

# OUSU

## student council minutes

5<sup>th</sup> Week Hilary 2007 OUSU Council Roy Griffiths Room, Keble

Christine Quigley chairing.

Helen Lockhead, acting Balliol JCR present thanks all other JCRs and OUSU for support. Minute's silence for Andrew Mason, recently deceased Balliol JCR President.

- a. Minutes passed.
- c. Ratifications in Council  
Election publicity limits passed.
- d. Elections in Council – Junior Tribunal.

Frank Hardee, Rich Hardiman, Alistair Wrench stand for 3 vacancies.

RH, Greyfriars: OULC, LibDem membership expired, VPF-Elect, former Chair.

Frank Hardee, OULD + LibDems, cofounder Operation Student Vote. Former JCR Pres of Oriel college, former elections committee + Junior Tribunal.

Alistair Wrench, JCR pres of Hugh's, former member appointments board.

No objections to any candidates, all elected to JT.

- e. Reports from Sabbaticals  
Alan Strickland, OUSU: Vacant OUSU Exec posts

Helen Bagshaw, OUSU: Reform leaders; need someone to help me look at Constitution and Standing Orders.

Jamie Frew, OUSU: Survival guide just needs adverts laying, so let me know if you want some adverts to go in. In prelim talks for counselling service for members of SAS to reform it professionally. Also went to joint meeting between college doctors and CSHW which was useful, lots of talk about anger regarding Barnes Unit semi-closure.

Jenny HM, OUSU: Looking for women's open day volunteers, let me know!

Imran Khan, OUSU: Alan Strickland is doing RAG Skydive, but Martin McCluskey backed out!

- f. Exec officer reports

Liv Bailey, Hilda's: Eq opps officer. Let me know if you want OUSU exec people to come and talk to your common rooms about no platform policy.

- g. Questions to Exec Members

Greg ?, St John's: Central affiliation for NUS, how do we pay?

Ed Mayne, OUSU VPF: You just pay OUSU, not sure what it will be yet due to affiliation numbers not being confirmed.

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Procedural motion received, give Business Manager speaking rights. No objections, passed.

Procedural motion received, move motions 1 and 2 under 'other motions' to top of agenda. Accepted by chair, but objection from Dave Semple (Brasenose) on grounds of other motions also needing to be discussed.

Chair's ruling carried in vote.

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- i. Motions Nem Con

No motions passed nem con.

- n. Other Motions

### I. PART TIME BUSINESS TEAM

Prop:

Rich Hardiman, Greyfriars: Part of double whammy of motions. OUSU and OSSSL is trying to do too much with too little. Look at OUSU Exec; people like to help in that respect, so I'm sure we can get people to help on business side too. Just want to formalise that kind of arrangement, and get more bodies on the ground.

Questions:

Ed Mayne, VPF OUSU: When will this happen?

RH, Greyf: Upto you, appointments process will prob be next term to start in Michaelmas or late Trinity.

Tom Wrathmell, OUSU BM: Night manager.. we have 3 club nights, and for one of them, we're contractually obliged for me or Ed to go to night, and the other 2 we already have night managers.

RH, Greyf: That's fine, just want to formalise night manager arrangement, and have things in place for us to do more club nights in Michaelmas. Don't want VPF and BM to have to be out every night until 3 at nights! Want to give people ownership of nights.

Frank Hardee, Oriel: Cost?

RH, Greyf: Nothing.

Jenny HM, OUSU VPW: Interest?

RH, Greyf: Yes, there will be interest. For instance, people wanting to go for VPF or BM?

Amendment received: Strike 'www.oxfordstudent.com' from 'resolves 3'.

Prop: Rich Hardiman, Greyfriars.

2<sup>nd</sup>: Ed Mayne, OUSU

Taken as friendly with no objections.

No opposition to motion. Passes.

## 2. SECOND BUSINESS MANAGER

Prop:

RH, Greyf: OUSU provides valuable services, this helps to provide those. Gives me more opportunities to fulfil my manifesto pledges. Gives OUSU and OSSSL a way to appeal to a wider selection of people. The report contains figures showing that we will be able to afford it barring an earthquake-like catastrophe.

I'll go through figures. BM costs £22,500. Two new income streams... 'poor' estimate is £17,500 for summer club nights, 'poor estimate' for new clients is £3500. SO just on those two projects we will cover cost. This is just an information document, not a policy one.

Club nights; we currently do cheese and indie cheese. There's a market out there for electrobreaks people, probably other nights too. So we WANT to do more club nights, and we also want more money; we don't want to be in a continual financial crisis.

We ARE in negotiations for a new block grant, and we should push for it, but it doesn't look like it's going to be huge. So only reliable sources of revenues are either raising subscription fees, or bringing in more commercial money.

I've seen we need more money, I've drawn up this analysis, and I've brought this motion. I want to make sure everyone gets what they want out of OUSU and OSSSL.

Amendment received: Replace 'resolves 3' with 'to appoint one Business Manager in the current appointments round and to open a new appointments process to be complete by 1<sup>st</sup> Week Trinity 07.

Prop: Rich Hardiman, Greyfriars

2<sup>nd</sup>: Ed Mayne, OUSU

Accepted as friendly with no objections.

Questions

Ed Mayne, OUSU VPF: OSSSL's remit is just to serve junior members, have you considered corporation tax implications for doing nights for other people during summer?

RH: No.

Jenny HM, OUSU VPW: Tax stuff?

RH: Optional.

Ed Mayne: You say we need extra BM for another OCCH. Have you consulted Cambridge?

RH: No I haven't. I understood we were doing sales and production again this year based on conversations with you.

Frank Hardee, Oriel: Would roles of 2 BMs be clearly defined?

RH: Under this proposal, they would both be line managed by VPF, as it stands currently. All motion is about getting new people.

Andrea Miller, OUSU VPG: Just for one year?

RH: Yes, don't want to mess with reform strategy.

Robert Baron, LMH: How anomalous were the 04/05 figures?

RH: Very very! Huge amounts.

FH, Oriel: If role is yet to be defined, is that fair given that we're doing appointments now?

RH: Currently, single BM application didn't give job description. Tacit understanding of what BM does, but if this passes it will allow us to formalise that.

Garth Smith, CHCH: Do you think previous motion passing affects this?

RH: Every extra person means more expansion, and no guarantee that we will fill those part-time roles, and it's just not the same as having someone there full time.

Opposition?

Alan Strickland, OUSU Pres: I want to sound a note of caution. Our priority this year has been and is to bring stability to OUSU's finances and core business. At the moment we're in breach of charity law. For instance, every charity is meant to keep 6 months of reserves. Currently it's 0! We also owe university £250,000. Depth of financial problems can't be understated.

We've made progress; we're using SAGE accounting now. Before, it was on 4 different systems, one of which was on paper! We have proper financial management now. Got professional accountant from University. Subsidiaries board now has professional company secretary, which will keep us in the law. We've created a finance committee in OUSU, so that financial controllers in OUSU all talk to each other, it will review the SAGE accounts.

All that's been necessary for OUSU's sake, but also so that we can prove to University that we can manage ourselves properly in terms of finances. We need to prove we're financially prudent to get the block grant. The block grant is key, as we've always run into problems because our finances aren't guaranteed.

Motion will add £22,500 expenditure to next year's budget. We need to test waters. Look at RH's report; huge potential in summer club entz market, we should really go for that. Maybe just employ extra ABM over summer to exploit that, it would only cost £3000. I ask you to vote against this motion so that we can stabilise OUSU's finances.

Now in debate

Helen Bagshaw, OUSU: Having been on sab team and been a part of all reforms, I know our financial situation needs improvement. If this was bringing in a new sab, I'd be very cautious. But this motion is creating a new BM.

We survive at the moment through OSSL profits, which is supported by the BM. Oxbridge name is huge, lots of money to be made from it. If we had 2 BMs instead of 1, we'd be able to bring in lots of money to pay back university and build up reserves.

As RH has said, he thinks he can bring in money just over the summer to make it cost effective and it's worked.

Ben Jasper, Wadham: I'm in favour of motion for a few reasons.

Alan is right that we're in debt to University, but reason it is in debt because it hasn't been able to provide revenue stream. Alan's counterproposal is to rely on University block grant, which is only £40,000 per year? Isn't very much, and there's no guarantee it will come! We've been waiting for it for 30 years. It's not entrepreneurial to rely on a handout from university or keep our current structures.

Imperial has £4m turnover and £1.2m block grant – so they bring in millions of commercial revenue! This proposal is def worth the risk.

Ed Mayne, OUSU: I agree with sentiments of motion, and I believe long-term expansion of business team is right. But I just think this is happening too quickly. I don't think distinction between local and national BMs is a proper one for instance, as it still relies on someone selling adverts in the day and running club nights in the evening; this motion precludes bringing Entz Manager back.

We need to reform Zoo properly, not quickly. Not enough consultation has occurred, there's a question mark over corporation tax, Cambridge haven't been consulted regarding OCCH. I discussed it with the Univ director of finance. He said he won't stand in the way, but that we should test water by employing big summer ABM team.

Martin McCluskey, St Hugh's: I'm not opposed to any of current sab team's reforms. Best solution to this would be a proper permanent business manager. Too late to do that now for next year. Rich and I were elected to reform and expand OUSU. We believe this is best way to do that. Employing another ABM over summer only goes so far. We're not just talking about OCCH and club nights, we're talking about someone to build up relationship with clients over a long period of time.

I know that current BM is massively overworked. Too much work for one person! Ben Jasper is right about how Imperial makes lots of money. Alan is right in that we should be entrepreneurial so that we can bring in money to fund campaigns and reforms. Vote this in.

Tom Wrathmell, OUSU BM: I am both in favour and against this motion. Upto you to draw on conclusions. Number of points to raise.

Firstly, Alan's point about stability. He is right in that we are more stability. This motion is about generating finance, not managing the systems. This is to raise more money so that we can then manage it!

Martin is right. I've scaled back recently, but last term I was overworked. I do it because I want OUSU to be a lot better. Question is, do we stand still and expect clients to come to us, or go and hunt them? Perennial problem is that stuff like OCCH and OxStu looks professional, but the background structures aren't professional enough.

Going back to RH's plan, I'm not convinced of the figures. I would recommend that they approach University and talk through a proper business proposal. Although summer club night plan looks attractive on paper, but it's not guaranteed.

RH, Greyfriars: As Ed pointed out, the paper I've brought isn't binding. Testing the water? This is testing the water, it's just a one-year thing. A super-ABM won't work because it involves complete staff turnover. They wouldn't have same commitment as a fulltime BM.

We've gone as far as we possibly can with current structure. As Tom pointed he was working 60 hour weeks last term. We can't make any more money with what we currently have. As far as going to university and asking for more advice, this document is about proving that we can do it on meagre resources and proving that this can work.

I don't want to be continually bowing and scraping to university. WE know how to run club nights and OCCH, but they don't. We should get their advice, but it shouldn't hold up our decision to take this step.

Move to vote heard. Opposition seen.

Prop: Lewis Jones, Catz: Heard all points.

Opp: Tom Wrathmell, OUSU BM: Can't make this decision quickly.

27 in favour.

25 against.

5 abstentions.

Need 2/3 in favour, so back in debate.

Jamie Frew, OUSU: I don't understand finances, but I've seen ramifications of Tom's working week over past 6 months. 60 hours is double recommended time that someone is meant to spend in office. It's clear on working practices level that we either need to cut back on business plans, or employ another BM.

Garth Smith, ChCh: Clear that we need to expand business team, but we do need to be cautious. This is £22,500. Some of the ideas don't need a fulltime BM to do some of these things.

Paolo Wyatt, Jesus: Council notes 1 + 2, saying that Entz Manager was suspended a year ago due to financial problems. We can't be sure that the new revenues will come in. We need to ensure stability. University knows a lot more than you and has more experience, so we need to talk to them. Oppose this motion before it's been thought through properly.

Jenny HM, OUSU: I agree with what Alan said about stability. Stability was achieved at cost of Tom and Ed's enormous time commitments. BM is too stretched between Entz and other commercial activities. He doesn't have time to be entrepreneurial. Tom has great ideas, and next year's BM has great ideas, but we need an extra person to work things out. Maybe we don't need a fulltime Entz manager, but we do need more people on business team. We NEED another member of staff. We can't say we have a stable financial situation if it's dependent on the kind of work that these people have to put in.

Alistair Wrench, Hugh's: Agree with Garth. People who are opposing motion aren't saying that motion is bad, but it needs more time. Tom says figures are wrong, so we need more time. Vote against it so that we can look at it more closely.

Louis Iwu, New: Compare worst case scenarios. Imagine it doesn't work at all – we'd lose £22,500. That's nothing compared to our debt. But if it does work, it makes job more attractive in the long term, could bring in lots and lots of money.

Alan Strickland, OUSU: Few quick points. I want to emphasise that current situation is fairly painful. Financial recovery is going to be painful! It just is. No easy solution to this problem. I appreciate all of the points. I'd like to stress that student unions that bring in £3m per year have many more resources than we do so it's an unfair comparison.

If you look at audited accounts, profit transfer from OSSSL to OUSU last year was £12,000 after costs. OSSSL isn't making enough money to totally subsidise these things. A lot of the reforms we're making are long term, this proposal is stop-gap.

Helen Bagshaw, OUSU: Super-ABM idea... if it works, we can't then expand that because everyone's already decided what to do next year.

Regarding current debt that we're in... in the past, the reason we're in debt because we didn't have enough people. That anomalous year in which we lost up to £110,000 was because we only had one person in business team.

The year after, we had Vance/Allan, they were recovering from previous year.

POI from Alan Strickland: Dan Finley invested too heavily.

Yes, he did, but we couldn't take advantage of investments because we didn't have enough staff.

Ed Mayne, OUSU: Last year, yes, OSSSL made £12,000. To some extent that has been because of bad debt collection. Can have situation where more money is generated just to plough back in to new projects.

Regarding long hours, it's because we had too much work over summer. We were doing things then that should have been done in the previous summer. This year we're starting in Easter so it won't be as bad this summer.

Move to vote heard.

Opposition seen.

Prop: Frank Hardee: All points made

Opp: Tom Wrathmell, OUSU: Few points to respond to.

Move to vote passed.

Summary in Prop:

RH, Greyf: Not sayig this is a solution. Entz manager was suspended last year because of gigantic disaster. Shotsighted move to clear debt asap. All issues I've heard raised against this are because we have long-term plans. Yes, but we still need more people to make money to cover ourselves. Can't just say don't trust figures without reasons.

Summary in Opp:

Alan Strickland, OUSU: Useful debate. We've heard all points. Key point is that to improve organisation won't be easy. OUSU will only improve if it starts to look long-term instead of year-to-year. Will be short-term pain with long term gain. We will bring proposals to try and fix problems Rich has rightly highlighted.

28 in favour. 29 against.

Call for a recorded vote heard. 10 in favour seen.

|                        |                     |         |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------|
| Alan Strickland        | ousu president      | against |
| Ed Mayne               | ousu vp finance     | against |
| James Frew             | ousu vp welfare     | for     |
| Jenny Hoogewerf-McComb | ousu vp women       | for     |
| Helen Bagshaw          | ousu vp access      | for     |
| Andrea Miller          | ousu vp graduates   | against |
| Imran Khan             | ousu vp charities   | for     |
|                        | AcAff               |         |
|                        |                     |         |
| Andrew Lomas           | Access              |         |
|                        | Common Room Support |         |
|                        | Outreach            | for     |
| Niel Bowerman          | Environment         |         |
|                        | Equal Opps          |         |

|                 |                             |                          |         |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
|                 | Health and Welfare          |                          | against |
|                 | International Students      |                          |         |
|                 | Rent and Accom              |                          | against |
| Emma Clossick   | Womens                      |                          | for     |
|                 | Grad AcAff                  |                          |         |
| Dave Semple     | Grad Welfare                |                          |         |
| Kaushal         | Grad International Students |                          | against |
|                 |                             |                          |         |
| Joel Mullen     | St Peters                   | delegate                 | for     |
|                 |                             |                          |         |
| Kit Roskelley   |                             | Womens Committee         | for     |
| Alanna Barber   |                             | Queer Rights             | abstain |
|                 |                             |                          |         |
| Helen Lothead   | Balliol                     | jcr president            | against |
| Adam Smith      | Balliol                     | jcr ousu rep             |         |
| Sam Baars       | Balliol                     | jcr 3 <sup>rd</sup> vote | against |
| Garth Smith     | Christ Church               | jcr president            | against |
| Melissa Wright  | Christ Church               | jcr 3 <sup>rd</sup> vote | against |
| James McDaid    | Corpus                      | jcr president            |         |
| Chris Subert    | Corpus                      | jcr ousu rep             | against |
| Joe MacDonald   | Corpus                      | jcr 3 <sup>rd</sup> vote | against |
| Rich Hardiman   | Greyfriars                  | jcr ousu rep             | for     |
| Tom Lowe        | Hertford                    | jcr president            | against |
|                 | Hertford                    | jcr ousu rep             | against |
|                 | Hertford                    | jcr 3 <sup>rd</sup> vote | against |
| Paolo Wyatt     | Jesus                       | jcr president            | against |
|                 | Jesus                       | jcr ousu rep             | against |
| Paul Dwyer      | Keble                       | jcr president            | against |
| Jonathan Perrin | Keble                       | jcr 3 <sup>rd</sup> vote | for     |
| Robert Baker    | LMH                         | jcr ousu rep             | for     |
| Laith Dilaimi   | Magdalen                    | jcr president            | against |
| Paul Fleming    | Mansfield                   | jcr ousu rep             | against |
| Laura Davies    | Merton                      | jcr president            | against |
| Lewis Iwu       | New                         | jcr president            | for     |
| Dawn Rennie     | Pembroke                    | jcr president            | against |
|                 | Pembroke                    | jcr ousu rep             | for     |
| Vishal Mashru   | Queens                      | jcr president            | against |
| Jonny Meland    | Queens                      | jcr ousu rep             | for     |
|                 | St Catz                     | jcr ousu rep             | for     |
|                 | St Catz                     | jcr 3 <sup>rd</sup> vote |         |
| Olivia Bailey   | St Hildas                   | jcr president            | abstain |
| Sam Gisborne    | St Hildas                   | jcr ousu rep             | for     |
| Aildhe Menton   | St Hildas                   | jcr 3 <sup>rd</sup> vote | for     |
| Alistair Wrench | St Hughs                    | jcr president            | against |
|                 | St Hughs                    | jcr 3 <sup>rd</sup> vote | for     |
| Rhys Jones      | St Johns                    | jcr president            |         |
| Adam Graham     | St Johns                    | jcr ousu rep             | for     |
| Greg Carter     | St Johns                    | jcr 3 <sup>rd</sup> vote |         |
| Catherine Park  | St Peters                   | jcr president            | against |
|                 | St Peters                   | 3 <sup>rd</sup> vote     | against |
| Ryan Buckingham | Teddy Hall                  | jcr president            | for     |

|               |            |                          |         |
|---------------|------------|--------------------------|---------|
| Max Thompson  | Teddy Hall | jcr ousu rep             | for     |
|               | Teddy Hall | jcr 3 <sup>rd</sup> vote | for     |
| Ben Jasper    | Wadham     | jcr president            | for     |
|               | Wadham     | jcr                      | for     |
|               | Wadham     | jcr                      | for     |
| Peter Wright  | Wadham     | jcr                      | for     |
| Minesh Tann   | Worcester  | jcr president            | against |
| Ingrid Frater | St Hughs   | mcr ousu rep             | for     |
| Emma Link     | Green      | mcr president            | for     |

28 in favour  
27 against  
2 abstentions

#### **k. First Readings of Motions to Amend the Constitution or Standing Orders**

##### **I. STRENGTHENING THE EQUAL OPPTS CAMPAIGNS**

Prop: Liv Bailey, Hilda's

When I ran for Exec, I wanted to give equal opps campaign more autonomy. I've consulted extensively with queer rights and other campaigns for this. The main change is giving campaigns autonomy. Means that all campaigns can apply for money for its own budget and that it can pass its own policy.

I want to emphasise that OUSU Council is still top of hierarchy. WomCam can say it's speaking on behalf of WomCam, but not of OUSU. Change also spreads out power, enables exec of campaigns to have more responsibility and power. OUSU has responsibility to empower eq opps campaigns. This motion entrenches eq opps campaigns but doesn't oblige sabbs to run them personally. Ask me questions!

Questions.

Lewis Iwu: 5.5ii. please clarify, does that mean lgbt campaign motions would have to come to council if they affected non-lgbt students?  
LB, Hilda's: Yes, for instance they couldn't just pass fees motions.

No opposition, motion passes.

#### **n. Other Motions**

3: Oxford Student and Oxide Radio Working Parties

Amendment received: Change 'within OUSU Constitution' to 'within OUSU Standing Orders' in 'believes 3'.

Prop: Imran Khan, OUSU

2<sup>nd</sup>: Ed Mayne, OUSU

Accepted as friendly, no opposition.

Prop: RH, Greyf

This is promise I made in manifesto and something that Ed and I agree in. Having one-line caveat in constitution regarding Oxstu isn't good enough. We've seen recently that we need to clarify relationship with Oxide. This is calling for working party.

Questions

Martin McCluskey, Hugh's: Who will make up working party?

RH, Greyf: Not sure, will depend on what we decide.

?: Two separate parties or one?

RH, Greyf: One.

No opposition, motion passes.

##### **4: CAMPAIGNING TO DEFEAT FEES**

Prop, Toby Harris, St John's:

Campaigning against fees and supporting national campaign against fees is important. Last year, 15,000 fewer students applied to uni, working class student applicants decreased enormously. Free education is crucial. Fees CAN be defeated, witness CPE protests in France last year which defeated government.

There's a lot of anger about fees and NUS could be doing a lot more to fight them. We want to organise a protest outside VC's office mirrored in 50 other universities. John Hood at meetings has not admitted that he wants to raise fees, but survey conducted by Guardian he has said he's in favour of raising fees to American-style system.

#### Questions

Helen Bagshaw, OUSU: Who are you mandating in resolves 5?

Toby Harris, St John's: I'm open to it, but I'm happy for a subcommittee to be formed.

#### Opposition

Lewis Jones, Catz: It's good that we're talking about fees, and that we've had meetings regarding JRAM and Finance. Those meetings were very useful and it's good we're being included. All the talks showed that university is relying on fees coming in from students. I don't think just saying 'fees are bad' is good way to move forward. We'd need to offer an alternative.

In debate.

Garth Smith, CHCH: Most people who went to talks on top up fees found that they weren't that useful, they were too politically slanted. John Hood just evaded questions. Everyone here is very much against top-up fees, and we need to campaign against them.

Emma Clossick, Queens: When top-up fees were introduced OUSU produced alternative proposals, we can do that again.

Jenny HM, OUSU: I'm against this motion, as if we want to defeat fees the first step is to stop university charging more, not calling for no fees. I'm horrified at the thought of American system. Education is a fundamental right. The idea that we could be paying £40,000 a year is terrifying. Against British ideals. We should demonstrate. We need to convince government to finance HE in other ways.

Amendment received.

Add resolves 6: "Organise meetings in colleges to explore what students think about fees".

Prop: Alan Strickland, OUSU

2<sup>nd</sup>: Rich Hardiman, Greyfriars

Accepted as friendly, no opposition.

Ed Mayne, OUSU: I'm against top up fees. In 2004 we had a big anti top-up fees demo, it was huge. It just didn't work even with trade unions pretending to be on board.

Jamie Frew, OUSU: What's our current policy?

Alan Strickland, OUSU: Very little policy. We had a referendum, outcome of which was to say we want reduced student numbers and a graduate tax. We kept policy vague as we weren't sure how representative this was.

Jamie Frew OUSU: American system has best bursary system in world! And also, do these proposals line up with our current policy? Let's debate THAT.

Alistair Wrench, Hugh's: Motion isn't about top up fees, it's about fees in general. Agree with Lewis, we can't pass this as it'd prejudice later arguments.

Andrea Miller, OUSU: I don't think American system is a bad thing. I'm a product of it, I have loans to pay off, but education has prepared me to do that eventually. John Hood is in favour of higher fees, but we can't just say no fees at all.

Move to vote heard.

Prop: Ed Mayne, OUSU. Most points have been made.

Opp: Toby Harris, St John's: Couple of things I want to say.

20 against

24 in favour

Not two thirds, back in debate

Paul Dwyer, Keble: Recognise that consultation is a good thing. Govt has probably already thought through alternatives and ruled them out, so we should still speak on them.

Kaushal, Wolfson: Need to press for more hardship funds, bursaries, etc.

Tom Lowe, Hertford: The amendment seems to contravene rest of motion, as you've committed yourself already and then trying to find something else out.

?? St Hilda's: UCAS figures released about drop in top up fees is due to people applying in different years to avoid top-up fees, figures are skewed.

????: This policy would be a fight for free education, when reality is that we already have top up fees. We need to fight against increase instead of wasting time fighting for free education, as that's not feasible.

Helen Bagshaw, OUSU: Half of my job is VP Access. Personally I believe ideal world would have free education, but we can't achieve it. Fight that we need to fight now is against raising the cap. NUS NEC is already organising demos against top-up fees. A demo that is going to place NEXT THURSDAY is not going to get the numbers of students you need. I agree we need consultation for more students, not just people in this room.

Move to vote

Opp seen

Prop: FH, Oriol: We're going round in circles.

Opp: Toby Harris, St John's: More points.

2/3 majority.

Summary in favour

Toby Harris, St John's: Basically, we need to make more noise about fees. We need to pass this motion to make more noise. It's a massive and national issue and we need to discuss it. Fighting the cap includes fighting fees.

Opposition:

Lewis Jones, Catz: I fully support your objectives and I think it's great that we will have discussion. But I think it will be a shame if a short-term demo damages long-term aims.

Motion clearly fails.

Quorum count called.

36 seen, quorum is 30. Still quorate.

5. TRIDENT

Prop: Daniel Lowe, SEH

Coming up in March, govt will decide whether or not to renew Trident programme. People speaking in favour of trident are saying we need to keep nuclear missiles as a deterrent to keep the world safe. Nukes aren't keeping the world safe, it's keeping proliferation increasing.

The problem is that we're perpetuating a paradigm that we need nuclear weapons to keep people safe. If we renew arsenal, we're showing other countries that they do need nuclear weapons.

We're under obligation under the NPT to disarm, so we need to do this and also bring other countries into disarming. This decision doesn't need to be made now, there needs to be consultation. There can be another 5 years before decision needs to be made. Initial cost would be £20m.

Questions:

Alex Stafford, Benet's: Is this campaign against trident now or in 1 year?

DL, SEH: Now

Andrea Miller, OUSU: Resolves 2 involves spending money. Can we do that?

Martin McCluskey Hugh's: Open to interpretation.

???? : On what basis do you put forward notes 6, that UK govt is under obligation to dismantle nuclear arsenal by NPT?

DL, SEH: We are under obligation to disarm eventually, so surely we should do it?

Opp:

Lewis Jones, Catz:

Look at resolves. Campaign, campaign, mandate, mandate. We'd need a referendum. This is a big issue. Can't speak on behalf of whole university given that we're only just quorate.

In debate

Jamie Frew, OUSU: Council is meant to be a consultative body, we can't hold referenda on everything. I am in favour of this motion as I am in favour of nuclear disarmament. If you wouldn't press the button, you should vote against this motion.

?? Oriol: This issue isn't directly relating to students, so why are we discussing this? This is a pressure group issue, so let them do it and go down to London.

Pete Wright, Wadham: We're a student union, and a political organisation. We can lend support to other movements.

Garth Smith, CHCH: This comes every week. We ARE a pressure group, our students live in the real world.

Jenny HM, OUSU: I'm not how I feel about motion, but this is DEFINITELY something we should discuss. 1994 education act doesn't limit what we can talk about and believe in. Don't feel pressurised not to vote on this because it's not a 'student motion'. You have mandates from your colleges.

Move to vote heard.

Opp seen.

Ben Jasper, Wadh: Seen 3 identical speeches.

Dan Slater, SEH: Amendments seen and questions to be asked.

Amendment received: Replace 'press officer' with 'ousu president' in 'resolves 3'

Prop: Helen Bagshaw, OUSU

2<sup>nd</sup>: Martin McCluskey, Hugh's

Received as friendly, no objections

Move to vote passes.

Summary in favour

Dan Slater, SEH:

We don't need to make the decision now, we can delay it. We need a consultation of a year that was promised us. The decision is being driven by business, not science. This motion needs to be opened up to full public scrutiny. Let's stop the decision being made in March, but in 2008.

Against

Paul Dwyer, Keble:

I don't have personal views on this to share, but we are getting close to quorum and this is a contentious issue.

20 in favour

13 against.

Motion passes.