

Council Minutes

7th week hilary term 2012

7th Week Council held at 5.30pm, with sign in opening at 5.15pm on Wednesday 29th February 2012, in St Peter's Chapel.

If you have any questions about OUSU Council, you should feel free to contact the Adam Tyndall at any time on chair@ousu.org

- 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

d. Elections in Council

The following positions were elected in OUSU Council of 5th week.

3 positions on Internal Affairs Committee - Reviews all proposed amendments the OUSU Governing Documents before they are presented to OUSU Council. To serve until the end of Michaelmas Term 2012. For more information contact president@ousu.org.

1 position on Scrutiny Committee - Scrutinises the work of the OUSU Executive and the Divisional Board Representatives. How the power to call officers to be interviewed and request documents. Issues a report each term to OUSU Council. To serve until the end of Michaelmas Term 2012.

Ben Marshall, Balliol elected.

Returning Officer - runs elections in Council and any other elections or referenda that may be called. Serves until end of Hilary Term.

Jack Matthews, Univ elected

Internal Affairs Committee

Ben Marshall, Balliol elected.

All 3 candidates elected. Trouncing RON by varying majorities.

o. Passage of Motions Nem Con

i. motions affecting OUSU members as OUSU members

1. Timing of OUSU Council

Council Notes:

1. In 3rd Week Trinity Term 2009, Council passed policy on the Timing of Council resolving “To not hold OUSU Council between the hours of 9am-5pm, Monday - Friday.”
2. That many students, mainly scientists and graduates, have commitments that would prevent them from attend OUSU Council were it to be held between the hours of 9am-5pm, Monday - Friday.
3. That the policy is due to lapse next term.
4. That the original policy was proposed by Jack Matthews who will most likely be fossil hunting in Canada when Council looks at policy lapse next term, and he doesn't want this policy to lapse.

Council Believes:

1. That OUSU Council should be as accessible as possible to the students of our University.
2. That every student has a right to have their voice heard at OUSU Council.
3. That the honourable quest to understand how life evolved should not prevent a student from saving a good piece of policy from lapsing.

Council Resolves:

1. To retain the policy passed in 3rd Week Trinity Term 2009.
2. To not hold OUSU Council between the hours of 9am-5pm, Monday - Friday.

Proposed: Jack Matthews (University College)

Secoded: Chris Gray (Merton College)

Passed Nem Con

ii. motions affecting OUSU members as student at Oxford University

2. SLI Motion

Council Notes:

1. The difficulty that common room Presidents often experience during rent negotiations without a verifiable measure to convey student costs and income and respond to those used by colleges (e.g. VNI).
2. That current companions of student finances with inflation and loans status do not go far enough as they usually only consider rent, and not cost of living.
3. That the University-wide cost calculator (see <http://www.ox.ac.uk/feesandfunding/fees/livingcosts/undergraduates/>) is necessarily vague as it covers 44 colleges/halls.
4. The frequency with which common room Presidents exchange financial information such as regarding levies, kitchen charges etc., and the time which could be saved if each common room had information on non-variables compiled and readily available for consultation.
5. The uncertainty some students feel about their eligibility for financial aid from their college, and their unwillingness to ask their peers what is an “average” amount of expense.

Council Further Notes:

1. That living cost indicators are currently used at Univ to help bursars determine thresholds for support or hardship grants.

Council Believes:

1. That the above issues could be addressed, at least in part and to varying extents across colleges, by the introduction of college specific student cost of living indices.
2. That all common rooms would benefit in at least some way through introducing a student living index (SLI), and that in turn, common rooms would benefit from as many other colleges introducing their own specific SLI as possible.
3. That the credibility of SLIs during college rent negotiations would be increased by OUSU endorsement.

Council Resolves:

1. To support and endorse the implementation of Student Living Indices across common rooms.

Proposed: *Ben Marshall (Balliol)*
Seconded: *Martha Mackenzie (SJC)*

Passed Nem Con.

3. Sub Fusc Motion

Council Notes:

1. Subfusc is a significant part of our identity as Oxford University students
2. Students are required to dress according to the gender on their student record (see Appendix C)
3. Some students' genders do not match their record
4. The only procedure by which a transgender student may wear the correct subfusc is to directly contact the proctors and ask for special dispensation

Council Believes:

1. Transgender students are often unaware of this procedure or reluctant to carry it out, fearing it may not succeed
2. It is unfair and unnecessary to ask them to take this extra step
3. A change to these regulations removing references to gender would be unlikely to have undesired consequences

Council Resolves:

1. To support such a change in subfusc regulations
2. To mandate the LGBTQ officer to write and effect such a change

Proposed: *Jess Pumphrey, (Magdalen)*
Seconded: *Seb Baird, (Corpus Christi)*

Passed Nem Con

4. Miss Representation Screening

Opposition.

iii. motions affecting ousu members as members of the student movement

5. NUS - Conference Motion on Membership Data

Opposition.

6. NUS - Trade Unionisation Internationally

Struck

7. NUS - Defend the Right to Protest Motion

Opposition.

8. NUS - Uprisings Motion

Struck

9. NUS - Beyond London Weighting Motion (Amended Motion)

Council Notes:

1. London weighting is applied to student maintenance loans.
2. The basic maintenance loan currently available for students studying in London and living away from home is £4988.
3. The basic maintenance loan currently available for students studying outside of London and living away from home is £3564.
4. There are a number of cities outside London that are also incredibly expensive and are well above national averages.
5. There are a number of cities outside London that have incredibly high house prices and consequently above average rental charges.
6. Oxford is one of these cities.
7. A motion in support of London Weighting was passed at NUS Conference 2011 (Appendix A).

Council Believes:

1. The basic maintenance loan should adequately support students in full-time education.
2. The current basic maintenance loan is too low for a number of areas of the country.
3. The government should consider loan weighting outside of London.

Council Resolves

1. To submit a motion to NUS Conference 2012 encouraging the NUS to explore weighting for expensive cities outside of London.
2. To add the following clause to 'Conference Resolves' in the NUS Conference motion attached in Appendix A:
 - a) '21. NUS will also investigate the viability of weighting outside of London so that students in equally expensive cities are properly supported
 - b) 22. NUS will promote any positive findings to the government and lobby them to take action on this issue'.
3. To mandate the NUS Delegates to generate support for this motion from Institutions in similarly expensive locations.¹

Proposed by: *Martha Mackenzie (St John's)*

Seconded by: *Thomas Rutland (Jesus)*

Amendment made, which was passed as friendly.

Motion passes Nem Con.

10. NUS - Post-Qualifications Applications Motion

Council Notes:

1. UCAS has consulted on a change to a post-qualification applications system
2. A PQA system would mean students would be expected to apply to university with their A-Level grades

¹

Bristol University, Ruskin College, Oxford Brookes University, The University of Cambridge, Angela Ruskin University, and the University of Edinburgh have all agreed to support this amendment.

3. Students would apply between late June and mid-July and would know the result of their application by the third week of September.
4. In order to do this exam scheduling would have to be moved forward, likely decreasing teaching time
5. The University is not in support of the PQA proposals, nor is much of the school sector.
6. The NUS have proposed a motion in support of UCAS changing to a PQA system
7. Oxford's NUS delegates must vote on the motion at national conference

Council Believes:

1. The PQA proposals are flawed.
2. A PQA system would not bring the benefits of greater accessibility, fairness and transparency sought by UCAS
3. A PQA system is incompatible with Oxford's own admissions process as it does not allow time for the interview and aptitude test process.
4. A PQA system would result in the loss of the valuable summer preparation period. It would also lead to a reduction in the time during the summer that academics use for research.

Council Resolves

1. To mandate the NUS delegates to vote against the motion in support of PQA at national conference

Proposed: Sarah Coombes (Jesus College)

Seconded: Hannah Cusworth (Brasenose College)

Passes Nem Con.

11. NUS - Offender Learning Motion

Opposition.

12. Oxford Radical Forum Motion

Opposition

iv. motions affecting ousu members as members of the student movement

13. Early lease Motion

Council Notes:

1. That there are a large number of Oxford University Students living out in the private rented market.
2. Currently a majority of Letting Agencies release their student property lists in November.
3. Oxford University Student Union and Oxford Brookes Student Union have launched a campaign against this practice (early lease), which many JCR Presidents have been involved with.
4. The petition against early release has received over 1500 signatures.

Council Believes:

1. Early lease pushes forward room ballots and can be deeply unsettling for students who are forced to decide who they are going to live with and where they are going to live in the next academic year mere weeks after setting foot in Oxford.
2. We should continue to support the campaign against 'early lease'.
3. We should use our collective power to encourage the Letting Agencies to postpone their release dates until February.
4. The Student Union should do more to support students who live out during their time in Oxford

Council Resolves:

1. To spread the word about the campaign to our domestic bursars and/ or relevant individuals in College.
2. To refuse publicity to any Letting Agencies that release their properties prior to the Christmas Vacation.
3. To offer publicity to those who comply with our request

4. To encourage the Student Union to continue and increase its education campaign and to make advice and support on housing issues more readily available.
5. To encourage the Student Union to bring early lease to Conference of Colleges.

Proposed: *Thomas Allsup (Somerville)*

Seconded: *Basil Vincent (Keble)*

Passed Nem Con.

n. Other Motions

i. motions affecting OUSU members as OUSU members

1. Timing of OUSU Council

Passed Nem Con.

ii. motions affecting OUSU members as student at Oxford University

2. SLI Motion

Passed Nem Con.

3. Sub Fusc Motion

Passed Nem Con.

4. Miss Representation Screening (Amended Motion)

Council Notes:

1. Miss Representation is a film that explores how the misrepresentation of women in the media had led to an under-representation of women in positions of power and influence.
2. Queen's MCR decided to screen it in order to raise awareness of the persistent gender gap in the work force and of its particular pertinence to students, who are on the brink of working life and especially targeted by the mass media.
3. Miss Representation was screened at Queen's Shulman Auditorium on 28th February selling out 101 seats in under four days.
4. The makers of Miss Representation have given us permission to screen the film again at a smaller fee. OUSU is able to book Exam Schools for an early Trinity screening.
5. There is £1500 left in the OUSU discretionary campaigns fund to spend before the end of Trinity.

Council Believes:

1. OUSU should help raise awareness of persistent gender gaps, as the student body is the next working generation who will be affected by, but also who can affect themselves, this status quo.
2. This year Oxford University is reviewing its equality policies, and the Miss Representation screening offers a perfect opportunity to talk to students about their experiences of and ideas about equality within the university.
3. The cost of a second contract from the campaign is significantly reduced; taking advantage of this reduction would also make the most of the current wave of interest in the documentary.
4. OUSU should support this opportunity to raise the university's profile within equality campaigns, as it is notorious for its own gender gap.
5. This would be the fifth or perhaps sixth screening of the documentary nationwide; it is an opportunity for Oxford to set an example for other educational institutes to take up the issues raised by the film and the campaign.

Council Resolves:

1. To donate £500 from the discretionary fund to the screening of Miss Representation in Exam Schools in Trinity term.
2. To mandate the VP (Women) to work with the Women's Campaign and other volunteers to support organising the screening.
3. To mandate the VP (Women) to take the opportunity of the Trinity term screening to promote OUSU's work on putting student-led objectives on the University's Equality Duty agenda.
4. To donate any profits to the OUSU Women's Campaign.

Proposer: *Caroline Knox, (Queen's College)*

Secunder: *Yuan Yang, (Balliol College)*

Caroline Knox (Queen's College)

Misrepresentation is a documentary of women in the media, and how misrepresentation leads to lack of women in important roles. We had a screening and would like to host a second screening at the beginning of next term in Exam Schools.

Jack Matthews (Univ)

Will you be charging and will this make back what you want from the discretionary budget?

Caroline Knox (Queen's College)

Charging £3 per person and expect to be a full house, so fully expect to get the money back.

Oliver Gleeson (Christ Church)

If profit made, where would it go?

Caroline Knox (Queen's College)

Suggest should go back to the campaign.

Jack Matthews (Univ)

Will you come back and advise how it went?

Caroline Knox (Queen's College)

Yes

Caroline Knox (Queen's College)

A charity created curriculums etc for schools in America.

Charlotte Baker (St Catherine's)

Profit would go to campaign in America not WomCam?

Caroline Knox (Queen's College)

Yes

Oliver Gleeson (Christ Church)

If loss who will cover.

Yuan Yang (Balliol)

Hope will make whole lot back, but will cover loss.

Question:

How will it be publicised.

Caroline Knox (Queen's College)

Was on facebook and didn't event get a chance to advertise, we were sent loads of resources.

Yuan Yang (Balliol)

Not a one off screening would be part of the campaign, wider awareness raising campaign, the film will be a motivating tool.

Alex Lans (St Catherine's)

Think we could use funds here in Oxford rather than in America.

Amendment submitted by Charlotte Baker

To donate any profits that are made to Wom Cam.

Amendment accepted as friendly.

Passes.

v. motions affecting ousu members as members of the student movement

5. NUS - Conference Motion on Membership Data

Council Notes:

1. That OUSU has policy supporting 'One Member One Vote' (OMOV) for use in the NUS Elections, where every student would be given a vote, rather than delegates at NUS National Conference.
2. The NUS Workgroup on OMOV reported that this was not possible to move to OMOV at the moment as many Student Unions do not have access to membership details from their parent institution. (http://www.theyworkforstudents.co.uk/uploads/6/2/1/0/6210998/nc2012_omov_report.pdf)

Council Believes:

1. That lack of access to membership details not only affects democracy within Student Unions, but also affects a Students Unions ability to communicate with its members on key issues such as welfare and academic affairs.
2. That working to make sure all Student Unions have access to membership data from their parent institutions is the only way we can move forward towards implementing OMOV within NUS.

Council Resolves:

1. To overturn the Council Policy mandating the NUS delegates "to submit a motion to that conference calling for research to be done into how NUS could move to a one member one vote system" as this has now been done via the NUS Workgroup on OMOV.
2. To mandate the NUS delegates to submit the following motion to NUS National Conference 2012: Who do Students' Unions Represent - Getting Membership Data.

Conference Believes:

1. That across the Student movement there is a chronic lack of access to comprehensive membership details from parent institutions. The NUS estimates that only about a third of all students' unions have access to university or college databases of students' details.
2. Having access to membership details is not only important for democratic purposes, but will also allow students' unions to engage with their membership on campaigns and provide important information in areas such as welfare.
3. That it is hard to engage students on issues such as funding, access, liberation campaigns, teaching standards, ethical investment, housing and student voice if students' unions don't know who their members are or how to contact them.

Conference Resolves:

1. NUS to produce a best practice guide of both how to campaign to get membership details from parent institutions, and a best practice guide for managing such data.
2. NUS will produce case studies of how access to membership details has not only built stronger students' unions, but stronger parent institutions.

Proposed: Jack Matthews, (University College)

Seconded: Charlotte Baker, (St. Catherine's College)

Jack Matthews (Univ)

Problem at NUS lots of members, lots of student unions don't have access to their student data. Believe all students should have a vote with NUS. Also hard for student unions to engage and contact members if don't know who your members are. This is to help them get this information from their Universities.

Question from St John's:

What information would you be expecting them to provide?

Jack Matthews (Univ)

NUS did legal study just name, way to contact and date of birth; we are good in Oxford and have a good relationship with parent organisations so have this information.

Passes.

6. NUS - Trade Unionisation Internationally

Struck

7. NUS - Defend the Right to Protest Motion (Final Amended Version)

Council Notes:

1. The attached 'Defend the Right to Protest' motion (Appendix D) is to be debated and voted on at NUS conference.

Council Believes:

1. In the amended 'Defend the Right to Protest' motion.
2. That the amended motion is better than the original motion

Council Resolves:

1. To mandate the NUS delegates to lobby for and vote in favour of the amendments to the motion and the motion itself.

Proposed: *Sean Robinson (Queen's)*

Seconded: *Christopher Barrie (Hilda's)*

Sean Robinson (Queen's)

Way this works we get a big book of motions, which are already going to conference. We can either amend to make good so pass or bad so don't pass. This motion is aimed at criticising the police in respect to their tactics against students in the recent past.

Amendments. Added a point 12. Reason is the whole motion about making implicit. Tightened up resolves. Changed point 1 less but appropriate intervention. Point 2 deleted. Point 3 was a misinterpretation, as it misses the point of what the person who said it meant. Would like you to support motion in general and support amendments.

Nick Adams (Wadham)

Still says total policing in believes section.

Sean Robinson (Queen's)

We moved this in the resolves as only have a certain number of amendments can make.

Charlotte Baker (St Catherine's)

Can we take it out now?

Amendment submitted to remove this.

Sean Robinson (Queen's)

Civil disobedience obstructing traffic, trespassing in Fortnum and Mason. Criminality is harming anyone or property physically.

Question from a member of Wadham College:

Do you actively oppose these when there is a violent process.

Sean Robinson (Queen's)

Think if a riot destroying a town water cannon can be used. In reference to this is about protests. Not sure I want to make an amendment to make explicit.

Amendment

Removal of 8 from Conference Motion.

Jack Matthews (Univ)

How do you intend to lobby elsewhere?

Sean Robinson (Queen's)

Not sure how they will do this.

Thomas Allsup

Is kettling violent tactic?

Sean Robinson (Queen's)

Yes I think this is violent, think if aims to hurt to people, aims to cause harm through intimidation. As on a cold winter night kept in same place with no access to toilet and hemmed in then aims to hurt.

Amendment 1 - accepted as friendly.

Amendment 2

Nicholas Seaford (St John's)

Think campaign promotes ambiguity. Violent tactics shouldn't be used at non violent student protest.

Sean Robinson (Queen's)

If people violent force is wrong, this is what we strongly believe, and now weve said hope it should stop. Believe then should stand up and campaign for this.

Amendment 2 withdrawn.

Alex Lans (St Catherine's)

What do you define as peaceful, as the one's in the motion could be defined as violent. What is the line for peaceful protests, other supposed one's haven't.

Chris Barrie

Was at 11th of November was peaceful, wouldn't class as violent in entirety. 10 or 11 that acted violently.

Comment from a member of St John's

Essential part of protesting is working with police. Wondering if could work to isolate violent elements and these tactics should therefore be used.

Sean Robinson (Queen's)

Shouldn't vote in favour, as some cases where police need to use these tactics. Think motion stands with you. If protest is peaceful but the police can't strictly control think then shouldn't kettle but should work towards making it stay peaceful.

Amendment 3 strike fundamentally and insert in extreme circumstances.

Not taken as friendly.

Nick Saford (St John's)

Not true that use of kettling and horse charges is fundamentally wrong as think in extreme circumstances then it isn't wrong. I think that we are right to say wrong in most circumstances.

Comment:

Keep fundamentally but insert non violent.

New text written and kept as Amendment 3.

Sean Robinson (Queen's)

Reason is clearly about peaceful protest, we don't want to water it down. We like peaceful protest, seems unnecessary to water down.

Alex Cibulskis (Wadham)

Don't think it waters down. Think just reaffirms that it is about peaceful protests, emphasises times when these need to be used.

James Raynor

Think that clarity trumps watering down.

Thomas Rutland

Don't want to increase word count as have a strict amount we have to stick to at NUS conference.

Jack Matthews (Univ)

Have enough words, believe everyone who knows what we mean, but there are some in the NUS who violent protest isn't abhorrent to.

Oliver Gleeson (Christ Church)

This is about using on peaceful protests, but when violent like Millbank then obviously these tactics could be used.

Martha Mackenzie (St John's)

It is carefully worded and is about protestors. I think this amendment might get lost.

Jack Matthews (Univ)

It won't get lost, there is a thing called compositing it, when all get put together.

Sean Robinson (Queen's)

Motion dealing with peaceful protest, think this amendment is a peaceful change think will get lost when amendments go to NUS and get amalgamated.

Amendment 4 - passes.

Move to vote on Motion

Sean Robinson (Queen's)

As you know this motion is about opposing police tactics on peaceful protests. Police like to characterise as defenders of the peace, but all too often they are violent against people, and leave people with serious injuries. Police tactics leave people in positions were cold hungry and in harms way. NUS need to stand up against this and for peaceful protest.

Motion passes.

8. NUS - Uprisings Motion

Struck

9. NUS - Beyond London Weighting Motion

Passed Nem Con.

10. NUS - Post-Qualifications Applications Motion

Passed Nem Con.

11. NUS - Offender Learning Motion

Council Notes:

1. Prisons are currently not funded to deliver any education higher than level 2 (GCSE level).
2. As part of the Coalition Government's 'Work Programme', offender learning is due to undergo extensive reform.
3. These reforms are motivated by the Government's belief that rehabilitations works best when there is a strong link to meaningful work.
4. The Government has stated that it intends to refocus prison education on 'the skills employers need'.
5. In order to do this, the Government will link offender learning directly to the needs in the labour market on release.
6. A payment-by-results scheme will be implemented in order to achieve this.
7. 'Prime Contractor' private providers will manage a network of twenty to thirty 'Supply Chain Partners' drawn from various organisations including the Third Sector. These organisations will be subcontracted to supply education services inside prisons.
8. Some organisations, notably the University and College Union and Prisoners' Education Trust, have expressed concern over current funding to prisons and predict that standards will only fall if the proposed reforms are implemented.

Council Believes:

1. The provision of vocational and employability skills is important in the rehabilitation of offenders.
2. All forms of learning can have a significant effect on offender rehabilitation.
3. Further education can and should exist for its own sake, regardless of employability outcomes. It should therefore also be understood as meaningful work.
4. As an educational institution, we should support the furthering of educational opportunities wherever possible.
5. The emphasis being placed on vocational learning risks undermining any broader education provision inside prisons.
6. The proposed payment-by-results scheme will incentivise providers to protect profits by favouring those that they can get into steady work most easily.
7. The harsh contracts being offered to Third Sector providers put them under severe financial strain.
8. These contractual arrangements mean that Third Sector providers are pulling out of bidding for the Work Programme as the risk of failure is too great.

Council Resolves:

1. To mandate the NUS delegates to amend the current Further Education Zone proposal at the NUS Conference to include the following resolutions:
2. To oppose the Government's plan to prioritise vocational and employability skills over other areas of prison education.
3. To lobby the Government to provide a broad range of academic courses in prisons.
4. To lobby the Government to drop their proposed reforms or ensure that more difficult rehabilitation cases will not be overlooked.

Proposed: Christopher Barrie (St. Hilda's College)

Seconded: Sean Robinson (The Queen's College)

Chris Barrie (St Hilda's)

The original motion broadly opposed the proposed reform to prison education, to try to cut down reoffending. What will happen is a refocus on employability skills to the detriment of learning a broad spectrum. We added 3 resolutions, to oppose vocational skills, to lobby to provide broad skills. Think leave there and will go into if asked. Like to hear objections or questions if there are them.

Question from St John's
Are government increasing funding?

Chris Barrie (St Hilda's)
What UCU Prisons trust, this is likely to go against a cut of provisions, some provisions teaching positions have been cut. Difficult to assess as cuts aren't easy to identify.

Benson Eguonwu (St John's)
Do you think academic courses more valuable even though there are going to be cuts?

Chris Barrie (St Hilda's)
We don't oppose employability skills, but job market is incredibly competitive so a broad spectrum education important. Studies have shown, that two of most important factors, are enrichment through learning and finding job.

Sam Roberts (Corpus Christi)
Cost of vocational education is lower, so people will get a higher qualification than they are currently likely to receive.

Chris Barrie (St Hilda's)
There are some prisons that combine the two types of education, in a system which has been underfunded and is not providing basic literacy and numeracy skills. Teachers are overworked. Numeracy and literacy skills are low.

Charlotte Baker (St Catherine's)
Dropped proposed reforms?

Chris Barrie (St Hilda's)
There is a second clause to this, if cannot ensure that difficult cases won't be overlooked then think should drop.

Nick Cooper
Don't like idea of incentivising it. You said you want people to get into work from prison, but you don't agree in incentivising it to people who can get them into work more easily.

Chris Barrie (St Hilda's)
UCU has identified it will prioritise private providers. Under current system, this will end up with a system of private providers as cheaper and they will cherry pick easier cases.
One of the proposals we follow up is embedded learning, given basic literacy and numeracy don't oppose. The system of provision itself is opposed to a blind provision of the broad spectrum needed for education, oppose what likely to end up with. Dangers to this, and oppose if become a reality.

Jack Matthews (Univ)
Do you believe that vocational education is as important as broad spectrum?

Chris Barrie (St Hilda's)
Yes and is made clear in motion.
Idea of embedded skills, carpentry will learn numeracy and literacy if don't already have. Some prisons have garages on site, and this is good.

Charlotte Baker (St Catherine's)
People with vocational skills are getting jobs in the current climate, you are saying that we shouldn't prioritise this, all well saying nice learning history, but if looking at will improve lives, then statistical evidence shows that vocational skills are what will do this.

Move to vote

Chris Barrie (St Hilda's)

Direction of motion is not that we oppose vocational skills, nor do we think unimportant when leaving prison. Broad education spectrum is also very important in decreasing reoffended. These reforms don't recognise what the people currently involved in providing this education believe.

Richard

This motion is vague. Just because economy point brought up. This is a false economy. Reoffending is costing £12 billion a year. Effective education reduces this by 25%.

Motion passes.

12. Oxford Radical Forum Motion

Council Notes:

1. That the 2012 Oxford Radical Forum (ORF) will be held from 2-4th March. This will be the fifth anniversary of the forum, run by students, lecturers and local activists based in the city. Students and staff from Oxford University, Oxford Brookes and Ruskin College have all been involved in organising the event.
2. That in previous years there have been talks, debates and seminars on race and racism, war and imperialism, women's liberation, the economic crisis, socialism and ecology, radical aesthetics, as well as direct action workshops, film-screenings and book-fairs.
3. That these themes will be continued this year but in addition the editors of Historical Materialism journal, the progressive Pan-African publisher Pambazuka, the on-line magazine Ceasefire, and the student-run Oxford Left Review will organise panel events. Confirmed speakers for the event include Terry Eagleton, Nadine El-Enany, Gilbert Achcar, Alex Callinicos, as well as activists from Occupy Wall St and the Egyptian Revolution.
4. That the event has always been free for all who wish to attend, so payment for speakers' travel has depended on donations and funding from organisations such as Wadham College SU.
5. That the only other source of funding is a Saturday evening social event, money from which can be used to pay back pro-rata loans.

Council Believes:

1. That ORF provides a space where sophisticated theoretical discussion is combined with a focus on active political engagement, locally and in broader struggles.
2. That ORF encourages critical thought on campus and encourages engagement with the wider community, locally and beyond.
3. That ORF is an ideal space, among other things, for reflection upon campaigns to defend public education in Britain, and to put it into the context of the wider struggle over the future of the public sector and the austerity agenda across Europe.

Council Resolves:

1. To give £300 to ORF for speakers' travel expenses from the Discretionary Fund.
2. To lend £150 to ORF on a pro-rata basis for the same from the Discretionary Fund.
3. To publicise ORF to the members of the SU.

Proposed: *Emma Wilson-Black (Mansfield College)*

Seconded: *Louise Dear (St Antonys)*

Emma Wilson-Black (Mansfield)

Just publicising the Oxford Radical Forum think really important event. Links with Brookes and Ruskin, event it's a political festival looking at whole range of issues. Whole range of meeting, don't have to agree with our opinions encourage everyone to attend. Council resolves to give £300. So far it has just been funded by students from our pockets, we have speakers from Lebanon and New York. We think would be good to pay them. Bigger than ever.

Seb Baird (Corpus Christi)

Rough estimate of attendees?

Emma Wilson-Black (Mansfield)
Some 40/50 depends on speaker.
Opening night, about 100 people registered interest on facebook.

Emma Wilson-Black (Mansfield)
Tried to be as fair as possible, had mass leafleting events so not just Wadham event. Done some on facebook and leafleted in Libraries. Publicised to London and Cambridge.

David Butler
Will you be charging for events?

Emma Wilson-Black (Mansfield)
No event free we have to pay speakers travel.

Nick Evans (Wadham)
Wadham have lent us money to pay them immediately but we have fundraised through event.
The money will be paid back by fundraising event.

Question
How much have made from fundraising and who would get priority Wadham or OUSU?

Nick Evans (Wadham)
Last year asked for £150 back. Had some spare £165 which went forward this year. We now have 25 meetings so will be bigger events, so turnover larger. No intention of not paying back either amount. Reasonable expectation would split the difference.

Question from a student Balliol:
Are you asking for any other loans from any other JCR's ?

Nick Evans (Wadham)
Colleges are under pressure, we are asking federal body to support?

Oliver Gleeson (Christ Church)
Have you asked Oxford Brookes or Ruskin College student union?

Emma Wilson-Black (Mansfield)
Yes we have involved in our campaign, they haven't got from Ruskin. Oxford Brookes got rejected.

Hannah Cusworth (Brasenose)
What would benefit be to OUSU if we gave this money.

Emma Wilson-Black (Mansfield)
Think this is a really important event for all students, would help publicise Oxford University and Student Union.

Charlotte Baker (St Catherine's)
Have you got overall numbers of attendees. Would be useful how many you think will get benefit.

Emma Wilson-Black (Mansfield)
35 talks 50 people at each. We have spoken to lots of different societies to make aware, depends on how publicising.

Jack Matthews (Univ)
Opposed to the motion, don't think this is sustainable, great that you organise, but think that should be funded by the people that go to event. Have to take up on weight and fund themselves. I think that this is quite political even though everyone is very open, and don't think OUSU should directly support. Just because we have money doesn't mean we should necessarily spend. We could spend it all and still be in the red. I want to clarify do Oxford Radical Forum do fly postering, and I know that if I attach posters in

a way that can be taken down. Think that I have seen them being stuck to some of Oxford's ancient buildings don't think that the student union should be associated with this.

Martha Mackenzie (St John's)

As a student union we have £2000 to spend for initiatives important we spend, it doesn't roll over, it's there to be spent.

Jess Pumphrey

Remember you asking LGBTQ campaign permanent. We said we would give you if you could raise funds.

Emma Wilson-Black (Mansfield)

Would contest not sustainable will be fundraising at each event, we have paid back Wadham. We have asked specific societies to bring different people over. We are decent fundraisers and will pay the money back.

Question

First time asked OUSU specifically for money, just asking for a grant this year doesn't mean not sustainable?

Sean Robinson (Queen's)

We shouldn't charge people to attend. Definitely a good use of the discretionary fund. Idea too political, everything we do is political.

Comment from St John's

I think the problem with the political nature of event, we have to be very careful with our funds as would the majority of our students be happy to have money on such a political event.

Emma Wilson-Black (Mansfield)

I do understand the can we fund and is it sustainable. We try to be as broad as possible, we try and involve as many people as possible, is going to be left leaning, but no reason someone from other side can't come along. Great that we've done, and idea Oxford Brookes and Ruskin involved breaks down the elitist nature of Oxford.

Jack Matthews (Univ)

I still don't believe financially sustainable, think shouldn't need grants from other bodies, don't think by rejecting we aren't supporting student initiatives. Don't think students, as a whole would want us to support.

Motion passes.

vi. motions affecting ousu members as members of the student movement

13. Early lease Motion

Motion passes nem con.

Appendix A

Motion: Admissions & Retention (HE Zone)

Conference resolves:

1. To lobby for institutions to consider contextual data such as where a student comes from and their social background, in admissions in addition to grades achieved.
2. To ensure that it is possible to bypass UCAS for those from widening access backgrounds in order for contextual data to be considered.
3. To produce research on the historic impact of grade inflation by institutions on widening access and the effect it may have in the new higher education landscape.
4. To lobby for strict access agreements and penalties that are put into practice for institutions to ensure that within the new funding system access is as equal as possible for all.
5. To lobby for the continuation of Aimhigher to ensure access to higher education.
6. To lobby for improved information, advice and guidance and careers information at all levels of education.
7. To ensure institutions invest in retention activities, including within students' unions to prevent disproportionate drop out levels of those from non-traditional backgrounds.
8. To demand and lobby that the government and institutions invest in stronger marketing of bursaries, in particular, to those from disadvantaged backgrounds.
9. To work alongside the Society and Citizenship zone to support students' unions in sharing best practice on working on widening participation activities in the community.
10. To ensure the introduction of a mobility credit transfer system to allow those from widening access backgrounds to transfer institutions if they wish to during their course of study.
11. To support students' unions in carrying out Equality Impact Assessments and monitoring participation data in representation and activities to ensure that they are widening access.
12. To work alongside the Union Development zone to encourage the creation of funds in students' union to support widening access in representation and activities.
13. To support Sabbatical Officers with an Equality and Diversity or Widening Participation mandate to lobby their Universities to begin a degree attainment investigation.
14. Ensure that where Universities do not collect equal opportunities monitoring data, NUS supports officers to lobby their University to, firstly, begin collecting this data, including on the grounds of sexual orientation and religion/belief.
16. Ensure that the degree attainment investigation looks at the attainment of different diverse groups including on the basis of ethnicity, gender, disability, religion, sexual orientation, nationality, caring responsibilities, religion/belief, age, etc.
17. Ensure that the degree attainment investigation looks at Applications to University, Offers, Acceptances, Retention and Degree classification attained.
18. Support Officers in taking the findings of the degree attainment investigation to the heads of faculties where they should help create strategies to address any differential attainment, which should be put into the planning processes of the Universities. This might include getting better language provision, ensuring effective role models, or having better training for lecturers on using different examples in teaching.
19. Similar Universities should be encouraged to work together to share best practice on degree attainment investigations in order to make sure that differential degree attainment based on a person's characteristics is eradicated.
20. NUS will aim to ensure that London weighting for students studying in such an expensive area of the country is not forgotten under the new funding system

Appendix B

The Oxford Radical Forum is a weekend-long conference that has been held annually for the last four years at Wadham College in Oxford, jointly organised by students and academics at Oxford University, Oxford Brookes and Ruskin College. In previous years there have been talks, debates and seminars on race and racism, war and imperialism, women's liberation, the economic crisis, socialism and ecology, radical aesthetics, as well as direct action workshops, film-screenings and book-fairs. The intention has been to combine sophisticated theoretical discussion with a focus on active political engagement, locally and in broader struggles. A variety of different political traditions on the left have participated. Previous

speakers include Gerry Cohen, Esther Leslie, Chris Harman, Nina Power, Robert Wade, Peter Hallward, Yassamine Mather, Alex Callinicos and Costas Lapavitsas. Many less well-known local activists have given provocative talks and led lively discussions.

Among our initiatives this year, we have invited the editors of Historical Materialism journal, the progressive Pan-African publisher Pambazuka, the on-line magazine Ceasefire, and the student-run Oxford Left Review to organise panel events. At the same time, we see the forum this year as an opportunity to reflect on the movements which many of us are already part of. Within a university setting, that will obviously mean reflection on campaigns to defend public education in Britain. We do not believe this can be separated from the wider struggle over the future of the public sector and the austerity policies which threaten it here and across Europe. We feel this is an opportune moment for a debate on the future of the Eurozone, for example, to put the austerity agenda into continental perspective. We are also planning to convene a panel on the importance of class as a category of sociological analysis and political action. Does the slogan of the Occupy movement indicate a return to class politics? What is to be made of the way Blue Labour is attempting to revive the language of class? Forty years on from the first Women's Liberation Conference at Ruskin College, how have our views of the relationship between class and gender developed? What are the prospects of a revitalised rank-and-file working class movement within the trade unions?

Appendix C

Excerpt from the University Regulations

All members of the University are required to wear academic dress with subfusc clothing (and candidates who are not members of the University are required to wear formal clothing) when attending any university examination, i.e.

Men. A dark suit and socks, black shoes, a white bow tie, and plain white shirt and collar.

Women. A dark skirt or trousers, a white blouse, black tie, black stockings and shoes, and, if desired, a dark coat.

Dress for each sex should be such as might be appropriate for formal occasions.

Candidates serving in HM Forces are permitted to wear uniform together with a gown. (The uniform cap is worn in the street and carried when indoors.)

Appendix D (Amended Version)

Defending the Right to Protest (402) Peaceful protest has a long and noble tradition in the UK. It has played a major part in bringing about social and political changes; including the extension of voting rights, the establishment of the welfare state, and the development of union rights.

However, the last year has seen a sustained attack on our right to protest: Canterbury has banned protest in the city, the student demonstration on 9th November 2011 saw police announce the sanctioning of rubber bullets before the event, and there was a heavy police presence on the march; with officers employing the intimidating 'total policing' approach. In previous demonstrations, police have used kettling and horse-charging tactics against students.

On our own campuses, the right to protest is being threatened. Local action, occupations and marches have consistently been threatened with police intervention. On certain campuses, basic human rights such as access to water have been denied to protesters.

These tactics point to a worrying trend which has seen a crackdown on protest. We must campaign to defend the right to protest, which is a universal right and the cornerstone of a democratic society.

Conference Believes:

1. That the right to protest is a universal right and should be defended and that any attack on the right to protest is an attack on democratic values.

2. That peaceful protest has played a major part in bringing about many important social and political changes in the UK.
3. That there is a difference between civil disobedience and criminality.
4. That student protest and action in November 2010 and November 2011 has exemplified a passionate engagement with political life in the UK.
5. That the police presence on 9 November 2011 was disproportionate.
6. That the decision by Scotland Yard to announce before the student march on 9 November that rubber bullets had been sanctioned to use on students was intimidating and ill-advised.
7. That before 9 November march, police showed a clear political agenda to stop attendance by confirming use of rubber bullets, and highlighting the cost of policing.
8. That 'violent policing' tactics do not sit well with notions of freedom to protest and can be intimidating and unnecessary.
9. That the use of kettling, horse charging and rubber bullets on peaceful protestors is fundamentally wrong.
10. That students on their own campuses should be able to protest peacefully without fear of inappropriate interventions.
11. That strengthening links and building solidarity between students and lecturers and with the UCU and other trade unions is essential to defending our right to protest.
12. That the police should protect the rights of the people, not the sensibilities of the government.

Conference Resolves:

1. To campaign for more limited and more appropriate policing at demonstrations.
3. To openly condemn and campaign against existing violent police tactics at non-violent demonstrations including: kettling, horse charging and batoning of protesters.
4. To actively oppose the threat or use of new tactics including: rubber bullets and water cannons.
5. To continue to work with Liberty, Defend the Right to Protest and other relevant campaigning organisations and student groups to defend the right to protest.

Appendix E

Motion: Uprisings

Struck

Appendix F

Motion: Trade unionisation internationally

Struck