

## 5<sup>th</sup> Week Hilary Term 2019 Student Council Minutes

**TIME:** 17:30

**DATE:** Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February

**LOCATION:** Flora Anderson Hall, Somerville College

If you have any questions about Student Council, please feel free to contact:

Chair of Council: [chair@oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk](mailto:chair@oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk)

Student Engagement Coordinators: [studentengagement@oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk](mailto:studentengagement@oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk)

**Project Bid Pot:** £1092 remaining

- a. Minutes of the previous meeting
- b. Matters arising from the minutes
- c. Elections in council
- d. Reports from and questions to the Sabbatical Trustees
- e. Reports from International Students Campaign
- f. Report from Divisional Representatives
- g. Items for resolution

- 1. College Inequalities
- 2. Priorities for Departmental Reviews

Below the line

- 3. Establish Oxford SU LGBTQ+ Campaign
- 4. Establish Oxford SU International Students' Campaign
- 5. Establish Oxford SU Class Act Campaign

**h.** Items for discussion

- 1. Access & Participation Plan

**i.** Any other business

**a. Minutes of the previous meeting**

Minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January were considered.

**b. Matters arising from the minutes**

No amendments were noted. Pass with no opposition.

**c. Elections in Council**

**The Steering Committee (x1)** is responsible for making sure the business of Student Council is legal and appropriate. They look over the motions submitted by Students, steering them for consultation if needed, and compiling the agenda.

None

**d. Reports from and questions to the Sabbatical Trustees**

Rosanna Greenwood, VP Charities & Communities reported that 1. Climate Act Week has been held successfully last week and she organised a series of events with different climate action groups. ; 2. She is organising Charity Awards, which will be taking place in Trinity Term. She suggested that the common room should submit their funding raise total as soon as possible.; 3. She has been working with OCJC and discussing university investments, there will be few meetings going on.

Joe Inwood, Present presented that 1. He's been to university councils and conferences of colleges talking about college contribution scheme, which is important for students from less wealth colleges and PPHs. 2. He has been training MCRs and JCRs reps in rent negotiation; 3. He's also been working on issues on individual students and colleges.

Katt Walton, VP Women reported that 1. Ellie and her went to the first meeting of the new sexual violence reporting steering group and they are looking at overhauling the system for reporting sexual violence and harassment and ?? procedures.; 2. She had a Women's officer social last night.; 3. Ellie organised a quality university committee?? on Monday. They discussed about how all the liberation identities reps can work collaboratively together and how they can support them.

Lucas Bertholdi-Saad, VP Access and Academic Affairs reported that 1. He spent a long time on Departmental Reviews – in the politics department, the internet institute, and the department of statistics. He's been looking at transparency of the courses and departments (what does the department look like); 2. He is working hard on Access & Participation Plan.; 3. Elections for campaigns and SU associated bodies are going on right now and he encouraged students to vote (tomorrow midday).

Ellie Macdonald, VP Welfare & Equal Opportunities 1. She is working on Mind Your Head 7<sup>th</sup> week and some events are up now on the SU page and she encouraged students to check.; 2. Sexual violence reporting & procedures; 3. She's looking at

new mental health strategies. There will be concessions on that and around 30 reps come to the coms?? this year.

Allison D'ambrosia, VP Graduates reported that 1. New graduate college; the undergraduate library keeps the book, which will move to the other library; Consultation documents on Friday.; 2. She did other departmental reviews.; 3. Encourage students to feedback on what they already get from the college and what do they expect from the college to provide?

No questions received.

#### **e. Report from International Students' Campaign**

Andreas Zampouridis presented the report. They are working on international students' tuition fees, promoting access to vacation storage facilities, organising international student congress; he highlighted that a social event will be organised for visiting students this Sunday.

Questions:

Lucas Bertholdi-Saad asked if the Oxford World Cup is a football game?

Andreas said that they haven't decided yet.

Pass with no opposition

#### **f. Reports from Divisional Representatives**

Report from PG social sciences rep:

Meaghan Thumath, Social Science Graduate reported that:

1. PG students Rep board, 12 out of 16 departments were represented (Masters and DPhil student reps), 4 staff attended. They discussed a variety of topics. They want more involvement in the departmental division reviews; Action plan responds to student voranata survey. None of the students have seen the action plans for departmental reviews for student voranata review and none of them being engaged. The lack of clear sign posting for taking different course offering across different department.
2. Mental health, suggested that SU offers training for course reps. The student reps are confused about their roles in terms of the mental health components. More training for course reps and supervisors.
3. Health and safety in the field work. A DPhil student from Cambridge was killed in Egypt last year.
4. Graduate application fee.

Questions:

?? Merton, asked for more information about the Dphil progression measure. Meaghan Thumath said that it is a new project in social sciences, where will be looking at DPhil progression rates are getting worse. She mentioned that at the division meeting, they said that the trends are getting worse. She said during the meeting that students are facing a lot of issues, such as mental health issues, balance between work and academic studying etc, and she suggested that there should be equity during this process.

#### Report from MPLS graduate rep:

Ben Fernando reported that

1. Monitoring diversity of applicants pool at the graduate level. There is a lack of attention on this issue - equality and fairness for graduates. They broke the data through ethnicity: UK VS non-UK division. Compared with the data of including international students, ethnic minority UK students is 10% less to get in. No gender gap and disability between application and the acceptance of offers. He suggested that the analysis of the diversity should be broken down into access and the issues with interviews processes.; What for action is the postgraduate population is down under undergraduate, master's degree in Oxford (making sure the fairness during the process, eg, the supervisor is not taking their bachelor students to the next level).
2. Graduate application fees. The MPLS division board overseas against the application fees. Getting supports from students and staff and got nearly 500 signatures. Encourage SU to work on the removal of application fees.
3. Paying interns minimum wage. Some placements did not pay or pay enough the MPLS 8 weeks interns the minimum wage.
4. Graduate college. Not many information.

Questions:

??, Merton asked about the chances of availability of PG funding at both level - Dphil or master.

Ben Fernando said that the Government considers integrated masters to be general masters. In terms of DPhil funding, varies statement made about guaranteed continuing funding for students entering in 2019 from the EU, but don't know so much that is contingent on withdrawing the agreement. The students who are from the EU applied around this circle would be guaranteed the funding through the UK research council until the end of their degree.

??, Merton asked if the funding issues linked to the Brexit.

Ben Fernando said not link to the Brexit. The renewal from the central for doctoral training. Oxford did bad. Several of those have not been renewed. That will impact on student funding,

Lucas said that Oxford did worse than expected in MPLS CDT and did well in social sciences. In the whole, the research funding is increasing year by year. That doesn't necessarily affect students in Oxford.

Ben Fernando said that they are still waiting for CDT to come back in terms of funding issues and some of the results. He is not sure that it will affect students for next year.

Allison said that in terms of Oxford scholarship and funding, the university strategic plan has agreed to 300 fully funded scholarships for students within the next five years. That's gonna increase the funding.

Lucas said that in social sciences division move to fully funded model of graduate research.

The Chair read the report from the postgraduate rep for the Medical Sciences

Division: 1. To increase access and welfare services for graduates in the MSD.; 2. Attended GJCC meeting; 3. Met the head of the MSD to get a better idea of what goals the Division would like to achieve and how the UG and PG rep can help.; 4. Working on the removal of the graduate application fee.

The Chair read the report from the undergraduate rep for the Social Sciences Division.

Pass with no opposition

**g. Items for Resolution**

### **1. College Inequalities**

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

1. By having no way of expressing a negative preference to a College or PPH in admissions, the University assures applicants that provisions for students and student experience will be comparable, regardless of College or PPH.
2. The College Contribution Scheme (CCS) is a mechanism by which richer Oxford colleges contribute to the maintenance and costs of poorer colleges.
3. Permanent Private Halls (PPHs) have not been included in the CCS, in the most recent scheme or prior to this, despite largely having no more than a fraction of the resources available even to the poorer colleges, who are granted access to income from the CCS.
4. There are differences in student experience between colleges including, but not limited to, sports facilities, travel grants, hardship funds, libraries,

student mental health support, music and drama facilities, accommodation costs and vacation residence, and food prices.

**Student Council Believes:**

1. Oxford students should have a broadly comparable experience at this University, regardless of their college or PPH.
2. The College Contribution Scheme should be used to achieve Believes 1.
3. All student members of Oxford SU should have the same opportunities to succeed academically and have a positive student experience.
4. Students from all colleges and PPHs are equal as University members.
5. The access work of colleges like Mansfield is driving the University's success in this regard for the benefit of the whole University.
6. Many poorer colleges and PPHs were originally established to cater for students who were traditionally excluded from more established colleges.
7. All students have an interest in equality between college experiences, both from inter-collegiate solidarity and because college choice is often outside students' control.
8. Every student should be able to request accommodation if they are estranged or a care leaver regardless of their college's ability to fund this.
9. That a lack of endowment is a prohibitive factor behind poorer colleges and PPHs becoming more financially stable and thus becoming able to add value to students' college experience, increase their size, and expand their independent access and outreach efforts, but that this should not be the case.

**Student Council Resolves:**

1. To pass Believes 1-9 into SU Policy.
2. To encourage JCR and MCR Presidents to lobby their head of house to support a new College Contribution Scheme to address the issues raised in this motion.
3. To mandate the President to write to the Chair of Conference of Colleges (Sir Rick Trainor) on behalf of Student Council to advocate for students of PPHs and poorer colleges to see the benefits of a new College Contribution Scheme.

**Proposer:** William Robinson, Regent's Park College

**Seconder:** Saba Shakil, Mansfield College

William Robinson, Regent's Park College presented the motion.

**Questions:**

Samuel Gunatilleke, St John's asked that including the PPHs, will the richer college pay more or the poorer college will receive less?

William Robinson, Regent's Park College: No more money will be taken from the richer colleges. He is expecting the inclusion of poorer colleges and PPHs.

Ben Fernando asked about if he is aware of any discussion on going about holding new foundation year and the university is thinking would play in this CCS scheme.

William Robinson, Regent's Park College: It's a part of the same problem and he highlighted again the issues of college differences and different student experinecs. he doesn't know much about the foundation year.

Joe Inwood, President said that LMH is the only college that does foundation year.

Andy Baxter, Regent's Park said that requesting more reps from PPHs on the council.

Pass with no opposition.

## 2. Priorities for Departmental Reviews

### Student Council Notes:

1. The University of Oxford uses Departmental Reviews to have oversight over the academic, organisational and financial activities of departments and faculties. Reviews are conducted jointly by the divisions and Education Committee on a 6-yearly cycle.
2. Reviews are a formal part of the University's quality assurance regime and help the University meet a wide range of its obligations under the UK Quality Code.
3. Reviews cover the quality of academic activity in the faculty/department, including the quality of undergraduate and graduate programmes and their delivery.
4. SU sabbatical officers sit on the panel for Departmental Reviews, and help shape the areas reviews cover and their recommendations.

### Student Council Believes:

1. Oxford is a decentralised University, so many of the best opportunities to promote good practice and reform poor practice exist at departmental level.
2. That departmental reviews are a key means by which the SU can help shape the academic activities of departments and faculties, and so make sure the University works for students.
3. The SU has key priorities to address at the departmental level for all students
  - a. Lecture clashes and course organisation.
  - b. Accessibility and anticipatory adjustments for students with disabilities, including lecture capture.
  - c. Degree awarding/attainment gaps.
  - d. Student support provision, including mental health support.

4. The SU has key priorities to address at the departmental level for graduates in particular:
  - a. Graduate access & widening participation.
  - b. Graduate funding, especially the move towards fully-funded systems.
  - c. Distribution of teaching.

**Student Council Resolves:**

1. To make policy for the next three years a mandate that the relevant sabbatical officers, when sitting on the panel for a departmental review, ensure the following areas are discussed:
  - a. Lecture clashes and course organisation.
  - b. Accessibility and anticipatory adjustments for students with disabilities, including lecture capture.
  - c. Degree awarding/attainment gaps.
  - d. Student support provision, including mental health support.
  - e. Graduate access & widening participation.
  - f. Graduate funding, especially the move towards fully-funded systems.
  - g. Distribution of teaching.

**Proposer:** Lucas Bertholdi-Saad, Oxford SU

**Secunder:** Louis Morris, Pembroke

Lucas Bertholdi-Saad presented the motion.  
No questions received.

Pass with no opposition

## Below the line

### 3. Establish Oxford SU LGBTQ+ Campaign

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

1. In 7th Week Michaelmas Term 2018 Student Council amended the Bye-Laws and changed how Campaigns work.

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

1. Oxford SU should have a Campaign for students who identify as lesbian, gay, bi, trans, asexual, aromantic, pan, intersex, queer, genderqueer and gender non-binary

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

1. To establish the LGBTQ+ Campaign as an Oxford SU Campaign and Appendix A as its Constitution.

**Proposer:** Aaron Hughes, Co-Chair LGBTQ+ Campaign

**Second:** Ellie Macdonald, VP Welfare and Equal Opportunities

### 4. Establish Oxford SU International Students' Campaign

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

1. In 7th Week Michaelmas Term 2018 Student Council amended the Bye-Laws and changed how Campaigns work.

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

1. Oxford SU should have a Campaign for international students.

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

1. To establish the International Students' Campaign as an Oxford SU Campaign and Appendix B as its Constitution.

**Proposer:** Liu He, Chair, International Students' Campaign

**Second:** Allison D'Ambrosia, VP Graduates

### 5. Establish Oxford SU Class Act Campaign

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

1. In 7th Week Michaelmas Term 2018 Student Council amended the Bye-Laws and changed how Campaigns work.

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

2. Oxford SU should have a Campaign for students from working class, low income, state comprehensive school educated, and of the first generation to attend University.

**Student Council Resolves:**

- To establish the Class Act as an Oxford SU Campaign and Appendix C as its Constitution.

**Proposer:** Tess Eastgate, Co-Chair, Class Act

**Seconded:** Lucas Bertholdi-Saad, VP Access and Academic Affairs

**h. Items for Discussion**

**1. Access & Participation Plan (Appendix D)**

Having listened to SU Council, JCRs & MCRs, and ordinary students through the Access Consultation, the SU has drafted up the attached statement of its approach with regards to the Access & Participation Plan. Does Council agree with the SU's priorities?

**Proposer:** Lucas Bertholdi-Saad, Oxford SU

Lucas Bertholdi-Saad presented the discussion the aims of Access & Participation Plan, encouraged the council to check Appendix D, and highlighted the issues around mature students and school performances.

	Monitoring	Targeting	Considering
Access	Offer rates by disability	POLAR4 (widening participation)	Accessibility
	First-gen admission and progression	Offer rates by ethnicity	Regional differences
	Socio-economic status of intake using proxies	Educational disadvantage of intake	Personal circumstances (care leavers, carers, etc)
		Socio-economic status of intake using individual data	Foundation years, bridging programmes and admissions process reform
Participation	Non-continuation rates for different groups	Attainment gaps by ethnicity	Diversification of assessment
	Attainment gaps by school background and socio-economic status	Attainment gaps by disability	Anticipatory adjustments
		Attainment gaps by gender	Inclusive teaching

No questions received.

**i. Any other business**