



3rd week trinity 2006  
Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May

## **Wadham Old Refectory 2.30pm**

### **Meeting Opened: 14:40**

**Present:** Daniel Parkinson (Wadham), Josephine Whitaker (Wadham), Hannah Smith (Wadham), Naviod Pourghazi (Wadham), Martha Burgess (SJC), A Morrison (Hertford), Becky Ely (Hertford), S Bhatia (Hertford), B Even (CCC), J Chick (CCC), N Bamford (CCC), Charlie Steel (Merton), Kate Higgins (St Antony's), Christine Quigley (BNC), Ruth Lutail (Balliol), Sarah Hutchinson (Wolfson), Emma Norris (Some), Oliver Russell (Magd), Rhona Sproat (Exeter), Amanda Magill (Chch), Julian Naden Robinson (Chch), Martin McCluskey (St Hughs), Hannah Roe (Balliol), Timothy Kaye (New), Daniel Bamford (New), Marco Egawhary (Queens), Chris Allan (Some), Michael Sprack (Wadham), Josh Sasto (Univ), Mousa Baraka (Univ), Charlynn Pullen (St Hughs), Pate Surr (Univ), Niklas Albin Svensson (Univ), Dom Weinberg (Balliol), Lizzie Grefke (Balliol), Sau Wai Law (St Antony's), Rob Robinson (Lincoln), G Gould, K Hutchinson Dean, Abhishek Adrami, Ollie Munn (Lincoln), Jamie Grant (LMH), Luke Tryl (Magd), Phil Davies (Magd), Emily Davie (Mansfield), James Lamming (Merton), Aidan Randle-Conde (Trinity), Hannah Stoddart (Wadham), Maja Korica (Templeton), Dave Green (Some), Bridget Staunton (St Hildas), Ailbhe Menton (St Hildas) Olivia Bailey (St Hildas), Nadeem Anjarwalla (St Hughs), William Breame (SJC), Carys Afoko (Teddy Hall), Kushal Banerjee (Trinity), Gorav Wali (Trinity), Siva Sundaram (Templeton), Anand Toprani (Univ)

*Minutes of the previous meeting: passed*

*Matters arising: none*

**Ratifications in Council: BM: passed**

**ABMs: passed**

**etc – all passed**

**Elections in Council:** Acting DRO Oliver Russell in the Chair

Husts requested

Declarations: Ollie: FOTE and Conservatives

Jen: no.

No censures.

Ollie: Lincoln JCR President. Involved in OUSU Council, keen to get more involved. Don't want to be OUSU President, Have time on my hands, want to help out.

Jen: 2<sup>nd</sup> year PPEist from Hilda's. Edited Forum magazine, little to do now. co-chair Chars and Comms in first year – want something to do.

Binya Even (CCC): Clarification: are there three vacancies and only two candidates?

Oliver Russell (Magd): Yes.

Aidan Randle-Conde (Trinity): Campaigns or services?

Ollie: services

Jen: services

Charlie Steel (Merton): will you resign?

Ollie: No, full term!

Jen: no

Kate Ferguson (Wadham): Other commitments?  
Jen: sing, and in orchestra  
Ollie: JCR Pres for a few more weeks, PPE Soc President.

No further questions

Rich back in the Chair

**Sab Reports:** additions

Emma Norris (Some): nothing to add

Chris Allan (Some): no report, but in middle of OUSU/OSSL annual report to be pidgeoned out. Been suggested that there should be a budget scrutiny committee before it comes to council, could be useful, if anyone's interested speak to me/email me.

Ellie Cumbo: No written report, been ill. 3<sup>rd</sup> week spent on motion coming up. Lengthy and witty report to come next week.

Charlyne Pullen (St Hughs): Student Charter has been worked on for a long time, EPS interested in working with us in a more complicated version. More info coming when we have had more info. Good thing, but only going to be part of the university contracts if JCR presidents still press for it in colleges. NSS: didn't meet the response rate – yay. Letter to Tony – please sign them and give them back to OUSU to keep the cap on top-up fees.

Oliver Russell (Magd): Nominations for VP Grads open now, if interested then do it.

Aidan Randle-Conde (Trinity): Thanks for Wednesday. Barnes Unit – lots of information on mental health. All fantastic. Petition has garnered a lot of signatures. Letters have gone to councillors and MPs etc. Public consultation closed Monday, thanks to everyone who helped, hopefully it's going to be positive.

Maya Korica (Templeton) – steering committee attended, issues of Graduate teaching discussed to make it better. Sorry for missing last council!

Questions:

Binya Even (CCC) to Emma: AUT – some students complaining about not knowing when their finals will be. Have these been resolved?

Emma Norris (Some): pass to Charlyne. Some timetables have been late, University have been trying to get them out, but it's largely unrelated to the AUT. Should be within 2 weeks of exams starting.

Tom, Oriel: We know who's organizing the freshers' fair, can we have assurances that Oriel won't be charred?

Chris Allan (Some): prices haven't been set, charges will be higher than last time. Can't guarantee there won't be a charge – guess that there will be a charge of £10 for unaffiliated common rooms. Rest won't subsidize Oriel.

### **Emergency Motions.**

AUT

*Speech in favour:* Will Dorsey (ChCh): Passed motion in JCR. All in favour of higher pay, but do we support them? Being used as leverage against the University to make them give in to pay demands. Hoping that students will add to their demands. Don't want to be pawns: the S in OUSU stands for Students. Are we supporting the interests of our students? Complaints of revision classes being cancelled, playing politics with our degrees. One reason for us to be in favour: will be seen as a genuine act of support and get the Uni to cave, but don't think that it's going to help. Looks like we don't support students.

*SFQs:* Aidan Randle-Conde (Trinity): What is meant by action that affects students?

Will Dorsey (ChCh): affecting examinations: anything that impedes the ability of the university to set and mark exams effectively.

Does the S in OUSU stand for students today or in the future?

Will Dorsey (ChCh): does stand for the future, but there are short term costs.

Chris Allan (Some): believes I: when will it be possible to take action? it's always possible to avoid action.

Will Dorsey (ChCh): should be avoided.

What kind of action can be taken that doesn't affect students?

Will Dorsey (ChCh): none really. They're picking exams because it's the most important function of the university.

Pay demands now quite low. What about that?

Will Dorsey (ChCh): difficult to judge intent in negotiations.

David Howell (ChCh): which public services have had the smallest pay increase recently?

Will Dorsey (ChCh): don't know.

*Debate:*

Aidan Randle-Conde (Trinity): brain drain of academics abroad. Oxford expensive to live; going to allow high quality teachers to leave. Is in the interests of students to help AUT. OUSU have taken direct action themselves too. Marks will be given, graduations will occur. AUT have a right to protest, we should support them.

Binya Even (CCC): motion says that we do support them getting more pay. JCRs represent their students and their interests. What if OUSU agree with messing about with people's finals? Negative impact for OUSU's interests, and negative impact on the most important thing for students.

Navid Pourghazi (Wadham): Motion in Wadham says that they're upset by the action, but that they accept that it's necessary. If we all agree that teachers aren't getting paid enough, then this is a really important thing to support.

Tom Packer (St Cross): motion supports the AUT's demands. Poll found that 80% of students nationally don't support the strike. Ends position where we support an unpopular thing. If student union doesn't support students, who does?

Aidan Randle-Conde (Trinity): Motion says that we support their demands, but removes their means of achieving them.

Niklas Albin Svenson, (Univ): Says we're in favour of more pay, but that if action affects us then we're condemning it. Removes ability of people to do anything about their situation.

*MTV fails.*

Amendment to change "condemns" to "don't support" in resolves I.

James Lamming (Merton): national issue. We just have to make clear to tutors that we won't be used by them at a stressful time. Disrupting finals isn't the only way for them to achieve their aims. We all want to see out tutors paid more, but we don't want finalists to be put in jeopardy.

Kate Ferguson (Wadham): already have policy in favour of AUT. why? because we recognize right of AUT to have a decent wage and to negotiate for it. Motion takes away the teeth of the AUT. Condemns any industrial action at all. We should support it because they have the right to have a decent wage here, and because we want a vibrant and committed education system that provides the best academics.

Christine Quigley (BNC): We had motion as well. Have to support them properly or OUSU looks weak. If we're going to support them then we're going to have to support the means for them to achieve their aims.

Balliol: Resolves I is vague. What is affect examinations? Any action by teachers will affect exams in some way. Leverage is only the marking of exams, after all of the teaching etc has been done.

POI Will Dorsey (ChCh): Marking restrictions will affect students taking intermediate exams, so won't know whether they'll have to resit over the summer.

Reason AUT have picked exams is because it's better than failing to give tutes and lectures. Compared to other forms of action it's not that disruptive.

*Charlie Steel (Merton): move to have a recorded vote on this motion. Fails.*

Will Dorsey: Brain drain is exaggerated, no solid evidence. University lecturers probably wanted this a long time ago. Their other option is the open market. Have been offered a nice rise and haven't taken it.

Oliver Russell (Magd) Russell: as a member of educational standards policy committee: agree with what Navid said earlier. But they haven't chosen exams because it's devastating: it's just because it averages out at around £3 per hour. Scaremongering isn't right: regulations have been suspended to make sure that exam disruption is minimal. There won't be much of a problem if everyone behaves sensibly: at the moment all it is that people are worried. Catastrophes haven't happened.

*MTV Ollie Munn Lincoln: 36 for, 6 against, 6 abst.*

Summary Speeches: Will Dorsey: Motion is clear that we support their demands, but that we don't support disruptive action as representatives of students. Not right to play politics with degrees.

Aidan Randle-Conde (Trinity): Lots of reasons to oppose the motion, have to think about future students and let the AUT have teeth in their negotiations. Any action will affect students. Central administration are working hard to minimize disruption.

Vote: 21 for 24 against 8 abst. Motion fails.

### **Motion for a recount – not 10 votes in favour**

*Procedural motion to restrain sabbaticals from voting*

*Not possible under standing orders*

*NUS Affiliation*

### **Emma Norris proposes**

NUS have offered fixed price of £11k for 16 centrally delegates. Not perfect but will save CR moneys. Maximum anyone will pay is £600. I believe this should be a one year deal. Let Alan and co sort out what is going to happen next term.

### **SFQs**

Tom Packer (St Cross): Can CR's opt-out?

Emma Norris (Some): OUSU CR's can choose not to be. Non-OUSU CR's can't choose to be.

? Will students get membership cards?

Yes

Non affiliated common rooms?

Won't be able to go with the NUS

Charlie Steel (Merton): Why emergency?

No info from the NUS

Navid Pourghazi (Wadham): Is it simple majority and then automatic?

Emma Norris (Some): Referendum binding

Naden Robinson: Why so much more than Cambridge?

Different formula due to financial situation in terms of block grant.

Chris Allan (Some): OUSU has very small block grant income from common rooms

Christine Quigley (BNC): How does the timetable work with currently affiliated decisions

By 1<sup>st</sup> June we will know who is in and out of our deal

Will the NUS delegates be add-ons to the Council delegates?

Yes

Can we elect the delegates in college and not tell the NUS?

We don't want to get caught. Only 12 people wanted to go last year

Why 16 delegates? Could they be all from one college?  
Calculated on total population. Good deal. Anyone from affiliated CR's can run.

Will delegates be bound by OUSU policy?  
Yes

Education Act means re-affiliation every year?  
Yes

Can disaffiliated CR members vote in the referendum?  
Well...yes, but we might have to re-run if there seems to be a problem.

### **Move to debate**

Amendment: Add to R.I. Students and common rooms will only take part in central affiliation if they vote to be and only for one year.

*Opposition:* Frank Hardee (not much of an argument)

Christine Quigley (BNC): Our college pays it for us. What are the incentives?

Emma Norris (Some): Even without the financial arguments it's a good idea to increase the level of service by allowing them to give the stuff to OUSU who are an appropriate size. e.g. Rent negotiation, organising conference travel and legal services

### **Move to vote**

#### **Objection**

James Lamming (Merton): No brainer, voting to vote  
Tom Packer (St Cross): Have queries about the details

### **Clearly 2/3rds**

Emma Norris (Some): This will save money for every common room. If it all goes wrong its onlky for one year  
Tom Packer: Disrupts current systems and disenfranchises CR's

### **Overwhelming support**

#### **Libraries – nem com**

*Abortion rights – objections*  
*West Papua – objections*

#### **Abortion Rights:**

*Proposer:* Ellie Cumbo: We already have policy to campaign to support and extend the provision of abortion. 2000 students voted in favour of our pro-choice in our referendum. 3 CR's voted in favour of the time limit stuff. This does affect students. But we can't do much in our locale. Hence to affiliate to a central thing. This is not the place to discuss legal considerations. But CUSU and 15 others have decided it is legal for them to do this.

This is particularly a problem for students. Because of our short time in accommodation and the long waiting lists.

## **SFQ's**

Tom Packer (St Cross): Does AR provide both campaigning and welfare resources?

Ellie Cumbo (Linacre): Yes

Is it allowed under the constitution to affiliate to a non-charity?

Chris Allan (Some): Council makes decisions and then executive decides if it can be done

We're already affiliated to a number of organisations

Was the referendum not about directive groups?

No it was about , that was a motion in Council

## **Opposition**

Darren: CUSU are currently being proctorised over this issue and there are a number of other SU's that have been advised not to affiliate to similar things like the National Abortion Campaign. This may not be the place to discuss legal things. But if we vote against this now, then we can save the executive time later. 'Reads students as students clause of 1995 Attorney Generals advice'

Tom Packer (St Cross): There is a risk in this if we were successfully sued. 40% voted to overturn our existing policy in the referendum. Why is there no referendum on this? There are lots of pro-life students in Oxford and it is our job to unite the students. Even if you support the current legal limit, and all the other stuff then are you sure that this is the group you want to give our money to.

ARC: We affiliate to Skill, Mind who are campaigning groups. This doesn't change our existing policy but only allows us to enact it.

Ellie Cumbo (Linacre): The CUSU situation only proves that some people don't like it. The NUS itself thinks this is ok. National Abortion Rights is not the same as National Abortion Campaign.

## **MTV**

Frank Hardee: People in this room have strong views, not to be changed. Heard all facts

Darren: Ellie was factually incorrect

## **Withdrawn**

Chris Allan (Some): Waste of exec's time to look into legal issues? Willing to do that in my spare time if necessary. £75 not much money

Christine Quigley (BNC): In personal opinion, this motion is like a red rag to a bull .The advantage of our policy at the moment is that it is very fair and open. This is not the same as MIND because not everyone agrees.

Kate Fergusson (Wadham): Our policy is pro-choice. That means that we provide women with the best possible resources to make an informed choice, both in terms of abortion and alternatives. Abortion Rights is one of the principle organisations that supplies the information as to what women's choices are at each stage. It in no way seeks to direct them as to what they should do with their body. This is the best organisation to provide the information women's campaign needs.

Nicklass: One side of the argument is saying that this is impossible, rather than making the arguments. They are also implying that Abortion Rights want abortions. No-one wants abortion, but we have to be pro-choice.

Tom Packer (St Cross): This does force people to get involved in abortions. Doctors will lose their right to conscientiously object. We are going to lose money and get sued. We are going to alienate people and not actually achieve anything. This group continually has secret meetings with the British Communist Party.

Darren: NUS not a SU under 1994 act so they are not restricted like we are. This is a national organisation, of general concern not focussed on students.

**MTV**

Even: Same people speaking, everything is focussed on legal stuff

Ellie Cumbo (Linacre): I would like to respond to new point

**Clearly fails**

Ellie Cumbo (Linacre): I would like to respond to red rag to a bull. If this is then so was our original policy. This is about pro-choice. Abortion is the only one of the options that is under threat so to be genuinely pro-choice we need to support this against its current.

**MTV**

Charlie: The principle speakers have promised to shut up

Darren: Can I just make one point?

36:6:4

*Summary:* Informed choice, free from threat in the face of pregnancy. Abortion rights is the only way to give it teeth. This is a normal thing to do. In two years

Darren: This room may be liable for any funds lost.

26:3:15

**Motion passes**

**Quorum count – requires 10 votes**

**Falls**

**Remaining motion tabled**

**Turf Bar Elected**

