

5th Week Trinity Term *Minutes*

TIME: 5:30pm

DATE: 24th May

LOCATION: Nazrin Shah Lecture Theatre, Worcester College

We aim to make Council as accessible as possible, and ensure that it is always in accessible venues. However, if there are any accessibility requirements that we are not meeting for yourself or others, please contact:

OUSU's Democratic Support Officer, Josh O'Connor:

01865 611831 | dso@ousu.ox.ac.uk

If you have any questions about OUSU Council, please feel free to contact:

Chair of OUSU Council, chair@ousu.ox.ac.uk

a. Minutes of the previous meeting

b. Matters arising from the minutes

c. Elections in council

d. Reports from and questions to the Sabbatical Trustees, Executive Officers, Representatives of the OUSU Campaigns and RAG (Raise and Give)

e. Items for resolution

1. Sanctuary Campus (amended motion from last Council)

f. Items for debate

1. Should we reduce the number of Council meetings a term?
2. Changes to matriculation

g. Any other business

Please Note:

OUSU's team will be filming elements of Council as part of a new marketing and communication plan to promote OUSU Council. If you are not happy to be filmed or would like to remain out of the footage please contact:

Josh O'Connor, Democratic Support Officer: dso@ousu.ox.ac.uk

a. Minutes of the previous meeting

Marina Lambrakis, OUSU: There is an error where 'students' should read 'staff'

Alex Cutis, Chair: Agreed

b. Matters arising from the minutes

None seen

c. Elections in Council

Alex Curtis, Chair: One election in Council. Hand over to Josh, DSO, to be returning officer for this election

Josh O'Connor, RO: There is one applicant for Graduate Student on JSCECSM

Jack Hampton, OUSU: *Explains what JSCECSM is*

Josh O'Connor, RO: Does anyone want to do a hust? *None seen* *Explains voting process*

Steering Committee (x2) - Steering Committee is responsible for compiling the agenda for Council, and referring motions submitted to Council to other committees for preliminary discussions as and when needed. To serve for Trinity Term 2017.

Chair of Council - to chair meetings of OUSU Council (and Council's Steering Committee) for Trinity Term 2017.

JSECSM Graduate member - to sit on the Joint Subcommittee of the Education Committee with Student Members alongside the Sabbaticals and other elected students. This is the university body responsible for feeding into the Education Committee and for ensuring OUSU is complying with the 1994 Education Act.

d. Reports from and questions to the Sabbatical Officers, Executive Officers, Representatives of the OUSU Campaigns and RAG (Raise and Give)

Jack Hampton, OUSU:

- Who has read the report I've written? *a couple of hands shown* The reports have more detail so please do read them if you can.
- Academic Structures Survey

Alex Langedijk, StCatz College: Will scientists having exams affect the results and overrepresent humanities students?

Jack Hampton, OUSU: Students identify with which division their in so the data won't be skewed. We'll be able to segment the results.

Orla White, OUSU:

- University Sub Committee Student Wellbeing
- Wrote some emails to the University's Sexual Violence Working Group
- Got see revised Trans Policy & Guidance

Eden bailey, OUSU:

- Teaching Awards
- University Council and Congregation
- First Class Act Committee and Launch Event
- Student Admissions and training for students doing interviews

Marina Lambrakis, OUSU:

- **By-Election Results**
- **Teaching Awards**
- **Congregation Speech**
- **Employment of Graduate Students**

Beth Currie, OUSU:

- **Graduate Employment**
- **Voter Registration**
- **Deadline for Proxy Vote**
- **First Parliamentary Husting**

Sam Banks, Merton College: Why are there cut backs being looked into at the university?

Jack Hampton, OUSU: Due to HEFCE cutting funding the university needs to make up that money from elsewhere and therefore is looking to make a surplus of 5% to cover this. Space optimization is because Oxford has a lot of space and should be looking at whether it is using that space effectively.

e. Items for Resolution

1. Sanctuary Campus

Council Notes:

1. That there has been a rise in racist, xenophobic and Islamophobic attacks since Brexit and the election of Donald Trump
2. That international students and migrant workers are facing uncertain times with increasing deportations and difficulties regarding visas and immigration status
3. That students of colour and Muslim students are suffering due to the invasive Islamophobic PREVENT duty
4. That many members of the student body have been involved in protests about Donald Trump's "Muslim ban" in recognition of the dangers of racism, xenophobia and Islamophobia for people in the UK and abroad
5. That some universities in the US have adopted a "sanctuary campus" approach, which involves practical support to stop racist government policy from harming the welfare of international students, students of colour and migrant workers, for instance by resisting deportation officials

Council Believes:

1. That we must stand in solidarity with students of colour, international students, Muslim students, and all immigrants and asylum seekers in oxford
2. That we must oppose the intrusive monitoring policies which the government imposes on international students
3. That the PREVENT duty is a breach of human rights and must be opposed within our universities
4. That although it is not always possible to stop the effects of racist government policy on campus, we must try and minimise the impact of these policies on student welfare
5. That migrant workers are a vital part of our institution and their rights must be safeguarded

Council Resolves:

1. To support the Sanctuary Campus campaign, led by Oxford Migrant Solidarity along with other local and university campaign groups
2. To mandate the relevant sabbatical officer to organise the speak outs mentioned in point 2 of the pledge
3. To mandate the relevant sabbatical officer to liaise with the student advice service about sufficient training to support international students
4. To mandate the relevant sabbatical officer to create a document about

- the importance of refusing to pass on information to the home office about international students and to circulate this to academics
5. To mandate the sabbatical team to disseminate information about international students' rights through suitable and effective means.
 6. To mandate relevant sabbatical officer to make a document explaining all their rights in an accessible way, including sources of help such as free legal advice which is provided by some law students at the University of Oxford and Oxford Brooks.
 8. To mandate the relevant sabbatical officer and Oxford's NUS reps to vote in line with pledge point 5 at NUS conference
 9. To mandate the Living Wage campaign to liaise with union reps and migrant workers to work towards providing the support mentioned in pledge point 9
 10. To sign up to the following pledge, one suggested by Movement For Justice By Any Means Necessary as part of their national Sanctuary Campus campaign
 11. To mandate OUSU to write to all heads of college urging them to protect all migrant staff in the wake of Brexit.
 12. To mandate the Vice-President Charities and Committee to take the lead on ensuring the resolves of the motion are acted upon.

“Pledge to make our college/university a Sanctuary Campus

The racist, anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim climate of Brexit and the attacks on our education by Theresa May's government can be defeated if we come together and act in solidarity with one another. The Government is deporting thousands of international students who have not been able to complete their courses and cutting the number of new international students. It is carrying out mass surveillance and harassment of Muslim students simply based on their religion (the Prevent strategy). This is an attack on all our educational opportunities. The Government is restricting educational options for poor, for working class, and for black, Asian and immigrant communities and intends to close several of our universities. This must be stopped and we must get organised.

We pledge to build a movement in our School/college/university, and work with students in other colleges and universities to stop the government-organised harassment of immigrant, Muslim and international students and teachers and the immigrant workers in our colleges/universities.

We pledge to make our college/university a Sanctuary Campus by our actions and organisation.

That means....

We will work with the international students in our school/college/university to organise meetings of all students to increase the awareness of the threats and harassment faced by international students and what it means for all our education.

We will organise speak-outs and tribunals where immigrant, international and Muslim students can testify openly about discrimination they have faced, and

where we can vote and decide on actions we need to take.

We will campaign for student/staff boycotts of any Home Office 'monitoring' measures inflicted on international students.

We will use the means available to us (strikes or walk-outs and demonstrations, occupations, accompanying threatened students to classes, etc.) to defend any international student or immigrant student whose place in college and right to stay in Britain is threatened.

We will work with students across the country to build national actions in defense of international students from the toxic and racist attacks by politicians and the media, and campaign for the reinstatement of the post-study work visa and for no fee hikes.

We will defend and mobilise in support of EU students who are facing uncertainty and xenophobia post-Brexit. We will fight for the continued right of EU students to study in the UK with no restrictions.

We will organise to boycott and block attempts by the school/college/university to implement the Prevent strategy – e.g. demonstrations or occupations against Prevent, or monitoring of Muslim students.

We demand that our university treats students who have lived in this country for all or most of their lives and studied in UK schools as Home Students with Home fees, regardless of the stamp on their passport. We demand that our university offers full sanctuary scholarships or fee waivers and grants to asylum seekers, refugees and students who otherwise could not afford to study because of their immigration status.

We will establish close liaison with the migrant workers who are the backbone of our schools/colleges/universities and with their representatives (unions, community groups etc.) so that we can support their fight for fair pay and equal conditions, and act together against immigration raids. We demand that college/university management does not co-operate with Home Office requests for 'sting operations' – raids and 'fishing missions' to pick off undocumented staff. If the university allows the Home Office in we will support those who may choose to surround the Immigration Enforcement teams, block them, and prevent them taking away any workers for detention and deportation.

We will enact in every way possible a policy of 'Students, not Suspects' and 'Home Office off our Campus and out of our schools'."

Proposed: Lily MacTaggart, Hertford College

Seconded: Lilith Newton, Balliol College

Alex Curtis, Chair: An amendment has been received which adds the words 'peacefully and legally' to the pledge. The proposer of the original motion is not present. Therefore we will vote on the amendment.

Jack Hampton, OUSU: The sabbs had concerns, as trustees, about the legality of the pledge. This amendment ensures the pledge doesn't encourage breaking the law. OUSU Council can't pass something which is illegal.

Lucas, Wadham College: What do you mean OUSU Council can't pass something which is illegal?

Eden Bailey, OUSU: All SUs need to follow Charity Law. We therefore need to follow the law and can't pass policy to act illegally.

???, St John's College: I don't think supporting those who want surround immigration support officers constitutes illegally behavior.

Vote on amendment: * Clearly passed *

Vote on motion: * Clearly passed *

f. Items for debate

Marina Lambrakis: Procedural Motion to swap around items for debate

* Clearly passed *

Elections in Council Marianne Melsen for JSCECSM Graduate Member:

39 Marianne, 0 RON

1. Changes to matriculation

Marina Lambrakis, OUSU: University Council want to know student's thoughts on this. The University is looking to make changes to Matriculation. It is currently the official moment of entry into the university. This can be very tricky for administration to keep track of who has physically gone through the matriculation and who hasn't. They want to move to doing an online registration which would be your official moment of entry to the university but keep the matriculation for ceremonial purposes. What is lost is a traditional aspect of Oxford but additionally it is quite a silly system where the colleges are struggling to keep list of who is at matriculation. We don't know the student opinion on this and the university are asking us for it so we'd like your feedback.

Lucas, Wadham College: This change came to our college and I like it

???, St John's College: Does this mean that matriculation would become optional?

Marina Lambrakis, OUSU: Yes basically, because if the university considers it optional then the college can too. There is a chance that in the future we'd lose the matriculation ceremony.

Henry, St John's College: Personally I think it's a bad proposal. We aren't the only university to have matriculation and it's a special thing about being at Oxford.

Sam Banks, Merton College: There is a significant concern that over time if you make it optional to matriculate it will be lost. But it makes sense to do the administration in a more efficient way.

Orla White, OUSU: I had no idea when I was matriculating that I was officially becoming a member of the university. I don't think student will stop going to matriculating because it changes its meaning, they go because everyone is going.

Eden Bailey, OUSU: It makes sense for the university to cut down on inefficient administration processes. I don't think matriculation will go away but it also isn't an inherent good for access to the university.

Jonathan, Merton College: I think the fact you have to do the online registration and the organization of matriculation means the administration workload wouldn't really be less. Once we divide the ceremony from its function the ceremony will become become less popular.

Will, Univ College: I agree administratively it makes sense to change it. It makes no sense to have someone study here for so long and not be a student because they haven't matriculated. Having the college photograph on the same day as the ceremony will encourage people to go. If they got rid of matriculation there would be a petty bad backlash though.

???, Magdalen College: I disagree that matriculation off puts potential students. If you take away that matriculation is not an official thing then it wouldn't seem as important. You can just strip away the administration from it.

Jack, Magdalen College: If we make it optional and people stop going then maybe that tells us something about matriculation.

Ava Scott, Hertford College: I don't think I realised it was compulsory when I was doing it. I don't think it matters if it's non compulsory because that's what people think it is anyway.

Ellery, Wadham College: I think matriculation would carry on going. If matriculation is non compulsory and people stop going that might tell us something. If there are valid costs to the administration of matriculation then that's a good reason to change it.

Marina, OUSU: The central university are saying it's a problem and although the colleges are split they are saying it's not a problem.

Angelika, St John's College: If we get rid of the administrative function of the matriculation ceremony they become entirely for show. They have no actual purpose and I hesitate in the face of that. Part of the problem is, the bravado, the legitimacy comes from the fact that it has a function. Not just for adornment or entertainment. So if we were to change the administrative status of such a ceremony...in the light of that I'd be against it.

Sam Banks, Merton College: There aren't lots of people here and therefore I would advocate consulting more widely.

Proposed: Marina Lambrakis, OUSU

1. Should we reduce the number of Council meetings a term?

Eden, OUSU: In our governance there is no requirement to have 4 Council meetings a term. So should we have 4 Council meetings a term or should that number be reduced?

Lucas, Wadham College: OUSU Council structures my weeks I really appreciate it. It lines up quite nicely with prescom. I think every two weeks is great.

Amelia, St John's College: I'd like them to be reduced. I seem to spend most of my time either coming to OUSU Councils or desperately trying to get other people to come with me. Which does actually take up a long time so every Sunday before OUSU Council we have a meeting where we ask people to come along. Every week no one volunteers. I then have to beg from the committee which is over three days and then some poor soul is dragged along. I think it would be better and more productive for my JCR at least if it had fewer meetings so people were more motivated to come and they didn't think that it was just a chore every two weeks.

Harry, Wadham College: I think that if you put the number down it will increase the time. I don't want to be sat here for 4 hours having each motion stretched out.

Marina, OUSU: I think OUSU Council is really important. It's how we as students run our students union. Other SUs have started cutting their Council meetings down to one or two a year and that's a really bad thing. Having this space forces us to do what you want us to do and not just whatever we think is best. I think OUSU

Council hasn't necessarily worked very well. In the past it worked best frankly. Cutting it down won't solve the problem and I think that is the easy way out. I think we should think about what we should be doing, why are we not getting more motions to it, do people know enough about it and personally I don't think the solution is to reduce it.

Tom, St Anne's College: I agree with the last point on general accountability. I'd also like to say we have had quite busy Councils in the past like the one last term with the Trump motion. If we reduce the number of meetings they would just get more and more packed. Plus if we do have, as want to, more motions and more people coming to Council, that is going to make it more difficult.

???: The last OUSU reps for my college all resigned. They were doing stuff for Council too much.

Jack, OUSU: Less Councils does not mean less motions. All it means is those motions becoming more and more concentrated in those sessions. That might dilute the amount of debate and concentration on the motion which are brought by and for the students. So we'd have less time to focus on motions which aren't procedural but the stuff you guys want to bring. Having Council less would mean we dilute that student voice.

???: I think we should reduce the number of Council meetings because it's really time consuming having to sit here for three hours. Lots of us have so much work to be getting on with that coming here to discuss all these matters every two weeks is just too much. Perhaps reducing it would make Council more efficient because there's less time. That would be better for everyone.

Sam Banks, OUSU: There is a lack of energy at Council. Is there anyone here who is excited to be here today? There are some people which is great but not many people. We need to look at changing how OUSU Council works. I don't think reducing the number solves the problem. It's an option we should consider but part of a lot of different measures. Simply reducing the number of Councils on its own is not going to solve the problem.

Marina, OUSU: Council doesn't work very well for Grad Common Rooms because they don't meet as frequently. We could perhaps have every other Council consider policy issues and other weeks different topics and so on for example.

Beth, OUSU: I agree with Sam that it's an issue no one here is excited to be here but people do still come. I can't remember the last OUSU Council which didn't get

Quorum which is 35. Even today when we have one motion we have quorum. There are over 200 delegates who could come to Council each week. So I'm guessing not all of you come every single time and that's okay. Having Council so frequently is good because we can get Council's opinions easier to inform our work.

Jack, OUSU: I have spoken to the other sabbs and we are going to go back to OUSU and say we need a more comprehensive review of how Council works and how we can make it more energised.

???: I'd like to add to Marina's comments in regards to graduate common rooms. We only meet as a common room twice a term so I spend twice as much time here than I do with my own Common Room. Another issue is that we are a constitutionally apolitical common room so we can't vote on political motions.

Sam Banks, Merton College: How regularly are there time sensitive motions?

Eden, OUSU: Fairly frequently. The Sabb meeting is arranged so we can bring things to Council if needed. It's only once or twice a term that a motion isn't time sensitive. But we haven't done an audit on it. Also you can't plan time sensitive motions.

Lucas, Wadham College: We should have pizza if we want people to get excited for Council as it can clash with dinner in halls.

Marina, OUSU: I agree about the timing issues but the reason it is at 5:30 is because grads have labs and this time works for them.

Eden, OUSU: Please contact the Sabbs or DSO if you have any further input for what could change about how Council is run.

Proposed: Eden Bailey, OUSU

g. Any other business