

Meeting opened at 2.41pm. Abigail Coates (St Hilda's) in the chair.

00/HT5/01 Minutes of last meeting

They were accepted as a true and accurate record without amendment.

00/HT5/02 Matters Arising from previous minutes

None

00/HT5/03 Ratifications

Abigail Coates made a Chair's ruling that the motion on procedure for ratifications should be taken as from this Council and not from the start of next term.

Laura Paskell Brown (St Hilda's) for Co-Chair OUSU Reps Committee – Ratified

Cat Muge (Wadham) for Co Chair Finance and Funding – Ratified

00/HT5/04 Elections in Council

OUSU Executive Officer. 2 vacancies. 7 candidates.

The candidates were asked to hust in reverse ballot paper order.

Vivienne Raper – Mansfield

You have to do something that makes you want to get up in the morning. Being involved in helping students does that for her. She wants to have an influence and do something for students. OUSU is not perfect but is the best we have. She ran for exec in MT but didn't have the experience at what was going on but now has. Has attended last Council and Women's Cmtte. Wants to get sponsorship for refreshments for a forum. She is the Labour Club Women's Officer.

The two portfolios she would really like are Health and Welfare and Battels. Health and Welfare needs someone who is sensitive and compassionate and she has that experience having been involved with suicide.

Catherine Wallis – Keble

She is regular attender at Council and has submitted motions. Did work at MT elections and has been a steward at Grants not Fees March. She is going to NUS Womens Conference. Also a member of Amnesty International and

issues of justice and peace are her main concern. She is hard working, committed, a good teamworker and would uphold policy.

Colin Anderson – Somerville

NUS-OUSU Rep in Somerville. Worked on presenting policy to the people. JCR role has given him experience on working on an exec body. OUSU is fundamentally good but has problems with communication. Currently Co-Chair of OUSU reps Cmtte and has been involved with the tuition fees march and Freshers Fair.

Justin Bates – Oriel

Former Oriel OUSU rep and current Finance and Funding Co-Chair. He is not a member of a political party. He is standing for exec as people are too perceptive of the problems of OUSU especially as it being a clique whose only function is to launch left-wing political careers. He is an ordinary student who thinks OUSU is good but could do better and would work to make it better.

Heenal Rajani – Merton

He got 147 votes in the election in MT. Therefore he has some sort of mandate. Have done a lot in college being libraries and IT rep within the first term. Been appointed as an OUSU Web manager. He does not seek to make radical changes – just offers his time and commitment.

Richard McCarthy – Oriel

Withdrew

Ben Harris – St Hugh's

On paper the other candidates are eminently qualified but being a 1st year he has a fresh perspective. It is a great shame the electorate can't have a say in deciding who are the new exec officers. He has stood in a university wide election before and the electorate endorsed him. We have to pull towards common goals; equality of gender, race and sexual orientation. He believes in a more egalitarian university. Debt is unacceptable and OUSU should retain its campaigning role. We do have a severe image problem and we need better publicity and more accountability.

Questions

Costas Pateras (St John's) asked the candidates if they were Communists or ever have been?

VR – No

CW – agree with some principles but not a member.

CA – No

JB - No

HR – Politics has nothing to do with this post

BH – not communist but socialist

? asked that where party and conscience differ from OUSU policy where should they place their vote in exec and Council?

BH – hoped this would never happen as his views are compatible with helping all students but if it did, policy of the SU would be superior.

HR – what I think is not important. Time is more important

JB – I will always act in the best interests of students

CA – not a member of any party

CW – would uphold policy in any area

VR – mass of students counts

Kirsty McNeill (Balliol) asked if this election should be held in Council and have they ever sought a mandate from the electorate?

VR – Yes but came bottom of the poll. Election should be held amongst all students provided the barriers are not too big.

CW – should be held in Council. Haven't sought a mandate before as I didn't know enough.

CA – Prefer elections by all students. Haven't sought a mandate

JB – only ever worked for other candidates. Prefer elections in Council under OMOV.

HR – Democracy should be more important than the cost. Have sought an electoral mandate and did pretty well.

BH – Have sought a mandate and won. Election in Council is part of the 'alienation' process that hives OUSU off from ordinary students but it is not necessarily bad.

Antonia Bance (Somerville) asked if you are elected what portfolios would you do and why?

BH – Most are already taken but F&F would be fascinating as would Pro-Choice Cmtte.

HR – it doesn't matter as he is offering his services to do whatever.

JB – too late for me to decide. He will do anything.

CA – work on whatever. Interested in Welfare.

CW – would get involved in Target Schools even if not elected and will do whatever.

VR – I am keen on Women but would also like to do Health and Welfare and Battels.

Jane Blumer (St Hilda's) asked if the candidates had run in MT what their slate name would have been?

VR – was running and was called Students First

CW – Making Students Matter

CA – absolutely no idea

JB – Sack the Hacks

HR – Time for a Change – would stick with it

BH – Making Students Matter was not perfect but would do

Sacha Ismail (Somerville) asked if the candidates had any views on the current situation in NUS?

BH – supports fully the CFE slate as they will be much more in tune with students. Hopefully this will reduce cynicism.

HR – Pakes has been a disgrace but doesn't see what will stop careerist people getting involved with the NUS.

JB – member of CFE and supports their slate

CA – JCR has mandated him to vote for CFE slate

CW – doesn't support slates but looks at individuals. Current presidency has been a farce.

VR – Labour Students is not representing its values. Utter travesty.

Jon Worth (Merton) asked if the candidates had done determined and satisfactory jobs in their JCR, OUSU or the University?

VR – been to Women's Committee. OULC Women's Officer and arranged 3 speaker meetings. Been efficient.

CW – Chair of Justice and Peace Group and done a lot as it is only just been set up.

CA – JCR NUS-OUSU rep and did a good job at it. Co-Chair of OUSU reps cmtte.

JB – Pleased at the way the Oriel referendum went. Co-Chair F&F.

HR – Did my job as OUSU rep much better than the previous one in Merton. Haven't done as much as possible in my other jobs.

BH – attended all Council meetings as a Council Delegate. Am Campaigns Officer for Labour Club and done some good work there.

Tony Lord (Wadham) asked what political parties and clubs they were members of?

BH – Labour Party and OULC

HR – None

JB – None

CA – None

CW – OULC but no national party

VR – Labour Party and OULC

Kirsty McNeill (Balliol) asked if the candidates had resigned from their JCR or OUSU before and under what circumstances would they do so?

VR – not resigned before and would only do so if the organisation turned badly against students.

CW – No and would only resign if the organisation became irredeemably evil.

CA – No

JB – Yes – he had resigned from Oriel JCR but reasons for it are none of your business. He has no arguments with OUSU

HR – No as resigning from your JCR is a cowardly act and he would always seek to influence from within.

BH – No. Very few reasons why he would resign as he instinctively would want to stay and fight.

Voting then took place.

Francis Wright (Wadham) did not show so there was no election for that position.

Publications Complaints Board (2 vacancies)

Juliet Kemp (Pembroke) husted on behalf of Catherine Overton (Somerville). She said Catherine would be fair and unbiased.

Joel Brookfield (Keble) said that PCB is a small role where being fair and impartial is important. Has already done some disciplinary style work in another organisation and knows the caution when acting in a quasi-judicial manner. Will examine code to decide on cases.

Questions:

What do you think of the state of the OxStu ?

JB – sub-editing needs to improve as all the mistakes detract from its quality. Couldn't say too much as there might be cases to hear.

JK – couldn't speak for Catherine.

Voting then took place

00/HT5/05 – Reports from Sabbaticals and Executive Officers

President

Anneliese Dodds (St Hilda's) reported that she had:

- Been to a Proctor and Gamble training day for JCR Presidents and others which covered battels negotiation through to people management. Follow up of this in 9th Week.
- Organised Grants not Fees march – a success but numbers not as high as she would have liked. Press coverage had been pretty good
- Sent letter to the Vice Chancellor over articles in the Sunday Telegraph concerning Top-up Fees. Meeting on Sunday 3pm in Balliol to discuss how best we can counter this threat.
- Had discussions arising from the Joint Committee of Junior Members about OUSU structures, staffing arrangements and reserves. Hopes to put a motion to Council to discuss all these further in 7th Week.
- Been to Environment Cmtte – two things. First, can JCR's please discuss a motion that their environment reps will be soon getting which is based upon new university guidelines for how to green up colleges. If Junior members show their support it is much better. Second, goal is to have a green card in every room for MT which details ways of reducing waste.
- Been to JCR meetings in Magdalen, Merton, St Hugh's and Worcester
- Filling for Alex Freudmann who is ill. Did proof reading for OxStu and held a meeting with CR Treasurers yesterday
- Helping on Target Schools tour in 9/10th Week – anyone who wants to go please contact Dan Waites at St Annes
- Need new Chair of Council – contact AD if you are interested .

Questions

Mary Stevens (Hertford) asked why there was no motion on Stagecoach? AD said that was entirely her fault as she had forgot to submit it. Will do so for 7th Week Council.

Adam Killeya (Balliol) asked about the no-confidence motion in John Storey? AD had forgotten about this and it might be resubmitted in 7th Week.

Laurence Norman (Keble) asked AD about the statistics in her letter to the vice-chancellor? Where were they from? AD said that something clarifying this would be brought forward next term.

Matthew Taylor (St Benet's) asked about the article in Spectator? How will it impact on oxford? Ad said it was a shame.

OUSU Rep?? (Balliol) asked about the ordering of motions. AD explained they were ordered in the order they were submitted. To change this would require a SO change.

Vivienne Raper (Mansfield) asked if AD should reply to the Spectator article? Could be a good idea and there was precedent for this.

Dan Waites (St Anne's) asked AD to confirm that Target Schools is looking for a sample of students to tour with it in 9th and 10th Week. AD said Yes!

VP – Finance

Apologies were read out as Alex had tonsillitis.

VP- Women

Rachel Griffin (Exeter) reported that she had:

- Started to help set up a Women's Event with the OULC Women's Officer and Jesus Women's Officer
- Been doing some casework
- OUSU needs a new childcare officer
- That Pro-Choice stuff is to be relaunched on Wednesday
- The first meeting for Women's Open Day was very successful
- Mighty Aphrodite was going well and people should come on Thursday 8th Week.
- Women's Cmtte had a really successful event on Wednesday about Women in Christianity,

John Courouble (Campion Hall) asked RG if Vicki Tomlinson was still a Pro-Choice Co-Chair? VT had indicated that she would resign once new Co-Chairs were in place so Rachel thought she had deemed herself resigned when this was done.

VP – Welfare

Alice Hodgson (New) reported that she had:

- Been working with James Rowlands and Laura Davies on the setting up of a disabilities lunch. Organised for Thursday 6th Week in Oriel.
- Has been rewriting the LGB officers handbook with Llyr Roberts
- The first chunk of the Welfare website is ready to be uploaded
- Nicola has made a good start in the rewriting of the Welfare Officers Handbook

- Anti-racism Cmtte is planning lots of events for TT and are trying to get feedback of people's experiences of racial issues in Oxford
- Have written to the Oxford Training Corps about their attitude to gays in the army and whether they will encourage LGB applicants
- Student health conference on Monday 4th Feb was very useful and AH has written to the Chair of the University Cmtte suggesting we can discuss co-ordination of college welfare systems at a future meeting.

No questions

VP – Graduates

Jason Dorsett (Oriol) reported he had:

- Attended lots of meetings like Heb Council, JCHC and Graduate Committee.
- Doing Electoral Reform Working Party with first meeting in 6th Week
- Lots of preparation for Post Graduate Assembly
- Possibility of language centre charging for courses – full discussion of this will happen so that we can be ready to prevent this from happening.
- Meeting with AUT to discuss graduate tutors getting union coverage.

Laurence Norman (Keble) asked if there is any international students rep on the graduates committee? Not yet – these are not elected in Council and the position had been advertised. No one had yet stood.

Exec Officers

Hanna Kwiatkowska (St Hilda's) reported that she had got a speaker coming to Women's Committee and people, including men, should come along. Mighty Aphrodite, a cabaret, is going ahead on Thursday 8th Week. For International Students, she read out a statement from International Students Committee asking for anyone submitting motions about other countries to try and consult people from that country first. There are also 2 vacancies for co-chairs and she wants people to stand. She is also conducting questionnaires about instalment payments for overseas students.

Questions

Laurence Norman (Keble) asked how aware Hanna was about IS cmtte before her election? Nothing was handed on from the previous exec member and no meetings in MT 99.

Laura Paskell Brown (St Hilda's) asked why Hanna voted the way she did on the John Storey motion? HK said she wasn't sure how she voted but didn't see why we should press the motion once he had resigned.

Joel Brookfield (Keble) reported that he had been to most Queer Action Campaign events which had been successful. The March was coming up on Sat 26th February and urged people to go. On Accommodation, he has had two meetings with Alice Hodgson and one with the Student Advisor from which a plan of action for accommodation had been drafted. There will be a survey in TT and the plan is drawing together accommodation reps in college for training and also having a link group with key players in student housing such as police, City Council, Housing Rights etc

Questions

Eleanor Fletcher (Worcester) asked about JB's thoughts on the Living Out Guide. Yes it was rather pointless and outdated at the moment and was being redrafted on a much more user friendly line.

Sacha Ismail (Somerville) reported that he had organised a series of Pro-Choice events to happen soon and a survey for JCR's. The Anti-Racism Handbook would hopefully be published over Easter. There will be a series of Anti Racism events in TT and the 4th Week event was a good one. Some Anti-Racism stuff will be on the web.

Questions

John Courouble (Campion Hall) asked Sacha if he had been sent down? No.

Melanie Marshall (ChCh) reported that in 6th Week the Rules Committee would meet to discuss the rowing on river in the afternoon rule. Anyone present who has views on this should get in touch with her.

Jon Worth (Merton) reported that an environmental audit of colleges was being carried out with surveys going to JCR reps. Environment Cmtte is 5pm on Tuesdays in Corpus. OUSU Reps Cmtte is still meeting on non-Council Fridays at 3pm. OUSU Website is now provisionally on-line. He has resigned from Merton JCR but this is a personal issue.

Questions

John Courouble (Campion Hall) asked if Council Minutes would be put on line? Yes and they would be very shortly going up.

Adam Killea (Balliol) congratulated Jon on the website.

Dan Waites (St Anne's) came up with a good idea for advertising on the web. JW promised to have a look at it.

Mary Stevens (Hertford) reported that she had got AcAffairs Cmtte to send out lots of info about exams. She is trying to get more JCC reps to attend AcAf Cmtte. She is worried that due to cuts in Higher Education funding the University might try to cut tutorial provision for arts students. The Cmtte will be keeping tabs on this. There are no entz this term but Battle of the Bands will happen in TT. She is arranging an Entz forum to get college reps together and have their say about what entz OUSU should be doing.

Questions

Laurence Norman (Keble) asked about co-ordinating JCC's. MS said she had written to the Chairs of all of them to appoint one of their number to be a link. JCC's should be encouraged to use the handbook.

00/HT5/06 – Presidential Interpretations

Council was asked to ratify an interpretation concerning the accountability of Women's Committee

Anneliese Dodds (St Hilda's) said it was fairly self-explanatory. The interpretation arose as a result of the last Council meeting so it was felt best to clarify the situation.

SFQ:

- Will this bind other representative committees? No – just Women's
- What is appropriate forum for a man to seek redress by the actions of Women's Committee? To bring it up with the Exec officer who will seek redress only if it goes against policy or financial guidelines. Other than that a man cannot have a say.

John Courouble (Campion Hall) opposed the interpretation as being contrary to Council having control of all OUSU bodies and men should be entitled to ask Women's Committee what they are doing.

Council voted:

For – 48
Against – 10
Abs. – 3

The interpretation was clearly carried.

00/HT5/07 – Emergency Motions

Motion 1 – Access Funds

Jason Dorsett (Oriol) said the notes were self-explanatory

SFQ:

- Are children taken into account in giving out access money? Under HFCE guidelines they can be at discretion of the University.
- Are funds given to parents at the moment? That is currently an issue for colleges as they decide most funding.
- What will Sabs be doing to lobby for adequate childcare provision? News of the fallthrough of the plan is recent and this is our first response to prevent a total collapse on the issue of childcare.

Motion was then passed nem-con

00/HT5/08 – Motions carried nem-con

Motion 1 – International Students

Motion 2 – Rape Laws

Motion 10 – Telecommunications

00/HT5/09 – First readings of motions to amend SO's or Constitution

Motion 1 – Election in Council RON quota

Jason Dorsett (Oriol) said the motion was self-explanatory.

John Courouble (Campion Hall) opposed the motion saying it would lead to positions not being filled.

Kirsty McNeill (Balliol) asked if positions aren't filled do the powers go back to Sabs? JD said they didn't

Motion was then passed on a show of hands

Motion 2 – Cross Campus Ballots

Adam Killeya (Balliol) said most people agree in principle with by-elections. Democracy costs more but is worth it. The system of cross campus ballots for by-elections won't be perfect but much better than elections in Council.

SFQ:

- How about Elections in Council but on OMOV principle? Possible – sounds a good idea.
- Where would any election take place? How many boxes? Best left to RO but a minimum of 5 boxes in important buildings.
- How do you prevent abuse of the system by people resigning then restanding? Hope electors would see through this.
- How do you deal with misleading slate names? Husts for exec and grilling peoples views.

- Who will staff the ballot boxes during the day? AK hoped people would volunteer.
- How aware is AK of turnout in by elections cross campus? Turnout is eighth of usual number voting in OUSU elections. A very small number.
- How can turnout be improved? More husting, more publicity
- Are not people just apathetic? No– they just don't have enough info.

Opposition:

Josh Bell (Oriol) said that cost was not an issue. Instead there were great practical problems as not every college will have a box and that disproportionately enfranchises those colleges where there is a box. Staff pressures are too great and it is hard enough getting people to staff election day.

Helen Salmon (St Catz) said that Council could not be trusted with its powers as it replaced a YCL person who had topped the poll with a non-YCL person.

Kirsty McNeill (Balliol) said JCR's should hold their reps to account more. There is a great problem in pissing the Council off by demanding all the ballot boxes more than once a year.

Hanna Kwiatkowska (St Hilda's) opposed the motion on financial grounds as committees would get even less money to spend.

Jane Blumer (St Hilda's) said that slate names were often misleading and it is better to hold them to account in Council.

Andrew Hewitt (Queens) said voting for the person mattered as much as voting for a party. It is good to question candidates and check their personal capabilities.

MTV – failed

Laurence Norman (Keble) elections take up a lot of time and need lots of planning during which time OUSU is without a full slate of Exec officers. Motion is fundamentally flawed

Anjoum Noorani (Balliol) said it is more democratic to hold it in Council because of the slate name problem

Anneliese Dodds (St Hilda's) said the motion wasn't undemocratic but has concerns with it. OMOV elections in council might inspire people to come to Council. By- elections take up too much time which sabs and exec need to spend on doing other things. People might abuse the system and cited the precedent of Paul Ingham.

MTV – Carried

On a show of hands, **the motion was clearly defeated**

Motion 3 – Calling of Referendums

Jason Dorsett proposed an amendment as on the amendments sheet. He said the 1500 rule was never designed to help in the calling of referenda. 500 is more realistic but his amendment will prevent too many referenda happening throughout the year costing OUSU lots of money. By holding it in concurrence with the ordinary elections it will ensure a good turnout.

SFQ:

- Can candidates in those elections discuss the referendums? Yes
- Can referendums only occur in MT? No – its just made easier for them to be.
- Who decides wording of question? RO in consultation with President

Amendment accepted. Move into ordinary motion

Jason Dorsett (Oriell) proposed in similar terms to above.

SFQ:

- Is Electoral Working Party going to look at this issue? No
- What in % is 500 students out of University? 3.4%
- Does this make it harder for referendums? No

Debate:

Opposition:

Laurence Norman (Keble) said that the last referendum showed how little interest people had. Few people know what is going on and now we are proposing to have more of them.

Mary Stevens (Hertford) said there should be no problem in having 3 to 5 referendums alongside the ordinary elections. One issue might make someone come to vote and then they vote on every issue.

John Courouble (Campion Hall) says that Laurence is wrong to say referendums make OUSU more out of touch. Current mechanism isn't satisfactory.

Kirsty McNeill (Balliol) drew attention to the fact people can ask Council to call a referendum.

Vinothan Sangarapillai (St Hugh's) was worried about the danger of electoral overload if too many referenda happened at once.

Jane Blumer (St Hilda's) said this motion was an excellent idea and referendums are a good thing.

MTV – carried

Council then voted:

For – 42

Against – 4

Abs. – 6

The motion, as amended, was accordingly carried

Motion 4 – Ratification in Council

Jason Dorsett (Oriell) said that this clears up the issues involving this procedure.

Motion then passed nem-con

00/HT5/10 – Ordinary Motions

Motion 3 – Council Minutes

Joel Brookfield (Keble) said that the Secretary has an excessive workload – often over 10hrs every fortnight – just doing minutes. Every other option has been tried but no other way round it than to reduce the amount minuted. Most other options were useless or too expensive. Its time the issue was debated at Council so Council can say the sort of minutes it wants. Whatever happens, verbatim minutes cannot happen as the exec Secretary don't have the skill at shorthand or typing.

SFQ:

- Why are the staff not used anymore? Felt politicised and it takes up too much of their time.
- Other people taking minutes? Was discussed but need continuity and if it keeps changing people can forget and not do them.
- What does cut in 'resolves 3' mean ? Summarise debate.
- Council believes I is there something missing? Yes – the word 'constraint' should be added
- How about an election for Secretary? Who would stand....

Quorum Count – 50

John Steward (Pembroke) proposed amendment to change in resolves 3 to 'summarise debate'. Accepted.

Cat Muge (Wadham) said Council wouldn't be accountable when you cut out people's name and college.

Helen Salmon (St Catz) said the same point and said everyone needs to note who is causing bad behaviour.

Amendment proposed to strike out resolves 2 and 3.

Alice Hodgson (New) opposed this as asking the impossible by reaffirming Council Minutes as being verbatim when clearly they never can be.

For – 28

Against – 12

Abs - ?

Carried

MTV – Carried

Council then voted overwhelmingly in favour of the amended motion

The motion, as amended, was accordingly passed

John Courouble (Campion Hall) moved a procedural motion to lay Motions 3-9 on the table until next Council.

Agreed to.

00/HT5/11 – Any Other Business

Point of Order was raised – which Exec were still present? It was noted that Sacha Ismail, Laura Davies and Sonia Sodha had left the meeting without giving due apologies to the Chair. Council said they should be named and shamed! Exec were reminded of this courtesy agreed to at the previous Council.

Counts for votes – 10am in Oriel.

Kirsty McNeill (Balliol) asked why no contingency plans for a late sitting Council had been made? Jason Dorsett said that this was difficult as only about 4 rooms were suitable and most colleges were reluctant to give them to us in the evening.

Chair of Council needed for next term – please see Anneliese about this.

Meeting closed at 6.08pm

