

Council Minutes

3rd Week Trinity Term 2016

3rd Week Council took place at 5:30pm prompt, on Wednesday 11th May 2016, at Mansfield College, The Lecture Theatre.

We aim to make council as accessible as possible, and ensure that it is always in accessible venues. However, if there are any accessibility requirements that we are not meeting for yourself or others, please contact OUSU's Democratic Support Officer on 01865 611831, or at dso@ousu.ox.ac.uk.

If you have any questions about OUSU Council, please feel free to contact the Chair, Matt Collyer, at chair@ousu.ox.ac.uk.

- a. Minutes of the Previous Meeting
- b. Matters Arising from the Minutes
- c. Ratifications in Council
- d. Elections in Council
- e. Reports from and questions to the Sabbatical Officers, Executive Officers, Divisional Board Representatives, Representatives of the OUSU Campaigns and RAG (*Raise and Give*)
- f. Emergency motions
- g. Passage of motions without discussion
- h. Motions of No Confidence or censure
- i. Motions to amend Bye-Laws, General Regulations or Election Regulation
 1. Rules of Council
 2. New Regulations
- j. Motions authorising expenditure
 3. Welfare for Welfare
 4. Funding for NUS Referendum
- k. Other motions
 5. Environment Campaign
 6. Community Campaign
 7. Motion to Accept the Hilary Term 2016 Scrutiny Report
 8. Changes to the Elections and Responsibilities of Divisional Board Representatives
 9. International Freshers
 10. Divestment
 11. Unpaid Internships
 12. Oxford City of Sanctuary
- l. Any other business

a. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

No issues were raised with the minutes

b. Matters Arising from the Minutes

No matters arising from the minutes.

d. Elections in Council

External Trustee Candidates – OUSU Nominations Committee submits the following candidates for approval by OUSU Council as an External Trustee:

James Hunt

James Hunt has served as an External Trustee on OUSU's Trustee Board since Hilary Term 2012. He was an undergraduate at St. Edmund Hall. During his career in higher education, he served as Director of Finance at the Universities of Leicester and of Warwick. James currently serves as an External Trustee at both Leicester and Warwick student unions, and serves on the Audit Committees of the Universities of Loughborough, Birmingham, and Gloucestershire.

Becky Howe (Pembroke) – Informed council that because OUSU is a charity it has a trustee board, and on that board we have four external trustees from all different walks of life and professions, with varying areas of expertise. Explained that as the term for one trustee had come to an end, there was a vacancy for a new trustee with financial experience. Reported that the Nominations Committee was made up of herself, another sabbatical officer, a student elected by council, a student trustee and the academic registrar from the University. Noted that they received 2 applications, and recommend that council elect James Hunt for a second term.

No opposition received.

James Hunt elected as an external trustee of OUSU.

e. Reports from and questions to the Sabbatical Officers, Executive Officers, Divisional Board Officers, Representatives of the OUSU Campaigns and RAG (*Raise and Give*)

Lucy Delaney (Wadham) – Reported that she has been doing lots of training, and that lots of womens' officers and welfare officers have received first responder training. Informed council that her and Becky held a symposium on Saturday called 'Not in my University', which was the launch of their lad culture campaign. Reported that this went really well with lots of great speakers.

Emily Silcock (New) – Reported that she is working on voter registration, researching into the potential for OUSU to sell bikes to students, and restructuring her campaigns, which is explained in her written report. Added that she is putting together vegetarian starter packs ready for veggie pledge next term.

Ali Lennon (St John's) – Reported that he has been running welfare officer training at grad and lab friendly times, which has received positive feedback. Added that he ran an STI screening event with NHS sexual health Oxfordshire at St Catherine's college, where they carried out 100 HIV tests and approximately 100 chlamydia tests.

Becky Howe (Pembroke) – Informed council that about three weeks ago she went to the Houses of Parliament for an all-party parliamentary group on sexual violence and lad culture in universities, which was a task force set up in collaboration between NUS, the government and Universities UK. Reported that it was a great event which discussed the Zellick Guidelines, a document about sexual assault and how institutions should respond to it. Added that she has also been writing up the

Welfare Report with Ali, which would be going into University committees over the next couple of week.

Nick Cooper (St John's) – Reported that over the last week the Graduate Supervision System agreed some changes, which is positive, as it is currently useless as a system. Noted that further details on the changes can be found in his written report. Added that he took the Student Written Submission to Education Committee, and they have agreed that improving graduate submission rates in DPhil students should be a priority for the University.

Cat Jones (Pembroke) – Reported that OUSU ran the Teaching Awards, and they were the biggest and best yet, as promised in her manifesto, with over 650 nominations, new categories, and over 300 guests in the Town Hall. Explained that she is still working on suspension with SusCam, and is making very quick progress, with Senior Tutors Committee setting up a working group to set some minimum guidelines for what all colleges must do for suspended students.

Taisie (Wadham) – Asked Lucy what she is going to do with the knowledge that was gained from the symposium.

Lucy – Replied that the symposium was run both so she and Becky could present all of the work that OUSU have done and wants to do, and so that they could have a listening and consultation exercise with different panels on different issues. Reported that they are currently working on a number of things, including survival support groups, in link with OSARCC. Added that they will campaign for all liberation workshops, including queer consent workshops and race workshops, so that sexual consent workshops are not prioritized over any other and so that colleges start to take some responsibility to ensure that happens.

Adam Kellett (Hertford) – Reported that he has been working with Target Schools on travel bursaries so that they can get potential students here from further afield. Added that he has also been working with Cat and the access reps on the Access Vision, and also researching what the potential break from the NUS would mean for access.

g. Passage of motions without discussion

6. Community Campaign

Council Notes:

1. Its powers under Bye-Law 34.2 to establish new campaigns (if a Sabbatical Officer supports this and provides a draft constitution), and to wind-up existing campaigns (34.4).
2. OUSU's new Bye-Laws passed in 1st week Trinity term 2016, which permit each sabbatical officer to sponsor a maximum of five Campaigns (34.1).
3. As of the end of 8th week Michaelmas term 2016, each campaign will have a representative on OUSU's Executive.
4. Currently OUSU has a Living Wage Campaign and a homelessness Campaign (On Your Doorstep).

Council Believes:

1. There are many issues within the local community that it would benefit students to campaign on. None of these issues take special precedence over others.
2. Community-focused campaigns should be sponsored by the Vice President (Charities & Community).

3. As the Vice President (Charities & Community) can sponsor a maximum of 5 campaigns and they also sponsor campaigns on environmental and ethical issues, they cannot sponsor a separate campaign on each community issue.
4. Campaigns working on similar issues should be encouraged to work together.
5. It does not make sense for a member of a single community issue campaign (eg. Living wage) to sit on OUSU's Executive Committee.
6. Students should be encouraged to campaign on a multitude of different community issues. As such, it should be made more simple for a student to work with OUSU to set up a group that campaigns on a community issue.

Council Resolves:

1. To create a new Campaign (pursuant to Bye-Law 34.2), called the Community Campaign, which has the capacity to set up multiple sub-campaigns.
2. To endorse the draft constitution in Appendix 5.
3. To mandate the Vice President (Charity & Community) to form an Executive for the Campaign and ensure the Executive endorses the draft constitution within a month of this motion passing.
4. To wind-up the Campaign called On Your Doorstep (pursuant to Bye-Law 34.4) with the view to this becoming a sub-campaign of the Community Campaign.
5. To wind-up the Campaign called Living Wage (pursuant to Bye-Law 34.4) with the view to this becoming a sub-campaign of the Community Campaign.

Proposed: Emily Silcock (New)

Seconded: Henriette Wilberg (Wadham)

Motion passed without discussion.

9. International Freshers

Council Notes:

1. That at several colleges, international undergraduate freshers are not allowed to arrive in Michaelmas Term before (or long before) UK freshers.
2. A similar situation with little flexibility on arrival dates also applies to graduate freshers in some colleges.
3. The University's International Orientation takes place in -1st week of term (a week before 0th week) for graduate students, but on Monday 0th week for undergraduates. This is due to be shorter from 2016 with more material moved online, but this can still cause clashes leading to international freshers missing out on other events.
4. Linked to this problem is a lack of flexibility in colleges with respect to when all students can arrive and leave, often on a presumption that a student's parents can bring their belongings on a certain day.
5. Some international freshers tend to arrive in the UK prior to when they are allowed to move in to allow themselves more time to settle in, but are forced to stay outside of their college.
6. In addition to the challenges UK freshers face in settling into Oxford, international freshers also deal with culture shock, jet lag and living thousands of miles away from home – and need Freshers' Week to do tasks such as setting up a UK bank account and getting a phone contract.

Council Believes:

1. It makes the overall process of settling in at Oxford much more difficult if international students arrive at the same time as UK students, rather than having several days to get used to the UK.
2. The busy schedule of Freshers' Week often does not build in time for issues like culture shock, and jet lag, and so international students need additional days to settle in.
3. Colleges should prioritise the welfare of students, but particularly international freshers, over other potential uses of accommodation in 0th week and the week before this.

Council Resolves:

1. To support a campaign to allow international freshers at all colleges to arrive several days before UK freshers (and several days before Sunday 0th week) if they want or need to; for colleges to be more flexible in departure and arrival dates before/after vacations; and for the collegiate University to provide more storage for particularly international students.
2. To mandate the International Students' Officer and Graduate International Students' Officer to raise this issue with Common Rooms, to see the extent of the problem, and to encourage Common Rooms in colleges where this is a problem to pass a similar motion to this one.
3. To encourage colleges and the university to hold events for international freshers in -1st week (rather than 0th week) to help them get to know each other, to walk them through specific tasks such as setting up a bank account and to offer advice/workshops on international-welfare related issues such as culture shock.
4. To mandate the Vice-President (Graduates) and other relevant Sabbatical Officers to campaign within committees for such a change.
5. To make all of Council Believes, and Resolves 1, OUSU Policy.

Proposed: Meera Sachdeva (LMH)

Seconded: Marcelo Gennari do Nascimento (Wadham)

Motion passed without discussion.

10. Divestment

Council Notes:

1. OUSU has policy on divestment which will lapse at the end of Trinity Term 2016 unless it is brought to Council again.

Council Believes:

1. The University of Oxford should not invest in or accept money from sources of which its student body has repeatedly expressed its disapproval.
2. The University should not, on a matter of principle, accept money from sources which may have a significant financial interest in the way a course is taught or how a controversial topic (such as climate change) is presented to students.
3. The financial affairs of the University, in particular its record of investment and accepting donations, should be as transparent as possible, so that the student body can be sure that it abides by points 1.) and 2.)

Council Resolves:

1. To make known to the University its support for greater transparency with respect to financial transactions involving organisations in the fossil fuel industry, and to lobby for for

the University to cooperate with divulging, on request, information relating to previous transactions.

2. To make Believes 1-3 and Resolves 1 OUSU policy.

Proposed: Rivka Mickelthwaite (St Catherine's)

Seconded: Emily Silcock (New)

Motion passed without discussion.

11. Unpaid Internships

Council Notes:

1. OUSU has policy on unpaid internships which will lapse at the end of Trinity Term 2016 unless it is brought to Council again.

Council Believes:

1. Unpaid internships exploit young people who are trying to build up experience in their chosen career.
2. Unpaid work is essentially inaccessible for those from lower income backgrounds.

Council Resolves:

1. To never advertise or promote unpaid internships, with the exception of internships shorter than 4 weeks.
2. To take appropriate action to stop any other part of the University doing so, with the exception of internships shorter than 4 weeks.
3. To make believes 1 and 2, and resolves 1 and 2 OUSU policy.

Proposed: Emily Silcock (New)

Seconded: Cat Jones (Pembroke)

Motion passed without discussion.

12. Oxford City of Sanctuary

Council Notes:

1. City of Sanctuary is a national movement of local people and community groups working to make their cities a place of welcome and safety for people seeking sanctuary from violence, persecution, exclusion and destitution.
2. Every year, local Oxford organisations provide services and support to hundreds of refugees, asylum-seekers and people seeking sanctuary.
3. Oxford City of Sanctuary is asking organisations to pass the following resolution of support "We support the initiative to make Oxford into a recognised 'City of Sanctuary', welcoming and providing sanctuary to all peoples fleeing violence, persecution, exclusion and destitution. We recognise the contributions of refugees, asylum-seekers and all other peoples seeking sanctuary to the City of Oxford. We are committed to taking practical steps to welcome and include them in our activities and are actively seeking ways of supporting them wherever we can."

Council Believes:

1. We support the initiative to make Oxford into a recognised 'City of Sanctuary', welcoming and providing sanctuary to all peoples fleeing violence, persecution, exclusion and destitution.
2. We recognise the contributions of refugees, asylum-seekers and all other peoples seeking sanctuary to the City of Oxford.
3. We are committed to taking practical steps to welcome and include them in our activities and are actively seeking ways of supporting them wherever we can.

Council Resolves:

1. To mandate the Vice President (Charities & Community) to sign this resolution and send it to Oxford City of Sanctuary.

Proposed: Emily Silcock (New)

Seconded: Becky Howe (Pembroke)

Motion passed without discussion.

i. Motions to amend Bye-Laws, General Regulations or Election Regulations**1. Rules of Council****Council Notes:**

1. OUSU amended its Bye-Laws in Hilary and Trinity Terms, with consequential amendments required to Council rules beneath this.
2. That the current General Regulations have either moved up to the Bye-Laws (and are now superfluous) or relate to rules governing Council.
3. That a new set of Rules have been proposed (Appendix 1), significantly condensing the current rules of Council, making required consequential changes, and making further changes outlined in Appendix 2.

Council Resolves:

1. To make new Rules of Council (Appendix 1), which will take effect at noon on Thursday 12th May.
2. To repeal the General Regulations made by Council in 2013 (as amended in HT, TT, MT 2014 and TT 2015), effective noon Thursday 12th May.

Proposed: Nick Cooper (St John's)

Seconded: Becky Howe (Pembroke)

Nick Cooper (St John's) – Reported that we made changes to our rules last term, which means that there are knock on effects to the documents beneath them. Explained that while updating these, we have taken the opportunity to make them shorter, more accessible, and easier to read, and therefore to make council easier for people to get involved in. Highlighted that all details are listed in the back of agenda, and were emailed to all members of council 6 days prior to the meeting.

Motion passed with no opposition.

2. New Regulations

Council Notes:

1. OUSU amended its highest governing document (the Articles of Association) at a General Meeting in December 2015, and its second highest document (the Bye-Laws) in Hilary and Trinity Terms, with consequential amendments required to Regulations beneath this.
2. That a new set of Regulations have been proposed (Appendix 3), condensing the current Election Regulations (for Direct Elections and for Referenda), making these consequential changes, and making further changes outlined in Appendix 2.
3. That the University have considered the new Regulations, in accordance with their legal duty to ensure the fairness and propriety of OUSU elections, and are content that the new Regulations ensure this.

Council Resolves:

1. To give a First Reading to make new Regulations (Appendix 3).

Proposed: Nick Cooper (St John's)

Seconded: Becky Howe (Pembroke)

Nick Cooper (St John's) – Explained that again, we have taken the opportunity to shorten our rules about elections and referendums, which currently total 64 pages, which is absolutely ridiculous. Noted that we have cut them down to 16, by removing a considerable amount of unnecessary information and repetition. Explained that we have consulted numerous times on the more substantive changes, which again are available in the back of the agenda, and have been circulated around council.

Motion passed with no opposition.

j. Motions authorising expenditure

3. Welfare for Welfare

Council Notes:

1. That common room Welfare and Women's Officers have a large welfare remit, and spend a significant amount of their time offering welfare support to students.
2. That this includes providing peer support, receiving disclosures, facilitating workshops, organising general welfare events, and providing other support services.
3. That providing this support is invaluable to students but it can be time-consuming, emotionally draining, and upsetting.
4. That whilst liberation officers such as BME, Disabilities, LGBTQ and Trans Officers do not always have such an explicit and broad welfare remit, they too often expend a significant amount of time and energy offering support to students.
5. That BME, Disabilities, LGBTQ and Trans Officers, who represent groups that are marginalised and underrepresented (and these officers themselves are underrepresented) are also shouldered with the added, unfair burden of constantly being called upon to educate those around them.

6. That the aforementioned officers are students who choose to volunteer their time for the benefit of their peers.
7. That they are often called upon to relieve the concerns and burnout of other students and therefore suffer significant burnout themselves.
8. That there is often not adequate support in place to tackle this burnout, and that the support available is often not adequately signposted.

Council Believes:

1. That the aforementioned officers go above and beyond the call of duty to enhance the lives of Oxford students.
2. That we owe them thanks for all their hard work.
3. That they might benefit from a welfare event in which they can relax and are properly thanked and made aware of support available to them.

Council Resolves:

1. To pass up to £100 from the discretionary fund to be used by the Vice-President (Welfare & Equal Opportunities) and the Vice President (Women) to organise and fund a 'Welfare for Welfare Event' in early Trinity Term 2016 for Welfare Officers, Women's Officers and other liberation officers.
2. To mandate the Vice-President (Welfare & Equal Opportunities) and the Vice President (Women) to identify further ways to support or signpost welfare and liberation officers.

Proposed: Lucy Delaney (Wadham)

Seconded: Alasdair Lennon (St. John's)

Lucy Delaney (Wadham) – Explained that this motion recognises that there is a lot of burn out in the University for all students, but those that suffer the most tends to be those that are providing welfare support for others, including welfare officers, women officers and liberation officers in general. Proposed that we put on a nice event for these officers which acknowledges and thanks all the tireless work that these officers do. Added that it will include food and a relaxation event, as well as signposting to where these people can go when they themselves are suffering from burn out. Explained that alongside this money they are requesting from council, they will use their sabbatical budgets.

Ali Lennon (St John's) – Added that we will also investigate how else we can support these officers from a welfare perspective.

Brendon Casey (St Edmund Hall) – Asked how much the event would cost in total.

Lucy – Replied that it has not been costed yet, but they expect around £60 for food, as well as the cost of resources. Explained that they need the funding first to ensure that it can be a worthwhile event, but will take the rest from their sabbatical budget.

Tim (Merton) – Asked where the money comes from.

Ali – Explained that the money we are requesting will come from the council discretionary fund, and the rest will come from the sabbatical officers' individual budgets.

Matt Collyer (New) – Clarified that the council discretionary fund has £2500 annually, £870 of which is left for the remainder of the academic year.

Motion passed with no opposition.

4. Funding for NUS Referendum

Council Notes:

1. That in 6th week there will be a referendum on NUS affiliation.

Council Believes:

1. That students should not have to fund the campaigns out of their own pockets.

Council Resolves:

1. To give £75 to both the official ‘yes’ campaign and the official ‘no’ campaign.

Proposed: Becky Howe (Pembroke)

Seconded: Ali Lennon (St. John’s)

Becky Howe (Pembroke) – Explained that they think it would be really good if both the official ‘yes’ and ‘no’ campaigns have some funding for the NUS referendum, so that money is not coming out of students’ own pockets.

Charles (Keble) – Asked if we will know how the money is spent.

Ali Lennon (St John’s) – Confirmed that we ask for all receipts.

Matt Collyer (New) – Confirmed that they will all be given to the Returning Officer, as per the Election Regulations.

Adam Kellett (Herford) – Asked if this will be the full amount students can spend.

Becky – Replied that no, the maximum for each side is £230, and this will contribute towards that.

Motion passed with no opposition.

k. Other motions

5. Environment Campaign

Council Notes:

1. OUSU currently has a campaign named ‘Environment and Ethics (E&E)’, which is commonly known as ‘the E&E Campaign’.
2. The E&E Campaign does not currently campaign on any issues which are ‘ethical’ without also being ‘environmental’.

3. It is OUSU policy that “OUSU should be as accessible as possible, and this includes avoiding the use of acronyms and jargon wherever possible.”
4. The changes to OUSU’s Bye-Laws, and therefore the requirements of campaign constitutions, passed in 1st week Trinity term 2016.

Council Believes:

1. Environmental campaigning is important.
2. There are multiple different environmental issues that can be campaigned around.

Council Resolves:

1. To change the name of the E&E Campaign to the ‘Environment Campaign’, and therefore amend all references to ‘E&E’ in the campaign constitution.
2. To accept the Environment constitution as amended (Appendix 4).

Proposed: Emily Silcock (New)

Seconded: Fairlie Kirkpatrick Baird (Somerville)

Emily Silcock (New) – Explained that this motion changes the name of the ‘Environment and Ethics (E&E)’ Campaign to the ‘Environment Campaign’, partly as we have OUSU policy against acronyms. Added that the changes bring the constitution into line with new governance, and also adds the option for the campaign to set up new sub-groups.

Cameron Quinn (Merton) – Asked if this will shrink the potential remit of the campaign.

Emily – Directed to her written report which explains the changes she is making to her campaigns at the moment, and that currently she has an Environment and Ethics Campaign, a Homelessness Campaign and a Living Wage Campaign, which she is changing to an Environment Campaign, a Community Campaign and a Global Justice Campaign (which is likely to have a different name). Noted that the Global Justice Campaign will cover ethics, but will not come into force until 7th week, when the exec has been formed. Explained that this campaign will cover things like lobbying for refugee scholarships and looking at the University’s procurement policy.

Motion passed with no opposition.

7. Motion to Accept the Hilary Term 2016 Scrutiny Report

Council Notes:

1. The Scrutiny Committee was established in Hilary 2010 to monitor the work of the OUSU team, and ensure they are held accountable to the students of the university.
2. The Scrutiny Committee must present a report evaluating the work of OUSU Sabbatical Officers, Part Time Executives and Divisional Board Representatives to the termly council in 7th week.
3. However due to the meeting being found inquorate, this report must be presented again in 1st week Council of Trinity Term.

Council Believes:

1. That the Scrutiny Report in Appendix 6 should be accepted by OUSU Council.

Council Resolves:

1. To accept the Scrutiny Report in Appendix 6.

Proposed: Dan Mead (St John's)

Seconded: Joe Small (Jesus)

Dan Mead (St John's) – Summarised that the report covers how the officers are doing, and how well they are representing students. Highlighted some recommendations, including the suggestion that sabbatical officers need to consider their workloads, and the incredibly long hours they work that they are not paid for. Noted that they should not have their work straying into their personal life, or have people putting undue burdens upon them to work outside of their remits and working days. Recommended that PTEs communicate between themselves more, and use each other for support on similar projects, which can save so much time. Noted that communication is also an issue with common rooms, which some officers are far better at than others, so urged people to copy the approach of those that are communicating well with common rooms.

Tom Wadsworth (St John's) – Noted that his report states that he focuses too much on welfare and not on academic affairs, so asked what they consider the distinction between the two to be.

Brendon Casey (St Edmund Hall) – Replied that Tom seemed to be straying into the remit of welfare officers, rather than that set out in his own role description, which was not the best approach, particularly as he did not seem to be communicating well with the welfare side of the team.

Motion passed with no opposition.

8. Changes to the Elections and Responsibilities of Divisional Board Representatives

Council Notes:

1. That OUSU appoints eight Divisional Board Representatives (one undergraduate and one graduate for each of the four divisions), who represent students at the Divisional Board and other committees.
2. OUSU's rules specify that Council will "appoint" the four Divisional Board representatives without further detail. The University's rules say that however this takes place, Council must ratify any appointment.
3. Previous Scrutiny Committee reports and discussions with representatives have highlighted problems including: high turnover in the roles, a lack of clarity of what is expected of reps (also reflected in unfeasible manifesto pledges when elected), and a high time commitment.
4. Amendments to the Bye-Laws now mean that as of this term, Divisional Board Reps are no longer subject to Scrutiny Committee reports.
5. A consultation has taken place with OUSU Sabbatical and other Officers, the Divisional Board Representatives and University officers to review how the positions can be improved (full details in Appendix 7).

Council Believes:

1. It is important that students are well represented at divisional boards and committees by reps who have the skills to do this, who understand their roles when applying, and who have a manageable time commitment (especially in terms of meetings) during their term of office.
2. It is more important that Divisional Board Reps attend divisional meetings than OUSU Council, to reduce the time commitment of the role.

Council Resolves:

1. To establish a Divisional Board Nominations Panel in accordance with Appendix 7, who shall appoint Divisional Board Representatives from Trinity Term 2016 onwards (subject to ratification in Council) in accordance with the guidelines in Appendix 7.
2. To amend OUSU's Policy "Council holding the Executive Committee and Divisional Board Representatives to account" [Michaelmas 2014] by: deleting both instances of "and Divisional Board Representatives" (in the title and in "OUSU Believes"); deleting "or 2" in paragraph 5a; and by replacing the word "mandate" in paragraph 2 with "encourage".¹
3. To make the role description in Appendix 7 the statement of responsibilities for Divisional Board Representatives, and to delegate to the Vice-Presidents (Access & Academic Affairs) and (Graduates) the power to make minor amendments to this, when they deem it necessary.
4. To mandate the Vice-President (Access & Academic Affairs) and Vice-President (Graduates) to ensure that the existence, role descriptions and elections of the Divisional Board Representatives are well-advertised.
5. To mandate the Vice-Presidents (Access & Academic Affairs) and (Graduates) to review this elections process in Trinity Term 2017.
6. To make Resolves 1 and 5, and the final page of Appendix 7, OUSU Policy.

Proposed: Jacob Page (St Cross)

Seconded: Eden Bailey (Magdalen)

Jacob Page (St Cross) – Introduced himself as an MPLS divisional board rep, and explained that since he has been in the role, they have been discussing as a group, what the role is, how it can work better, and what we want to do. Noted that full information is available in appendix 7 online. Noted that in the past few years, there have been problems with both the recruitment and the retention of divisional board reps, highlighting that there are currently no divisional board reps for the social sciences. Continued that there have been problems over the confusion of the role and how it works, with people often coming in thinking of this as an activist role, when in reality you are in a lot of committees (although noting that this does not mean that excellent work cannot be achieved on pledges). Reminded council that another reform was attempted last year, by running the div rep elections as a cross-campus ballot, however only one nomination was received. Explained that Nick, Cat, the Academic Representation Officer and the current div reps have produced this, which changes the role into an application process role, in which the VP Access and Academic Affairs, VP Graduates and an elected officer of OUSU (likely to be the Chair or Returning Officer) will interview candidates and submit them to ratification by council. Added that during this process, a clear role description will be given, including expected work hours. Noted the removal of requirement of scrutiny committee to scrutinise div reps, which will be replaced by Education Conference, a meeting that will happen twice termly, and will be made up of VP Access and Academic Affairs, VP Graduates, the Academic Representation Officer and all of the divisional board reps. Explained that the roles of the div reps are closely linked to these two sabbatical officers, and they are the best people to know if we are doing this job well. Added that the current requirement of the div reps is to attend the divisional board itself, however there are lots of other sub-committees, which is where a lot of the work is actually done, and where div reps are more able to influence policy, therefore this is being brought into the job description.

Andrew Dwyer (Mansfield) – Asked how many extra meetings there would be in addition to the two termly divisional board meetings.

¹ These amendments remove the *requirement* for Divisional Board Representatives to attend Council, but still keep an encouragement for them to attend. The current policy is on p18/19 here: <http://ousu.org/pageassets/representing-you/council/policy/Policy-Book-TT16.pdf>

Jacob – Replied that it is approximately five, but that it varies between graduates and undergraduates, as only graduates sit on the graduate committees.

Hossein Sharafi (Keble) – Suggested that the introduction of an application and interview process could have a negative effect and in fact repel candidates.

Jacob – Replied that they have discussed these, and believe that the skills which are required for the role are not necessarily the ones that you need for standing up in hustings and having big pledges. Added that it will suit people that do not necessarily want to get up and speak in front of a lot of people. Added that there is a review clause in this for the end of next year.

Hossein – Stated that divisional board reps are usually elected without hustings, so argued that this is not relevant.

Eden Bailey (Magdalen) – Explained that this is not the case, as there are normally hustings and speeches for divisional board reps, even when there is only one candidate, often as council do not understand what the role is either. Agreed with Jacob that the type of candidate interested in being a div board rep is less likely to be put off by a small meeting or interview. Reiterated that with the review clause, it could be brought back to council for consideration next year if necessary.

Motion passed with no opposition.