



council minutes

3rd week Trinity 2004

Matt granted attendance rights

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Matters arising from the minutes

Email from Tom Packer: I actually asked Ed Griffiths whether the elections were the Michaelmas Term elections before Greg also asked it.

The amendment on the celebrates motion to remove resolves 1, was seconded by me after Helena – not Dan

Ratifications in council

No objections

Jo Lee Morrisson (Christ Church) – Community Committee
Alice Robson (Wadham) – Community Committee
Thomas Pountley (Corpus Christi) – Academic Affairs Committee

Elections in Council

Rules Committee

Dan Simpson (Balliol)

Declarations – OULC, Labour Party, no motions of censure or no confidence

DS: It's important that students have representation. Chair elect OULC so aware of things that affect clubs and societies; proctors, termly registration no longer essential. Following up post-exam celebrations. On exec, familiar with OUSU

No questions

Dan Simpson elected

Reports from Sabbatical Officers

Helena Puig-Larrauri (St Hildas): Top thing is submission on Student Aid Office. Letter been sent to JCR/MCR presidents. Please reply to letter as it's the only chance to put views forward about bursaries. Give me a ring with any questions

Rodrigo Davies (Wadham): Sorry for no written report. Very busy weeks, sorting out business team, lots of time on budget, working on freshers fair, possibly online stall registration. Going to be judge at RAG Pop Idol – Long Room, New College

Rosie Buckland (St Hildas): Sorry for no report. PRISM – discussion board up, meeting Tuesday 5:30pm at OUSU

Working with LGB soc to get them to have reps. Drove Dan in van for election, working with dyslexia forum to help with papers about exam revision. Counselling service meeting – provision for year out students. Need entries for minority careers and LGBT handbook. Pride went really well

Catherine Wallis (Keble): Not much to add. Need submissions for women's open day booklet, blurb from women about course or college. Going to be bigger than before, 103 students now

Dan Paskins (Magdalen): By-election for WP Women went smoothly with 668 valid votes. 482 for Bex,

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Dan Paskins (Magdalen): By-election for WP Women went smoothly with 668 valid votes. 482 for Bex, 151 to Lucy, Bex won. Very high turnout. Thanks to elections committee and to colleges with ballot boxes. Postcards for One World Week out next week, do come along to that. Been in discussions with people who set it up, theres a whole range of events.

Louise McMullan (Wadham): Sorry for no report. Study skills went very well. Lots of keen people. Policy work with Target Schools. AcAff needs new co-chair. Welfare information pack. Casework has been very heavy most of time. A lot to do with people ill for exams

Josefa Henry-Bochan (Wadham): Future of Broad Street meeting, lots of events for Rag week, Pop Idol, Sports Day

Reports from Executive Officers

None

Questions

None

First readings of Motions to Amend the Constitution or Standing Orders

1, Speaking List

RB: Amendment on green sheet. Brought back same motion. Amendment should make sense. Ideas same, it's to stop people who usually dominate dominating, encourages different people to speak,

Lorna Stevenson (Hertford): Do the two bits (d and f??) conflict?

RB: They shouldn't conflict

Speech in opposition – None

Motion passes

2. Executive Meetings

No opposition

Motion Passes

Amended Budget

RD: Pleased with how the budget has turned out. Written long introductory blurb. Think it's aiming to establish OUSU's financial stability for another year. Accounts will be in surplus which is great. Invested in new IT for OUSU, few things in campaigning sector. Aims to give stability. Please scan intro

Short Factual Questions

Daniel Rees (Merton): Elaborate on changes of grants to sabs. Thought there was one for VP Women. Why has freshers guide cost more?

RD: Can't recall pre 2000, never been women grant after 2000. Other grants that may be capped, money government gives the university for access and community. The government hasn't yet given the go ahead to the university. University waiting to hear but have made positive noises.

Point of Information: Josefa Henry-Bochan (Wadham): Got HEFCE funding but half that of last year

Why has freshers guide cost more?

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Point of Information: Josefa Henry-Bochan (Wadham): Got HEFCE funding but half that of last year

RD: Keen to put it in positions but best to assume we're not getting money. University will fund VP Charities and Community but not as high as before.

Freshers guide: Extra investment, not sure how much I can say as it's commercially sensitive. We want to make it bigger and better. We're going to triple the profit it makes.

DR: So theres no way of raising that much unless we spend that much?

RD: Yes

Gareth Lyon (Keble): What's expenditure on ??????(Didn't hear what was said here)

RD: based on fact campaign didn't spend money last year

RB: Does reflect what's been spent. ????

Any opposition?

Dan Paskins (Magdalen): Last year there was quite a fierce debate about it by common rooms and council, about subs etc. Fear is that it's not a good idea to have a small team draw up a budget. Need debate about it, in here and in common rooms. Whether level of subs is right. Opposing so if you want more consultation we can table it and have more consultation in next 2 weeks.

RD: Appreciate Dan's sentiments and if someones keen to table it I'd be keen to hear the case. Been on web since last week and chance for it to go to JCRs. No ones raised this issue with me before. Why we spend money etc is something that needs a review on its own. Tabling a budget isn't the way forward.

Jamie ? (St Annes): Whats the opinion of the VP Finance on what OUSU can do to provide a central student venue?

RD: Bluntly, it won't come from uni or grants, will have to come from commercial projects. Have to increase commercial investments eg more entz, bigger business team – doing this over the summer. More online adverts and over 3 years these things can commercially expand. Might be possible, Next year crucial in terms of growth. Next years business manager will be excellent. If expansions been a success we can discuss it.

Helena Puig-Larrauri (St Hildas): Look at 2 years accounts, 2002 loss, 2003 loss. Deficit budgets, 2004 surplus. Put money in a reserve. That's how we moved offices, needed to run up reserves and now have run them down. The harder part of it is to find a suitable venue.

Gareth Lyon (Keble): So you see commercial activity in funding?

HPL: Student Union is to provide services to students

RD: Idea is not to make profits, it's to put back in. Profits are made on Handbook but it is useful for people. Look at whole picture in terms of money raised, no point if we don't spend it

Voting

Motion Clearly Passes

NUS

HPL proposes: NUS affiliation works with common room deciding and half currently are affiliated. It depends on the college. Only two thirds of affiliated common rooms actually send delegates to conference. NUS sends things that affect student union but not colleges. Will tried to reduce college fees but NUS said no. People forget to order cards or distribute them due to a lack of resources. Thought we'd centralise it in some way. Problem is that every college would have to affiliate to NUS if they want to affiliate to OUSU. We discarded that idea. JCRS/MCRs would decide individually if they want to affiliate to NUS then OUSU would administer the affiliation. OUSU would filter things down to what's important to the colleges. Still college delegates at the conference. Slight hitch is that we'd still

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Jez Sadler (St John's): How affect NUS subscription fee?

HPL: Not affect

Ian Caddy: What OUSU get?

HPL: Benefit from NUS services that colleges too small to use and OUSU not affiliated so cannot use.

Greg (St Peters): 2 brief questions: 1. By bringing in motion does this acknowledge OUSU's tacit support for NUS? 2. Does this mean that OUSU has to abide by NUS policy?

HPL: No. Motion recognises colleges would like the services and OUSU act as efficient administrator.

RD: compare to OUSU administering colleges' subscriptions of FT

Dom (St Hugh's): surely has to be cleared by JCRs and MCRs that currently affiliated

HPL: Colleges have to consider whether want as different or centrally done. Cant make consider.

Freddie: lot of administration for OUSU. Will this be done by Sabs or NUS campaign.

HPL: Exec member for NUS campaign- this will enable the committee to have function. It will require support from President.

Tom: what about administration costs? Aren't we subsidising those affiliated at the expense of those not affiliated.

Gareth (Keble): Sab time paid for by all colleges. No benefit to unaffiliated colleges. HPL: true

Jamie: How do ensure students not paying don't benefit

HPL: NUS services include organising training sessions- only for affiliated.

? (Wadham): what delay incurred with post

HPL: none

Peter (Worcester): can CR officers who are in non-affiliated colleges take part in training days?

HPL: No

Peter: I did.

Louise: Chance that

Chris Allen: How would we distribute?

HPL: Anyway we need to distribute OUSU cards at Freshers' Fair- some colleges make you sign up to get NUS and huge queues.

RD: may I add- been talking to Direct Mailing firms- could arrange to pidge everybody.

IC: what is the minimum number of CRs need to agree for worthwhile for OUSU to do this?

HPL: Majority of colleges currently subscribing?

Tom: Could you clarify whether a former OUSU exec officer accused of anti-Semitism?

HPL: What?

Gareth (Keble): estimate sab time/week spent on NUS?

HPL: Don't know but not much

Laura Stevenson: will cards be hard to distribute as no college names?

HPL: no name on the cards- all we need to know is which college to go to. Maybe get OUSU NUS cards. Already distributed some NUS cards. Got cards for St. Hilda's/Keble??

Helen McCabe: Motion makes a lot of sense- we get a lot of posters that we bin. However, St Hilda's concerned- for ball - need ID that from Hilda's- want NUS card based on college- bod card cant prove which college

Louise- point of information: bod card number says college

Greg Stafford: doesn't matter to me as college not affiliated. However, would this encourage colleges to re-affiliate? Takes away the problem of gallons of mail but then we still get this mail when not affiliated. OUSU making so much work for itself. If the motion goes through then there will be 3 classes of oxford colleges- not affiliated, affiliated but separate and affiliated centrally- the NUS will be unable to cope and there'll be an administrative nightmare. CRs don't get any moey off subscription and OUSU just takes away their post.

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HPL: surprises about emphasis on post. Two benefits- administrative and help engage with NUS. Idea of reform in NUS- this is a good idea and Oxford should engage. Difficult for colleges to engage in the democratic structure of the NUS, and now maybe jointly or separately can submit motions.

RD: Helena right. Addresses Greg's problems. We could make use of information sent. Useful or liberation campaigns.

Tom: we have sent people on liberation campaigns. Have to look at principle of affiliation. NUS neglects and abuses Oxford. NUS doesn't care when colleges disaffiliate. Why should we reach out? And as for reform- there's always a spark of reform which is then destroyed by the powerful factions in the NUS

HPL: point of information: special conference to address reform.

Tom: reform dubious- NUS faction controlled. The conference is a continuations of previous conference. Reform will be squeezed out.

RD: NUS history is a different matter. Never a fan of NUS but no one can deny that the current system is not working. If we want to debate about NUS, then it's for colleges to decide. Get nowhere talking about the politics of the NUS- we're talking about specific services and campaigns that NUS wants to give to students. OUSU would do students a disservice if didn't try to facilitate.

MTV

Jamie: discussed

Chris: more points and practicalities

2/3 majority

HPL: helping VRs administratively. Retains psotion with JCRs, retains policy votes. Main objection is that college names will not be on cards- would be more useful to have Oxford on cards if outside Oxford.

Helen: Adminstration difficulties? Name on cards?

Motion clearly passes.

Dan Paskins: election result: Dan S elected.

Clubs motion:

HPL: place on Bevington road previously used for clubs and societies will be shut down- Clubs and Societies offices in new location doesn't accommodate same services. Clubs currently homeless. There had been a facility for a permanent postal address- the same resources won't be available- no photocopier, printers or publishing. We could use the space of the OUSU shop- a shop is not feasible unless have a high street venue- good idea to use for space for Clubs and Societies. Like Pubs Room but no Oxstu. There, they can book rooms and night bus. We've had good responses from the clubs and societies. We've looked into the shop and think it is the best use of the space. Then increasing contact with clubs and societies. We'll have a database of all societies registered in the freshers' fair. We can give increasing support to C&S- in MM term we voted on using money for DVD players etc- we could use them in resource rooms.

Dan S: could resources be used by CR officers and exec

HPL: in my experience, most people like CR and exec officers use the pubs room but no problems.

IC: will they just store stuff?

HPL: can provide postal address but no storage space

IC: they wouldn't get the other building and OUSU shop room

HPL: the other building is just for administration.

Freddie: Problems with many societies using- perhaps have time slots?

HPL: if popular then have a schedule

RB: will increased meeting space be used for OUSU's campaigns.

HPL: No

Louise: What benefits for OUSU besides that of increased involvement with C&S.

HPL: No service for student union

Dom: will the offer be extended to political party societies and the implications of this?

HPL: All clubs and socities

Lorna Stevenson: How many clubs and socities are there? How many pigeon holes needed?

HPL: Not every society need a pigeon hole- only the biggest 20 will need a physical pigeon

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HPL: Not every society need a pigeon hole- only the biggest 20 will need a physical pigeon hole. We can file the rest of them.

Chris: what if they have beliefs contrary to OUSU policy.

HPL: facility open to the same C&S as freshers' fair.

Aiden: Will C&S take up all the space?

HPL: some of room used for storage. But the VPF will explore the feasibility.

RD: Possible legal consideration. We don't have staff room- against policy not to have this. could use corridor area for staff, couldn't restructure rooms would be expensive.

Dan Rees: about the equipment in the MM motion- have we not bought it?

HPL: no point in having them when couldn't promote. After freshers' fair and have a database and then can pidge them.

Tim Ayles: what about size of society?

CW- what about restrictions on a society to undermine OUSU?

HPL: can have an amendment.

Dom: what about other uses for rooms- could get money off university. Since providing service that university doesn't do

RD: Some thought about using it as another meetings room but not best replacement.

Possibility of moving the Pubs room but the shop is not wired up and would have to move desks. Want this to be a revenue neutral exercise. Haven't confronted Brian Gasser about funding but effective lobby point as obviously replacing a service.

RD: often post sent to OUSU- so easily can be done.

IC: only C&S of freshers fair.

CA: this consultation of the alternative uses of room- who was this done with.

HPL: Staff, business manager some exec members.

?- What about OUDS wardrobe. Could you provide storage?

HPL: can't do storage- OUDS could talk to us- we are short on space- better use as a resource centre.

RD: OUSU's got some experience of arranging storage. If loads of C&S need more space, then could go to storage place, and could have some negotiating power. Don't have enough space to accommodate all C&S.

Amendment:

To mandate the VP (finance) to ensure that none of the resources provided in the C&S room are used for anything which explicitly contradicts OUSU policy.

Proposed: Dan Paskins

DP: concern- daft for OUSU to make resources available for C&S that contradict policy.

RD- point of information: the only person to interpret policy is president and council. We have a huge policy book- do you mean everything in the policy book?

Tom: Any legal problems? We would look like idiots if C&S had to agree to all policies e.g. policy on cannabis.

Dan S: difficulties with political societies. Possible to say must be consistent with equal opps and no platform policy.

MTV

DR: All arguments heard

DP: need to hear all sides

Not 2/3

DP: daft for OUSU using own resources to undermine policy. VPF could get an interpretation of policy.

HPL: we provide democratic structures to challenge policy. Point to bind C&S to equal opps and no-platform policy- should not bind to whole policy.

Amendment withdrawn. New amendment:

To mandate the President to ensure that none of the resources provided in the clubs and societies room are used by organisations which OUSU has a no platform policy against or which contravenes OUSU's equal opps policy.

Prop: Ian Caddy

This is accepted as friendly amendment.

IC: make sense

Tom: point of information: equal opps appl to Freshers' Fair.

Dom: how decide whether contravenes policy. Explicit policy on producing anti- OUSU's equal

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This is accepted as friendly amendment.

IC: make sense

Tom: point of information: equal opps appl to Freshers' Fair.

Dom: how decide whether contravene policy. Explicit policy or producing anti-OUSU's equal opps policy in room. How big is equal opportunity policy?

HPL: straightforward. Like St Hugh's policy actually. States Student union not support or condone individuals or organisations that are homophobic, racist etc. If any society in aims or produced matter contravenes equal opps then President rules against society, and brings ruling to council

Mark Hawkins: do other student unions have similar clauses

HPL: they do stronger

MH: why is this is problem as most societies don't have such policy

Tom: what about societies of a religious nature- can exclude some societies.

DR_ point of information- if actively campaigning.

Greg- mad- how do you ensure they aren't breaking policy. Cant police everyone in the resource room.

MTV

Greg-

RD- fundamental misconception about freshers' fair

Fails

Leon: does this extend to organisations with advertising bans or societies that distribute such material.

RD:

RD- OUSU has to uphold equal opps and no platform policy- if you strike down amendment, OUSU will have to do it anyway. Exactly the same thing for Freshers' Fair.

MTV

Dan S: do

48-3-5

Another amendment:

Add to resolves 1

To mandate the VP(finance) to investigate the possibility of increasing meeting space for OUSU's campaigns and committees, and ensure that OUSU's campaigns and committees have priority in using all of OUSU's facilities including meeting space.

Proposed: Rosie Buckland

Seconded: Louise McMullan

RB: Agree with the principles of the notion- most of meetings for equal opps held between 4-6. more meeting space can be beneficial. Can prioritise C&C

Greg: then carte blanche to C&C to reserve room

DR: Greg right- destroy booking system. Services aren't going to be provided to C&S. campaigns will have priority.

MH: it's a resource centre to why need meeting space.

Dom: C&C first bite of bookings- rooms not solely for C&S

RB: motion pertains to C&S space, also for C&C's benefit.

DR: Dom said C&C book first- if that's being given priority- basically saying C&S can use OUSU facilities.

Louise: certain C&C have to need specific resources- got to have first priority in access.

MTV

Greg: debated

HPL: misconceptions of implications.

Fails

HPL: I think people are confused about implications. C&C have photocopier, printer, computer etc- already have resources- cant let them dominate C&S.

MTV

RB: not an evil plot. Trying to safeguard campaigns- not trying to encroach on C&S

HPL: already resources for C&S. space in OUSU shop is not adequate for meeting space- it's an odd shape and lacking light and not too nice/

Fails

Voting on motion

Prop: discussed to death.

Opp:

MTV

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Fails

Voting on motion

Prop: discussed to death.

Opp:

Motion passes.

Standardised Testing.

Charlynn Pullen (St Hughs): previous tests for other universities. These are just for Oxford, to be taken in students' schools. Too many people applying for Oxford. However, some people could be coached for the test-tests should be monitored to ensure people doing as well as they should be doing, regardless of background.

Vlad: will the schools be charged for the test and presumably pass on costs to students?

CP: Yes

Digo: can students be coached for the essays students submit?

Louise: amendment?

Rod (som): what about overseas students- will there be a problem.

Louise: Yes

Greg: will these reduce the numbers of interviews?

CP: Yes

Coatsworth: We are near interview capacity. How many people come every year?

Louise: Over capacity for 4 years

Emerys: Will tests mean more unconditional offers?

Louise: not equivalent to Oxford entrance tests.

Magdalen: what will be the nature of these tests?

CP: comprehension. Beneficial if introduced to these type of tests.

MH: who marked by?

Louise: Tutors

St Peters: when these tests be done?

Louise: after the closing date for Oxford Applications

RD: will the person interviewing will be the same person as mark the test?

Louise: blind for the BMAT- but it is being discussed

IC: what if comprehension based on something people have studied- possible advantages to certain students.

Louise: the test is designed to assess critical thinking.

Will (CCC) when the tests marked- is the raw number the only thing that will be considered when extending invitation for interview- will background not be considered?

Louise: only mark

Roz: what procedure does the university have if a school refuses to let a student take the test?

Louise: being discussed. Student would contact university.

Dom: has university discussed aptitude test?

Louise: based on aptitude not history

Rob: how does the test operate in Oxford structure- is the cut-off point decided by university or the colleges- how affect access and opportunities across the university?

Louise: Central like Biomed- run by faculty

RV: so could be positive?

Louise: BMAT have positive impact on access

DR: concern about students paying. Lack of realistic vision. With AS levels, increasing ability of teachers to coach pupils. Concerns about access but why not operate like interview tests?

It is in the interest of tutors to look at different schools. Evidence that pupils who initially do not do so well in A levels go on to do better. So oppose payment but not test.

Amendment:

Add:

Council Further believes:

4. that entrance tests and interviewing should be entirely separated and that raw results are not used as a criterion for candidates that have reached the interview stage.

Prop: Digo Davies (wadham)

RD: not in favour of entrance tests. If going to use entrance test then got to de-mystify- not make a quasi-A level- results of the test should not be available

Tem: agree in making the distinction between marking and interviews separate. Tests closer

Amendment:

Add:

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4. that entrance tests and interviewing should be entirely separated and that raw results are not used as a criterion for candidates that have reached the interview stage.

Prop: Digo Davies (wadham)

RD: not in favour of entrance tests. If going to use entrance test then got to de-mystify- not make a quasi-A level- results of the test should not be available

Tom: agree in making the distinction between marking and interviews separate. Tests closer to interview, better indicator of candidate- last indicator was GCSE.

MTV:

Fails

Coatworth: the more tutor has to judge the better decision can be made- the result of the test should be added to the interview

IC: should forget the test result at interview- cost of looking at potential

Lou: test has nothing to do with interviews- assessment of where you will be in 3 years.

MTV

HPL: all points discussed

MH: ambiguity

MTV passes

RD: tests blunt instrument not to be confused with interview

Tom: these are new results, less biased- should be included and added to information

Amendment passes 29-12-14

Vlad: have mixed feelings about exams. You can be coached for interview- I had 6 mock interviews. Problem with fee- bad for access. Exams should be campaigned against. Centralisation might make things better.

Amendment

Amend "Further believes 3" to read that... from ethnic minorities, and other non-traditional backgrounds.

Prop Jez Sadler Sec: Vladimir Gligorov

Accepted

Dom: interviews in other subjects better- need a separate policy for physics. But motion makes sense as this is not the case for most subjects

Magdalen: a pure cut-off line? Seems to be worse than the current system.

Coatworth: fair system if there's a mix of things to be considered. There are too many applicants and we don't have policy against interviews test- so this isn't against tests in general.

Amendment

To strike CFB (1)

Prop: Louise McMullan

Louise: a lot of state schools like standardised tests- this has come up through target schools.

IC: failings in exams and written work- responsible of university to have criteria. You should vote down.

Rob Vance: need to tighten up variety- there's a huge variety in submitted work- some do coursework etc. need a standard criteria for work.

MTV fails

Richard (CH CH): question of not just access. FB3- don't understand why monitoring performance.

Louise: wish to monitor progress as we do for finals

RV: fee problem- already 15 pounds.

IC: debate going round in circles. Lots of little amendments.

Fails

Will Haigh (CCC): this raw mark. How covered in motion?

MH: if remove number of students- will interviews be longer with better quality?

Coatworth: will standardised tests be the only way to decide who to interview?

Louise: Yes

Coatworth: personal statement and A levels will have place at interview

Lousie: OUSU policy emphasises interview- and the need to capture potential.

MTV fails

Coatworth: didn't OUSU have policy on phone interviews

Louise" not part of my understanding

MTV

CP: done so many times- and these tests should be monitored.

TP: commits to opposing tests- fails to include that only considered for interview on basis of

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Motion passes 30-5-2