

# Council Minutes

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Week Hilary Term 2017

3<sup>rd</sup> Week Council to start at 5:30pm prompt, with sign in opening at 5:15pm, on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017, at Roy Griffith's Room, Keble 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 on 01865 611831, or at [dso@ousu.ox.ac.uk](mailto:dso@ousu.ox.ac.uk).

Current OUSU Council Discretionary Fund: £920

If you have any questions about OUSU Council, please feel free to contact the Chair, at [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 Officers, Executive Officers, Representatives of the OUSU Campaigns and RAG (*Raise and Give*)
- e. Items for Resolution
  1. Funding the Oxford Radical Forum 2017  
Below the Line\*
  2. Divisional Representative ratification
- f. Items for Debate
- 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 ¼ 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 Matt Tennant, Membership Services Manager ([msm@ousu.ox.ac.uk](mailto:msm@ousu.ox.ac.uk)) or Jo Gregory-Brough, Communications Manager ([commsmanager@ousu.ox.ac.uk](mailto:commsmanager@ousu.ox.ac.uk))

OUSU may be trialling the use of electronic voting pads in Council. These will be explained at the beginning of Council.

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### a. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

There was a typo which the chair thanked Council for the correction prior to the meeting

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### b. Matters Arising from the Minutes

No other matter arising

RO (Acting chair) reminded Council the position of chair is still vacant and encouraged members to run for the position

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### c. Elections in Council

**Chair of Council** – to chair meetings of OUSU Council (and Council’s Steering Committee) for Hilary Term 2017.

**Scrutiny Committee (x2)** – to interview the Sabbatical officers and write a termly report to Council, in order to scrutinise the officers’ work. To serve for a year until the end of Michaelmas Term 2017.

**Steering Committee (x1)** – The Steering Committee has particular responsibility for compiling the agenda for Council meetings, and considering proposals relating to OUSU's governing documents.

**Budget Advisory Group (x3)** - The budget advisory group considers OUSU's budget and such other matters as the Finance Committee may from time to time refer to it. It may report or offer advice to the Finance Committee, Council or the Board on all matters under its consideration.

**JSc(EC)SM (Joint Subcommittee of the Education Committee with Student Members) (x1)** – The principal committee for OUSU’s relationship with the University. Responsible for reviewing the democratic procedures of the Student Union, such as our elections and budget. Must be filled by a graduate student. To serve for two meetings (one in Hilary Term 2017; one in Trinity Term 2017).

**Language Centre Committee (x2)** - One of these positions must be filled by a graduate student. To serve from Michaelmas 2016 to Trinity 2017.

No nominations

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

Jack Hampton (OUSU President)

- Winter Training Conference on Sunday for student leader in which we trained 70 students. The event went well and OUSU have received good feedback. Planning to run the event again next year.
- Announcement that voting for the OUSU elections opens next week and there will be significant college prizes for the colleges who achieve the highest voting turnout. More details to follow next week.

Oral White (VP Women)

- WomCam elections are happening next week and the Campaign are looking at restructuring. The elections are Saturday next week and Orla encouraged defining women to run.

Beth Currie (VP Charity and Community)

- RAG blind date applications and RAG elections are open and Beth encouraged student to sign up.
- This weekend is the Local Council’s voter registration drive and Beth encouraged CR presidents to distribute the voter packs they should receive to their members. Council elections are in May. Student from Northern Ireland who wish to sign up for proxy vote have until 10<sup>th</sup> Feb and encouraged student to get in contact about that.

Eden Bailey (VP Access and Academic Affairs)

- Working on the resource to allow students in their departments lobby for lecture capture. The resource will be going out to Course Reps later this week. If there is interest from non course reps contact Eden.
- Ran another focus group on financial support for students but no one came. A few people showed interest so the links to the resources are online.
- Looking forward to running a focus group looking at what OUSU should be doing to support less economically privileged students. Encouraged students to get in contact if they are interested.

Marina Lambrakis (VP Graduates)

- Very sad that no one ran for VP Graduate job in the elections and therefore there will be a by-election. Details are being organised. Encouraged students interested, or who know someone who's interested in running to speak to Marina.
- Pulling together a plan of action to address the issue of graduates not knowing the work OUSU does for them.
- International students Campaign are having elections. Nominations open next week.
- Beth and Marina are doing a graduate focus group for students who are employed in the university but not exclusively at the university.

Questions to the Officers

Cat ??? – Spoke to Eden about posters for the NUS Boycott. Is it possible to get them at our college?

Eden – Yes, the poster are ready. We had a complaint from HEFCE that OUSU were damaging their campaign which has slowed down progress for a while due to checking our legal stance which is now fine. We will get the posters to you as soon as possible. Encouraged finalists, or knows finalists, to not do the NSS and there is a blog on the NUS Connect website explain why.

Alastir Graham (StJohn's College) – As a former chair of Scurtyny Committee it pains me to see no one has run for the two positions on Scurtyny Committee. Does the president feel these positions have been advertised effectively and how does the president propose the officers will be scrutinised?

Jack Hampton – Thank you for the question, we have tried to advertise the positions as well as we can. Obviously we have had an issue with engagement this year which Marina has already identified. We will be driving it again. I'm happy to talk to you afterward about how you think we could do better, we are always open to criticism and scrutiny. As for how we are going to be scrutinised this term Josh, our DSO, will be picking that up as it comes under his remit and I will make sure I give a full report to Council at the next Council taking on all the points you raised.

No other reports to Council.

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## e. Items for Resolution

1. Funding the Oxford Radical Forum 2017

### Council Notes:

1. That the 2017 Oxford Radical Forum (ORF) will be held from 3rd-5th March in Wadham College. This will be the 10th anniversary of the forum, run by students and lecturers.
2. That in previous years there have been talks, debates and seminars on feminism, war and imperialism, and the economic crisis, as well as film screenings and book fairs.
3. This year there are events being planned on institutionalized sexual violence, Trump and Brexit, the state of the NHS, the independence struggles in Timor-Leste and West Papua, and many more.
4. That the event is free for all who wish to attend, so payment for speakers' travel and accommodation depends on donations and funding from organisations such as OUSU Council.
5. That the other main source of funding is voluntary donations on the day.

### **Council Believes:**

1. That ORF provides a space where sophisticated theoretical discussion is combined with a focus on active political engagement, locally and in broader contexts.
2. That ORF encourages critical thought on campus and encourages engagement with the wider community, locally and beyond.
3. That ORF will offer important and nuanced perspectives on the turmoil of 2016 and how we can respond.

### **Council Resolves:**

1. To give £150 to ORF for speakers' expenses.

**Proposed:** Jack Kelly, Christ Church

**Seconded:** Wiktor Ostasz, New College

Jack Kelly (Christ Church College) – The Oxford Radical Platform is a 3 day event in its 10<sup>th</sup> year. Running events on institutionalised rape culture, the NHS, and a debate on Corbyn and Labour. The idea is to bring together academics, activists and students to engage in some critical thought about the world and we're hoping to get people from London, Durham and, potentially Scotland and Ireland. It's traditionally a completely free event and to keep it this way we need some funding. So we're asking for £150 from the discretionary budget to help us pay for expenses.

Jack Hampton – Point of information – I don't expect the proposer to know this but a similar motion from the Oxford Radical Platform was brought in 2012 and the one condition which was made then was the Platform should say if they could come up with a sustainable way of funding themselves in the future so they don't have to claim from this pot.

### Short Factual Questions

Jack Hampton – What measure have you taken to secure funding from other sources before coming to OUSU Council?

Jack Kelly (Christ Church College) – We have had some money from Somerville and other JCRs already. We have gotten £300 so far.

Jack Hampton – What other plans do you have to raise money?

Jack Kelly (Christ Church College) – We are going to other common rooms and we have donations.

Jack Hampton – How confident are you to raise enough?

Jack Kelly (Christ Church College) – We are quite confident we will raise enough.

??? – How much are you aiming to raise and how much is in the works of being raised?

Jack Kelly (Christ Church College) – Raised £350 already. We're currently asking Council for £150 and we'll then be looking for £150 more. We haven't costed the event yet. This should just be about enough.

Alastair Graham (StJohn's College) – Would it be possible to get money from other JCR instead of using OUSU Council's money? Given that OUSU Council funds have been used in the past to fund surplus campaigns.

Jack Kelly (Christ Church College) – Yes we are looking to get funding from JCRs.

Jack Hampton – How time pressured is the funding? Could you bring this back to a later Council if you weren't able to secure funding from the other sources first?

Jack Kelly (Christ Church College) – Yes the conference is in 7<sup>th</sup> Week. We could bring it back in 5<sup>th</sup> Week if necessary.

No further short factual questions

No opposition

Motion passed without opposition

## **BELOW THE LINE**

### 2. Divisional Representative Ratification

Edward Arbe-Barnes to be ratified as the Medical Science Undergraduate Divisional Board Representative.

**Proposed:** Marina Lambrakis

**Seconded:** Sandy Downs

Passed

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### **f. Items for Debate**

No Debate

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### **g. Any Other Business**

Fraser Boistelle (New College) – The Hustings are happening on Thursday, there will be pizza and prosecco and everyone should come along because it will be great! It will be in Keble College.

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Council Ends