

# Council Minutes

## 5<sup>th</sup> Week Hilary Term 2016

5<sup>th</sup> Week Council took place at 5:30pm on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2016, at Christ Church College, Blue Boar Lecture Theatre.

We aim to make council as accessible as possible, and ensure that it is always in accessible venues. However, if there are any accessibility requirements that we are not meeting for yourself or others, please contact OUSU's Democratic Support Officer on 01865 611831, or at [dso@ousu.ox.ac.uk](mailto:dso@ousu.ox.ac.uk).

If you have any questions about OUSU Council, please feel free to contact the Chair, Marina Lambrakis, 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 and questions to the Sabbatical Officers, Executive Officers, Divisional Board Representatives, Representatives of the OUSU Campaigns and RAG (*Raise and Give*)
- f. Emergency motions
- g. Passage of motions without discussion
- h. Motions of No Confidence or censure
- i. Motions to amend Bye-Laws, General Regulations or Election Regulations
  1. New Bye-Laws
- j. Motions authorising expenditure
  2. Budget for the Suspended Status Students Campaign
  3. International Festival
  4. Budget for the Oxford Students Refugee campaign
  5. Good Night Out (GNO) Oxford requests £250 to allow training in order to go into clubs to further efforts to raise awareness and change handling of harassment around Oxford
- k. Other motions
  6. Standards of Research Supervision – an update
  7. Clarification of the Preventing Prevent motion
  8. Motion to OUSU Council for an NUS motion on the Prioritisation of Mental Health
  9. Anti-Semitism on Campus
  10. Supporting Rhodes Must Fall in tackling racism at Oxford
- l. Any other business

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### a. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

None.

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### b. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None.

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

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

**JS(EC)SM (Joint Subcommittee of the Education Committee with Student Members) –** Jeffrey Martin (Somerville) nominated.

Hust requested. Candidate not present at council.

Jeffrey – 82  
RON – 16  
SBV – 3

**Jeffrey Martin was elected.**

**Rules Committee –** Anna Harris (St Peter's) nominated.

No hust requested.

Anna – 94  
RON – 4  
SBV – 3

**Anna Harris was elected.**

**Nominations Committee –** Alex Bishop (Queen's) and Mairi Hill (Worcester) nominated.

No hust requested.

Alex – 27  
Mairi – 50  
RON – 12  
SBV – 6

**Alex Bishop and Mairi Hill were elected.**

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### **e. Reports from and questions to the Sabbatical Officers, Executive Officers, Divisional Board Officers, Representatives of the OUSU Campaigns and RAG (*Raise and Give*)**

Cat Jones (Pembroke) – Updated council that since persuading the University to endorse the use of lecture recording across the University, we are now working on getting them to fund it that so departments are able to opt in for free, adding that she has produced a two-page summary already, outlining the arguments used to win that battle, and the counter arguments faced, which will be distributed to all course reps and divisional reps to make sure they are well equipped to lobby their own departments to opt in.

Becky Howe (Pembroke) – Announced that the Welfare Survey will be released on Friday, and that this is the reason which she ran for her role. Informed council that we need as many people as possible to fill this in, both so that OUSU can put together a report, but so that common rooms will have a good idea of support available, so they are able to lobby for necessary changes.

Nick Cooper (St John's) – Informed council that he is setting up focus groups for masters groups, and that he and Cat will be contacting students to contribute towards the upcoming review of the University. Added that a major line of enquiry is that the University is unable to control things which happen over a vast range of colleges, (such as different collection marks and different standards of supervision).

Ali Lennon (St John's) – Reported that he has been doing Welfare Officer Training, and will be running three sessions on opposition to Prevent, and will be briefing disabled students officers about the changes to disabled students allowance.

Emily Silcock (New) – Stated that she has been working on RAG, including Jailbreak over the last weekend. Informed council that they will be announcing the shortlist for RAG charity ballot tomorrow.

Lucy Delaney (Wadham) – Reported that she has just finished a massive batch of First Responder Training and will be doing another batch next term, as well as training to train sessions. Working on longer sessions that look at the intersections of sexual violence, and continuing to work on her central database of resources for liberation officers.

Jessy Parker Humphreys (Jesus) – Reported that they have met with Cara Baker, a trans staff member, to talk about trans students and trans staff campaigning together on issues, and planning trans swimming sessions at Iffley Road swimming pool. Informed council that they will be meeting with the Equality and Diversity Unit to talk more about having a centralised trans policy which can be rolled out to all colleges.

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## **f. Emergency motions**

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## **g. Passage of motions without discussion**

### 6. Standards of Research Supervision – an update

#### **Council Notes:**

1. Its decision to pass a motion in 3<sup>rd</sup> week MT15 mandating OUSU to consult research students about supervision standards, and to lobby for better policies to improve supervision and the DPhil experience.
2. Its mandate on the Vice-President (Graduates) to report back on progress with respect to the above motion during Hilary Term.
3. That OUSU is running a Welfare Survey in the latter half of Hilary Term, and is seeking a high response rate in order to have data to improve student welfare provisions across the university.

#### **Council Believes:**

1. That survey fatigue is a thing, and is best to be avoided.
2. That delaying the consultation until the Easter vacation will improve responses to both the Welfare Survey and the supervision consultation.
3. Improving graduate research student welfare provisions *and* supervision standards are both important, and significantly interlinked.

#### **Council Resolves:**

1. To consider the mandate on the Vice-President (Graduates) to report back to Council [Resolves 4 in *Standards of Research Supervision*, 3<sup>rd</sup> week Council, MT15] fulfilled by the following three words: "I'm on it".
2. To mandate the Vice-President (Graduates) to report back to Council by 5<sup>th</sup> week, Trinity Term 2016 concerning the consultation of research students on supervision standards, and the next steps to improve these.

**Proposed:** Nick Cooper (St John's)

**Seconded:** Jacob Page (St Cross)

**Motion passed without discussion.**

#### 8. Motion to OUSU Council for an NUS motion on the Prioritisation of Mental Health

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

1. Mental ill health is a significant issue at Oxford and indeed across all universities.
2. The majority of those who ran for elected positions in OUSU did so with action on mental health being a pledge in their manifesto.

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

1. Student mental health is a key priority for OUSU.
2. Action should be taken to improve student mental health and the facilities provided by universities for those with mental health issues.
3. One way to make progress in this area is to get the NUS to work to improve the situation for students with mental health issues across the country.

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

1. To authorise the OUSU NUS delegates to propose the following as a motion to NUS Conference.

**Proposed:** Anne Cremin (Magdalen)

**Seconded:** Matt Sumption (Christ Church)

#### NUS 'Welfare Zone' Proposal for the Prioritisation of Mental Health

##### **Conference Notes:**

1. Mental illness is increasingly prevalent, and is clearly an issue amongst students – the 2013 NUS survey revealed that a fifth of respondents considered themselves to have mental health problems with 13% having suicidal thoughts.
2. Treatments such as counselling can be effective and help many suffering from mental ill health but both NHS and university services tend to be woefully inadequate with substantial waiting lists.

##### **Conference Believes:**

1. Mental ill health is a significant difficulty which many face during their time studying and can severely impact one's studies.
2. Mental health should be a priority for any body representing students.
3. Students, who often have multiple addresses for different parts of the year or who move to new areas for university, are particularly susceptible to falling through the cracks in public services.
4. The vast majority of students do not have the resources to afford private counselling, therapy etc.

### **Conference Resolves:**

1. To declare the mental health of students to be the number one priority of the NUS.
2. To call for SUs to recognise the mental health of students as their priority.
3. To create a pack of guidance to help student groups in lobbying educational institutions to increase the attention and funding they give to their own mental health services
4. To call for all SUs to lobby universities to increase their provision of counselling services
5. To report at the 2017 NUS Conference on the specific steps taken to achieve the above resolutions.

### **Motion passed without discussion.**

#### 10. Supporting Rhodes Must Fall in tackling racism at Oxford

### **Council Notes:**

1. The Campaign for Racial Awareness and Equality's 100 Voices report, in which a majority of students who identified as BME reported feeling uncomfortable or unwelcome at Oxford due to their race. (Placeholder1)<sup>1</sup>
2. That there is only one senior black professor at Oxford, and that white applicants are more than twice as likely to be offered a place to study here than black applicants.<sup>2</sup>
3. OUSU's Policy Guidelines for 2015/16 state that 'OUSU recognises four liberation groups, who experience oppression, are frequently underrepresented, and require particular support. These are: women students; LGBTQ students; black and minority ethnic students; disabled students. OUSU believes that campaigning for liberation groups should be lead [sic] by people who self identify as members of that liberation group.'<sup>3</sup>
4. OUSU's Education Vision, passed by Council in Trinity Term 2015, makes several commitments to addressing those who experience racism, including 'develop[ing] new, targeted access work that seeks to promote Oxford to students from liberation groups, and also to make Oxford itself a place that is more accessible to disabled

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<sup>1</sup> The 100 Voices Campaign 2: Black and Minority Ethnic Students of Oxford Speak Out Campaign for Racial Awareness and Equality Oxford University Student Union, (2014), p. 4.

<http://ousu.org/pageassets/getinvolved/campaigns/crae/100voices2FINAL.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> University of Oxford: Equality Report 2013/14 Section C: Student equality data, p. 36.

[https://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/media/global/wwwadminoxacuk/localsites/equalityanddiversity/documents/Equality\\_Report\\_20131\\_Section\\_C\\_\(Student\\_data\).pdf](https://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/media/global/wwwadminoxacuk/localsites/equalityanddiversity/documents/Equality_Report_20131_Section_C_(Student_data).pdf)

<sup>3</sup> OUSU Policy Guidelines, 2015/2016. p. 10.

<http://ousu.org/pageassets/representingyou/council/policy/PolicyBookMT15%281%29.pdf>

- students, women, LGBTQ students, and BME students.’
5. The Education Vision also states that ‘researchers should be from diverse backgrounds and experiences, and be able to speak to and engage students from nontraditional backgrounds,’ and that ‘We want our education to include a curriculum that is diverse and reflects a broad spectrum of human experiences, and which speaks to students from all countries, genders, races and ages,’ and will ‘continue our efforts to promote greater diversity of voices on reading lists in the Humanities and Social Sciences, and seek to extend that work in an appropriate way to the science divisions’<sup>4</sup>
  6. The Rhodes Must Fall (RMF) movement in Oxford has been attracting international attention on account of its calls to remove iconography that celebrates colonialism, but its aims extend far beyond this, to people of colours’ everyday experiences of racism at Oxford.
  7. The Rhodes Must Fall (RMF) movement aims to tackle racism at Oxford by addressing the lack of representation of people of colour in the University, improving the inclusivity of academic curricula, and confronting outright racism experienced by people of colour here.

**Council Believes:**

1. That the racism experienced by students of colour, and the poor representation of people of colour at all levels of the University, is unacceptable.
2. That the international attention given to the issue of racism at Oxford warrants an institutional response.
3. That our Student Union has a duty to confront racism in its many manifestations.
4. Having listened to students of colour, the RMF campaign has proposed several practical ways of moving forward to address the specific problems students of colour face at this University.
5. RMF’s aims addressing the three areas of representation, curricular diversity, and explicit racism, align with OUSU’s Education Vision and Policy Guidelines.

**Council Resolves:**

1. To support RMF in its aim of addressing racism at Oxford.
2. To mandate OUSU Sabbatical officers to raise the issues highlighted by the RMF movement at a University level.

**Proposed:** Kholood Khair (St. Anthony’s)

**Seconded:** Becky Howe (Pembroke)

**Motion passed without discussion.**

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**h. Motions of No Confidence or censure**

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

**1. New Bye-Laws**

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<sup>4</sup> OUSU Education Vision, pp. 4042.

<http://ousu.org/pageassets/representingyou/council/policy/PolicyBookMT15%281%29.pdf>

### **Council Notes:**

1. OUSU amended its highest governing document (the Articles of Association) at a General Meeting in December 2015, with consequential amendments required to lower documents.
2. That a new set of Bye-Laws have been proposed (Appendix 1), making these consequential changes, along with further changes outlined in Appendix 2.
3. That Council will see proposed new Regulations and Rules in 3<sup>rd</sup> week, Trinity Term 2016, to replace current Election and General Regulations.

### **Council Resolves:**

1. To give a First Reading to make new Bye-Laws (Appendix 1).

**Proposed:** Nick Cooper (St John's)

**Seconded:** Becky Howe (Pembroke)

Nick Cooper (St John's) – Explained that this is a very important motion, as our governance influences everything, including how council works, how we do our voting, who our sabbatical officers are, and much much more. Stated that this proposal is for a brand new set of Bye-Laws, however much of the existing ones are carried over. Noted that the most substantive change is the removal of our Part-Time Executive (PTE), as we feel that the system does not work particularly well, and explained that the Executive under this proposal would consist of the sabbatical officers, a representative of each campaign and two common room presidents. Stated that the money from the PTE will instead be used as a project incubator fund, which will provide students with the chance to spend OUSU money on projects/issues which they care about. Flagged all other changes in the appendix to the motion. Informed council that this has to come to three meetings in order to pass.

Dan Mead (St John's) – Asked in his capacity as Chair of Scrutiny, why Divisional Board Reps would no longer be scrutinised under the new proposal, and why they would not be scrutinising the project incubator.

Nick – Replied that they are taking it out of the rules, but that Scrutiny Committee will still be a committee of council, so council can still ask them to do whatever it likes. Explained that we are reviewing Divisional Board Reps generally, and a common problem is that candidates believe they can make lots of changes in the role, but the purpose is actually to sit and represent students on the board, therefore we think that it may be better for people to not make manifesto claims which they cannot do, and then be scrutinised on those claims, and rather see if they have done their job by attending the divisional board. Replied that they have not yet thought how to best scrutinise the project incubator.

Cameron Quinn (Merton) – Asked what what will happen to those who are already elected into the PTE positions once these changes are passed.

Nick – Answered that it will not affect them, as the changes which affect PTE will be delayed until Christmas when their term is due to end.

Aliya Yule (Wadham) – Asked how the common room presidents would be elected onto the Exec.

Nick – Replied that they will be elected among themselves, and will change on a termly basis. Added that there would be one undergrad and one grad president, and the current thinking is that they would be elected as PresCom/Grad Prescom.

Opposition to the motion received.

Aliya Yule (Wadham) – Stated that she is concerned about losing the PTE when they have worked so hard over the last few years, and despite recognising problems filling the positions, there is a worry that certain groups will no longer be represented by OUSU. Added that campaign chairs often don't want to be involved in OUSU and would rather just be campaigning, as it has a hostile and unpleasant environment. Noted a key difference between exec and campaign, as Exec are institutional and campaigns can do much more ground work. Argued that removing exec will put a huge burden on campaigns, particularly liberation campaigns, as they are already exhausting roles, noting that she suspended because she could not do her work as well as WomCam. Added that she would have appreciated more consultation and debate on the subject.

Lucy Delaney (Wadham) – Agreed that she took all of Aliya's concerns on board, especially that about many people wanting to remain on the margins of OUSU, and noted that she also almost suspended because she could not keep up with both that and a degree. Explained that while we are physically reducing the number of roles, this plan aims to make OUSU a lot clearer, as there is currently a lot of confusion about who to go to and how to get things done. Noted that we do not stipulate what co-chairs have to do, and there could be one who sits on Exec, and one who is more outward facing to students, or alternatively the workload could be split down the middle, and this is entirely up to the campaigns themselves.

Cat Jones (Pembroke) – Seconded Lucy's comments and added that we are well aware of the stress that can be caused by the expectations placed on campaigns, clarifying that the changes are intended to relieve this rather than exacerbate it. Noted that we will be bringing in a full time member of staff to support the campaigns, as we recognize that they are under resourced. Explained that campaigns will be able to put forward someone other than a co-chair to sit on Exec if that would work better for them.

Jessy Parker Humphreys (Jesus) – Concerned that OUSU haven't adequately explained what will happen to PTE who don't have associated campaigns.

Nick – Answered that the infographic which came to first week council indicates how each role will be covered, and noted that we are very amenable to ideas. Informed Jessy that for their own role, there would be the option to set up a campaign for the purpose of the governance, so that a trans officer sits on the Exec.

Taisie (Wadham) – Stated that this brings campaigns and their policy into the heart of OUSU, which is a really important and valuable thing.

Tom Wadsworth (St John's) – Asked for more information on the project incubator, as for his role in particular, this is where it will go. Suggested that it is unlikely that people will get involved in the somewhat boring tasks that he has to do alongside the more interesting ones.

Emily Silcock (New) – Answered that the idea of the project incubator is that you actually get to do the fun stuff, and you do the projects which you want to do, which we think is a key thing stopping people running to be PTE in the first place. Added that the new staff

member will look after the logistics of this, allowing it to develop.

Hilal Yazan (St Hugh's) – Argued that the underrepresentation of marginalised groups is already an issue in OUSU and if we lose exec and just have campaigns that don't specialise on particular issues, it will lead to greater fragmentation, instead of bringing different groups together. Stated that PTEs can work together much more closely than campaigns.

Eden Tanner (St John's) – Explained that campaigns are already very much a part of OUSU, and cannot be legally separated out, including the liberation campaigns.

Catherine Kelly (St Hugh's) – Stated that it is already difficult to get graduates involved in campaigns, so practically the idea of having a grad on each campaign is problematic.

Chi Chi (St Cross) - Recognised that campaigns cannot be entirely autonomous, but doesn't think the answer is to bring the campaigns closer into the institution. Raised a concern with single issue campaigning, which depoliticises what we care about, as we should be campaigning across the wider issues of liberation, not just single issues.

Jacob Page (St Cross) – Stated that there is a big graduate problem in OUSU, which comes down to Oxford grad culture. Noted that it is something which we are continuing to try and fix, and is being addressed by OUSU, the divisions and the institution. Claimed it makes absolute sense that the regulations match the shift in grad culture and allows graduates to easily get involved. Urged that we should be encouraging grads to get involved, rather than saying that they're just not doing much.

Ronak Patel (University) – Raised a problem with the project incubator, as sometimes the issues are not just things which can be begun and shut down by one student. Urged that we need room for continuity, particularly for roles like academic affairs.

Eden Tanner (St John's) – Pointed out that it is the job of the sabbatical officers to provide a point of continuity. Flagged that all campaigns will need to slightly restructure in order to be accessible to graduates.

Lucy Delaney (Wadham) – Noted that she was initially unsure about the incubator project, but then recognised that it is a great set up for liberation ideas, as one of the problems that liberation campaigns really have is regularly teaming up, however the incubator will allow for campaigns that have intersection at the heart of the matter, which specifically addresses something, without requiring multiple campaigns to continually liaise.

Aliya Yule (Wadham) – Raised concerns that campaigns will no longer be autonomous under this, and questioned what it means for scrutiny, and if people will be able to bring motions of censure against campaign chairs.

Nick – Replied that anyone can bring a motion of censure about anyone in council, so this is already the case.

Aliya – Stated that she has heard a lot about a new paid full-time member of staff who is not elected or accountable working and will be working on campaigns. Claimed that staff are notoriously more right wing than students, which has already been seen in a paid member of OUSU staff.

Ali Lennon (St John's) – Noted that this is misleading.

Aliya – Continued that there are concerns about having someone who is not accountable to students in charge of expenditure of the campaigns, as autonomous campaigns should not have to report to OUSU on their spending. Insisted the changes will lead to less representation of marginalised groups and more work for people who are already doing so much.

Becky Howe (Pembroke) – Informed council that we do not speak about staff members in this forum, so asked council to level complaints against sabbatical officers.

Aliya – Claimed that this is part of the problem with having a staff member overseeing campaigns and putting limits on students.

Becky – Replied that the campaigns will still each be linked to a sabbatical officer, and that the staff member will be working on logistics and admin. Added that campaigns already have to go through a sabbatical officer for expenditure and accounts, as they have to do this as trustees of a charity, so this is something that is already happening and will not be changing.

Nick – Stated that anytime you change anything, there will always be concerns about issues, nothing is irreversible, and we are changing things in response to things that we have heard from previous campaigns, previous PTE and previous sabs. Stated that these changes came to both 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> week council for consultation so we could consider any proposed changes in time. Stated that if we do not pass this first reading, we cannot make any of the changes at all until Michaelmas. Urged people to pass the motion, and then contact him with proposed amendments in time for 7<sup>th</sup> week.

Taisie (Wadham) – Asked if the two votes between the PTE and the campaign chair will collapse into one at council.

Nick – Answered that yes the proposal suggests just one vote per campaign, but that people should again contact him if they want to make amendments about this. Noted that council should represent the common rooms of the University, so would be cautious about giving OUSU too many votes.

Eden Bailey (Magdalen) – Asked if it would be possible to split the motion.

Nick – Answered that we cannot do this, as we are creating a brand new set of rules. Noted that is why he specifically said in both 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> week council that people should propose amendments in advance, so we can factor in any knock on consequential amendments. Reiterated that if it passes this time, it does not have to pass in 7<sup>th</sup> week.

Vote:

For – 89

Against – 4

Abstain – 12

**Motion passed 1<sup>st</sup> reading.**

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## **j. Motions authorising expenditure**

### 2. Budget for the Suspended Status Campaign

#### **Council Notes:**

1. OUSU Council created the Suspended Status Campaign (SusCam) at its week 7 meeting of Michaelmas Term
2. The campaign has already had a number of successes including running a 'welcome back' event for students returning from suspension at the start of Hilary Term and they are planning at least three more events this academic year.
3. SusCam currently does not have a budget as they were created after the OUSU budget for this academic year was set.
4. SusCam will have it's own OUSU budget for the next academic year.

#### **Council Believes:**

1. OUSU should give financial support to the campaign until it can be written in to next year's budget.

#### **Council Resolves:**

1. To set aside £150 from the council discretionary fund to provide a budget for the campaign.
2. In line with the procedure for all official OUSU campaigns, expenditure from within this budget will still need to be approved the campaign's designated sabbatical officer (VP Access and Academic Affairs).

**Proposed:** Kate Cole (Regent's)

**Seconded:** Cat Jones (Pembroke)

Cat Jones (Pembroke) – Explained that council has approved Suspended Status Students Campaign as an official campaign of OUSU, however it does not yet have a budget line, as it was introduced in the middle of the academic year. Stated that she is asking for a modest sum of money for the campaigns to get themselves started.

Zack Grader (St Catherine's) – Asked how much is left in the discretionary budget.

Marina (St John's) – Answered that there is £1270.

**Motion passed with no opposition.**

### 3. International Festival

#### **Council Notes:**

1. That OUSU holds an International Festival each year, with this year's being on 27 February in Exam Schools. Come along.
2. We have over 20 societies signed up.

3. Exam Schools doesn't come cheap, and the International Students Campaign are already providing a subsidy from their budget.

**Council Believes:**

1. It is important that societies can have a stall for free, as charging them would dissuade attendance, which is sad.

**Council Resolves:**

1. To give £100 from the Council Discretionary Campaigns Budget to allow stallholders to attend without charge.

**Proposed:** Nick Cooper (St John's)

**Seconded:** Gabe Rusk (St Stephen's House)

Nick Cooper (St John's) – Stated that this would be very helpful for the International Festival, which is happening as part of the bigger OUSU Students Festival. Added that this will help ensure that all of the stalls can come to the event for free.

**Motion passed with no opposition.**

4. Budget for the Oxford Students Refugee campaign

**Council Notes:**

1. OUSU Council supported the Oxford Student's Refugee campaign at its week 1 meeting of Michaelmas Term.
2. The Oxford Student's Refugee Campaign does not have a budget as it is not currently an official OUSU campaign.
3. Members of the campaign have been required to fund campaign-related expenditure from their own money.

**Council Resolves:**

1. To endorse the Oxford Student's Refugee campaign
2. To set aside £150 from the council discretionary fund to provide a budget for the campaign.
3. To mandate the Vice President (Charities & Community) to oversee expenditure from within this budget.

**Proposed:** Emily Silcock (New)

**Seconded:** Cat Jones (Pembroke)

Emily Silcock (New) – Informed council that they have already endorsed the mission of the Refugee campaign, and this is a request to support the campaign financially for the remainder of the academic year. Explained that in the future, this will be a sub-campaign of a wider OUSU Campaign.

**Motion passed with no opposition.**

5. Good Night Out (GNO) Oxford requests £250 to allow training in order to go into clubs to further efforts to raise awareness and change handling of harassment around Oxford

**Council Notes:**

1. Harassment is a major issue around Oxford, and many instances occur in entertainment venues, particularly night clubs.
2. GNO Oxford is part of the national Good Night Out Campaign, which seeks to reduce harassment in licensed venues by educating staff on how to appropriately respond to instances of harassment. Whilst the national campaign focuses mainly on sexist and queerphobic harassment, GNO Oxford believes that ableist and racist harassment are also major issues in UK clubs and have resolved to combat them by producing extra training materials on these types of harassment. As part of the national GNO campaign, GNO Oxford is currently unable to affiliate officially with OUSU and become one of OUSU's campaigns.
3. GNO Oxford has so far made significant progress, and have contacted a number of clubs around Oxford, eliciting positive responses from many and securing training for all the staff at Plush for later this term. The committee are currently negotiating with several other clubs and expects to have training dates confirmed by the end of the month.
4. GNO mainly works by using trained facilitators to run training sessions in venues to educate nightclub staff on how to respond to harassment. In order to train a viable pool of volunteers, funding is needed and GNO Oxford has succeeded in fundraising through some common rooms which is covering some of the costs but not all.
5. It costs £250 for one facilitator training session, which includes the bringing in a member of the national team to train of up to 15 volunteers as facilitators and all materials to distribute to participant clubs.

**Council Believes:**

1. Harassment is unacceptable in all instances and can be particularly distressing when it is focussed against minority individuals. The negative effects of harassment can also be increased when met with a negative, blaming or doubting response from those in a position of authority, and as such it is extremely important to educate staff about harassment and how to respond to reports and disclosures.
2. The national GNO campaign has been incredibly successful in raising awareness of issues surrounding harassment on nights out in other cities, and has successfully worked with some of the biggest clubs in the country to improve the experiences of club-goers. GNO Oxford has the potential to have a major impact on improving experiences in nightclubs, supporting clubs to strive for a safer and harassment-free environment for their patrons.

**Council Resolves:**

1. To contribute £250 to GNO Oxford which will go towards the training of more volunteers and providing training materials for future club training sessions.
2. To mandate the VP Welfare and Equal Opportunities and other relevant OUSU officers to work with GNO Oxford.
3. To make 'Council Believes 1' and 'Council Resolves 2' OUSU policy.

**Proposed:** Tom Wadsworth (St John's)

**Seconded:** Hwa Jong (Samuel) Kim (St John's)

Tom Wadsworth (St John's) – Informed council that Good Night Out is a campaign which goes into clubs to train staff on dealing with harassment. Added that their document has recently been updated to include guidance on racism and ableism. Informed council that the £250 would be for the Oxford branch of the national campaign to get in national campaign leaders to train volunteers, and also pay for resources for staff in clubs, and that the mandate on Ali would be to work with us and help us ensure that our training guide is good.

Matt Sumption (Christ Church) – Asked for the breakdown of the £250.

Tom – Answered that the money is for people to come in and train volunteers, and that it is important that we raise the money, as the biggest objection we face from clubs is that they cannot afford the expense of training their staff.

Zack Grader (St Catherine's) – Asked if they receive support from the national campaign.

Tom – Replied that they do not in terms of funding, as they don't have any themselves, and the campaign runs on a volunteer basis.

Zack – Asked if they had been to common rooms.

Tom – Answered that they have done two training sessions so far, and they are looking for one more training session to get a significant amount of volunteers. Informed council that they will be training Plush on 4<sup>th</sup> March.

**Amendment received:**

To remove Resolves 1 and replace with:

'To authorise the VP Women and the VP WEO to use up to £250 with Good Night Out and other stake holders including Oxford Brookes Student Union, Thames Valley Police, The Student Advice Service and liberation groups to pursue the goal of Good Night Out and to make the training more intersectional.'

To remove Resolves 2.

To edit the numbering of Resolves 3 accordingly.

**Proposed:** Ali Lennon (St John's)

**Seconded:** Lucy Delaney (Wadham)

Ali Lennon – Explained that he has met with GNO before and sympathises with their aims, however does have some concerns with their material. Acknowledged that they have done an update, which he has not yet seen, however the initial material did not refer to the police

at all, with no explaining of how to refer issues up, as well as a misunderstanding of the role security industry authority, and a lack of understanding about the role of bouncers. Suggested that we refocus and rephrase this, with the aim to make it better.

Lucy Delaney – Informed council that she did not know there had been an update, and apologised if the updates cover her concerns on race and disability training. Informed council that she loves GNO and thinks it is badly needed.

Tom – Confirmed that race and disability policies have now been added, and fitted in within the original policy. Added that the new document also mentions the police. Recognised that OUSU has a number of employees who have the abilities to help out with this, and would be willing to work with these people to make any updates that they consider necessary. Urged that they care more about the support from OUSU than the money itself.

Lucy – Asked that regardless of amendment, we have an understanding with you that we will work with you to iron out concerns.

Eden Tanner (St John's) - **Proposed that the motion is tabled to 7<sup>th</sup> week council.**

Ali – Seconded Eden's suggestion.

Eden Tanner (St John's) – Argued that really important discussions need to happen before decisions are made.

Tom – Stated that he would be happy to delay the funding but not to delay the mandate, as they want an updated policy document as soon as possible, and would like Ali to help out with this.

Eden – **Withdrew her move to table.**

Eden – **Proposed a motion to split Resolves 1 from the remainder of the motion.**

**Accepted as friendly by the proposer.**

**Amendment withdrawn.**

Nick Cooper (St John's) – **Move to table Resolves 1 to 7<sup>th</sup> week council.**

**Vote:**

For – 64

Against – 28

**Move to table Resolves 1 to 7<sup>th</sup> week council passed.**

**Move to vote on remainder of the motion (all notes, believes, resolves 2 & 3).**

**Vote:**

For – 89

Against - 0

Abstain – 3

**Notes, Believes & Resolves 2 & 3 passed.**

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**k. Other motions**

7. Clarification of the Preventing Prevent mandate

**Council Notes:**

1. The **Preventing Prevent** motion (passed in 3rd Week MT 2015) has led to confusion on what the mandate requires OUSU officers to do.
2. In the motion 'Preventing Prevent', Council resolved to:
  1. *To publicly condemn the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act.*
  2. ***To mandate OUSU Officers to not co-operate with the Prevent strategy or serve on any bodies directly overseeing the implementation of Prevent, and to boycott it as far as legally possible including to walk out of committees if Prevent is raised (and to walk back in when it is finished).***
  3. *To work with campus trade unions including UCU on combating the Prevent strategy and its implementation on campus.*
  4. *To mandate the VP (Welfare & Equal Opportunities) to lobby the university to be completely open and transparent about how they are engaging with Prevent and other similar initiatives. This involves:*
    - i. *Demanding publications of how the policy is operating within the university.*
    - ii. *Giving details of and access to the materials used to train staff and students on their Prevent duties.*
    - iii. *Holding consultations with the student body regarding how this affects students.*
  5. *To mandate the Vice-President (Welfare & Equal Opportunities) to arrange assistance and support to any students who feel harassed or persecuted due to the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015.*
  6. *To mandate the Vice-President (Welfare & Equal Opportunities) to publicise and explain how the 'Prevent Duty' may affect students and the dangers of the CTSA.*

7. To mandate the Vice-President (Welfare & Equal Opportunities) to support common room officers in opposing any college level implementation of Prevent.

**Council Believes:**

1. The Preventing Prevent resolution should be clarified to remove this element of confusion for OUSU officers.
2. It is important for OUSU officers to voice student concerns about the legislation to the university, particularly its negative impact on the welfare of students.

**Council Resolves:**

1. To revoke resolves 2 in the motion 'Preventing Prevent', passed at the OUSU Council meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> week Michaelmas Term 2015.
2. To mandate OUSU officers to boycott collegiate University committee discussions directly about the *implementation* of the Prevent duty. This involves not serving on or contributing in any way to bodies set up to oversee the implementation of the Prevent duty. If Prevent is raised in any other committee, and it is a direct discussion about the implementation of the Prevent duty, OUSU officers are required to explain the reasons why students are boycotting the legislation, and then walk out for the duration of the discussion on Prevent only.
3. To permit OUSU officers to remain in meetings where a committee is just updated about Prevent and/or where the discussion is related to the knock-on effects of the Prevent Duty on students rather than its implementation.
4. To mandate OUSU officers to raise concerns about the impact of the Prevent Duty on student welfare in the appropriate bodies within the university that OUSU officers have access to.
5. To mandate relevant sabbatical officers to meet with representatives from Oxford University Islamic Society and OUSU's Campaign for Racial Awareness and Equality to discuss continuing to politically oppose Prevent.

**Proposed:** Becky Howe (Pembroke)

**Seconded:** Hilal Yazan (St. Hugh's)

Becky Howe (Pembroke) – Explained that the motion from last term mandated the sabbatical team to not attend any meeting specifically about Prevent, and to walk out of any meetings which mentioned Prevent. Noted that this was very confusing for the officers, and this motion provides some clarity, in that it proposes that if meetings raise the direct implementation of Prevent, they will walk out, but if meetings are about the knock on affects on students and concerns about welfare issues surrounding Prevent, we will remain in the meeting.

Aliya Yule (Wadham) – Asked what the motion means by meet regularly.

Becky – Replied that it is up to CRAE and the Islamic Society, and confirmed she is happy to meet very regularly, as this is very very important.

**Motion passed with no opposition.**

### 9. Anti-Semitism on Campus

#### **Council Notes:**

1. Anti-Semitism is a major problem in Britain, with increasing numbers of anti-Semitic incidents reported.
2. Anti-Semitism is a particular problem on campus, where Jewish students are often left feeling threatened and vulnerable, and with insufficient support from SU's.
3. Jewish students are the only minority group which is not directly represented by any of the NUS liberation campaigns.
4. There is a history of anti-Semitism occurring within the NUS.
5. OUSU is sending six delegates to the National Conference of NUS in April 2016.

#### **Council Believes:**

1. Anti-Semitism is a form of racism that is under no circumstances acceptable.
2. Anti-Semitism is best defined by the 'Working Definition of Anti-Semitism' adopted by the EU's Fundamental Rights Agency in 2005.
3. More needs to be done by institutions of higher and further education and by students' unions to tackle anti-Semitism on campus.

#### **Council Resolves:**

1. To submit this motion to NUS National Conference 2016, with the above 'Notes' and 'Believes', and the following 'resolves':
2. To re-affirm its commitment to tackling anti-Semitism, particularly anti-Semitism on campus.
3. To widen the probe into institutional racism in the National Union of Students to include institutional anti-Semitism.
4. To lobby Student Unions to have clearer policies on responding to anti-Semitic incidents and situations in which Jewish students feel threatened.
  - a. To mandate the NUS to provide resources to help Student Unions to formulate these clearer policies.

**Proposed:** David Klemperer (St. John's)

**Seconded:** Becky Howe (Pembroke)

Harry Samuels (New) – Explained that this motion is one we would like to propose to NUS Conference in April, on antisemitism, in particular about formulating a national policy to be used by universities, and to wide the NUS probe into institutional racism to also include antisemitism.

Aliya – Asked how this will affect the Black Students Campaign.

Harry – Replied that it does not affect what they're doing, and explained that the intention is for the probe to be widened to include antisemitism as well.

**Amendment received:**

In Resolves 1:

Add 1 – 4 after “notes” and before “and”.

**Proposed:** Eden Tanner (St John's)

**Seconded:** Jacob Page (St Cross)

Accepted as friendly.

**Motion passed with no opposition.**