



## **Council Minutes 5<sup>th</sup> Week Michelmas term**

### **Minutes**

#### a. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Chair: is there any opposition to the minutes?

Nicky Ellis NE (St. Hildas): the minutes stop too soon. This occurred when we went inquorate and a new discussion was back on the table.

Chair: shall we amend the minutes?

Rebecca Wilkinson RW (...): the minutes will require comprehensive reworking.

#### b. Matters Arising from the Minutes

TB (SPC): I think there is a page missing, is there?

Chair: yes there seems to be but this will have to wait until the minutes are revised.

MH (Queens): would it be possible to have a key of people's initials

#### b. Ratifications in Council

Chair: are there any objections to the ratification of Angus as returning Officer? there is so can have two speeches, one in opposition and the other proposition?

TP (St. Cross): In Opposition

This is a caution rather than opposition. But having a replacement so fast with the background of Angus there may be the possibility of partiality. Is the correct procedure to nominate a DRO. Can we put it to a vote?

John Blake (JB): In Proposition

This is a difficult time and whilst I appreciate the points of TP, the constitution is unclear about what happens when none of the DROs wish to have the role of RO. Any opposition would just make things grind to a halt.

### VOTE

Chair: Angus is Ratified

Chair: we move onto the ratification of the RAG executive. Is there any opposition? Then they are duly ratified.

#### d. Elections in Council.

Carried out beginning, Chair of Council - Tim Waters

Chair: none.

#### e. Reports from the Sabbatical Officers

Chair: could we hear the reports from the sabbatical officers

JB: there has been a conflagration in the past few weeks but we are doing ok.

NE: if you are interested in getting involved in the equal opportunities campaigns then get in touch.

Alison Kennedy (AK) (Hertford): Linsey Cole is in Glasgow for a meeting of a meeting in which HEFCE are attended. They are very worried by our stance.

Siobhan McAndrew (SM) (...): with regard to the campaign the OUSU reps and the executive are involved. It is a graduate commitment to clear up the urine-stained rubbish that lies outside OUSU offices. It is important for graduates to know of ISIDOR, as it is important that there is some way for graduates to keep track of applications. Please keep us updated of your views. I apologise for the minutes, they were quite hard. Also for the record I would like to register my sadness at the departure of the Vice President for Finance (VPF).

RW: I would like to say that when I first started I was very keen on recycling and I tried hard to find a way of improving it but it was quite difficult. If anyone has any ideas then I would be interested in your ideas on ways to improve it. I would like to thank all the members of the exec who helped yesterday with the removal of rubbish and preventing the offices being a fire hazard. I would also like to talk about an OxStu article. They recently claimed that the VPs for Women and RAG are unimportant with an illogical argument. I would happily engage in debate with anyone who thought that my job is

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Ian King (IK) (Keble): we moved a lot of rubbish on Thursday and did make an effort to recycle. I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone to come to the fashion show which has been taking up a lot of my time recently.

#### f. Reports from the Executive Officers who wish to make Reports

Chair: Is there any part-time exec who wishes to make a report?

James Audsley (JA) (SEH): I want to remind everyone that saucy Saturday is coming up and for you all to come. Also if anyone is interested in getting involved in helping to organise ZOO then please get in touch.

TP: I would like to just add that with regard to 4<sup>th</sup> year fees that get in touch with either me or Siobhan.

#### g. Questions to members of the Executive

Chair: are there any questions to the executive?

Alan Strickland (Merton): could I just ask the President about the resignation of the VPF and the circumstances that surrounded her departure?

JB: I have said as much as possible in the report as I have been advised to report and I don't think it appropriate to start to put word into Laura's mouth.

T. Bennett (SPC): why are the candidates names not up on the website?

Chair: we should the ask the Ro but he isn't here.

SC (Univ.): how soon can you clarify the details surrounding the resignation? Was it a personnel issue?

JB: I have really said all I can really. It is not really for me to make judgements.

Chair: I think we seem to be going in circles on this resignation issue so could I ask that we don't get any more questions on the matter.

NE: can I challenge that ruling?

Proposition to overrule the chair (JB chairing)

NE: In Proposition

There may be other questions which may be asked and I feel that we should not artificially stifle debate on the issue.

TW: this is a question on which the law bears heavily and I would like to be cautious about not leaving JB open to any problems. I also think do not think that it is a very productive use of Council's time.

VOTE:

To overturn: 28 Against: 27

Therefore the motion fails.

Chair is back.

Dan C (Balliol): what is the procedure for replacing the VPF?

JB: the process begins after the annual elections have taken place. There will be a meeting with the next exec to decide what is to happen.

Suzanna M SMh (St. Hildas): what is the current financial position?

JB: I have taken over the accounts stuff, such as signing cheques for now. There are still issues surrounding where the cash from ZOO events currently is. The account clerk has raised issues about this money may have been accounted for. I have also talked to the Proctors about the situation.

SM (SMt) (Trinity): are there any talks about the role of VPF's workload can be decreased?

JB: there is the possibility for less website responsibility.

James Coatsworth (JC) (...): what is happening with the university judicial process? is there going to be a meeting between he JCRs, MCRs and Proctors?

JB: I see it being unlikely that there will be full scale reformation but I am talking to the Proctors more and I hope to bring proposals to 7<sup>th</sup> week Council.

SMh: what is the current situation with regard to NUS affiliation?

JB: it seems that NUS has no idea who we are, which is quite annoying. We are going to have to try again with negotiations because they have seemed to have lost all records of our discussions before, it remains something we really want to sort out. But I would like to say that as far as invoices go I recommend that you pay then like normal.

TP: is there going to be an extra-ordinary conference of the NUS? And further to that will they be charging for the NUS card?

JB: it will be common rooms who decide whether to re-affiliate or not. And as far as I am concerned as long as I am around the OUSU card will stay free.

AK: what stage are the publications at the moment?

JB: the OUSU cards are going out and should be with everyone imminently. The oxford handbook is finished today and has

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AK: what stage are the publications at the moment?

JB: the OUSU cards are going out and should be with everyone imminently. The oxford handbook is finished today and has gone to the printers. The rest of the publications will be finished in the next week and the later publications are on track.

Rachel S. (RS) (Hildas): is it possible to get the cards sent abroad for those who may be studying abroad for a year for instance.

JB: we probably should have such an arrangement.

NE: the cards tend to be sent back by porters if the student is studying abroad.

AK: the card is also is seemingly of no use beyond the UK.

Tom Dale (TD) (Corpus): what about the NUS research market research plans?

JB: it is not my decision about affiliations but a case for JCRs and this is a good thing.

.....missed point???

Matt Sellwood (MS) (New): I would like to take this opportunity to remind that everyone that there is a demonstration about the university continuing its use of green electricity as the contract is coming up for renewal and wouldn't you agree that everyone should go?

IK: yes they should

#### h. Emergency motions

##### 1. Queen Elizabeth House and Refugee Studies Centre Libraries, International development Studies department

Jo Eastwood (JE) (St Cross): we have been informed that the department will merge with the Social Sciences Library. We are very concerned at the effect that this will have upon the specialised collection which we feel is not appropriate to be subsumed in the Social Sciences Library. The department will move to the geography building and hence the move. The consultative process was not transparent and very secretive. This motion would consolidate the already up and running campaign to keep the library open.

AK: the Vice President for Academic Affairs I believe has already written a letter regarding the Queen Elizabeth House but I am unsure who it is addressed to. I will seek further clarification.

Dan Simpson (DS) (Balliol): do you know whether people will be laid off in this merger?

JE: I guess that there will be redundancies when they merge, for example the full time positions will become part time.

LS (Hertford): do you know whether the books will be distributed through the library?

JE: yes, the books will be. There will be no separate room and therefore there is a loss of identity.

NE: has the university given any reason for such a move?

JE: the university as a whole will be better off, apparently. I think that it has something to do with the fact that the geography department will move in 2 years anyway.

#### MOVE TO A VOTE- NO OPPOSITION

Chair: is there any opposition to the motion? No.

MOTION PASSED

#### 2. Support Azim Motion

MS: as many of you may know already Azim Ansari has been threatened of deportation by the Home Office his year asylum status has expired. At present in the university there is a campaign to keep Azim in the country. The city council will soon be talking upon this issue, it is important to show that the student body is behind Azim's case. I have also distributed out model JCR motions so you can also show your support through your common rooms, you cannot underestimate their effectiveness.

SM: does Azim at present have a barrister?

MS: currently he does not. So if anyone knows of anyone that would be willing to help then please get in touch.

Rachel (Exec) ????: would it be possible for you to send the motion over the exec list?

MS: yes it can be.

Oliver Russell (Magdalen): I wish to propose an amendment: to support anyone who takes direct action for Azim.

Oliver Russell: In support of the amendment: it would allow people to take action to aid Azim's cause.

TP: In opposition of the amendment: I believe it would be inadvisable at this stage to allow such a thing. It also would give a blanket endorsement to direct acting which has the potential to do OUSU damage.

#### MOVE TO A VOTE ON AMENDMENT

FOR: 23

AGAINST: 25

#### MOVE TO A VOTE- NO OPPOSITION

MOTION PASSES

#### i. Passage of Motions Nem Con

1. Student advice motion: passes Nem Con

2. Support Journalists motion: passes Nem Con

4. Graduate Assist Motion: passes Nem Con

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MOTION PASSES

i. Passage of Motions Nem Con

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1. Said Business School (SBS) motion

MS: In Proposition

The SBS has been opposed since its very conception. This was because it was built with substantial donations by a well-known arms dealer. It was a disgrace when the university ignored overwhelming opposition. We should not live in the past but it is important that we don't denigrate former efforts by holding OUSU events in such an unethical building. We should continue to oppose the building since Said has influence upon the board and in the university. This is not an attack upon the executive or RAG and I am not calling on us to cancel already planned events but I would suggest that we talk to the delegates who attend the RAG conference to draw their attention to the nature and provenance such a building and our opposition to it.

Daniel Russell (DR) (St. Antony's): we must remember that the building was not solely funded by the Said money but from other sources as well? Yes?

TD: the leaflets for distribution at the RAG conference could be made by Ethics Committee.

Murdoch (Balliol): but who is to decide what is ethical?

MS: the ethics Committee was set up to deal with such issues, we should pay attention to such a offer.

MOVE TO DEBATE

IK: In Opposition

Let us remember that it was for environmental reasons that the SBS was opposed. I would also like to remind everyone that the SBS is independent as well as being an invaluable department at the university. it hosts a large amount of positive events. if we take a stance such as this then perhaps we should refuse the college donations and monies from MBA students for the same reason. in fact indirectly OUSU and the Ethics Committee are receiving this money. if we pass this motion then we put in jeopardy the future of SBS events. It is important to remember that RAG is not a forum for political demonstrations. how embarrassing for OUSU if we draw attention to such internal squabble where delegates from universities across the country are attending. Let me remind you that some of the colleges were built by some rather unsavoury characters. this is a inflammatory and ridiculous motion.

Amendment to strike 'notes 4.' no opposition

? (Wadham): Ian Kings speech was largely irrelevant to the motion that is discussed. we must remember that Said could easily be described as one of the most evil men in history for his involvement for the largest arms sale ever to Saudi Arabia.

TP: many of the colleges that you and I attend were founded by criminals, one can easily put Bishop Merton in this category. it may be a long time ago but its the same principle at stake. this motion is also an attack upon the many students who attend the SBS.

JB: the motion does not suggest that we attack MBA students, as far as I can it out. there is an importance in that this is a recent event with a man who is still alive. also, Matt is right in suggesting that this is an appalling deal. it is not okay for us to plan events there in the future. if we do then we give our support to such an institution.

Chair: the procedural motion takes precedence over the debate.

Procedural Motion: that the business manager be give Speaking Rights: no opposition

Amendment: strike 'resolves 2.'

Roger Waite (RWa) (...): In proposition

this would make the motion more palatable and reasonable and I would suggest be acceptable by all parties.

Ollie ? (O) (...): if this passes then the RAG conference will go ahead?

MS: it does not affect the conference.

MOVE TO A VOTE ON AMENDMENT

Chair: is there any opposition? yes there is.

Lorna Stevenson (LS) (...): so does it mean that the RAG conference does go ahead or not. because it seems that it will not if we strike 2.

AMENDMENT WITHDRAWN

Amendment: 'not to hold OUSU events in the Said Business School' and to delete 'nor to associate the good name of OUSU with this institution'.

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#### AMENDMENT WITHDRAWN

Amendment: 'not to hold OUSU events in the Said Business School' and to delete 'nor to associate the good name of OUSU with this institution'.

NE: this seeks to clarify the motion for the benefit for all.

Chair: is there any opposition to the amendment? no, then the amendment passes.

NE: we need to make it clear that we are not endorsing such money which was obtained by a bad source.

DR: not all the money was sourced by him, other people and corporations donated money such as Sainsbury. much good work has been achieved since the building of the SBS. the SBS is an asset to the many students who use it, indeed the people who attend as MBA students could very well help with the reform of OUSU. this motion is ridiculous and is exactly what makes OUSU look like a self-interested clique. this is a practical issue and not one that needs to involve any moral concern.

Sarah Ware (SW) (Jesus): whatever the morals surrounding the SBS, the idea of leaflets would be ridiculous. People from other universities have travelled to Oxford for RAG conference. Oxford Students may be interested in such a proposal but for the visitors it is irrelevant to volunteering.

TD: I don't think that people need to be insulated from the facts. we should be honest and forthcoming, with regard to the visitors, about the building and its history. we would not be prejudicing the interests of MBA students. I personally know people who work there and they are sympathetic and supportive and we would not be disenfranchising them by this motion.

#### MOVE TO A VOTE

Chair: is there any opposition to a move to a vote? no.

JB: could I request that we table this and the rest of business until 7th week council. We need to finish as our time in this room is at an end because there are salsa dancing that follows our council.

IK: I don't think that my portfolio should be pushed to one side so easily. we should not rush this and make any decisions which ultimately I may have to resolve. although I offer my apologies to the salsa dancers.

#### VOTE TO MOVE TO A VOTE

In favour: 20

In opposition: 20

NE: I think that we should move the amendment to the head of the procedural motion.

Chair: we should really close council as our time has now been curtailed.

#### MOVE TO CLOSE COUNCIL

In favour:

In opposition:

Chair: we either adjourn to another date or table this and the rest of the motion to 7th week council. we will be voting on this, so can I hear one speech in favour and one in opposition. All discussions will take place at next council. perhaps there is the possibility to take the council upstairs?

JB: In Proposition

there is no particular need to rush this motion. we are very likely to move and lose quorum quickly which wont be a dignified end to the Council. I suggest that we discuss this and the other motions in 7th week council.

IK: In Opposition

if we do table all the motions until 7th week council and close council then this will take too much time and this is a far too important to leave till 7th week. we should the discuss the amendment which should take no more than another five minutes, further discussion is needed on such a matter.

#### VOTE ON CLOSING COUNCIL

In favour:

In opposition:

Chair: this motion fails to achieve the two-thirds required majority.

Procedural motion: to move council to the Wadham JCR (SU)

Chair: any opposition? no, we shall reconvene Council in five minutes in Wadham JCR. Council is adjourned.

#### MOVE to Wadham JCR

Chair: Council is reconvened.

Amendment: to replace resolves 2. with ' not to book any further OUSU events within the SBS but to allow those already booked there to take place, free from any leafleting campaigning authorised by OUSU.'

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Roger Waite (RWI) (Lincoln): this amendment means that we do not prejudice the RAG conference unlike the previous part of resolves 2.

MS: I would urge not to pass this amendment. people from RAG do care about such matters and we should give them the due credit that they deserve. we should not be afraid to show that OUSU is frank and honest about its views. I am sure the RAG delegates would be happy to have the information at hand.

IK: there is no logic behind such opposition at all. Any protest at an event such as the RAG conference of OUSU would not be an ideal situation by any stretch of the imagination. this is a charitable and not a political forum. it is silly to say and shows OUSU to be embroiled in a petty squabble. we should not seek to embarrass ourselves in such a public fashion in front of other universities. the RAG conference is a good thing and will do a great deal. it would be a bad idea to oppose, it would be a crap end to weekend and detract from the positive message we are trying to put across.

MOVE TO A VOTE ON AMENDMENT

In favour: 19

In opposition: 17

Amendment passes

MOVE TO A VOTE ON MOTION

MS: it is important to remember that this is not a petty point. Wafic Said sold arms to Saudi Arabia, a well known dictatorship with a poor human rights record. This man is officially recognised by the university. but this man is an arms dealer and is therefore not ethically ambiguous but ethically wrong. we should not associate ourselves with such a man directly or otherwise. it is to undermine the efforts of all those who originally opposed the SBS. it sends a message to the university that it does not matter how the university runs roughshod over the concerns of the student body because in about 3 years we will turn around and accept their decision.

DR: I wish to make a couple of points. firstly that the motion raised is against a particular event. secondly, and this is a general point, this is something that happened a long time ago, and many corporations have such ambiguous ethical standards. as a graduate and representative from St Antony's this is precisely the sort of motion that undermines OUSU and is not doing anything productive. it is a ridiculous motion and that is why I oppose it.

MOVE TO A VOTE ON THE MOTION

In favour: 26

In opposition: 13

Chair: the motion is carried.

Procedural motion: to postpone the rest of 5th week council business until 7th week council

Chair: is there any opposition? no, then the rest of this weeks business is tabled for the next council meeting in 7th week.

COUNCIL ENDS.