater authority to deal with the results of the investigation. Added that staff members will be meeting with the proctors on Friday and will hopefully have more information then.

Raj Dattani (St Peter's) – Questioned why, as a separate legal entity, OUSU are not investigating this themselves.

Louis – Confirmed that the decision has been made to leave this in the hands of the proctors.

Jack Matthews (University) – Asked the president if he agrees that a clear breach of University IT had occurred and it was therefore necessary to refer this issue to the proctors.

Louis – Agreed. Added that it crucial that we separate out certain issues from council and allow the proctors to do a holistic investigation.

James - Answered Helena's third question, explaining that he has done both radio and TV interviews regarding 'The Riot Club', however claimed that while the real version of this club is an issue for Oxford, he does not believe the fictional representation of it to be a major concern.

Chris – Answered Helena's fourth question, stating that he has been in touch with the University regarding Ebola who currently believe that the risk is very low. Added that he will update council if any changes occur.

Louis – Added that they are working with both the University admin services and the NUS on this who have sent us things to be looking out for.

Verbal Report from the Student Trustees

Christina Toenshoff (St Anne's) – Explained that since OUSU became a charity in 2010, it has been necessary for it to have a Trustee Board. Added that the make-up of this board consists of the 6 sabbatical officers, 4 external trustees with various branches of specialist knowledge and experience, and 3 elected student trustees. Encouraged students to run for these positions in the upcoming elections. Informed council that they are speaking today following concern from council that the relationship between them and the board is not sufficiently transparent, and explained that from now on they will report to council on items discussed at the board. Stated that one decision made at the most recent board meeting was to provide Amelia Foster, the new CEO of OUSU, with a support package from the previous interim CEO.

Barnaby Raine (Wadham) – Continued informing council of board discussion and highlighted that during each meeting they refer to the risk register. One discussion regarding this was about the OxStu and how we can mitigate potential problems in the future. Elections were also flagged as a risk following a change in software after the previously rigged NUS referendum. Press and communications at OUYSU were discussed and hiring a new member of the comms team was considered.

Margery Infield (St Edmund) – Reported that the governance relating to the Personnel Committee of OUSU was discussed, with the conclusion that it is currently too restrictive, and needs adapting to ensure that the most relevant staff/sabs can sit on interview panels. Concluded that it is approaching the 5 year (quinquennial) review of OUSU's articles, and that herself and Louis will be consulting with students on various questions/issues that have arisen from the initial consideration of this.

h. Passage of Motions without Discussion

2. Junior Tribunal List

Council Notes:

1. That the Junior Tribunal is an essential feature of complaint procedures.
2. That it's election season.
3. That those eligible to sit on a Junior Tribunal generally have graduated and are currently busy people.
4. That the Returning Officer has already gauged interest from eligible ex-Officers.

Council Believes:

1. That the ability to efficiently convene a Junior Tribunal helps the complaints process.
2. That in doing so, we ought to have regard for the potential panellists' requests and other commitments.

Council Resolves:

1. To approve a list of more than three Junior Tribunal members, namely:
Stephen Moses (RO MT 1997)
Jane Blumer (VP Women 2000)
Anthony Fairclough (RO MT 2001)
Dani Quinn (VP Welfare 2009)
Oliver Linch (RO MT 2009)
Daniel Lowe (VP Charities and Communities 2010)
Joseph Wales (RO MT 2010)
2. To mandate the Returning Officer, in the event a Junior Tribunal has to be called, to contact all approved individuals at once. The RO shall compose the Junior Tribunal panel of the three individuals who first reply to this call.
3. In case one (or more) of the individuals indicates they can no longer serve, the RO shall replace them using the same method.

***Proposed:* Martine Wauben (Pembroke College)**

***Seconded:* Louis Trup (Brasenose College)**

Motion passed without discussion.

5. University Committees

Council Notes:

1. That the University Regulations mandate that Council should elect representatives to

University Council and the Museums Board.

Council Believes:

1. That representation on these key committees requires the continuity provided by sabbatical officer handovers, a sense of the working of many lower committees, experience of representation and the ability to commit whole working days to meetings.
2. With such general committees, it is not immediately clear which officer should be responsible.

Council Resolves:

1. To delegate the decision of who should represent students on University Council and the Museums Board to the sabbatical officers.
2. To make Council resolves 1 OUSU policy.

Proposed: James Blythe (Brasenose College)

Seconded: Ruth Meredith (Brasenose College)

Motion passed without discussion.

6. E&E Divestment Campaign

Council Notes:

1. There is an overwhelming consensus among climate scientists that in order to have a better than 1 in 3 chance of limiting global temperature change to less than 2 degrees, 80% of known fossil fuel reserves must stay in the ground. On current emissions trends, we will have burnt through the remaining fossil fuel "allowance" in merely 15 to 30 years time.
2. Despite this, the top 200 coal, oil and gas companies continue to explore for and develop even more reserves while also lobbying governments to discourage the introduction of emissions-cutting policies;
3. There is a growing international campaign for fossil fuel divestment--the Fossil Free campaign--which calls on investors to stop putting their money in fossil fuels and to thereby highlight the urgent need for a transition to a sustainable, low-carbon energy future;
4. The fossil free campaign began on US University campuses and has since spread to the UK where there are 43 active student campaigns and where one city council--our very own Oxford City Council--and one University--Glasgow University--have made a first commitment to divest;
5. Oxford students brought the campaign to this University in October 2013, and since then, 26 college common rooms have passed divestment motions and 98 academics have signed an open letter. Fossil free petitions have been signed by 282 alumni and 1,800 others, and in May 2014, the campaign organised a march and rally, which was widely covered in the media, including by Times Higher Education, the BBC, and the Guardian;

6. In Hilary Term 2014, OUSU Council passed a motion endorsing the call for Oxford University to divest from fossil fuels and mandating the OUSU VP for Charities & Community to present this recommendation to the Oxford University Socially Responsible Investment Review Committee (SRIRC);
7. As a result of this OUSU motion, SRIRC launched a university-wide consultation on fossil fuel divestment in March 2014;
8. In June 2014, the OUSU Environment & Ethics Oxford Fossil Free campaign submitted a report to SRIRC, which included a revised set of recommendations;
9. SRIRC then decided to extend the consultation till 14 November 2014 so as to give OUSU Council the opportunity to approve Environment & Ethics campaign's revised recommendations;
10. According to SRIRC's latest statement, it will review all submissions to the consultation at its next meeting on November 28 and will submit its own recommendations to University Council such that Council can consider SRIRC's recommendation at its meeting in the fourth week of Hilary term 2015.

Council Believes:

1. The investments we make are a statement about the future, about what we imagine or expect that future to be. We therefore need to ensure that the University's investments are consistent with a sustainable, low carbon energy system in the years to come;
2. The revised recommendations outlined in the Fossil Free campaign's June 2014 report to SRIRC identify a realistic and effective set of steps, which will enable Oxford University to progressively rid its 3.6 billion pound endowment of investments in fossil fuels;
3. By adopting these recommendations, the University of Oxford will be acting as a global leader in the fight against climate change, setting a powerful ethical standard for other investors (and government policy makers) to follow.

Council Resolves:

1. To approve the recommendations outlined in the report submitted by the Oxford Fossil Free campaign to SRIRC, as attached in Appendix 2;
2. To request, in line with these recommendations, that the Oxford University Council adopt a policy mandating the Oxford University Endowment Management to:
 - a. Systematically evaluate carbon risk across the entire investment portfolio;
 - b. Actively manage the carbon risk exposure of its portfolio with the aim of steadily shifting investments away from high-risk, carbon-intensive assets and toward low-carbon opportunities;
 - c. Remove from its portfolio all direct investments in coal and tar sands oil assets as soon as possible;
 - d. Develop a strategy to effectively engage with policy-makers, financial regulators and corporate management, notably by becoming a member of the Institutional Investors' Group on Climate Change (IIGCC).

***Proposed:* James Rainey (Balliol College)**

***Seconded:* Ruth Meredith (Brasenose College)**

Motion passed without discussion.

i. Motions of No Confidence or Censure

None.

j. Emergency Motions

None.

Anna Bazley (St Peter's) – Informed Council that there had been a request to move motion 7 up the agenda. No opposition received.

7. Affiliation to Action for Trans* Health

Council Notes:

1. That the university has policy committing itself to “an inclusive trans friendly culture, workplace and learning environment”.
2. That this policy also commits the university to “support trans students and staff living in their affirmed gender role” with respect to transitioning.
3. That a recent NUS survey found that 1 in 7 trans students had to interrupt their studies because of their transition.
4. The same study found that 54% of students felt their institution did not provide the necessary support to safely transition (Education Beyond the Straight and Narrow).
5. That Action for Trans* Health provides one of the few centres for trans-related resources concerning medication, administrative changes, housing, and the role of the NHS in transitioning.

Council Believes:

1. That trans students in the university should be supported in accordance with university policy.
2. That Action for Trans* Health offers resources that will be of use to trans students in the university

Council Resolves:

1. To affiliate to Action for Trans* Health at the cost of one fundraiser per annum.
2. To mandate VP (Welfare and Equal Opportunities) to notify Action for Trans* Health of our affiliation in accordance with the guidelines on <http://actionfortranshealth.org.uk/affiliate-groups/>
3. To send one delegate to their national conference.

Proposed: Rowan Davis (Wadham College)
Seconded: Alyson Cruise (St Catherine's College)

Amendment received:

Replace Resolves 3 with:

'To send the LGBTQ Officer to their National Conference.'

Proposed: Rowan Davis (Wadham College)
Seconded: Aliya Yule (Wadham College)

Amendment accepted as friendly.

Motion passed with no objection.

Anna Bazley (St Peter's) – Informed council that due to an administrative error, a motion had been left off the agenda. The missing 'Accessibility Motion' was then circulated via email.

Chris Pike (St Edmund) – Requested that this motion was moved up the agenda.

No opposition received.

OUSU and Accessibility Motion

Council Notes:

1. That OUSU is an organisation that represents all student members of Oxford University.
2. That at present some students are unable to participate fully in the community for reasons of accessibility.

Council Believes:

1. That OUSU and its affiliated bodies (campaigns, Council, etc) should be inclusive forums where all student members are welcomed and encouraged to fully participate.
2. That any deficit of the above is the responsibility of the Executive.
3. That critical evaluation of OUSU's successes and failures with accessibility is crucial to improvement of the organisation.
4. That the development of a 'Best Practice' document could be used to improve OUSU and sent a broader trend for other organisations within the University.

Council Resolves:

1. To mandate the Women's Officer, Graduate Women's Officer, BME and Anti-racism Officer, International Students Officer, Graduate International Student's Officer, Graduate Academic Affairs Officer, LGBTQ Officer, Disabled Students Officer, VP (Women), VP (Welfare and Equal Opportunities), VP (Graduates) and the President to investigate and evaluate OUSU's commitment to accessibility in areas concerning their

constituents, to write a report presenting their findings and present this report at an Accessibility Summit, to be held in Michaelmas term, and chaired by the VP (Welfare and Equal Opportunities).

2. To mandate to VP (Welfare and Equal Opportunities) to bring a master report to 7th Week Council, MT 2014, as a “Best Practice” document, and detailing further action to achieve this.
3. To mandate the VP (Welfare and Equal Opportunities) to bring any subsequent motions to Council that arise from matters in the aforementioned report, with the support of other relevant members of the Executive.

Proposed: Eden Tanner (St John’s College)

Seconded: Chris Pike (St Edmund’s Hall)

Chris Pike (St Edmund) – Emphasised that this motion is really important and stressed that he is willing to dedicate a lot of his time to this.

Eden Tanner (St John’s) – Reminded council that they are requesting to be mandated.

Motion passes with no objections.

k. Motions Authorising Capital Expenditure

1. Supporting Free Education Demonstration in November

Council Notes:

1. Recently the National Union of Students voted to campaign for a new deal for education, that is free, publicly funded, accessible, and funded by greater progressive taxation and clamping down on tax avoidance.
2. Free education is also the policy of the University and College Lecturers’ Union (UCU), and the Trades Union Congress (TUC).
3. Germany has recently abolished tuition fees.
4. Contrasting the model of free education adopted by Germany, UK Conservative and Liberal Democrat politicians have made several statements calling for uncapped tuition fees, while our own Vice-Chancellor asked that fees be raised to £16,000 in a speech last year (condemned by OUSU at the time).
5. The NUS is supporting a national demonstration for free education on November 19th.
6. The success of previous campaigns NUS has run that OUSU has supported, such as the postponing of cuts to Disabled Students Allowance and the cancelling of the student loan book sell-off.

Council Believes:

1. We face a clear choice in education funding: either our system is going to continue down the road towards an American-style model of private universities with uncapped

fees, or we can take it closer to a German model of free, public and accessible education.

2. The German model of free education is preferable to the current UK system of high fees, debt, cuts to staff wages, and privatisation of the education system.
3. Tuition fees and associated marketisation have decisively failed to create a sustainable funding system for universities.
4. In order to fund tuition fees, the Government can now expect to loan in excess of £10 billion per year, much of which it will never recover.
5. Fees act as a deterrent to access, making education seem unaffordable to some.
6. Large public investment in access schemes, funded by this system, is a sustainable way to fund the extremely vital access initiatives our university needs.
7. Access is a public benefit, and as such requires a public-owned and funded education system rather than the current model of privatisation, fees and debt, which does nothing to incentivise good access schemes.
8. That national coordinated action, through bodies like the NUS, is the best way to achieve national policy changes from political parties, as evidenced by recent campaign successes.
9. With a year until the general election, there are clear opportunities to make substantial gains for students, if we put out a clear message and mobilise the movement.
10. That the threat of uncapped tuition fees requires a strong response from the student movement.

Council Resolves:

1. To support free education as a policy and the NUS campaign against fees and debt.
2. For OUSU to book coaches to the demonstration and sell tickets for them to students, advertising this in communications and online, as is the practice in many other student unions when the NUS calls a demonstration.
3. To subsidise coaches to London for the national demonstration with £200 from the campaigns budget.
4. To make 'Council Resolves 1' OUSU's policy on education funding.
5. That this motion does not affect the negotiating stances of OUSU's executive in deliberations with the university on funding, bursaries or grants, but rather reflects our intervention in national policy-making.

Proposed: James Elliott (St Edmund Hall)

Seconded: Annie Teriba (Wadham College)

James Elliott (St Edmund) – Explained that he considers education to be a social good and a human right. Added that right now there are lots of wrongs happening, including cuts to mental health funding, £9,000 fees 45% of loans not repaid. Insisted that the current system is poor for access and tuition fees increase education inequality. The privatisation of fees and debt has made education about profit rather than people. The NUS voted to support the TUC model. Germany abolished fees a few weeks ago. Urged that things could still get worse for us, with the VC calling for an increase to £10,000 a year and some Lib Dem and Tory MPs calling to remove the cap altogether. Reminded council that OUSU supported motions against privatisation and disabled student cuts, and both of these have now won. Accepted that this is no doubt a bigger fight, but argued that it is achievable if we support

and work together.

Raj Dattani (St Peter's) – Asked how much of the discretionary budget the requested £200 would use.

Anna Bazley (St Peter's) – Answered that the budget is £2000 so it would use 10%.

Raj – Questioned how much tickets would cost.

James – Responded that this would depend on the amount of coaches and the money put in. Predicted that it would be approximately £4-6.

Eden Tanner (St John's) – Asked where graduate students fit into this.

James – Answered that although he personally thinks postgraduate education should be free, this demonstration is specifically for undergraduates.

Josh Platt (Hertford) – Asked if James believes that Scotland shows that no fees increases the amount of working class students attending University.

James – Recognised that Scotland has no fees but fewer working class students but does not accept this as correlational.

Chris Pike (St Edmund) – Asked if the policy proposed in resolves 1 includes graduates.

James – Answered that it didn't but welcomed an amendment.

Danny Waldman (St John's) – Suggested that if massive participation is envisaged, the Common Room Support Officer could be enlisted to help.

James – Agreed and stated that he will look to help in boosting turnout if the motion passes today.

Opposition received.

James Blythe (Brasenose) – Acknowledged that James has been very open about bringing this motion to council, and stated that they agree on a number of things. Believes there is an option for a collaborative approach, having opposed the £16000, fees with the VC before. Reminded council that they elected him to negotiate with the University about education funding on their behalf and added that it is due to the work of Access and Academic Affairs Officers that we have such generous bursary schemes. Informed council that the amount of student coming to Oxford from 'flagged backgrounds' has increased since the introduction of 9k fees. Explained that if this motion passes, it will make his job

much harder, and will tie sabbatical officers to a policy that is never going to happen. Urged that we need to work with the University effectively.

Raj – Asked James B if he would be happy with the motion if it contained no reference to policy.

James B – Answered that this would make him significantly happier.

Gonzalo (Keble) – Responded to James B that he does not consider it a good idea to base a policy on ‘never going to happen’. Stated that in Chile they have entirely turned around policy on higher education.

Anna Bradshaw (Wadham) – Questioned why this needs to come to first week and suggested that bringing it later with give other colleges a chance to discuss.

James E – Responded that organising the event and selling tickets would involve a lot of work so still time sensitive.

Josh Platt (Hertford) – Explained that it is difficult to vote today as we received council papers late and have not had sufficient time to consult with our common rooms.

Nick Cooper (St John’s) – Point of order to move motion to 3rd week.

Objected.

James E – Reiterated that it is time sensitive and delaying it would put pressure on the organisation.

Nick – Argued that it appears that people clearly need more time.

Vote on moving motion to 3rd week:

For – 35

Against – 22

Abstain – 3

Fell.

Chris Pike (St Edmund) – Proposed a procedural motion to table everything apart from resolves 2 and 3.

Raj – Pointed out that this would still mean JCR reps voting on how money is spent without consulting.

Objection to procedural motion.

Margery Infield (St Edmund) – Argued that we cannot debate how we spend money without debating on the ‘why’. Considered it impossible to split the motion up.

Vote on moving to split the motion.

For – 31

Against – 17

Abstain – 8

Passed.

Debate on resolves 2 and 3 of motion.

James B – Stated that using the Oxford Tube and requiring students to present a receipt would be a more efficient use of OUSU staff time, particularly when already at their limit during the elections period.

James E – Explained that he left this as ambiguous as we don’t yet know what option will be cheapest.

Move to vote.

Opposed.

Josh Platt (Hertford) – Stated that there is a chance that we could vote in favour of gifting the money now and then vote against the policy two weeks later.

Annie Teriba (Wadham) – Argued that this does not need to be council policy for us to support the funding.

Henry Zeffman (Brasenose) – Responded that as a representative of a college, we cannot pass these parts of the motion without consultation of common rooms.

Chris Pike (St Edmund) – Insisted that regardless of policy, it is in the interest of students to allow them to attend a student demonstration if they wish to do so.

Daniel Turner (Balliol) – Suggested that it is unlikely that this motion will be unpopular and confirmed that his JCR passed it unanimously.

Jack Matthews (University) – Argued that the two motions, despite being split, are still intertwined. Argued that this is the biggest policy change that he has seen in all the time he

has been involved in OUSU and suggested that it needed more time for thought and consultation. Added that if passionate about the demonstration, student would be willing to put their money behind it regardless.

Annie Teriba (Wadham) – Responded that not all students are in the position to pay for it and claimed it was very privileged to assume that they are.

Amendment received:

To change resolves 2 to:

‘ For OUSU to source transport to the demonstration (probably via coaches) and to advertise this in communications and online, as is the practise in many other student unions when the NUS calls a demonstration.’

Proposed: Anna Bradshaw (Wadham)

Seconded: Ruth Meredith (Brasenose)

Amendment accepted as friendly.

Move to vote.

Objection.

Vote on move to vote.

For – 47

Against – 2

Abstain – 6

Move to vote on resolves 2 and 3:

For – 32

Against – 15

Abstain – 7

Resolves 2 and 3 passed.

Remainder of the motion tabled until the following meeting of council.

I. Other Motions

3. NUS Delegate Voting Procedure

Council Notes:

1. That there is no constitutionally enshrined voting procedure to elect NUS Delegates.
2. That there is an NUS requirement for the NUS Delegation to have at least 50% women.
3. That the voting procedure ought to provide for this requirement.

Council Believes:

1. That each voter should have exactly one vote.
2. That the NUS Delegate voting procedure should be as close as possible to STV used in all other OUSU elections.

Council Resolves:

1. To approve the NUS Delegate voting procedure as detailed in Appendix 1.
2. To mandate Elections Committee to review this procedure, and report its findings to the First Council meeting of Hilary term.

Proposed: Martine Wauben (Pembroke College)

Seconded: Louis Trup (Brasenose College)

Martine Wauben (Pembroke) – Explained to council that following new policy passed by the NUS, we are required to gender balance our delegates that OUSU sends to conference. Added that the votes for these candidate will therefore be counted as explained in appendix 1.

Nick Cooper (St John's) – Asked if the new election software is able to run this method.

Martine – Confirmed that this has already been checked and will not be an issue.

Daniel Turner (Balliol) – Asked if these new requirements meant that there could technically be a situation where there is a vacant space amongst the delegates.

Martine – Answered that this would be the case if less than three women candidates nominated.

Josh Platt (Hertford) – Asked if the positions would then be re-advertised.

Martine – Responded that yes they would.

Motion passed.

Remainder of the agenda tabled until the following meeting of council.