

## 7<sup>th</sup> Week Trinity 2017 Minutes

TIME: 5:30pm

DATE: 26<sup>th</sup> April

LOCATION: St John's College

We aim to make Council as accessible as possible, and ensure that it is always in accessible venues. However, if there are any accessibility requirements that we are not meeting for yourself or others, please contact:

**OUSU's Democratic Support Officer, Josh O'Connor:**  
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If you have any questions about OUSU Council, please feel free to contact:

**Chair of OUSU Council:** [chair@ousu.ox.ac.uk](mailto:chair@ousu.ox.ac.uk)

**a. Minutes of the previous meeting**

**b. Matters arising from the minutes**

**c. Elections in council**

**d. Reports from and questions to the Sabbatical Trustees, Executive Officers, Representatives of the OUSU Campaigns and RAG (Raise and Give)**

**e. Items for resolution**

1. Rules of Council Changes
2. Support Movement for Justice: Shut Down Yarl's Wood!
3. Class Act Campaign

Below the Line\*

4. Revision to It Happens Here Constitution

**f. Items for debate**

1. Changes to Elections Governance

**g. Any other business**

\* We mark some items as "below the line" if we think they are uncontroversial - these will not be discussed unless someone in Council requests this, and at least 1/4 of voting members present agree.

**Please Note:**

OUSU's team will be filming elements of Council as part of a new marketing and communication plan to promote OUSU Council. If you are not happy to be filmed or would like to remain out of the footage please contact: [dso@ousu.ox.ac.uk](mailto:dso@ousu.ox.ac.uk)

**Beth Currie, OUSU (Chair): Opens council and encourages students to run for Returning Officer and Chair of Council**

**a. Minutes of the previous meeting **Approved****

**b. Matters arising from the minutes **No matters arising****

## c. Elections in Council

**Chair of Council** - to chair meetings of OUSU Council (and Council's Steering Committee) for Trinity Term 2017.

**Returning Officer** - oversees elections and vote-counting in Council, and assists with any other elections or referendums. To serve for Trinity Term 2017.

**Deputy Returning Officer** - Assists the Returning Officer in overseeing elections and vote-counting in Council, and assists with any other elections or referendums. To serve for Trinity Term 2017.

**Steering Committee (x2)** - Steering Committee is responsible for compiling the agenda for Council, and referring motions submitted to Council to other committees for preliminary discussions as and when needed. To serve for Trinity Term 2017.

**Scrutiny Committee (x2)**- Two student members elected to serve for that academic year. Responsible for carrying out the scrutiny of Sabbatical Officer's work and presenting their finding to Council. **Two candidates; Joshua Clements and Jonathan Wolstenholme. Husting requested. Chair delegates Returning Officer responsibility to DSO.**

DSO: We'll start the hustings with a short 2 mins speech from each candidate.

Jonathan Wolstenholme, Merton College: I am an OUSU Rep for Merton after constantly hearing last term that no one had run for the scrutiny committee I decided to run. It is clearly useful for OUSU to be scrutinized properly and it is important that those elected to scrutinize are held to account for doing what they are meant to do.

Joshua Clements, St John's College: I agree with what Jon has said. I study bar so I have good analytical skills which I can bring to the scrutiny position. Scrutiny is really important when we elect people we expect them to be accountable to their members. Scrutiny Committee is a great way of doing that and you need those structures in place.

DSO: Any questions for the candidates?

Marina Lambrakis, St John's College: How do you propose to scrutinize officers who represent student group which you yourselves do not fall into?

Jonathan Wolstenholme, Merton College: The most important thing is to scrutinize the officers on what they have said they are going to do. So I think it is not a case of what I think is important but what the people who voted for them were promised.

Joshua Clements, St John's College: I echo what Jon said and basically we elect people on the basis of what they promised to do and that is what we will hold them accountable against. If they aren't doing that then it is bad. My views are essentially irrelevant as to what those things are.

DSO: Any further questions?

No further questions

DSO explained how the voting shall work to Council.

Results: Jonathan: 24 Joshua: 14 RON: none

## **d. Reports from and questions to the Sabbatical Officers, Executive Officers, Representatives of the OUSU Campaigns and RAG (Raise and Give)**

Orla White, VP Women: Main things for this term are Consent Workshop Faciliator Training. This week is SpringTide which is OUSU's Festival and it will be great so come along.

Marina Lambrakis, VP Graduates: In 18hours the VP Graduate By-election will open so please tell your graduate friends to run. Please contact me with any questions. Hustings will be third week at Somerville. I have been working on Annual Quality Report with Eden. Also we are ticking along with Teaching Awards which is really exciting. Been working on Employment of Graduates report with Beth. Main aim this term is to work on Graduate Welfare. Running two focus groups on graduate suspension if anyone wants to come along that is next week.

Eden Bailey, VP AccAff: Higher Education Bill was brought to the Commons today and will be dissolving soon. At this point a lot of bills get swept through or abandoned which is concerning as we have been doing a lot of work relating to this bill. The Teaching Awards is going very well. We've had over 900 nominations which is fantastic and a lot for us to read through. We've had a number of student panels to short list and so on which has been great. Have been looking at pay and training for students taking part in admissions. Have been working with a group of students to create a new campaign which will hopefully be approved today called 'Class Act' which aims to support working class, low income, state educated and first generation students at oxford.

Sandy Downs, VP WEO: Please sign up for Fresherscom. There is a BME welfare subgroup happening in 4<sup>th</sup> week which is speaking with colleges to make some pragmatic recommendations for the colleges and university to take forward. If you are interested please get in contact. OUSU's Thoughtless Moments launched today which is great. It's every Wednesday dog walks at the university parks, bouncy castles, massages and other treats its going to be really good. Jack is currently away at NUS conference but he wanted Council to know the three motion he wrote on mental health all passed at NUS. Beth has completed her mandate to contact the Council about their One Oxford plan and OUSU has received a response.

No questions to the Sabbatical Trustee

Beth Currie (Chair): I'd like to ask Fraser Boistelle, the past Returning Officer, to deliver their report.

Fraser Boistelle, New College: I am content that the last Election was free and fair. This is an opportunity for you to ask me any questions concerning the election or my report on it.

No questions

No questions for executive or campaigns

## e. Items for Resolution

Motions below the line are not brought above the line and pass

### 1. Rules of Council Changes

#### Council Notes:

1. There is no governance process for the election of student members to scrutiny committee
2. There are no objectives for the work of scrutiny committee
3. On occasion OUSU staff have knowledge Council may benefit from
4. There is no process for censures or commendations
5. Special Council have not been called in years and do not serve as much of a crucial role now all-student consultations exist

#### Council Believes

1. These should be outlined in the Rules of Council
2. The Rule of Council are hard to understand in their current form

#### Council Resolves

1. To accept the new Rules of Council

**Proposed: Sandy Downs, Corpus Christi College**

**Seconder: Orla White, Brasenose College**

Sandy Downs, Corpus Christi College: The changes look far more complex than they are as it is mostly formatting. Significant changes include removing special councils, clarified the membership of steering, the election of scrutiny, objectives of scrutiny, given speaking rights to OUSU staff purely for points of information on request, added process for censure and commendation and added an automatic motion of no confidence after three motions of censure.

Beth Currie (Chair): Are there any short factual questions?

No questions

No opposition and the changes will take affect next Council.

## 2. Support Movement for Justice: Shut Down Yarl's Wood!

### Council Notes:

1. On May 13th 2017, Movement for Justice is organising a coach from Oxford to Yarl's Wood Detention Centre in order to protest indefinite detention, abuses of power and racist border policies, as well as to express support and communicate with the women inside the facility.
2. The last 'Surround Yarl's Wood' protest drew around 2000 people, and it's likely that similar or even higher numbers of people will attend the May demonstration.
3. The regular protests at Yarl's Wood are led directly by women detained within the facility, who communicate via phone, by chanting, or by leaning out of the windows.
4. This Council has passed policy against immigration detention, which stated its firm belief that:
  - a. The law needs to be amended and government policy changed in order for the UK to be able to better carry out its obligations under international convention and the demands of natural justice.
  - b. Campsfield Immigration Removal Centre, Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre and all other detention centres should be closed as part of a programme to drastically reduce and ultimately end immigration detention in the UK.
5. One of OUSU's charitable Objects is 'providing social, cultural, and recreational activities and forums for discussions and debate for the personal development of Students'; one of its Powers, which it may use to further its Objects, is that 'alone or with other organisations' it may 'carry out campaigning work'.

### Council Believes:

1. That the regular protests are a vital part of the fight against immigration detention, providing as they do a regular show of solidarity with the women inside, and a visible symbol of resistance against racist border policy.
2. That given the increasing numbers of people in attendance at each protest, the increasing visibility and publicity the campaign is attracting, and a political situation in which racism and xenophobia are being mobilised en masse, this is an incredibly important time for the 'Surround Yarl's Wood' protests.
3. That we should support the protests and Movement for Justice by attending and donating.
4. That in enabling Oxford students to attend and collectively donate, we are furthering OUSU's charitable Objects.

### Council Resolves:

1. To donate ~~£200~~ £50 from the Council Discretionary Fund.
  - a) The remaining £50 will be made available to cover ticket prices for Oxford students who would otherwise be unable to attend the protest.

**Proposed: Orla White, Brasenose College**

**Seconded: Dan Orr, Christ Church College**

Orla White, Brasenose College: We already have policy stating our support for movements for justice and campaigns which point out the injustices which happen in institutions such as Yarl's Wood. Basically, they are places in which people are detained. This needs to be amended to state £50 rather than £200.

Beth Currie (Chair): Any short factual questions?

Sam Banks, Merton College: Can you clarify why the motion says £200?

Orla: Originally the motion was asking for a donation of £150 as well as £50 for the tickets but charity law states we cannot make a direct donation to this charity.

Amendment received to take out £200 from resolves which is taken as friendly.

Marina Lambrakis, St John's College: How much money is left in the Council Fund?

Beth Currie (Chair): £620 and Council can use it for whatever it please so long as it is in line with the objective of OUSU as a charity. You can get money from the fund by submitting a motion.

Eden Bailey, Magdalen College: As it is Trinity Term what would happen if the fund is not spent?

Beth Currie (Chair): It would disappear. I think the suggestion is that people should apply for this money so it doesn't go to waste.

No opposition to the motion. Motion Passes.

### 3. Class Act Campaign

#### Council Notes

1. Its powers under Bye-Law 34.2 to establish new campaigns, if a Sabbatical Officer supports this and provides a draft constitution.
2. The findings of the Educating All report:
  - a) In a survey of students from top Russell Group universities, including the University of Oxford, over 70% of the respondents who identified as working class agreed or strongly agreed with the statement "your class was a barrier when integrating at university".
  - b) 74.8% of respondents who identified as working class felt they did not fit in at university, compared to 27.6% of people who did not identify as working class.
3. That the University of Oxford's Targets for 2017-20 focus on increasing students "from schools and colleges that historically have had limited progression to Oxford", "from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds" and "from neighbourhoods with low participation in higher education".[1]
4. That the University commits itself to not only "Attracting UK students... who are currently under-represented", but also "Supporting them at Oxford – financially, academically, pastorally, and with careers advice".[2]
5. That in the latest Access Agreement, this provision of this specialised support is detailed as follows: "In addition to financial support, students

also benefit from the academic and pastoral support available through their college”, which “is complemented by the services provided by the

University”.[3]

6. Whilst Corpus Christi have created a Socioeconomic Representative and St. Hilda’s a Class Liberation Officer, they are the only colleges to offer specific representation in Junior Common Rooms to the students mentioned in Oxford’s Targets.
7. That the students who fall into these groups and currently attend Oxford are not specifically mentioned by the University’s Equality and Diversity

Unit; for example, the latest Equality Report analysed the attainment of undergraduates by “Sex”, “Ethnicity” and “Disability” but not by class identity, academic background or financial circumstances.[4]

[1]

<http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/media/global/wwwadminoxacuk/localsites/educationcommittee/documents/accessagreements/AccessAgreement201718.pdf> [accessed 19/04/2017], pp. 35, 36 and 37

[2] Ibid, p. 2

[3] Ibid, p. 8

[4]

[http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/media/global/wwwadminoxacuk/localsites/qualityanddiversity/documents/psed/2017\\_PSED\\_Equality\\_Report\\_\[for\\_black\\_and\\_white\\_printing\\_rev\].pdf](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/media/global/wwwadminoxacuk/localsites/qualityanddiversity/documents/psed/2017_PSED_Equality_Report_[for_black_and_white_printing_rev].pdf) [accessed 19/04/2017], pp. 49-52

## Council Believes:

1. The work done by individual colleges and the university to support students from disadvantaged or minority groups often do not address class, financial or academic background.
2. That working class, low income, state comprehensive school educated and first generation students do not only face barriers to reaching Oxford, but also face specific issues once they are here, which are spoken of much less and are largely unaddressed.
3. A University-wide campaign specifically run by and for these students will ensure that they are better represented and the specific problems they face are explicitly addressed.

## Council Resolves:

1. To create a new Campaign (pursuant to Bye-Law 34.2), called the Class Act campaign.
2. To endorse the draft constitution in Appendix 1.
3. To mandate the Vice President (Access and Academic Affairs) to form an Executive for the Campaign and ensure the Executive endorses the draft constitution within a month of this motion passing.
4. to mandate the VP Access and Academic Affairs to bring a motion to a future OUSU Council with a view to making Class Act an official liberation campaign following governance changes which should enable this or to ensure that any governance changes include Class Act as a liberation campaign.

**Proposed: Jaycie Carter, Christ Church College**

**Seconder: Eden Bailey, Magdalen College**

Friendly amendment from the proposer: Add to the resolves to mandate the VP Access and Academic Affairs to bring a motion to a future OUSU Council with a view to making Class Act an official liberation campaign following governance changes which should enable this or to ensure that any governance changes include Class Act as a liberation campaign.

Jaycie Carter, Christ Church College: We want to create a Class Act Campaign which will be for working class, low income, state educated students. There is current not enough provisions for Class Act students within the university or colleges. Due to low income students not being covered by the equality and diversity unit we have limited information on the attainment statistics of class act students. We have information thanks to the educating all report which surveys students from many universities including Oxford. It found that over 70% of students who defined as working class agreed with the statement 'class is a barrier when getting into university'. We want to provide representation for class act students to raise specific issues facing these students. We want to create networks for class act students and finally we want to provide welfare support for class act students. Please vote for this motion.

Beth Currie (Chair): Any short factual questions?

Freya Prentice, Wadham College: Will it have any relation with access in the sense of admissions?

Jaycie Carter: No it is to help students who are already here. The hope is that it will make being at Oxford and working class a better experience which will encourage more working class students to apply.

Lucas, Wadham College: How did you come up with such a great name?

Eden Bailey: Focus groups and flipchart paper and two 2 hour meetings

Johanne Ernst, St Anne's College: Do you have a breakdown of the stats into grads and undergrads?

Eden Bailey: No but we will be having grad representation in the class act executive

Marina Lambrakis, St John's College: Please talk more about this becoming a liberation.

Eden Bailey: The resolves came about because we are reviewing the governance of OUSU in relation to campaigns so we aren't making the campaign a liberation at this moment but will be doing so when those changes come in. We have been talking to other universities who have been creating liberation campaigns for working class students. This is something which hasn't been done before but it needs to be done.

No further questions

No opposition motion passes

BELOW THE LINE

## 4. Revision to It Happens Here Constitution

### Council Notes:

1. This is to bring in line the constitution of It Happens Here with the other OUSU Campaigns after the Trinity 2016 Byelaws changes that came into affect in Hilary 2016.
2. It Happen's Here was never updated via Council.

### Council Resolves:

1. To accept the updated It Happens Here constitution.

**Proposed: Orla White, Brasenose College**

**Seconded: Jack Hampton, St Catherine's College**

**Passed with no opposition**

## f. Items for debate

### OUSU Election Governance Changes

Following an extensive debrief of the 2017 elections, with Sabbatical Trustees and staff that included a review of the feedback from staff and candidates I, the Democratic Support Officer, was actioned to look at possible changes to our governance. Part of this exercise has been speaking with a number of individuals internally and externally to OUSU, including an email consultation with 22 democratic staff members from different Students' Unions.

1. Replace Junior Tribunal with a more workable alternative
2. Replace the student Returning Officer with the CEO
3. Allow a project group to have operational responsibility over elections
4. Allow for meaningful and appropriate student input into the Rulings of Elections and Micro-Internships placements at OUSU

**Proposer: Fraser Boistelle, New College**

Fraser Boistelle, New College: Basically if you look in my report I've made recommendations for changes to the governance. This proposal has some big changes which essentially takes most student involvement out of elections so it is run by staff. However technically students would have input into the process. Hoepfully you've all had the chance to read the proposal document and this is your chance to discuss the changes.

Beth Currie (chair) : Any comments?

Lucas, Wadham College: I like the idea of mirco interns in the proposal. I think that is a really cool idea.

Marina Lambrakis, St John's College: last year obviously we had a part time executive and replaced that with the cahirs of campaigns which halfed our student representation in OUSU. This would also remove student input for very valid reasons but it does have the affect of removing student representation into an OUSU process. We would still have stduents involved but not at the same level as they wont be leading it. I'd like to get Council's views on that. It's not the only thing to take into account.

Oral White, Brasenose College: I agree need student representation but it does seem unfair to give such a large workload to unpaid volunteers especially as in most other SUs this work is carried out by staff.

Fraser Boistelle, New College: The RO job is a lot of work but an excellent opportunity which is why I'm on the fence about these changes.

Beth Currie (Chair): To get the vibe of the room we'll do a straw poll

???: What is Junior Tribunal?

Fraser Boistelle: Junior Tribunal is a group of past OUSU Officers who you can appeal against a decision made by the RO. They must have graduated 5 years ago.

???: why is there a proposal replace the student RO with a staff member?

Fraser Boistelle: The idea is that it is a lot of work and responsibility for a student and in the past a student Ro has alledgely corrupted the vote in a referendum. Therefore there it's risky to let a student have that level of control.

No more comments

## **g. Any other business**

No other Business.