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
Accomodation 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: Iím 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
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: Iím 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 send 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 finance@ousu.org

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 is 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 women@ousu.org

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

Andrew Thomas, St Anneís: Have you been doing much casework?

Antonia Bance: It is inappropriate to comment on casework.

VP Grads:
International Studentís Committee regular slot, even weeks, Tuesdays, 7pm, Somerville West JCR

VP AccAcAff:
Thanks to Chris Hanretty. Target Schools Visiting Scheme, please get involved, email access@ousu.org

As ever target schools website at http://www.targetschools.com

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

Campsfield 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 Opposition
John Townsend, Univ: Council believes 1 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 donít 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 Iím 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 theyíre 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 Anthonyís: 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.
OscarÓ., 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 Anthonyís: 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 wonít 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 doesnít 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.

JackÖCorpus: 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?

John 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 propostition
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
CharlesÔTeddy 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
CharlesÔTeddy 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 Anneis, 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 Anneis: 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 Ctte meeting, Wednesday

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