

council minutes

Dan Simpson: Move to withdraw motion number 1
Motion number 1 withdrawn.

Item D: Elections in Council

John Blake: Vacancy for executive officer. Three candidates, will they please come to the front. One candidate absent.
Could each candidate give a speech .

Alice: OUSU one of most important communication routes students have with the university. Been involved in OUSU for about a year, target schools co-chair and helping put Oxford Handbook on website. Co-chair ends in a few weeks, would love to continue working with OUSU. Believe my experience shows I'm committed.

David Green: I'm my first year, so not huge opportunity to get involved in OUSU. But am involved in RAG and target schools. I'm organised and committed. OUSU is the only way students can raise their voices in a collective manner. This post was common-room and NUS liaison under previous incumbent, I think given collegiate nature common-room is really important. I think it's generally in the interests of colleges to NUS affiliate, on OUSU exec I would be trying to persuade colleges to become affiliated to NUS.

Linsey Cole: Any political affiliations?

David Green: Amicus, Labour, OULC

Alice: Trade union member

SFQ: How do candidates feel JCRs should work with OUSU?

Alice: I think JCR reps need to come to council and exec need to go to JCRs. Need to improve communications through better publications. JCRs need to start getting more involved. Not two separate bodies.

David: I think it's very important that JCRs represent the views of all their members, and that decisions made in Council get fed back to Council. It's important that people know OUSU isn't self running, that it's made up of the views of the JCRs.

Chris Allen: Both mentioned target schools, how many events and how much time given up?

David: Whole day at conference, gave up time to visit local schools near my home. Have intended to attend target schools meetings in Oxford, but never made it there.

Alice: Been to at least one meeting a week, two conferences over Easter, numerous open days. Set up mentoring scheme on target schools.

Bex: Sabs rely heavily on part-time exec, time commitments?

Alice: Apart from academic, no time commitments next year. Probably spend 2 days a week in OUSU.

David: Have the time, OUSU is so important I'm willing to give up and sacrifice lots of time for it.

Craig Abraham, Balliol: Is OUSU a farce?

David: No it's the only way students can be heard.

Alice: No, most important way students can communicate with university and wider oxford community.

Nicky Ellis: Can candidates be specific about time commitments, big responsibility.

Alice: 1 1/2 essays a week, that's it.

David Green: Nothing beyond academic work as of the end of this term. This term treasurer of OULC and tinker about at the union.

REports:

JB: Sorry for not writing report was ill. University council on Monday, accounts passed but significant problems. Attended JCCSM this morning, was enthusiastic about more sab funding but less helpful about overall OUSU funding. OSSL Consultation raised lots of questions but was helpful, there will be another one next week.

NE: Nothing to add to written report

BW: Nothing to add

LC: Will email round questionnaire, please make sure everyone fills it in.

Acting V-P Graduates sent apologies.

IK: All in my report, I'm ill but nothing to add.

Any other part-time exec?

Tom Packer: Next year will try to shift V-P grad elections from Hilary to Michaelmas next year with V-P Grad to try to boost turnout.

Jo Lee Morrison, ChCh: John, this years rent support is identical to last years, but missing rent info. You said JCR Presidents wouldn't give the info, I got 15 replies on Preslist in an afternoon.

JB: I can't force people against their will to give out info. If you have the info please share it with me.

Bryn: I spent the whole vac trying to get info, the Christ Church JCR President told me to find it out myself.

Emma Jones: Priority projects if people want to apply. Could JCR Presidents please let us have up to date info about their JCR committees. One world week coming up.

Dan Simpson: Item H, emergency motions. One emergency motion, RAG funds.

Nicky Ellis: I challenge this being put as an emergency motion. Move to overrule chair.

Ian King: The nomination period ends today, I want to firm RAG constitution up in OUSU policy before vote on Monday to select charities. This has to happen now, I've been doing it for the last term but I need clear direction as to whether this will be happening next year, need to bind successors. That part of it might be an emergency motion, why not get it all done now whilst all the issues are up in the air. I'm the last of the committee who voted for RAG to become part of OUSU, it's my responsibility to make sure this handover finishes clearly.

NE: This isn't an emergency motion. Has implications for the whole of the sab team and binds Ian's successor. Ian's successor isn't here, this will really isn't fair to discuss it without her being there. Happy for this to be discussed, but this isn't an emergency motion. Can discuss all of this next week.

24-20. 2/3 not achieved, motion to over rule chair falls.

Dan Simpson: Back in debate on main motion.

IK: We get hundreds of charities wanting RAG funding. Think it's a good idea to confirm RAG's position that only registered charities can get funding. Also says don't want to support charity two years in a row, allows RAG to support a variety of causes. The events listed here, apart from Mr and Mrs Oxford and jail break, have happened year after year. None of these events are at all controversial. Funding isn't guaranteed for after 2 years time. When funding goes, and it will, it is to the detriment of RAG to have a sab having to fundraise for charity to pay their own salary. My predecessor raised £40,000 - I've raised £50,000. In order for a sabbatical to do the charity half of their job they have to be able to raise money. I'm passionate about this and want this to work.

SFQ: Does charities include international charities?

IK: Yes

Chris Allen: How sab funded previously?

IK: Entirely by RAG funds, some years sab would just raise enough to cover their own salary. It's desirable to make sure that all funds go to charity. Otherwise there's a risk that sabs will just raise enough to pay their own salary. I'm the last of my generation, last person from RAG. Future C&C Sabs might not care about what they're meant to do.

SFQ: How enforce resolves 4 (minimum £20,000)?

IK: I think it's important that people raise the money. By Trinity term will know if not being able to raise the money.

NE: When did inform your successor of this motion?

IK: I haven't so far.

Linsey Cole: How much time do events in believes 4 take to organise and how much money do they raise?

IK: Some of them take quite a bit of time but all raise lots of money. Organisation behind them quite easy.

LC: How much scope for extra events?

IK: Lots, these are 6 events and I did 30

SFQ: If Trinity is quiet, what difference will no-conning anyone make then?

IK: What difference does no-conning anyone make to the way they do their job? It's just a slap on the wrist.

Rob Vance: Sabs are paid monthly, how will this work in terms of payment?

Move to debate

NE: I'd like to discuss this when the new V-P C&C is here. This will involve her job, lets discuss the rest of it fairly next time.

Friendly amendment tabled from Ian King, corrects typos.

Amendment passed nem con.

Amendment to strike believes 3 & 4 and resolves 3 & 4.

LC: I don't think these are fair, they're too restrictive. None of these are emergency, and should discuss them later when Hannah is here and can all discuss them later.

IK: Believes 4 is RAG. I don't see what's wrong with enshrining these things, they're not controversial. Am happy to strike resolves 4, but believes 3 is about £7,000 coming out of charity money. In order to get OUSU Council to create V-P C&C years ago, OUSU had to promise to fund half the salary. I'm just saying we should look into other sources of sponsorship for half the funding.

Rob Vance: Idea of institutionalising traditions isn't good, normally we hate traditions in Oxford, should be doing new dynamic things. There's no mechanism for enforcing the salary point, impractical and probably unworkable. Otherwise pay them half the salary and give them the bonus at Easter? Wouldn't work, sabs live on pittance as it is.

LC: Not against the rest, just saying should debate it next week when people are here.

Move to vote.

Move to vote passes.

J B: Shouldn't bind successors, only way to ensure resolves 4 is to run economy of UK, don't think would work although

would be fun.

IK: If you want to change the running of these events can do so. My potential fear is that RAG will become a political thing. Saying no to these things is bad. Taking on this job is for a reason, some of these events are very popular and should be carried on with.

36-16 Amendment passed.

Move to vote.

Rob Vance: That was a big discussion point, now lets get on with it.

N E: Just want to hear a few more arguments.

Emma Jones, Keble: My concern about the UK registered charities excludes student charities in Oxford which aren't properly registered charities, but fully entitled to RAG support.

Hollie: There are quite a few registered charities run by Oxford Students. UK registered charities is best way of ensuring that the money goes to people the university knows are certainly charities.

Ian King: I think this is saying nothing inoffensive, it's had things removed. Move to vote.

Tom Dale: Still serious problems with motion as it stands.

Move to vote passes.

Ian K: Just want to look into alternative sources of funding for the V-P charities, nothing that new.

Tom Dale: Resolves 1 limits too much, many worthy causes aren't worthy. Coming too late, RAG Reps haven't seen it, next year V-P C&C hasn't seen it. None of this is urgent have managed for 3 years without it.

28-17-5 Motion passes.

Passage of motions nem con.

Nothing passes nem con

Dan Simpson: Item k, delegates.

BW: I love delegates, I was a delegates. When I was a delegate I was told I'd be assumed to have resigned if they missed 3 Councils. I want to say not only do we elect delegates, but once they are elected if they miss 3 they've resigned.

RV: Average delegate attendance?

BW: No idea

TP: Can amend this at later date?

BW: No

RL: Replace delegates who have resigned?

BW: Yes....would hold by-election in Council under current rules.s

Vava: Who decides what is a reasonable excuse?

BW: Definition of reasonable excuse in further resolves?

How many delegates in Council?

4

Chris Allen: Do delegates have any other duty than to turn up and vote?

BW: No

NE: I challenge decision that amendments cannot be brought in Council

DS: Reads standing orders

Dan Simpson yields chair

DS: This part of standing order says no amendment can be brought to anything on standing orders.

Challenge falls.

Dan Simpson retains chair

SFQ: Is delegate sign in sheet accurate?

HB: I updated last week.

SFQ: someone on here is no longer in Oxford

BW: Well that's why we need this to get rid of them

TP: What if they someone had a wedding?

BW: Then Chair of Council and President would probably decide it's reasonable.

David White: What is there to stop President from being able to kick out awkward delegates? If can't amend should chuck whole thing out. At least the Chair of Council is impartial in theory.

John Blake: I think delegates are an essential part of OUSU Council, and I want as many people as possible to attend Council, even those who disagree with me.

Move to vote nem con

BW: If want to amend regulations can do so next Council

David White: If want to amend it anyway should bring it back and do it next term.

5th week trinity 2005

Dan Simpson: Now dealing with Clean Clothes motion, discussed at last OUSU Council.

TD: Have now talked to BM and the new resolves section should be fine, Dan said isn't a problem. The essential basics of this is that OUSU is already mandated to campaign for basic workers rights. This is just extending this.

Amendment

TD: change resolves 1 - delete "its subsidiaries"
Friendly amendment.

Debate

CA: Discussion of costs - £2/£3 extra per t-shirt - point of info - 10-20% extra per t-shirt. £500,000 extra money.

JB: Excellent motion - a year before implementation. Very good thing. Keep t-shirts up to scratch - believe in ethical policies. Have to do what we believe in - should be possible to do this.

TP: Shouldnt pass policy if we cant carry it out or it won't work. 10% extra cost - whats our priority? Is it a good idea to raise our product cost? If it will cause problems/increase costs we shouldn't pass things.

LS: Tshirts - all year specific. Shouldnt make t-shirts year specific. OUSU shouldnt need to go through that many t-shirts. We could use generic ouso ones for everything. It will cost a lot but we can be more efficient t-shirt wise.

JB: Move to vote

Nem Con

TD: The BM has no objection to it, it isn't possible to simultaneously believe in workers rights and trade with companies that are so unethical.

TP: We don't have the expert advice on how much this is going to cost. We need to be more sure of our facts.

Motion passes.

Alice elected to part-time exec.

Procedural motion to bring forwards pro-choice.

Peter Kews, Hertford: This is most important motion, should debate before people leave

Rob Vance: Should try to discuss all motions quickly, rather than changing order.

19-10-6 Move to reorder fails.

Motion 2: PGA

Lorna Stevenson: No minutes of PGA since 2003, useful for those of us who can't go to have minutes, stops graduates going if they see that no one has updated the website for over 2 years. PGA is often inquorate, but still useful discussion, hence should be made available.

Nicholas Belle, Somerville: Why don't just email officers?

LS: Because should be formally confirm that it's important.

Tom Packer: Table amendment to strike believes 4. Very important for PGA to be quorate, has a very low quorum level. Reduces incentive to attend PGA if goes ahead as normal anyway even if inquorate. Otherwise 4 grad exec and 2 MCR Presidents doing what they want.

Nicky: Can write "informal discussion" at the top, if have useful discussion should record it.

Move to vote nem con

Amendment falls.

Move to vote nem con.

Motion passes nem con.

Policy lapse:

JB: Sent out policy lapse booklet at the start of this term, these are the things that OUSU reps want reaffirms.

TP: Does this just reaffirm what is in the booklet?

JB: Yes

???, Queens: What's happening with housing bank?

NE: I'm working on it.

Tom Packer: I want to bring amendment [DOES NOT TABLE AMENDMENT]

Move to vote
27-13-1
Move to vote fails

Move to take motion in parts
Oliver Russell: We can pass the rest nem con and debate the ones people disagree with
NE: Objects. Withdraws objections.
All parts except 4 and 5 pass nem con.

BW: If colleges want to have women's officers why not go into colleges and support them. Don't want to see women's officer replaced with something else, Women's Officers are also about campaigning and social, we have a V-P women
David White: I don't like the idea of OUSU interfering in JCRs. If people want to support Women's Officers then it's up to them if it's in personal capacity.
Peter Hughes: Then why not object to any other motion with JCR interference?
Alan Strickland: I stand here as a proud champion of Merton's women, which I'm pleased about. We got rid of our women's officer, patronising to try and stop.
Lorna Stevenson: We've had this policy, and we weren't knocking on the doors of Merton calling Alan an evil misogynist bastard, it's just about expressing quiet support for the idea of a women's officer.
Jenny Hookwith, Merton - If don't have a women's officer then makes it more difficult to take advantage of OUSU women specific facilities.
JB: There was a time when women came under very sustained attack in JCRs regarding the idea of a women's officer. This allows OUSU to support those women in common rooms who feel they are coming under attack because they want a women's officer. In the past male dominated JCRs have gone against women's officers. Perfectly legitimate for Merton's women to choose not to have an officer. Perfectly legitimate for OUSU to have an ideal of what the ideal JCR committee would look like.

Move to vote
Opposition
Passed

JB: This is the best of the policy lapsing this year, just had a useful discussion about role of women's officers.
TP: It is a bad idea for OUSU to have policy about how common rooms should work, here to support common rooms not tell them what to do.
29-10-2 Passes

Motion 5
Opposition from BW
BW: I was joking
DS: I didn't know. Have just heard more opposition.
JB: Written reports good, as is the proposed email.
NE: Don't think anyone reads written reports, want oral ones which are minuted
LS: Would put off co-chairs
NE: I withdraw my opposition.
Passed

Back into debate on main motion
JB: These are nice things.
Passed nem con

Quorum count:41

Pro-choice
Claire Chalmers: Majority of students are pro-choice. Every woman should be able to determine what is right for her and in line with her beliefs. In my work with OUSU this year I've realised that a lot of women don't know about all the options and feel under pressures. OUSU can do a lot of work to ensure that women already at Oxford and women coming to Oxford can also be both students and mothers if that's what they want. The state of abortion provision in the UK is not as good as it could be or should be. Numerous possible restrictions on women wanting abortion.

5th week trinity 2005

SFQ: Council notes I applies to UK or whole world?

CC: UK I believe

TP: Does this not remove time limit?

CC: No, Council believes 6.

TP: What does 3 mean?

CC: That it can be legal to have an abortion but you might not be legally be entitled to it. Creates incredibly stressful situations.

LS: Does this extent current policy beyond supporting status quo to supporting abortion on demand within time limit.

CC: Yes, based on a woman's understanding of her own situation and her own needs, shouldn't have to justify herself.

NE: Lapsing policy is to support status quo, but not clear if that it legal status quo or practical status quo.

Nat Ogborn Magdalen: Are you saying these doctors are wrong not to provide abortions on grounds of conscience?

CC: No, it is about NHS failing to provide it.

TP: So what would this make our policy on abortion in terms of weeks?

CC: Very complex ethical debate, OUSU needs to engage on this debate with the best medical evidence available.

Move to debate.

TP: This is 5th week, loads of people who might have strong views on this could have exams. Then they'll come back and bring further motions. I think it's unclear as to what this motion is.

JB: I think this has been advertised sufficiently. I think this is very well written and clear. It makes clear that it's not certain what the time limit should be, that that's a matter for medical information.

Move to vote

Opposition

David White: Clear what will happen with this.

Bex: Should spend more time discussing.

Move to vote passed.

Move to recorded vote

Opposition

Linsey: Should defend to JCRs

Nicky: No, should be able to vote in line with conscience.

9-20-8

Move for secret ballot

Opposition

NE: A lot of people don't want a recorded vote. So important

BW: This debate has been too short. Should properly record.

Quorum count call

5 for Quorum count, 10 needed, no quorum count.

BW: This is a secret ballot but you are voting on behalf of the students you are here to represent, I hope you do your best to represent them.

TP: Still not clear what this motion is. Also 5th week Council, loads of people not here who might have views. Should allow for proper debate later.

9-20-8

Secret ballot

34-2-1 Motion passed.