



council minutes

3rd week michaelmas 2004

Matters arising from minutes

JB: sentence nonsensical.

General matters

RV: need to get a chair for one meeting only

JB: if someone agrees to chair yes

Seymour: NUS cards not mentioned. When will we receive them?

Chair: question for later

Ratifications: no objections

Elections: RO

JB: need DRO- standing orders allow for 2 DROs, council has ability to allow 3- greater work for election. Tanya notified not attending

Hust

Kimberly: require impartial, fair, decisive

RV: experience?

Kimberly: none

Mark Hawkins (queens): how does OUSU STV work?

Kimberly: yes aware. Registered quotas.

Bex: Would you wear pink t-shirt

Kimberly: wore for essay crisis, now unclean

JB- vote. Does council disagree with 3 DROs?

No objections to this

Election to social science division board

Rakhi: already been on JVC for politics- aware of issues and how things work. Finalist, know all issues and developments.

Acaff: what is the big issue?

Rakhi: PPE overhauling course

Acaff on behalf of Oliver: classics, knows people.

Candidates for election tribunal

JB: 6 candidates, 6 positions

Declarations NE: Labour party. OULC- may have lapsed

AS: OULC, Labour party

Aled (LC on behalf of): none

No questions

Hust for p/t exec

Matthew Baker: three most important things are 1. Time 2. organisation 3. accountability. Participated in teaching program- involved admin, organising meetings. Also homeless charity- used communication skills and organised self. On Jaquari committee- displays accountability. Also letter writer at Amnesty International.

Questions

JC: pol affiliations

MB: AI and OUCA

AK: biggest issue for OUSU/ student body?

MB: OUSU- how seen accountable and transparent and open to people

RV: what year?

MB: 2nd

SH: ever attended OUSU campaign?

MB: Acaff

Bex: which committee interested in?

MB: target schools and ethics

Reports from SABs

JB- apologise for lack of report. Unable to bring in motion for reform- will be staggered over year. Election time- nominations opened yesterday. This week will be advertisement in OxStu. Nomination packs available from Monday. NUS: they have told me that no record of discussions with OUSU. This week had request for leave for VPF. Exec refused. VPF did not attend work yesterday.

VPF: apologise not for written report. Already written and will be on website on Monday. About lack of publications delivery- not through lack of effort. As on OUSU exec, personally responsible. Keen to sort it out. Feel that job of VPF too big. Can be summarised in 3 categories. 1. Entz: successful- every night full. OSSL measures implemented to ease strain but taken 3 weeks to get going. 2. publications- nearly all done. 3. While previous VPF's done their job- they did run a deficit, creating potential risk of bankruptcy. My budget management is as it means to go on.

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The vast expansion of work falling under purview of VPF requires that we address the new issues. If we don't deal with this, we face massive problems in future. I am grateful for offers of help but these were piecemeal and difficult to coordinate. The nature of the problem requires people on it from start to finish, and delegation is difficult. Have plans for reform and don't believe it is sensible to carry on

VPWel: I'd like to add to my report. Due to the publications backlog, not too much has happened. After the extraordinary exec- the VPF made clear her decision not to prioritise the delivery of survival guides. The p/t exec undertook- touched by people who cared about pubs. Now delivered to almost all colleges- if in Balliol, there was a muck up with names. If not there, call me. Thanks for patience.

VPwomen: main time creating better eating disorder network- meetings at Monday 8:30. Feel that VPDriver- 3 night bus shirts. With Chris Allen fixed bus. Thanks AA. LC and I went around colleges- dropped off guides to all colleges except Balliol.

VPAcaff: this morning, every single fresher bar Balliol. Doing a lot with national student survey. Writing workshop. Library campaigns- send postcards. VPF addressed concern with job- similar problems with most jobs. Access key, keen to get feedback.

VPGraduates (statement read by Rachel): not present but written addition- been networking to publicise international students. Meetings to consult MCRs. International and other campaigns- meeting to see what went wrong.

VPC&C: fashion shows and breast cancer research. Skirts 7.50- get a ribbon. For fashion show, almost selected all models. Taboo going well. 7th week, the LGB speed date. Out of the blue and alternatives. Tom activity for big collection for Zoj- bungee jump.

Exec reports:

CA: had to clear up confusion over survival guides. Thanks all sabs who helped.

Dan S: thanks for covering for me

Questions

To president

Seymour: NUS cards

JB: said to OUSU reps, very sorry not arrived. I was promised them and not arrived. I am not in charge of producing. The only person who knows is VPF.

DWhite: why I am still on website

JB: removed.

NE- told yours is good advice on accommodation.

Alan Strickland: 2 fronts- personnel front, what doing to keep sab team together, and practically, what doing to jobs?

JB- practical front, doing all jobs. Personnel front doing best

To VPF

Susa (st Hilda's): NUS?

VPF: delayed due to workload over summer. Encountered huge problems. Number of publications grown massively. Price- they quoted wrong. Plastic cards from st Helens- had a huge problem with artwork. They cannot use FTP system, and webmail not conducive to PDF attachments. All had to be re-PDFed. Last week sorted out artwork. They said 10 days, but Managing Director recognised that this quote was unreasonable. Promised next week in batches of 5,000 each. Proofs lost in post. NUS labels not right. Sorry for story of errors. Been doing best.

AK: can you tell me state of publications

Acaff: point of information: LGBT arrived today.

VPF: Oxford Cambridge careers proofed. Problems as FTP server was full. Long time to print- at least 2 weeks. Oxford handbook- ads no finished. Guide not checked fully. Technical issues.

VPwel: disability action guide

VPF: was in offices till 2am labelling. Part of delay as waiting for proctors. Amended data from student office. Graduate guide had technical issues, at printers.

LC: can VPF assure council, will work with rest of exec for changes?

VPF: important help OUSU to reform. Reason not in work, not well enough. Important reforms. Don't feel fully qualified to advise for other positions. My job problems- work 5 days/week, in offices in w/d, work 3 nights/week. Not commenting on others.

VPW

Lorna: can we wear these pink t-shirts at another event?

VPW: yes for filthy Friday

Rachel (grad): need English license to drive night bus?

VPW: Yes

Bex (queens): what's this about crashes?

VPW: yet to crash night bus. No damage done. Apologise for late arrival of night bus on Wednesday?

Acaff

Lorna: if wish to opt out of NSS?

LC: don't know. University only decided last week.

VPC&C

Tom (CC): ethics- ask about booking of said business school. OUSU policy against this for 5 years.

VPC&C: policy has expired. January rag is hosting national rag conference. Problems as early in new year-

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Said was the only place available despite effort, couldn't find alternative. Dubious background but use for good.

RO(JB) Tanya, Dom, and Kim elected.

Emergency motions

DWhite- conflict with constitution.

JB: correct- bit of referendum on same question overrides first one.

Tom Packer: if pass policy, if referendum says yes

Chair- cedes to JB. Chair's ruling- as JB will better explain. Since President- he interprets constitution.

JB: when hold referendum, others cease

Dwhite: move to overturn Chair's ruling

Lorna: clarify what Council says can and cannot do.

JB council cannot turndown. Once 500 signatures, must create referendum. Question set by RO and President.

Did consult if council wish to amend question requires 2/3 majority.

Council adjourned to clarify constitution.

(PAGE MISSING HERE)

Dan Simpson: will refusal affect HEFCE funding?

Linsey Cole: No – and lots lots more..... that I don't have

Opposition? NO

PASSES.

OTHER MOTIONS

- Fresher's Fair report.

A.Kennedy [Hert]: All relevant info. Fair went very successfully.

J.Coatsworth: What's your definition of a geezer?

AK: you James.

Linsey Cole [StJ]: what's your definition of a wombat?

A.Kennedy: a furry mammal

T.Packer: How many student societies had their leaflets amended/removed?

A.Kennedy: 2 societies

DEBATE

AMMENDMENT

Chris Allan [Somerville]: Resolves to congratulate the FF organisers.

NO OPP

NO OPP

MOTION PASSES

BACK WHERE WE LEFT OFF

President made an implicit assumption with regards to the constitution, which meant that this referendum would strike previous referendum policy.

There is a muddle because there is a muddle in the constitution.

Chair interprets that the President was right to interpret the constitution in this way. As in accordance with the status quo.

Lorna: what exactly are you ruling on?

CHAIR: Point 2. President is allowed to rule on the constitution when it is ambiguous. The interpretation that has been given is that the new question on the table - by existing – would erase all previous policy.

CHAIR'S RULING: TO UPHOLD THIS PRESIDENTIAL RULING

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CHAIR'S RULING: TO UPHOLD THIS PRESIDENTIAL RULING

Can amend the question about funding

D.Simpson [Balliol]: Move to overturn Chair's ruling.

BEX TAKES CHAIR

CHAIR: I made the ruling, as it is unclear, this is the closest to the status quo.

DS: If we accept this ruling, it should have been given in writing. The outcome of this question is not mutually exclusive to our current policy. Eg. We could have policy to have free education AND to reduce student numbers.

UPHELD

John Blake [St Hug]: not trying to short change anybody. Referendums used to be held when council couldn't decide on things. The question was set - not because it is my [John Blake] question, but because it was given to me along with 500 signatures. Most of us in council will have had discussions about funding HE. This is not true of most students. When we ask, do students in Oxford believe that education should be free? We need to go back to the beginning. We need to ask the core question.

This is not the OUSU president residing over the "OUSU politburo" - although I do have a big furry hat - it is the RO trying to exercise the will of 500 students in accordance with the Constitution.

SHORT FACTUAL QUESTIONS

Matt Jobber [st Hug]: What is ALL of OUSU's higher education policy?

JB: (outlines policy booklet)

I think the way referendums are done in OUSU are ill-conceived, but it is what is in the constitution.

L.Cole: Can you clarify how the signatures were checked - in reference to an article in the Cherwell.

JB: Linsey Cole, VP (Access and Academic Affairs) checked them. Very grateful

Rob Vance [Wadham]: Why, instead of a simple motion, is there more to this motion?

JB: Simply as a measure to make it clearer.

CHAIR'S RULING: TAKE EVERYTHING OUT APART FROM THE QUESTION

CHALLENGED BY JOHN BLAKE

CHAIR: I am making this ruling because I think it is the only way to resolve this situation. It is not ideal because it leaves the Constitutional question in debate unresolved but I don't think we can sort that here. The following are the far from exhausted instructions from the standing orders:

C.7.2(b) The Returning Officer in consultation with the President shall lay down the wording of each Referendum question, which may be amended only by a two-thirds vote of Council.

Given the lack of specific instruction, I think the President tried his best to make this make sense by tabling the motion in the same format as an ordinary motion thinking that that would be the best way to explain what was going on. It isn't at all clearly laid out how this should be put before council, so the simplest thing seems to be to rule that the motion should have contained nothing other than a statement that a valid petition had been received and the question.

JB: Messy. Referendum then better off. There has been a debate in which people think something suspicious was going on, when it wasn't. With these events in Council, people will lead to more suspicions.

LW: Procedural motion that motion be tabled until next Council.

Chair: Unconstitutional - debate continues.

Vote on challenge to Chair's ruling: Challenge fails.

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Motion now only contains the Referendum question - all other resolves clauses have been removed.

SFQs on motion as it now stands:

MCR OUSU Rep (Magd): Who are the authors of the petition?

JB: I can't tell you.

Lorna Stevenson (Hert): Will it be same ballot paper as SAEs?

JB: Should be, depends how many people nominate.

James Coatsworth (Mansfield): With last referendum there were definitions - will this happen again?

JB: Its designed to be self-explanatory. I'll make sure people know what is going on.

VaVa Gligorov (SJC): If amended to multiple options, who decides voting method?

JB: Council does - would be included in amendments.

LC: Will candidates in the SAEs be allowed to campaign for one of the referendum options?

JB: No - matter for discussion.

DEBATE - Chair informs council that the motion can ONLY be amended and cannot be failed.

Amendment: Proposed Rebecca Wilkinson (Teddy Hall) - Should OUSU have policy on Higher Education Funding?

Chair: Rules out amendment as it changes matter on which referendum was brought.

Dave Easton (Magd): If we can't vote this down, how does it end?

Chair: It doesn't say in the Standing Orders.

Challenge to Chair's ruling to rule out Amendment

LS (Hertford): This is still about the same thing.

Chair: It changes the substance of the motion - is a valid point but not for this motion.

Vote: For: 13 against: 22 Abs: 9 - Chair's ruling stands.

Various amendments passed to the Chair - 10-minute adjournment to consider amendments.

Amendment 1: Proposed Rob Vance (Wadham) Seconded: Dan Simpson (Balliol)

Add resolves 2: Do you agree with the Government's 50% target of participation in Higher Education?

Accepted by Chair - discussion after two more amendments are ruled out:

Amendment 2: Proposed: Matt Jobber (St Hugh's) Seconded: Steve Grycuk [sp] (St Hugh's)

To add resolves 2: Do we believe the Government should reduce student numbers? Yes/No

Chair rules out amendment as invalid.

Amendment 3: Proposed: Tim Bennetts (SPC) Seconded: Simon Clarke (Univ)

To replace this question with the questions from the previous referendum.

Chair rules out as it changes substance of motion.

Challenge to Chair's ruling that Amendment 1 should be allowed to be put:

RV (Wad): Put this amendment because it addresses the outcome of the last referendum and will clarify the policy.

DW (Wad): Wording doesn't refer to HE Funding. Isn't an amendment about HE Funding.

Vote on whether to challenge chair's ruling fails

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Vote on whether to challenge chair's ruling fails.

Quorum count - Chair informs council that if inquorate, meeting ends and motion passes as it stands.

Count - well above quorum.

Chair: The motion has to stand - 500 members signatures take precedence over this motion in council.

Emma Norris (Some): Most people in council don't want this question - the decision of the RO and President to make this question shouldn't be more sovereign than council.

Chair: The President did what he was obliged to do by the Standing Orders and the Constitution - can't make a ruling in Council on this, the only thing that can be done is to suspend bits of the Standing Orders relating to Council. The question cannot be changed in any way unless it is amended.

Debate on Amendment

VV (SJC): Not more opposed to this amendment than any other. We're going to end up in same position as last term - it doesn't solve the problem of superseding all previous policy. I don't like the question, as without cause to inform people, it will be up in the air.

Two-minute limit on speeches imposed.

Oliver Clifford-Moby (Wad): Silly amendment - 1st question asks whether we want education to be free, but the second doesn't clarify the situation and cannot be easily worked.

MTV to add Amendment 1

For: 20

Vs: 11

Abs: 8

Amendment fails.

Chair informs council that to bring meeting to an end, she will allow a vote of 2/3rds majority.

RV (Wad): Need summation speeches on amendment

Chair: Apologies. We'll scrap the last vote on the amendment, have the speeches and then revote.

DS (Balliol): The amendment effectively addresses issues raised by the petition and by this year's referendum. Amendment separates the issues effectively into number of people who go to HE and the people who pay for it. Vote for the amendment.

OCM (Wadham): It doesn't clarify - it adds complexity. Simple, easy question about HE funding is what is needed - this isn't relevant to HE Funding. Vote it down.

Vote: For 28 Against 10 Abs 5 - Amendment fails.

Move to end debate

Ed Griffith (SJC): We have seen a sensible motion fail. I don't think any amendment will get 2/3rds and given constitutional interpretation, whatever happens the question will not change.

Chris Guelf (Magd): If you don't want to debate - leave! But, let us debate. Vote fails.

LS (Hertford): Challenge to chair ruling out amendment on reducing student numbers.

Chair: It was too distant from original wording.

Quorum count - meeting is inquorate. Meeting ends.

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