

# Council Minutes

## 5<sup>th</sup> Week Hilary Term 2015

5<sup>th</sup> Week Council took place at 5:30pm on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2015, at Magdalen College, Magdalen Auditorium.

If you have any questions about OUSU Council, please feel free to contact the Chair at [chair@ousu.ox.ac.uk](mailto:chair@ousu.ox.ac.uk).

- a. Minutes of the Previous Meeting
- b. Matters Arising from the Minutes
- c. Ratifications in Council
- d. Elections in Council
- e. Reports from the Sabbatical Officers
- f. Reports from the Executive Officers and the Divisional Board  
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- h. Report from the Michaelmas Term Returning Officer
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  - 2. Motion to Censure Against Members of the 2014 Part  
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  - 6. General Election Manifesto – Youth Unemployment
  - 7. General Election Manifesto – Immigration
  - 8. General Election Manifesto - Opposing Cuts to Disabled  
Students' Allowance
  - 9. General Election Manifesto – Mental Health
  - 10. General Election Manifesto – Sex and Relationship  
Education (SRE)
- o. Any Other Business

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### **a. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

No issues were raised with the minutes.

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### **b. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

No matters arising from the minutes.

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### **c. Ratifications in Council**

None.

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### **d. Elections in Council**

**Environment & Ethics Officer** – Matthew Ford (St John's) and Leonie Hoffmann (Somerville) nominated.

Leonie – Introduced herself as a PPE student from Somerville College. Stated that she has a personal interest and motivation to change a few things that she has come across since she has arrived in Oxford. Noticed that there are some strikingly different attitudes here compared to what she is used to in Austria, which need to be tackled, particularly on a college level. Added that there needs to be a greater link between this role and the E&E campaign. Highlighted food waste as a particular issue, with a possible campaign for waste to be collected from halls.

Matthew – Stated that he wanted to run for this role as he believes we have a fantastic opportunity at Oxford University to change the world for the better, an opportunity that we are not taking full advantage of. Stated that he wants to support college E&E officers but feels that as an OUSU officer, he would be able to lobby on University-wide issues, which perhaps college reps are unable to do.

Ruth Meredith (Brasenose) – Asked the candidates what environmental issue they feel the most passionately about.

Leonie – Answered that it is really hard to call, but thinks that something she feels strongly on that can be tackled the most directly is plastic and food waste.

Matt – Answered that as an economist, climate change is the issue that scares him the most, as we are doing nothing about it. The University, as both a centre for research and for finance and investment has a role to play in this.

Josh Richards (University) – Asked how the candidates see the balance in friendly negotiations with the University and direct action.

Matt – Recognised that campaigning is obviously key for students and the University will only change if they see that students are passionate. However we must be rational and sensible in our suggestions, recognising that things do not happen immediately.

Leonie – Agreed that we have to be pragmatic with the University but we can, and should, be passionate as students.

Matthew – 26

Leonie – 31

RON – 6

SBV – 2

**Redistribution:**

Matthew – 28

Leonie – 35

**Leonie Hoffman was elected 35-28 on second preferences.**

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## **e. Reports from the Sabbatical Officers**

James Blythe (Brasenose) – Encouraged students to fill in the survey for the Education Vision. Informed council that he is fulfilling a manifesto pledge by running a targeted version of the Target Schools shadowing scheme for African Caribbean 6<sup>th</sup> formers, in partnership with the University's African Caribbean Society.

Ruth Meredith (Brasenose) – Reported that Living Wage Campaign did a workshop for anyone wishing to accredit, Jailbreak took place and raised about 28,000, and that she currently working with the Returning Officer on the RAG Ballot. Added that she has assembled a team of PTE to organise general election hustings in 8<sup>th</sup> week and urged people to get in touch if they're interested. Flagged RAG Committee election in 6<sup>th</sup> week.

Louis Trup (Brasenose) – Flagged Castle Mill as a great success but reminded council that it is not over and we need to urge people to vote against the resolution during the postal vote. Highlighted the IT Innovation Awards, which has now closed for nominations. Acknowledged that there has been a lot of discussion following the previous motion on Marine Le Pen, and invited people to speak to him about this if they have questions.

Anna Bradshaw (Wadham) – Reported on 'It Happens Here – Anti-Violence Valentines Day'. Explained that she is currently preparing for International Womens' Day which takes place on 8<sup>th</sup> March, and will be launching the OUSU Women's mentoring scheme. Reminded council of the upcoming By-Election and urged graduates to nominate and vote.

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## **f. Reports from the Executive Officers and the Divisional Board**

### **Representatives who wish to make Reports**

Joe Reason (Wadham) – Confirmed that Keble MCR is now affiliated with OUSU, meaning that all undergraduate and graduate common rooms are affiliated.

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## **h. Report from the Michaelmas Term Returning Officer**

Martine Wauben (Pembroke) – Reminded council that she came to them two weeks ago with a number of questions. Explained that as a result of the responses, the Electoral and Referenda Review Group have decided against splitting out the Student Trustee elections,

but have decided to bring a motion to 7<sup>th</sup> week on holding a referendum to decide whether elections should take place in Hilary or Michaelmas. Reported that it has been agreed that a 'how to be a good door-knocker' guide should be produced. Informed council that we have been looking into how students can best self define. Agreed that students should be able to contact any of the sabbatical team if they believe they have been mis-gendered in the University data. Added that the new system also has an option to self-define, which could be used for liberation positions.

Danny (Wadham) – Stated that we currently hold unfilled graduate positions in Council, and asked what could be done to improve graduate participation so this doesn't have to happen. Explained that a graduate elected in a meeting of council may only have around 10 graduate students actually present and voting.

Martine – Answered that as she is not currently Returning Officer, this is not necessarily something that she can do anything about.

Joe Smith (Somerville) – Responded that we couldn't run graduate elections in Council if we restricted the franchise, however agreed that this is something worth looking into.

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## **i. Passage of Motions without Discussion**

### **6. General Election Manifesto – Youth Unemployment**

#### **Council Notes:**

1. The motion passed in MT14 to create a general election manifesto outlining Oxford students' views on issues to be discussed in the course of the general election.
2. That 764,000 young people aged 16-24 were unemployed in September to November 2014, up 30,000 on the previous quarter. This represents 16.9% of the economically active population in that age group. [House of Commons Library note, SN05871]
3. That 27% of those unemployed 16-24 year olds have been unemployed for over 12 months. [House of Commons Library note, SN05871]
4. That some politicians have discussed removing the right to claim Jobseeker's Allowance or Housing Benefit for the under-25s.
5. That the vast majority of OUSU's members fall in the 16-24 age group, and many of them find that they or their families are directly affected by youth unemployment and benefits issues.
6. That the executive will be able to look through and suggest edits to the wording of the manifesto before it is published.

#### **Council Believes:**

1. That youth unemployment should make up part of the manifesto OUSU will campaign for in the run up to the General Election.
2. That many Oxford students fear unemployment on leaving university.

3. That Oxford students have an interest in how government money is spent, in the fabric of our society and in the strength of the economy.
4. That unemployment is bad for those who suffer it, and for the economy as a whole, and that long-term unemployment is even worse.
5. That the way to bring the welfare bill down is by getting people into well-paid work, not by threatening young people with hardship.

**Council Resolves:**

1. To include in the general election manifesto:
  - a) Support for a programme that guarantees more jobs for young people, including those coming out of university and especially the long-term unemployed
  - b) Criticism of any plans to take the right to claim vital benefits away from young people
2. To mandate the executive committee to ensure that the intent of the policy stance is reflected in the wording of the manifesto.

**Proposed:** Nikhil Venkatesh (Corpus Christi)

**Seconded:** Tom Lyons (Corpus Christi)

**Motion passed with no opposition.**

8. General Election Manifesto - Opposing Cuts to Disabled Students' Allowance

**Council Notes:**

1. The motion passed in MT14 to create a general election manifesto outlining Oxford students' views on issues to be discussed in the course of the general election;
2. Having a disability often causes an extra financial burden, often being thousands of pounds per year;
3. The Disabled Students' Allowance is one of the only sources of funding available to disabled students in the U.K. to cover these expenses;
4. The Equality Act of 2010 guarantees disabled people equal access to all parts of society, including education;
5. Oxford does not currently have a back-up plan to pay for disabled students' expenses if cuts are approved; and
6. The OUSU executive will be able to look through and suggest edits to the wording of the general election manifesto before it is published.

**Council Believes:**

1. That cuts to the Disabled Students' Allowance will seriously impede access to higher education for students across the country;
2. That opposing cuts to the Disabled Students' Allowance should make up part of the manifesto OUSU will campaign for in the run up to the General Election.

**Council Resolves:**

1. To include in the general election manifesto unequivocal opposition to cuts to the Disabled Students' Allowance; and

2. To mandate the executive committee to ensure that the intent of the policy stance is reflected in the wording of the manifesto.

**Proposed:** Lindsay Lee (Wadham)

**Seconded:** Chris Pike (St Edmund's)

**Motion passed with no opposition.**

9. General Election Manifesto – Mental Health

**Council Notes:**

1. The motion passed in MT14 to create a general election manifesto outlining Oxford students' views on issues to be discussed in the course of the general election;
2. One in four people will experience some kind of mental health problem in the course of a year (Mental Health Foundation);
3. The rate of self-harm in the UK is one of the highest in Europe (Mental Health Foundation);
4. Investment in mental health services has fallen for three years in a row, currently only making up 13% of NHS health expenditure when it accounts for 23% of the burden of disease ("A Manifesto for Better Mental Health");
5. Students face unique mental health challenges because of academic and social stress;
6. The Equality Act of 2010 guarantees disabled people equal access to all parts of society, including education; and
7. The OUSU executive will be able to look through and suggest edits to the wording of the general election manifesto before it is published.

**Council Believes:**

1. That cuts to mental health services will seriously impede access to higher education for students and will endanger the health of people across the country;
2. That opposing cuts to mental health programs and support for improved mental health services should make up part of the manifesto OUSU will campaign for in the run up to the General Election.

**Council Resolves:**

1. To include in the general election manifesto unequivocal opposition to cuts to mental health programs and support for improvements to mental health services; and
2. To mandate the executive committee to ensure that the intent of the policy stance is reflected in the wording of the manifesto.

**Proposed:** Lindsay Lee (Wadham)

**Seconded:** Jenny Walker (Wadham)

**Motion passed with no opposition.**

## 10. General Election Manifesto – Sex and Relationship Education (SRE)

### **Council Notes:**

1. That it mandated the Executive to bring motions as part of the OUSU manifesto for the General Election, based on the results of the student online submissions.
2. That sex and relationship education (SRE) is of vital importance to the health, safety and wellbeing of all students at Oxford University and all students and young people across the country.
3. That OUSU will continue to prioritise the health, safety and wellbeing of all at Oxford University.
4. That, according to recent NUS statistics, 60% of university students (nationwide) use pornography to improve their knowledge of sex and less than a fifth of university students (nationwide) discussed LGBT issues in their SRE, with consent never touched upon for 75% of respondents (nationwide).
5. That last year, Ofsted claimed more than a third of schools in England were failing to provide pupils with age-appropriate sex and relationships education.
6. That student unions across the country, including OUSU, are having to step in at an undergraduate level to provide some aspects of SRE that should be taught in schools (e.g. consent).

### **Council Believes:**

1. That SRE should make up part of the OUSU General Election Manifesto and that OUSU will campaign for it in the run up to the General Election.
2. That SRE should be compulsory for all students in the UK and made a statutory requirement of all schools and colleges.
3. SRE should be entirely age appropriate and tailored to the needs of specific age groups.
4. SRE should include compulsory education on LGBTQ relationships and sexuality in an equal manner to heterosexual, cisgender relationships and sexuality
5. SRE should include compulsory education on sexual consent.
6. SRE should include compulsory education on sexual health, the prevention of disease transmission and the benefits of safe sex.
7. SRE should be entirely inclusive of disabled people.
8. SRE should provide students and young people with a comprehensive teaching of their reproductive rights.
9. SRE should teach all students and young people of the law as it relates to sex and relationships.
10. SRE should be an opportunity to encourage equality between men and women and to combat misogyny in society and in romantic and sexual relationships.

### **Council Resolves:**

1. To mandate the Executive Committee to include the spirit of the above beliefs in the OUSU General Election Manifesto.

**Proposed:** David Parton (St Hilda's)

**Seconded:** Anna Bradshaw (Wadham)

**Motion passed with no opposition.**

Nikhil Venkatesh (Corpus) – Proposed a procedural motion to move motion 7 three places up the agenda.

No opposition.

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## **j. Motions of No Confidence or Censure**

### 1. Motion of no confidence in Alex Walker, Former Returning Officer, Trinity Term 2014.

At the request of the proposer and the seconder, this motion has been withdrawn.

Will Obeney (Regent's) – Explained that although this motion has been withdrawn prior to the meeting, he will allow the proposer a moment to explain.

Jack Matthews (University) – Informed that this motion had been withdrawn following a procedural irregularity. Advised council that this motion would be returning.

### 2. Motion to Censure Against Members of the 2014 Part Time Executive

#### **Council Notes:**

1. That at 7th Week Michaelmas Term Council 2014, the Part-Time Executive Officers were asked if they would “commit to doing handover meetings with their successor, and if not, are they content to be censured”.
2. That at 1st Week Hilary Term Council 2015, the new Part-Time Executive Officers were asked to report back on what handover they had received from their predecessors.
3. That the information asked for in Council Notes 2 was published in the Reports to Council at 3rd Week Hilary Term Council 2015.
4. That the report shows that as of 3rd Week Council, the Access and Admissions Officer, and the BME Students & Anti-Racism Officer failed to provide adequate handover to their successors.

#### **Council Believes:**

1. That handover is incredibly important if new officers are to make the most of their term in Office – as has been highlighted by numerous Scrutiny Committee Reports in recent years.
2. That those out-going Officers who fail to handover adequately should be held to account.

#### **Council Resolves:**

1. To remind the Executive Officers of their duties to adequately handover to their successor upon completing their term in office.
2. To censure Annie Teriba, Wadham College for failing to provide adequate handover.

3. To censure Alba Kapoor, The Queen's College for failing to provide adequate handover.

**Proposer:** Jack J. Matthews (University)

**Secunder:** Maryam Ahmed (Wolfson)

Nick Cooper (St John's) – Proposed that this motion is voted on by secret ballot.

Opposed.

Nick – Explained that this process is very important but feels that secret ballot would be more appropriate.

Vote on procedural motion:

For – 51

Against – 3

Abstain – 7

Procedural motion passes.

Annie Teriba (Wadham) – Proposed that resolves 1, 2 and 3 are voted on separately.

No opposition.

Nick – Suggested that resolves 1 is done without secret ballot.

No opposition.

Joe Smith – Outlined the secret ballot process and handed out ballot slips to voting members.

Jack Matthews (University) – Explained that this motion can be traced back to 7<sup>th</sup> Week Trinity Term Council when he asked the outgoing Executive if they would commit to doing handovers, and if they would be happy to be censured if they did not. Highlighted that the significance of this had been highlighted in many Hilary term scrutiny reports, where the importance of good handover has been reiterated year after year. Informed council that he has emailed the part time exec that had not done a handover at the start of term, and the two of those members in the motion are those who he feels did not provide an adequate response. Reminded council that they have previously unanimously passed a motion on holding the executive to account.

Anna Bradshaw (Wadham) – Asked for a brief description of censure.

Jack – Answered that it has no meaning in terms of governance and is effectively a formal

slap on the wrist. Added that it does have to be declared on nominations forms.

Danny (Wadham) – Asked for the guiding documents on censure.

Will Obeney – Confirmed that other than their existence, there is nothing on censure in the governing documents.

Danny – Objected to Jack's previous response in light of this.

Anna – Clarified that she just wanted a general definition, and that censure was just jargon.

Danny – Raised a point of information that jargon had been removed from council.

Eden Bailey (Magdalen) – Asked Jack what inadequate response he received from Annie.

Jack - Answered that Annie's response was that she had been busy for the last few weeks. Offered to read the correspondence out to council after further questions had been taken.

Annie Teriba (Wadham) – Informed council that she was not in 7<sup>th</sup> week council when this question was asked, and added that she did attend the handover meeting of Exec. Confirmed that her successor was not present at this meeting and that she did not, to the best of her knowledge, realise she had an obligation to seek her out. Stated that she hoped that her successor would have felt that she could have approached her if she needed to.

Henna Shah – Explained that she did not attend the handover meeting as she had a tutorial at the same time and she was under the impression it was an informal meeting. Stated that she emailed Annie while she was running for the position, as well as emailing James once she had won and did not receive a response either time.

James Blythe (Brasenose) – Explained that he is the Vice President that works with both Annie and Henna. Added that he walked in toady feeling that council should pass this motion, but following the speeches he has heard, he believes everyone has acted in good faith, and there has been confusion. Does not believe there is sufficient reason to merit censure against Annie Teriba.

Annie – Showed the chair that she has received no emails from Henna Shah.

Henna – Stated that she did not want this to become personal, adding that she trusts James' view and that they can meet up following on from this.

Nick Cooper (St John's) – Reminded council that there is an important point to take from the rest of this motion and felt that it needs to be noted that based on the accountability motion, there should be a number of ex-PTE receiving censure.

Jamie Wells (Corpus) – Informed council that handover is not mentioned in the accountability motion. Suggested that these members of exec appeared to be selected randomly, or perhaps not so randomly.

Danny (Wadham) – Raised a point that the people in question are no longer in position so questioned the purpose of censure. Encouraged council to focus on resolves 1.

Eden Tanner (St John's) – Reminded council that Exec should be present at council, and that if they have to send apologies, it is their responsibility to read the minutes.

Nick (St John's) – Stated that part of the reason he brought a motion on accountability in Michaelmas was due to the fact that motions of censure were seen as a vicious personal attack, and he wanted the chair of scrutiny to have to bring them in certain instances, so they do not continue to be viewed in this way.

Jack – Hoped that council could all agree on resolves 1. Reminded council that this motion is not out of the blue, and that executive officers should be reading council minutes if they are not present. Added that he could not have predicted the outcome when he first asked the question in 7<sup>th</sup> week which led to this motion.

**Vote on Resolves 1:**

For – 65  
Against – 1  
Abstain – 1

**Resolves 1 of the motion passes.**

**Secret ballot results on Resolves 2:**

For – 28  
Against – 27  
Abstain – 11  
SBV – 3

**Resolves 2 of the motion passes.**

**Secret ballot results on Resolves 3:**

For – 58  
Against – 3  
Abstain – 4  
SBV - 4

**Resolves 3 of the motion passes.**

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## **k. Emergency Motions**

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### **l. Motions to amend Bye-Laws, General Regulations or Election Regulations**

#### 3. First Reading of Proposed Changes to the Bye-Laws

##### **Council Notes:**

1. Appendix 1 after this motion written by Internal Affairs Committee to summarise the proposed amendments.
2. The mandate on the current sabbatical team to undertake a campaigns governance review.
3. The ongoing Quinquennial Review of OUSU's top level of governance, the Articles of Association, which these amendments lead towards.
4. The rolling governance review conducted over the past 2 years.
5. That there will be consequential amendments to the General Regulations and Election Regulations that will need to be made in Trinity Term.

##### **Council Believes:**

1. That the proposed amendments are good, as they are more reflective of the way in which OUSU works, and as they ensure that:
  - a) Bye-Laws are clearer and easier to read, and provide more direct delegation of governance to more students (such as for Campaigns)
  - b) Council has slightly more freedom to change the timings of Statutory Elections, if that is what students want
  - c) Postgraduate Strategy Summit is changed from a formal body that is not clear or productive, to a newer, less restrictive forum for graduate discussion (details at a later Council)
  - d) Sabbatical Officers-elect have a week's break at the end of Trinity Term before starting their terms of office
  - e) The current "Budget (Sub-) Committee" is distinct from the Trustee Board, reflecting its purpose as an advisory group
  - f) The Trustee Board must make reasonable efforts to ensure at least one woman is on every one of its committees
  - g) Complaints Committee is independent from the Trustee Board, but otherwise continues its current existence
  - h) OUSU's campaigns have a clear structure, with their own constitutions and elected executive, while remaining accountable to Council and so students in general
  - i) Raise and Give (RAG) is clearly separated from other OUSU Campaigns, allowing it to continue with its good work

- Media services remain independent of OUSU Policy and be governed also by people with experience of media

**Council Resolves:**

1. To give a First Reading to the changes to the Bye-Laws outlined in Appendix 2.

**Proposed:** Louis Trup (Brasenose)

**Seconded:** Alys Key (Somerville)

Amendment to Appendix 2:

To replace Bye-Law 29.7 with: (alterations are in **bold**)

The following apply to the suspension or removal of an elected member of the executive of an OUSU Campaign (including the chair or co-chair).

- a. Where such a member
  - i. fails to comply with a provision of the campaign's constitution, or
  - ii. acts in a manner which is, or is likely to become, harmful to the interests of that campaign,  
Council may suspend that member from the executive **or force an election for that member's position (in which the member is eligible).**
- b. A member who is suspended or whose position is forced to election may appeal to the Executive Committee.
- c. Where an elected member is removed
  - i. Council may appoint a replacement member, **except in the case of the Women's Campaign, LGBTQ Campaign, Disabled Students Campaign and Campaign for Racial Awareness and Equality, where the supervising Sabbatical Officer and the campaign executive may co-opt an existing member of the executive into that position temporarily.**

**Proposed:** Anna Bradshaw (Wadham)

**Seconded:** Lindsay Lee (Wadham)

Louis Trup (Brasenose) – Informed council that the sabbatical team had previously mandated themselves to do a review of campaigns governance, and explained that the proposed changes here include this. Directed council to appendix one, which contains a commentary written by Internal Affairs Committee, explaining the key elements of the changes, and briefly ran through these changes. Stated that these bye-laws will need to be passed through three meetings of council in order to come into place. Clarified that the amendment was due to an oversight on the part of sabbatical team, which has now been rectified.

**Motion passed as amended with no opposition.**

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**m. Motions Authorising Capital Expenditure**

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## **n. Other Motions**

### 7. General Election Manifesto – Immigration

#### **Council Notes:**

1. The motion passed in MT14 to create a general election manifesto outlining Oxford students' views on issues to be discussed in the course of the general election.
2. That the Immigration Act, amongst other things, has made it harder for non-UK citizens to use public services including the NHS.
3. That the Home Secretary is considering, as part of a plan for 'zero net student migration', to force international students to return to their countries of origin prior to applying for a visa to stay in the UK at the end of their course.
4. That many students, both international and British, enjoy the right to travel, study and work freely across the European Union.
5. That the executive will be able to look through and suggest edits to the wording of the manifesto before it is published.

#### **Council Believes:**

1. That immigration, and particularly student immigration, should make up part of the manifesto OUSU will campaign for in the run up to the General Election.
2. That international students are a valued part of our community, and so should have the right to fair treatment by public services.
3. That arbitrary caps on immigration can lead to students missing out on visas they deserve.
4. That the current system of allowing international students to apply for work visas whilst they are in Britain makes more sense than a system in which they are forced to leave the country to come back in again.
5. That the freedom to travel, work and study within the European Union is a good thing, and especially important for those students who participate in programmes like ERASMUS or take a year abroad in Europe.

#### **Council Resolves:**

1. To include in the general election manifesto:
  - a) Support for the right of non-UK citizens living in the UK to use public services such as the NHS.
  - b) Opposition to arbitrary caps on immigration
  - c) Opposition to any plans to force international students to leave the country at the end of their degree before they can apply for a UK work visa
  - d) Support for the UK's membership of the European Union, on account of the opportunities it gives to Oxford students.
2. To mandate the executive committee to ensure that the intent of the policy stance is reflected in the wording of the manifesto.

**Proposed:** Nikhil Venkatesh (Corpus Christi)

**Seconded:** Tom Lyons (Corpus Christi)

Nikhil Venkatesh (Corpus Christi) – Stated that the motion speaks for itself in terms of the policy he would like council to adopt. Noted that he recognises that this motion may appear as something that the International Students’ Officer should be bringing, and explained that as we did not have one until recently and he had already written this motion for council. Added that Minerva Lim is now in her role as International Students’ Officer. Informed council that in the current political climate we have a rise of UKIP, who have anti-immigration beliefs at the centre of their party, however stated that they are not an anomaly, with more and more mainstream parties pampering to anti-immigration minds. Added that over Christmas, the home secretary stated that she would like to move to zero net student immigration with a policy basically of throwing international students out as soon as they graduate. Moved on to explain that the motion is also about opposition to some of the worst things in the 2013 Immigration Act, which amongst other things removed the right of international students to use the NHS for free. Added that this is obviously to the detriment of international students, but also to the detriment of British BME students, as doctors and landlords are required to check the immigration status of anyone who they think might be foreign. Added his support for the UK’s membership of the European Union.

Chris Casson (St Catherine’s) – Asked how the proposer would feel about amending resolves 1b to refer specifically to ‘student immigration’ so that we cannot be accused of a non-student based political policy.

Nikhil – Answered that he would oppose it, noting that while he is aware that the OUSU election manifesto has to relate directly to students, he would argue that a total cap on immigration would do just that. Explained that there are certain types of immigration, such as immigration from other EU countries, that cannot be stopped by the government, and that having a total cap means that it will be students that will often lose out, as visa requirements will get tightened up.

**Motion passed with no opposition.**

#### 4. Prelims Feedback

##### **Council Notes:**

1. Its endorsement of the campaign for feedback on prelims and mods in 7<sup>th</sup> week of Michaelmas.

##### **Council Believes:**

1. A paper received by a University committee with the unambiguous backing of Council stands a better chance of passing.

##### **Council Resolves:**

1. To give its full support to the paper in Appendix 3 going to Undergraduate Panel of Education Committee in 7<sup>th</sup> week.

**Proposed:** James Blythe (Brasenose)

**Seconded:** Christopher Casson (St Catherine's)

James Blythe (Brasenose) – Reminded council that they previously mandated him to bring a paper to the Undergraduate Panel of Education Committee asking for feedback on prelims. Added that he has brought the paper back as an appendix which he is asking for support for, in hope that he can tell the panel that it has the unanimous support of OUSU Council.

**Motion passed with no opposition.**

#### 5. General Election Manifesto – The National Health Service

##### **Council Notes:**

1. That it mandated the Executive to bring motions as part of the OUSU manifesto for the General Election, based on the results of student online submissions.

##### **Council Believes:**

1. That OUSU appreciates the essential services that the NHS provides for the students of Oxford University.
2. That the NHS is a vital public service that the government should continue to ensure remains free at the point of use for all citizens for generations to come and never introduces charges for front-line services.
3. That it is of vital importance that NHS services cease to be privatised and that the open-marketing of front-line services ends.
4. That any move by any government to introduce an insurance-based system of healthcare provision should be opposed.
5. That the government should sufficiently, and actually, focus on and fund mental health services, in order to eradicate the stigma associated with mental health and to ensure young people are provided with world-class, easily-accessible, prompt mental health care.
6. That sexual health services are of vital importance to students and young people, and that the government should continue to fund, support and expand sexual health provisions by ensuring that no more sexual health clinics are closed, and that new clinics are in accessible areas with high demand and with services appropriate for all cross-sections of society.
7. That walk-in centres and A&E departments are often the most commonly used NHS services by students and young people and it is this ease-of-access that should be protected by ending the closure of both walk-in centres and A&E departments, and instead encouraging the expansion of such services.
8. That the ban on gay men giving blood unless they abstain from having sex with another man for 12 months is misleading, unfair, discriminatory and should be repealed.

##### **Council Resolves:**

1. To mandate the Executive Committee to include the above beliefs in the OUSU General Election Manifesto.
2. To make Believes 2, 3, 4 and 8 OUSU Policy.

**Proposed:** David Parton (St Hilda's)

**Seconded:** Nikhil Venkatesh (Corpus Christi)

Amendment:

To change 'Believes 8' to:

'That the ban on GBTQ men giving blood unless they abstain from having sex with another man for 12 months is misleading, unfair, discriminatory, and the government should conduct more research immediately with a view to repealing it.'

**Proposed:** David Parton (St Hilda's)

**Seconded:** Nikhil Venkatesh (Corpus Christi)

David Parton (St Hilda's) – Explained that the majority of the motion is pretty straightforward, and that the amendment is simply a semantic one that does not affect the substance of the motion. Added that he only touches briefly on mental health services, as there is a separate motion that contains more detail on this.

Hossein Sharafi (Keble) – Asked the difference between the amendment and the original motion.

David – Explained that the original motion only stated that the ban of gay men donating blood should be repealed, and the new version includes gay, bisexual, transgender and queer men. Added that it also doesn't create direct opposition, but suggests that more research is conducted into this area by the government, with the view to repealing it.

Annie Teriba (Wadham) – Suggested that believes 8 is changed to include any person who has sex with men who have sex with other men.

Joe Reason (Wadham) – Added that the issue is not just about sexuality, as those who have had sex with people of African descent are also prevented from donating blood.

**Amendment received:**

To change 'Believes 8' to:

'That the ban on groups (such as LGBTQ men and those who sleep with them) unfairly excluded from giving blood, unless they abstain from having sex with another man for 12 months is misleading, unfair, discriminatory, and the government should conduct more research immediately with a view to repealing it.'

**Proposed:** Annie Teriba (Wadham)

**Seconded:** David Parton (St Hilda's)

No opposition to the amendment.

**Motion passed as amended.**