

OUSU

council minutes

**3rd week Council to be held at 2.30pm on Friday 15th May 2009
in the Vernon Harcourt Room at St Hilda's College
Sign in from 2.15pm**

- a. Minutes of the Previous Meeting
- b. Matters Arising from the Minutes
- c. Ratifications in Council
- d. Elections in Council
- e. Reports from the Sabbatical Officers
- f. Reports from the Executive Officers who wish to make reports
- g. Questions to Members of the Executive
- h. Emergency Motions
- i. Passage of Motions Nem Con
- j. Motions of No Confidence or Censure
- k. First readings of Motions to Amend the Constitution or Standing Orders
- l. The Budget or Amended Budget
- m. Motions Authorising Capital Expenditure
- n. Other Motions
 - i. motions affecting ousu members as ousu members
 - ii. motions affecting ousu members as students at Oxford University
 - iii. motions affecting ousu members as members of the student movement
 - iv. motions affecting ousu members as residents of Oxford
 - v. motions affecting ousu members as residents of the United Kingdom
 - vi. motions affecting ousu members as citizens of the world
- o. Any Other Business

a. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

No matters Arising

e. Reports from Sabbatical Officers

President

No additions to my report

No questions

VP Women

Lots of stuff going on another public speaking meeting at Union on Monday and next week LadyFest Awesome come to the cellar on Sunday for Sunday Roast and Jericho Tavern on Wednesday. Monday WomCam meeting open meeting men welcome talk about female musical artistes

No questions

VP Graduates

Nothing to add, except I have posters here for International festival please take some back to your common rooms it is next Saturday in the University Club 10.00am-4.00pm come along bring your friends. Food stalls come and enjoy

No Questions

VP Access and Academic Affairs

Nothing to add

No Questions

VP Charities & Community

Draw attention to voting on back page. So make sure you register.

Question:

Noor Rashid (St Edmunds): BNP are making a lot of the campaign, if they get enough votes will get large amounts of funding which will make them mainstream

VP Charities & Community: Low voter turnout can ensure that minority parties can get into Europe. Can't directly camp against

Madeline Stanley:

Next two councils will be Policy Lapse to ensure we are up to date with what believe and stand for. Passed over the last 3 years. Document will be able on website today and circulated. Happening over next 2 councils.

Policy lapse 40 pages will go round to Preslist and will be up on website. Policy nobody discusses will lapse. Anything you want to discuss bring up and e-mail Karen. 1st 20 pages in 5th week and 2nd 20 pages in 7th week. Most of these things MT 05 – Trinity 06.

How can we make amendments?

Madeline Stanley:

Not covered in standing orders. I will talk to Chair, yes or no to a policy, if want something different you will have to bring a new policy.

If want policy renewed. Can say it in meeting but can also e-mail beforehand.

f. Reports from Members of the Executive wishing to make reports

Environments & Ethics Officer

6th week is Green Week variety of events, bike ride, a bicycle powered rave if we can build in time. Picnic Green Curry. Info going out shortly, green reps invitation to a special meeting in 4th week sharing best practice.

No questions

Rent & Accommodations Officer

Those involved in rent negotiations, please let me know how they are going so I can build a rent database of how they take place in different colleges. Congratulations on those with successes others keep fighting hard.

No questions

Common Room Support Officer

Held a training session on how to set up a university wide society and register it with the Proctors, it went well, if enough interest will hold another meeting if not enough then can give one on one meeting.

No questions

Access & Admissions Officer

Sorry for no report. Going well but have an election for training officer next week. Also starting common room visits and offer training sessions in colleges. I will be emailing preslist and access reps regarding this.

No questions

d. Elections in Council

Madeline Stanley (Returning Officer)

We are holding elections for two positions. Nominees for the Black minorities officer and LGBTQ Officer, at front please

Declarations for post of BME

Matthew Tye

I am 22 Masters in Comp social policy and in autumn doing DPhil. Involved from an early age, to push forward ethnic agenda in Birmingham. The term BME a loaded one more often than not the wrong one don't need reinforced. Needs a place needs reinforcing new vice chancellor and can put forward a proactive way of promoting these agendas. Time to support, ensure welcoming and diverse university. We are a meritocracy, celebrating a 2% increase. Great students don't feel would fit in, can take small steps to greater liaison and support current BME students. Please vote so candidate has a strong mandate, welcome and diverse

Are you a member of a National Political Organisation – Labour

Have you been censured or thrown out of Council – No

Questions

Daniel Lowe (St Edmunds Hall)

Some BME interest group sometimes find themselves in conflict with each how would you deal with these JSoc and MSoc's?

Matthew Tye:

No one has given them a clear lead, by giving them these can hopefully stop the conflict

Lewis Iwu (New)

I was having a discussion regarding BME access summer schools specifically what your thoughts about this?

Matthew Tye:

Difficult think a good and bad idea because term loaded some shy away from being assoc with BME, should look at term and group more closely.

Jack Matthews (St Peters)

You say the term is loaded what would you see as the ideal way to change?

Would have to consult on this.

LGBTQ Officer

Jasper Minton-Taylor

Are you a member of a National political party? - No

Have you ever been censured or thrown out of Council? - No

Being an LGBTQ Officer St Johns can sometimes a struggle get budget sorted and getting people to attend. If I was elected I would encourage the colleges to put the positions into their constitutions. Putting info in all JCRs and common rooms. Think that handbook really good and glad being updated. Not a lot of people know that Q stands for Queer avoids stereotypes. Need to find out why not so many women LGBTQ officers think should hold info sessions about what it means and make them respected across university.

Katherine Terrell (St Hilda's)

It is the biggest society, yet people don't get inv in politics?

Jasper Minton-Taylor:

Some people think don't need to talk about politics because happy with themselves some think OUSU far removed really important to get across the barriers.

Mohsin Khan

How do you think you would work with LGBTQ council?

Would work with and publicise to college reps. Think a good place for talking about in an open non confrontational place

Becky Morgan (Pembroke)

Some people have a problem with traditional prayers etc

Think we should talk about, hadn't thought about. Good idea to talk about religion can't get rid of traditions. Imp to talk about.

Speaker from Balliol

Some JCRs don't have LGBTQ representatives and the apathy, what big problem

Small pool often people they represent don't present themselves for various reasons. Some colleges have traditionally others don't where don't may think not needed.

Sourav Choudry (LMH) how would you engage.

Go to their meetings and say why you think the role is important would do research about which have level funding and whether in constitution. Go to JCR and talk to them.

Daniel Lowe (St Edmunds)

Any welfare training and do you think this good.

I am currently training to be a peer supporter and do think it is import there to help people who aren't comfortable with their sexuality good to encourage JCR reps to have welfare training

Jack Wellby (Jesus)

Who do you think should be allowed to vote?

Think everyone should because effects more people than we think hard to say who should and shouldn't can be exclusive and shouldn't be.

i. Passage of motion Nem Com

Timing of council – objections

Don't lift the cap, - objections

No motions pass nem com

k. First Readings of Motions to Amend the Constitution or Standing Orders

1. Proposed updating of the job description of the Vice President (Charities and Community)

No objections

2. Proposed updating of the job description of the Part-Time Executive Community Outreach and Charities Officer

No objections

3. Proposed updating of the job description of the Part-Time Executive Environment and Ethics Officer

No objections

Have a look at new against old which are in the appendix.

Can we change the standing orders nem com.

Should be a speech in prop.

1st Jack speech for all three changes because some things out dated, new ones much more stringent. All proposed and seconded by people doing glad got support.

No opposition.

They pass

n. Other Motions

1. Timing of Council

Jack Matthews (St Peters):

I am a scientist and brought this motion to trinity term last year. Consultation happened half way through summer holidays only 109 responses. Think current situation is not good enough, not representative not a broad spectrum. When count sign in sheets. Only 2 from MCRS why grads not coming here. My points set out in the motion only one of 3 universities that have it in an afternoon every other have in evening.

Think we'll end up having it on Sundays

Didn't think right to specify date, this is the time that is unfair you can get OUSU to decide when timing is. Part problem as a scientist last term I couldn't come to be held accountable which a huge problem, and that was because of an academic commitment, which is why I am in Oxford. If it is held in the evening then it is completely my choice whether I attend council. I am leaving it open to be held at any time. Wherever it put will be problems but will be a better spot.

Paul Dwyer (Keble):

POI Last term was opposed to moving because last term debates quite long. Next term motions will go to committees so it shouldn't take so long.

Jason Keen (St Johns):

Only 2 rather than 3 here today because in tutorial, definitely an idea. Maybe idea to trial various times. Need to talk about publicly at common room level so if got time should attend.

Lewis Iwu (New):

Paul and Jason said what I wanted to. Think should be changed gross unfairness to the scientist.

Speaker not identified.

Don't know what impact, but right now don't have choice. OUSU needs to do a lot to reach out to grads and scientists. See as a possible first step.

Sourav Choudhury (LMH)

Lots of meetings held within college hours, think need to look at the apathy of grad students, this should be looked at

Daniel Lowe (St Edmunds)

There are extra issues, scientists can't come to council or be part of part time exec, another reason why should move and move to vote because not allowed.

POI whether consultation came up with any alternative times?

Jack Matthews (St Peters):

Way that questionnaire set out strange, split into those who had come to council before and those who hadn't. For both sets evenings and weekends more accessible.

Paul Dwyer (Keble):

Graduate apathy needs to be addressed. Just that this would be fairer would be opening to a greater constitutional change

Mohsin Khan (Wadham):

Last year raised idea that scientists not that committed so wanted to put that down, are interested but can't attend.

Daniel Lowe (St Edmunds):

There is no convincing argument against it. Dodgy motion coming up and would therefore like to move on.

Speech in opposition

What should we do, are in agreement but how do we find out when.

Daniel Lowe (St Edmunds):

This motion just to how we move it.

All in favour of move to vote.

Moved to vote.

Summary speeches

Jack Matthews (St Peters):

Think we've heard most of the debate, think big support to make it work more fairer. Freshers good opportunity to become involved.

Jack Wellby (Jesus):

Need a committee, we need the common room Presidents to ensure no meetings held on the same evening, and get involved in process.

In favour

Not counted as many votes

Motion passes

2. **Don't lift the cap, introduce a Graduate Tax**

Lewis Iwu (New):

When I stood for President and Paul stood for VP AccAff we said we wanted to get a clear policy on tuition fees as we at Oxford have a lot of influence. This council decided to create a working group to talk about pros and cons of the alternatives, and I would like to give a thank you to those who sat on this working group.

As you can see in motion there are certain things we believe, but not necessarily strongly but we realised it needs debating in council. This system is broke, raise the cap causes a problem with Access some universities are charging £3000 -£4000 and Oxford is charging the top fee. So Oxford perceived expensive and actually families out there who are debt adverse, which means raising tuition will impact upon certain families if fees raised to £7000, and it will affect the choices of people wanting to attend university.

There are also technical issues if fee raised to £7000 with regards to government subsidies now £1.3bill if rises the govt debt will rise by £380 mill. Lots of people argue for free education and at the moment we need to work towards that remit in two years. Someone will always pay, some people receive benefits a graduate tax is a way round this. Various ways of working a graduate tax its not detail we're looking at today but principle. No government is going to listen for argument for free education we need a workable model in today's climate, today's recession. Support well funded bursaries and the provision of transparent info regarding this.

We decided graduate tax fairest way at this time.

Jack Matthews (St Peter):

When time for deadline for this?

The sooner the better. The university are working on the assumption that fees are going to go up, would be useful to have our position on this. The NUS on June 10th will be providing their stand. Fees review need to lobby MPS and chancellors, to be able to engage in national debate we need a remit by the end of term

Sarah Burton (Hertford)

About tax between 1/3 tax not bands? Would it be a flat rate?

Lewis Iwu (New)

That is a question for once we've decided on it. I sit on the NUS working group on this and one of issues we're debating would be would you have to earn a certain amount. Will be a situation when someone who earns £1 mill will pay £25,000 a year.

Mohsin Khan (:

Would you write to opposition ministers regarding this?

Lewis Iwu (New):

I am happy to write to anyone who wants to listen Joanna Lumley Ronaldo anyone we think is important in this

Jim O'Connell (Univ)

Is there a real chance of grad tax being introduced?

Lewis Iwu (New)

Realistic chance for support of it fact we have an alternative can help. Grad tax model can help even if they do decide to raise the cap.

Sourav Choudhury (LMH)

Will it go to general pot or the university you studied at?

Lewis Iwu (New)

Would go to independent body and then be transferred to universities using a system, the money will not be in the hands of politicians but in the hands of independent body. Money in a pot.

Question

University have less autonomy less responsive to students demand for education.

Lewis Iwu (New)

At moment universities are heavily reliant on research. This doesn't change how money allocated, but it does alter how collected. The money should follow the students, problematic creates impression that you have to be richer to go to Oxford.

Katherine Terrell (St Hildas)

Debt aversion, any information that they would have to pay this back. Is it any less likely that people will be happier with this?

Lewis Iwu (New)

Issue of perception people react differently to a debt, benign repayment schedule will probably disappear anyway as people are calling for commercial rates on student loans a perceptions game.

Jack Matthews (St Peters)

What other alternatives?

Lewis Iwu (New)

Keeping things as they are is untenable, the universities are crying out for money. I think we considered business contribution, but not sure there would be enough money to rely on this. Autonomy of course may be called into question depending on who funded them. Further more considered covering costs by raising costs on international students which we saw as a problem. Problem with free education tax payer pays for it also problem with expansion and vagaries of parties not wishing to raise taxes. Also problem of raising tuition fees, felt would hit the lower middle classes re bursary system, problematic. Raising fees to £10,000 may not be sustainable longer term, may not cover the funding gap, some people calling for American style funding.

If cap lifted much greater subsidy of government debt

No loan, a tax you get a certain amount taken out once you earn a certain amount. Effectively subsidise loans

Edward Harding (Regents Park)

Will the graduate tax be payable for the rest of your life? And will those who are already grads still pay it?

Lewis Iwu (New)

Half of life or about 25 years, no it won't be retrospective

Jake Leeper (LMH):

What would happen with long period of unemployment?

Lewis Iwu (New)

Same as when long period of unemployment now. No system is fool proof.

Tendai Sibanda (St Peters)

Will there be a double taxation, income tax supporting services, graduate tax supporting university education.

Lewis Iwu (New)

You have used to generate income, benefiting from going to higher education then morally you should put back money into it.

POC are you planning to get rid of tuition fees altogether?

Lewis Iwu (New)

Would scrap fees altogether and replace with a grad tax.

Jake Leeper (LMH)

What would happen if someone drops out after one year?

Lewis Iwu (New):

Basically they probably wouldn't pay back. Possibly courses on credit. Pro rata payment. Discussed in NUS. Would be unfair to charge for dropping out after one year.

Mad Stanley (LMH):

What is the view on costing for different courses, would it vary on type of course or length of course?

Lewis Iwu (New):

Not linked to type of course, just support higher education itself.

Noor Rashid (St Edmund)

Surely you should pay back how much it cost them should pay notional price for your degree.

Debate point not SFQ

No retrospective taxation when come in with zero fees.

Lewis Iwu (New):

Will be a 10 year gap in funding, one idea to pay for this if of them selling the student loans. Transition costs this probably the most difficult thing.

Elena Lynch

What plan for international students?

Lewis Iwu (New)

This will only apply to EU students.

What deal for those who do two bachelor degrees?

Lewis Iwu (New)

I don't know the answer, maybe incorporate in some tax structure. NUS have great minds working on it. Their model will have a lot of answers on this.

Edward Harding (Regents Park):

Before 80's everyone was funded, because they benefit everyone. Graduates provide benefits to society.

Lewis Iwu (New):

Untenable unrealistic, courses more complicated cost of running more expensive no comparison can be made any more. Do accept that grads benefit society but do think that they should pay something back. The financing from public finances removed a graduate tax will raise more revenue.

Mohsin Khan

What happens if you are a home student and then you move abroad straight away?

Lewis Iwu (New)

No way to avoid. What will say can't stop from leaving currently. This loophole applies now anyway. Sort of exists right now.

Do think that people have raised valid concerns, this just the best way.

Jake Anders (New)

What would happen to maintenance loans?

Lewis Iwu (New)

Once we talk about student support alongside this the issue gets confused. Will tackle separately

Had the working group contacted JCRs?

Lewis Iwu (New)

This council decided a working group was the best way, normally are JCR Presidents but not restricted to them. These people were quite informed. Produce something substantive for discussions. Variety of people on working group, a wide spectrum of people a large group of people. The real representative process is here anyone a mandate or amendment it is here that we hear it.

Paul Dwyer (Keble)

This was delayed so we could get a mandate.

Speech in Opposition

Laurence Mills (Magdalen)

I support motion especially access issue. Main worry way in which presented for the vast majority, they don't think we are engaging with motions which affect them I don't think this is necessarily true. This is a good opportunity to engage students we can mobilise people, the reason voting against a wide strategy to mobilise our students.

Lewis Iwu (New)

Briefly hear what Laurence is saying, but think that we need a model to get them engaged with, moment when we get engaged is when we have a clear voice this is what we have tried to do. When we have agreed a model, then we can rally people not when we are creating the sausage, that is from the 'West Wing'.

Unidentified Speaker

Last point something to engage with, however this is different from posing a motion at council some historical statements, large statements to be making. Many ways to do this engagement rather than bringing straight to council. Where has this debate emerged from should be a centrepiece to council, for JCRs to only see for just over a week not long enough. Can't amend with enough flexibility, don't think suitable for engagement.

Severe concerns way brought, don't think can be that representative, Everyone very confused. Only one statement about grad tax, felt confused not informed enough, as comm. Officer couldn't give info only criticism of current system. We are abstaining because of this St Johns.

Jack Matthews (St Peters) group worked hard, right thing to do, but would question rationale from going from working group straight to council without any engagement with common rooms between this. People didn't know the alternatives, haven't seen the other options in enough detail. Not enough consultation went out on Preslist but we are not all on Preslist. On a slightly different point the graduate tax if you are lucky enough to make a million pounds, will our university miss out on alumni funding, but it also affects us. If alumni donations go away I would be left paying for five field trips which I would have to support I don't get extra funding from govt etc. The motion gives up the idea of free education. This student union has given up on free education the moment we give up is the moment it won't happen anymore

Jason Keen (St Johns)

Don't oppose but ask for it to be tabled to another week. Lets not shoot it down.

Point of Order move to table.

Speech in Proposition

Paul Dwyer (Keble)

Regarding the donations point students already having to pay back a set amount of debt. So would still be likely to make donations. Current OUSU policy very vague, no room for negotiation process we went through with working group. Not OUSU trying to dominate policy, said it vaguely so people would make an amendment.

Would be involved in university consultation, if don't agree with grad tax. Reason brought forward would give us guidance. We hoped it would be amended or agreed, if you want to table and bring back fine. Not trying to dictate want a dialogue between OUSU and the executive.

We tried, we are trying to get people engaged. We came up with a policy for a black and white issue. If you don't understand please ask questions bringing in sabs on tour, we hear your voices we are trying, very important you understand the policy we are discussing. Hold common room meeting

In opposition

Jack Matthews (St Peters):

Don't think we should table yet, been to some common rooms and still confused. We need a more information campaign. A large university meeting or whether a referendum is necessary. Point is we haven't reached a conclusion.

Move to Vote 2/3rds to pass. Voting on tabling motion for two weeks time.

Madeline counts no 2/3rds majority. Debate continues

Noor Rashid (St Edmunds):

It's our job to go back to JCR to send info back or have OUSU exec to go to common rooms and discuss it. The people who really know about should go out and provide the information

SFQ raised need something concrete to take back to JCRS. Sabs could come and talk about it to the common rooms

Paul Fisher (St Catz):

Going to be in minority. If don't vote on it, would be neglecting our responsibility we should be voting on these things, I got it two weeks ago sent to JCR Is anything going to come out of more discussion.

Jack Matthews (St Peters):

I don't understand it and so can't vote on it.

Paul Fisher (St Catz)

Should discuss it now, but were wasting time consultation has taken place. Should be a debate about SU. We should discuss this issue don't need to take back to Catz and discuss again, they will think SU wasting time again.

Paul Dwyer (Keble):

What were looking for is whether you want grad tax or something else. Should have presented other options but we just want your opinions.

Laurence Mills (Magdalen)

If we left to one side, you wouldn't have to go back to St Catz again, we are back bone of SU, if we vote today, then will leave out common rooms, this will be very detrimental.

Lewis Iwu (New)

I apologise for not realising people were not as informed. This was a debate about what is acceptable or not. Would be great if I could come into your common room to talk about it. I feel we can decide on direction of travel about were going in. Don't want to get into specifics. A feed into NUS and be engage with other Student Unions this is not the end of the road. Policy is fluid.

Sarah Burton (Hertford)

Can't have a philosophy about this, should be broader would be in favour of passing but because specific can't. Think we have had a fair amount of time actually, all issues came to fore. Information has come to light which we didn't have.

Katherine Terrell (St Hilda's):

This motion was given to me two weeks ago. Had big debate about top up fees. In general think grad tax a good idea. Angry about President bashing no information felt should have been given a report, no details or anything, Don't feel need a mandate for everything. Vote yes or no today.

Precisely why need to take responsibility, needs more consultation I support Jack needs thorough debate could define the history of OUSU.

Toby Vacher (New)

Discusses his amendment.

Jack Wellby (Jesus):

I think Katherine is right, usually when working group makes a report. Think should be produced and distributed then can read and come back. Process right but lacking that report.

Amendment I

Rebecca Morgan (Pembroke) Speech in proposition

Came from JCR and pretty much said what it says. Work in favour of tuition being free,

Speech in opposition We are going to accept as friendly unless in opposition changes believes but not resolves, in ideal world would want free education.

POI Is it replacing 7 or 8?

Would reflect ideal, happy to go along unless.

Katherine Tyrell (St Hilda's)

Makes no sense, should be added as another council believes in principle education should be free because otherwise doesn't make sense. People need to rewrite amendment.

Would be willing to accept Katherine Tyrell's amendment

Vote on amendment 1

Amendment fails

Proposes delete council resolves 2 and believes delete 7 or 8

Toby Vacher (New):

Reason put in mandated us to abstain from discussing anything to do with discussing grad tax. Would give more time this would solve the problems that we have had

What would be in letter that they would write?

Letter based on today's discussion, equivalent to tabling and bring back again.

Speech in opposition

Rachel Cummings (Somerville):

Welcome attempt, from here it looks like consensus to table for two weeks and get sabs to write a report. Get more info out and retable and then discuss

Amendment 2 fails

Amendment 3

Sum up what we talked about before in principle we believe in free education but we don't have a system for this.

SFQ Council believes 8 add 'in the short term'.

Portia Roelofs:

Think it is irrelevant. The grad tax is not short term. Grad tax worth discussing is fair. Not what we are saying shouldn't have this amendment.

Move to debate

Echo opposition to this amendment. No one at Hertford shared in the optimism that education will be free, maybe in ideal world would be fantastic. Don't think should

POC this is adding to point

Daniel Lowe (St Edmunds):

Should strive for idealistic principle but should be pragmatic.

Lewis Iwu (New):

Personally think should be a contribution from grads in order to sustain it someone has to pay it. To say we pay nothing is unfair, but also happy to go with flow,

Kaushal Vidyarthi (Wolfson):

Currently international students pay 3 times the fee, especially as we have to support ourselves, if you understand lots of UK grads if try to provide as have to compete against with Ivy league

Have to consider international students

Move to vote, and seconded.

Amendment fails

Move to table

Rachel Cummings (Somerville):

So much confusion to imp to take lightly will right briefing happy to let you know an discuss table for tow weeks. Did debate on tabling.

Daniel Lowe:

Can we table indefinitely.

Discussion

Move to indefinitely table

No speech in opposition.

Motion is indefinitely tabled.

Any other business

Election of Pub

Angel and Greyhound. Cape of Good Hope

Cape of Good Hope.