



O U S U
council minutes

1st week trinity 2006

Held: Ho Chi Min Quad, Wadham College

Opened: 14:40

Rich Hardiman (Greyfriars) Chairing, Laith Delaimi (Magdalen) as RO, Dave Green (Lincoln) minuting Present.

Exec: Emma Norris, Chris Allan, Aidan Randle-Conde, Ellie Cumbo, Charlynn Pullen, Oliver Russell, Hannah Stoddart, Kate Ferguson, Olivia Bailey, Jennifer Small, Dave Green, Sau Wai Law, Sarah Hutchinson.

Delegates: Georgia Gould, Daryl Leeworthy, Kieran Hutchinson Dean, Benny Spooner, Max Lewis, Abhishek Advani.

Balliol JCR: Jack Hawkins, Lizzy Evusku, Vince Evans; Chch JCR: Will Dorsey, Julian Naden Robinson, Mandy Magill; Corpus JCR: Binya Even; Hertford JCR: Samina Bhatia, Rebecca Ely; Lincoln JCR: Ollie Munn; Linacre CR: Adam Bumpuss; Magdalen: Luke Tryl, Philip Davies; Mansfield JCR: Richard Saynor, Emily Davis; Merton MCR: Walter Ladwig; Merton JCR: James Lamming, Gavin Freeguard, Natasha Harrington; New JCR: Tim Kaye, Daniel Bamford; Pembroke JCR: Claire Addison; Queen' JCR: Marco Egawhary; Somerville: Michael Levy; St Annes JCR: Sally Lambert; St Catz JCR: Rachel Harriott; St Hildas JCR: Ailbhe Menton, Olivia Bailey; St Hughs JCR: Martin McCluskey, Nadeem Anjarwalla; St Johns JCR: Martha Burgess; St Peters JCR: Omar Shweiki, Jai Popat; Trinity JCR: Kushal Banerjee; Univ JCR: Joshua Sasto, Mousa Baraka; Wadham SU: Navid Pourghazi, Daniel Parkinson, Rob Cook

MCc Ratified

Election in council: NUS Int. delegate

RO in Chair

Hust requested

Sau Wai Law (St Anthony's): will be good delegate. Sensible votes. No affiliations.

Oliver Russell (Magdalen) on behalf of Paul Hwang (Templeton): Out of country. Templeton. JCR committee and Int Stud Co Chair. NUS Involvement. No affiliations. **No questions.**

Sab Reports:

Emma Norris (Somerville): email from Brian Gasser about exam disruptions re: AUT boycott. Nothing further.

Chris: Apologies for lack of written report. Audited accounts in 5th week. Circulation of budget next week/3rd week.

Aidan Randle-Conde (Trinity): Nothing to add but stress awareness day announcement.

Eleanor Cumbo (Linacre): Nothing to add.

Oliver Russell (Magdalen): Nothing to add but Post Grad Assembly in 3rd week (maybe in New College)

Charlynn Pullen (St Hughs): Letter to Tony Campaign; nothing further to add.

Hannah Stoddart (Wadham): Nothing to add other than Mr & Miss Oxford, and Oxford Vision.

Kate Ferguson (Wadham): Balliol JCR meeting Living Wage campaign 7.30 Monday.

Benny Spooner (Pembroke): Has Pres read article E sect 6 of Constitution? Removal from office upon no-con of 2/3 in council. Why have council delegates been removed due to non-attendance?

Emma Norris (Somerville): I will think about.

Oliver Russell (Magdalen): Council has introduced SOs for non-attendance; didn't know that without Const ref. Might have to have new elections.

Chris Allan (Somerville): Ox Stu: story about Hannah and Emma. Mistakes have been admitted; retraction and apology next week.

Emergency Motions: Electoral Regulations.

Prop: Oliver Russell (Magdalen). Same as in Michaelmas except for changing name of term. Recognises new rules passed in council before.

SFQs:

Charlynn Pullen (St Hughs): why are 4th year Chem undergrads different to other 4th year scientists?

Oliver Russell (Magdalen): Others have to apply to President as did Chem undergrad.

Eleanor Cumbo (Linacre): Political Society Definition: bad.
Oliver Russell (Magdalen): Way it's been done always.

Binya Even (Corpus): Is eligibility relevant to outside of definition of section 1?
Oliver Russell (Magdalen): RO has to interpret as relevant on a case by case basis.

Opposition: Benny Spooner (Pembroke): An uncharacteristically short speech due to exciting nature of rest of agenda, but electronic voting has to be acted on. Does system allow preference stating? Moving in electronic direction against constitution: Work to do on constitution. Oliver Russell (Magdalen): SOs now say it is permissible for electronic voting. STV: Thought given. System can give binary and FPTV system; but can give series of FPTV to be equivalent to STV.

Benny Spooner (Pembroke): Can votes not make sense:

Oliver Russell (Magdalen): yes, as is the same on paper.

Hannah Stoddart (Wadham): Technical issue should be sorted afterwards with Ollie.

Chris Allan (Somerville): Have we checked that it's the right AV? 15 versions. How is scrutiny done?

Done with OUCS: Scrutineers can be sorted out easily. Only one form of AV.

Frank Hardee (Oriell): Will elections be electronic in MT?

Oliver Russell (Magdalen): Not yet, will need new motion.

Daryl Leeworthy (Oriell): Is there a deadline on registration of activists that wasn't there before?

Oliver Russell (Magdalen): Sorted.

Oliver Russell (Magdalen) summation: Tweak existing rule with regard to new SO: accept them.

Election result, RO: NUS Int; 39 voted. Sau 28, Paul 8, RON 3. Sau Wai wins.

Accommodation Office passed nem con.

Examiners: nem con.

Lexis Nexis: Nem Con.

RAG Charities: Nem Con

No Diet Day: Nem Con.

Barnes Unit: Nem Con

Co Chair elections

Hannah Stoddart (Wadham): Intimidating, and includes irrelevant exec members. Committees more relevant, then ratified in council.

No SFQs

Debate: no debate

Nem Con.

Grad Exec Reform

Oliver Russell (Magdalen): Tweak to composition of grad exec positions. Same issue as previous motion. If done now, it'll all happen at the right time and we will avoid a huge mess during elections.

Benny Spooner (Pembroke): Unusual procedure. Loophole in Constitution for changes, but allowed. Special Council isn't an MCR thing, JCR too. Don't like special council idea. Not the kind of thing to be put to a special council, JCRs aren't interested parties. If people wanted changes should have been amended earlier, shouldn't rush through constitutional changes without scrutiny. Delay important for oversight. Flaws might be apparent after the summer.

Oliver Russell (Magdalen): Changes were rushed, sometimes my fault. Now have been discussed in Council and by grad community. Have been endorsed as being flawless; following the constitution isn't a dangerous precedent.

Aidan Randle-Conde (Trinity): Special council has advantages: only common rooms, and get 21 days notice. Good precedent set by notice period.

Charlynn Pullen (St Hughs): Didn't agree with PT exec reforms; Where is description of officer roles e.g. Ac Aff and Grad women's officer?

Oliver Russell (Magdalen): Discussed in PGA. Would be better served by sab women's officer and PT officers for other portfolios.

Eleanor Cumbo (Linacre): No Grad/Undergrad distinction in Wom cam. If specific women's officer for grads – reinforces divisions. Wom Cam serves Grads well.

MTV, no objections

Oliver Russell (Magdalen): Motion has support of elected committee of PGA, report last term. Principles already accepted previously. Means won't elect officers in Nov whom we're trying to get rid of.

Benny Spooner (Pembroke): Not convinced. Idea floating before isn't a substitute for acceptance. No second reading due to too much delay: not good.

Motion passed.

Other motions

Sub Fusc

Emma Norris (Somerville): Results of poll 80% compulsory. Taken to Proctors. Have to make it policy.

Chair: Can Kate Ferguson differentiate between waving and wanting to speak?

Passed.

Lex Nex:

Oliver Russell (Magdalen): I speak too much, sorry. Grads organized campaign, now being reinstated.

Eleanor Cumbo (Linacre): Why have congratulations have been missed out of notes 1.

Oliver Russell (Magdalen): that's true.

Amendment: Add to resolves I "And Carolyn Haggis" after "Lee Jones". Passed.

NUS Central Affiliation

Emma Norris (Somerville): Withdraw and reintroduce in 3rd week, not enough info about central affiliation. Add new information.

No opposition to withdrawal.

OUSU cards

Chris Allan (Somerville): What does council what to do about cards going around? Let know what the options are. NUS extra card for discounts, free. Students might now have Bod, OUSU, NUS, NUS extra etc cards as student ID. Save £6,000 by not producing OUSU cards; just publicize advertising well and discounts. Extra cards have to be centrally ordered: OUSU best to do it and distribute. JCRs don't have to sell them, but there will be demand.

SFQs:

Eleanor Cumbo (Linacre): is there OUSU mention on new cards.

Chris Allan (Somerville): not that I'm aware of, would be pointless and expensive.

Frank Hardee (Oriol): Point 4 resolves: for disaffiliated colleges, can we still buy from OUSU?

Chris Allan (Somerville): Assumed only through affiliated colleges.

Binya Even (Corpus): NUS discounts, will they go?

Chris Allan (Somerville): Local discounts still. Contract with NUS for big nationals might not work (Topshop etc)

Jack Hawkins (Balliol): Cost?

Chris Allan (Somerville): depends on how many common rooms. Minimum per order probably around £1000 per Common Room.

Benny Spooner (Pembroke): Has any consideration been given to not selling the cards, since they're useless?

Chris Allan (Somerville): Considered, since I agree: but OUSU shouldn't impose that choice on common rooms.

Binya: Inaudible.

Chris Allan (Somerville): Give them out at freshers' fair.

Jack Hawkins (Balliol): £4 from NUS extra is to SUs: is this just to cover costs?

Chris Allan (Somerville): intended to be a way for SUs to make money. Won't make much.

Frank Hardee (Oriol): Are we then making £8 from each card?

Chris Allan (Somerville): Students buy them individually rather than in bulk; £10 each. JCRs won't be buying in bulk.

Opposition:

Benny Spooner (Pembroke): If anyone wants to amend, please join me. Not convinced we should plug extra cards; freshers will want card and not realize they get discounts without it. If still get NUS membership card, can still get them. Financial incentive to sell the cards. At least we should say we're not going to advertise them. If we can't amend – please vote against.

Binya Corpus:

Chris Allan (Somerville): Most SUs have an incentive to join NUS. Unless some shops take NUS not Bod Cards, then no incentive for us.

Aidan Randle-Conde (Trinity): terrible idea of NUS extra card. Students should be made aware, but should have option with advice that it's a silly idea.

? (St Catz): Affiliation debates come down to OUSU give us a card; if there's no card, then Common room might not want to email members.

Hannah Stoddart (Wadham): Is an issue, OUSU card is one of the worst services OUSU provide though. We can say that we do more things.

Kushal Banerjee (Trinity): In MT Trinity disaffiliated from NUS: then reaffiliated, due to Bod cards not being accepted everywhere. OUSU Cards wouldn't have as much of an impact as one might think.

Amendment: OUSU will not advertise OUSU cards to students, In resolves 3d.

Chris Allan (Somerville): People should have the option, but they're not a good idea. Don't push them down people's throats.

Hannah Stoddart (Wadham): If get discounts and shop a lot, then people will get something out of it; if they're losing other discounts, then should be made aware of this service.

Amendment vote: passed.

BM speaking rights: passed.

Rob Vance: OUSU card invented 2 years ago. Decision to get rid of made in mind of discounts. Not binning £5,000 spent – better ways to spend it. BM has to save money for students through discounts and other things, card just wasn't the way to do it. Can still say OUSU works to save students money.

Eleanor Cumbo (Linacre): If can't get data for beginning of MT anyway, then it's hard: Uni doesn't give it to us. Getting rid of OUSU card won't make us look that bad.

Emma Norris (Somerville): If a common Room disaffiliates, then they have no ID beyond OUSU card.

MTV

Frank Hardee (Oriol): heard all the arguments

Kate Ferguson (Wadham): there is an amendment

Frank's withdrawn

Amendment: Remove Council Notes 8, Believes 5 & 6, Removes Resolves 3a, Add believes 7:US extra cards will create a two-tier NUS membership system in which students who can afford to pay more will gain greater benefits from NUS"

Dan Parkinson (Wadham): makes NUS a card dispensing thing, and those who can afford things to get them.

Chris Allan (Somerville): Allows those who can save money to do so.

Emma Norris (Somerville): these used to be available to everyone, now you have to pay £10 to be eligible. Why not eligible on affiliation fees?

Dan Parkinson: Not saving, it's what it says: we endorse saying students should pay if we vote for this.

Aidan Randle-Conde (Trinity): Not purely a financial decision to make.

Binya Even (Corpus): If you want to criticize NUS, fine: but this is ridiculous. Everyone has £10.

Chris Allan (Somerville): accept all points, but don't agree with argument. If we say we're not accepting it for political reasons – that will hit poorer students harder. Better ways to protest to NUS.

Benny Spooner: if students don't buy, then NUS will find out pretty soon that it's a bad idea. NUS could easily give free discounts.

Jack Hawkins (Balliol): Does Chris know what these new benefits are? In Oxford Bod/OUSU cards get a lot of discounts.

Chris Allan (Somerville): NUS will retract some of them for non-NUS Extra; won't be on OUSU card in that case. NUS won't tell us all of their deals, but generally all of the ones on card, Amazon, Blockbuster, a lot of travel etc.

Hannah: Everyone should know why NUS does this: wants more money, probably financially bad. Mismanagement of finances shouldn't be passed onto students who pay fees.

Frank Hardee (Oriol): Voted in council on finances for OUSU, didn't put up fees to help out SU. Same principle for NUS.

Emma Norris (Somerville): NUS tied into deal for this already; should make card available, but shouldn't be happy about it. A really crap thing for them to do.

Binya Even (Corpus): should make the best of a bad job.

MTV No opposition (on amendment).

Amendment fails.

Back in debate.

Jack Hawkins (Balliol): One benefit from OUSU cards (discounts) removed; should be taken away.

BM: We go around giving discounts, is an incentive for us to do this: we'll still do this.

Amendment: Resolves 5: To mandate the president to write to the NUS expressing our grave disappointment that NUS deem it appropriate to charge students for discounts they should, previously, have received for free.

Passed nem con.

Chris Allan (Somerville): Only local discounts on OUSU cards now. Can't get OUSU cards out till Xmas. Revenue declines year on year. Extra cards are a bad idea, but we should sell them anyway. NUS advertise to students, best way in bad situation.

Frank Hardee (Oriol) on fourth part: fact that Oriol won't have access to disaffiliated cards is something of concern to Oriol.

Voting on first part: passes.

Second part: passes

Third Part:

Fourth Part:

Passes nem con In total.

Code of Conduct

Hannah Stoddart (Wadham): Strikes as important that OSSL has ethical code for operations, in light of SRI. Conflict between campaigning body and commercial body eased slightly.

Rob Vance: 10% - change?

Hannah Stoddart (Wadham): ripped policy from elsewhere, seems extreme. On reflection, might have to engage with companies and strike an easier position.

Aidan Randle-Conde (Trinity): Does Resolves Id mean OSSL board has some discretion?

Hannah Stoddart (Wadham): yes, if members of council have issues then broad framework allows them to bring them to OSSL. Gives that broad framework.

Debate

Amendment: add "If OSSL has reason to believe as new advertiser breaks the ethical policy it will ask the ethics committee to investigate".

Chris Allan (Somerville): Allows that individuals who don't know they're breaking it don't get in trouble.

Aidan Randle-Conde (Trinity): How is committee consulted in long vac?

Emma Norris (Somerville): Quite easy to do that.

Aidan Randle-Conde (Trinity) withdraws opposition.

Amendment passed

Amendment: strike resolves Id.

Will Dorsey (Christchurch): motion good, but concern with OUSU is that it's a group making moral judgements they don't agree with. Clause gives OSSL complete discretion; not in the interests of students.

Rob Vance: OSSL does this already. Big team who make sure that this happens, through the board. Make sure incentives aren't limiting. Number doesn't make a difference: not only grounds for making a decision about a company.

Chris Allan (Somerville): Be surprised what we're asked to advertise. Gives discretion to not do (for example) porn and astrology lines. Strict policy prescriptions couldn't cover all of these; discretion is required.

Hannah Stoddart (Wadham): So the motion doesn't backfire on us

Will Dorsey (Christchurch): sounds sensible. But people don't always agree on our ethical choices, so have to demonstrate a framework for student confidence.

Jack Hawkins (Balliol): 2 issues for an advert: ethical opinion of company, and offence caused by advert. Should replace resolves Id with something including discretion for welfare.

Rob Vance: Should add something to resolves Id, not remove it. Hard to completely legislate for every thing that happens.

Will Dorsey (Christchurch): why is choice of thickness of paper an ethical issue?

Rob Vance: it is.

Chris Allan (Somerville): in absence of other guidelines, we'll carry on as it is already. Should come back to next council with guidelines if you want. Everyone agrees there should be some discretion, but that it should be limited in some way.

MTV on amendment: fails.

New Amendment on objectification of women: Add new Id, renumber: "OSSL will not allow for advertising space to feature images which objectify women; the OSSL board will judge such images by majority vote with advice from the VP (Women)".

? (Christchurch): what does it mean to objectify women?

Eleanor Cumbo (Linacre): Why have allowed provision for OSSL vote on it, with advice from VP (W).

Chris Allan (Somerville): Don't often get them, but procedure should exist to mirror informal practice.
Charlynn Pullen (St Hughs): is VP women always a member of the OSSL board?
Eleanor Cumbo (Linacre): No, but must be asked under this amendment.

Eleanor Cumbo (Linacre): Many of these changes codify what has happened previously by goods judgement. Has worked so far, but should be codified, allows complaints to be made within a framework. Doesn't allow VP (Women)'s veto; majority vote.

Will Dorsey (Christchurch): Why not provision for objectification of men?

Eleanor Cumbo (Linacre): I will second such an amendment.

MTV on amendment: passed.

Amendment from Jack Hawkins (Balliol): d) "On occasion OSSL will make decisions with regards to specific requests for advertising where there is a concern that the advert may cause offence or raise a welfare concern".

Jack Hawkins (Balliol): Seems that OSSL's decisions they do so for welfare concern rather than ethical judgement, so more fitting to use that term.

Aidan Randle-Conde (Trinity): would causing offence include violating equality policies?

Jack Hawkins (Balliol): down to the interpreters, but probably.

Aidan Randle-Conde (Trinity): Objecting because doesn't leave way for equal ops opposition.

Hannah Stoddart (Wadham): agree with sentiment of amendment, but should be an addition not a replacement. Otherwise too limiting.

Jack Hawkins (Balliol): gives good scope for welfare and cause of offence. Amendment catches all companies we'd call "bad".

Rob Vance: Stagecoach might be a tricky issue – their MD is morally dubious, but they do a lot of business with us. Offence causing to one person for any reason might not be reasonable. Things which are too vague can be limiting, and make things hard for council.

MTV on amendment: fails

Jack Hawkins (Balliol): a lot of the companies with whom we have concerns employ our graduates, and they're not bad people. This codifies the fact that some companies are "bad", and ostracises those graduates. Careers Guide is one of the most important resources for people looking for work.

Hannah Stoddart (Wadham): OUSU has a responsibility for taking a stand on these people, as an institution we shouldn't endorse them.

Eleanor Cumbo (Linacre): Lot of misunderstanding about coke motion: not that individuals shouldn't drink it, but that as an institution we shouldn't endorse it. Analogous situation.

Jack Hawkins (Balliol): Handbook often only resource, and best resource, for careers. Services that we provide should be a full service, not only for those companies that are ethically endorsed.

Aidan Randle-Conde (Trinity): Undermines SRI campaign.

James Lamming (Merton): Careers Service is also a good resource, if people want to work in the arms industry they can be guided there by others.

Rob Vance: On careers handbook, provides 2 things: gives service and generates income. Work with engineering department to make sure that advertising isn't from bad companies. We will continue to provide these services within the framework. A Lot of these companies don't actually seek out this advertising.

Wadham guy: arms trade is an impact on human rights; why not just ban all companies involved?

Hannah Stoddart (Wadham): Some companies are more subtly involved in arms trade than BAE, should engage with them and decide case by case.

Rob: hard to get info on small engineering firms; better for Rob to investigate how much of their business is involved in bad trades than blanket ban. Cascade effect through the supply chain from too broad a rule could be very bad.

MTV: passes.

Sudden rush of leavers makes Council inquorate. Meeting closes

