

OUSU Council Minutes 04/2/00 Week 3 Hilary

Opened at 2.38pm. Abigail Coates (St Hilda's) in the chair.

00/HT3/01 Minutes of last meeting

George Rowell (Magdalen) asked that under ratifications it was stated the president 'interpreted' rather than 'pointed out' (p.1). John Storey (Somerville) asked for the word 'appear to' to be inserted before 'give a flying fuck' (p.6). Hanna Kwiatkowska (St Hilda's) asked that her comments on the cost of the International Students Network Co-ordinator be expanded to state 'did not know the cost but it would be within the budget of her committee' (p.11). Joel Brookfield (Keble) pointed out that the procedural motion concerning Motions 5-9 was a procedural motion that they be not put and this was what was put to the meeting by the Chair (p.10)

The minutes were then approved.

00/HT3/02 Ratifications

Ed Argar (Oriel) for Returning Officer:

Procedural motion moved to put this down the order to allow person from Oriel to speak on this matter. John Courouble (Campion Hall) pointed out that according to the Chair's ruling from last council he can't speak on this matter. Agreed to move down the order on a show of hands.

Anthony Fairclough (Somerville) for DRO – ratified

Antonia Bance (Somerville) for Co Chair Pro Choice Committee – ratified

Abigail Coates (St Hilda's) for Co-Chair Pro Choice Committee – ratified

00/HT3/03 Elections in Council

Although one had been listed on the agenda of Catherine Overton (Somerville) for Publication Complaints Board, the nomination had been received after the deadline for this Council.

00/HT3/04 Reports from Sabbatical Officers

Anneliese Dodds (St Hilda's) reported that she had:

been to Ethics Committee and had produced the report attached to the agenda. Can JCR's please discuss it. She has done lots of work on the Assessors Report on Health and Welfare esp. the parts concerning funding. Can everyone please pass comments on?

Target Schools – if you are a 1st or 2nd year can you please reply to the letter and visit your local schools. The University has also given us the largest grant ever of £9000 for Target Schools.

One World Week is in 4th Week – OUSU has tickets for all events

Oxford City Council has organised a millennium festival between 30th June and 2nd July called 'Oomph'. Please contact AD if you want to get involved.

David Brewis has resigned from exec – if you want to see his resignation letter then please ask AD.

A college questionnaire has also been produced to help provide comparative information before battels negotiations begin.

She has also been working on disciplinary issues, preparing the march and being secretary to OSSL.

Questions:

John Courouble (Campion Hall) asked if we should have voted on her formal interpretation of emergency motions? AD replied that this would be done later

VP Finance

Alex Freudmann (Magdalen) reported:

The Law Handbook has now been produced.

OSSL Trustees report has now been written which will be ready for the next Council mailing.

Amended budget is being drawn up.

There are soon to be adverts for editors of Oxford Student and Oxford Handbook. All posts are paid. Anyone interested to get further information from AF.

Questions:

John Courouble (Campion Hall) asked about the outstanding complaints for the PCB. AF replied that it is forthcoming and Ed Turner will be calling a meeting shortly.

George Rowell (Magdalen) asked why in the main Oxbridge careers guide most of the interviewees were from Cambridge? AF replied that this was a problem associated with the late appointment of the Oxford editor.

James Hinksman (Univ) asked why his picture was in the OxStu with a caption underneath stating “he is homeless”? Will Alex apologise to prevent this libel being carried further?
AF stated that he didn't know if JH had been libelled and he could take up the issue with the PCB.

Mary Stevens (Hertford) asked how the Law Careers Handbook was distributed? AF said that it was expressly being sent to 2nd/3rd yr lawyers but the university computers which had this information on had crashed over the New Year.

Juliet Kemp (Pembroke) asked was it exclusive to law grads as many non-lawyers were considering a legal career? AF said that some would be distributed to lodges for people to pick it up from or could get one from OUSU.

VP – Graduates

Jason Dorsett (Oriell) reported he has:

been to Ethics Committee

finished off the web page for graduates which will shortly go on line.

worked hard on OUSU representation on the new university committees – the consequence of which is a graduate and undergraduate representative on each of the 5 boards. The issue of selecting these people will come back to Council.

Spoke to Oriell in their referendum debate over OUSU affiliation

Questions:

Dan Waites (St Annes) asked if JD was concerned at the low attendance of MCR reps? JD was concerned and he had discussed this very issue with the Principle of Linacre. They are certainly deterred from attending when Council does not operate effectively. Also it is difficult for graduates with compulsory classes and lab sessions.

Mary Stevens (Hertford) asked what steps had been taken to repair the damage caused by 1st week council with MCR reps ? JD said they had all received the letter sent to everyone but nothing specific.

VP-Women

Rachel Griffin (Exeter) reported she had:

organised Final Forums in most subjects which will be held from 7th week onwards

been working hard on drawing up the guidelines for Women's Committee

has attended Women's events in SEH St Peters and will do so in Corpus soon.

Questions:

Tony Lord (Wadham) asked if there could be a law forum for women? Rachel said yes.

Eleanor Fletcher (Worcester) asked when the Women's Open Day would be – 3rd June.

? (St Catz) apologised for getting wrong the date of the Alexander Technique meeting.

Alex Hay (Jesus) pointed out that 3rd June would most likely be in Eights Week which might result in deserted colleges.

VP- Welfare

Alice Hodgson (New) reported she had:

Carried on the policy of meeting new welfare reps from JCR's

Carrying on with the welfare web pages but is taking time with the questionnaire

Been working on the governing structures of libraries – there will be a motion forthcoming on how to elect people to these new structures.

Been asked by the Co-Chair of Queer Rights to raise awareness of Queer Action Campaign (4th Week to 6th Week). There is a march on Saturday of 6th Week meeting at the Plain 12pm

Summarised the Assessors Report on Health and Welfare provision which was attached to the Council agenda.

Questions:

Tony Lord (Wadham) asked where can people get a copy of the Living Out Guide? AH said it was on the website but was undergoing a large revision shortly.

John Courouble (Campion Hall) raised the issue of para. 5.17 in the Assessors Report referring to treatment of eating disorders. He was worried by what it seemed to imply in using students as guinea pigs. AH said that as the Assessor is a psychologist it is not surprising he takes a more independent view to usual NHS practice. It is a concern that she is addressing and is confident it will be tightened up.

Eleanor Fletcher (Worcester) asked when the next Living Out Guide would be produced? AH said she would be meeting with the Student Advisor (who has been working on it already) and the Exec member i/c Accommodation to discuss the changes shortly.

Edmund Harbord (Balliol) asked if AH was aware of the problems of the University forms concerning dyslexia, especially the fact they are in such small type! AH thanked him for drawing it to her attention and she would investigate further.

00/HT3/05 Reports from Executive Members who wish to make reports

John Storey (Somerville) gave a report. He read out a statement to Council in which he clarified his actions at 1st Week Council and then resigned from Exec effective from 4.20pm that afternoon.

Jason Dorsett (Oriell) asked under what circumstances was your fascist salute acceptable? JS replied 'none'.

Adam Killea (Balliol) thanked John for all his hard work.

Jason Dorsett (Oriell) asked John exactly what work he had done? John said he sent apologies to 9th Week exec; failed to do anything for 0th Week; attended both 1st Week exec and Council; failed to turn up to Health and Welfare Committee as he didn't know where it was taking place; sent apologies to 2nd Week exec and then, following actions taken at that meeting, instituted a policy of non-cooperation with OUSU.

George Rowell (Magdalen) asked John to point out that he gave his apologies to 9th Week Exec as he was on horseback and therefore undertaking his duties. John agreed.

Anneliese Dodds (St Hilda's) queried whether he had done this and whether he had contacted OUSU on 4th January and asked why he didn't try ringing on a direct line or using e-mail. John replied that OUSU itself was guilty of non contact in failing to tell him over its motion of non-confidence

Sacha Ismail (Somerville) gave a report. He urged people to attend an event with Lee Jasper organised by Anti-Racism Committee. Jason Dorsett (Oriell) asked him to confirm his status on exec after OxStu speculation. SI confirmed that he had no intention of resigning.

Mary Stevens (Hertford) gave a report. She has obtained correct details for all Academic Affairs officers of JCR's and all had now been given campaign packs. Her committee have been discussing the charter for students idea and hopefully one of the Proctors will be coming to speak shortly. Entz – the co-Chairs have been informed by OFS that they can't have the venue for an 8th Week party. We could use Club Latino.

Hanna Kwiatkowska (St Hilda's) gave a report. She read out a statement from Women's Committee which condemned the behaviour of the minority at 1st Week Council and drew attention to sexist, racist and homophobic remarks made at Council. She has been to the Reclaim the Night march. Her position regarding her policy of abolishing VP-Women should be clarified and there is a letter in the Office stating her clarifications. International Students Committee was good but she is disappointed only 5 JCR Presidents turned up.

George Rowell (Magdalen) asked Hanna what specific comments were said which Womens Committee found offensive? HK said she could not answer that. When asked who the co-chairs were she replied they were Antonia Bance, Leonie Parkin and Alison Parkinson.

Richard McCarthy (Oriell) asked how many people were on the march? HK said over 100

? (LMH) asked how it was possible to question the Co-Chairs over their statement? HK said it was not possible. George Rowell (Magdalen) asked in which case who is accountable from that committee to Council? HK said that Co-Chairs were only responsible to their own committee or could answer questions in AOB.

George Rowell (Magdalen) moved a procedural motion to allow AOB to next in agenda so we could question them. On a show of hands this was defeated.

John Courouble (Campion Hall) asked if he had heard Hanna correctly in saying 'Council was not the place to discuss my policies'? HK said that questions to exec should not be the place – if you want a discussion put in a motion.

Melanie Marshall (ChCh) asked if a statement of fact had been received regarding Hannah Chapman's resignation? Not yet

John Courouble (Campion Hall) asked Hanna if she could point to the parts in the minutes recording the offensive statements? HK said they were not in the minutes but it was the agreed general feeling of the meeting and Ws Cmtte had passed a motion that she read out the statement.

John Worth (Merton) gave a report. He has nearly completed the new website and if there is anything you want on it please let him know. He is negotiating web advertising. Aim is to get as many OUSU publications as possible on line by the Summer.

Mary Stevens (Hertford) asked what publicity there would be for the website launch? Posters will be going to all colleges.

Laura Davies (Keble) gave a report. She is setting up the Disabilities network – launching it with a lunch on Feb 24th. She is in contact with other universities over what services SU's should provide. She was going to arrange a session with non-NUS affiliated colleges over the issues involved but it was felt this was inappropriate.

Sacha Ismail (Somerville) asked her if she had followed up the speaker from NUS? Yes but she can't do the dates we wanted.

It now being 4pm Council Reverted to agenda item c – **ratification of Ed Argar (Oriell) for RO**

Moved that objections be heard to Ratifications. George Rowell (Magdalen) said that if this was to be the case for Ed then it should be the case throughout. Ed pointed that SO's allow Chair

discretion over this issue. Agreed to allow this ruling and promised that the issue would be clarified at next Council.

Josh Bell (Oriol) spoke in opposition to Ed's ratification. He wanted clarification of his position in the disaffiliation referendum in Oriol. JB expressed concern that he was in favour of disaffiliation. Ed said that he voted in favour of sticking with OUSU and had signed the referendum petition as he wanted people to have a debate.

Council voted – Ed Argar was ratified as RO.

Presidential Interpretations

AD did not add to her interpretation. John Courouble (Campion Hall) felt her interpretation was too limiting. Amendments need debate which is much better done on paper first as was the case this time.

Council voted on whether to accept the Presidential interpretation of 'emergency'

For: lots
Against: 3
Abs: 8

Clearly carried.

Exec Regulations for Conduct of Council

AD hoped these would be adopted as they would iron out the difficulties highlighted at 1st Week Council.

Eleanor Fletcher (Worcester) asked for how long these regulations would last? Until the end of term.

They were then adopted.

g. Emergency Motions

Motion was debated upon the new government of Austria.

Sacha Ismail (Somerville) said there was no justification for fascists forming part of the government and we should have a policy against it.

SFQ:

Hanna Kwiatkowska (St Hilda's) asked if any Austrian nationals were consulted? No

George Rowell (Magdalen) asked if Sacha would explain the precise number of students this motion is relevant to? Many – we live in a united Europe and we must prevent the spread of fascism.

Robert Webber (Lincoln) asked if support for Freedom Party had gone up or down since the election? Sacha said down but there was some debate about this.

? (Magdalen) asked if Sacha thought the democratic process in Austria had been carried out? By and large, yes.

John Courouble (Campion Hall) asked Sacha if he would therefore accordingly amend the OUSU policy on democracy to include the phrase "but only when people vote the right way". Sacha said they weren't believers in democracy.

Opposition – Sean Sullivan (SEH) We are not told in the motion why they are 2nd party. No Austrian was forced into voting this way. They were democratically elected.

Catherine Overton (Somerville) pointed out that Hitler was democratically elected then abused his power.

Kirsty McNeill (Balliol) said that OUSU represents the views of Oxford students so the motion is relevant. It is perfectly appropriate for us to suggest the Austrian people got it wrong.

John Steward (Pembroke) said it is legitimate for SU's to have policy as it does not set out any objection to the democratic process.

Hanna Kwiatkowska (St Hilda's) said that there were probably lots of Austrian students to whom this motion was relevant but she is opposing the motion because the proposer should have consulted them first.

Move to a Vote – Carried

Summing up: Sacha Ismail (Somerville) said that although it would be good to consult foreign students this is something the SU should have a policy on. Sean Sullivan (SEH) said that the issues were not touched and that this debate has only been about OUSU's right to pass such a motion.

The motion was voted upon:

For – 38

Against – 17

Abs. – 18

The motion was clearly carried

h. Passage of Motions nem-con

None

i. Motions of no-confidence

Motion I

Anneliese Dodds (St Hilda's) said that although John had resigned there are some important points of policy that need to be clarified and thus was continuing with the motion.

SFQ:

Adam Killea (Balliol) moved an amendment to allow cross campus ballots to choose new exec. Tony Lord (Wadham) wondered if this was possible given that the constitution said exec vacancies should be selected by Council. John Courouble (Campion Hall) said that Council could co-opt someone then hold a ballot. Jason Dorsett (Oriol) said this was even more unconstitutional. Hanna Kwiatkowska (St Hildas) asked Adam if he was aware of the cost of such an exercise. He said democracy costs money and we should do it.

Question put:

For – 6

Against – 52

Abs. – 3

Amendment failed.

Amendment moved to have no confidence in John Storey 'retrospectively'

John Courouble (Campion Hall) asked if this issue will be coming back to 5th Week Council? Yes

Jane Blumer (St Hilda's) asked if this meant OUSU had confidence in him before today? Yes as he had the confidence of the electorate.

Laurence Norman (Keble) opposed the amendment.

Amendment voted on – Failed

Motion discussion continued:

John Storey (Somerville) opposed the motion stating that he had resigned and apologised. Carrying on with this is persecution, harassment and if you continue I'll take OUSU to the Proctors.

John Storey left the meeting declaring verbally that he resigns from OUSU. Anneliese Dodds (St Hilda's) said that the Proctors memorandum prevented this.

Motion of no confidence was put to a vote:

For – 58
Against – 6
Abs. – 3

Motion 2

Jason Dorsett (Oriell) moved that this be not put. George Rowell (Magdalen) opposed saying Brewis should be punished for going into Council and saying he had done nothing.

Move that motion be not put – carried. Motion accordingly not put.

Motion 3 – 5 inclusive

Not put

m. Other Motions

Motion I

Withdrawn

Motion IA – UFE Affiliation

Antonia Bance (Somerville) said their aims were in synch with OUSU policy and passing it shows symbolic support for free education.

SFQ:

Will Jackson (Merton) asked if exec had considered this? Yes, but they said it was a policy decision so should come to Council.

Jane Blumer (St Hilda's) asked how this would have an effect? Allow OUSU people to voice support in their official capacity.

Dan Waites (St Annes) asked if it would have any impact on Sabs and their ability to speak in a personal capacity? No

Jane Blumer (St Hildas) asked if this will affect JCR autonomy? No

Tony Lord (Wadham) asked if it was appropriate for non-affiliated organisations to have a policy like this? Yes, when OUSU is composed of all the affiliated bodies.

Laurence Norman (Keble) asked if the slate had policies on direct action or fee paying that OUSU does not support? No

Rachel Griffin (Exeter) asked how it would affect Sabs? AB said that it would be unconstitutional for them to oppose the slate but if they did this in a personal capacity and didn't invoke their OUSU position then there was nothing in this motion to stop them.

Opposition: Laurence Norman (Keble) said this was not a matter OUSU should deal with; JCR's would resent it; the slate goes too far in recommending direct action and it binds people to positions they should not be bound to.

George Rowell proposed an amendment that 'Grants not Fees' be changed to 'Pants not Fees' as a requiem for John Storey. Ruled out of order by the Chair.

George Rowell moved an amendment to allow all members of the Grants not Fees slate to attend NUS conference.

Amendment voted upon:

For – 2

Against – lots

Amendment failed

Kirsty McNeill (Balliol) said the motion was not infringing JCR's autonomy. They are the only slate who fight for democracy.

Tony Lord (Wadham) said the motion was a bad thing. Already 10 non-affiliated colleges exist. An OUSU delegation going around promoting a slate will further undermine JCR positions within NUS.

Dan Waites (St Annes) said this motion will pin down Sabs to a position that might become contrary to OUSU policy.

Summing up: Sacha Ismail (Somerville) said the motion is making a statement about what we want to see happen within NUS. Tony Lord (Wadham) said OUSU should not have a view on this issue.

The motion was voted upon:

For – 12

Against – 27

Abs. – 14

The motion was accordingly defeated

Motion 2 – Questions at Termly Council

Withdrawn. Richard McCarthy (Oriel) took it up. Moved that it not be put – passed.

Motion accordingly not put

Motion 3 – Exam Failure

Jason Dorsett (Oriol) said that following consultation it is indicated that university procedures on this matter are too informal.

SFQ:

Laurence Norman (Keble) asked if this had been considered at a graduate body? Yes but it was inqorate. He was asked to bring to Council as a result. This policy will bind all OUSU reps on the new committees.

George Rowell (Magdalen) asked how could you appeal against an unfair grade? At present there are virtually no appeals procedures

Motion was then passed nem-con

Quorum Count – 49

Motion 4 – Continuation Fees

Jason Dorsett (Oriol) explained that colleges have been introducing charges for graduates once government money runs out, especially when you run over time on your research. This allows OUSU to campaign against them.

SFQ:

Josh Bell (Oriol) asked who the fees were decided by? Entirely by colleges

Laurence Norman (Keble) asked why colleges charge fees? They claim administration expenses but in reality graduates usually cost little to administer. Some colleges claim the fees are an incentive to make them finish on time. What is typical fee? Anything from £50 to ¼ of college fee = £400. MCR policy on these? Opposed to them and supports OUSU having a policy on it.

Motion was then passed nem-con

Motion 5 – Health and Welfare

Alice Hodgson (New) said in general the report of the Assessor was good and we have raised points of concern . The worry over food disorders should be addressed with under NHS standards.

Mary Stevens (Hertford) questioned whether it was office or officer? Alice said it was a typesetting error.

Motion was then passed nem-con

Motion 6 – SkyChefs Dispute

Sacha Ismail (Somerville) said the workers should have the right to take part in the strike. We should affirm our support for basic TU rights by passing this motion.

SFQ:

Laurence Norman (Keble) asked why resolves 4 hadn't been sent to Ethics Committee? Sacha said there was no time as the motion concerns elements which need to be passed at this Council regarding the demonstration on 13th Feb.

Dan Waites (St Annes) asked how much Sacha knew about the changes in working patterns? Sacha could not remember exactly as he had left his stuff behind but there was an abuse of process and the negotiations were a fudge.

Move to a vote – Carried

Realised no speech in opposition had been heard – granted right for one to be part of summing up.

Summing up: Sacha Ismail (Somerville) repeated the need to assert support for basic TU rights. Sean Sullivan (SEH) said he doubted the feeling that 'conservative TU laws suck' is felt by all students as those laws prevent SU's from giving money to these causes and prevent the paralysis of secondary picketing.

Council voted:

For – 28

Against – 7

Abs. – 10

Motion was clearly passed

n. Any Other Business

Election of bar – Magdalen.

Meeting closed at 6.28pm