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council minutes

7th Week council Hilary 2005

Rob Vance (Wadham): I left the chair in the last Council and will now explain why that was: quorum counts were being regularly called and people were leaving the room. Thus quorum was not held and I believed that Council should not vote on a motion which involved thousands of pounds could not be carried.

Daniel Russell (St Anthony's): Does the motion for a secret ballot still stand?

RV (Wadham): No

Minutes of the previous meeting

Lorna Stevenson (Hertford): I haven't typed them up. Times continues to be short.

Ratifications by Council

Ian King (Keble): The list of charities here to be ratified were decided by a committee of JCR charities reps held on Monday of 6th week. The RAG system works so that at the end of the year, the five charities from each term will get an equal percentage of the money raised for the year. Four are children's charities and Jacari is applying for charitable status and should have it soon.

John Blake (St Hugh's): With regard to 'Send a Cow' – do we actually send cows?

IK (Keble): The information is there for you to see.

LS (Hert): Point of Information – we give them money and they buy a cow.

Chris Allen (Somerville): Is Send a Cow and AWL front-group?

IK (Keble): No.

RV (Wadham): Any objections

No objections – charities nominations are ratified

Emergency motions

I. OUSU Office Space

RV (Wadham): This has been accepted as an emergency motion as it arose in a meeting held after the deadline for motions and needs to be done over Easter.

In Proposition

Nicky Ellis (Queens): The shop is designated for clubs and societies but this is not working. It makes things difficult for the permanent staff. There are various proposals. We just need this passed in case.

SFQ's

Linsey Cole (St John's): Is there any financial cost?

NE (Queen's): It'll cost around £100 to remove the counter.

Daniel Simpson (Balliol): How could that cost be £100 – surely we can do that for ourselves?

NE (Queen's): Thank you for offering your services.

In opposition

Tom Packer (St Cross): I agree but want to propose an amendment – to delete points 1 of 'Believes'.

NE (Queen's): I'll take that as a friendly amendment.

RV (Wadham): Any objection to removing point 1?

None

MTV

In proposition

Nicky Ellis: From the firm conviction that few care, please vote.

Amended motion passes

Other motions

Motion tabled from 5th week Council

Sabbatical Remuneration Motion

Daniel Russell (St. Anthony's): We had a long discussion about this at the end of Council. The Sabs get pain awfully. Given that OUSU has more and more money and we want decent Sabs and that the salary currently paid barely covers their living expenses, I propose that we give them a pay rise.

SFQ's

LC (St. John's): Will this also apply to the Business Manager?

DR (St Anthony's): No.

TP (St Cross): When will this happen?

MB?: Why exclude the Business team?

DR (St Anthony's): Sabs are crucial to the running of OUSU and the representation. I believe that the business team get a cut of what they make. We're having real problems getting candidates for VP Grad's and this is partly because the salary is so low. We should be paying them something they can actually *live* on in Oxford. Currently they get less than an EPSRC grant.

Tim Bennett (St Peter's): Does the extra coast include National Insturance contributions?

DR (St. Anthony's); No.

Oliver Clifford-Mosely (Wadham): Why were salaries increased beyond inflation?

DR (St Anthony's): I don't know.

LC (St John's): We got a small increase due to the way that the University's pay scale works.

Stephanie Johnson (Hertford): Can you clarify the figures in Propser's notes?

DR (St Anthony's): The extra costs to OUSU.

IK (Keble) There is an added problem with living costs on our salary. Council tax payments depend on whether or not your college will provide a letter of exemption. If you don't get this then you can have up to an extra £1,000 of cost to meet. We don't get paid well at all.

DR (St Anthony's): I agree.

James Moor (New): Why chose the EPSRC Grant?

DR (St Anthony's): They seem to be the Council which runs most efficiently.

Dan Simpson (Balliol): I propose a motion for a secret ballot.

RV (Wadham): Opposition?

In Proposition

DS (Balliol): This issue allowing principles to be divided from personal considerations. It will be better if we have a secret ballot.

Ed Griffiths (St John's): The secret ballot takes a lot of time and is not democratic. You can't see how people vote which breeds suspicion. We should all be grown up enough to see how people vote.

RV (Wadham): This requires ten votes to pass – all in favour?

EG (St John's): Is it not a quarter of the vote?

RV (Wadham): I can't find it in the standing orders. I think it's only a quarter. People can feel free to challenge me.

Council votes – 12 for, 29 against. Motion for secret ballot passes.

In opposition

TP (St Cross): We have Sabs and we have them in large number. This will cause discontent. Yes improve the salary but by cutting a Sab position.

MTV

In favour:

VaVa Gligorov (St John's): Vote in favour.

Anthony Myers (St John's): They do an important job and are not paid well at all.

TP (St Cross): Vote No.

Ordinary weekly agenda

Passage of motions nemcom

Opposition noted for 1. and 2.; 3. and 4. pass nemcom

1. OUSU's Response to Academic Green Paper

In proposition

LC (St John's): It's important for this to be voted on in Council. It's new in Council today. The basic premise is that tutorials should remain the heart of teaching and that it considers graduate issues and teaching. I want to submit this with the support of Council.

no opposition – the motion passes

2. Election Review Board

In proposition

John Blake (St Hugh's): The Election Regulations have massively changes for 2004. We need a small group of people to be elected and discuss these changes. This needs to be done quickly so that things happen next term for Michealmas elections. All who have run OUSU elections know that coherence and clarity are fundamental to this.

SFQ'S

Steve Harper (Corpus Christi): Would their findings be binding?

JB (St Hugh's): No. It would all go though Council.

In opposition

Tom Packer: I have proposed amendments to this motion. I suggest that we change 4 to add "and in so far as it is possible all rulings of Returning Officer, Junior Tribunal and Senior Tribunal", increase the number of people on the group to 6 for greater diversity and get rid of the qualification in point 2, I would expect the majority of people running for this position to fit the qualification.

Debate

JB (St Hugh's): The reason for having that qualification is due the specifics involved in this work. It needs to be about how things have been done, what's worked and what hasn't worked. We need a practical not a theoretical election.

TP (St Cross): I want to change my amendment, so that it proposes a group of 6 people and adds former candidates to those eligible.

RV (Wadham): JCR Presidents used to be on the list. We have three amendments on the table:

- (1) to add the rulings of Junior Tribunal, Senior Tribunal and the Returning Officer
- (2) to increase the number on the committee from 4 to 6
- (3) to add former candidates to those eligible to stand.

*opposition expressed to points 1 and 2 *

In opposition

NE (Queen's): The point is that we are talking about a review. Six people would be too many. There needs to be a smaller group or it things will spend too long in debate. Further, only a limited number of people will want to be in a detailed review.

MTV

*amendment fails *

RV (Wadham): Finally, on the proposition that we add former candidates.

In opposition

Chris Allan (Somerville): There is a problem with this. Some candidates are very involved. Others may not be. Thus they may not have the necessary experience they don't know enough to be on election committee.

MTV

amendment fails

RV (Wadham): The only amendment which passes is that to add rulings from RO's, ST and JT.

MTV

In proposition

JB (St Hugh's): It's all gone through. This will be useful. Can people please think about standing.

*no opposition, the motion passes *

RV (Wadham): Thank you all for making the meeting such a quick one.

JB (St Hugh's): Can I propose a vote of thanks to Rob Vance.

All: vote thanks

* result of the secret ballot for Sabbatical Remuneration Motion – 51 for, 10 against and 2 abstentions. The motion passes. *