

a. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Andrew Thomas (St Anne's) asked that the minutes be corrected to show that Heenal Rajani (Merton) was indeed wearing a gold ribbon at the last meeting.

A procedural motion to continue the meeting outside due to the good weather was proposed and fell clearly.

b. Matters arising from the minutes.

Pedro Wrobel (St Anne's) asked that there be fewer abbreviations in future Minutes. His request was duly noted.

c. Ratifications in Council

All candidates were ratified without any objections.

d. Elections in Council

Sacha Ismail (Somerville) and Sean Sullivan (SEH) husted for the position of Oxford Trades Council Representative.

Sacha said that links between the student body and the wider community were very important, and that the labour movement in particular had much in common with the student body. He has done the job before, and done so effectively and with enthusiasm.

Sean wanted to give people a choice. His key aim is to represent students' views and he feels that he will do a better job of this than have previous incumbents who have had too much sympathy with the trade union movement.

Nick Clark (Somerville) asked the candidates opinions on the anti-trade union laws.

Sacha believes they are anti-democratic, but said that since OUSU as no position on the matter he would not act on this belief.

Sean said that he did not consider the laws to be "anti-" union and reiterated that his personal views were irrelevant.

The hust ended and voting took place.

Results: Sacha 30, Sean 16, RON 12 first preferences. The quota was 29, so Sacha was duly elected.

e. Reports from the Sabbatical Officers

Tony Lord (Wadham) apologised for failing to submit a written report. The last two weeks have been "sort of meeting-tastic".

Ed Southerden (Somerville) asked Steph Gray (Pembroke) whether the editorial in this week's Oxford Student underlined the importance of its editorial independence and was answered in the affirmative.

Sacha Ismail (Somerville) enquired as to the cause of delivery problems with the Oxford Student and Steph replied that delays were caused by one of the editors failing to turn up on Wednesday.

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

Sonia Sodha (St Hilda's) said that elections for divisional board representatives would take place next week and that new co-chairs were needed for Anti-racism and Target Schools.

Viv Raper (Mansfield) said that there would be a Health and Welfare meeting on Thursday in the Oriel JCR Annexe and that One World and Amnesty events would also be taking place.

Catherine Sangster (Merton) flagged up a Queer Rights discussion group on Tuesday at 7.30 in Mansfield Old Bar. The topic is "Does being lesbian, gay or bisexual mean you have to be political?" and free wine will be served.

Laura Santana (St Hilda's) mentioned that co-chairs were needed for Entz Committee.

Pedro Wrobel (St Anne's) proposed a procedural motion to move motion to the top of the agenda because it was of much importance to his JCR and he would have to leave soon. The motion clearly passed.

h. Passage of Motions Nem Con

Motions 2 and 3 ("Job Description of Vice-President (Access and Academic Affairs)" and "National Blood Service") were passed nem con.

j. First readings of Motions to Amend the Constitution or Standing Orders

Catherine Wallis (Keble) proposed the motion. She said that it doesn't affect many people currently at Oxford but will send a clear signal of acceptance to those considering applying.

Sacha Ismail (Somerville) asked what the mechanism of appeal would be and was answered that the usual OUSU channels would be involved.

David Brewis (Oriel) asked whether the motion would disenfranchise those who had been born as women and were now men. Catherine replied that this was unimportant, as those who were now men would not wish to be recognised as women.

Following short factual questions, there remained no opposition to the motion.

k. The Budget or Amended Budget

In response to questions, Steph Gray stated that Oriel JCR's disaffiliation from OUSU will make little difference to its finances, that the Queer Rights Campaign will have slightly more money and that the reserves and in a healthy state, currently standing at about £170 000 with a substantial sum still owed by CUSU for the Careers Handbooks.

Following these responses there was no opposition to the Budget.

m. Other Motions

Will Straw (New) proposed the motion, noting the success of the last campaign in raising awareness. He maintained that ribbons were a good symbol to use.

In response to questions, Will added that it shouldn't be a problem to find people to help cut ribbons, that the campaign was still restricted to Oxford and that 3000 ribbons ought to be enough.

Pedro Wrobel (St Anne's) noted the distaste with which his JCR, despite showing sympathy for the cause, viewed the symbol of the gold ribbon.

Jane Blumer (St Hilda's) proposed a move to a vote, saying that people had already made their minds up on this matter.

Pedro objected

The move to a vote was clearly carried.

Voting took place and the motion was clearly carried. The representatives of St Anne's JCR opposed the motion.

The results of the election for Oxford Trades Council Representative were announced and, following the election of a bar (The Turf), Council was closed.