

## **Minutes of 3<sup>rd</sup> Week Council Trinity 2001**

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### **Minutes of previous Council**

Passed without any comment or objection.

### **Ratifications**

#### Deputy Returning Officers

Anatole Pang (Wadham)	Ratified
Daniel Johnson (Corpus Christi)	Ratified

#### Freshers' Guide 2001

Jerome Glass (Lincoln)	Ratified
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#### Oxford Handbook 2002

Alex Hemingway (New)	Ratified
Tom Hill (St Anne's)	Ratified

#### Co-chair Environment Committee

Sally Calles (Mansfield)	Ratified
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#### Freshers' Fair 2001 Organiser

Will Straw (New College)	Ratified
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#### Freshers' Fair 2001 Assistant Organiser

Karen McAtamney (Merton)	Ratified
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#### Oxford Directory Editor

Gareth Jelley (Trinity)	Ratified
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### **Elections in Council**

#### Member of Election Tribunal

Stuart Hudson (Jesus)

One position available, one nomination received.

Stuart appears before Council to hust. By-election (VP Graduates) no longer taking place, but position on Election Tribunal must be filled. RO MT'01 – necessary qualifications. Experience in working on OUSU elections in impartial capacity.

No questions asked of Stuart.

### **Reports from the Sabbatical Officers**

The Chair asked Tony Lord to make a report as he had not submitted a written report.

Tony Lord (Wadham): Apology for absence in last Council and absence of written report. This week he has been busy with cases due to illness of Student Adviser. The extra workload is illustrative of the importance of the post. Otherwise, generally dealing with University officials. Working on conference of University Disability Co-ordinators trying to constitute best practice. Publicity for publications, making them more accessible. Planning projects for James Rowlands (VP Welfare Elect) to work on next term, if he so chooses.

No questions asked of Tony Lord

Chair asks if any of the other sabbatical officers have anything to be added to their written reports?

There being none, the Chair asks for any questions to sabbatical officers

Daniel Moore (Queens). From minutes of last Council, KM mentioned his name as the students' representative to Police Consultative Committee, implying a lack of action on his part. In his defence, he wished to stress that there had only ever been one meeting of the committee, which he had unfortunately been unable to attend. He

emphasised that he had looked into the safety issues surrounding the Union's invitation to David Irving and that he had received similar advice to KM. He asked whether he will be kept aware of future events with the Committee? And furthermore will the President congratulate him for his hard work?

KM had forwarded all information about Police Consultative Committee to Daniel Moore and expressed her satisfaction that he had been discharging his duties. KM did not wish to imply his absence, saying that she had merely referred to him as our representative on Committee. She was pleased to hear about his continuing work!

### **Reports from the Executive Officers who wish to make reports**

Sonia Sodha publicised the Anti-Racism Committee lunch next Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> Week to be held at 1pm, Somerville West JCR, with free food. All JCR Presidents and Equal Opportunities reps have already received invitations, but all are welcome to attend.

She also promoted the Close Campsfield Gig on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> Week. Doors open at the Jericho at 7:30pm and tickets are £3.

She further promoted St Hilda's Art Festival Party tonight, a ball for £5, tickets are already selling out fast.

The Chair asked for any questions to the Executive Officers?

Andy Thomas (St. Anne's) – asked whether the members of the Executive were wearing a gold ribbon to support Oxford's anti-fees campaign, and if not why not?

KM, Jane Blumer and Nick Smith replied no. Steph Grey replied that had lots of ribbons, but not one with him. Rhodri Thomas replied that he had left his ribbon on his jacket. Tony Lord replied that it didn't match his t-shirt, but besides he'd left it on his denim jacket which was at the dry-cleaners. Viv Raper's was on her coat, Eleanor Thompson had left hers on her winter coat as had SoSo. Stuart Hudson wished to have one of SG's ribbons. Laura Santana's ribbon was broken but had been left on her coat. Sean Sullivan was not wearing his ribbon and had no excuse. Heenal Rajani and Jin-Yu Cheong were not wearing theirs. Vino Sangarapillai was wearing his ribbon. Regan Early was unable to attend Council and could not reply. Catherine Sangster had hers on her winter coat.

Andrew Thomas (St Anne's) – asked whether it was a damning indictment that so few sabbaticals / Exec are supporting anti-tuition fees by wearing a gold ribbon.

KM answers on behalf of Exec. She replies that the Campaign had been launched a long time ago. Not a damning indictment, but perhaps a little remiss.

No more questions.

### **Emergency Motions**

No emergency motions submitted to Council by deadline.

Daniel Moore (Queens) raises a point of order and asks who is responsible for the distribution of literature in Council? He wonders whether it is appropriate to distribute Labour election material in Council.

The Chair replies that the distribution of election material outside of Council is not in her jurisdiction and that she may not intervene.

Daniel Moore (Queens) further asks whether it is OUSU policy to close Campfield Detention Centre? Sacha Ismail (Somerville) and others answer 'yes'.

### **Passage of Motions Nem Con**

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|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Reaffiliation to CFE | Objection             |
| 2. Eating Distress      | Passes <i>nem con</i> |
| 3. Elections            | Objection             |
| 4. Oxford Revolution    | Objection             |

## Other Motions

### Reaffiliation to CFE

Proposed by KM: OUSU standing policy supports its aims and currently benefits from the distribution of briefing documents, tackling how to run a campaign / occupation etc. The organisation provides useful, non-partisan information. Worth the money. Furthermore, the CFE is the foremost student campaigning body. Newsnight sought information from CFE in interview with Blunkett, as opposed to a representative from the NUS.

Sacha Ismail (Somerville) – suggests that the reference to ‘*applications*’ in Council Notes 3 should read ‘*affiliations*’? The Chair agrees that there is a clerical error, and the motion should indeed be changed to read ‘*affiliations*’.

George Callaghan (Univ) asks that does that amount to a tacit admission to the failings of NUS? Chair replies that his comments are not a short factual question.

Adam Booth (Jesus) draws attention to Council Resolves 3, “*to encourage Oxford students to individually join the CFE at a cost of £1*”. He asks whether information can be provided on how to join the movement? KM answers that OUSU can provide documentation and applications forms, and that membership enables students to attend conference etc.

Karim Palant (New College) asks whether the CFE has any affiliations to any political parties? KM replies that the movement is entirely independent and draws its membership from across the political spectrum.

Sean Sullivan (St Edmund Hall) asked whether Council Notes 1, that the CFE campaigns against ‘*privatisation*’ referred to the privatisation of education, or simply the process of privatisation of public services in general. KM replied that the organisation campaigned on purely free education issues, so the reference to ‘*privatisation*’ was just in the specific case.

SS (St Edmund Hall) asked for a reassurance that the CFE has no political aims outside campaign for free education? KIM replied that there were obviously associated aims of members, in that individuals naturally had opinions on the funding of services on which they rely, but CFE spends time and money campaigning on purely free education issues.

The Chair asked for a Speech in Opposition?

Mark Pearson (Somerville) commented that there were three things to consider. He was in principle in favour of free education, believing that Oxford University should be meritocratic. However, he questioned whether the RMT (currently affiliated to the CFE) was a democratic, student organisation? He suggested that an implicit involvement with the trade union was undesirable, given that it was involved in court battles suggesting that Oxford students should not be associated with people for whom direct action is more important than rule of law. Secondly, OUSU should consider a long-term strategy, referring to a University Finance and Funding Committee meeting later this month to consider a long-term approach towards higher education funding issues. Was it not therefore more important to lobby divisional boards? Thirdly, Scotland may have got rid of fees, but it exists under different situation which will not operate in England and Wales. He concluded by suggesting that for OUSU £100 was a small sum of money, but it could be spent better and wiser elsewhere?

KM replied that his points were interesting in a wider sense but not pertinent to the matter in hand. In reference to the objection raised over RMT, she replied that any external organisation may have policy which is contradictory to OUSU, but that should not prevent OUSU’s affiliation. Furthermore, she refuted that OUSU would spend a lot of time on affiliation, and therefore saw no conflict with negotiating with divisional boards and faculties. Finally, she commented that the situation certainly had changed in Scotland, but not due to different circumstances but broadly because Scottish students have organised a better campaign. OUSU in wishing to run a national campaign against tuition-fees requires the support of CFE. In conclusion, £100 is a nominal sum compared to the overall costs of OUSU’s Finance and Funding campaign.

Point of Order: move to a vote receives not opposition

KM in summing up said that affiliation to the CFE had obvious benefits.

David Mitchell (St Peter’s) raises a point of order over the use of titles to members of Exec. The Chair replies that titles should be kept to a minimum.

Mark Pearson (Somerville) asks that OUSU should concentrate on the here and now. He claimed to be representing students at Somerville, the Philosophy UJCC and others, where the question keeps arising of the anti-tuition fees campaign as to its relevance. He asked that OUSU should delay affiliation until after the election in order to take advantage of the new political situation.

Motion passes.

### Elections

Tonly Lord (Wadham) cannot see any possible objection to the motion. He claims that it is a simple motion in favour of the principle that all eligible electors should vote in local and general elections

Daniel Rumney (Christchurch) asks how OUSU intends to encourage voter turnout among students? TL replies that he is talking to college representatives, aiming to ensure that posters go up during the general election campaign to raise student awareness.

Daniel Moore (Queens) queries Council Further Notes I, that "*students make up the majority of electors in ... the Oxford West and Abingdon constituency*"? TL replies that this obviously amounts to a typographical error.

Daniel Moore (Queens) argues there is something to be said for abstention in elections, that the failure to vote means something in itself. The responsibility should fall to parties to promote the value of their policies to electors and win their vote. Individuals should not be required to vote for a party they do not believe in.

Anthony Fairclough (Somerville) calls for a move to a vote. Motion requires two-thirds support to pass.

Opposed by Will Straw (New) who wishes to oppose what DM just said.

Passes with requisite two-thirds majority.

No summing-up speech offered.

DM in summing-up against the motion declares that he expects all Council to support this, and support it happily.

Motion passed.

### Oxford Revolution

Stuart Hudson (Jesus) moves that the motion should not be put.

An objection is raised, and Stuart Hudson proposes the procedural motion.

Stuart Hudson (Jesus) considers it to be a purely frivolous motion. A lot of people have put work into the Oxford Revolution Ball, and others should now concentrate on its success, go and buy tickets and not waste time debating the motion.

Adam Brown (Balliol) opposes, saying that though the motion may be written in ironic terms it nonetheless raises a serious point. He is also in supportive of the ball, but believes it wrong for the publicity material to implicitly support Che Guevara and his legacy. AB concludes that the motion is relevant to OUSU members.

Vote on procedural motion not to be put. Requires two-thirds to pass. Motion passed.

### **Any Other Business**

Andrew Thomas (St Anne's) wishes to highlight a fundraising gig for the Campaign to Close Campsfield Detention Centre. The band Djevera is headlining, with a further three bands in support. Tickets £3 a head. Doors open at the Jericho from 7:30pm on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> Week.

Daniel Moore (Queens) offers his congratulations to Catherine Sangster on her election as VP Graduates and offers his hope that she spends more time in position than her predecessor, Adam Storch.

David Mitchell (St Peters) offers his thanks to the President for her support in the campaign for the Union to retract their invitation to David Irving.

Will Straw (New) asks that supporters of the Finance and Funding campaign should meet at 11:30am outside Wadham on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> Week to circulate petitions condemning government's stance on tuition fees.

Catherine Wallis (Keble) announces the results of the election for a position on the Election Tribunal. Of a total 72 votes cast, 68 in favour of Stuart Hudson and 4 for RON. This makes a quota under the STV system of 36 votes which Stuart receives and he's duly elected to Election Tribunal.

Election of the bar: The Turf