

OUSU Council 3rd Week Trinity 2005

Dan Simpson: No minutes of previous meeting which is unsatisfactory, no matters arising, no ratifications, no elections

John Blake: Sorry lack of report, have been working on budget. Elections review board has met and considered a couple of things and will be reporting later. I am distressed with the level of personal vendetta employed by journalists of both OxStu and Cherwell towards Dan Finley. I express and believe everyone in OUSU should express the enormous amount of work Dan Finley has put in, providing the money that makes OUSU possible. Those attacking him should reconsider.

Nicky Ellis: Have told exec list and prelist, will be attending meeting at end of next week to scrutinise counselling service, if anyone has any personal opinions/experiences that they want raised or to go on record that I can use, send to welfare@ousu.org would be very useful. Statement in Cherwell on self-harm, G.P.s and disclosure, I don't know what that is about, don't recall having said it. John Blake has put vast amounts of effort into budget, current format allowed exec to have very productive budget discussion and hopefully will allow Council to do the same.

Bex Wilkinson: Thanks to all who attended and came on reclaim the night March.

V-P Grad: PGA met today, no complaints about elections. Discussing alcohol and how bar operates, biggest issue for MCR common rooms now.

Linsey Cole: Those who have been sent governance (prelist, replist, exec list) review, please distribute.

Ian King: RAG week went well, sorry for no written report, OxoVision was a success, thanks to those who took part. Cowley carnival is going ahead, looking for volunteers. St Hughs are trialling hosting older person's tea party. Report in Cherwell that I have a spinal problem is incorrect.

Dan Simpson: Part-time exec reports?

Emma Jones: Will contact common room officers regarding support.

John Blake: Have emailed about OUSU extraordinary Council Friday 4th week, is a major change and we need a range of opinions. Still working on technicalities of shaping motions, but 3pm Balliol lecture room 23.

Dan Simpson: Questions to exec?

Lorna Stevenson: Times Higher labs closure, page 6, thoughts?

John Blake: Have just received but am against labs closing.

Lorna Schwartz Wadham: AUT Policy add immediately to Council believes I, add ?
Based on principles of peace and democracy and mutual respect in Middle East, full minority rights and independent Palestinian state from OUSU Policy. Boycotting Israeli universities in counter-productive, many Israeli academics are strong campaigners for withdrawal. Gives further ammunition to Israeli right in those universities to attack and boycott left wing academics. Boycotting these Israeli universities isolates those wanting peace, and furthers Sharon's myth that criticism of Israel is always anti-Semitic. Also why just Israel? Why not Russia over Chechnya? The AUT voted to boycott two universities, both spurious. Don't think motion should get bogged down in specifics, but is based on accusations of discrimination and issuing degrees to college occupied territories. Academic boycott does not help solidarity.

Nicky Ellis: Copy of text of AUT motion? Can you summarise it?

Lorna Schwartz: Close vote, directed in practise against 2 universities, but mandates AUT to circulate leaflets calling for boycott of all Israeli academics. Boycotts must declare anti-Zionism to avoid boycott.

Ed Main, Mansfield: Define Israeli internationalists?

Lorna Schwartz: People within Israel who are against the occupation.

Tom Packer: Does Palestinians mean all Palestinians?

Lorna Schwartz: Principle is clear.

Nicky Ellis: Is it true that AUT has come out against this?

John Blake: Yes.

Tom Dale (Corpus): Good things in motion but needs amendment. It doesn't go into specific allegations being made. Accusations include Bar-Ilan being in breach of 4th Geneva convention. Settlements represent a colonial project on Israel's behalf, and alleges involvement in settlement. Haifa there is very little information available about the specific accusation. This is not about overall about AUT policy on Israel, but about the very specific accusations and boycott. Council believes 4 doesn't make sense, as doesn't affect internal relationships, only British members of the AUT. Council believes 3 doesn't make sense is pre-emptive. Council believes 1 is overly blunt to apply to a very complex situation. Should try to avoid rhetoric.

Nicky Ellis: Can anyone get text of AUT motion?

Dan Simpson: If anyone can leave Council and get hard copy of AUT motion then would be useful, otherwise carry on.

Tom Dale (Corpus): Proposes amendment.

Bex Wilkinson: Doesn't this change meaning of motion?

Dan Simpson: Are you moving to rule out amendment? If so short speech in favour of striking.

Bex Wilkinson: The principle of this motion is against boycott, this resolves to respect the right of AUT to boycott. Complete reverse.

Tom Dale: This is about taking a nuanced stand on a difficult issue. Very bad if don't pass, but if pass doesn't seem like we respect that this is a very difficult situation.

37 in favour of striking, 15 against, 3 abstentions. Passed by one vote. Amendment falls.

Nicky Ellis: Procedural motion that we move this to such point that we have the text of the motion.

Dan Simpson: No objections, tabled until info arrives or end of meeting, whatever is sooner.

Dan Simpson: Constitution requires budget to come to Council in 3rd week Trinity term, came here disgracefully late.

John Blake: Is significantly longer and larger than various budgets, hence it is late. Happy to be discussed in 5th week but wanted Council to see it. Last portions of budget rewritten in very different format. Tidies up previous problems. Campaign funding changing to provide greater level of flexibility, altering payment schedule is meant to prevent us from going illiquid, which nearly happened this year. Lists all costings and affiliation fees. Differences are due to proportional nature of fees. If anyone believes that calculations are wrong then please tell me, if block grants have changed you should let me know. Is based on JCR grant and clubs grant.

Lorna Stevenson: John, budget was too big for internet, has it gone out over email?

John Blake: pres list, exec list, rep list. Will pdf and put on website.

Lorna Stevenson: Who's seen budget?

20 have, 10 haven't.

Rob Vance: Why has RPI been used?

John Blake: If would like us to use anything else suggest it, always been RPI, I'm not an economist.

Nicky Ellis: Given that this isn't a normal motion, can we have a conversation about the budget.

Dan Simpson: Any objection to a procedural motion changing budget debate to informal.

No objection

Rob Vance: I propose postponing until later in the meeting so more people can look at budget.

Rob Vance: Important to get budget done, short agenda this week. I won't be here next Council.

Nicky Ellis: Whole idea of suspending standing orders is to have an informal discussion. Don't think people will read in Council. Information gathering session now, then decide is postpone.

Tom Packer: I propose delaying until next council. I don't think us just sitting here now and asking questions is the best way to find out. Better for people to read it for two weeks and then ask questions. Otherwise will get people needing things explaining to them next week.

John Blake: Happy for vote 5th week, but the point is to have the discussion now and gather information. Am happy to do anything people want to provide information, but more general questions now make sense.

26 in favour, 16 against, 10 abstention. Not 2/3 majority.

Lorna Stevenson: John, please explain IPS

John Blake: At the moment pay once termly. Need to receive money at beginning to cover huge capital expenditure over summer as no block grant from university. Alter to half at end of year, remaining half halfway through Michaelmas. Also stops people getting everything from freshers fair but not paying fees. Am trying to get more money from university, but need to show university trying to balance budget and cash flow. Most likely to be in deficit July - December. Trying to get overdraft.

Rob Vance: Where do you see upper ceiling of money from university?

John Blake: At the moment don't know. Have told university all income based on uncertain sources. Trying to get University to fund some will be hard, going to take budget to the University and try to explain situation to them. Will recommend University works with OUSU over next year to try to get University to fund some of our projects. When we know what university will pay for, can look at if it will allow us to reduce fees. University accepts general principle, but need to get money in practice. Needs to be indication common rooms are willing to pay for IPS, no debt collectors. Common rooms needs to accept. CUSU make common rooms pay all in advance.

Tom Packer: Negative implications of IPS on JCRs, what is the training budget?

John Blake: Training budget is covered in staff costings at the end. I don't know if IPS would have negatives on JCRs, this is what we need. If people have problems need to say.

Rob Vance: What is capital expenditure?

John Blake: Computing systems, not broken down yet as need to work out what is needed.

Rob Vance: No depreciation in budget?

John Blake: No, haven't included in the past.

Emma Jones: Postpone vote to 5th week Council so can show common rooms.

Bex Wilkinson: Don't know what will happen in 5th week, should do it now when we know we've got the time.

32 favour, 19 against. Procedural motion does not pass.

Dan Simpson: Any speeches in debate on the budget.

Tom Packer: Amend to eliminate £400 NUS political leadership training. Spend on other training, or whatever. This would eliminate course on how to run student union. I don't think course is good, a lot of people who've been on it have been highly critical. Half the common rooms of Oxford are disaffiliated, a sign of lack of confidence.

John Blake: Shows how to run campaigns and communications. How to organise and coordinate a student union across a city. Enormously useful, NUS training has undergone a renaissance recently, much more useful. All sabbaticals sent on courses are required to write assessment. If Emma Norris says its rubbish won't do again, but haven't been on for 5 years. Half the common rooms of Oxford are NUS affiliated.

Linsey Cole: OUSU should make more use of NUS training, need to see how good they are and then decide if use again. Also allows sharing of best practise among sabs at other student unions.

Move to vote

No opposition

Tom Packer: This is a bad idea, involved spending money and not worth the money. NUS push their own agenda.

Nicky Ellis: Spending money is not always a good thing, if training is bad sabbaticals will say.

Motion falls 4 to lots.

Tim Bennett: OUSU magazine. Will cost £3000, not worth it. John Blake described it as pure propaganda.

Iain Simpson: Not in the minutes

John Blake: I don't deny using phrase.

Rob Vance: Nothing wrong with pure propaganda, lets spend money on things that will do good things for OUSU.

Linsey Cole: One of the biggest criticisms of OUSU is that it doesn't communicate. This is about communicating with OUSU.

Chris Allen: No point in spending £600,000 a year unless people know what we're doing. Could make everything else far more effective, and inform people. Having a surplus and having half the students in Oxford not knowing what we're doing.

John Blake: Email lists are already full. Going to try and circulate this as much as possible. Discussion of Azim campaign, or updates on SRI or Student Advice Service. Things that won't be covered in student newspapers and chance for people to hear directly from their sabbatical officers and their executive officers. Large money because A4 photocopy won't achieve what we need do. Need to find better ways to do this. If everyone throws this in the bin we'll do something else.

Bex Wilkinson: Students know we're going to do through emails, and get an interesting perspective through emails. But chance to tell people what we've done.

Tom Packer: Not clear if this will be in OxStu, if it is makes OxStu look biased. If we spend £3000 glorifying

ourselves, it doesn't look good.

Move to vote

Chris Allen: Heard sufficient arguments.

Queens JCR OUSU Rep: More arguments to make.

37 in favour 6 against.

Tim Bennett: Communications in OUSU is a problem, but this money should be used on extra campaigning, not just saying how great OUSU is.

Nicky Ellis: This is something that OUSU reps have asked for. It's about telling people who we are and what we do so they can choose whether or not to get involved.

Motion fails 7 to lots.

Dan Russell: Should just get on with it.

Queens JCR OUSU Rep: Can't pass budget of £500,000 after an hour of a few questions.

30 in favour, 8 against, 12 abstentions. Doesn't pass.

Sven ? Queens: Should look at this for two weeks then can ask useful questions, most questions will be answered now by reading this.

Chris Allen: Can still bring motion next Council moving money, but 5th Week normally is really busy.

Motion fails

Move to vote.

John Blake: Can amend this in separate motions. Establishes basic financial structure. Can always ask questions. All costings are in it.

Tom Packer: Should look at this more, especially IPS needs to go to common rooms

Budget passed 43-1.

Dan Simpson: I now have the two AUT motions, will read them out. [Reads out AUT motions]. Are back in debate on AUT Israel motion.

Tom Dale: Bar Ilan is continuing to participate in the settlements, combined with the closure of the Palestinian universities. Also shouldn't be lecturing academics on academic freedom. Shouldn't condemn them.

Laura Schwartz: This motion does condemn the occupation, but it is about not restricting academic freedom.

Shouldn't boycott universities just because of international differences, this boycott promotes the identification of all Israelis as complicit with occupation.

Josh Hanzman St. Hughs: This motion is not about individual academics, but about boycotting institutions, Haifa university 30% of teachers are Arabs. Shouldn't attack on the grounds of foreign policy. Concept of the boycott is absurd.

Tom Packer: The core of this motion is about academic freedom, but we shouldn't have a policy on the Israel-Palestine issue. Bad issue because whatever we say will alienate students for nothing. There will be students who will be distressed with us taking this stance. I disagree with the term occupied territory. I propose eliminating Council believes 1, 3 and deleting Council resolves 4. Takes out the stance on situation.

Bex Wilkinson: Regardless of my personal position we already have policy. Reaffirming policy, you need to bring a motion to overturn existing policy.

Dan Russell: Move to take the amendment in parts, I agree with some disagree with others.

John Blake: We need to move on, it is about the core of the motion.

Motion falls.

Move to vote on amendment

Rob Vance: Clear what issue is

Queens OUSU: want more debate

Move to vote passed

Amendment fails.

Rob Vance: I support this motion almost in its entirety, tabling an amendment.

Laura Schartz: I accept it as friendly.

Objection heard.

Rob Vance: I think this makes everything clearer, that we support peace but not all the actions of all.

Ed Griffith, St. Johns: It's already clear we don't support all, is about solidarity.

Move to vote.

John Blake: People are decided.

Rob Vance: Want to debate more.

Move to vote passes.
Amendment passes.

Dave Hilton Corpus: We're not getting anywhere, not willing to discuss other motions.

Nicky Ellis: We're getting there, would be a waste of time to drop it now.

Motion to drop motion fails.

John Blake: I'm wary of getting involved in this, but I don't believe the policy in this will be an educated attempt at expressing what we agree with. Need the distinction between Haifa and Bar Ilan, huge huge differences. I don't believe this motion breaks down what we are saying, we haven't discussed why the AUT came to this conviction, and we're not talking about their reasons. If we want to say that they are wrong we should do so with an intelligent response. I would however oppose any attempt to limit this because it's not our business, I think we should state what we think. Not sure about criticising another union.

Move to vote

Matt Selman: I think we should get on with this.

Nicky Ellis: Voting it down is as much of a political statement as voting for it. I don't think we should enter it.

Move to vote fails

Move to drop motion

Nicky Ellis: I am uncomfortable with the format of this and I feel I don't know enough. I feel voting for or against this are both inaccurate stances and we shouldn't take either.

Laura Schwartz: I think it is important that we do discuss this now. This is the time to be talking about it, before AUT conference. This was passed by a tiny minority by AUT, many complicated issues. This is motion about principle of boycotts, don't need to know loads of information.

34 in favour 14 against, 5 abstentions. Motion not dropped.

Move to vote

Dan Russell: Going round in circles

Rob Vance: Lots of procedural stuff, need to sort out the basic arguments.

28-15-5

Move to vote falls

Tom Dale Corpus: Suggestion that voting against this motion equates to hounding academics who supported Iraq war. This is about two very specific cases. This is about a university which supports a colonial policy. Laura has suggested that there is no connection, this is just factually untrue. Motion has specific exemption for those who support two-State solution. How will it affect Israeli-Palestine relations, purely a UK based thing. Respect the AUT, and the people who are there.

Matt Selwood, New: I am undecided on boycotts, but very much in favour of solidarity with unions. Should trust AUT to make the decision themselves.

Move to vote

Bex Wilkinson: When we went back into debate decided we wanted argument unless they'd be lost. Now heard argument.

Rob Vance: Think should here a little bit more on the other side.

29-13-6 Move to vote fails.

Laura Schwartz: The AUT motion and this motion is not about agreeing with specific university actions, but I don't think boycotting all academics is helpful

Iain Simpson: Exemption clause

Laura Schwartz: But requires declaration of political statement for job. Question is whether you agree with the policy of boycotts. Can have solidarity with other unions without agreeing with everything they do.

Tom Packer: I move we add two state solution commitment amendment

No opposition.

Move to vote

Bex Wilkinson: Now heard other side arguments.

Bryn: I don't understand what's going on, don't know enough details.

32-7-8 Move to vote passes

Rob Vance: I support this because it supports things we agree with: academic freedom, solidarity and peace. Academic boycotts shatter the very bonds that can help people to join over cultural differences. Doctors and chemists might not have any political views, shouldn't be discriminated against purely on the grounds of the academic institutions to

which they belong. I think it's important that we acknowledge our differences with other unions, shouldn't just brandish solidarity. Need to pass this motion to show that we've thought about this motion and consider academic boycotts to be a bad thing.

John Blake: Solidarity with unions is not a carte blanche to back every union. OUSU has rejected arguments of other unions in the past, but I don't support the idea that all academic boycotts are wrong. This is about two institutions which help to perpetuate a breach of international law. The settlements are one of the single biggest barriers to peace in the middle east, this is about catch all statements which cover a situation that is amazingly complicated.

11-18-23. Motion fails.

Quorum count called - 39 voting members

Motion 1 const review committee

Td - throughout year - ambiguities in the const and problems with this so suggest a committee to change this as with elections

Sio

Bw - sure the amendment deals with it but can't pass something that says things hta don't make sense. To mke concrete recommendations; what does this mean

Ds - amendment. To appoint in 5th a committee 2-5 students, at least one of which should be a grad. Strike resolves 2 things that don't make sense and to include make

Add resolves 3 to bring to 1st meeting of michaelmas term 05.

Lc - to mandate things like this a lot of power for one committee and need timescale

Amendment passed.

Move to vote called.

Ds - Any speech in opposition?

Motion passed

Quorum count called. 10 voting members requested

Motion 2

Procedural motion called - dan finley speaking rights as well as attendance. No opp

Td - takes the standards that we currently have in policy and makes sure we use them in the clothing we use. They are about basic rights; to join a trade union, to work in a safe environment; the minimum that people are entitled to. Should be easy to pas this. Ow much cost? 10-20% increased cost in t shirts

Sfqs

Or - can you confirm by what mean ousu don't use.

Ca - advertising ban - don't understand. Can't advertise anything that doesn't meet ilo standards - topshop etc?

Td - talking about companies which principal role is selling t shirts. Refusing to give the option of clothing which meets ilo standards. We do want to work with you but need th eoption of buying ethically. shirt works not instantly going to drop sweat shop clothing but a chance that they will have something that isn't a sweat shop garment. Every reason to suggest opshop would fit into this category.

Loc - can you clarify how advertising bans work?

Td - as far as it relates to what osu does it is immediate but in term of ossl will change over the course of the next few weeks. Incorporated into the contracts of ossl employees.

Rv - my contractual period won't start fr 18months.

Laura - can you clarify fairly made clothes. Ot talking about minimum standards but also the issues of sustainable industry, running co-ops etc

Loc - 10-20% increase. Eg for target schools how much extra would the actual cost be

Td - 176 - 192

Ca - cost in thousands

Rv - can you give an estimate of the amount of loss?

Td - no

Df - did you seek to consider the cost of this motion?

Td - we considered the cost of fairly traded t shirts. Previous policy thinks that these standards are good.

Df - so you didn't check the other aspects.

Ca - rephrase. shirt works but does it cover the rest of the high street very few can verify that they meet ilo standards.

Td - you-re welcome to submit an amendment. Specific to t shirts

Sio

Df - the financial implications rule out ousu discountat toshop miss selfridge moss bros £3000 just black tie. Shirt works provide free t shirts 2500 sent more than 20000 in past few years. The budget takes into account none of these changes. the costs have been very well researched. 1500 pounds for tshirts but add 10-20% and huge amount increase in just tshirts. No estimate on the increases for the cost of gowns or ribbon for freshers. The costs of all the garments we produce. 15000 - 20000 for all these changes. no surpluses.

Loc - procedural motion to take resolves in parts.

Ds - we vote on each of resolves separately - any opp.

Nicky Ellis - procedural motion to discuss resolves in part.

Opposition

Nicky Ellis - Two very different things.

Iain Simpson - Too much time, the issue here is still the same

26-10-2 Procedural motion passes

Debate on Council resolves I

Chris Allen: Disagree with it just being about money. I think OUSU should be thinking about what it buys, but I see I as a boycott on the British Clothing industry. Will cost us £10-£15000 than money has to be cut from campaigning. If we lose the campaigning money everything suffers, campaigning money more useful than boycott. Targeted boycotts can have an effect, but this is such a vague ban. Very few retailers do meet ILO standards.

Tom Dale: Amendment tabled. Concern that we couldn't then accept sponsorship or advertising. Need to narrow this down. Stops us putting the business team under such pressure.

Dan Finley: Doesn't solve problem. Fresher's fair, still rules out thousands of pounds of advertising. Still wouldn't be able to promote OUSU card or NUS card. Publications and leaflets at fresher's fair would be hugely slashed.

V-P grad elect: Can still have companies promotes, but not specific garments.

Nicky Ellis: I'm not clear what this amendment is doing, what is the difference?

Tom Dale: Whereas before no companies that promoted clothing not of standard was allowed, companies can now do it through advertising but not through fresher's fair. This amendment does weaken the motion as a whole.

Bryn: This amendment seems conceptual and unworkable. Will we have to establish what GAP could advertise?

Companies won't accept being bound by this.

Move to vote.

Tom Dale: Wouldn't have any problems with OUSU or NUS cards, but stops companies in flagrant breach of ILO standards having stalls at fresher's fair.

Dan Finley: Anyone who's in breach of ILO standards will not be allowed a fair. £7000 at fresher's fair. National companies can't be told what they can and can't promote, cost is hugely significant. Also OUSU cards and NUS cards, OxStu as well. No companies have signed up to these regulations. Will still cost a fortune.

21-11-6 Amendment passes.

Quorum count: 37 - Quorate

Move to vote.

No opposition

Dan Simpson: If separate clauses in resolved are passed they then go into the whole motion. It's a vote to keep it into the motion rather than a vote to pass it.

Tom Packer: Move to overturn the chair

Nicky Ellis: That's not what it means to take motion in parts. If we vote on it in parts, it means resolved I passes along with notes and believes, not that it becomes parts.

2/3 not achieved

Quorum count. 34 not quorum, council suspended for 15 minutes.

Quorum not reached

Council ends