



5th week trinity 2006

Oliver Russell: Will briefly have central husts for V-P Grad.

Andrea Miller, Linacre: I look forwards to representing the graduates of Oxford to the administration, main issues are that there should be better communication between the MCRs, would like to see an MCR central website go up. Am also concerns with libraries, would like longer opening hours around exam time. Would also like to foster a better sense of international community amongst graduate students, think it wouldn't be too hard to set a central introductory event or something similar up.

Oliver Russell: Any political affiliations?

Andrea Miller, Linacre: None

Oliver Russell: Ever been censured, no conned or expelled from Council?

Andrea: No

Aidan Randle-Conde: V-P Grad is a member of SAS, what welfare issues do you think affect graduates?

Andrea: Much more likely to have families.

Ellie Cumbo: Would you work with MCRs to promote women's officers?

Andrea: Would work closely with other MCRs on women's issues.

OR: Election online for all graduates.

Elections in Council:

OR: Anyone want to see a hust for James Lamming (Merton) for divisional board rep.

No requests for husts.

OR: Election of part-time executive. Two candidates, Katherine Segal (Somerville) and Frank Hardee (Oriel).

Frank: Despite not being part of OUSU, as Oriel JCR president I have done lots of stuff with OUSU and fought very hard to get Oriel JCR back into OUSU. Already spend lots of time in the OUSU offices doing Rent and Accomodation. Think as someone from a non-affiliated common room could be important link.

Katherine: Do lots of campaigning, would like to be part of body which centrally coordinates all this. Would like to be on exec to help represent OUSU to JCRs.

Oliver Russell: Any political affiliations?

Katherine: OULC

Frank: OULC, Lib Dems nationally and Student Vote.

Iain Simpson: Role of exec officer?

Katherine: To represent university wide interests, to be part of campaigns and provide coordination.

Frank: To execute policy. Council should be where decisions are made.

Charlyne Pullen: How would you execute policy you voted against in council?

Frank: Role is to do what student body decides, not personal beliefs.

Katherine: Are there to fulfil mandate, not personal beliefs.

Hannah: In favour of exec reforms?

Katherine: Yes

Frank: Yes

Omar ?, St Peters: How breach gap between JCRs and OUSU?

Frank: Council should be more of a conference style event, with new exec portfolios could have select committees to decide minor issues, then comes to an overall council maybe once or twice a turn.

Katherine: More pressure needs to be put on people to turn up to RepCom and raise issues there. Also need to look at timing of JCR meetings.

Katherine: 29

Frank: 16

RON: 0

Katherine duly elected.

James Lamming duly elected.

Reports from Sabbatical Officers:

Emma Norris: Want to highlight the success of the SRI campaign, also the success of student contracts (conference of colleges have accepted our proposed changes). University won their injunction against animal rights activists.

Hannah Stoddart: Oxford Get Involved week is next week.

Ellie Cumbo: Very sorry not to have a written report, have been busy with St Hilda's and looking at Student Parent provision.

Chris Allan: Nothing to add.

Aidan Randle-Conde: Eating Disorders now up online. Met with committee for student health and welfare, waiting list time for university counselling service is now 10 days.

Oliver Russell: If any common rooms want a ballot box we have lots.

Charlyne Pullen: Vacancy on humanities divisional board for undergrad, Target Schools co-chairs should be elected next week.

?: Emma, where exactly is the injunction?

Emma Norris: Not entirely sure.

Charlie Steel, Merton: What's happening about discount cards?

Chris Allan: We're trying to register with a scheme so that anyone can get 25% of their London travel costs. Hoping that by the end of this term students will be able to come into OUSU and get a discounted Oyster card.

Will Dorsey, Christ Church: Question to V-P welfare – I've heard complaints about the quality of condoms.

Aidan Randle-Conde: All condoms we get are electrically tested, I've only heard of one complaint so far, am looking into it. Please forward any complaints to me.

Niklas Albein-Svenson: Why are there so many emergency motions?

Rich Hardiman: I've been given legitimate reasons why all of these came in late.

Oliver Russell: Two of these should be in standing orders, not emergency motions.

Frank Hardee: Motion 4, Palestinian Universities, doesn't seem to be an emergency.

Rich Hardiman. They only decided to submit it after deadline.

Frank Hardee: Procedural motion to move it to next council.

?: No, should discuss it now.

21-19-5 not moved.

Passage of motions nem con:

Motion 6 – St Hildas passes nem con.

4 - Palestinian students – procedural motion to postpone it passes nem con as proposer not present.

Motion 5 – OUSU Representation.

Jack Hawkins: This is a mandate from Balliol JCR, should be easy for everyone to find out if their votes are going to Council or not.

Iain Simpson: Would you accept Student Union news?
Jack Hawkins: Good idea, should do more.
Will Dorsey: Isn't there enough stuff in the OxStu already?
Jack Hawkins: Need to make sure people know.

Move to debate:
Nem Con

Ollie Munn, Lincoln: If JCRs are that concerned about whether or not their reps are coming to Council they can find out in lots of other ways, going to Council is just a small part of being a JCR President.

Ellie Cumbo, Linacre: This is not about saying common rooms have to discipline people, but people should have access to information easily.

Emma Norris: One of the criticisms we keep getting is that OUSU isn't representative enough, think it's important that we make it easier for JCRs to hold their representatives accountable.

?: I agree with Ollie Munn, can be a very negative thing to just name and shame, people should hold accountable in JCR meetings.

Jack Hawkins: I've never been asked whether I went to Council or not. This is just communicating to students whether or not their representative goes to Council, it's then up to them to decide whether or not to discipline their rep.

Charlie Steel, Merton: There are lots of colleges who aren't being represented here. OUSU reps are elected to do nothing other than come up to Council, they need to start doing that.

?: It's not in any way abusing the power of OUSU to try and get people to turn up to Council.

Hannah Stoddart: It's not just the exec who should be held accountable, but common room Presidents should also be held accountable by their constituents. It's important that OUSU does function on the basis of representation.

Amendment to replace "JCR" with "JCR and MCR" throughout passes nem con.

MTV

MTV passes.

Jack Hawkins: Think every student should be able to find out very easily whether or not their representative has been attending council.

?: Publishing a list will put people on the defensive. JCR meetings aren't attended by everyone in college, so people might just see you in the paper and not here your defence.

Motion clearly passes.

4 – Palestinian students:

Katherine Segal: I think it's really important that we express solidarity with Palestinian students, who's rights are being violated.

?: Will affiliation cost anything.

Katherine: No

?: What does affiliate

Iain: Not sure what this has to do with us, I think in terms of what's going on in Israel-Palastine it's one of those situations where it's inappropriate for us to express sympathy for any factions, our role not to draw up a peace plan. Our role to talk about people in oxford, shouldn't take a stance on this.

Kate F: I understand it doesn't construct a roadmap, it simply says that as students we should express solidarity and concern for global education, an elementary part of what we should be doing. Don't assume it says something we don't

Hannah Sto. The constitution says we can discuss international motions, this is about education and we should stand up for it. This is not a roadmap. We ought to support this

Omar Sheriff, SPC: This is not asking us to take sides, just to defend right to education. I have family attending this uni, I want to say how much it means to students there who suffer lots of problems, for us to support them. This is minimal cost for max. benefit

MTV passes

Kat Segal: Want to reiterate what I said earlier, other SUs have done this, very sad if we can only talk about Oxford students here.

No opposition speech, motion passes

5 – Grad Exec Reform:

Oliver Russell: This is to tweak the details of the exec reform, as asked for by PGA. Was going to push this through a special council, but due to an administrative cock-up didn't end up happening. If we just have an online referendum in 8th week, allows us to tweak the details of graduate part-time exec. If Benny Spooner was here he'd agree with it.

Aidan: Would the referendum go ahead if the rest of the reforms didn't pass?

Oliver: Yes

Passes nem con.

1 – Exam timetables

Iain Simpson: Given imminent referendum on NUS affiliations, need to clarify how representation will work. Only difference is that you could be NUS delegate and hold another position e.g. council rep. There's nothing wrong with having OUSU reps representing OUSU at NUS.

Any questions?

Frank Harding: People who not affiliated to NUS couldn't run for NUS rep.

Ollie Munn: Would it be possible to RON people if there was not a contested election?

IS: No.

James Lamming: What's the position of delegates – why don't we change it completely given last discussion on this?

IS: We don't know exact details of how e.g. how many delegates we are going to have. Also role of council delegate and NUS delegate very different, people might want to do one not the other.

David Green, Lincoln: Why do delegates have to represent OUSU policy?

IS: Because if someone is representing OUSU at NUS and we have policy on an issue

Martin McCluskey, St Hughes: Last time someone did say that delegates wouldn't be obliged.

Liz, Balliol: Will there be representatives at regional as well as national conference.?

IS: Yes – see 2.1.

James Lamming, Merton: would delegates get a vote in council. Are they required to turn up to council?

IS: No, that would need constitutional change.

Olivia, St Hildas: will liberation campaign reps be elected in the same way?

IS: can be decided at a later date and

Liz, Balliol: Why haven't you mandated attendance to council?

IS: I didn't think of it, I expected that people would, or would be informed.

MOVE TO DEBATE

James Laming opposes: not enough thought has gone into this, details are sketchy, need more debate.

IS: we need to be able to elect delegates in Michelmas, so must go through soon. We can change things next term e.g. mandating attendance.

Passes nem con

2. OUSU executive voting rights

Hannah Stoddart: This came about partly because of last council. Because our quorum isn't based on JCR attendance, or anything like generality of students. My suggestion is 20 reps from different CRs. I know this might allow us to do less, but it is a point of principle. There should be a mechanism to remove vote of exec in the constitutional.

SHORT FACTUAL QUESTIONS

Christene Q, Balliol: why 20?

Hannah Stoddart: Any more would be too many, and few too little.

Iain Simpson: Are there 20 common rooms here today?

Hannah: Not sure.

Frank Hardee: I'll go and check

Niklas-Albein Svenson: Wouldn't quorum count take forever?

Hannah: No, would just ask for hands and what common room.

Aidan: With such strict quorum requirements, people could just leave the room to block motions.

Hannah: Risk anyway.

Ollie Munn: As the exec can vote as part of that 2/3, surely it wouldn't go through.

Hannah: Think it would be appropriate for exec to abstain.

David Green: Could have 78 people and still not quorum.

Hannah: We can all make up scenarios.

Move to debate.

MTD passes nem con.

Ellie Cumbo: I agree with the spirit of this, but don't agree with the way this is done. Solution is to try and get common room votes to turn up. People are elected with a political manifesto, and we have a mandate. It is right that people have a right to decide things.

Claire Chalmers, Univ: A fundamental part of representation is to be participating in decision making. A crucial part of most executive roles is to represent certain minority rules, which may be lost in common room consensus. The way to solve problems of representation is to get more people to turn out.

Iain Simpson: I agree with the spirit of this, but don't think it will solve anything. We elect people, not appoint them for a reason. People are there on a political mandate, we already have a way to see what common rooms think, it's called a special council. If we're having representative issues, we need to try and get common rooms to turn up, and hopefully Jack Hawkin's motion will get people here.

Charlyne: We just had the debate over council delegates, decided we wanted people representing the generality of students.

Jack Hawkin: Way to solve problems with legitimacy is to get people to turn up.

Will Dorsey: I don't think we elect people on their political views. I think getting common room reps named in the student paper makes common room reps turn up, that's our part of the bargain.

Charlie Steel: There are 23 common rooms here, if 3 people leave we'd have lost quorum and there are lots of people here. We give lots of non-common room people votes, delegates and co-chairs.

Hannah Stoddart: Minorities won't be under represented, think people vote in line with personal feelings.

James Lamming: Asks questions about what Council is about. Oxford is far too general to represent the view of everyone. Exec can represent whichever constituency they wish to. JCR Presidents do not vote in JCR meetings and therefore that should be mirrored. Delegate debate divided by JCRs and Exec members. Issues where this is relevant.

Peter Hughes: Students think Exec dominate Council and doesn't reflect what students really think.

Ellie Cumbo: Not scaremongering, knew portfolio was controversial when she took it on. Fights would have been over before they started without a vote. People to vote on issues, when I ran I was in a different county and I still got phone calls asking what my stance on issues. How many JCR and MCR committees have executives which don't vote? Very few. I do genuinely want reform, but don't think that this is the way to do it.

MTV

MTV fails.

Emma: People are overemphasising what this means, is just taking away the vote in special circumstances. I don't think not having a vote will demotivate people, it's about representing, not setting policy. Special Council is too laborious, this makes it easier.

Aidan Randle-Conde: Special council is what we should be using in these type of circumstances, not taking votes away in the room. Having a vote is the way to make people engage in debate, because it gives people a stake in the decision making policy. OUSU is not just about representing common rooms, but the generality of students.

Chris Allan: Anyone object to 2 minute speaking limits?
No objection.

Dave Green, Lincoln: We could have 57 people here from common rooms and still not have quorum. Would lead to log jams and motions piling up. Common room representatives are there to represent common rooms, executive and others are there for broader issues. Think that it is vital that that balance of opinion and influence is maintained.

Christina, ?: Don't think that this gives enough credit to common rooms, we have a lot of respect for the executive. Think this is something that will happen very rarely, quorum does need to be looked at but this is a good one.

Luke Tryll, Magdalen: Must be careful to ensure common rooms aren't swiped and alienated.

Claire Chalmers: Executive don't vote as a block. Every issue people take a different stance. Should increase JCR attendance, not disempower executive.

MTV

Opposition

Charlie Steel, Merton: Think we're going round in circles, people are beginning to leave.

Opposition withdrawn.

MTV passes nem con.

Hannah Stoddard: Think this sends out a very good message, don't think quorum would be a problem. Don't think there'll be a situation in which everyone keeps taking the vote away from the executive.

Ellie Cumbo: Quoracy is a problem. We do already have special council on issues where we believe exec shouldn't have a say. Exec have a mandate. Will still be the case where the majority of votes are common rooms.

28-18-2 Passes.

Budget:

Chris Allan: Budget is very similar to amended budget, hopefully won't be much controversy. Now removed all subjectivity from OSSL profits. Have combined campaigning under one budget heading. Am going to add £30,000 a year to central reserves. Takes political element out of budgeting by combining campaigning headings.

Rob Robinson: How about an OUSU ball?

Chris Allan: Are considering a graduate ball.

James Lamming: What about spending last year's profit?

Chris Allan: Averaging it out over 3 years is better.

Aidan Randle-Conde: Where's welfare?

Chris Allan: Welfare breaks even, so isn't in there.

Budget passes nem con