



student council minutes

3rd Week Council MT 2006

a. Minutes of previous meeting:

Minutes passed nem con

b. Matters arising from the minutes:

No matters arising

c. Ratifications:

All matters ratified

d. Elections in Council:

Brief hust from Alex Stafford (St Benets)

e. Reports from sabbatical officers:

Alan Strickland, OUSU:

Fees march on Sunday, still places left on buses. Leaving bottom of St Giles at 8:45 so get there at 8:30. Vice-Chancellor declined to let us know university's official position on fees and what representations the university has made on this issue to external bodies; but has indicated that he's willing to meet with students to discuss this.

James Frew, OUSU:

Am separating welfare into two separate structures, one to campaign the other to run workshops.

Jenny Hoogewerf-McComb, OUSU:

Discussed with Vice-Chancellor some of the concerns I have about the extent to which some issues are addressed in fresher's week, will let you know what is going on with that.

Helen Bagshaw, OUSU:

Discusses national student survey, think still against.

F: Reports from p-t exec

None

G: Questions to executive officers

Rich Hardiman, Greyfriars:

No deadline given for close of nominations in the OxStu pull out

Alan Strickland: Returning Officer will explain OxStu pull out.

Daniel Johnson: Mistake, deadline is midday Thursday 4th week.

Martin McCluskey: Does safety bus still operate?

Jenny Hoogewerf-McComb: Can't afford to spend £10,000 on a safety bus, need corporate sponsorship or university support. Result of last year's budgetary problems; have recommended to common room presidents they investigate setting up schemes with local taxi firms.

H: Emergency motions:

Expenditure limits:

Dan Johnson: Haven't been updated for 5 years.

Passes nem con

I: Passage of motions nem con

Only motion 2 (Scrutiny Panel – notice of consultation paper) passes nem con

J: None

K: None

L: None

M: None

N:

Item 6 put to the end of agenda as it doesn't affect students as members of Oxford University.

1. Freshers' Fair report

Martin McCluskey: Report on freshers' fair, ask any questions...

Christine Quigley, BNC: Can you summarise it?

Martin McCluskey: Some problems, people leafleting outside, stuff getting busy etc. But on the whole it went well. Have included recommendations.

Jenny Hoogewerth-McCombe: Why stop pre-submitting literature?

Martin McCluskey: Because it's clear what sort of thing we're looking for on the day, inconveniences FF organiser and societies to have them pre-submitted.

David Green: Problems with stewarding this week, recommendations?

Martin McCluskey: Big problems, difficult to stop people just not turning up. If have money next year perhaps pay if can.

Passes nem con.

3. V-P AccAcAff job description:

Helen Bagshaw, Balliol: My job description hasn't been updated for 3 years, doesn't mention position is member of student advice service, which takes up 20% of time. Need to have job description reflecting the role, helps prospective candidates.

Passes nem con

4. V-P C&C Job description:

Imran Khan, ChCh:

To justify funding position gets, need more community and less RAG. Have tried to make it easier to read.

Frank Hardee, Oriel: Funding?

Imran Khan: Guaranteed this year and next year, currently review going on, can't guarantee after that.

Passes nem con.

5. Women's handbook:

Jenny Hoogewerf-McComb:

Reason it was scrapped last year was big time commitment for Ellie, as hadn't been done for 5 years or so. Will use Ellie's structure

Frank Hardee, Oriel: How long is contract for?

Jenny: This year, specifically for women's handbook.

?: How much does it cost to produce how much is contract for?

Jenny: Commercially sensitive, we won't make a loss on it.

?: Were there any other non-time reasons why it was scrapped?

Jenny: It was thought that all the information could be put in other publications, but motion was passed so late not enough time to check and ensure it could all be put in other publications. Part of reasons people against it is that thought would have to pay for it.

Christine Quigley, BNC: Publications review, what was going on there?

Jenny Hoogewerth-McComb: Was consultation headed up by Aidan Randle-Conde. I will do most of content. Publications review was a wider review of print material.

David Green, Lincoln:

Why did we sign contract after pubs review, or why scrap in pubs review after contract?

Jenny Hoogewerth-McComb:

I don't know, I wasn't in office there.

Rich Hardiman, Greyfriars:

How long will it take, got anyone to help you, what delivery schedule?

Jenny:

If I can't do it on my own, and I should be able to, will ask friends and other sabs with InDesign costs

Lewis James:

Are DB expecting a print handbook?

Helen Bagshaw:

Is in the contract.

?: Did DB sponsor last years? What needs updating?

Jenny:

Can't just replicate all the content from last year, lots of things have been updated.

Frank Hardee, Oriel:

Would contract not be satisfied by magazine?

Jenny:

Specifically says women's handbook. Magazine would be ten times more work.

Frank Hardee, Oriel:

What after this year?

Jenny:

As far as I'm concerned go with publications review.

Passes nem con.

Results:

Alex Stafford elected to exec: 45-17.

Item 7 – Oxford Rents:

Alan Strickland: Van Noorden index is calculated by college bursars, is used to increase rents as an estimate of inflation in Oxford. Allows bursars to artificially inflate rents, Van Noorden is usually 4-6%, considerably above national inflation. As this is the basis for so many rent rises, think they should publish the formula they use and the figure they reach.

Niklas Albin-Svenson: What is the review committee?

Alan Strickland: Think should get some people together and have a think about what we think about Van Noorden.

David Green: Discussed this last year, looked at making OFT complaint as Van Noorden can be seen as example of illegal cartel behaviour. Any thoughts?

Alan Strickland: Happy to look into it, but think it's a complicated situation and not convinced that would be wise.

Christine Quigley: What does Van Noorden think about the Van Noorden index?

Alan Strickland: Will ask him.

?: If you form this review committee, and it turns out that inflation in Oxford is higher than the national average, will you ask for a student loan increase?

Alan Strickland: Yes, think should have a south-east loans weighting campaign.

Frank Hardee: Could you clarify the situation regarding regarding the front page of the OxStu?

Alan Strickland: They found a 3 year old 40 page document, and found two quotes.

Move to debate
MTB passes.

Amendment on the table:
To add a resolves 3:
“To mandate the OUSU President to request official documentation of the Estate Bursars Committee”
Amendment passes nem con

Motion passes nem con

6. Contraction and convergence:

Niel Bowerman, Keble:

This is seen by most as the best solution, am working with DFID and other bodies, part of a larger movement.

Iain Simpson, Magd: Which parties support this.

Tories, LibDems, Greens, The Welsh One support it.

UKIP and Labour do not.

?: Lincoln was first college to go carbon neutral, so I support this, but what are you asking for?

Niel: Support for C&C.

Imran Khan:

What is best about the C&C framework?

Niel: Sets a global cap, then convergences on per capita emissions. Has gained lots of support, seen as the only credible scheme with global support.

Rich Hardiman:

What is resolves 2 about, what are you doing?

Niel:

Variety of political lobbying techniques.

?: Why doesn't Labour party support it?

Niel: Once support has to start mooted it internationally, perhaps due to industrial pressure doesn't want to do this yet.

Passed nem con.

O: Any other business

Dan Johnson: I need help, in oh so many ways. If anyone is free to help out please do.

Alan Strickland: Need two people for Junior Tribunal, is an appeals court, can't run election without it. Need two eligible people to come forwards.

?: On 14th November, congregation meets on the governance white paper, what is OUSU's stance on it and what will be done with it?

Alan Strickland: Latest white paper is very similar to previous paper, previous paper council has already discussed in detail and made policy on. Policy said that we broadly supported that paper, although strongly opposed to idea that majority of University Council would be external. Are going to get two full seats on the academic board, which is a big step forwards.

Three nominations for JT:

Ben Jasper, Lewis Iwu and Ollie Munn.

