

Council Agenda

3rd week michaelmas term 2011

3rd Week Council held at 5.30pm on Wednesday 26th October 2011, in Merton College
Sign in from 5.15pm

If you have any questions about OUSU Council, you should feel free to contact the Chair, Jack Matthews at any time on chair@ousu.org

- a. Minutes of the Previous Meeting
- b. Matters Arising from the Minutes
- c. Ratifications in Council
- d. Elections in Council
- e. Reports from the Sabbatical Officers
- f. Reports from the Executive Officers who wish to make reports
- g. Questions to Members of the Executive
- h. Emergency Motions
- i. Passage of Motions Nem Con
- j. Motions of No Confidence or Censure
- k. First readings of Motions to Amend the Constitution or Standing Orders
- l. The Budget or Amended Budget
- m. Motions Authorising Capital Expenditure
- n. Other Motions
 - i. motions affecting ousu members as ousu members
 - ii. motions affecting ousu members as students at Oxford University
 - iii. motions affecting ousu members as members of the student movement
 - iv. motions affecting ousu members as residents of Oxford
 - v. motions affecting ousu members as residents of the United Kingdom
 - vi. motions affecting ousu members as citizens of the world
- o. Any Other Business

a. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes are accepted.

b. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Harriet Green and Laura Hancox's Council Reports were missed out of the Report to 1st Week Council, despite the fact that they were submitted before the deadline. They will be added to the online version of the 1st Week Reports to Council.

d. Elections in Council

The following positions were elected in OUSU Council of 3rd week.

The following **Divisional Board Representatives** - These represent the students of their Division (Social Sciences, Humanities, MPLS or Medical Sciences) to their Divisional Board twice a term, in addition to other meetings

specified by the Division. These meetings discuss a wide range of issues including access, academic affairs, student fees and welfare. For more information contact academic@ousu.org.

Postgraduate Divisional Board Representative - MPLS

Candidates: Evelyn Buchner Santos (Kellogg) and Jack Matthews (Univ)

Hust from Jack Matthews (Univ):

I am currently the ug rep, for the sciences division minus medical science and the role is both rewarding and interesting. Worked hard to engage more with departments and following up graduate reps have already done. Good working relationship with board, so when things come up I can work with them to get the best for students. I will always bring a report to termly council even though not mandated to do so.

Francesco Fermani (Merton)

In previous 2 years as ug rep what have your achievements been and which are the main grad problem you think you should work on?

Jack Matthews (Univ):

A lot more has got to be done to help grads on their completion time, when grad degree carries on for a long time there is no consideration as to whether they were given enough support. This would help in so many other ways especially with regards to funding and numbers.

Achieved when we were discussing fee waivers and bursaries (cant take all credit) but played a part worked with Susan Cooper and we got MPLS to agree that the system for bursaries and fee waivers should be as simple as possible. We managed to get this.

Yuan Yang (Balliol):

Engineering is the only one not to engage with gender and equality, what would you aim to do to improve this?

Jack Matthews (Univ):

Best way to work with students and student representatives, think engineering would be more responsive if the call for change came from the students.

Michael (St John's):

What is your opinion on departmental board reps?

Jack Matthews (Univ):

Think OUSU should do more to encourage this. Some have good systems, and support networks, which are already democratic. Earth Scientists ours who wanted to go for cake. Want more and want them more engaged.

Postgraduate - Social Sciences Divisional Board Representative

Candidates: Sina Guo (Wolfson) and Malek Al-Chalabi (Linacre)

Sina Guo (Wolfson):

Wolfson 1st year new, Japan for UG study was a representative there, think have experience from this and would like to take challenge and help people. I am open minded and good at communication and can communicate with people from all over world. Want to do something for Oxford and the students as it gives us lots of opportunities.

Malek Al-Chalabi (Linacre):

2nd Doctoral candidate, been departmental rep for a year, tremendous opportunity to foster interdisciplinary links. Bringing people together very difficult, but have heard good things back. We have a stingy department but we got them to support drinks of £150.

Hannah Cusworth (Brasenose):

Head of social sciences is very good politician, if you were sitting on one side of table and trying to put point across, how would you?

Malek Al-Chalabi (Linacre):

Was in a rep meeting and they were trying to decide if we want entry requirements to be 3 A's or 3 A* , trying to decide. I asked them if they had consulted the undergraduates and they started laughing. I said this is why we have an UG representative. Definitely ways to get them on point, depends on personality.

Sina Guo (Wolfson):

Will explain fully what my idea is and will listen to their idea, and if their idea is better will listen to them. Try to change arguments.

Francesco Fermani (Merton):

What is your strategy to bring together everyone in your division?

Sina Guo (Wolfson):

What I would do is have weekly meeting with students in different departments, very good chance to contact each other, monthly meeting with students and staff in school, then time for us to present our opinion. Really important chance to present our opinions. Will do this as well. Keep in touch with people, I am new here so I don't always know what to do. I would like to guide people.

Malek Al-Chalabi (Linacre):

Social sciences has 14 departments, good question, what I'm interested in is incentivising them to come. All unhappy with research methods, and get them to come along. Talk about Oxford experience and how we can make better. Meet them in reception and bring them together. Those initial thoughts.

David Townsend (St John's):

If elected will have to deal with PG and UG reps in other divisions, do you think you will have similar interests?

Malek Al-Chalabi (Linacre):

A lot of enthusiasm for us to work together when we met at a meeting, seemed friendly lot of opportunity to work together.

Sina Guo (Wolfson):

Good to have a good relationships with representatives from other divisions, if we can work together we can bring different way to solve things together. Can try to solve with different logic. Communication important.

Undergraduate - Humanities Divisional Board Representative

Candidates: David Messling (St John's) and Michael Bimmler (Merton).

David Messling (St John's):

JCR President at St John's seen lots of issues on a departmental level, some can be solved at college level, some need to be solved on a divisional board level. Want to look at the one's on a divisional board level. How div boards can feed back better to colleges, and take issues from the colleges. Particularly preparation for finals.

Michael Bimmler (Merton):

Elected to be ug rep last term only just started, made contacts with people on board and have enjoyed role so far. History and politics student, have a good idea what's going on in faculties. Want to get good relationships so that humanities students can have a voice speaking to senior

Charlotte Baker

What would you do to make the departmental process more democratic?

Michael Bimmler (Merton):

We asked for volunteers from the colleges to arrive, for 1st time this year we had elections, previously was done on who emailed 1st this time an election.

David Messling (St John's):

Finding models that work in departments where it works and offering it to the other departments where it isn't working. Finding students who are concerned and finding out why they aren't becoming involved. Go out and find them, people who are concerned with academic feed back. Not waiting for them to find us.

Hannah Cusworth (Brasenose):

Divisional level student rep taken seriously but other levels not taken seriously. What do you see your role as at a faculty level?

David Messling (St John's):

Get students to make serious points and points which their faculties can take seriously. Communication with OUSU on getting them trained.

Michael Bimmler (Merton):

One of main problems is the lack of experience these reps have, and so academics can brush off. Can be countered with good training, Div brd rep can help and coach them and how the University work which gives them better equipment to go into their faculties.

Yuan Yang (Balliol):

Home to some of the largest gender gaps in the University. Gender is seen as a controversial subject, do you have any ideas to reorient this conversation.

Michael Bimmler (Merton):

Very interested in and is something that is a very important topic. Div board rep should meet up with VP Women and WomCam so we can take that experience there.

David Messling (St John's):

Links with OUSU, phrasing of the question of gender gap. Bring gender gap into every issue, and find out what model is working in every division, so you can draw examples.

Postgraduate - Humanities Divisional Board Representative

Candidates: Cassiope Sydoriak (Trinity), Lise Butler (Univ) and Laura E. Ludtke (St Anne's).

Cassiope Sydoriak (Trinity):

Masters student, really excited to be here, spent last 2 years in working world. Our needs are different from UG students, rising number of 1-year students. Want to prepare them for a better experience, also with overwhelming amount of things to do, would like to provide info about lectures.

Lise Butler (Univ):

VP and treasurer of Univ. Want to thank Jim and we are all interested in supporting the issues that he is bringing to the table. The problem is that colleges are extremely well represented divisions have less than that, we need to create a stronger structure for PGs to come together. We want to be treated like young professionals, better funding more training.

Laura E. Ludtke (St Anne's):

DPhil English, new to Oxford. All years been representative to different committees. Important to understand how university works, important to bring together. Important to people together and talk to other divisional board reps to work towards a new structure, look at what's going on in rest of world.

Rob Noble (Linacre):

None of you have spoken much about funding. Do you have any comments on the VC proposing this loan, and do you have any ideas of how to solve.

Lise Butler (Univ):

I think Oxford has a huge problem with funding, doesn't give funding packages which are good, doesn't respond to its competitors. Lot of talk about full support for students. Grad students need to be treated as professionals.

Laura E. Ludtke (St Anne's):

To look at ways that grad studies can be funded, complicated issue, because none of answers seem to work. The implementation of full funding is huge. We don't want to increase the number of funded students but not the number let in.

Cassiope Sydoriak (Trinity):

Don't receive funding, only one year, unlike other programmes. Rather than address directly, one thing we could do is make a stronger division to attract the students, find a solution down the road.

Anita (Somerville)

One of biggest thing, is no accountability for supervisors, mine waltzed off on sabbatical for 6 months without

Laura E. Ludtke (St Anne's):

You have to convince professors or fellows to take your position, we need to sort of at div board level to set up a structure, so working with faculty representatives to establish a unified system.

Cassiope Sydoriak (Trinity):

One thing is not complaining, but find a targeted group who are willing to put pressure on their fellow members, going to them personal rather than sending them emails. Contact one's in different sectors and ask

Lise Butler (Univ):

Really confident about this, supervision review taking place by OUSU, review of taught masters has already indicated problems with supervision. Think will be more support and more initiatives to monitor this, think strong community.

Chris Gray (Merton):

One of problems is connection with students, how would you collect the reviews of your students departments.

Cassiope Sydoriak (Trinity):

Bringing students together think information is essential. Getting information to students essential way.

Lise Butler (Univ):

Got to make it fun on some levels, college presidents have fun, would like to have the same in divisions and departments create links and a community, having a conversation, build personal links and create a higher profile for these reps.

Laura E. Ludtke (St Anne's):

Face time important regular thing that people can come together, not always the same people, because time tables are fluctuating, work with people representing and be flexible and focussed in emailing and creating individual relationships.

Ed Watson (Oriel)

What more could be done to support for PGs who want to tutor and support Ugs.

Lise Butler (Univ):

Happens on college level, the more graduate students tutoring, gives less supervision time for college individuals. Should make being tutored by a grad student seem like a good thing, we can be the very best teachers but this isn't widely known. Need to change culture.

Laura E. Ludtke (St Anne's):

Further expand twofold issue, becomes a huge chunk of your time, it is necessary to have this if you want to get a job, but your work can suffer. Need to look at

Cassiope Sydoriak (Trinity):

One of the drawbacks of Oxford, maybe have an informal system, a grad student who will read ug papers, possibly discuss with colleges.

Undergraduate - Medical Sciences Divisional Board Representative

Candidates: Antonia Trent (St Hugh's) and James Ferguson (St Edmund Hall)

Antonia Trent (St Hugh's):

I've been thinking quite a lot about what needs to change in this division. Discrepancies between tutorial provisions in different colleges, I find this interesting as it is very centralised department but there is no central accountability for this. Ought to be continuity within departments on this.

Simon Mattus (St John's)

If you get an agenda and only have a short timeframe how would you rep your students?

Antonia Trent (St Hugh's):

Get an idea of the issues first, develop greater links with the societies that are within the divisions. Survey's always good.

Jack Matthews (Univ):

A lot of issues shared between MPLS and Medical Sciences would you be interested in working with the MPLS reps?

Antonia Trent (St Hugh's):

Commit to termly meeting with MPLS reps Yes.

Postgraduate - Medical Sciences Divisional Board Representative

Candidates: Idris Bello (Kellogg), Sana Fathima (Hertford) and Barbara Sladek (St John's).

Idris Bello (Kellogg):

MSC Student at Kellogg. First year at Oxford, in every degree, I have represented students, at each level. Also had diversity, over 8 years of commercial experience. Very diverse department, one of things I intend to do is develop the departmental rep system. Provision for females, intend to work with Yuan on an initiative that work on the factors that work against women in medical science. Would facility skills training to assist the medical science department.

Barbara Sladek (St John's):

Realised that there is a big lack of grad representatives, there are so many departments, would like to introduce informal meetings. There was an idea of how to get a system going so we include the departmental reps. Med Science meetings, difficult to get idea of what's going on. To make information more easily available.

Clara Ferreira:

Athena Swann Awards, some departments reluctant to get involved, how would you get grad representation?

Barbara Sladek (St John's):

Work out what issues are in departments via surveys and then get a couple of people involved from each number.

Idris Bello (Kellogg):

Get an idea of the numbers and statistics. One thing is division lacks is publicity, when you can bring attention to this important. Connect with students.

Michael (St John's):

What is your opinion on the review going ahead next term?

Idris Bello (Kellogg):

Fully support, think div reps should be made to be part.

Barbara Sladek (St John's):

Think exciting time as by getting involved can have an impact.

Francesco Fermani (Merton):

Working with Eric last year, had trouble getting point across. The department were reluctant to communicate, and don't value contribution of students, how would you get your point across to the divisional board rep.

Barbara Sladek (St John's):

By being pushy, to bother people ask them 5 times to get something done.

Idris Bello (Kellogg):

Important to create personal relationships with Professors and members of departments. Making divisional leaders aware of the different needs.

2 position for Deputy Returning Officer - Deputy Returning Officers are responsible for assisting the Returning Officer in running elections, including this term's annual cross-campus elections. The successful candidate will serve for one term, and will be required to chair hustings, undertake administrative tasks in the OUSU offices, and to support the Returning Officer generally.

Only one candidate stood: Jim O'Connell (Univ), no hust required. No questions.

5 positions for Complaints Committee - Complaints board deals with any complaints raised through OUSU's statutory complaints procedure. Successful candidates will serve for one year.

Only one candidate stood: Alexander Lans (St Catherine's), no hust required. No questions.

3 positions for Budget Committee - Budget Committee is responsible for overseeing OUSU's budget, and for discussing and scrutinizing any changes to it. Successful candidates will serve for one year, and further information can be obtained from president@ousu.org.

Candidates: Rohit Subramanian (Keble), James Roberts (St Edmund Hall), Alexander Lans (St Catherine's), Rob Noble (Linacre).

Rohit Subramanian (Keble):

Hi I think I am suitable for this as I'm dressed professional Chief Treasurer of Schools budget, was a small some, not large like OUSU. Can transfer these skills and have the mental map.

James Roberts (St Edmund Hall):

Want to get involved in OUSU and do something relevant to my degree. Think should look at things carefully and work out where money needs to go. I think I would be reliable and would give it a level head and make decisions that need to be made.

Alexander Lans (St Catherine's):

Best way to describe is I have had the opportunity to manage budgets, the people who know me know where I can serve a dollar I do. Whenever I look at a budget, I look at whether it is a viable way to spend it is it the best way to spend. Make the best decision at the time that makes sense.

Rob Noble (Linacre):

Linacre is one of the less rich colleges at Oxford. Today we took our budget to finance committees, last year we made a £4,000 surplus, which we have invested in bonds for endowments. Linacre is disaffiliated because we thought that OUSU budget was not well managed, would like to be on the committee to see how the money is spent.

David Townsend (St John's):

How are you going to approach your relationship with OUSU officers who want to spend more money than they have?

James Roberts (St Edmund Hall):

Just explain why the money can't be spent, give them the information.

Alexander Lans (St Catherine's):

Think have to do what makes sense, you think have to look at every line, think people are realistic, and see if best for everyone if we make this decision.

Rob Noble (Linacre):

Think I would remind them what money could be spent on if wasn't being spent on them. Could it be spent on graduates. Think great to have graduate on committee.

Rohit Subramanian (Keble):

Think that you have to do your role properly. Act as creative adviser. Could offer creative solutions on to how to spent in a better way. Healthy debate useful.

Jack

Having sat on budget committee, people find it hard to understand budget we produce. How would you make it easier to understand.

Alexander Lans (St Catherine's):

Look at it terms of percentages if can make clear in a percentage map, then it makes it clearer and easier to digest. Give comparisons.

Rob Noble (Linacre):

Used to putting things in charts, what going to do is present it in terms of subsidy per hour, per person. Worked out how much subsidising use of pump.

Alexander Lans (St Catherine's):

Power point, different fonts, colourful people interested in reading.

James Roberts (St Edmund Hall):

Simple pie chart, like idea of putting per person, even if complicated easy to make accessible.

Question:

Do you think you will be able to balance your time?

Rob Noble (Linacre):

I'm in 3rd year of 4th year, not lab based can take time out to attend meetings, this is not a huge addition. Cease Presidency at Easter.

Rohit Subramanian (Keble):

One part of my course is writing budgets, so will see this as homework.

James Roberts (St Edmund Hall):

Don't think time is going to be that type. I think not that pushed for time can manage

Alexander Lans (St Catherine's):

Workaholic, start work at 5.30am. I do a lot already manage companies, consulting.

Results of Elections

MPLS Postgraduate - Jack Matthews

Social Science Postgraduate - Malek Al-Chalabi

Humanities Undergraduate - Michael Bimmler

Humanities Postgraduate - Lise Butler

Medical Sciences Undergraduate- Antonia Trent

Medical Sciences Postgraduate - Idris Bello

DRO - Jim O'Connell

Complaint Committee - Alexander Lans

e. Reports from the Sabbatical Officers

President - Martha Mackenzie

A lot of elections, but more in 6th week. Please grab a form. We are consulting a form conducting a survey and will bring back to 5th week.

VP Welfare & Equal Opportunities - Seb Baird

New campaign about mental awareness get in touch with me if interested.

VP Women -Yuan Yang

Read my report, some have been cited in council. Fliers on seats re equal pay please come along.

VP Access & Academic Affairs - Hannah Cusworth

Report back on exam procedures, bigger issue than that committee, moved sideways to another committee, might bring back to council to get stronger words, but am optimistic as they are talking in terms of OIA.

Daniel has had to leave but asked me to advise about RAG bungee which closes tomorrow at OUSU.

VP Graduates - Jim O'Connell

Highlights following up on PGCE teaching reports, taught masters feedback good example of what OUSU is capable of achieving. University is acting. Grad funding colleges are going through process of colleges and departments creating full funding packages, go back to your college and ask them to participate if the can.

f. Reports from those Members of the Executive wishing to give Reports

Clubs & Societies Officer - Jacob Diggle

Want to let you know set up another 6 societies. If you want to get in touch with societies get in touch with me.

Health & Welfare Officer - Laura Hancox

World aids day, wanted to ask if you new anyone who could be a speaker get in touch. If you would like to get involved in collecting money in your college, please contact me.

Community Outreach & Charities Officer - Sarah Santhosham

Come along to flyer social sciences on Friday. All our events are now sponsored.

Grad Women's Officer - Clara Ferreira

Grad women. Did you know no clinical professor, please get in touch so we can change.

g. Questions to Members of the Executive

Question:

How would I get in touch with a Club or Society?

Jaco Diggle:

I have a big list of all the clubs and societies to have a look at. We are working on a cool website of this, but like all websites in OUSU it is taking some time so in the meantime I have a list so please just ask me.

Katie Colliver to Yuan Yang:

The lecture that is going on when will we know if we can fit?

Yuan Yang:

I will advise you within 24 hours.

Jack Evans to Katie Colliver:

LGBTQ rep wants to get involved in handbook?

Katie Colliver:

I have started asking LGBTQ society list, I will send Jim and Maisie an email on things I need submissions for.

h. Emergency Motions

Housing Petition Motion

Council Notes:

1. A large number of Oxford students will live in private rented accommodation at some point during their degree.
2. Currently a majority of Estate Agencies and landlords release their 'listings' in November.
3. There is a high demand for housing in Oxford, hence there is often extreme pressure to secure a property immediately after 'listings' are released.

Council Believes:

1. This pressure can be extremely detrimental to the health and welfare of students in Oxford as individuals are rushed into living arrangements before they have had the chance to settle at University.
2. Letting agencies are left unaccountable as this early release creates an artificial rush on housing that does not give students time to carefully consider their options.
3. Releasing listings after the New Year will give OUSU and Common Rooms time to fully educate their constituents on how to operate within the private rented market.

Council Resolves:

1. To support the petition put forward by Oxford Brookes University asking Estate Agencies and landlords to hold off on advertising their properties until February 1st, effective 2012-2013 academic year.
2. To launch a pro-active campaign in Oxford City to encourage Estate Agencies and landlords to hold off on advertising their properties until after the new year at the very least.

Proposed: *Martha Mackenzie (St John's)*

Seconded: *Daniel Stone (St Peter's)*

Martha Mackenzie (St Johns):

This is in support of something Oxford Brookes is doing, a petition. This is because letting agencies bring their properties out in November. Would like council mandate to support this petition.

Question:

Is there anything we can do about agencies that have already brought out?

Basil Vincent

How will be communicated to landlords?

Martha Mackenzie (St John's):

Most are registered with the University Accommodation office this first point of call.

Touched upon with city councillors, haven't been contacted in a big way, but have first meeting with them on Thursday and will raise in any other business.

No opposition passes.

i. Passage of Motions Nem Con

i. Motions affecting OUSU members as OUSU members

1. Graduate Representation

Opposition.

iv. Motions affecting OUSU members as members of the student movement

1. Postgraduates and the White Paper

Council notes:

1. That the Government has published the White Paper 'Students at the Heart of the System' outlining its plans for Higher Education funding.
2. That in 2009 there were around 280,000 post-graduate students in the UK.
3. That post-graduates make up 42% of the Oxford Student population.
4. That in the White Paper 'Students at the Heart of the System,' the Government notes that the amount of money available to support Post-Graduate Research will decrease in the year 2012/13, and that they propose no further changes to the way in which post-graduate study is funded.
5. That the lowest cost of an Oxford post-grad degree is £5,650 for the 2012/13 year (Home/EU) students. For Overseas students for these same courses it is £15,150.
6. That OUSU's response to the Government's White Paper notes that it is 'frustrated' with the White Paper's statements on post-graduate education.

Council believes:

1. That the system and in particular the cost of post-graduate courses is prohibitive, elitist and provides non-academic disincentives to following a career in academia.
2. That grant opportunities are impossible to come by for many students, meaning that they cannot continue in academia due to pecuniary barriers.
3. That though these problems are widespread, those wishing to pursue an academic career in humanities are disproportionately affected.

Council Resolves to:

1. Alter the wording of the response of the white paper to 'We are disillusioned by the fact that there has been no discussion of or change to post-graduate funding apart from a reduction in funding, despite complete upheaval of the undergraduate system, and believe that there should be more financial support for students applying to graduate programmes.'
2. Mandate the VP (Graduates) or the President to take our views to the relevant University committees.

Proposed: Richard Luke, (Oriol College)

Seconded: Ed Watson, (Oriol College)

Passes Nem Con.

n. Other Motions

i. Motions affecting OUSU members as OUSU members

2. Graduate Representation

OUSU Council Notes:

1. A graduate representation review was established by OUSU Council and MCR Prescom in Trinity Term 2011 to consider ways in which graduate representation could be improved within the student union and University.

2. Many positive developments have already come out of this process; regular MCR Prescoms with a permanent chair, far greater MCR President engagement with OUSU, a new stress on graduates in OUSU's work and OUSU taking an active responsibility for graduate academic representation.
3. This review is now complete and its findings submitted to Council.
4. Its findings recommend changes to Sabbatical Job descriptions (Item 1) and graduate strategy summit to replace the postgraduate assembly (Item 2).
5. They also contain recommended items for inclusion in OUSU's mission statement (Item 3).
6. These findings incorporate the views of a large number of MCR Presidents, Graduate Division Representatives and OUSU Officers.
7. The results of this review went before MCR Prescom on 19th October 2011.
8. OUSU is current undergoing a officer review and mission, vision, values process which will incorporate these recommendations on their approval by council,

OUSU Believes that:

1. The findings of this review should be ratified by OUSU council following their approval by MCR Prescom.
2. The issues of graduate representation are more important now than ever before.
3. These recommendations, constructed by graduates in an open process, should be implemented by OUSU as part of its officer review and mission, vision, values process.

OUSU Resolves to;

1. Incorporate these findings into its officer review and mission, vision, values process, specifically in the construction of job descriptions and the replacement of the, now defunct, Postgraduate Assembly with a Graduate Strategy Summit.
2. Mandate Richard Jackson, external trustee and legal expert, working with the OUSU Sabbatical Officers to use these findings when rewriting OUSU's Regulations and byelaws.
3. To incorporate these findings into the planned mission statement drafting process.
4. Continue to involve the Graduate representation review in the officer review and mission, vision, values process as a guarantee of this.

Proposed: *Christopher Gray (Merton)*

Seconded: *James Anderson (St Catz)*

Chris Gray (Merton):

Started back in trinity, the idea was to discuss the issues that OUSU not dealing with over summer met with many people and then had formal meetings. Job descriptions of sabbatical officers, post graduate assembly and a contract which we think the VP graduates should be doing for Graduates. 42% of students are graduates and should be represented. Passed in MCR PresCom, idea for it to feed into OUSU review. I will liaise with CEO of OUSU to ensure that this happens. We will try and create in strategic review. What have seen over process, graduate issues have been put at heart of OUSU agenda, reflected in turnout in council and divisional board standing.

SFQ

Hannah Cusworth (Brasenose):

Why isn't student advise service mentioned in here?

Chris Gray (Merton):

These issues are the one's MCR presidents brought to table. Student Advise service wasn't an area that they felt that OUSU wasn't letting graduates down on.

Clara Ferreira:

What about Graduate Women's Officer, no integration of this role?

Chris Gray (Merton):

This is an issue I spoke to Yuan about, there was a group where gender balance, wasn't something grads came up with. These issues are really important. Harassment, career progression, maybe make a review which feeds into this.

Jim O'Connell (Univ):

Just wondering, you mentioned academic experience, how do you see the work of academic review will feed into this?

Chris Gray (Merton):

A lot more work to do with Div Com, a lot of ways OUSU reaches out is towards colleges, but building networks into divisions would be a good thing. Votes for div and departmental representatives, when you look at div board reps this a good week. Issues ways elected and where power is.

No opposition passes.

APPENDIX 1

OUSU PG Representation Review Item 1; Sabbatical Officer Job Descriptions VP Graduates;

Relationship with Presidents;

Prescom

- Attend Prescom and take responsibility for providing a report of OUSU and its Sabbatical officer's work.
- Report issues raised back to OUSU and ensure they are dealt with by relevant Sabbatical Officers.
- Facilitate the passing of MCR Prescom policy at OUSU council.
- Liaise with Chair of Prescom.
- Preserve MCR Prescom records.

Individual Presidents

- Meet all MCR presidents after taking over the role.
- Meet new presidents as and when they take over (will involve establishing a timetable of MCR handovers).
- Endeavour to meet all presidents at least once more during the year.
- Establish open office hours
- Hold yearly open house event in OUSU for Presidents and Grad Division Reps

MCR Support

- Facilitate training for MCR Presidents and other committee members.
- Arrange sabbatical officer visits to MCRs during Fresher's week. (Other Sabbatical officers may perform visits).
- Endeavour to visit MCRs at least once again over the year.
- Provide MCR hand over support which will include an information storage service. As with prescom OUSU can maintain MCR's institutional memory.

Academic Representation

Graduate Division Representatives Committee

- Will be responsible for the maintenance of functioning graduate academic representative structures throughout the University, most importantly the functioning of Graduate Divcom.
- Provide a secretary role to Divcom including collecting and reproducing necessary papers and preserving an institutional memory.
- Facilitate the passing of Divcom policy at OUSU council.
- Carry out Graduate Academic Affairs Officer's obligations to Divcom if the position is vacant.

Division Representatives

- Support and co-ordinate individual division representatives work in their within their divisions where necessary.
- Collect end of year reports and update hand over documents from division representatives when they finish their term.
- Run a full handover and training for new division representatives.
- Advertise and recruit new division representatives where positions are vacant.

Miscellaneous

- Act as the graduate voice within OUSU ensuring that all other sabbatical officers are aware of graduate issues and are giving due consideration to graduates when carrying out their roles.
- Liaise with other sabbatical officers to co-ordinate graduate policy.
- Act as the liaison between Divcom and MCR Prescom.
- Will be responsible for whatever it is that replaces the Postgraduate Assembly.
- Review own job description and those of the Graduate Academic Affairs Officer and Division Representatives annually.
- Represent the decisions of Graduate Divcom and MCR Prescom to all relevant University bodies and committees.

Other Sabbatical Officers Roles;

General points;

- Provide all services all year round to meet the demands of graduate students.
- A general statement is needed in all with reference to a responsibility to enact all duties and policies with equal consideration of graduate students who now make up 42% of the student body.

President

- Responsible for maintaining contact with MCRs and MCR presidents.
- Attend MCR Prescom.
- Meet all MCR presidents after taking on the role and then meet all new MCR presidents throughout the year.

Access and Academic Affairs

- Take joint responsibility with VP Graduates for Graduate Academic Affairs. This includes the operation of graduate division representatives and responsibility for graduate funding and access policy.
- Ensure that relevant information on the application process and funding is readily available online for international students applying to Oxford.

Welfare

- Liaise with international clubs and societies on international welfare issues.
- Maintain and update a graduate welfare policy.

Communities and Charities

- Take responsibility for graduate housing both inside and outside of University provision.

APPENDIX 2

OUSU PG Representation Review Item 2; The Postgraduate Assembly and the roles of Divcom and Prescom Postgraduate Strategy Summit

Composition

- All MCR Presidents
- All Division Representatives
- All OUSU Sabbatical and Part Time Officers. All Sabbatical elects.
- All may invite individual guests if they feel they have an issue to be discussed at PGA or can aid the work of the PGA and OUSU.

Timing

- Summer (-1st-3rd week). Setting agenda for year.
- Hilary Term (7th-8th Week). Mid-year update and chance to meet incoming Sabbaticals before they take their final exams.

Function

- Set comprehensive OUSU Graduate policy and priorities for the coming year.
- A discussion forum for MCR presidents, academic representatives and OUSU Sabbaticals specifically for discussing OUSU related issues.
- A democratic graduate body within OUSU with able to scrutinise policy and work.
- To pass motions to will be ratified in OUSU council, where necessary. Includes policy document produced at the Summer PGA.

Misc / Debate

- There was some debate over the democratic balance between div reps and MCR presidents based on a one man one vote system. As Divcom at this moment of time is not elected by its constituents, and as it is difficult to foresee a situation in which there is a conflict of interests between the two groups, this seems to be something that may have to be raised again when divcom is more established. In the meantime we settled upon a veto for div reps on all motions, when all four are in opposition.
- There also remain some questions over wider participation. I believe the open invite, which effectively leaves the decision up to division representatives and MCR presidents if they feel others should attend, is the best solution for now. It would be good if far more people would like to attend but the reality is they do not, OUSU council is demonstration of this. It is more important at this point to create a permanent and well attended forum for MCR Presidents and Division Representatives.

MCR Prescom, Divcom and OUSU

Prescom

Composition;

- Composed of all MCR Presidents.
- All Sabbatical officers to attend.
- A representative (Chair) from Divcom to attend.
- Chair (elected by MCR Presidents only) to act as representative to Conference of Colleges and to Divcom.

Reports Received from;

- Divcom Chair
- OUSU VP Graduates (of all of OUSU's work)
- Conference of Colleges (via Chair)

Function;

- Discuss college and inter-college graduate matters.
- Discuss MCR and inter-MCR matters.
- Discuss and feedback on OUSU and University wide graduate issues.
- Pass motions, where necessary, to be ratified at OUSU council.
- To liaise with Graduate divcom and support them in their work where possible.

Divcom

Composition;

- Composed of the four Division Representatives (leaving question of Associate Division representatives open for Divcom to resolve).
- OUSU VP Graduates, VP Access and Academic Affairs and Graduate Academic Affairs Officer to attend.
- A representative from Prescom (Chair) to attend.
- Chair (elected by Division representatives only) to act as representative to Prescom.

Reports Received;

- Prescom Chair
- OUSU VP Access and Academic Affairs and VP Graduates

Function;

- Discuss and co-ordinate graduate academic representation and graduate academic issues.
- To plan action on University wide, including college wide issues.
- To shape and scrutinise OUSU's graduate academic policy and work.
- To liaison with Prescom and inform on academic issues relevant to college life.

APPENDIX 3

OUSU PG Representation Review Item 3; A Graduate Charter/Contract for OUSU OUSU agrees to . . .

1. Place Graduate Policy and Priorities at the heart of all of OUSU's work, rather than just that of the VP Graduates and Graduate Part Time Executive.
 2. Offer equal, though not identical, services to Graduates and their Representatives.
 3. Offer year round services to graduates to match their academic calendar.
 4. Maintain the Postgraduate Assembly
 - a. Follow the model of the PGA as set out in OUSU's byelaws and regulations.
 - b. Form OUSU's long term graduate policy based on the decisions of this body.
 - c. Allow the PGA to scrutinise the work of OUSU and its Sabbatical officers.
 5. Maintain a system of graduate Academic Representation.
 - a. Co-ordinate a system of departmental and division representatives.
 - b. Maintain and attend a Graduate Division Representatives' Committee.
 - c. Represent graduate students' academic issues on University Committees and to University management.
 - d. Offer a support service for individual student cases of academic difficulties.
 6. Maintain a system of graduate College Representation.
 - a. Meet MCR Presidents individually at least once during their term.
 - b. Attend and report to MCR Presidents' Committee.
 - c. Represent graduate college issues on University Committees and to University management.
 7. Support Graduate Representatives.
 - a. Offer graduate tailored training for college and academic representatives.
 - b. Maintain a hand over system for academic representatives.
 - c. Offer assistance with hand over to MCR Presidents.
 - d. Provide a voluntary archive service for academic and college representatives.
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