

# OUSU council minutes

OUSU Council, 5th week, HT 2002

## Minutes of Previous Council:

Alex Merchant, St Peterís: Why are the minutes not sent as word attachments?

Eleanor Fletcher: Itís not been possible before.

## Ratifications in Council

Stuart Hudson, RO, ratified

Accommodation Officer, Daniel Mitchell, ratified

QR committee co-chair, Patrick Flanery, doesnít need to be ratified

Elections Committee: John Craig

Antonia Bance

James Rowlands

Eleanor Fletcher

Ruth Hunt

Eleanor Thompson

## Elections in Council

Catherine Sangster: Ím husting for all seven members of Elections Tribunal and its Reserve Panel. Itís difficult to find people because itís preferable to have grad students in a graduate election. I recommend these people as upstanding members.

### Questions

John Craig: Do they understand the job theyíre applying for and are they committed?

Catherine Sangster: Yes

John Craig: Will any of them be involved with anyone likely to become a candidate?

Catherine Sangster: No.

Candidate cards handed out and filled in. Will be counted by RO tomorrow, 10, am.

## Sabbatical Reports to Council

### President:

The resignation of Catherine Sangster has been accepted. It is a sad and difficult time. It would have been easy to carry on and pretend all was fine, but this decision has been brave and its motive is ensuring the best representation for graduates. The by-election for VP grads is 7th week for VP (Graduates) 2002-2002. A good team will ensure it goes smoothly. Any problems email

HYPERLINK <mailto:ro@ousu.org>

[ro@ousu.org](mailto:ro@ousu.org)

Am angry with NUS, but am not condoning disaffiliation as the way forward, NUS march next Wednesday, meet 8.30 at the Taylorian. Apologies for Cherwellís Evelyn, the poster is not, contrary to what it states, official OUSU propaganda. Cherwell article by Chris Pokes is inaccurate, OUSU sabs are the lowest paid in the country.

### Questions

Ed Swan, Balliol: Can OUSU provide legal cover that NUS does?

Ruth Hunt: Yes, but couldnít to an individual student.

Antonia Bance: NUS has a free in-house solicitor

Ruth Hunt: OUSU has OSLAS

John Townsend, Univ: Has Ruthís opinion on the NUS changed?

Ruth: Ím angry with them and I understand Kebleís decision, but donít condone it.

Josh Kern, Pembroke: OUSU dealt with Pembroke better than NUS regarding rent prices,

Leading Pembroke to disaffiliate.

Is it important for OUSU to be seen to be doing events such as Diversity Week or should it work quietly and efficiently for students even though people don't notice this work?

Ruth Hunt: They're not mutually exclusive. In Oxford students are aware of what sabs do, but I have to be invited into JCRs to get to tell students. The press want a good story, so find it hard to show OUSU in a positive light with regards to some of the less sexy work we do such as Target Schools.

Nick Clark, Somerville: The anti-fees gold men were praised in the national press. Will you congratulate them?

Ruth Hunt: Times Higher coverage wasn't very positive. I'm concerned that the rules of the Union weren't adhered to though I congratulate them for the positive press coverage.

Ed Swan, Balliol: Do you agree that the best way to change the NUS is involvement in it?

Do we also sent too few delegates?

Ruth Hunt: The way forward is more student involvement, but not enough ways to get involved. Please come to the march, though.

NUS conference this year is in 0th week and therefore a problem for Oxford.

VP Finance:

The OUSU shop belongs to everyone. Email

[HYPERLINK mailto:finance@ousu.org](mailto:finance@ousu.org)

[finance@ousu.org](mailto:finance@ousu.org)

with shop-related queries.

Diversity week was cool. A new business manager is needed, email as before for more details, deadline 1 week today. Successful battels negotiation training, Jason Dorset, ex VP grads talked about the Franks accounts. Franks accounts for past three years in OUSU offices if anyone wants to see them. If sabs were unpaid, only a privileged few could afford to become a sab.

Questions:

John Townsend, Univ: Why is there a downturn in the accounts?

Eleanor Fletcher: Economic downturn, events of Sept 11th and a downturn in graduate recruitment.

VP Welfare:

Questions:

Josh Kern, Pembroke: What areas of Diversity Week were most and least successful and what can we learn from it all?

James Rowlands: The speaker meetings and entz events were very successful. Some stalls didn't turn up at the Fair. It's all a learning process and for next year, better organisation and management.

VP Women:

Elections Review Committee, Friday, Jesus, 3.30, making regs more transparent. Email

[HYPERLINK mailto:women@ousu.org](mailto:women@ousu.org)

[women@ousu.org](mailto:women@ousu.org)

for more info. Will be sending people to various committees for input, too.

Andrew Thomas, St Anne's: Have you been doing much casework?

Antonia Bance: It is inappropriate to comment on casework.

VP Grads:

International Student's Committee regular slot, even weeks, Tuesdays, 7pm, Somerville West JCR

VP AccAcAff:

Thanks to Chris Hanretty. Target Schools Visiting Scheme, please get involved, email

<mailto:access@ousu.org>

[access@ousu.org](mailto:access@ousu.org)

As ever target schools website at

<http://www.targetschools.comn>

[www.targetschools.comn](http://www.targetschools.comn)

Exec Reports

Andrew Thomas: NUS Demo tickets £3, contact me at St Anneís.

Phil Thompson: Environment Committee, 5pm

Rachel Logan: Setting up an Entz forum. Could entz reps contact me at New.

#### Questions:

Helena Puig Laraurri: Why has the decision been made to drop the Switch to Green campaign by Environment committee?

Phil Thompson: Itís not been dropped, but it wasnít doing much in most colleges.

Helena PL: Loss of support for colleges still with the scheme?

Ruth Hunt: Other areas need addressing. The scope has been broadened but nothing dropped.

Jack Cliff, Corpus: £100 from Corpus been given to Switch to Green campaign. Whereís it gone?

Eleanor Fletcher: Cheques are often sent in with no explanation. The money will only be spent on the campaign, if this isnít viable, it will be ripped up. Always check with Ruth if someone at college requests money for OUSU.

#### Emergency Motions

##### Ca mpsfield Closure

Ruth Hunt: Sorry this had to be an emergency motion, but 23rd Feb is before the next council. Urge that it be passed

#### Short Factual Questions

Andrew Thomas, St Annes: Will a meeting point be arranged for the demo?

Ruth Hunt: If the demand is high, yes.

#### Speech in Oppostion

John Townsend, Univ: Council believes I is wrong; students donít have a responsibility to involve themselves and itís not the place of the union to comment.

Ruth Hunt: Move to a vote

No opposition and so move to a vote passed

#### Summing up in favour

Ruth Hunt: Itís a simple motion. We do have a responsibility.to the local community.

#### Summing up against:

John Townsend, Univ: We don't have any such responsibility.

Motion passed

#### Other Motions

By-election regs

Auditorís Letter,.

Selection Procedures,

Environment Committee all pass nem con.

#### Motions of No Confidence or Censure

Censure Sacha Ismail

Point of Order

Rachel Logan: The motion should not be put. Itís a waste of councilís time and it is not councilís place to censure an individual. Censure should not be taken lightly.

John Townsend, Univ: It is important, especially bearing in mind the Presidentís previous comments about

the gold men.

Point of Order passes and the motion not be put.

First Readings of Constitutional/Standing order amendments

Graduate Sabbatical

Speech in Proposition

Ruth Hunt: The passed three grad sabs have been in favour of such a motion. It could be a good thing, but I'm neither pro nor anti.

SFQs

Nick Clark, Somerville: Why is the start date for the VP grads different anyway?

Ruth Hunt: The university stipulated that it be done by academic year and also 1 year masters courses usually end then.

Speech in Opposition

Liz Chare, Linacre: the holder of the position will be paying fees for two months when they're not actually a graduate, if the system is changed.

Debate on the motion

Catherine Sangster: Neither pro nor anti. Graduate privileges will remain, such as use of libraries etc. Masters courses may not finish until September, but all previous VP Grads have been doctoral students. Finishing in September may also be problematic for finding work.

Andrew Zadel, St Anthony's: Support the current system. A period of time following finishing the course, to be away from Oxford is a good thing. 2yr masters courses often have fieldwork.

Matt Sellwood, New: Why not leave it up to person elected?

Ruth Hunt: It would have a knock-on effect. Consistency needed for handover.

Oscar Ö., Queens: MCR President concerned about the changes

John Cook, LMH: Echo Catherine. Many masters courses end well before September.

Would work well for graduates. Some flexibility preferable, though.

Liz Chare: September to September preferable for Dphil students. Awkward situation arises with fees if the post is changed.

Eleanor Fletcher: No strong personal viewpoint. Financial considerations, since present graduates did not have free undergrad education. If start date is in June, fewer people disenfranchised.

Andrew Zedal, St Anthony's: The post is difficult to fill as it is. Msc students have June exams and a summer thesis. Graduates often enter at lowest level and upgrade their degree. Representation throughout the year is needed.

John Cook, LMH: Are one year students eligible for the post?

Ruth Hunt: Yes

Ruth Hunt: Move to a vote

No objections

Summing up speech in proposition

Ruth Hunt: It would be a really good idea to disenfranchise students!

Summing up speech in opposition

Liz Chare: Most graduates won't have finished by June

Motion Failed

The Oxford Student newspaper

Eleanor Fletcher: Concerned about OUSU officers being so heavily involved in the appointment of Oxstu editors, which is why so many others sit on Pubs Board. Difficult to achieve an independent newspaper. The Business Manager doesn't currently have a vote, despite being very knowledgeable about the paper. Want

new committee to meet more frequently. Also want previous editors on the cttee. Reaffirmation of commitment to independence.

Adam Booth, Jesus: Would OUSU be liable if the Oxstu broke the law?

Eleanor Fletcher: The VP Finance would be and ultimately OUSU, yes.

John Craig: What are the difficulties with the Business Manager not having a vote?

Eleanor Fletcher: The CUSU Business Manager has a vote. The BM knows and works with the paper. Constitutionally it's not a problem, either.

Nick Clark, Somerville: Could you elaborate on Resolves 4 in the motion?

Eleanor Fletcher: Long term strategy means thinking of the paper. In this time of an economic downturn, good that editors informed of decisions re. The financial and advertising situation with the paper. High quality paper needed for profit and editorial quality and commercial success are linked.

James Rowlands: Will constitutional guidelines be set up?

Eleanor Fletcher: Plan based on Cambridge system. The paper has its own constitution and it would be good to emulate that.

Nick Clark, Somerville: Ex editors on the board may create cliqueness. Cttee a good idea, but should it be so large? Won't necessarily create independence. Current situation really impinging on independence?

John Craig: Choosing of editors by sabs encourages independence, with the best people for the job chosen. Competence and judgement being used at present and the sab team is diverse. Echo Nick re. Cliqueness concerns.

Antonia Bance: An editorially independent newspaper is necessarily involved with the VP Finance and Business Manager and Oxstu revenue is important for OUSU. Concern that new cttee may not be accountable and their constitution would need to be ratified by council.

Joseph McCauley, Ch Ch: As present editor, current system is flawed. Sab involvement impinges on independence.

Jack O'Corpus: Editors of Cherwell on cttee too, for balance?

Eleanor Fletcher: OUSU is a democratic, fair body not lacking in democracy. Sabs democratically elected and, like exec, work hard for OUSU. By decreasing OUSU workers on cttee, simplify matters.

Mel Marshall, Ch Ch: OUSU officers are naturally defensive of OUSU. Where are we finding qualified people with a knowledge of student journalism?

Jhn Townsend, Univ: Move to a vote. Heard all the arguments.

John Craig: Need for more discussion

Move to a vote fails

Back to debate on main motion

Chris Macbride, Wadham: Is the company privately run or linked with OUSU?

Former editors will encourage nepotism.

Helena PL: Sabs have been elected by students and are therefore the best people to choose.

Josh Kern, Pembroke: A problem that people don't know sabs choose the editors would be appalled if knew. Contrary to any notion of independence. No parallel in outside world

Nick Clark, Somerville: What will the cttee make up be? If 10 people and some don't turn up, maybe one will have been elected by students.

Mel Marshall: Will have been elected in council.

Joseph McCauley, Ch Ch: Nepotism won't happen. Editors have lives outside the paper.

Ruth Hunt: Move to a vote

No opposition

Summing up in proposition

Eleanor Fletcher: Urge to vote for this. Current system open to abuse. This secures independence necessary for a quality paper

Summing up in opposition

John Craig: Sabs, with differing expertise are the best people. Sabs welcome criticism and not too defensive of OUSU. Allows students, who elected sabs, to have a say. Current system works.

Motion Failed

## Student Advice Service

James Rowlands: Just clarifies situation, not controversial

No opposition

Motion passes

## OUSU General Manager

Ruth Hunt: Indicative of greater streamlining within OUSU. Changes Maria's job title.

SFQs

John Craig: Just a Maria motion or for her successor?

Ruth Hunt: Maria will never leave OUSU! But it will work for her successor.

It's just reverting to the previous structure.

Mel Marshall: What do the changes in structure mean?

Ruth Hunt: The President is the head of OSSL, VP Finance staff line manager, Maria Office Manager. Convoluted structure will go, leading to consistency and better organisation. Lessen pressure on VP Finance and President. Fairer on employees

No speech in opposition

Motion passed

## Budget

Eleanor Fletcher: Economic downturn not anticipated for, loan to OUSU shop of £5,000, 2 one-off payments for staff retirement. Careers handbook shouldn't be affected, OUSU will hopefully break even, Careers for Queers a new innovation, Living Out Guide now annually. Means that very reliant on subscriptions. If want shop to remain, buy from it and encourage JCRs to. University grant-separate autonomous budgets within budget e.g Target Schools. Cuts made because had to be, not desired, need to protect reserves.

Motion Passed

## Other Motions

### Alcohol, Licensing and Nightclubs

Antonia Bance: Want legislation to take to City Council. Good for OUSU to be involved in Council decisions. Most disorder in pubs happens around closing time. Would lessen traffic, make people feel safer, increase police. Make Oxford a more metropolitan city.

Friendly amendment to remove council resolves e) for discussion at a later date.

SFQs

Charles Teddy Hall: Will pressure be put on the places last to close?

Antonia Bance: Local laws re. Drunkenness will be tightened. Better training for staff will be given.

Mel Marshall, Ch Ch: re. Council resolves c) shortage of bus drivers at present, therefore problematic if we pass motion

Antonia Bance: The wording of the question won't bind us

Ruth Hunt: Will this place greater emphasis on private police force in city than on council responsibility?

Antonia Bance: Students would prefer police officers. Council will employ wardens.

Laura West, St Catz: Council proposing to criminalize street drinking?

Antonia: To be considered later

Charles Teddy Hall: People won't go home until places shut

Antonia Bance: People won't be allowed in pubs/bars after a certain time.

Ruth: Move to a vote

No Opposition

Antonia: Please vote for this motion

Motion passes

Anti Terrorism legislation

Speech in proposition

Nailah Mears, Somerville: Important and straightforward motion. New legislation not needed. Should be concerned in current climate

Speech in opposition

John Townsend, Univ: As representative of OUCA, large student body, necessary to safeguard security.

Debate on the motion

John Craig: This is a good motion. Unimportant that students not directly affected.

Sonia Sodha, St Hilda's: motion in line with European Convention on Human Rights

Ed Swan, Balliol: May affect students directly, e.g with computer viruses, email etc

Move to a vote

Summary in Proposition

Nailah Mears: Affirms our commitment to European Human Rights legislation

Summary in opposition:

John Townsend, Univ: Would make OUSU a laughing stock to pass this motion

Motion Passes

Balliol vote 2 in favour, 1 against

AOB

Catherine Sangster: Postgrad Assembly, Monday 8pm, St Anne's, discussing ntl and nursery provision. Meeting re. Graduate representation afterwards.

Ed Swan, Balliol: NUS meeting re. Disaffiliation The Turf, 6pm, tonight. Monday 6.30 NUS reps meeting, the Turf

Andrew Thomas, St Anne's: NUS demo tickets £3. Available from me. OUS reps meeting, Monday, Turf.

John Craig: Target Schools party, Wednesday, 8pm, Thirst, free drink for first 50 people.

James Rowlands: Accommodation Cttee meeting, Wednesday

Josh Kern, Pemb: Thursday, 1pm College redistribution scheme. 9pm following Wednesday, gay bop, Jongleurs