

OUSU Council Minutes – 3rd Week, Michaelmas 2005

Dan Simpson: Query the legitimacy of any motion when we reach the appropriate part on the agenda

Item a – Minutes of the Previous Meeting

DS: Objections to minutes?

Frank Hardee: My surname wasn't spelt correctly.

Charlie Steel: Where are the minutes from Trinity, 7th week?

DS: Ask the OUSU Secretary.

Aidan Randle-Conde: I said we're looking for Queer Rights co-chairs.

DS: OK

Item b – Matters Arising from the Minutes

DS: Matters arising?

---No matters arising---

Item c – Ratifications in Council

---David Mendel and Jess Cordingly ratified as Target Schools Co-Chairs. Ian Caddy ratified as Library Consultative Group Rep---

Item d – Elections in Council

Daryl Leeworthy takes the Chair

DL: Hustings for DRO

Rob Vance: I have experience on Junior Tribunal, as SU (Wadham) President and Returning Officer, running the campaign for a sab, counting STV in OULC. I'm fully qualified. I'm a member of OULC.

DL: OUSU Complaints board. Hust?

---No hust---

DL: Hust for Junior Tribunal

Emma Norris, on behalf of Ian Caddy: IC has asked me to say a few words, as he couldn't be here. He has no political affiliations. He has experience as a part-time executive officer, on OUSU committees and knowledge of OUSU election processes. Therefore, he'd adjudicate well.

Dan Bishop: I'm a member of OUCA. I'm an ex-JCR President of Oriol. I have no experience running elections but will be good.

DL: Hust for Oxford and District Trades Council?

---No hust---

DL: Hust for part-time graduate executive officer

Marco Biagi: I'm a new graduate. I was an undergraduate for 5 years at St Andrews. I was the sab for representation and convener of Higher Education Students for Scotland (organisation for non-NUS members.) I've been involved in theatre, RAG. I bring knowledge from a wide range of universities. I'm here for an academic, not political, career. Political affiliations are last 3 terms? At St Andrews I was a member of People & Planet, LGBT, Vegetarians but these have expired. So it's now Amnesty, Baby Milk Action, CND (Scotland), Friends of the Earth (Scotland), SNP, War on Want, World Development Movement. The SNP are not the BNP! They're more centre-left than Labour. Not anti-English. Got 47% of the Muslim vote. OUCA are always bashed. I'd like to bash Labour! Go on – RON me!

DL: Pick up nomination forms for the elections at the end. We have a result for the DRO election

---RV elected with 46 votes, RON 3 votes---

DS takes the Chair

Item e – Reports from the Sabbatical Officers

EN: The nomination forms that have been published are wrong. The correct ones are available. Info available. Deadline for motions is Thursday the week before Council at 16.00, except for emergency motions. They're up to the Chair's discretion.

CS: Point of order. According to the Standing Orders, it's Friday.

DS: Can someone please work it out.

Chris Allen: The Careers Handbook should be ready to be pidge on Monday. Looking for paid help to assist in delivering it. Oxide will go FM from Monday morning. Launch party on Sunday.

ARC: All in report. Accommodation Committee will get moving.

Ellie Cumbo: Wear it Pink Party tonight. Breast Cancer campaign. Finals gap: I've been invited to EPSC undergraduate committee.

Oliver Russell: The PGA of Tuesday, 3rd week didn't happen. Will now have it during 6th week, so we can have husts. Men get breast cancer too.

Charlyne Pullen: Academic Affairs Committee needs a co-chair.

Hannah Stoddart: Apologies for late report. Events gone well, raised money for charity. Wear it Pink event, jointly with Ellie. Looking for Future Outlook co-chairs.

Item f – Reports from the Executive Officers who wish to make reports

CS: Low turnout at RepsCom. Please come.

Helen Bagshaw: I'm updating and restructuring the website. Want common room support section. Please pass on ideas for this, or the site generally.

Emma Jones: This time of year we run what we call the 'OUSU roadshow.' Sabs can visit your college. Free food and literature. If haven't heard, please send details. Keen to support officers.

Matthew Baker: Request a ballot box, if you haven't yet.

Item g – Questions to Members of the Executive

Tom Packer: Anymore you can say on OxStu? i.e. legal/financial implications, your general reaction.

EN: There was a legal problem. For this reason we can't say anymore about that.

CA: We have minimised the financial implications. Relatively low losses. Only a couple of ads not put in, and we may regain these.

Edward Mayne: Do we still need to print agendas, as there seem to be some available in Council?

EN: It's helpful if you can. We print some for those who haven't but enough to cover everyone.

Martin McCluskey: OUSU cards?

EN: CA spoke to the woman who has the data. She'll get back to us. We need this for the data.

Herve Hansen: Council doesn't have enough information to review the OxStu decision. How does accountability from OSSL to Council work? This is very important.

EN: OSSL isn't accountable to Council. It is autonomous and handles commercially sensitive information. The issue with the OxStu is more than commercial sensitivity, it is illegal to discuss the story.

Item h – Emergency Motions

DS: There are no emergency motions.

Item i – Passage of Motions Nem Con

---Motion 3 (International Student Visas [Removal of Right to Appeal]) passed nem con---

CS: Point of order. Motion 4 was late. Therefore it should be ruled out of order.

DS: I see opposition to this.

CS: It was late, submitted Friday evening.

CP: You can check my email records. I sent it at 11.30 on Thursday morning.

CS: Objection withdrawn.

HH: Point of order. Motion 5 is late. Motions 5-7 were all submitted late, on Friday afternoon. Motion 5 was even discussed in exec on Friday, so it has to have been submitted after the deadline.

DS: I will deal with the motions individually.

OR: Emergencies are after the deadline.

DS: I should have been asked for approval and I wasn't. I therefore rule it out of order.

OR: I challenge the ruling of the Chair.

DL takes the Chair

RV takes the Chair

RV: 2/3rds needed to overrule the Chair.

OR: It was the General Manager who failed to identify it as an emergency motion.

DS: Standing Orders say a motion after the deadline requires the approval of the Chair. OPR says it was late. Therefore not valid.

---Motion to overrule the Chair not passed---

CS: Motion 6 was late. I move to defer it.

EN: Opposition. It went in on time, the initial motion, not the change.

---Motion to defer not passed---

OR: I move to suspend Section B of the Standing Orders.

DS: If upheld, this would mean me conducting the meeting at my discretion. You would be making me God.

OR: We're having the same objections. Correct, but we can get round the problem this way and therefore conduct some useful business.

TP: If passed, this would mean no order in Council. OR can resubmit a motion to suspend the narrow bit of the Standing Orders that are causing problems. We really shouldn't be making DS God.

---Motion to suspend Section B of the Standing Orders not passed---

OR: I move to suspend Section BI of the Standing Orders.

DS: These refer to notice in Council. Suspension would lead to the discussion of all motions, except if they have already been ruled out.

OR: Sensible, doesn't make DS God.

CS: Against Education Act 1994, which requires us to uphold the Constitution. What's the point of the Standing Orders or Constitution if we don't adhere to them?

---Motion to suspend Section BI of the Standing Orders passed---

CP: Now discuss motion 5?

DS: No, already ruled on it.

Section n – Other Motions

DS: Motion I

EC: Finals gap. We, and the university, all know there is a gap. OUSU should do something.

DS: Friendly amendment. Adds resolve 2.

EC: We will come up with 10 suggestions. I will consult widely and take the ideas to those at the top. No reason not to support.

TP: We have no idea what the 10 suggestions will be. They won't be specifically approved by Council. We should know what they are.

Claire Chalmers: Council should support the suggestions, not judge them. Otherwise, we'd be undermining the autonomy of WomCam. This is about what females think.

CP: I completely agree. The University's Corporate Plan referred to more choice in courses. This is about discussion, not implementation.

OR: Equal Opportunities matters require ratification by Council.

Tim Bennett: Some of the solution to the Finals Gap may affect all students. For instance, more coursework may be introduced but this would affect female and male students.

Jo Lee Morrison: I'm getting a sense of déjà vu. Men won't automatically oppose measures to close the Finals gap, but policy affects all.

TP: It is because the Finals gap is important that we should be discussing it. This is exactly what Council is for. This is the most important role for Council.

EC: WomCam is semi-autonomous. This is about suggestions, not policy.

CP: The University wants more choice in courses. So, it's about choice.

MB: If we discuss in Council, we decide there. Or we can delegate. I don't know the answer. It's semi-autonomous for this reason. It's about suggestions.

EC: In summary, this is in no way binding on OUSU or University policy. It is important to consult all students. This amendment makes the motion less woolly.

TP: It affects everyone. We had a debate on this type of thing last term. Council is exactly for this. If we did so, we would be giving extra support and force to the ideas that we come up with. We could also consider how those ideas should fit in with the other things Council discusses.

---Amendment passes---

---Main motion passes nem con---

DS: Motion 2

OR: The current situation in Australia is similar to what we have. You are a member of the student union, unless you opt-out. The Australian Government is objecting to student unions. It's now decided to make membership voluntary. The Australian NUS is unhappy. This measure would undermine campaigning and services. Membership would be narrower, and so there would be fewer of the benefits that result from ecumenicalism. A paper is being submitted to the Australian Senate to try and stop it.

Mike Levy: Which student union does this apply to?

OR: The ones in each university.

Rob Robinson: What is the Australian Government's explanation?

OR: The principle of free association. But this issue isn't about that, because student unions confer only rights, not obligations.

TP: We shouldn't be representing all. This is too international. On a practical level, Oxford students are not going to convince the Australian Government.

Nat Ogborne, Magdalen: We're adding support to the Australian NUS, not bulldozing.

MTV

MTV passed

Oliver Russel: Australian NUS asked us for this

Tom Packer: I think this would be counter-productive, and we shouldn't have policy on international issues.

Motion carried.

Libraries:

Charlynn: This motion is very uncontroversial, merely says we should have representation.

Helen Bagshaw: Are there copies of summary of Library survey available?

Charlynn: I sent it to Maria, said students want longer opening hours etc.

Charlie Steel: Has survey been represented across all colleges?

Alan Strickland: College not on submissions, was sent to all JCR Presidents.

Tom Melze, Oriol: Do you know they were all different students?

Alan Strickland: Yes

?: Have to be very sad to fill in a form 1590 times.

Passed nem con

Living Wage:

Rob Vance given speaking rights

Rob Vance: You fools

Tom Dale: Some scouts are very poorly paid, think should do research into it. Before we let Tom Packer off the leash, this motion is just asking for a bit of coordination, not a vast time commitment.

SFQ

Ed May, Mans: What is this asking Emma to do?

TD: Look into the contracts signed by scouts and their lives in general

Alan Strickland: How do the research sensitively?

TD: All we can do is to encourage people to talk to us

Kate Ferguson, Wadham: UNISON etc. could provide training

Tom Packer: A meeting of whom in 5th/6th week?

TD: Students/TUs

?: Definition of low paid?

TD: We all have a rough conception

Nichlas Albien-Svensen: What does resolves 1 means?

TD [Reads resolves 1]

Iain Simpson: How much time will this take up?

TD: Exec doing coordination, not research

Charlie Steel: What if University won't give information?

TD: Freedom of Information Act

Nat Ogborn: Wages compared to other universities?

TD: Don't know

MTD

Peter Hughes, Hertford: No real evidence here, and going around looking for abuses is not a good use of resources

Amendment to add "MCRs" to resolves 2

Amendment passed nem con

Amendment to replace University with College in notes 1

Amendment passed nem con

Rob Vance: There is a huge amount of evidence, university staff are treated appallingly badly. We should be encouraging people to get involved with this.

MTV

Opposition

MTV passes

Motion Passed

NUS Central affiliation

Martin McClusky, St Hughes: Me and Steph were mandated by our JCR to ask this to be investigated. We sacrifice some votes in theory, in practise would end up better off. Saves money

SFQ

?: I went to NUS, there were 12 or 13 from Oxford

?: If JCRs wanted to affiliate to NUS but not OUSU could they?

Martin: Not sure

Herve Hansen, Queens: How does it work?

Martin: If majority of students support can affiliate

Charlie Steel: Advantages of NUS affiliation?

Martin: Saves a lot of money if done centrally.

Trina?, ?: What are current costs?

Emma Norris: Costs £1500-£3000 per college

?: This will cost 50p per student if central

MTD

Opposition

Emma Norris: Martin is being given questions he can't answer, lets have them in debate

?: I have one more question

MTD passed

Charlie Steel, Merton: It should be up to colleges, this will cost £7000, OUSU can provide everything already

Amendment: Resolves I add "and exec officers responsible for NUS"

Passed nem-con

EN: This motion is about doing research, not binding. Still be for students to decide.

Ed Maine: I want to save money, and a lot of NUS stuff only OUSU can act on, not JCRs. This is a relevant motion.

MTV

Opposition

Chris Allen: We're all in favour

Tom Packer: Need clarification

MTV Passes

Martin: This will give JCRs a better deal

Charlie Steel, Merton: Should be for colleges to decide

Motion passed

Election of bar: The Mitre duly elected