

# OUSU

council minutes

## Minutes of 1st week Council held at 2.30pm on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2009 St Hilda's 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**

No matters arising.

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### **c. Ratifications in Council**

#### **1. Electoral Regulations TT09**

##### **Regulations governing the Trinity Term 2009 OUSU By-Elections**

Returning Officer: Same but changed two G & H. Please pass them.

No objections.

Passes

#### **2. Technical Details of the Voting System for the Trinity Term 2009 OUSU By-Elections**

Returning Officer: Still "My Voice" no changes please pass.

No objections.

Passes.

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### **e. Reports from the Sabbatical Officer**

**President**

As you can see from my report there have been major changes in the staffing of the Student Union, 6 staff are leaving and 4 new staff are starting. We are hoping this will provide continuity in advertising, and strengthen our finances. The new publisher is someone with professional experience and skills who will ensure our publications are kept up to date and of good use.

Appointed a new General Manager, who is a former General Manager of Liverpool, Essex and Sterling. The other members of staff are also incredibly important as they make sure the sabs and exec can act as a useful tool to your common rooms.

Attended the NUS Conference it was interesting hearing the national debates. Talked about important issues, some issues I've raised with council before.

Such as the national exec sitting at front of stage clapping and cheering those that they didn't like

And the fact that there is no campaign limit; people were bribing people in their campaigns. So I am going to speak to the relevant people to ensure these things are looked at.

It is no secret that the Student Union premises are not ideal, and this is being looked at in a working group, the University has now made a commitment to move us. We have talked to the university about what we need from a premise, such the fact that it needs a commercial operation, a meeting room for council, meeting room for societies. They are currently looking for premises for us and will come back at end of May with a shortlist for us to choose from. We have made sure that disabled access to the Union is on the university radar.

Jamie Susskind has finished the rent package and has done a fantastic job and has also set up meeting with Tim Knowles. He will be talking to OUSU on Thurs at 10.30.

Common Room visits recently, they are great I love common rooms and so do exec. We are in the process of setting up standing visits and booking out dates next term, so a block of visits will take place. Thanks Magdalen and St Peters.

No questions.

### **VP Women**

Please have a look at my council report.

Finals forums are going really well please highlight the fact that they are happening to your students. We are also running some debating workshops in the Union, which are open to non Union members. Monday 7.30pm all women welcome.

Holding a follow on to the sex violence workshops in 6th week with 2 experienced speakers and Lisa will be attending to talk to us - every one welcome. If you are interested just e-mail me and I will put you on the guest list.

Publicity Committee is working hard, have created a poster of the list of achievements of OUSU in Hilary term if people want copies I will be handing them out at the end of Council.

Women Rep something working on over vacation, it was a major information gathering exercise, looking at women in all parts of the university. It contains loads of information in it, and this information should be available to everyone. I have tried to make it accessible to everyone. Giving to you is the first step, I will be sending it to college Women's and Welfare Officers. If anyone wants the references to append e-mail me.

No questions

### **VP Charities & Community**

Not much to add to my report but on Thurs next week RAG is organising a charity cuppers between colleges. You should get your colleges to choose something you could be sponsored for, try to make these things as imaginative as possible. Get your college to raise the most money.

Question:

What are the details of the launch party?

It will be held on Wednesday evening in Thirst cocktail bar, we have a place reserved.

### **VP Access and Academic Affairs**

Met with university OUSU are going to have input into both the graduate and undergraduate prospectuses, I will sit in on first meeting of it

No questions

### **VP Welfare**

Just want to flag up the college equality report, if you could please complete it that would be fantastic. Also if your college officers have not responded please get them to.

No questions

### **VP Graduates**

International Committee doing very well, we have sorted out a venue for the International Festival, it is going to be held on the Saturday of 4<sup>th</sup> Week in the University club, 40 societies will be represented, there will be food, stalls, cultural events do come and please promote and advertise to your colleges. We want to promote integration and want to make it bigger and bigger. There will be performances all day

International access scheme organising something similar to target school any international students go to home country can go to their school. Recruit volunteers for training for 5<sup>th</sup> week, short training session with volunteers being handed presentation material and prospectuses to present to schools.

Organise visa office seminar to help people stay here after studying please advertise as much as possible.

No questions

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## **f. Reports from the Executive Officer's who wish to make reports**

### **Woman's Officer**

Gender equality week is back, it's going to be third week of Michaelmas term if you have contributions, please contact me.

Public speaking workshops, difficult to organise college based husting training, but am hoping to do so.

No questions.

### **Environments & Ethics Officer**

On Wed 6.00pm in cellar is Lights, Climate, Action, featuring loads of acts, tickets are £3 or £4 on the door. Tickets are available from your E&E reps. Come it's going to be amazing.

No questions.

### **Common Room Support Officer**

I too love Common Rooms. In 3<sup>rd</sup> week I am going to be holding a workshop on how to set up a university wide society, looking at funding and regulations etc.

Please can you let us know if anyone in your Common Room committee has changed so we can update our lists. Please let us know if you want anyone from the sab team to come and visit your common room and we will.

### **Returning Officer**

Bi election will be taking place in 5<sup>th</sup> Week it will be a 3 day on line election you will be e-mailed voting codes. Nominations open midday on Thursday. The positions available are as follows;

Black Minority and Anti-Racist Office  
Mature Students Officer  
Students with Disabilities Officer  
LGBTQ Representative  
Graduate International Officer, only open to graduates.

If you are interested in any of these positions please e-mail me and I will send you an e-mail or talk to me after council.

Lewis Iwu thanks Lucy Edwards for all her hard work as SWD officer and advises that she has had to resign due to work commitments.

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

### **1. Encouraging JCR and MCR LGBT Representatives to have Fixed Email Addresses**

No objections

Motion passes Nem Com

### **2. Minimisation of OUSU Environmental Impact**

No objections.

Motion passes Nem Com

### **3. Junior Tribunal Elections Eligibility**

No objections.

Motion passes Nem Com

Returning Officer took a question regarding John Blake advised that he was President in Michaelmas 2004

### **4. Motion on Gambling Advertising**

Objection.

Moves to full debate.

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## **n. Other Motions**

#### 4. Motion on Gambling Advertising

Speech in Propostion: Paul Dwyer (Keble)

Sorry to write a confusing motion, but because I don't have strong feeling felt that it was it was important that it was discussed in an objective fashion. In Exec meeting we discussed a company who promote gambling wanting to advertise on our website but we didn't feel we should make a decision about it but thought that it should be brought to council to see what Councils views on it are.

Speech in Opposition

The motion doesn't make sense at moment, so need to debate it.

Amendment 1. Proposes to strike Council Resolves 2.

If in opposition then you don't care whether gambling companies advise with OUSU

Rosanna McBeath (St Hughs)

This came up over break I feel strongly that they shouldn't advertise with us, it came up because a gambling company saw an advert for gambling on one off the NUS websites. When I approached the NUS to advise them of this they advised me that they did not know about this as they outsource their advertising as soon as I advised them off it, it was taken down.

0.25 million .6 of the population have a gambling problem. 5% in last month online biggest proportion is men between 18 -24 don't think we should promote gambling.

SFQ Noor Rashid (St Edmunds)

How much would it raise if we let them advertise?

No specific figure at this time but it would potentially be a banner advertisement on the OUSU website which is about £1, 200 a term. This is the most likely as it is unlikely that they will have anything in the OxStu.

SFQ Portia Roelofs (Queens)

Would there be other people who would advertise with us?

We now have an active Advertising Co-ordinator if didn't go in then it is likely then we will have another advertiser take it's place, but it is not definite

What is the definition of a gambling problem

Problem gambling is a gambling addiction

Speech in Opposition: Lewis Iwu (New)

I firstly think that it is important not to have double standards within the student union, it facilitates the provision of information on gambling and drinking. Difficult shouldn't legislate for majority as it not a huge problem.

Same criteria can be applied to drinking and gambling. Drinking can be seen as a reason for destitution too and we should definitely raise awareness, but not take definite action. If we do it could be said we should not promote entz where drinking is happening.

There are grey areas, the national lottery is seen as ok. I personally think that gambling on the stock market is a form of gambling. Fundraising a grey areas, lots of events associated with gambling RAG charity events casino events. The financial implications are that we may not have an advertisement to replace it. Should we limit it if it is not illegal and if not too many people against it?

Dan Lowe (St Edmunds)

Don't think that financial imperatives on advertising are that imperative when we discussed UBS advertising and banned them we found a new company that replaced them it shouldn't be an issue. RAG casino is not a casino as such, you get x amounts of chips for a set amount, usually with your ticket and get pieces of plastic, and win a fixed prize.

POI

What is the difference bet paying money and winning a non cash prize.

Rosanna McBeath to answer

Its different gambling legislation, its like a private members club paying to get in, comes under different Government legislation)

Further more RAG casino is a completely different idea, one of main reasons given to the Proctors for promoting drink is the fact that OUSU have a presence at pulse, can make sure everyone is safe and protected, same at RAG casino.

Rachel Cummings (Somerville)

Idea could run an anti gambling campaign against constitution issues if wanted to advertise alcohol on web would also have to discuss it in council

Jack Wellby (Jesus)

Important to note people can be addicted to gambling. I think we should accept not only on website but in Oxstu as well, I think if standing here in 2004 would be opposed but the government has relaxed it's laws in 2007 allowed to advertise on TV and radio. Gambling Organisation set up, advertiser have to meet strict conditions. Google 16th October 2008, overturned a policy on gambling advertising. I spoke to the Business Manager and it could open door to potentially big revenue area. Facts and figures suggest that 72% involved in gambling 42% gambling would be demand for advertising. As Rosanna mentioned a number of people 0.1% with a severe problem. This is actually approximately 50,000 with a severe gambling problem. The Gambling association suggests that this problem is mainly amongst the following black, asian, divorced and the uneducated. Trade off against gambling should be allowed as it puts money into student union. Should allow within limits.

Catherine Terrel (St Hilda's)

Lots of people have gambling problems, just because it's addictive shouldn't not be advertised.

OUSU has to provide advice it's ridiculous to say adults cannot make a decision about what websites they visit and what they do. Can't see why we shouldn't accept it. No reason to ban it.

Portia Roelofs (Queens)

Really damaging comment on what this will effectively mean, what situation will mean, what heard from Jack is it is difficult to get advertising which potentially we could have gambling advertising to the detriment of other advertisements. Pointing out only to those who are vulnerable shouldn't put on a site that is for welfare. Gambling organisations only want it because they know students will look at these sites, gambling is not a good or service, paying for in the hope that you might win. Shouldn't be promoting I know we have choices but to think that we would accept something as unproblematic when we might run a campaign against it is, is bad. We try to inform people.

POI

Surely if we get the revenue we can spend it on other campaigns which would be way more useful. Do we know how many people at the university have a gambling problem?

Cost beneficial analysis difficult as can quantify the benefits easily, but the problems are difficult to quantify. Think Oxford is a stressful, pressurised environment so people might take more risks. No data on it. Not relevant shouldn't justify your actions on the benefits. Is this in line with our principals. Thinks inhibits choice

Jack Matthews (St Peters)

This is on a different tack, it is a plea to council, and this has been bought, as we need to know what you want. Could be a lot of abstentions and what do abstentions really mean. If you are indifferent, are you against gambling being advertised, are situations when you should be abstaining. I myself am indifferent if advertising does happen. Please abstain for the right reasons.

Lewis Iwu (New)

Motion refers to monetary prizes this is arbitrary RAG casino is part of gambling. Don't buy just get given, yet I have attended some events when I've paid for chips.

Consistency issue, don't want to encourage people with problem to gamble, should be applied to drinking, we give the opportunity for people to access drink cheaply. We are actively facilitating this so have to think carefully about entz.

We don't have that many options for advertising. If gap in budget from lack of advertising then this will have a detrimental effect on OUSU campaigns.

I think if we legislate against it we are being a bit paternalistic. Thrill, of playing, so many reasons people gamble shouldn't have blanket policy.

POI

On defining why people gamble. People gamble to enjoy gambling without need to win not a problem

Lewis Iwu (New)

I agree

Paul Dwyer (Keble)

I still stand on my original point, I can see both sides. When comes to consistency, if students are going clubbing anyway we can at least be present at Pulse to ensure that they get assistance if they need it.

If there is a £3k gap in budget. This is a door, just a possibility. £3k gap could be filled we don't know the extent of the gambling problem amongst students, on a club night can tell if someone gone to far, we can help. But we don't know if they are going on gambling websites alone in their rooms.

Speech to Move to Vote

Move to Vote passes

Summary in favour of amendment that gambling should be banned on the OUSU website

Portia Roelofs (Queens)

Really don't think should accept money from advertising from gambling companies, if we think its safe then fine. But where does it fit with the goals of the SU, no it undermines them. If we really aren't going to have any advertising apart from this then do you really want it to be OxStu and gambling and OUSU website and gambling. Don't be under any illusions this could definitely increase gambling in Oxford do you really want us to support this.

Lewis Iwu (New)

I don't think it is that easy to monitor, can't monitor hidden costs of alcohol, gambling is not abnormal most people gamble quite regularly. A minority suffer from problems and the Government has legislated

and it is now monitored all gambling adverts have a Gambling Aware link. Not the same as Shell Exxon mobile.

Vote in favour of motion

In favour of amendment 28/27

Against more.

Paul Dwyer strikes Amendment 1.

Any amendments

Amendment 3

Paul's amendment to strike council resolves 1.

No opposition.

All advertisements for gambling should have a warning against them and a link to Gambling Aware

Taken as friendly

SFQ

Amendment 4 add to Council Resolves 2 as long as registered with the Gambling commission.

To allow companies as long as registered with Gambling Commission.

No points of debate.

In favour

No count motion passes with large majority.

Final Motion reads

### **Motion on Gambling Advertising**

#### **This council notes:**

1. That revenue from gambling advertising is an avenue that has not yet been explored by the OUSU business team.
2. That OUSU does not yet have a policy either in favour or against the promotion of gambling in the Oxford Student, on Oxide, or on the OUSU website.
3. That OUSU has standing policy against a number of companies, given their nature and practices. Such policies include those against Nestle, Exxon Mobil and UBS.
4. OUSU does not have policy against the promotion of other activities that are linked to problems concerning addiction and abuse. For instance, promotion of events and companies that feature alcohol prominently.
5. That NUS displayed an advert on their website for a gambling company until recently, when it was brought to their attention, leading them to remove it.

#### **This Council Believes:**

1. That the promotion of gambling, while possibly lucrative, also has moral implications. Given that around 250,000 people in the UK have a gambling problem, OUSU Council may wish to send out a clear message concerning gambling advertising.

**This Council resolves:**

1. To allow companies who promote or are associated with gambling to advertise within OUSU media, as long as they are registered with the gambling commission.
  2. All advertisements for gambling should have a warning against them.
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**o. Any Other Business**

Rachel Cummings: Please remember to take posters

Election of Pub

Angel and Greyhound