

# OUSU

## council minutes

**7<sup>th</sup> week Council held at 5.30pm on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March in the Vernon Harcourt Room at St Hilda's College**

- a. Minutes of the Previous Meeting
- b. Matters Arising from the Minutes
- c. Ratifications in Council
- d. Elections in Council
- e. Reports from the Sabbatical Officers
- f. Reports from the Executive Officers who wish to make reports
- g. Questions to Members of the Executive
- h. Emergency Motions
- i. Passage of Motions Nem Con
- j. Motions of No Confidence or Censure
- k. First readings of Motions to Amend the Constitution or Standing Orders
- l. The Budget or Amended Budget
- m. Motions Authorising Capital Expenditure
- n. Other Motions
  - i. motions affecting ousu members as ousu members
  - ii. motions affecting ousu members as students at Oxford University
  - iii. motions affecting ousu members as members of the student movement
  - iv. motions affecting ousu members as residents of Oxford
  - v. motions affecting ousu members as residents of the United Kingdom
  - vi. motions affecting ousu members as citizens of the world
- o. Any Other Business

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### **a. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

As no one spoke I assume no problems, so passed.

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### **c. Ratifications in Council**

#### **I. RAG Charities**

Helen and Douglas House (Local)  
Pathway Foundation (Local)  
Shelter (National)  
Emerge Global (Student)

No opposition passes

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### **d. Elections in Council**

#### **3 members of OUSU for Steering Committee**

Stefan Baskerville as Acting RO

Right now we are back to the pink paper. Steering committee meets after the close of deadline for motions to council. Created in case complex or controversial things are submitted, to ensure adequate debate and explanation. Steering committee can decide if the motions need prior consideration. Generally attendance includes a doughnut. I got it changed to just jam doughnuts. Opportunity for further consideration.

Jonny Medland (The Queen's) has nominated already there are two other spaces.

Lukas Wallrich (Merton)  
Christine Head (Hert)  
Jonny Medland (The Queen's)

Council desires a hust.

Limits them to one minutes hust.

Lukas Wallrich (Merton):

Answer to standard questions. Political parties since 2009. Conservative, no, no.

When established last term thought it was a very good thing it gives common rooms a chance to consider controversial motions, so think should continue and want to work with.

Jonny Medland (The Queen's):

Former member of Lib Dems, member of Amnesty International, no and no

Been on Steering Committee this term, is working as intended, so I think that I am worthy of at least one of the three preferences.

Christina Head (Hert):

Amnesty mailing list, no, no.

It sounded interested and useful, like doughnuts and no one else stood.

Jack Matthews (St Peters):

What's favourite filling of doughnut?

Lukas Wallrich (Merton):

Jam

Jonny Medland (The Queen's):

Jam

Christina Head (Hert):

Jam

Jesse Harber (St Hilda's):

Will you pledge to limit the power of Jonny Medland?

Christina Head (Hert):

If starts going mental, yeah maybe

Jonny Medland (The Queen's):

Of course

Lukas Wallrich (Merton):

Think we can handle him

RO asks everyone to vote.

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## **i. Passage of Motions Nem Con**

### **I. University Accommodation**

#### **Council notes:**

1. That several colleges cannot offer 1<sup>st</sup> year graduates college accommodation
2. That there is a significant waiting list for university accommodation, particularly for October, and existing students can sign up 11 months in advance meaning many new graduate students are unable to get a place in University accommodation.
3. Colleges incorporate an element of prioritisation in their allocation of accommodation eg freshers have a higher priority.
4. That there several barriers facing new graduate students in securing appropriate private accommodation, including coming from overseas, not having a UK bank account or knowledge of our letting system, being

accepted to the university late in the summer, not knowing Oxford and where would be the most appropriate place to live, and not knowing other students to enter into a houseshare with.

5. That University accommodation has relatively inflexible end-dates for contracts that do not reflect the structure of courses and students' needs for accommodation in Oxford.

**Council believes:**

1. That househunting in your first few weeks at Oxford can be disruptive both to your wellbeing and to your academic work, particularly for those on taught courses
2. That priority in access to university accommodation should be given to those groups of students who are more vulnerable: graduate freshers, particularly those from overseas, those with families etc.
3. That the information provided to new students regarding private accommodation is insufficient
4. That a central database of accommodation available, including college rooms that are empty and single rooms within houseshares would be beneficial.

**Council resolves:**

1. To mandate the Vice-President (Graduates) to contact the graduate accommodation office and ask them to adopt a model of allocation that reflects the greater needs of new and international students
2. To mandate the Vice-President (Graduates) to work with the graduate accommodation office and Domestic Bursars committee to improve the online accommodation resources provided by the collegiate university, and to look into possible OUSU alternatives.

**Proposed:** Sarah Hutchinson (St Cross)

**Seconded:** James Sago (Blackfriars)

No opposition passes

**2. D Phil 4<sup>th</sup> year**

Opposition

**3. Unpaid internship**

Opposition

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## **n. Other Motions**

**2. DPhil 4<sup>th</sup> year fee liability**

**Council notes:**

1. That the university is holding a consultation on whether to extend Postgraduate Research students' liability for fees beyond the current limit of three years
2. That the university wishes to consult students on this issue and is looking for feedback by July 2010 at the latest

**Council resolves:**

1. To mandate the Vice-President (Graduates) to consult with graduate students, including but not exclusively with GJCC reps, Graduate Divisional Board Reps and MCR Presidents and to prepare an OUSU submission to the consultation
2. To mandate the Vice-President (Graduates) to bring any necessary policy following from the consultation to OUSU Council.

**Proposed:** Sarah Hutchinson (St Cross)

**Seconded:** Jonny Medland (The Queen's)

Sarah Hutchinson (St Cross):

Think been discussed on and off for a few years, increasingly students aren't submitting within 3 years, and students have a liability to pay for 3 years, any years beyond this not paying fees. Concerns about why it takes

so long. Departments are making a loss on courses, providing resources whilst students not paying fee. Education Committee need to get sorted consultation reporting back in 5<sup>th</sup> week next term. Would be really good if a formal submission about what they think if 4<sup>th</sup> year fees a good thing etc

Do consultation with grads on this.

Motion passes

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### **3. Unpaid Internships**

#### **Council notes:**

1. That for most students, access to a career is a core aim of their studies.
2. That it is fundamental the NUS and the Education Sector as a whole are committed to widening participation and social mobility for those from lower income and low participation backgrounds.
3. That experience in professional environments is an important preparation for employment, and is highly desired by employers.
4. That it is unreasonable to expect adults to subsist below the National Minimum Wage.
5. That work should be paid and that through student mobilisation we can achieve change.
6. That Oxford University Labour Club and Oxford University Liberal Democrats are campaigning within their parties for an end to unpaid internships.
7. That this motion is supported by all of OUSU's NUS delegates, several JCR Presidents.

#### **Council believes:**

1. That there exists a significant proportion of career paths where an extended period of more than three weeks of unpaid "work experience" or "internship" has become the norm as an access route.
2. That this has been demonstrated by a recent government report. [Milburn Report: "Unleashing Aspiration - the Final Report of the Panel on Fair Access to the Professions"]
3. That unpaid work is essentially inaccessible for those from lower income backgrounds.
4. That the student-led campaign Intern Aware was set up with the specific aim of campaigning for an end to unpaid internships and it is officially supported by the NUS.
5. That 'The Arts Group' has been lobbying for increased scrutiny and legislation around Unpaid Internships since Summer 2009, this has subsequently been backed by the Aldwych Group.
6. That a large proportion of interns activities constitute 'work' and often skilled labour.
7. That members of the NUS NEC attended the Parliamentary Interns Summit in October 2009.
8. That the NUS has failed to take any tangible action based on the exploitation of unpaid interns and work experience.
9. That the HMRC has failed to enforce National Minimum Wage legislation for a large proportion of employers currently breaking the law through the exploitation of unpaid interns.
10. That, further to this, the employment tribunal in Reading has recently ruled that unpaid internships are illegal.
11. That the proliferation of unpaid work in sectors including the Creative Industries and Government is directly linked to the skewed demographics of professionals and elected officials in these areas.
12. That work experience and placement practice within FE & HE courses is highly varied in its quality, availability and supervision.
13. That students on work placements require just as much income (and probably more) to support themselves as whilst studying.
14. That ending unpaid internships will not be the solution to the social problems associated with unfair internships but it will address the most significant structural problem.

#### **Council resolves:**

1. To put forward a motion at NUS Conference calling for it to lobby for an end to unpaid internships, to work for higher quality internship opportunities and to ask student unions to campaign for a distinction between paid and unpaid internships in their university careers services.
2. To mandate OUSU's NUS delegates to vote in favour of this motion, and if possible to speak in favour of it.
3. To sign up as a supporter of Intern Aware's campaign for an end to unpaid internships.

4. To mandate OUSU's President to write to Oxford's MPs, informing them of the issue, OUSU's response and asking them to work within parliament for an end to unpaid internships.
5. To ensure the issue of lack of information about availability of internships is raised in all discussions and motions.

**Proposed: Ben Lyons (St. Catherine's)**  
**Seconded: Stefan Baskerville (University)**

Ben Lyon's (St Catherine's):

Long motion not sure if anyone read Milbourne Report, big report, they dedicated a chapter to the problem of unpaid internships. Costs £500 to live for two weeks in London. If unpaid people from poorest backgrounds can't go. Not paying interns is illegal what we risk is a ghost generation who won't have access to these jobs as they haven't had access to these. I have personally spoken to people who can't afford to spend the summer working at these jobs. Set up 'Intern Aware', and receive support from NUS, MP's passed motion at Bristol and Art College organisation. President of OUCA backing in personal capacity. Want to take to NUS so they can support.

Daniel Stone (St Peter's):

My only problem is that there will be organisations that want to have interns but can't pay wage but can pay expenses.

Ben Lyon's (St Catherine's):

Makes allowances for volunteer workers, people involved in not for profit would be exempt. Small businesses wouldn't be. Something could be introduced in a measured way for small business, 3 weeks or less work experience, any thing more is internship. For short periods and charities exempt.

Sarah Hutchinson (St Cross):

Have there been consideration of other ways to open up access, one concern is would reduce number of internships, might limit to people who have money. Could they look at internships to part time.

Ben Lyon's (St Catherine's):

Think part time work would be difficult. Not a panacea. Other problems, over family connections, rather than an open system, about internships in wider sense, also should be relatively easy to do. Whilst recognise numbers may decline in short term but think access would be wider.

Hannah Cusworth (Brasenose):

One problem with internships for people without backgrounds and family connections. Internships are often not published it is just who people know.

Ben Lyon's (St Catherine's):

Governments response, was to set up a national talent pool, can be put on this website in order to make more people aware. More information from the NUS to publicise them, perfectly happy to accept an amendment on this lines as friendly.

Sarah Hutchinson (St Cross):

Any other issues legally, like contracts, reviews etc?

Ben Lyon's (St Catherine's):

As it stands the reason why get around is because only a verbal contract.

Gareth Jones (St John's)

Have you spoken to employers, would there be a massive loss of internships?

Talked to Think Tank and they have recently decided to pay their interns and it hasn't reduced the number of interns that they can employ. Also spoken to MP's who are beginning to start to pay their interns.

Eorann Lean (St Hugh's):

I am for this motion generally, but are smaller companies not going to be able to offer internships if they are made to have to pay them?

Ben Lyon's (St Catherine's):

Being in a recession means that it is even more important, should allow more people to get interns.

Daniel Stone (St Peter's):

How many people consulted?

Ben Lyon's (St Catherine's):

About 100

Opposition to motion. Received amendment.

Insert Resolves 5.

5. To ensure the issue of lack of information about availability of internships is raised in all discussions and motions.

**Proposed:** **Hannah Cusworth (Brasenose)**

**Seconded:** **Sarah Hutchinson (St Cross)**

Accepted as friendly.

Motions stands amended.

Motion passes

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