

3rd week Trinity Term 2003
Friday 16th May 2003.

Notes and Apologies: Joe Taylor, Nicholas Cole, Naomi Pendle, Bridget Philipson
Apology from chair for no OHP.
Motion m.l. was withdrawn before council.

a. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

No minutes but will be distributed on OUSU MAIL.

b. Matters Arising

None

d. Elections in Council

RO, John Blake (JB), St Hugh's announces that VP (Graduate) 2003-04 election is cancelled, as no nominations were received.

VP GRADUATES

Both candidates were present to hust: Marcus Walker (MW), Oriel and Christopher Griffin (CG), BNC.

Declarations:

MW: OUCA

CG: None

MW: Apologies for not writing a proper hust: I was at President's Drinks at The Union until 4am and only got out of bed half an hour ago. I would have husted in Latin, explaining how one person can hold more than one office without dividing time too much, whilst linking them together effectively. Ex-president of OUCA, President elect of the union, should be the VP (Graduates). By combining offices, it is the best chance to make the post of VP (Graduates) a useful and workable office. I am well known, so this will ensure people know who the VP (Graduates) is. I have organised huge events and have experience of counseling people after tribunals. The point of the office is to have a VP (Graduates) who people know. I have learnt from experience in this university as an undergraduate and a graduate that this is crucial. I can give a unique perspective. Vote Marcus for this position: perish otherwise!

(Applause from council)

JB: No clapping!

CG: Good afternoon. I am a 1st year graduate doing an MPhil in Economics. I was also a visiting student at Pembroke College two years ago, so I am familiar with both undergraduate and graduate issues. The student press and my common room have kept me up to date with the VP (Graduates) position. I became concerned about graduate representation in the university and believe OUSU and Graduates need a stable VP (Graduates). I can fill the void in the short term and give graduates the representation that they need. University life here centres on undergraduates. The post is very valuable and should not go to waste. I also want to learn more

about the issues facing graduates including welfare. Miscommunication is a problem, so hopefully I can work on behalf of graduates and work with common rooms and the university. I want to work with OUSU: it is the most effective form of student government that I have seen. I was chair of scholars programme whilst an undergraduate in the USA, which involved working to improve the academic and social life on campus. I have the skills to be efficient as a VP (Graduates). I also founded an Economics Conference at a national level, which gave me experience of how to bring people together to share academic ideas. Vote for me know, I know it's a short-term post, but I can be effective.

Questions

Dominic Curran (St. Hugh's): You have said that your term of office will be short. What would you endeavour to do in the role?

CG: I don't have concrete ideas, as I've not seen the pressing issues first hand. I see my overall role as to take over the portfolios of my predecessor and make sure that they are met and the obligations of the VP (Grads) fulfilled in the interim.

MW: Communication to Graduates is a very important issue. They are often left out and ignored by the undergraduate body. They feel unwelcome at a lot of the events and parties. It is important to advertise events for graduates, so they can feel part of the community. As graduates have to fund their degrees, they often have pressing financial concerns. They can't get student loans, so I would endeavour to promote the types of financial assistance available.

Matthew Richardson (SPC): How many times have the candidates attended council?

MW: Frequently.

CG: None-but I see this as an advantage. It is my experience that coming into an organisation without bias is a good asset to have.

Penny Berrill (St. Hilda's): the previous VP Graduates resurrected The Mature Students committee. How do you see the role of mature students within OUSU? And what experience do you have in terms of Student Advice?

CG: That is a good point. I don't know the specifics but I know that this must be an issue for graduates. Marginalisation is a problem and I look forward to working with the Mature Students Committee.

MW: I echo that view. It is very important that mature students feel that they have someone to go to for advice. I can help them through use of my connections and through OUSU.

Will Straw (New): Since Andy resigned, I've been doing a lot of work associated with graduates and have found that there are three big issues: Continuation fees, 4th year fees and College advisers. Do you have any ideas to make the current situation better? How would you campaign on these issues? What do you think is the best way to ensure that college advisers fulfill their roles?

MW: Negotiation is the key. Fees hit graduates heavily and they don't have a strong enough voice at present. It is difficult as colleges view graduates as a source of easy money. They take more graduates so they can make more money. I would urge for stronger campaigning and advice.

CG: College supervisors are a very important issue. I would campaign strongly against fees. There is no economic justification as to why colleges should enforce these. Supervisors are very important, as I have experienced the difficulties of having a college supervisor who is not resident in Oxford at present. It all comes down to a lack of communication. I would work hard to make this better.

Sonia Sodha (St. Hilda's): What is your opinion of Stint Reform and how do you think we can deal with it?

CG: I have heard a lot about the issues of tutorials. Graduate students who are willing and able should be there to help with teaching, but I would not want it to be imposed unwillingly. Graduate teaching should not be a replacement for faculty cuts, but it could help if necessary.

MW: I agree. Graduates should do some teaching. But the issue is that if we do reduce the workload of fellows and reduce undergraduate tutorials it would be cataclysmic. It might benefit graduates but tutorials shouldn't be reduced, as they are what make Oxford the institution that it is.

James Coatsworth (Mansfield): Do you know the address of the new OUSU offices?

MW: Thomas Hull House.

CG: Yes, it is.

Omar Salem (St. Hugh's): Do you think it is viable to have a VP (Graduates)?

MW: Yes I do

CG: Yes-among all the graduates in Oxford University, there should be someone capable of filling this position.

Louise Archer (Balliol): Why do you think there were no applicants for next year's post?

CG: The main reason is why I'm here. Graduates are not aware of this position and why it is vacant. I would inform students that it exists and it is viable. It should be filled. I would find someone capable of doing the position after me if elected.

MW: Well, there has been an applicant at least twice; on each occasion he was unable to be elected. There is an issue that few graduates get involved because as far as most graduates are concerned, they do not see OUSU as properly representative. The work OUSU does is undergraduate focused and so graduates are put off. We need someone to communicate the work of OUSU well to graduates

Result

Chris Griffin: 52

Marcus Walker: 28

RON: 5

Quota= 43.5

Chris Griffin elected.

OUSU Executive Officer (x2)

Matthew Richardson (SPC) husted on behalf of Michael Holden (Wadham). All the other candidates were present.

Declarations:

Rebecca Wilkinson (SHE): OULC, Labour party.

Greg Stafford (SPC): OUCA, Conservatives.

Sarah Cotterill (Magdalen): None

Chris Cotton (Magdalen) :OUCA, Conservative Party.

Ian Caddy (St. Anne's): None

Michael Holden (Wadham): Communist Party, OULC
Laurie Burton (Wadham): OULC
Rosalind Dampier (St. Hilda's): OULC

RW: 2nd year PPE student; time commitment is fine; Delegate in 1st year; OUSU Council attendance; knows what has been going on and the key issues; F+F attendee; understands role of Exec Officer; wants to do it; will answer questions about specific portfolios in questions.

GS: 2nd year history student; time not an issue; not an OUSU person; new kid on the block; NUS-OUSU Rep; College disaffiliated from NUS; involved in elections in other places; elected to Junior Tribunal in last council; Important to remember we will be filling resigned positions; would like Mr Richardson's roles; he is OUCA, SPC, continuity is good; NUS is unrepresentative and not useful; wants an exec officer to challenge NUS every step of the way; affiliation is a waste of money; NUS is appalling; went to NUS conference and was appalled.

SC: 1st year PPE student; OUSU involvement since 1st term; co-chair Queer Rights; I attend women's campaign; like to work with Promoting Choice in the future; stood for JCR OUSU Rep, but failed; delegate to NUS LGBT Conference; would be good as I'm enthusiastic; worked with exec officer before so know what it involves; involved in Diversity Week; Equal Opps is best thing that OUSU does; happy to be involved; Read OUSU Policy booklet and I endorse it.

CC: I am the one to pick; been Target Schools co-chair for a year; Target Schools makes people realise the privileges that we have at Oxford; hugely enjoyed it; I didn't want to leave target schools before therefore I didn't stand in Michaelmas; I want to continue my involvement with OUSU; I can make a useful contribution; would do donkey work; environment committee interests me; would make sure recycling scheme works ASAP.

IC: 1st yr geographer; not really involved in OUSU before; very highly involved in JCR politics; raise JCR awareness of top up fees; JCC and library Committee rep; organised and efficient. I am determined, realistic and happy to have a go at any portfolio. I have the initiative to push forward and to work with others to be effective. I took gap year and worked in a fast food restaurant- gave me initiative and efficiency.

MH: Comrades, I would decisively represent members; am a 3rd year maths student. I would try my hardest to represent the students of this union to ensure that their will is fulfilled and the university bows before us. Vote for me.

LB: 1st year maths and philosophy; involved since 1st term; co-chair Queer Rights in 2nd term; have helped to run a high profile, effective campaign. Co-chair knowledge helped me to know what a good campaign is, for example the Civil Rights event in Diversity Week got good publicity and was very original. I will be attending LGBT NUS Conference. I go to F+F, anti fees protests and helped with Sandi Toksvig campaign. I would not have applied if there had been huge fees. There are already reasons not to apply and we should not give people another one. Tories even realise that something is wrong. Charles Clarke is out of touch. We should convince people. The fight against fees is one we can win. Vote for me.

RD: 2nd year Arch and anth. Student. People in council can be put into 3 categories: those who like me, those who don't know me and those who don't like me. I have experience in JCR and OUSU. I was women's officer and Ib Rep. Women's campaign co-chair, independent chair of JCR meetings. I've attended OUSU council since last trinity. I am a Rules gimp. I even attended Connor's Council Review. I've been involved with F+F, Mature Students. When you elect people today, you need to think about previous exec: I could fill Georgia's role. Interest in Women's campaign and pro-choice. Would be happy with NUS too. Have attended LGB/Women's conference. If you don't like me, well if elected I will be busy and so less likely to bump into me and will have sore throat therefore less likely to talk so much in council.

Questions

Will Straw (New): OUSU is a campaigning student union. Which campaign have you been involved with that you are most proud of?

GS: I can't think. Its not because I'm against campaigning though. I'm ashamed. I understand the problems of campaigning through being an OUSU Rep. the shirt off my back campaign are genius.

SC: Queer Rights especially the Civil Rights event. Amnesty letter writing. I look forward to Queer Rights in the future especially the media watch.

CC: Target Schools-Oxford isn't something that stands alone-we should sell it, thus target schools is important, in allowing OUSU to reach a wider constituency. Target Schools makes people realise how special Oxford is.

IC: I did the target schools visiting scheme and found it very rewarding. I am prominent in my jcr in raising fees issues and have proposed motions to pressure the principle.

MH: Far left-protest

LB: OUSU is about campaigning. I'm very happy with Queer Rights and if on exec would love to do it. We have to hit freshers next term to get them more involved in F+F.

RD: Women's campaign: we have raised the issue of under representation in the university. Women's campaign has encouraged women to think about going into academia. I helped with the Women's open day. Women's health is a women's campaign priority for the term.

RW: F+F-I went to march in London in December and the ones in Oxford. I've never been that active before but I can see the point of campaigning now. Possibly the best march was the one against the pro-life march in Oxford.

Ryan McGhee (Pembroke): OUSU has problems holding onto its exec. Will you stay around?

SC: Yes

CC: Yes

IC: Yes

MH: Yes

LB: Yes

RD: Yes

RW: Yes

GS: Yes

Rodrigo Davies (Wadham): How would you persuade the non-hack community of colleges that it's good to affiliate?

CC: I'd encourage them to look at what OUSU does, as its very worthwhile.

IC: My College doesn't have sufficient number of hacks, so I'd make people more aware of OUSU

and the benefits in provides.

MH: I don't understand the concept of a JCR without hacks, as I go to Wadham.

Point of information:

Rodrigo Davies (Wadham): Wadham is an SU not a JCR

LB: You don't have to be a hack to like OUSU; you just need to have a connection with one of its campaigns.

RD: I have argued against disaffiliation in my JCR meetings. I have got more people to come along to OUSU campaigns and council, to sell what OUSU does. Its welfare provision, student advice service and campaigning are very valuable to common rooms.

RW: There are always apathetic people. In SEH JCR, JCR President said 'I can't do my job without OUSU making my life easier'. I would use this to stop disaffiliation.

GS: I gave a speech to my JCR extolling evilness of NUS and in 6th week, I will tell them what a good place OUSU is.

SC: I'm not a hack and I got involved.

Laura West (St. Catz): Being an exec officer is not just about campaigning. It's also about holding the sabs to account. Do you feel that you'll be able to do this and work well in the OUSU structures as a whole?

IC: I would feel able to work with them and hold them to account. Strength is forthright. I could be effective within OUSU structures so yes.

MH: I would have no problems in holding the sabs to account. I'm aggressive and mean so it'd be no problem being part of the machine.

LB: I see no reason why I couldn't hold them to account. I have been a co-chair so know the exec role. I'm familiar with OUSU structures and could work within them

RD: Yes and yes-as I've proved in council, I'm very good at holding sabs to account.

RW: Holding the sabs to account is a fundamental role and I could do it. There are always complaints about how OUSU is structured, but I think generally that I could do it.

GS: I'm not a yes man! I've worked on many committees, so should be fine. We have to be careful that the exec isn't trying to trip up sabs. Both should work together and work for students.

SC: I don't have a particular axe to grind. I won't pick on them but I will hold them to account. I can work within the institution and I know what an exec officer does.

CC: I've worked in OUSU for a year, trying to achieve a common goal-OUSU is a process of conciliation. I know what to do within its structures.

Pete Morton (Somerville): OUSU also provides services. Which are more important: services or campaigns?

MH: Its an abstract concept and is hard to think up. Campaigns are more important but service shouldn't be put aside.

LB: Exec officer's role is more campaign based, but the services OUSU does provide are just as important. If they are both important to students, OUSU should do both.

RD: I see the exec as working on portfolios that are campaign based. The exec role is also to provide services. OUSU as a whole can do both well. In my personal view, campaigning is more important.

RW: There are two different concepts. The role of an exec is to support campaigns but some portfolios are more campaign based than others. OUSU should do whatever students want it to. Striking a balance is the best solution.

GS: My JCR would say what is the point of campaigning, as they think welfare services are more important. If OUSU stopped campaigning people would quickly realise the campaigning is just as important as services. OUSU should not split, as it can do both well.

SC: Campaigning is a prerequisite of the provision of effective services.

CC: OUSU is body through which students can make themselves heard. Campaigning is important, to give Oxford students a coherent identity. In terms of student interaction, services are more important, as that is why OUSU is valued.

IC: Striking a balance is important. Many students don't realise what OUSU can do for them on a day-to-day basis. Since the change of premises, OUSU should raise its prominence.

Charles Hotham (SEH): How would being an exec officer affect your co-chair or JCR role? How good will you be at filling the gap?

LB: I like working with Queer Rights, but I don't know whether I would be exec of it or not. NUS does interest me, as it doesn't work well and there are a lot of problems we need to think about. I am no longer co-chair and don't have many other commitments.

RD: I am the joint LB Rep, but that finishes at the end of term. I am women's campaign co-chair, but I've been that for over a year already. I'd have to think about it if elected.

I could fill Georgia's role, as I'm anti-fees, have equal opportunities experience, am women's campaign co-chair and OULC member.

RW: I have no other commitments at present, so it would be fine. Co-chairs are crucial to the success of a campaign. It's still important though that the exec officer keeps up the momentum of the campaign. In term of environment, recycling is an important issue to continue to work on. I know women's campaign issues. I will keep looking for more information about them. I read Ed's report on the NUS and am keen to see changes.

GS: OUSU Rep until end of term and therefore, no conflict. At present, NUS is evil and abhorrent. The idea is good but it needs to be more representative and useful. I could fill Matthew's shoes. I will campaign for them as much as is possible.

SC: I don't hold any positions at the moment and thus, there will be nothing that could work to the detriment of my exec work. The particular portfolio vacancies were why I applied-women's campaign, pro-choice and environment all interest me, although I'd be happy with any portfolio.

CC: I finish as Target Schools co-chair at the end of term. The new exec officers appointed by council, shouldn't necessarily be a clone of the previous occupants and should be elected on the basis of their ideas.

IC: I don't hold any JCR position. JCC only meets termly. I am a geographer and therefore have few academic commitments. I can fill the portfolios, but am willing to take any on and do my best with them.

MR: I hold no SU position. I could give my time to OUSU exec, and could fill Georgia or Matthew's role. I would do my best to fill the gaps they have left. I would make exec mornings bearable.

Result

Rebecca Wilkinson and Ros Dampier elected.

e. Reports from Sabbatical Officers

President

Sorry I didn't write a report. I've been doing lots with graduates. There are three big issues: Continuation fees, fourth-year fees and College Supervisors. I have contacted the pro-VC (Academic) to discuss those issues. I have also been helping with JCR/MCR battle negotiations. I organized a seminar for JCR Presidents and Treasurers for Roger Van Noorden on Wednesday,

which was very helpful, in providing answers to Bursar's arguments. I'm trying to find out how much rents have gone up to compare with vacation grants and loan increases.

F+F: The 'Take the shirts off my back' shirts will be wheeled down Whitehall on a clotheshorse on Thursday of 6th week. We still need more shirts though, so bring them into OUSU or to F+F. We're also invoicing Labour MPs who went to Oxford who didn't sign the motion against fees and tutors who voted in favour of the Congregation motion, for the cost of their education. Please email me with names. We'll be asking them for monthly donations to bursaries.

I'm sad about the resignations, as I enjoyed working with them. Matt's NUS committee work was very good. Georgia is incredibly energetic and it's a shame that she has left. Penny Berrill has a phenomenal knowledge of F+F issues that is second to none. She should be proud of her contribution. Let's break tradition and applause those 3 people.

APPLAUSE

Procedural Motion: Move the discussion of Item 2 in Emergency Motions to now.

Proposed by: Andrew Warner (ChCh): This motion relates to tutorial cuts in history. The President of the JCC is here but has to leave soon. He should be here to discuss it, so we should discuss this motion now.

Opposed by: Ryan McGhee (Pembroke)
Motion 1 is just as important.

Procedural Motion passes.

g.2. Tutorial Cuts in History

Speech in proposition of the motion: Sonia Sodha (St. Hilda's)

If you read the motion itself, it's pretty self-explanatory. The motion says a paper proposing cuts was presented to the last EPSC, where I represent OUSU. These are clearly resource driven cuts rather than cuts to improve teaching. I have serious concerns with this paper. It doesn't address how teaching will be improved, there has been a lack of student consultation, as the paper hasn't been seen by the JCC and makes no reference to student consultation. I think it is awful that the paper doesn't address quality assurance mechanisms. There have already been significant changes to the history course, including a move to a compulsory thesis to reduce the number of tutorials and reducing the number of tutorials from 8 to 7 in British History and General History. It is hard to isolate the effects of different changes. There is no reference to how teaching cuts are being enforced; college tutors can give students in their colleges extra tutorials, which are wrong, as it will lead to more inequality of academic provision. EPSC noted my concern, but it was not discussed how it could be accurately addressed. JCC not consulted - the head of undergraduate studies has not satisfied me with his response. I am your representative on teaching reform and I don't believe this will improve teaching. I have most comprehensive knowledge of academic issues in OUSU and have strong concerns. The amendment makes the motion less strong. Cutting tutorials without putting something else in place is bad.

Short factual questions

None.

Debate

Amendment

Remove Council notes 2-7.

Add Council notes 2.

“That the existence of this paper raises the possibility of substantial changes to teaching arrangements in history.”

Remove Council believes 1.

Amend Council believes 3 to read:

“That UJCCs must be consulted by faculties about changes to teaching at every stage of the process.”

Change Council Resolves 1 to read:

“To demand that the history faculty rejects any cuts to tutorial teaching.”

Change Council Resolves 2 to read:

“To affirm the need for consultation with UJCC’s before any significant changes to teaching arrangements that would affect syllabus delivery.

To amend Council Resolves 4 to read:

“To encourage JCR’s to pass similar motions against tutorial cutbacks.

To amend Council Resolves 5 to read:

“To encourage history undergraduates to write to the Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic) and the Head of Undergraduate History expressing their concern at the possibility of cuts in tutorials.”

Proposed by: Jonathan Edwards (CcCh) Seconded by Andrew Warner (ChCh)

Jonathan Edwards (ChCh):

As President of History JCC, it is my responsibility to represent student views and concerns to the faculty authorities. My chief point of contact at the faculty is Dr. Parrott New College, who is the Co-ordinator of Undergraduate Studies. After Sonia contacted me about the proposal at the Educational Policy and Standards Committee, I wrote to Dr. Parrott expressing my concern at the apparent programme of teaching cuts and asking for clarification of the situation. I received in response a lengthy explanation, which I have distributed. All the quotes I will use bar one are contained. Dr. Parrott’s contention is that there is a fundamental distinction between arguing for reduced tutorial teaching, on one hand, and arguing for the reduction of ‘global teaching requirements’ on the other. The latter merely takes up the slack that exists in the teaching hours allocated when such teaching levels are not demanded by the current syllabus. For example, the History Faculty could reduce “global teaching requirements” from a notional 12 hours to an equally notional 8 hours per week without in any way affecting current teaching arrangements. The present issue is thus entirely related to the university wide series of initiatives to obtain “a realistic calculation of the number of post holder hours actually required to support undergraduate courses.” As Sonia said in her question to the candidates for V-P Graduates, “stint reform” if done incorrectly could have negative consequences”. There is nothing inherently wrong in stint reform- it does not necessarily imply that teaching will be cut. Indeed, Dr. Parrott asserts that “stint reform is certainly not about arbitrarily reducing tutorial in the history degree, and indeed couldn’t be about that with any chance that such a proposal would be accepted”. Any proposal for cutbacks “would never have even got past the Senior Tutors Committee.” In light of Dr. Parrott’s clarification of the Faculty’s intentions, and his unequivocal guarantee that this is “not in any sense an attempt to do anything actually pertaining to (the course)” this motion as it stands is irresponsibly aggressive. Since no significant changes are currently proposed, it is completely premature. To pass it would imply that the explanations offered by Dr. Parrott are nothing but a pack of lies. I therefore propose the set of amendments to the motion in order to

reflect the current position, and to make the fundamental points, which we all should agree on in a more general manner.

Sonia Sodha (St. Hilda's): I have issues with some of the specifics in the email from Dr. Parrot. The email suggests that these proposals had never been discussed at the faculty meetings, yet it is a fact that the paper was a concrete proposal. I am confident that the history faculty were aware that it was being proposed. I am concerned with the email. Individual college tutors being able to do what they want is bad. It is worrying that the Head of undergraduate history says it's up to college tutors and not the faculty-academic provision across colleges is concerning. I am the main student representative. I respect views of the history JCC president, but these are definite proposals. EPSC backed it, so we do need a strong motion to strongly condemn its actions. I urge you to oppose this amendment.

John Blake (St. Hugh's): It seems to me that there is a differing concept between the JCC chair and Sonia. Sonia's opinion is better informed. Dr Parrot's response is frightening. Individual tutors should not be able to decide on the number of tutorials that their undergraduates have. Faculties should have control, as poorer colleges can't afford to give tutorials. The history faculty needs to have centralised control and in my opinion, it is both disorganised and uncooperative. It would not surprise me if Dr. Parrot were unaware of what is going on in other sections of the faculty.

CHAIR IMPOSES 2-MINUTE LIMIT ON SPEECHES.

Andrew Copson (Balliol): I'm a history undergraduate too. I'm sure that any reduction in the number of tutorials is bad. Vote against the amendment because from reading the emails it seems that the history JCC have been fobbed off. Clear cuts have been produced at a high level and it is clear that they have been thought about. We need to condemn it strongly.

Jonathan Edwards (ChCh): The amendment has kept the college inequality part of the motion. It's a question of interpretation of the issue of a concrete proposal. Dr Parrot says it is a process of realistic calculation and not about cuts. If it was, we'd all see it more clearly.

MTV on amendment: No opposition

Summation speeches:

JE: I've said it all already. I'm taking it to the JCC next week.

SOS: I think that the amendments weaken the motion.

Amendment Fails.

MTV on the original motion.

Summation speeches:

SoS: Nothing to add

JE: Problems with motion; makes it sound like there are proposed cuts.

Motion Passes.

e. Reports from Sabbatical Officers [continued]

Ed Watkins, (Keble): What do you think of the Conservative Parties proposals to abolish fees? Should OUSU take a constructive view of them?

WS (New): We've written a press release, which said that the Conservatives policy was appreciated but misguided. They should be honest about it. We appreciate the policy but that it is misguided. We want to know how they can see widening Higher Education without expanding it. We will engage in debate with Damien Green and with the Lib Dems.

Penny Berrill (St. Hilda's): Why is Council being held in a room without disabled access?

Chair of Council: The Bursar of Somerville told me that this room had disabled access. I apologise and will ensure all rooms where council is held have disabled access in the future.

Chris Hanretty (St. Anne's): Do you think that the F+F campaigns are enough to combat the "inertia of the Finance and Funding Campaign", in maintaining exposure in the media and creating sustainable involvement in F+F?

WS (New): I think the campaigns are imaginative. The invoices will raise our profile. Recruiting from the grass roots is very important. Freshers' week will be a crucial time. We need to get lots and lots of people involved. I've been pleased with the level of involvement this year, as the meetings have been the most populated of my time in Oxford.

Ed Watkins (Keble): Are you aware of Keble MCRs report?

WS: I am aware that the OUSU Rep of Keble MCR has conducted a report, with the title 'Disaffection, Disaffiliation and Subscriptions.' He didn't talk to any of exec officers or sabs about it. There are problems with it. Exec will discuss it next week and issue a response.

VP (Finance)

I echo what Will said about Keble MCR. We were not consulted on what pretended to be an official and well-researched thing. It isn't. Please wait for OUSU's response. OUSU is always willing to defend itself. The OUSU shop is now fully open in the new premises-Thomas Hull House, Bonn Square. It has the cheapest stationary in Oxford. I've produced a poster called "Are you Being Served?" to make people more aware of the shop.

Questions:

Ryan McGhee (Pembroke): If the College Inequalities committee wanted an advert in the *OxStu* could they have it for free?

SS: We don't give OUSU committees advertising space in the *OxStu*, as there are lots of committees and we need some news in the paper. The committee can discuss whether their budget could be used for it.

RM: If there was space could we have an advert?

SS: The *OxStu* is always full! If there is space, we take into account anyone who wants use of it, so email me.

Ros Dampier (St. Hilda's): Last term, you said it was not financially viable to produce a term planner. Will a term planer be produced this term?

SS: Council was not told there would be one this term. I said I'd look at the costs. I did and found that it would produce a loss and therefore we can't produce one.

Laurie Burton (Wadham): When will 'Careers For Queers' be available?

SS: There was a delay because of advertising. It was very popular with graduate employers. Some took colour adverts, which weren't arranged with printers. Pages have now been re-ordered thanks to Paul Afshar and the Business Manager. I'll get quotes from the printers on Monday morning and will send it off.

Waleed Ghani (Trinity): When will the Alternative Prospectus be available?

SS: When it is written! One of the editors resigned, but I hope it will be back within a week.

Duncan Weldon (Somerville): I came into OUSU to get an Oxford Handbook but there were none there. Have we run out?

SS: There was better distribution this year. We gave lots out at Freshers' Fair and to common rooms.

VP (Welfare and Equal Opportunities)

Sorry for not writing a report. I've made new posters for the student advice service, promoting the telephone number and address. I've made posters for the accommodation committee, to help publicise the web-housing bank. I've made gay posters. I've met with the new chief Executive of city centre management, who has said he will take student concerns on board. The NUS LGBT officer addressed queer Rights lunch. Thanks to Laurie Burton for the sandwiches. Queer Rights is working towards the launch of the media watch campaign. Anti-racism campaign met. The VP Women and me met with the Mature Students co-chairs. Health and welfare meeting was cancelled, as their speaker didn't turn up. Equal Opportunities is coming together. Junior tribunal had a short meeting. College Inequality discussed the dissemination of the report. I met with the Proctors to discuss this and emailed relevant people. I've met the new welfare officers and we've had an executive meeting for the Counseling Service.

Questions:

Penny Berrill (St. Hilda's): The Advisory panel for disabilities have cancelled the meeting again. What can we do about this?

AC: If you send me paper, I'll deliver it to them. The Equal Opportunities Report is out, but we still have not been given a copy. I'm going to take the matter up with proctors in a formal manner and complain at the administrative takeover of academic democracy. The Proctors are investigating why we don't have the report and I will keep trying to get a copy. The new procedures for equal opportunities should be in place for next term.

Ros Dampier (St. Hilda's): The Student adviser's office has glass windows and is located near the chill-out area. Conversations may be both visible and audible. I've had complaints about it. I know blinds have been ordered but what about the location of office, surely that is the main problem?

AC: The problem is a limited one. Blinds have been ordered. She is using my office at moment when she has an appointment with students. Audibility hasn't been brought to my attention. I know lots of people have a problem with this, but the advice service wanted a ground floor office, so we could provide notice boards and a nice waiting area. I don't see it being a problem once the blinds are there.

Waleed Ghani (Trinity): Can you explain the action of the anti-racism campaign that led to the letter in the *OxStu*? Why wasn't a formal complaint made to Pubs Board?

AC: Anti-racism co-chairs drafted a letter and signed it. They considered a letter or a complaint to pubs board. They decided to do a letter but it was not my decision.

Jack Roper (Keble): The decision was based on combating the rhetoric in the letter and we are very pleased with it.

VP (Women)

Two things:

We have a super speaker-Caroline Spelman-who is a top female Tory, working for women's issues. Men and women are welcome. Tuesday 20th May 5pm at the Okinaga Room, Wadham. The Ethics report on ethical investment is now available. We'll be giving it to Environment Reps and to common room presidents. If you want a copy, get in touch with the co-chairs, Lyndsay Lomax or myself.

Questions:

Sean Sullivan (SHE): Does the VP Women accept that Margaret Thatcher was a woman?

MM:Yes

Chris Hanretty (St. Anne's): Will the ethics report be available online?

MM:Yes it will be online.

VP (Access and Academic Affairs)

Libraries: I spent Bank Holiday Monday in libraries committee. Conference of colleges and the curators of the University Libraries Committee discussed college Inequality Report. I went to EPSC, where stint reform for history was discussed. I didn't want to oppose the JCC chair, but felt we needed the strongest stance at this stage. We will take the campaign forward together. Academic affairs meeting in Tuesday at 1pm in OUSU.

I've spent time advising Ac-aff officers on how to collate the results of academic affairs survey. The results of the questionnaire will be available soon. There will be some interesting results. A minority of students do feel that they don't get adequate provision.

Access: We've cancelled New College Open Day because of a conflict with A/S Level exams. But, the Wadham Open Day in 9th week is already fully booked and we are looking at another event in 9th week to cater for any overflow and those who did book for New. I met with the Access Scheme co-ordinators and we're planning a joint end of term party to say thanks to all the volunteers and get more people involved. I'm working to get the Inequality Report on the agenda at the next admissions exec. I've been work on the AWP report-sorry I had to withdraw it, but I wanted to spend more time on it

Charles Clarke has responded to our White Paper response. He said they would be having more consultations over the summer.

Sorry the Alternative Prospectus has been delayed, it is because one of editors resigned.

Questions:

Jonty Olliff-Cooper (Magdalen): Does the VP Ac-Aff think that long councils are detrimental to my academic welfare?

SoS:Yes

Richard Tydeman (ChCh): How will you resolve the issue of a difference in opinion between you and the JCC chair?

SS: We will resolve it- I think that there are concrete proposals that will definitely happen. It won't be a problem to work together.

f. Reports from Executive Officers who wish to make Reports

Report:

Laura West (St. Catz): Entz forum is 5pm on Wednesday in OUSU offices - we're trying to get on its feet. OUSU feels a need to provide Entz. Get your Entz reps and ball committee to come

along and please recommend it to people. The Entz handbook is being worked on, we need contributors. Contact laura.west@st-catherines.ox.ac.uk

Questions:

Chris Tod (Keble): When is Entz Forum?

LW: Wednesday at 5pm, OUSU meetings room in even weeks.

Dominic Curran (St. Hugh's): OUSU reps is also you're responsibility-the meeting on Monday was good but not that many people attended. Can you appeal to OUSU reps to come on Monday of odd weeks?

LW: OUSU reps turnout fluctuates. It was a good discussion on Monday, including the report by Keble MCR. If don't like Rep Com, please tell me why!! Please come and let us know the problems. Monday 5pm odd weeks.

Chris Tod (Keble): Will OUSU have a central student venue for Entz?

LW: It's a continuing aim-I haven't had anything to do with it yet but I will do. There are practical issues that we need to consider.

Ros Dampier (St. Hilda's): When did OUSU reps become Rep Com?

LW: Dunno.

Report:

Helen McCabe (St. Hilda's): I sent JCR/MCR presidents a letter about mature students committee. Please get back to the co-chairs and help us to get the info from colleges.

Questions-None.

g. Emergency Motions

I. Co-ordinated Rent Increases:

Speech in proposition of the motion: Sarojini McKenna (Trinity)

This is an ongoing situation. Large increases have been proposed at many colleges. Proposals include an increase over 50% in 4 years to food costs, 70% in rents across the university. These increases are higher than usual. Co-ordination on the part of colleges is essential- we should fight the proposals together. Similar issues to fees and hardship. The reasons we have been given for these increases include economic downturn and SARS, which have reduced the income of colleges. We should emphatically say that students aren't a source of income for colleges. Loans go up at the rate of national inflation therefore, even with Van Noorden increases, this creates a discrepancy between the student loan and rents and charges. Anything above Van Noorden is unjust. This motion draws attention to it, as it's trying to fight higher rent increases. It calls for solidarity-it is never the right time to use students as a buffer. We need to emphatically say that colleges should get their own finances in order, as students do not have the resources to make up for financial deficits. I welcome the amendments, as they address a specific action. Thursday will be a day of silence in college halls. This will tell the university that we won't accept increases that affect access and hardship.

Short factual questions:

Chris Tod (Keble): Can't the demonstration be more than just a silence? Maybe a walkout?

SM: We decided to do something doable, as it was such short notice. Its something that people don't need an excuse not to engage in.

Jonty Olliff-Cooper (Magdalen): Who do you mean by we?

SM: Common room representatives and OUSU representatives who represent views on all levels in the university.

Chris Tod (Keble): Do you know the arrangements for student representation on Conference of Colleges and Bursars committee?

Andrew Copson (Balliol): There is no student representation on any of the committees except on Senior Tutors' committee. I've emailed asking to address these committees, but they wouldn't let me.

Dominic Curran (St. Hugh's): Will you distribute posters to publicise the silent halls?

SM: Yes, if the motion passes we would organise the campaign.

Tammy Faster (LMH): Are you working with other colleges?

SM: We're asking everybody to observe the silence. The Presidents' are constantly in contact. Co-ordination is important.

Richard Tydeman (ChCh): How sure are you that the proposals to abolish subsidies are not a guise?

SM: The proposed increases in hardship grants are peanuts compared to the revenue that they would get in from increased rents. If they wanted to increase rents and then hardship, that would be a different situation.

Chris Hanretty (St. Anne's): Are you working with the college inequality committee?

Will Straw (New): I've petitioned Dame Fiona Caldicott to discuss the college Inequality Report.

Amendment 1:

Proposed by Ryan McGhee (Pembroke) Seconded by Emma Norris (Somerville)

Add to resolves 2:

"...And to observe the university wide silent hall against rent rises on Thursday of 4th week."

Ryan McGhee (Pemb): I'm encouraging people to campaign. Whilst at Pembroke, I've paid £4,000 of rents and it is not acceptable for everyone else to join us. We did the inequality report to bring rents like ours down and not push other colleges' rents up. I want a silence, as it's an issue that affects every single Oxford student. Rents affect access and hardship. For once Oxford students can get together and unite. The media will pay attention. Estates and Bursars Committee hasn't consulted a single student representative. Its time we acted together. A silent hall should make the university realise that they can't get away with this.

Jonty Olliff-Cooper (Magd): Sorry but this amendment isn't the best amendment. It's a very personal statement from one constituent organisation. My SCR is very reasonable about rents. I don't want to piss my SCR off. Rents are college specific. Demonstrations would be more effective outside colleges.

CHAIR'S RULING: RESTRICT SPEECHES TO 1 MINUTE.

Dominic Curran (St. Hugh's): I can see it does annoy SCRs and I sympathise, but the very point of a university wide thing is that it is a personal statement. SCRs have acted on a university wide basis, which allows us to demonstrate how we feel about this across the university. We can turn it from a parochial issue into one in which we're all involved.

Will Straw (New): We are all members of a university. It is not a parochial problem. Eight or nine colleges are pushing towards a median. This affects all of us. If you feel your SCR have been nice, it doesn't mean you can't protest-tell your SCR it's not against them, but that it's in solidarity with others. This will send a strong message to the Estate Bursars Committee.

MTV-no opposition

Summation speeches:

RM (Pemb): If I were at a college with an SCR that would be offended if the JCR were to strike in solidarity with other students, I'd tell the SCR where to go.

Tom Hart (Univ): We are all students of a single university and need to show colleges are split about this issue. They don't all want to rip us off-by asking all colleges to do a silent hall, you weaken this-not all colleges are politically active and we should focus the protest on colleges with the biggest problems. It would have more impact if the protests converged on a few colleges.

Amendment passes-incorporated.

Amendment 2:

Add council notes 4: A report recommending rent increases has been circulated among Estate Bursars' Committee

Add council believes 4: That the report should be made public so that it can be subjected to proper scrutiny.

Add council resolves 4: To call on Estate Bursars' Committee to make the report public.

Proposed by: Omar Salem (St. Hugh's), Seconded by: Nick Wilson (St. Hugh's)

No opposition

amendment incorporated.

Debate on amended motion

None

Motion passes.

g.3. Conservative Party Policy

Council notes:

1. OUSU has explicit policy against all forms of fees for Higher Education.
2. The Conservative Party this week pledged to abolish tuition fees.

3. OUSU's commitment to widening access.

Council Believes:

1. The Conservative Policy has taken a first step towards free education.
2. This must not be at the expense of access.
3. Comments about "mickey-mouse degrees" are damaging and unwelcome.

Council Resolves:

1. To mandate the President to congratulate Iain Duncan Smith on this courageous move and to lobby him to find alternative ways of funding free education.
2. To reaffirm OUSU's commitment to access and to make OUSU's views and concerns clear to the Conservative Party.

Proposed by: Hinesh Rajani (Merton) Seconded By: Tom Goodhead (Magdalen)

Speech in proposition of the motion: Hinesh Rajani (Merton)

This motion is about consistency and whether this SU can say we have policy against this is. The motion says the comments that are damaging to the cause of access are both unhelpful and unwelcome. It welcomes this step but says that these are our concerns with it. We should pass it to show that anyone who comes out against fees is welcomed.

Short factual questions:

Penny Berrill (St. Hilda's): Have you managed to find opinions on grants, vacation grants and interest rates etc?

HR: The turnaround on policy has only just been announced. They've come out in alignment with our policy. I don't know the complete details. We should say it's a good thing but these are our concerns with it.

Tom Hart (Univ): Did OUSU write to Charles Kennedy when the Lib Dems did this?

HR: We should do it when it's such a momentous issue.

Rebecca Wilkinson (SEH): Are you aware of the BNP policy on education? Should we send them a letter congratulating them if they come out against fees?

HR:

Procedural Motion:

Stuart Colville (Queens): Move that this motion not be put.

The motion is overtly political in its nature. We shouldn't be endorsing a political party, which would damage what F+F has done for other reasons.

Sean Sullivan (SEH): If a major political party takes a different stance on the fees issue, it is worthwhile to ask students what they feel about that stance. This motion gives people the option to amend it and react to the changes in the party's policy. We should discuss a major party changing its position on fees.

Vote on procedural motion that motion should not be put

For: 18

Against: 32

Abstentions: 4

Fails.

POINT OF ORDER

Rudy Kleysteuber (BNC): Move to put the motion at another council. Adjourn meeting. People have already left and thus, I don't think its fair to discuss this now.

Chris Hanretty (St. Anne's): If council was adjourned every time someone left, council would last 5 minutes.

Point of Order fails

SFQs continued:

Lucy Low (Magdalen): Were you aware of Sabs response in the Guardian?

HR: I'd heard it had gone out yes.

Oliver Kempton (St Anne's): Why is this an emergency motion?

HR: It needs a rapid response

Louise Radnofsky (Univ): Can you explain how the figures would be viable?

HR: Impossible

Move to debate:

Amendment:

Remove Council Resolves I

Replace with:

I. To mandate the President to write to Iain Duncan Smith agreeing that Higher Education should be free, but condemning the Conservative Party's proposals to cut student numbers in HE, without reforming our system of HE and FE extensively to ensure there are adequate alternatives to HE for those who would normally enter it. To explain our views, as laid out in council believes.

Add to council believes:

4. That under our current HE system, reducing numbers of students in HE and widening access is incompatible.

Proposed by: Sonia Sodha (St. Hilda's) Seconded by: Andrew Copson (Balliol)

Sean Sullivan (SEH): This amendment is trying to deal with the Conservative policy that they don't want 50% of people in Higher Education. I do not believe that access is linked to getting as many people into university as possible. It shouldn't be a game that we're playing. Widening numbers is not necessarily widening access to the roots-its not a perfect system but by getting more people in, we can improve access. True access is making sure those of merit get in. Voting against this amendment is for true access.

Sonia Sodha (St Hilda's): I've put in this amendment because I see a problem with the Conservative policy. They have said education should be free, but the Conservatives plan to cut the number of students in HE, which is not compatible with widening participation. There is a social 'thing' generally accepted that certain children from the middle class will go on to university. It's difficult to reform the system unless there are better alternatives. Cutting

numbers and improving access is impossible. We need a more extensive reform of the system. It's not good enough for Conservatives to say 'this is what we're going to do'. This is a quick fix and they are shooting themselves in the foot. The Conservative policy is very complicated. The proposals to abolish the Postcode Premium are not flawless, although the postcode premium is better than other things. They have said they'll abolish OFFA and are against top up fees linked to access. But, it is valuable to have an access regulator to monitor universities. As Oxford is doing lots of good things in terms of widening participation, the regulator helps this be publicised. It's not as simple as free education to improve access. There are substantial differences between OUSU's stance and the Conservatives stance. We shouldn't congratulate them on this move

Ros Dampier (St. Hilda's): I agree with Sonia: we should oppose this amendment and then this motion, as there is no need for us to write to the Lib Dems or the Conservatives for stating OUSU policy. This is wasting council time.

MTV on the amendment-no opposition.

Summation speeches

Sonia Sodha (St Hilda's): Support this amendment in case the motion passes.

Sean Sullivan (SEH): If OUSU is going to say more numbers equal more access; this shouldn't be and is not the real definition of access.

Amendment incorporated.

Debate on the amended motion:

John Blake (St. Hugh's): This is a bad motion. The points made indicate we should have a constructive dialogue with the Conservatives but we need to consider that these proposals are very complicated. We should look over the proposals more. Sean's access point should be discussed, as we haven't had that debate in council before. Its common sense: the Conservative party are in a fallow period in their history and now they have a policy against fees. It's interesting timing. We should be careful. Is now the right time to talk to them? You should oppose the amendment and leave it in the hands of exec and sabs, as I'm not certain that council is debating in full knowledge of what is going on. We are doing ourselves no favours.

Dominic Curran (St. Hugh's): It's an interesting motion. I'm not sure if it's a well-worded motion, but I appreciate the attempt to include both sides of argument. Points haven't been made and therefore it needs to be amended. Our debate on HE has revolved around whether we have top-up fees or we don't, which has ignored the entire reason for top-ups-how to get more money to fund HE. There is not enough money to fund HE and we need to fight strongly against top-up fees and pro-funding. We need the top academics in the university system. Cutting top-up fees will reduce funding. This will leave a substantial funding gap-the only answer the Conservatives have is to cut cost in other areas.

MTV

Tom Hart (Univ): When we saw the motion, we knew which way we'd vote. Council needs to be quickened. There are more motions to get through.

John Blake: This is an important issue; therefore we should have a debate. We need to discuss it now.

MTV Fails

Tom Goodhead (Magd): One of the points is that we write letters to the Conservatives as they might possibly be in government. Just because it is a valid way to write, this motion is fine.

Pete Morton (Somerville): Its like a bonding weekend-they talk about policy to win the next election-they think that they need nice stuff and its cynical move for political gain. Its questionable how committed any party might be to widening access. The BBC Website quoted us out of context last time we did something like this-do we want Oxford University to be seen as saying the Conservatives are brilliant?

Greg Stafford (St. Peter's): Vote against this motion-there are Mickey Mouse degrees, like Golf Management which isn't worth doing for three years.

MTV

Summation Speeches

Hinesh Rajani (Merton): Sonia has put an amendment through. Its clear the reason we'd write was to welcome getting rid of fees, but the bulk of the letter would be telling them what they're doing wrong. It would be ridiculous not to write this letter-we have to say we welcome it, but have problems with some of it.

Sonia Sodha (St. Hilda's): There are issues with this motion-we should oppose it, as there are a lot of complications with the Conservative Party policy. We need more time to think about it and can talk about it in the next council.

Motion Fails.

j. First Reading of Motion to Amend the Constitution or Standing Orders

I. Council delegates

Speech in proposition of the amendment

Will Straw (New): There has been debate all year about delegates. This motion is intended to make council more legitimate. I accept the friendly amendments.

Short Factual Questions

Rebecca Wilkinson (SEH): If delegates are being held accountable, do their manifestos elect them?

WS: No, it would have to be a change in the elections system. But this can be done at Mel's review of the Election at 12pm on Tuesday in the Meetings Room.

Penny Berrill (St. Hilda's): Are there currently any provisions to complain about someone because of their voting record?

WS: No, but they can be no-conned.

Ryan McGhee (Pembroke): Can this information be put online?

WS: We could make provisions to do this, but it would be arduous.

Penny Berrill (St. Hilda's): Are the sabs and exec having to do this?

WS: They can be held to account in council

Jack Roper (Keble): How many delegates are in council at the moment?
WS: 5 plus there have been apologies from 3, 7 have been here at some point.

Amendments:

4. No opposition-**passes**

5. Opposition

Proposed by Ros Dampier (St. Hilda's)

I agree with what Will said when he proposed this motion. But the changes give exec too much power. The delegates have been elected in cross campus elections and therefore exec shouldn't be able to dismiss them. Delegates represent people who aren't represented by common room votes. It makes sense, as it brings delegates into line with exec and sab procedures.

Dominic Curran (St. Hugh's): I have problems with the motion. There should be a simple system where delegates should live or die by council attendance and not because they are nice people.

John Blake (St. Hugh's): People don't get out of anything in council because they are nice people. Those objections don't count. There are checks and balances to prevent the accumulation of power.

Ros Dampier (St. Hilda's): Council is the governing body therefore we should trust council to make a decision when a delegate is not fulfilling their duties. It makes sense.

MTV

Summation Speeches

John Blake (St. Hugh's): This is a good idea. It makes sense. I can't see any problems with it. It brings it in line with Standing Orders.

Dominic Curran (St. Hugh's): the proposition points have convinced me.

Amendment Passes

Debate on the amended motion

MTV:

Jonty Oliff-Cooper (Magd): It is 5.20pm!

Chris Hanretty (St. Anne's): Council's have been longer. We have had no debate on the actual motion.

MTV Fails

CH: Two terms ago council got very worked up about council bingo. It is not good if people aren't paying attention to what is going on in council. This is another pen and paper game, except only delegates are allowed to play. Where would the information be available? Putting it online will be an onerous task. If this change were in place for today, delegates would have already had to record votes on amendments, motions, MTVs,

Point of Information: Will Straw (New): It doesn't say that they have to record how they vote on MTVs.

CH: It does. There is nothing in this that doesn't equally apply to exec and sabbatical officers. The President said exec and sabs already had opportunities to be held to account in council, but

there is nothing that prevents exec and sabs from doing the same thing. This will provide more information to the electorate about how their representatives have voted, but this can be equally applied to exec and sabs. This motion is unbalanced and unworkable.

Penny Berrill (St. Hilda's): I have my reservations. It is a good thing to keep people to account, but this may lead to intimidation of people because of the way they have voted. We can verbally challenge exec and sabs. It is a great burden on people. It would lead to intimidation of people on the basis of how they voted. It is so concrete and unbiased to delegate that it will be unworkable and intimidating.

MTV

Hinesh Rajani (Merton): We've heard so many arguments.

Andrew Copson (Balliol): There are a lot more arguments to do with the workings of the motion.

Fails

Ryan McGhee (Pembroke): I asked whether the information should be available online, not whether it will. Please come to a decision on this, delegates are the least important people on the Executive - tired with discussion.

AC: Delegates accountable at point of election. There aren't other forums to hold Sabs or Exec to account specifically on how they vote in Council. We know that they vote as individuals. It's delegates who vote on their manifesto commitments. No confidence motions taken really seriously - unfair to levy this upon delegates specifically. Importance of delegates as cross-campus representatives also provides an opportunity to get involved with OUSU and we should not make it harder on these candidates - mostly first years.

Rebecca Wilkinson (SEH): It is completely unworkable! Manifestos are four lines long. Also, stances vary depending on context - we can't demand mandates from these people. Far too open to personal interpretation. Not every issue covered in manifestos. Delegates not more accountable, but much more open to attack.

Will Straw (New): Every vote is equally important in Council. There is no mechanism to hold delegates to account at present. It is not unworkable - when we produce stuff at front of council delegates just fill in an extra sheet. I will bring a presidential ruling on what it means.

Point of Information:

Andrew Copson (Balliol): A Presidential interpretation is not here to introduce particular interpretations on procedure.

Will Straw: It's perfectly legitimate. It would not be intimidating. All they would need to do is to put a cross in a box. It is workable and resolves a difficult problem.

MTV

Tom Goodhead (Magd): We have heard all the issues.

John Blake (St. Hugh's): The final word on any motion is what council says not what Will says!!

MTV Fails

John Blake (St. Hugh's): I don't have a fixed opinion on what to do about this. If it is true that delegates only role is to vote in council, it is an awfully complicated procedure for 12 people voted for in a cross campus election. Council is forum for debate. In debate, it is possible to have

your mind changed therefore, it'd be obliging people to vote the same way all year. Its wrong!

Sean Sullivan (SEH): We shouldn't see this as binding delegates to their manifestos. They get a vote in council because they are delegates. Once elected, people have no idea how the people they voted for are voting in council. The whole university should know how these people are voting. It is not arduous: council would provide the paper. If they aren't capable of that, they shouldn't have stood for election.

Helen McCabe (St. Hilda's): When you elect someone, it is because you trust them to turn up and vote the way they said they would. Minds can be changed in a debate. People come and stand here as delegates and when they vote a way, its because they are a delegate. They shouldn't be asked to record votes. Vote against this motion.

Michael Girling (SEH): I agree with most of the motives in motion-accountability and attendance. The motion is not the only way to make delegates accountable. People ask me how I vote in council. I can't find a list of delegates on the Website, therefore how can they be accountable? Council shouldn't be divided according to those who record votes and those who don't.

Laurie Burton (Wadham): There is nothing to stop people voting differently-we need recorded votes for delegates. But, it is not good enough to make a presidential ruling on it. It should be a decent motion.

MTV

Summation speeches

Will Straw (New): We have heard the arguments. This will sort out accountability. There are problems. We need to resolve this issue now, as it will arise in the future. Delegates need to be part of a student council and held to account.

Andrew Copson (Balliol): We debate as people bring motions about it. I agree with those who've opposed the motion-elect these people, as there is room for different sorts of representation in council. That is what is important by leaving delegates as they are.

Motion Fails.

n. Any Other Business

Will Straw (New): Exec afterwards-we need to elect an OSSL trustee.

There is also an F+F co-chair vacancy. We will be appointing in 5th week exec, so if you are interested, get in touch next week.

Andrew Copson (Balliol): There are vacancies for DA co-chair. If you are interested, speak to Linsey Cole (SJC).

Sarojini McKenna: Silent Halls are next Thursday. If your college can't have one, please get in touch and we can arrange for you to join with another college.

John Blake (St. Hugh's): Thank you to Elections Committee.

Tom Hart (Univ): Don't have council here again-the acoustics are awful.

Closes 5.45.pm