

Council Minutes

5th Week Michaelmas Term 2013

5th Week Council started at 5.30pm prompt, with sign in opening at 5.15pm on Wednesday 13th November 2013 in Auditorium, Corpus Christi.

If you have any questions about OUSU Council, you should feel free to contact the President, Tom Rutland at president@ousu.org

There were husts from sabbatical officer candidates and contested part-time officer candidates in the upcoming OUSU Statutory Annual Elections. This followed the conclusion of official Council business.

- 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 who wish to make reports
- g. Questions to Members of the Executive
- h. Passage of Motions Nem Con
- i. Motions of No Confidence or Censure
- j. Emergency Motions
- k. Other Motions
 1. OUSU's Mission, Vision & Values
- l. Any Other Business

a. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

There were no issues raised with the minutes.

b. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None

c. Ratifications in Council

None

d. Elections in Council

There were two elections held in council. The other positions listed on the agenda remain unfilled. The positions were uncontested and so there were no hustings. The two elections which took place were as follows:

1 Position for Deputy Returning Officer - Alexander Walker was elected Deputy Returning Officer. Voting: Alexander Walker - 49 RON - 0.

1 Position for Scrutiny Committee - Rachel Jeal was elected to the Scrutiny Committee.
Voting: Rachel Jeal - 48 RON - 1.

e. Reports from the Sabbatical Officers

In order of presentation:

VP Welfare and Equal Opportunities - Charlotte Hendy

Highlighted that 6th week would be disability awareness week. Charlotte explained that there were posters to be put in common rooms so asked that these be displayed. There would be cake sales across campus as well as film showings and sign language workshops.

President - Tom Rutland

Explained that at the recent JS(EC)SM committee, OUSU's strategy and finance plans had been endorsed including the organisation's budget proposals. These proposals would be finalized in Hilary Week 5. The increase in funding would mainly be focused on improving Academic Representation and the Student Advice Service. Tom told Council that he had discussed fees and funding with the Pro Vice Chancellor for Finance and Funding along with the VP Access. He had received a report back from the Vice Chancellor following his mandate to contact the Chancellor, over fees, from Council. The Vice Chancellor reiterated the shortfall in funding, but did not agree that perceptions surrounding access were as important as the reality. Tom said that he would respond to these remarks. The Proctors' Office had received an increase in resources combined with a professionalization of the service which should improve the service for students who make complaints or appeals.

VP Access & Academic Affairs - Rachel Pickering

Has met with academic affairs representatives and encouraged students to contact her. There was recently a keynote speech delivered by the Undergraduate Head of Outreach, which seemed promising. Rachel spoke about the Student-led Teaching Awards when lecturers could be nominated for their good work. She is trying to get more people involved in the process. The OUSU website has been improved and Rachel encouraged students to access the 'Get Involved' section to find out more about participating in school liaison projects etc.

VP Charities & Community - Dan Tomlinson

Explained that the photo in the report was from the Living Wage Campaign in 4th Week when it was the National Living Wage week and those employers providing the living wage were thanked. Dan spoke about the opportunity to climb Mount Kilimanjaro for charity on the 7th July. Students need to provide a £200 deposit by 7th Week if they want to do the climb - he said to look out for the Facebook group. Dan urged students to contact him.

VP Graduates - Garlen Lo

The most important part of Garlen's work over the last two weeks had been reviewing the feedback from masters courses gathered from last year. The opinion of a lot of students on some Masters courses at the university is not high. Garlen said that the university knows this, but has not yet done anything. At a recent committee meeting this subject was discussed and the committee said they would be keen to carry out the survey every year. The university looks like it may be paying attention at last.

VP Women - Sarah Pine

There have recently been student parent focus groups and pregnant students now have the ability to apply for hardship funding. Sarah continues to carry out training for Common Rooms. She is involved in a leadership development programme to increase the amount of

women in leadership roles within the university community.

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

In order of presentation:

Disabilities Officer - William Neaverson

Urged Council to get involved with disability week in 6th week. There would be events taking place across common rooms.

Women's Campaign Officer - Rebekka Hammelsbeck

Spoke about Funny Feminist week that you could find out more about on Facebook.

Academic Affairs Campaigns Officer - Anya Metzger

Has met with representatives from the Bodleian library alongside the VP Access & Academic Affairs to discuss accessing books from different libraries. Working groups continue to take place.

g. Questions to Members of the Executive

None

h. Passage of Motions Nem Con

None

i. Motions of No Confidence or Censure

None

j. Emergency Motions

None

k. Other Motions

1. OUSU's Mission, Vision & Values

OUSU Council Notes:

- 1) That over the course of an extensive two-year consultation period with the student body, OUSU has been developing its 'Mission, Vision & Values' and 'Core Objectives'.
- 2) That the draft presentation of OUSU's 'Mission, Vision & Values' and its 'Core Objectives' is in Appendix A of this motion.

OUSU Council Believes:

- 1) That OUSU, as an independent charity and membership organization, needs to have a clear articulation of its mission (purpose) and its vision, in order to inform strategic planning and the day-to-day activity of the organization.

- 2) This 'Mission, Vision & Values' paper encapsulates the spirit of what OUSU stands for and aims to do, and is a firm base on which to build our activity.

OUSU Council Resolves:

- 1) To adopt Appendix A as OUSU's official statement of its 'Mission, Vision & Values' and 'Core Objectives', informing its strategic planning and day-to-day activity.
- 2) To make Appendix A official policy of OUSU.

Proposed: Tom Rutland (Jesus)

Seconded: Jack Matthews (University)

President - Tom Rutland

Introduced the motion and asked Council to refer to Appendix A in the agenda. Tom said that in 2010 OUSU had become an independent charity and since then there has been consultation about what OUSU is and what it does. The Appendix seeks to outline OUSU's mission, vision and values as it is important to have an externally facing statement. This is an articulation of what OUSU does and what its for. Its mission is to represent and enhance the lives of students and its vision is to create an Oxford where students are true partners in their Oxford experience. This is the broad direction for the work OUSU does and what it seeks to do. The objections and goals of the organisation are not going to change much from year to year.

There were no questions and no one spoke in opposition.

The motion was passed nem con.

I. Any Other Business

None