

3rd Week Hilary Term 2019 Student Council Minutes

TIME: 17:30

DATE: Wednesday 30th January

LOCATION: Wadham College, Moser Theatre

If you have any questions about Student Council, please feel free to contact:

Chair of Council: chair@oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk

Student Engagement Coordinators: studentengagement@oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk

Project Bid Pot: £1092 remaining

- 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
 - e. Reports from Women's Campaign and Class Act
 - f. Report from Medical Sciences UG divisional rep
 - g. Items for resolution
 - 1. Update Oxford SU Policy Book's Online Media Accessibility Policy
 - 2. Van Noorden Index Transparency
 - 3. Harassment Advisors
- Below the line
- 4. Establish Oxford SU Women's Campaign
- h. Items for discussion
 - 1. Oxford's Access & Participation plan
- i. Any other business

a. Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 16th January were considered.

b. Matters arising from the minutes

No amendments were noted. No opposition.

c. Elections in Council

The External Trustee (x1) sits on the Trustee Board, which is responsible for directing Oxford SU's work in the long term. The board looks at the strategic overview, including financial and legal security.

India Jordan was elected as the external trustee with 100% vote for.

d. Reports from and questions to the Sabbatical Trustees

Lucas Bertholdi-Saad, VP Access and Academic Affairs presented that: 1. Last week, he successfully held oxford SU access conference 2. He will look in-depth into how politics and international relations from themselves, how statistic from itself, and how oxford inside institute from itself in terms of three different departments. He encouraged students to get in touch with him if they have any concerns.

Katt Walton, VP Women talked about: 1. Student sex worker survey has been launched and it will be opening for the next three weeks. She encouraged the council to advertise the survey to their common rooms, so she can report the results to the university and endeavour for better welfare services and potentially better financial supports. 2. She is also working on international women's day and she has invited all the speakers and has booked the venue. The details will be released next week. 3. She is sitting on the student committee for a new reporting process of harassment and sexual violence. She tends to report to the university and creates better students' experiences.

Ellie Macdonald, VP Welfare & Equal Opportunities reported that: 1. She is working on 7th week – mental health awareness week. First of which event will be next week. She is been busy organising panels and ???; 2. She had some good news on mental health and strategies yesterday, which hopefully will be realised very soon 3. She and Katt went to Pub Watch last week, and they hopefully got the majority of pubs, clubs, and night club venues on broad for ask Angela. However, they are still waiting for the confirmation.

Allison D'ambrosia, VP Graduates reported that: 1. They have gotten the university hopefully to do all their events to label them 'friendly', so the parents will know that they can bring their children with them to the event. There will be an Oxford SU party

very soon. 2. There is a new graduate college and she is working hard on it to make sure that the process answers students' needs.

Joe Inwood, Present presented that: 1. He has been working with JCR presidents and JCR VPs on rent negotiations, he did some trainings yesterday and will again tomorrow at oxford SU 2. He also worked on the motions that are on the agenda today 3. He has also been reading through NUS form proposals, so the national union of students is going through quite difficult time at the moment, their finance is facing crisis and they are considering some dramatic changes how they operate. He had the fantastic experiences of reading through all their proposals and try to understand what SU is responsible. He will be consulting all the campaign chairs on that very soon. The deadline for response from SU is actually Friday next week. He will respond in depth. 4. He is using his usual committee schedule to help with other sabs' issues.

Rosanna Greenwood, VP Charities & Communities presented that: 1. She has been writing the plan spring tight event that will be happening in May 2. Next climate act week, she encourages students to go to the events which will be happening every lunch time and every single evening 3. Charity awards; she also suggested committee members to push their treasurers to fill in the fund raising forms that she have sent them.

Katt also mentioned that all the nomination shortlisted for the election and encouraged the council to check the information on the website and the voting will be next Tuesday.

No questions

e. Reports from Women's Campaign and Class Act

1. Report from Women's Campaign:

Rosie Sourbut presented her report.

No questions were received.

2. Report from Class Act Campaign

Emma Jackson presented her report.

No questions were received.

f. Report from Medical Sciences UG divisional rep

No members attended the meeting.

Additional items: Reports from Student Trustees

Ivy Manning, Wadham, sent apology from Jake (another student trustee) and briefly introduced student trustee board – who they are and what they does: 1. Responsible for long term strategies for finance and all legal materials about oxford SU; It made up of the sabs, of three or more student trustees, four external trustees.; At least once a term, they will have sab committees, she sat on finance committee.; They will solve different issues through emails 2. Recently, they have introduced the new oxford living wage for all of their staffs, so they could lead the way in this issue. 3. They have reviewed their core strategies 4. They have helped with campaign reviews.

Jake's report: Jake sent his apology; Jake is the deputy chair of the trustee board 1. Oxford SU is becoming a better organisation 2. Full time trained and experienced staff at Oxford SU helped campaigns and other activities 3. Campaign reviews need to be concerned 4. Big chances on the trustee board 5. Suggested to elect a new member in order to help with the transition period. 6. Highlighted the importance of student trustee board

No questions

g. Items for Resolution

1. Update Oxford SU Policy Book's Online Media Accessibility Policy

Ebie Edwards Cole, New College and Holly Winch, OSDC present the motion.

Council Notes:

1. Oxford SU represents a diverse student body with different needs in terms of accessibility.
2. It is not currently the case that Oxford SU's online media is accessible as possible to students.

Council Believes:

1. Individuals who are disabled deserve the same access to all aspects of society as the non-disabled.
2. Students who are disabled deserve the same access to all aspects of our University and SU as the non-disabled.
3. Oxford SU should be as accessible as possible to students and this requires being accessible online.

Council Resolves:

1. To repeal and replace the current accessibility policy: "Accessibility of Online Media for Disabled Students (TT15)" on Page 8 of the Oxford SU Policy Book so that it reads as follows:

“Oxford SU believes those who are disabled deserve the same access to all aspects of society as the non-disabled. Oxford SU should work with Oxford SU Disabilities Campaign to advocate for more inclusive treatment of disabled students within the University and should themselves be inclusive as possible. With regards to online accessibility, Oxford SU should enact the following practices as standard:

- a. Videos should have captions and a text transcript should be provided.
- b. Images posted on social media or included in emails should have an image description written in the caption for the image.
- c. Images included in documents and on webpages should have appropriate alt text included (or the image should be marked as decorative).
- d. Where images include extensive text, a plain text version should be provided.
- e. Where possible, documents should be provided in an editable format.
- f. When using hashtags each word should be capitalised.
- g. When sharing links, shortened versions should be created and shared where possible.
- h. When advertising events, an accessibility statement about the event and venue must be included.
- i. When advertising events, details about who to contact for accessibility requirements must be included.”

They additionally proposed that Oxford SU should work with Oxford SU Disabilities Campaign to lobby the college?? university to adopt the same practice for online accessibility as standard.

Proposer: Ebie Edwards Cole, New College (Oxford SU Disabilities Campaign)

Secunder: Ellie Macdonald, Oxford SU

Question:

Katt Walton, VP Women, what does that mean ‘text in editable format’?

Ebie Edwards: Students cannot access or edit pdf, since it’s saved as image format.

Joe Inwood, president, asked if she is mandating sab officers to do that? Because she cannot mandate Oxford SU to do anything. He is also wondering how could sabs officers proceed?

Liam Challenger, Communication & Campaigns Manager, highlighted that the university and colleges have not started thinking about the online accessibility and the importance of that. He also suggested Ebie to start the conversation in this issue.

No opposition

2. Van Noorden Index Transparency

Thomas Laver, Balliol College, presented the motion and highlighted that it is important to know VNI in order to help with rent negotiation.

Council Notes:

1. The Van Noorden Index (VNI) is the method for the calculation of college living costs. It only applies to colleges of Oxford.
2. That the precise data used for calculation of the VNI are frequently not disclosed to students or the Student Union.
3. That VNI calculations often do not account for inter-college variation in college provision.
4. That the VNI is frequently used for determining rent increases in colleges.

Council Believes:

1. VNI is not a transparent measure.
2. That VNI data should be shared with students who its calculations affect.
3. That more information about the VNI measure will allow college rent negotiations to proceed on a fairer basis.

Council Resolves:

1. To mandate the Sabbatical officers to request from the Bursars' committee greater details of VNI calculations for each year.
2. To mandate the Sabbatical officers to ensure that the Bursars' committee share all VNI data they are in possession of with the SU or relevant college JCR & MCR committees as soon as possible.
3. To mandate the Sabbatical officers to begin to examine VNI calculations for possible alternative measures to be used by college representatives in rent negotiations.

Proposer: Thomas Laver, Balliol College

Secunder: Gemma Roper, St. Peter's College

Questions:

Phoebe Whitehead, St Catz, asked if the motion could also include the FEC model, which is being used by other colleges, such as New college and St Catz.

Thomas said that he will take that as friendly, because they need to know as much information as possible.

The proposed amendment: 'my results to include FEC full economic cost attribution model as well as VNI, as it represents some colleges St Catz, New, who do not use VNI. This moment includes the results of FEC and VNI.'

No opposition to the amendment and the motion.

3. Harassment Advisors

Council Notes:

1. Harassment should not be and is not tolerated at this university
2. There is existing university policy which advises complainants to approach harassment advisors
3. There is training for harassment advisors
4. **Not all harassment advisors have completed training** and within the University there are staff who are acting as harassment advisors
5. Harassment advisor training is not mandatory

Council Believes:

1. **Students should have access to appropriately trained staff**

Amendment: 'students should have access to appropriately trained leads.'

2. **Students wellbeing** in the case of harassment is the upmost priority
3. Harassment advisors who are not appropriately trained could harm the wellbeing of students
4. Harassment advisors who are not trained could receive a first disclosure of sexual violence and without any training they could re-traumatise a student and endanger a potential legal case
5. It is not appropriate for staff to, in essence, **pretend** to be harassment advisors.

Amendment: 'it is not appropriate for staff to, in essence, act to be harassment advisors.'

Council Resolves:

1. Mandate the VP Women to pressure the Equality and Diversity Unit to make training mandatory
2. Mandate the VP Women to pressure college welfare leads/ harassment leads to make training compulsory for harassment officers
3. Mandate the VP Women to **expose** untrained harassment advisors in current roles

Amendment: 'Mandate the VP Women to inform students of untrained harassment advisors.'

Proposer: Katt Walton, Oxford SU

Seconder: Ellie Macdonald, Oxford SU

Allison said that some graduates are said to be trained as sex harassment officers and some are not, so she suggested to expand this to not just staff.

Katt Walton responded that she went on the university website to find out listed sex harassment advisors and found out who is the advisor in that college. Therefore, that can include graduate students.

Ellie Macdonald asked VP women to clarify how does she pressure the leads?

Katt Walton said that she had a meeting with a person?? from EDU. She found out last term that the training is not mandatory for the leads and this alarm her. She had a meeting with ?? two weeks ago and there is a lack of processes and power. Therefore, Katt started emailing the leads who she found online and asked if they undertake the training. She tends to set meeting with the leads to solve the issues. So far the process is quite positive and the leads are willing to attend the trainings.

Phoebe Whitehead, St Catz, asked if there is a fresher training.

Katt said that there is a fresher training. The Edu recommends to refresh every one to two years in line with any policy changes. There will be a big overhaul how the university deals with harassment and sexual violence cases. But the trainings will be in line with any policy updates. Her current goal is to get everyone trained. Maybe next goal will be to get refreshed every two years.

No opposition to the amendment and the motion.

Below the line

4. Establish Oxford SU Women's Campaign

Council Notes:

1. In 7th Week Michaelmas Term 2018 Student Council amended the Bye-Laws and changed how Campaigns work.

Council Believes:

2. Oxford SU should have a Campaign for women and transfeminine students.

Council Resolves:

3. To establish the Women's Campaign as an Oxford SU Campaign and Appendix A as its Constitution.

Proposer: Rosie Sourbut, Women's Campaign

Secunder: Katt Walton, Oxford SU

h. Items for Discussion

1. Oxford's Access & Participation plan

Oxford University is drawing up its Access & Participation Plan which sets access and attainment gap targets for the next five years. What should your SU be pushing for, and how far should it go in pushing your priorities?

Proposer: Lucas Bertholdi-Saad, Oxford SU

Lucas Bertholdi-Saad present the topic and said that he is working on three main things: 1. Making sure that the university is as minimum as ambitious as the government tells it to be. 2. Focusing on the target of ethnicity and closing the race admission gap. 3. Looking at the target of educational disadvantages. 4. Others: first generation students, mature students, regions of the country, disability

Ebie Edwards Cole, New College, asked if it's possible to work on the attainment gap target, so the students could get relevant supports when they arrive before they focus on the access.

Lucas Bertholdi-Saad said that he thinks that the attainment gap target is important, but he is not at the moment on that panel. In terms of the progression target is more important than the access target, he doesn't think so. Because oxford graduates irrespective of where they came from, or their social background, or their geographic characteristics, expect gender in some cases. They have the same salary when they leave the university. It is of course important to focus on the progression. He gave an example and said that some black graduates have higher salary than white students. But he highlighted again that his focus is on access to oxford.

Ebie Edwards Cole, New College argued that progression feeds into the access.

Lucas Bertholdi-Saad agrees with Ebie's ideas.

?? asked if it's a general push across and looking at all the subjects. Whether he is looking at all the graduate courses as well as undergraduate courses.

Lucas said that some subjects do a lot more than other subjects and he is mainly looking at undergraduates rather than graduates, because it is what oxford students legally to ask to focus on. There is some work going on in terms of graduate access.

Allison, Oxford SU asked if it's possible to push not only assess and participation plan but also to encourage the university to include graduate access in their target even if it's not a governmental standard.

Lucas said maybe, it is not he has been focusing on. But he is happy to work on it.

Alex Picksley, St John's and Adam Palker, St John's, said that undergraduate and graduate access should be considered together and highlighted the importance of graduate access.

Lucas said that he will try his best and agree with their opinions.

Ellie Macdonald, Oxford SU, asked how other disadvantage groups being included in the access and participation plan going forward.

Lucas said that they will be included through the undergraduate supportive package reform, which included university's additional supports for relevant students. In terms of access target, the university is not planning on doing anything about those, to use carers and indicators of disadvantages. The university agreed on that they should only use decoration that provided externally and nothing self-declared.

?? asked that what are the government standards and what are their reasons and why does Lucas disagree?

Lucas quoted the statistics from government's target on access plan and explained that the problem is that the target is not an impossible task.

i. Any other business