

Council Minutes

3rd week hilary term 2012

3rd Week Council held at 5.30pm on Wednesday 1st February 2012, in the Jacqueline Du Pre Building at St Hilda's College.

If you have any questions about OUSU Council, you should feel free to contact the Adam Tyndall at any time on chair@ousu.org

- 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

a. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes passed.

d. Elections in Council

The following positions were elected in OUSU Council of 3rd week.

1 position on Scrutiny Committee - Scrutinises the work of the OUSU Executive and the Divisional Board Representatives. How the power to call officers to be interviewed and request documents. Issues a report each term to OUSU Council. To serve until the end of Michaelmas Term 2012.

Alexander Cibulskis (Wadham) elected.

e. Reports from the Sabbatical Officers

President - Martha Mackenzie

Most information is in my report, but please do ask questions. We are getting started with the Careers guide and would like a lot of student contribution, if interested then please start talking about it and email me if you would like more information.

VP Graduates - Jim O'Connell

Review of research student provision going well, have got 28 focus groups booked in would like 30 so get in touch if would like me to run one in your common room.

International Students Fair being held shortly, will provide you with more information nearer the time.

1st Phd movie screening was very successful and so we are looking to have it screened again in Magdalen. I have mentioned the History Faculty Library in my report and am happy to take questions.

VP Women - Yuan Yang

Pass Inclusive Leadership flyers around, we have some really good trainers attending. Update from last 2 council reports, held feminist forum on Monday very successful. Will take report on Feminist Forum to next council.

VP Access & Academic Affairs - Hannah Cusworth

That Access Fair is taking place on Friday at 2.00pm, still a couple of spaces left. Happening at the Exam Schools if want to register, then email me otherwise drop in from 3.30pm.

Mike Nicholson is going to come in OUSU to answer questions, about the information behind the headlines. So please come along if you want to, I will email more information around about this.

VP Charities & Community - Daniel Stone

Safety Bus Review going round to common rooms so far I have done 5 focus groups if want me to come to your common room then more than happy to.

Nomination for RAG Charities closes next Thursday so please get your nominations in.

e. Reports from the Executive Officers who wish to make Reports

Community Outreach & Charities Officer - Oliver Gleeson

RAG Blind date happening very exciting thing, date around Valentines day, not scary. RAG club nights working with Varsity on Saturday night.

Health & Welfare Officer - Elisabeth van Lieshout

Exam Welfare provision, going to talk to welfare officers next week, but if anyone wants to get in touch then please do. Also have time for other projects so get in touch if you'd like me to start something for you.

College swap shop, if you have a successful one please get in touch as would like to get some information about the best way to get it going.

i. Passage of Motions Nem Con

k. First readings of Motions to Amend the Constitution or Standing Orders

Mind Your Head Campaign

Council Notes:

1. According to a study by the mental health campaign Time to Change, 60% of people with mental health problems perceive the stigma to be as bad or worse than the symptoms of their mental illness
2. That within the current institutional memory of OUSU, there has been no sustained and widespread student activity to increase mental health awareness and promote emotional wellbeing
3. That 16 students have attended meetings to establish the 'Mind Your Head' campaign in the University of Oxford and several more have indicated an interest in being involved.
4. That awareness-raising campaigns cost money to run, and that OUSU's autonomous campaigns are each given £500 every year from OUSU's budget.

Council Believes:

1. That mental health and mental illness are subjects of considerable importance in higher education and at the University of Oxford in particular
2. That stigma surrounding mental health and mental illness is still considerable, even in a progressive environment such as ours
3. That efforts to combat stigma and increase awareness of mental health and emotional wellbeing are deemed necessary and commendable.

Council Resolves:

1. To create a Permanent Committee called the Mind Your Head Campaign
2. To add to SOs 3D) (Health & Welfare Officer) "To provide support to the Mind Your Head Campaign."
3. To donate £300 from the discretionary campaigns fund for the campaign's operation for the rest of the academic year
4. To mandate the VP (Welfare and Equal Opportunities) to ensure that the Campaign is accounted for in next year's budget.

Proposed: *Seb Baird (Corpus Christi)*

Seconded: *Georgina Kay (The Queen's)*

Passed nem con.

ii. motions affecting OUSU members as students at Oxford University**1. College Fee****Council Notes:**

1. The MCR College Accounts Team has been working on the issue of the College Fee.
2. The College Fee is paid by Graduates to their college, and is £2,363 for next year. This money does not, however, go to College but largely goes to the University.
3. The MCR College Accounts Team have produced a paper outlining three possible options for dealing with the College Fee.
4. James and Jim consulted with Nicky Trott, Chair of Graduate Committee of Conference of Colleges, on this last week.
5. MCR Prescom has endorsed the paper.

Council believes:

1. That the principle of transparency in where graduates' money goes, which underpins the three options, is the right principle for the College Fee
2. That if the collegiate University decides to change the way the College Fee works, it should do so in line with this principle and preferably by adopting the proposals set out in the paper.

Council resolves:

1. To endorse the paper, and recommend it to Conference of Colleges and the collegiate University.

Proposed: *Jim O'Connell (University)*

Seconded: *James Anderson (St Catherine's)*

Passed nem con.

2. Teaching Opportunities for DPhils**Council notes:**

1. At present, teaching opportunities for DPhils vary widely by (and within) departments.
2. Some departments, such as Maths and Philosophy, have well established teaching assistant schemes.
3. In other departments, teaching opportunities are well advertised.
4. In some cases, teaching opportunities depend on who you know, often within a particular college.
5. Some colleges have very good teaching posts available to graduate students.
6. Both Graduate Committee of Conference of Colleges and Education Committee have taken an interest in this issue.

7. In OUSU's 2010 Undergraduate Teaching Review, undergraduate students generally reported they didn't mind being taught by DPhils so long as the quality was guaranteed and there was a balance between teaching from DPhils and teaching from Fellows/staff.

Council believes:

1. Teaching opportunities should be available to all those who want them, provided it does not interfere with their studies (although there is evidence to suggest it actually aids doctoral study).
2. To this end, the collegiate University should look to create more teaching opportunities.
3. Teaching opportunities should be made available in transparent ways.
4. Many students require teaching experience to get academic jobs in future.
5. Many students would like teaching opportunities to provide some income.

Council resolves:

1. To recommend the principles of transparency and wider opportunity to Graduate Committee of Conference of Colleges and Education Committee.

Proposed by: Jim O'Connell (OUSU)
Seconded by: James W. J. Anderson (St. Catz)

Passed nem con

iv. motions affecting ousu members as residents of Oxford

3. Student Husts

Typo should read 25th April.

Opposition.

n. Other Motions

iv. motions affecting ousu members as residents of Oxford

3. Student Husts (as amended)

Council Notes:

1. The City Council Elections are taking place on Thursday 3rd May 2012 (3rd Week Trinity Term 2012).
2. That half of the city's 48 councillors are up for re-election.
3. There are 24 City Council wards.
4. Carfax and Holywell wards encompass the entire city centre from the Magdalen Bridge to the fork in St Giles, therefore they are the wards likely to hold the greatest concentration of Oxford University students.
5. In May 2010 turnout was 60% in Carfax and 66% in Holywell.
6. In May 2010 candidates from the Labour Party, the Liberal Democrats, the Conservative Party and the Green Party contested both wards.

Council Believes:

1. City Council elections are important.
2. It is important to engage the student body and common room representatives with the city council elections.
3. OUSU Council provides a unique opportunity to engage with common representatives and students.
4. It will be difficult to organise a separate event with reasonable turnout before the elections in 3rd week
5. Hustings are fun!

Council Resolves:

1. To mandate the VP C&C to write to representatives of the Labour Party, the Liberal Democrats, the Conservative Party, the Green Party, and any other political party known to be involved in the upcoming Oxford City Council elections, to invite them to a Student Hust based on the criteria below:

- a. The student hust will take place on Wednesday 25th April (1st Week Trinity Term)
 - b. The hust will begin at 5.30pm and last no longer than an hour
 - c. Only candidates from the Carfax, Holywell and the North wards will be invited to hust
 - d. Husting for both wards will take place separately with the Carfax hust preceding the Holywell hust
 - e. Candidates will have a maximum of 2 minutes each to deliver a speech before allowing time for questions
 - f. The hust will be chaired by the Chair of Council and VP C&C
2. To shift the start of 1st week OUSU Council in Trinity Term to 6.30pm in order to accommodate Council Resolves 1b)

Proposed: *Daniel Stone (St Peter's)*
Seconded: *Martha Mackenzie (St John's)*

Daniel Stone (St Peter's):

Make students more aware of upcoming council elections. Within motion suggested focus on certain wards, but open to suggestions and amendments. Maybe have both hust at the same time. Am up for ideas.

Oliver Gleeson (Christ Church):

Would it be case if independent runs are they invited?

Daniel Stone (St Peter's):

Yes

Yuan Yang (Balliol):

What is current student turnout?

Daniel Stone (St Peter's):

Aren't separate figures about the student turnout. These are high student wards.

Charlotte Baker (St Catherine's):

Any feedback from candidates?

Daniel Stone (St Peter's):

Yes they are very interested.

Basil Vincent (Keble):

Could we have the candidates from St Giles in as well as they are a different ward, please can that ward be represented.

Yuan Yang (Balliol):

International students who can vote?

Daniel Stone (St Peter's):

Common wealth.

David Townsend (St John's):

Think Commonwealth and Ireland.

Amendment proposed to Add into Resolves 1c

Taken as friendly.

Cameron Quinn (Magdalen):

Perhaps would need to increase time.

Daniel Stone (St Peter's):

Would like to keep below an hour, so will have to be chaired well.

Jess Pumphrey (Magdalen)

Do we want to include the Cowley ward?

Daniel Stone (St Peter's):

Better congregation of students living in city.

Martha Mackenzie (St John's):

Will perhaps organise a bigger one for all the other wards, but keep the one at OUSU council fairly short.

Amendment cut huts down to 2 mins.

Josh Jones

Doesn't it make sense to include candidates from St Giles if we're having a larger one, to keep this one focused and have the North Ward at the other one instead.

Amendment 1 Basil Vincent.

Short speech in prop

Basil Vincent (Keble):

I am President of Keble and I want to make sure my students are represented, feel if don't have North Ward then we are being disenfranchised. I want to hear my candidates in this hust.

Oliver Gleeson (Christ Church):

Don't think should be about what colleges represented, I think it should be about students being represented and providing them with information and hopefully spark the thought that students should get involved.

David Townsend (St John's):

Is there a sign difference in student percentage in these wards?

Daniel Stone (St Peter's):

Don't have figures but think Carfax and Holywell have more than Ward.

Tom Allsopp (Somerville)

Think should have people from all wards.

David Townsend (St John's):

Think better to have fewer candidates and spark more debate. Not about disenfranchising candidates aren't going to be radically different, if hearing from a candidate from labour or conservative or green but different ward issues are going to the same.

David Butler:

Can we add 15 mins.

Basil Vincent (Keble):

If have people from Carfax and Holywell and not North Ward, then the Northern colleges will be not included and won't feel cared about. Would be good to see them here.

Sarah Finch (St Hilda's):

Good gesture to represent North of Oxford, but good to represent East of Oxford so think should have this hust without North Ward and then the larger hust with all wards.

Amendment passes.

21 votes to 19.

Motion now includes North Ward and speeches of 2 min.

Charlotte Baker (St Catherine's):

If going to do this, then agree on time pressure, so think we should consider making a longer bigger event in this case, as otherwise we are losing opportunity to debate, and the information they can give in 2 mins would be on website.

Daniel Stone (St Peter's):

Should be enough time for questioning.

Daniel Tomlinson

Email all the parties in Oxford and ask them to send one representative, this would give more time for discussion.

Chair

If want these amendments then submit them.

Commonwealth and Irish are allowed to vote so get Common Room reps to advise them of this.

Daniel Stone (St Peter's):

As I say it council believes 5.

No opposition to motion as currently stands.

AOB

Martha Mackenzie (St John's):

Remind that it is a sad amount of motions, so just to remind you that you can all submit motions, and that if anyone in your college wants to submit them then please encourage them to do so.

Annex to

ii. motions affecting OUSU members as students at Oxford University

1. College Fee

OUSU/MCR Prescom Position Paper on the College Fee

Background

Graduate students have raised and continue to raise questions about the separate College Fee.

In response to these questions, at the start of MT11 OUSU Officers and MCR Presidents established a small working group looking into the College Fee, in terms of how it can be justified and where it is spent. The group has looked into how the College Fee is allocated through the JRAM, canvassed the opinions of Colleges, and looks forward to asking the views of Conference more formally on this issue.

The college fee has now been standardised, at £2,363 per person per year. Earlier in the year, the Chalmers Report suggested that a single collegiate University Fee be examined.

As discussions about the place and function of the College Fee advance, OUSU Officers and MCR Presidents would like to make clear our preferred options for how the College Fee might be adapted to better address two issues:

1. The current College Fee does not go to College as many students would expect from the name tag - it goes into the JRAM, which regurgitates (as we understand it) 20% of that sum to the College.
2. Students justifiably ask where this large sum of money is going, what it is being spent on, and why they are paying such a large sum to College.

Options

We would endorse three possible options for what to do with the College Fee.

The three options are underpinned by two considerations. First, that the collegiate University should get the funding it needs to provide a world class graduate experience. Second, that the money students pay to the collegiate University is paid in a transparent way, so students can see what of their money is going to College and what is going to the University.

Option 1.

A split between the College Fee and the Tuition Fee is maintained. However, the College Fee is reduced to the amount that equates to that proportion of the College Fee that actually goes to the College. The reduction is compensated for by increasing the Tuition Fee by the same amount. The resources are allocated by the JRAM in the same way as they are presently.

Example. Currently a DPhil student might pay per annum £3,700 in Tuition and £2,363 in College Fee. Both feed into the JRAM and College gets approximately 20% of the £2,363.

Under Option 1, the student would pay a College Fee of £472.60 pa and a Tuition Fee of £5590.40. This balance of fee payments means that what the student pays in College Fees goes to the College. The student can legitimately and appropriately ask 'what am I getting for my £472.60 this year?', and this represents a fee for College provision that is reasonable and many graduate students would happily pay.

Option 2.

The College Fee and the Tuition Fee are rolled together into a single Collegiate University Fee. The advantage of this is that applicants and students would know exactly what they are paying in a year in fees. However, in order to accurately represent to the student what proportion of the fee goes to the

University and what goes to the College, it would be useful to represent on the student's battells the proportion of what was formerly the College Fee that goes to College.

Example. Taking the same example as above, the student would pay £3700+£2363 pa = £6063 pa in a Collegiate University Fee. Their battells, however, would show a line to the effect of 'of which standard contribution to College.... £472.60'.

Option 3.

Students continue to pay a separate College Fee and Tuition Fee, at the same rates as now. However, College retains 20% of the College Fee with the remaining 80% going into the JRAM. This division would be shown clearly on the student's battells.

Example. The student would pay what they pay now. On their battells, however, there would be a division of the College Fee into something like 'direct fee for College services... £472.60' and 'College contribution to University services... £1890.40'.

With all three options, there is the issue that a proportion of the Tuition Fee flows to College through the JRAM. Separating, or highlighting, this in any way runs the risk of giving the appearance that Colleges charge separate fees for different students (as, for example, in effect an MBA student contributes much more to College than an MSt student by virtue of their much higher fees). This is obviously undesirable, as College is ideally an equal space for all students regardless of what you pay. This is reflected in all three options by treating the proportion of the current College Fee that actually goes to College as the standard contribution that all students (at least) make to their College.