

## Council Minutes

3<sup>rd</sup> week Trinity Term 2014

3rd Week Council took place at 5:30pm on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2014 at the TS Eliot Theatre, Merton College.

If you have any questions about OUSU Council, please feel free to contact the Chair, Nick Cooper, at [chair@ousu.org](mailto:chair@ousu.org)

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- b. Matters Arising from the Minutes
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- m. Any Other Business
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\* *Nem con* means “without objection”. Here, the Chair will read all items under “Other Motions”. If you wish to hear a speech in proposition, ask the proposers a question, amend the motion, or speak in opposition, please raise your hand when the motion is called here. **If no one raises their hand, the motion passes without any discussion.**

Nick Cooper - Informed council that there was a visiting student present and asked if anyone had any opposition to her attending or speaking.

No opposition.

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## **a. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

There were no issues raised with the minutes.

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## **b. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

1. Letter from the Chair of Council to the Board of Trustees (Appendix 1)
2. Letter from OUSU President to Chair of Council (Appendix 2)

Nick Cooper - Informed council that the two letters listed were appended to the agenda and advised council to read through them. Stated that he and Tom would meet to discuss the issues raised in the letters during 5<sup>th</sup> week.

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## **c. Ratifications in Council**

None

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## **d. Elections in Council**

**Graduate Welfare Officer** - no nominations

**2 Positions for Deputy Returning Officer** - Joe Smith (Somerville), Martine Wauben (Pembroke) and Wharton Chan (Pembroke) nominated. Hust requested.

Martine - Explained to Council that she has experience working as an RO through Oxford Union and would really enjoy using this experience in OUSU.

Joe - Stated that he also had experience working as an RO in Somerville, and wanted to work with OUSU ensuring that candidates for elections felt supported, comfortable and well informed.

Wharton was not present to hust.

Jack Matthews - Asked the candidates if they follow the spirit or the letter of the law.

Martine - Answered with spirit.

Joe - Agreed with spirit.

Martine and Joe were elected.

**1 Position for Budget Sub Committee** - no nominations

**2 Positions for Complaints Committee** - Danny Waldman (St John's) was elected

**2 Positions for Nominations Committee** - Henry Zeffman (Brasenose) and Will Obeney (Regent's) were elected.

**1 position on Scrutiny Committee** - Danny Waldman (St John's) was elected

**2 Positions for Steering Committee** - no nominations

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## **e. Reports from the Sabbatical Officers**

Dan Tomlinson (University) - Introduced new attendees to Council and informed them that he looks after three campaigns: E & E, Living Wage, and On Your Doorstep. Highlighted two key events: On the 21<sup>st</sup> May there will be a Living Wage event at St Peter's College with speakers present from varying perspectives; on the 31<sup>st</sup> May there will be a march which joins together a local campaign with E & E to campaign for fossil fuel divestment.

Garlen Lo (Wolfson) - Announced that International Students' Campaign (ISC) will be holding elections for new members. Encouraged people to get in touch if they are interested.

Rachel Pickering (Hertford) - Informed council that OUSU and The Hub held an education conference on Saturday, which was a great day and big success. There were 100 places and 100 guests. Also reminded council of the upcoming Teaching Awards and stated that shortlists are now complete and invites are being sent out.

Charlotte Hendy (Pembroke) - Informed council that it is currently both Mental Health Awareness Week and Wellbeing Week. Encouraged council to look after themselves during exam time, and suggested that they take some time out to come along to a session. Directed council to visit [www.ousu.org](http://www.ousu.org) to see the full list of events.

Tom Rutland (Jesus) - Informed council that he attended the NUS LBGT conference over the previous weekend with Dan Templeton (LBGTQ officer) and Crash Wigley (LBGTQ Campaign Chair), who are currently writing up a report on the event. Reported that they were able to have an impact on policy decisions during this event.

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## **f. Reports from the Executive Officers who wish to make reports**

Mirela Ivanova (Wadham) - Reported that she has been gathering data about academic complaints procedures and working on a best practice system.

Anna Bazley (St Peter's) - Announced that she will be running a workshop about how to register clubs and societies during 5<sup>th</sup> week.

Emily Silcock (New) - Informed council that she aims to have collection boxes for homelessness in all colleges that don't currently have one and requested that people get in touch about getting one in their college at [homelessness@ousu.org](mailto:homelessness@ousu.org).

Lucy Delaney (Wadham) - Updated that she is making great progress with Eden and Sarah with her aim of establishing sexual consent workshops in at least a third of colleges.

Annie Teriba (Wadham) - Reported that she is still working on plans to make access more political.

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## **g. Questions to Members of the Executive**

Raj Dattani (St Peter's) - Asked Garlen why there has not been a new divisional board representative for Medical Sciences since he was disqualified.

Garlen Lo (Wolfson) - Responded that the position was advertised in Hilary Term and in the first week of Trinity with no response. Stated that he now thought it made more sense to wait until 7<sup>th</sup> week when all divisional board reps would be elected.

Raj - Informed Rachel that a message from her nexus account was marked as spam.

Rachel Pickering (Hertford) - Confirmed that she would look in to why this was.

Raj - Asked Tom to explain the change in OUSU funding which has lead to a referendum on affiliation with the NUS.

Tom Rutland (Jesus) - Explained that the amount of funding that OUSU receive has not changed, however the University previously ring-fenced certain amounts for certain things, including NUS affiliation. Informed council that as this is no longer the case, and the money may be used as OUSU choose, it is right to let all students have they say.

Charlie Baker (St Catz) - Asked why students only received an email advertising the open meeting for the NUS referendum just half an hour ago, when it takes place directly after this meeting.

Tom - Confirmed that he cannot answer this, and as a campaign leader does not make these decisions.

Nathan Akehurst (Lincoln) - Suggested that we need to develop communication from OUSU reps and in particular requested updates from the Common Room Support Officer and the Rent and Accommodation Officer.

Will Neaverson, the Common Room Support Officer, was not present to comment.

Sophie Terrett (Merton) - Reported on current activity, including lots of success within support for local people in council housing. Commented that they have taken a step back on letting fees campaigning as it is currently being debated in parliament and they are waiting to hear the outcome.

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## **h. Passage of Motions *nem con***

None

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## **i. Motions of No Confidence or Censure**

None

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## **j. Emergency Motions**

None

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## k. Motions authorising Capital Expenditure

### 1. Motion for one-off grant to Vulture Magazine

#### Council Notes:

1. Vulture Magazine (VM) enables students to publish and share a wide variety of interdisciplinary arts and culture content not covered by existing Oxford publications - giving voice to anybody who wants to contribute, with no restrictions on submission
2. VM holds a variety of events that enrich the cultural diversity of Oxford University
3. VM is enjoyed by a wide variety of people- graduate, undergraduate, professors, public, etc
4. Trinity Term is more difficult than others with regards to funding - extra expenditure eg. Fresher's fair stall booking, fundraisers less profitable due to finals and prelims, magazine contributions have grown exponentially, print costs have escalated since first issue
5. VM are doing all they can to raise money for themselves via holding events (and have been self-sufficient for the past two issues), and that the motion will be a one-off to cover a gap in funding for both PRINTING and EVENTS due to the above conditions
6. An OUSU grant for printing/events will in turn generate greater interest for VM, which means more people will attend fundraisers, and thus enable the magazine to continue to self-fund in the future
7. There is a significant amount of money remaining in OUSU's Discretionary Budget for the rest of the academic year

#### Council Believes:

1. VM to be a worthwhile cause - it interacts with and raises the profile of students' efforts in arts and culture both inside and outside the university, provides a creative outlet from academic work, and embraces all students (eg. brings together graduates, postgraduates and undergraduates which other publications don't)
2. This effort should be recognised and supported by the university and its members
3. VM should continue to be offered for free as per the founding aims of the project (accessibility to the arts for all students at all colleges)

#### Council Resolves:

1. To grant Vulture Magazine a one-off grant of £200 from the Discretionary Budget

**Proposed:** Olivia Yallop (Regent's Park)

**Seconded:** Charlotte Sykes (Lady Margaret)

Olivia Yallop (Regent's) - Explained that this motion requests £200 to tide Vulture Magazine over into the New Year. Reported that there have been two issues of the magazine out so far, with one published per term. Informed council that Vulture is free, is delivered to every college, including PPHs and Grads, raises the profile of arts and culture and reaches local people outside of the University. Emphasized that it is financially sustainable, however due to the issues raised in the motion, trinity term is particularly difficult for fundraising.

James Blythe (Brasenose) - Asked how much Vulture costs.

Olivia - Stated that it is free to everyone.

Nathan Akehurst (Lincoln) - Questioned how much money is left in the discretionary budget.

Nick Cooper (St John's) - Replied that he thinks there is £1225.

Alexander Rankine (Corpus) - Asked of the publication was issued once a term.

Olivia - Responded that that is correct.

Raj Dattani (St Peter's) - Queried the printing costs.

Olivia - Confirmed that it varies, and was £500 in the first term and £425 last term.

Motion passes with no opposition.

## 2. Funding a Conference of "I, Too, AM" initiatives for Greater Inclusivity entitled "BME Conference: Dissidence in the era of Diversity"

Council Notes:

1. That the "I, Too, Am Oxford" campaign was an overwhelmingly positive, successful, and student-driven effort to amplify the voices of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) students.
2. That the campaign contributed to greater awareness of and positive discussion and dialogue about race and racism amongst the student body and at an institutional level.
3. That the Oxford campaign, taking inspiration from "I, Too, Am Harvard" also helped inspire numerous other similar ones at UK universities like Cambridge and SOAS, as well as others internationally in countries ranging from Amsterdam to the United States.

Council Believes:

1. That more discussion and awareness raising around issues of race are needed.
2. That there is a financial cost in creating spaces where these conversations can take place.
3. That the efforts of OUSU's Campaign for Racial Awareness and Equality to make the university a more diverse and inclusive place in terms of students, staff, and curriculum has been amplified and positively impacted by "I, Too, Am Oxford".

Council Resolves:

1. To donate £400 to help fund the conference of BME students entitled "Dissidence in an Era of Diversity" that various "I, Too, Am" activists are putting together on May 24<sup>th</sup>.
2. To assist in publicizing the conference via email and social media.

**Proposed:** Brian Kwoba (Pembroke)

**Seconded:** Anuadha Henriques (Wadham), Jahnavi Emmanuel (Wadham)

Anuadha Henriques (Wadham) - Explained to council that this conference aims to provide a voice to BME students in Oxford. Reported that there has been lots of feedback from the 'I, Too, Am Oxford' and a high demand to continue the discourse.

Jahnavi Emmanuel (Wadham) - Informed council that there would be speakers from other Universities that have run similar campaigns including Cambridge and Sheffield, and urged that everyone is welcome to attend.

Brian Kwoba (Pembroke) - Asked council for both moral and financial support. Informed council that Pembroke has already pledged £100 and Wadham have also agreed to donate.

Raj Dattani (St Peter's) - Asked if this money would come out of the discretionary fund.

Nick Cooper (St John's) - Yes.

Will Obeney (Regent's) - Commented that the 'I, Too' campaign was very divisive and asked if this would be an issue.

Brian - Explained that the campaign was very helpful in supporting the Campaign for Racial Awareness and Equality (CRAE), and caused a historic summit within the University, which has never happened before. Claimed that a shift is happening, and the University is starting to commit to changes on paper. Emphasized that the conference simply wants to continue this momentum that has been created, to ensure that the discussion is on going, and to move on from any controversy.

Jack Matthews (University) - Asked if the proposers were willing to commit to sending council a small note in 7<sup>th</sup> week, which informs them how the event went.

Brian/Anuadha/Jahnavi - Agreed that this would not be a problem at all.

Raj - Questioned where the figure of £400 comes from.

Brian - Considered all the costs involved, including transportation, and looked at the discretionary budget to see what funds remained available.

Motion passed with no opposition.

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## 1. Other Motions

### 3. Motion to discontinue the President-elect attending NUS conference as a delegate

Council Notes:

1. OUSU is currently affiliated to the National Union of Students (NUS).
2. OUSU currently sends 7 delegates to the National Union of Students conference.
3. Two of these delegates, the President and President-elect attend in their elected roles (ex-officio).
4. The NUS rules state that only one delegate in each delegation can go ex-officio.
5. The President is traditionally the delegation leader and as such will explain how NUS conference works prior to delegates arriving at the conference.
6. The experience the President-elect gains from attending conference the year before prepares them to lead the delegation the following year (assuming OUSU doesn't disaffiliate in between conferences - lol).
7. Individuals can attend NUS conference as an observer, which allows them to experience NUS conference, without having the voting privileges of a delegate.

Council Believes:

1. If OUSU is affiliated to the NUS, it should follow their directions on how delegations are formed.
2. An additional space for a delegate gives more people the opportunity to partake in OUSU's activities with the NUS.
3. There is a lot of value in the President-elect attending NUS conference, but they need not be a delegate.

Council Resolves:

1. To discontinue the President-elect attending NUS conference as a delegate.
2. To increase the number of elected NUS delegates from 5 to 6 in the Michaelmas Term statutory elections.
3. To ensure the President-elect attends NUS conference as an observer.
4. To make the following part Policy Guidelines: Notes 5 and 6, Believes 3, Resolves 3.

**Proposed:** Louis Trup (Brasenose)

**Seconded:** Sarah Pine (Wadham)

Louis Trup (Brasenose) - Explained that this motion is to prevent the next president-elect going to the NUS conference as a delegate and suggested that they should only be attending as an observer. Read out a limerick he had written to demonstrate his point.

Motion passes with no opposition.

#### 4. Campsfield Immigration Removal Centre

##### Council Notes:

1. In 2009 OUSU Council renewed policy supporting our opposition to the Campsfield Detention and has passed a motion mandating the VP Welfare to write to the campaign organisers to reiterate support for their cause.
2. That Campsfield Immigration Removal Centre north of Oxford recently marked 20 years in operation.
3. That under the 1971 Immigration Act, migrants including asylum seekers can be detained without time limit, without being charged with any offence and without proper judicial oversight.
4. That since 1993 the number of people detained in under the 1971 Act at any one time has increased 20-fold to some 5,000 at any one time.
5. That the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights has called on the UK to revise its immigration detention policy and reverse the trend to ever-more immigration detention.

##### Council Believes:

1. That the law needs to be amended and government policy changed in order for the UK to be able to better carry out its obligations under international convention and the demands of natural justice.
2. That Campsfield Immigration Removal Centre should be closed as part of a programme to drastically reduce and ultimately end immigration detention in the UK.
3. That OUSU should seek to support and lobby for motions that are in line with the above beliefs within the NUS.
4. That OUSU should mandate the Black & Minority Ethnic Students' & Anti-Racism Officer to support the on-going work with the Campaign to Close Campsfield.

##### Council Resolves:

1. To mandate the Black & Minority Ethnic Students' & Anti-Racism Officer to support the on-going work with the Campaign to Close Campsfield, including by encouraging attendance to the organized protests that occur on the last Saturday of every month outside Campsfield Immigration Removal Centre.
2. To lobby within the NUS in calling for the closure of Campsfield and detention centres within this country.
3. To continue to support the belief that Campsfield Immigration Removal Centre should be closed as part of a programme to drastically reduce and ultimately end immigration detention in the UK.

**Proposed:** Alba Kapoor (Queen's)



**Seconded: Joanna Hynes (St Anne's)**

Alba Kapoor (Queen's) - Informed council that the immigration centre is marked by hunger strikes and mass protests and this motion is basically to say that we need to continue our condemnation and to mandate me to have a role in this, one which my successor would continue.

**Amendment proposed:**

To add 'Council Resolves 4: To make Council Believes 1, 2, 3 and 4 OUSU Policy.'

**Proposed: Jack Matthews (University)**

**Seconded: Alba Kapoor (Queen's)**

Amendment accepted as friendly.

Alexander Rankine (Corpus) - Asked what the Policy Book is.

Nick Cooper (St John's) - Briefly explained policy, informing council that if motions have long term issues within them, then making them policy will commit OUSU to take a particular stance. Reminded council that policy lasts for the remainder of the academic year in which it was passed, as well as the three full academic years that follow.

Anya Metzger (Wadham) - Commented that people at Wadham were wondering why this is considered a BME role.

Alba - Reported that there are very shocking incidents of targeting due to racism, and for BME students (as well as everyone else), it is very uncomfortable that this is happening just six miles away.

Raj Dattani (St Peter's) - Queried if the policy book is available for students to view.

Nick - Stated that it would be put online.

Motion passes with no opposition.

**5. Opposing Disabled Students Allowance Cuts**

**Council Notes:**

1. David Willetts, Universities minister, set out his intention to 'modernise' the Disabled Students Allowance through cuts on the 7th of April.
2. He stated: "We will no longer pay for standard specification computers or the warranties and insurance associated with them. We will no longer pay for higher specification and/or higher cost computers simply because of the way in which a course is delivered."
3. And also: "The additional costs of specialist accommodation will no longer be met by DSAs, other than in exceptional circumstances."
4. At present, a student can receive up to £5,161 for specialist equipment (including assistive technologies such as laptops, digital recorders, screen reading and voice recognition software), and £20,520 for non-medical helpers (such as note-takers, scribes/typists and library support) each year. (*Guardian*)
5. DSAs provided support to 53,000 students.
6. Fees have already [led to an increase in debt for disabled students](#) in comparison to non-disabled peers
7. The OUSU Disabled Students Campaign is already preparing a campaign against these cuts, in co-ordination with Oxford Brookes and local FE colleges.

8. NUS are holding a Lobby in Parliament on the 6th of June, and a national campaign against these cuts.

Council Believes:

1. Without anticipatory support in place, disabled students will be placed at a substantial educational disadvantage.
2. Cuts will mean persevering without necessary support, higher drop out rates, dissatisfaction and lower education attainment.
3. That education is a right not a privilege, and that cuts to DSA affect the right of those to study.

Council Resolves:

1. To publicly oppose any cut to Disabled Student Allowance under the guise of 'modernisation'.
2. To participate in the NUS Lobby Day on the 6th of June and publicise this through OUSU media channels.
3. To mandate the OUSU President to lobby the Vice-Chancellor to publicly oppose any cut to DSA.
4. To make Council Resolves 1. OUSU Policy.

**Proposed:** James Elliott (St Edmund Hall)

**Seconded:** Chris Pike (St Edmund Hall)

James Elliott (St Edmund) - Reported to council that David Willitts issued a statement regarding Disabled Students Allowance (DSA) in which 'modernise' clearly means 'cut'. Claimed the motion that he is proposing is very similar to that which was passed almost unanimously at NUS.

Raj Dattani (St Peter's) - Asked if David Willitts specifically used the word cut.

James - Responded that he didn't but he quotes show that this is clearly what he means.

Nick Cooper (St John's) - Asked council if there was any opposition to the motion.

Charlie Baker (St Catz) - Firstly informed council that she was not opposed to the spirit of the motion, and the comments she has to make are not intended as opposition. Confirms she is a recipient of DSA which has been very useful at times but insists there are nuances which need to be considered. Stated that we can be very anti the word cut, however explained that she has spoken to a variety of people in depth who receive DSA, and the process in which they are assessed means that sometimes equipment is essentially forced on you, regardless of whether it will be beneficial, due to the black and white way in which the government assess this. Reported that many people not only get things that they don't need, but don't receive the help they actually require. Stressed that she is not suggesting that it is OK to take away note-takers or special accommodation, however people need to be assessed as individuals, and the government needs to look at the nuances.

Chris Pike (St Edmund) - Agreed that there is not enough individual attention paid during the assessment so would like to accept the need to reform.

**Amendment proposed:**

To add 'Council Resolves 5: To accept that reform of the assessment process is necessary.'

**Proposer:** Chris Pike (St Edmund)

**Secunder:** Charlie Baker (St Catz)

Amendment accepted as friendly.

Annie Teriba (Wadham) - Informed council that she is also a recipient of DSA and has had things offered to her that she had no idea that she was entitled to but have helped her immensely.

Raj - Asked if the proposer would be willing to change the word 'cuts' to 'changes'.

Nick - Informed Raj that he may propose an amendment if he wishes.

Charlie - Stated that as a student body we need to wary of absolutes, and suspected that the reason that this is being looked at by the government is due to the dishing out of equipment in bundles. Asserted however that she is not denying the usefulness of the DSA.

Annie - Suggested that a group should be formed to feed into a discussion about what exactly the reforms that are needed are.

Nick Cooper (St John's) - Called move to vote.

Motion passed with one abstention.

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## **m. Any Other Business**

- a. Direct Election Regulations
- b. General Regulations

Tom Rutland (Jesus) - Updated council on the governing documents and informed them that the first reading of updated versions of both the direct election regulations and the general regulations would be taken to 5<sup>th</sup> week council. Stated that the draft documents would be uploaded onto the OUSU website for all to view.

Tom - Informed council that following on from 5<sup>th</sup> week council, there will be a meeting, (with pizza), which provides information about the elections next term. Advised people to come along, particularly if they are considering running in the elections.

## Appendix 1

5<sup>th</sup> May 2014

Mr Tom Rutland  
Oxford University Student Union  
2 Worcester Street  
Oxford  
OX1 2BX

Dear Tom,

I write to you in your capacity as Chair of OUSU's Board of Trustees. I would be grateful if you would distribute this letter to all Trustees, and to facilitate this, I have emailed you a copy.

I have been mandated by OUSU Council (the wording of the motion being appended below) to write to you concerning relations between the Board and Council. In particular, I write to express concern that the Board has not, in recent times, presented a specific termly report of its work to Council, as required by Article 39.3.13 of OUSU's Articles of Association. This leaves Council unable to exercise its authority to "receive, review and make recommendations to the Trustees in relation to the termly report received by the Trustees" (Article 13.3).

The Articles establish Council to, among other responsibilities including the one above, "represent the voice of the Students and act as the representative channel for student opinion". Furthermore, the Background to the Articles states that the Board will "give the utmost consideration to the views of Student Members". Finally, OUSU's Mission Vision Values stresses the value of transparency. Open communication between Council and the Board - in both directions - therefore seems of paramount importance to ensure OUSU always works in the best interests of students. It is therefore unfortunate that minutes from Board meetings have not been available for students to see. (I do however note and am grateful for the fact that upon receipt of this motion to Council, you ensured that all previous Board minutes were published).

I am sure that the voice of students is an important consideration to you and all Trustees, and I therefore hope that the Board will now fulfil both its formal responsibility to make termly reports, but also more informally, to consult Council on the work of the Trustees and take on board students' recommendations accordingly. Since Council is the primary way for students to both express their opinions on the matters that affect them and to hold OUSU's officers to account, I believe that this is the only way that both the Board and Council may continue their separate but interlinked responsibilities to represent and promote the interests of students.

Council also mandated both you and me to meet to discuss how the Board can engage Council more effectively when making decisions. I would be grateful if we could organise a convenient time, and have emailed you to organise this.

I look forward to hearing from you. I will be appending a copy of this letter and, with your permission, any reply I receive from you to the minutes of a meeting of Council this term.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Cooper  
Chair of Council  
St John's College

Motion, as passed by OUSU Council on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014

*Council Notes:*

- 1. That Council exists to 'represent the voice of the Students and act as the representative channel for student opinion'.*
- 2. That we also have obligations to scrutinise and elect certain office-holders, and to set the policy that guides our Student Union's work, amongst other things.*

*Council Further Notes:*

- 1. That OUSU is a registered charity, and is therefore required to have a Trustee Board.*

*Council Believes:*

- 1. That the addition of a Trustee Board within OUSU is welcome for the guidance and strategic planning it provides.*
- 2. That, regrettably, in many student unions the Trustee Board has become the key decision-making body, leaving Council as a rubber stamp.*
- 3. That students have the right to be aware of what decisions are being made for them, and in their name, and it is therefore a matter of regret that up-to-date minutes, reflecting all the discussions that took place at the Trustee Board, are not available on the OUSU Website.*
- 4. That it is disconcerting that for many terms the Trustee Board has failed in its responsibility, as set out in Article 39.3.13, to present termly reports of its work to Council.*
- 5. That the further Council is from the running of OUSU, the further the membership are also.*

*Council Resolves:*

- 1. To mandate the Chair of Council to write to the Trustee Board asking them to comply with the Governing Documents of OUSU and ensure the Board fulfils its obligations, both as defined in the Governing Documents, and moral, that their proceedings be open and transparent to Student Members.*
- 2. To mandate the President and Chair of Council to meet and find ways for the Board to engage Council more effectively with decision-making.*

## Appendix 2

13/05/14

Dear Nick,

Thank you for your letter dated 05/05/14.

Firstly, let me apologise on behalf of the Board to Council for the delay in the publication of minutes of recent Board meetings. These are now publicly available on the OUSU website, and I will ensure that the swift publication of the minutes becomes a priority after future meetings.

Secondly, I am sorry that the Board has not submitted its termly report to Council for several terms in succession. The issue first came to my attention when reading the governing documents recently, and in the most recent Board meeting (before the 1<sup>st</sup> Week Council motion on this topic) I noted that we would need to start submitting a termly report. Council can expect to receive a report in 7<sup>th</sup> Week Council this Trinity Term.

I will be in touch separately to arrange a meeting between the two of us to discuss how the Board and Council can better liaise in future. I look forward to discussing how we can ensure regular communication between Council and the Board on a number of issues.

Any lack of communication between the Board and Council has its origins not in a desire for secrecy, but in the long-term shortfall in resources OUSU has historically faced. The time of sabbatical officers is stretched incredibly thin, and indeed the time they spend meeting with and consulting students is consistently ranked as their favourite part of their jobs. As our budget and staff team expands, I hope that we shall be able to forge a stronger link between the Board and Council.

Of course, you have my permission to append this letter to the minutes of an upcoming OUSU Council meeting.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Rutland". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Tom Rutland  
President  
Chair of the Trustee Board  
Oxford University Student Union