

## Council Minutes

*3<sup>rd</sup> week Hilary Term 2014*

3<sup>rd</sup> Week Council took place at 5.30pm on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2013 in the Blue Boar Lecture Theatre, Christ Church.

- 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. Passage of Motions Nem Con
- i. Motions of No Confidence or Censure
- j. Emergency Motions
- k. Motions Authorising Capital Expenditure
  1. #OxTweet
  2. Funding for Oxford Left Review
- l. Other Motions
  1. Improving Access to Facilities & Services for Suspended Status Students Across the University
- m. Any Other Business
  1. Electoral Review Group - Slate Composition Straw Poll
  2. Consultation of Election Regulations- Draft Referenda Regulations (see separate document)

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### a. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

James Blythe (Brasenose): Nathan and I remember vote on taking amendment as friendly in strike motion.

Nick Cooper (St John's): was taking minutes; my bad. Will amend if no objections.

No objections.

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### b. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None.

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### c. Ratifications in Council

None.

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### d. Elections in Council

#### By-Elections for the Part-Time Executive

Academic Affairs Campaigns Officer - no candidates

Mature Students Officer - Katherine Knight was elected (52 votes, 3 RON).

#### Other Elections in Council

2 Positions for Steering Committee - no candidates

1 positions on Scrutiny Committee - no candidates

1 Positions for Budget Sub Committee - no candidates

3 Positions for Complaints Committee - no candidates

1 Positions for Internal Affairs Committee - no candidates

1 position for Divisional Board Representative (Undergraduate MPLS)

Neither candidate was present for hust.

Sarah Pine (Wadham): Can we postpone to 5<sup>th</sup> week?

Alex Walker (Wadham) (Returning Officer): probably best to run this week.

Emma Carr 30  
Lukas Koch 6  
RON 18

Emma Carr was elected.

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### e. Reports from the Sabbatical Officers

Dan Tomlinson - asked who was at Council for first time; explained role. At end of last Council I was in a rush after motions and may have sounded angry when saying I wanted to speak to people who opposed. Only one person had chat with me - but if you were in disagreement, do chat as I find it interesting. Want to praise Part Time Executive officers, Xav and Emily, who have been amazing. Xav and Dan held meeting with Environment and Ethics reps - new ideas. Emily has written report - will see next week.

Tom Rutland - have been meeting Common Room presidents about rent deals. Willing to meet with anyone so get in touch. Run training sessions for Presidents and Common Room officers - will run more on trial basis in Michaelmas and Hilary Term. Meeting on OUSU funding is today, so will hopefully find out by next Council. Hired new Democratic Support Officer so will be in place to reduce burden. Also National Voter Registration Day - you may not be registered to vote; can do this at OUSU.

Charlotte Hendy - proposing motion, so don't want to repeat. Also Race Summit - Campaign for Racial Equality have been working on to get stakeholders together to discuss race and ethnicity. Want to hear student stories about how ethnicity has affected them at Oxford. Have created survey which will be coming to Common Room mail lists so please reply, whatever race or ethnicity.

Rachel Pickering - also proposing motion later which tells you what I've been up to. Alternative Prospectus for undergraduates is nearly there; will go to printers on Friday. Some colleges: we don't have photos. New College currently looking most fun. Christ Church not looking great. If I email please send happy photos of people enjoying college.

Sarah Pine - want to highlight work with Common Rooms, especially Teddy Hall, Keble, St Hugh's, Mansfield on access to sexual assault referral centres to increase attack supervision. Referral centres are only place anyone (regardless of gender, citizenship etc.) can get help after sexual assault without police. Also have counselling. Nearest is Slough which sucks as inaccessible, so want to increase access. Email or speak to me if you want it for your Common Room.

Garlen Lo - International Festival happening on 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Yajing (International Students' Officer) and campaign team have been working really hard. Will be going out on OUSU website and Facebook group soon.

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#### **f. Reports from the Executive Officers who wish to make reports**

James Elliott (Teddy Hall): Disabled Students Campaign had first meeting last night; had good turnout. Discussed suspended status (formerly mental health rustication) and how we can improve the process. Want to do survey of accessible rooms. Want to contact as many people as possible who are interested. Please speak in Common Room to encourage people - Tuesdays at 7pm.

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#### **g. Questions to Members of the Executive**

Ed Nickell (Exeter): Has there been any talk about Solace centre in Oxford?

Sarah Pine: It Happens Here have been discussing since Trinity. Local Police and Crime Commissioner has shown interest, but cuts have meant it's probably dropped. A really good taxi service isn't perfect, so Oxford centre would be ideal, but not working on at moment.

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#### **h. Passage of Motions Nem Con**

None.

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#### **i. Motions of No Confidence or Censure**

None.

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#### **j. Emergency Motions**

None.

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## k. Motions authorising Capital Expenditure

### 1. #OxTweet

#### OUSU Council Notes:

1. That #OxTweet is a student founded, student led Access project that allows prospective applicants to follow Oxford Students on Twitter as they go about their academic and social lives. For each subject one student tweets daily under a branded account about life at Oxford and answers questions from prospective applicants.
2. #OxTweet has been running for over a year and collectively the accounts have over 400 followers (this figure probably contains duplicates).
3. For £125 #OxTweet could produce 1000 flyers which could be distributed at Open days, Target Schools, Student shadowing schemes and other Access events.

#### OUSU Council Believes:

1. #OxTweet acts as level playing field for anyone from any background and country to ask questions and has helps to debunk myths and stereotypes about Oxford students
2. Greater publicity of #OxTweet is likely to have a positive impact on Outreach work
3. Publicising #OxTweet at OUSU and other university access projects is an effective way to target advertising effectively at one of #OxTweet's target audiences.

#### OUSU Council Resolves:

1. To give #OxTweet £125 to pay for flyers on condition that #OxTweet provide satisfactory proof of purchase.
2. To mandate #OxTweet to include the OUSU logo on the flyers. Printing will only happen once the design has been reviewed by the Vice President for Access and Academic Affairs.

**Proposed by: Rosemary Dickinson (Magdalen)**

**Seconded by: Rachel Pickering (Hertford)**

Aditya Sharad (Magdalen): description of project. Runs on Twitter: students tweet about lives at Oxford - subjects, extra-curricular. Over 4000 followers, looking to have more. This motion is proposed: would be wonderful to have flyers for schools, to meet reps and hand out at Target Schools events. Highly effective to promote, and would be great to have something tangible to take back. Attending event is fine but often forgotten after. A great reminder of how great Oxford life can be.

#### Short Factual Questions (SFQs)

Alex Rankin (Corpus): do you know what proportion of 4000 are Oxford students?

Aditya - no exact stats but I think less than half.

Dan Tomlinson (Univ): how many accounts at moment?

Aditya - 20 active.

Nathan Akehurst (Lincoln): do you plan to use other social media?

Aditya - currently on Twitter, but affiliated with YouTube only.

Eden Tanner (St John's): what proportion of graduate students are on accounts; accessibility also an issue?

Aditya - I think all are undergraduate, but there is talk of specific grad positions, including for international students.

Dan Tomlinson (Univ): have you identified alternative funding for future years?

Aditya - not at the moment. Can take to General Meetings for funding in future.

No opposition; motion passes.

## **2. Funding for Oxford Left Review**

OUSU Council Notes:

1. That the Oxford Left Review is an academic journal run by and for students, as well as the wider community.
2. That the OLR, founded in 2011, has published work by figures including Jon Cruddas, Nina Power and Beatrix Campbell as well as students from Oxford and throughout academia.
3. That the OLR is entirely reliant on the funding of JCRs, small sales revenues and its own team

OUSU Council Believes:

1. That OUSU has a strong record of supporting student literary projects, such as the Environment and Ethics magazine for example.
2. That student-run academia has an inherent value including but not limited to providing a space for discussion and comment, developing our student body and building confidence and skills for writers.
3. That the OLR's planned free speaker events with prestigious figures present form a positive contribution to university life.

OUSU Council Resolves:

1. To donate £150 of the Discretionary Fund toward the cost of printing and producing the OLR and running speaker events.

**Proposed by: Olivia Arigho Stiles (Somerville)**

**Seconded by: Nathan Akehurst (Lincoln)**

Olivia Arigho-Stiles (Somerville) - asking for £150 for Oxford Left Review. Takes views of students on left-wing issues, and gives opportunities to read these. Involves a lot of people from a lot of colleges. There are a huge number of costs, mainly for printing. £150 would allow us to print, which is what we want. Want to continue from past. If OUSU gives money, this doesn't mean that it is jumping on left wing bandwagon: just want new ideas to flourish, and to encourage students.

Questions

James Blythe (Brasenose): will there be OUSU branding?

Olivia - no, we are independent.

Oliver Carroll (St Anne's): where is funding from now?

Olivia - sporadic. Got some funding from SOAS for advertising, but also JCRs.

Emily Tamkin (St Antony's): you say money isn't funding left wing view. What is motivation? Is the left in the name politically motivated?

Olivia - Probably is. Encompasses all from left - Labour Party, anarchists.

Sarah Pine: you also said Oxford Left host events. Could you tell more?

Olivia - had discussion on immigration. Couldn't get Tariq Ali but tried. Also having event at Oxford Radical Forum about intersectionality. Also have drinks events and socials coming up.

Patrick Ferguson (Mansfield) - how do you get a copy, and how much does it cost?

Olivia - contact someone involved. Facebook, Gmail. Also some colleges have subscription e.g. Somerville has copies in library. Funding would allow us to distribute to

Musashi Jacobs-Harukawa (Merton) - Merton JCR fund student publications as lender of last resort. Does OUSU Council operate on the same basis?

Tom Rutland (Jesus): it's really about Council deciding on a case by case basis. I wear my politics on my sleeve. We're a democratic body and there's nothing in governing documents, so Council to decide.

? (Balliol): how big is the Discretionary Fund? Is this the same as last week? What period?

Chair: £2000. Yes. Academic

Danny Waldman (St John's): has the Oxford Left Review published an article that is not left wing, and would it?

Olivia - define "left wing". It is a left wing publication but across all left wing.

Move to debate: objection, so retracted.

Dan Tomlinson (Univ): Is it termly or annual?

Olivia: termly.

Move to debate: no objection.

Will Neaverson (Christ Church): uncomfortable using Discretionary Campaign budget for politically motivated publication. Concerned about straying into this; should be for positive that all students can benefit from. However put, it looks like we are advocating it. A lot of conversations with students associate OUSU with radical left, and this isn't true - not comfortable.

Anya Metzger (Wadham): the idea of a discretionary fund is that we can decide. The right approach is to open up, rather than to restrict.

James Blythe (Brasenose): we should encourage more to approach, but doing this without a guarantee gives no guarantee we won't balance this by chance. Better to have funding process set up, and look at what we can support. Like last week, worried about perception for OUSU but not against publication; just way it's done.

Nathan Akehurst (Lincoln): precedent for funding very politically motivated stuff e.g. demonstrations, feminist festival. As Olivia said, not left wing agenda funded, but grassroots student run project that provides social good for students who identify as left wing and beyond that. Have had speaker events with high profile academics, which anyone can attend, debate. This term's is on intersectionality - broad views.

Tom Rutland (Jesus): difference between Environment and Ethics magazine and this. Don't have to agree to be involved, and it's one of our campaigns. Think about whether you would also fund Oxford Right Review. If we want to go down these lines, should consider this and motivations for voting.

Anna Bradshaw (Wadham): Don't know precedent, but false distinction between campaigns on political motions. But these are politics OUSU claims that it has e.g. E&E and feminism, which is what discretionary campaigns fund is for. Within OUSU's remit, which is political.

Oliver Carroll (St Anne's): Nathan said just grassroots. It's not - excludes those not on left, compared to environmental or feminist events. Second is perception: if people here outside room about this subsidy, they'll think of OUSU as funding left wing, and won't help image. Third: uncomfortable to sign students' money to organisation that isn't sufficient so far.

Jack Matthews (Univ): Sustainability: this has been around for a while. University Clubs Committee look at what funding will help project. No proof in current motion that this will help in long term. Not a stepping stone; not a long-term help. We may have £1000 in the pot, but don't have to spend it. The more money on the bottom line useful. Articles say we should seek the diversity of all students should be recognised - not here.

? (Merton): Object instead on grounds that business plan isn't sold; no sustainability. Unclear how distribution works; haven't seen copy. Not really a publication for wider student body, without better plan.

Sarah Pine (Wadham): quick question. Wear politics on sleeve but wasn't involved: how many are involved?

Olivia: 10 on editorial team; publish 12-15 articles in each issue. Event turnout is significant - had very good for immigration debate.

Xav Cohen (Balliol): Council worried about the fact it isn't an issue for all students. The next theme for the next OLR is intersectionality. OUSU campaigns of WomCam and CRAE look towards this; it is a theory that looks at intersections. If you don't mind white man saying this, how intersections affect people. I suggest support this.

Danny Zajarias-Fainsod (Wadham): lot of debate about left wing. Question is about what we support in Council. Tom made good point - would we support right wing? Personal votes should represent entire body, and should look at entire view. We are representational body.

Chair: interested to avoid having points that are not relevant. Lots of points the same.

Sarah Pine (Wadham): unsure you can say that.

Chair: have to maintain order and democracy.

Nathan Akehurst (Lincoln): motions passed often just help some. Access only helps future students; rustication policy only certain people. Business plan: have been going a while and haven't been to OUSU before and hope we won't again. Not about relying to prop up - allows us to print more issues, increase accessibility, give boost for next term.

Kath (Trinity): Not wrong to promote different publications - all have an agenda. But would we accept right? Particularly important not to exclude people. Different from saying the opposite.

Anya Metzger (Wadham): valid point, but everything we support has basis. Support WomCam, but wouldn't necessarily support sexist agenda. Want to promote ethos in magazine, but not inherently bad.

Move to vote. No objections.

Summary speeches

Olivia: what's come out is we want to ensure if OUSU supports this, it isn't support for left wing agenda. It's to encourage students to see range of articles, and give opportunities. Have financial plan in place - have printed in last few terms. Not a handout.

James Blythe (Brasenose): several reasons. Concerns about sustainability, perceptions of OUSU. What should clinch is there isn't anything OUSU supports that is as exclusive as this that alternative isn't abhorrent. But good reasons not to equate right/left with sexism/WomCam. Problematic statement to make; problems for engagement. If this falls, should see if we want to support publications in general via OSSL.

For 17, Against 38, Abstain 13. Motion falls.

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## I. Other Motions

### 1. Improving Access to Facilities & Services for Suspended Status Students Across the University

OUSU Council NOTES:

1. Currently, there are no clear guidelines on which facilities and services (e.g. Bodleian libraries; Disability Advisory Service; University card) suspended status students (students who take a year(s) out of their studies) have access to.
2. OUSU have been part of a working group looking into Access to University Facilities and Services.
3. In Michaelmas 2013, the Vice-Presidents (Access and Academic Affairs) and (Welfare and Equal Opportunities) advocated in this working group for a change of policy allowing suspended status students access to all University facilities and services.
4. On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2014, the University's Education Committee passed the paper that came out of the Working Group.
5. This paper stated that:
  - a) 'All students should be granted access to online resources (including email) and to University libraries during periods of suspension, except where they are suspended due to non-payment of fees, where they fail to return from an agreed period of suspension, or where there are specific circumstances where such access should not be given, due to health and safety considerations.'
  - b) 'Students whose status is suspended may, at the current time, approach services such as the Disability Advisory Service and Counselling Service for advice. However, it is the role of University Staff to make a professional judgement about which parts of these services it would be possible to make available to students whilst they are not enrolled, taking into consideration the fact that no funding is available in these circumstances.'
6. That these changes only relate to University, and not college or PPH, facilities and services. Access to college and PPH facilities and services for suspended status students vary widely across the collegiate University.

OUSU Council BELIEVES:

1. That currently many suspended status students lack the support that may be needed during their year out. (i.e. library access for students facing penal collections on return)
2. That the University's changes on access to facilities and services are a good step forward for suspended status students.
3. That following these changes, conversations should begin across the collegiate University examining, and making transparent, access to college facilities and services.

OUSU Council therefore RESOLVES:

1. To mandate the Vice-Presidents (Access and Academic Affairs) and (Welfare and Equal Opportunities) to produce resources for Common Room Officers and students (e.g. draft motion, argument crib sheet).

2. To mandate the Vice-Presidents (Access and Academic Affairs) and (Welfare and Equal Opportunities) to hold an information evening to inform and empower students to lobby for similar changes within their colleges.
3. To mandate the Vice-Presidents (Access and Academic Affairs) and (Welfare and Equal Opportunities) to continue to support Common Room Officers and students as they effect change and increase transparency of which college/PPH facilities and services suspended status students have access to.

**Proposed by: Rachel Pickering, Hertford**  
**Seconded by: Charlotte Hendy, Pembroke**

Rachel Pickering: work to increase facilities for suspended students. Working group last term; Education Committee on Friday agreed entry for all suspended students e.g. VPN, library, other university facilities. Don't have to but can. Timeline to be introduced as soon as possible; hopefully next year, but some IT problems. Two exceptions - if haven't paid fees, and potential for exceptions if health and safety problems exist. Really good victory for Oxford students - and a win for students who are suspended, and particularly useful for Counselling Services. 3 months on NHS; quicker here for these provisions. Also for students facing Penal Collections - not helpful if can't get library access. Advocating for ASAP.

Charlotte Hendy: really excited at this, but only University facilities and services. Phase 2 is to push through colleges. Need localised conversations within colleges; supporting and encouraging Common Room reps and students. Don't want to tell colleges what to do, but whatever changes, we think should be transparent. Many students don't know about process of suspending status. Proposing that we will collate this, and have event and have pizza for people to talk about experiences. Also to talk to e.g. Heads of House to get more support for college level.

Eden Tanner (St John's): how does maternity leave fit in?

Charlotte - considered in working group. Usually couldn't access library, but these changes should also allow maternity leave.

Rory (St Catz): I heard library access would only be for final 2 months. Is this the case?

Rachel - access for whole year. Not university saying you have to, but up to you to choose when you want to access it.

Ally Ferguson (Mansfield): spoke to Senior Tutor who raised good points. Counselling Service overstretched - will this affect? Also if for disciplinary reasons, should you have access to college facilities; does this not affect penal process?

Rachel - same as other students; up for Counselling Service to decide after initial assessment. Second point: just talking about university facilities, but health and safety considerations apply and could be similar in colleges. All about allowing flexibility and transparency.

No opposition; motion passes

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## **I. Any Other Business**

Chair: trying to move to "less paper" Council for environmental reasons. Use a lot, and lots of people bring laptops/tablets etc. Could people try to bring these devices as a trial next time? Want to reduce environmental burden.

Anya Metzger (Wadham): could we look at having screen when booking rooms?

Chair: Looking into this.

David Bagg (Balliol): 50 people at Council. Will you look into having power points?

Chair: not going to answer.

## 1. Electoral Review Group - Slate Composition straw poll

James Blythe (Brasenose): ERG composed of people who spent last term hating each other. Group has been looking at many issues. Email [electoralreview@ousu.org](mailto:electoralreview@ousu.org) if you have any thoughts. Discussing slate issues. Student Trustees - should we move their election timings to Hilary, or move their terms of office? Should slates be smaller or larger? Maybe not brought for broad discussion, but instead for flagging up. Will bring back to 5<sup>th</sup> week.

Jack Matthews (Univ): Important because some issues need Bye-Law changes, which *have* to come to 5<sup>th</sup> week.

Will Neaverson (Christ Church): example?

Jack - if we want to move Student Trustees' elections or terms.

## 2 - Consultation on Election Regulations - Draft Referenda Regulations

Tom Rutland (Jesus): re: earlier motion, we are a political body and we should do that. We are representational, but can't always represent everyone. OUSU has been transitioning from old set to new set of governing documents - rules on referenda are one of those in the old set. We want to hear consultation, so please send to [president@ousu.org](mailto:president@ousu.org) by Monday so Internal Affairs Committee can review them. Will come to 5<sup>th</sup> week Council where it needs 50% majority, then Termly in 7<sup>th</sup> week where it needs 2/3.

New rules provide for campaigns, campaign leader, opportunity to make complaints and have remedies, Sabbatical officers can campaign, and the wording of the questions will remain the same each time. Good habit for consistency. Questions on the process, rather than substance.

Jack Matthews (Univ): can we see the exact motion, due to necessary repeals?

Tom - yes we will do this. Bringing motion to repeal to 7<sup>th</sup> week, but will send round for smooth transition.

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Alex Walker (Wadham): RAG ballot coming up in 6<sup>th</sup> week; nominations close Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> week. If you want a charity to get over £10k, please nominate at [www.ousu.org/charity-nominations](http://www.ousu.org/charity-nominations)