

Council Minutes

7th week Hilary Term 2013

7th Week Council held on Wednesday 27th February 2013 following Termly Council in St Edmund Hall (Jarvis Doctorow Hall).

If you have any questions about OUSU Council, please contact David Railton, the Chair, at chair@ousu.org

- a. Minutes of the Previous Meeting
- b. Matters Arising from the Minutes
 - NUS Conference Proposal- Boycott, divestment and sanctions
- c. Ratifications in Council
- d. Elections in Council
 - 2 Positions for Rules Committee
 - 1 Positions for JS(EC)SM
 - 1 Positions for Scrutiny Committee
 - 4 positions for Complaints Committee
 - 3 positions for Internal Affairs
- 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
- m. Motions Authorising Capital Expenditure
 1. Motion to Fund Guest Place at Brook Award Dinner
- n. Other Motions
 2. NUS Conference Debate - Proportion of female delegates
 3. NUS Conference Proposal - Tax avoidance
 4. NUS Conference Proposal - Sex and relationship education
 5. NUS Conference Proposal - Child poverty
 6. NUS Conference Proposal - Reinstate the PSW visa route
 7. NUS Conference Proposal - Targets in campaign for integrated access agreements
 8. Same sex marriage
- o. Any Other Business

a. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes passed

b. Matters Arising from the Minutes

BOYCOTT, DIVESTMENT AND SANCTIONS

OUSU COUNCIL NOTES

1. That OUSU is affiliated to the National Union of Students.
2. That the policy of the National Union of Students is set in its annual Conference, which will occur in April 2013.

3. That 5 delegates to the NUS Conference were elected by and from the students of Oxford during the elections in Michaelmas Term 2012 (in addition to the current President and the President-elect who are automatically delegates under Standing Orders Sch 1 M 2.1)
4. That the draft agenda for the NUS Conference is available at www.nusconnect.org.uk/pageassets/conference/about/NC2013_CD5a_Zoneproposals.pdf
5. That, once a final agenda is compiled in response to amendments and new motions from the NUS' s constituent student unions, OUSU' s 7 NUS delegates will be called on to vote at the NUS Conference on the various motions proposed therein.

OUSU COUNCIL RESOLVES

1. To introduce the following motion:

“Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions

Conference believes

1. Since 1948 hundreds of UN resolutions have condemned the government of Israel's colonial and discriminatory policies as illegal.

2. On the 31st January 2013 the UN Human Right's Council said the government of Israel was in violation of article 49 of the fourth Geneva Convention, which forbids the transfer of civilian populations to occupied territory.

3. The Israeli government practices a policy of collective punishment and killing against the people of Gaza. This has included an illegal siege on Gaza in November 2012 which created a devastating humanitarian crisis for the 1.5 million people trapped there. Contrary to media reports this is not a proportionate response of self-defence.

4. Palestine is also responsible for violence and the killing of innocent civilians.

Conference further believes

1. All forms of international intervention and peace-making have until now failed to convince or force Israel to comply with humanitarian law, to respect fundamental human rights and to end its occupation and oppression of the people of Palestine.

2. We have a moral responsibility to fight injustice.

3. Palestinian civil society, including organisations in Gaza, has called for a campaign of boycotts, divestment and sanctions (BDS) against Israel until it complies with international law. Compliance is understood as follows: 1) Ending its occupation and colonization of all Arab lands and dismantling the Wall 2) Recognizing the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality; and 3) Respecting, protecting and promoting the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in UN resolution 194. More information about this movement is available here: <http://www.bdsmovement.net/call>

4. These are non-violent punitive measures.

5. Supporters of the campaign include Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the UK Green Party and filmmaker Ken Loach, and motions in support of BDS initiatives have been passed at universities across the UK, the National Union of Students, the University of London Union (ULU) and by the Trades Union Congress.

Conference resolves

1. Condemn violence and successive breaches of international law by both Israel and

Palestine

2. *Join the global movement for Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) against Israel until it ends the occupation and complies with international law.*

3. *Conduct Research into Higher Education institutions' contacts, relations, investments and commercial relationships that may be implicated in violating Palestinian human rights as stated by the BDS movement."*

Proposed: *Emily Cousens (Wadham College)*

Seconded: *Sarah Pine (Wadham)*

Chair: Advises that Council will just be voting on this as the discussion took place in the previous meeting.

Favour: 10
Against: 69
Abstain: 15

Motion falls.

d. Elections in Council

The following position was elected in OUSU Council of 7th week

1 position for the Joint Subcommittee of the Education Committee with Student Members - A University committee that reviews the democratic procedures of the Student Union, such as our elections and budget. For more information email motions@ousu.org

Jack Matthews (Univ)

Explains the Committee and it's function

No hust is required

Nick Cooper is elected

e. Reports from the Sabbatical Officers

VP Graduates - Chris Gray

International Society on Sunday at Exam Schools

VP Women - Suzanne Holsomback

International Women's Day large celebration paired with Oxfam covering lots of issues, all day and at night there will be music.

VP Charities & Community - Sarah Santhosham

Most of you will hopefully have seen the graph on how much colleges pay their scouts. Tomorrow we have a living wage campaign meeting at OUSU so if you care about the people that clean your room. The University is getting rid of their lowest pay grades so it is positive news.

VP Welfare & Equal Opportunities - Katie Colliver

Please complete the SAS survey, even if you haven't engaged with it. If you could still provide me with your thoughts that would be great.

President - David Townsend

Information drive and attempts to get more funding for OUSU. Would like to thank common room presidents who have written to the VC about getting more funding for OUSU and the gap between our funding and other

VP Access & Academics - David Messling

Please nominate your tutors or lectures at the teaching awards website good opportunity to recognize good teaching. We are looking at using these to promote best practice and better teaching, encourage people to do this.

No questions.

No reports from the executive

Chair advises why he overruled an Emergency Motion on George Galloway's Visit to Oxford
Emergency motion overruled, as the events to which it referred did not substantially occur after the deadline for Council.

l. Motions Authorising Capital Expenditure

2. PROPORTION OF FEMALE DELEGATES

Opposition

3. TAX AVOIDANCE

Opposition

4. SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION

Passes Nem Con

5. CHILD POVERTY

Passes Nem Con

6. REINSTATE THE PSW VISA ROUTE

Passes Nem Con

7. TARGETS IN CAMPAIGN FOR INTEGRATED ACCESS AGREEMENTS

Passes Nem Con

8. SAME SEX MARRIAGE

Opposition

m. Motions Authorising Capital Expenditure

1. MOTION TO FUND GUEST PLACE AT BROOK AWARD DINNER

Council NOTES:

1. That the OUSU Sexual Consent Workshops have been shortlisted as a finalist in the Brook UK Adult Sexual Health Project of the year.
2. That the Brook Award Ceremony is on 14 March in London.
3. That Brook will fund one place, but ask that £65 be paid for a second guest place.
4. That Yuan Yang, Vice President (Women) 2011-2012, created and piloted the workshops in 2011.
5. That Suzanne Holsomback, Vice President (Women) 2013-2013, restructured and rewrote the material and relaunched the consent workshops with great success in 2012 and continues facilitating them.

Council BELIEVES:

1. That Yuan and Suzanne have both worked diligently on creating a useful consent programme that changes our society's view on sexual consent and sexual abuse.
2. That the recognition and support from a national charity is helpful in getting the Colleges to integrate consent workshops into their orientation and the University to strengthen support services.

Council RESOLVES:

1. To support Suzanne and Yuan by using £80 of the discretionary fund to pay for Yuan Yang's guest place and her travel to and from the event.

Proposed: *Suzanne Holsomback (Green Templeton College)*

Seconded: *Sarah Santhosham (Corpus Christi College)*

Suzanne Holsomback (GTC)

Last year my predecessor began sexual consent workshops I restructured and re-launched and we have been shortlisted for the Brook Awards a great way get the University to talk about and say this is a valid. I am not the only person with fingerprints on it and I would like to honour her work on this. We don't have a lot of money in the budget but I would like Council to approve. £80, which would cover attendance and train fare. A great way to get OUSU and OxStu some good publicity. Very excited.

No opposition but still need vote.

Clear majority for, so motion passes.

n. Other Motions

[Motion 2 is a DEBATE on policy for the NUS Conference]

2. PROPORTION OF FEMALE DELEGATES

OUSU COUNCIL NOTES

1. That OUSU is affiliated to the National Union of Students.
2. That the policy of the National Union of Students is set in its annual Conference, which will occur in April 2013.
3. That 5 delegates to the NUS Conference were elected by and from the students of Oxford during the elections in Michaelmas Term 2012 (in addition to the current President and the President-elect who are automatically delegates under Standing Orders Sch 1 M 2.1)
4. That the draft agenda for the NUS Conference is available at www.nusconnect.org.uk/pageassets/conference/about/NC2013_CD5a_Zoneproposals.pdf
5. That, once a final agenda is compiled in response to amendments and new motions from the NUS' s constituent student unions, OUSU' s 7 NUS delegates will be called on to vote at the NUS Conference on the various motions proposed therein.

OUSU COUNCIL RESOLVES

1. To debate the following component of the draft agenda, for an amount of time deemed appropriate by the Chair, so as to help inform NUS delegates' views on the matter:

Motion 703 (The size, structure and rules governing of [sic] NUS Conference),
Conference resolves 8:

Insert rule 333 [into the NUS Rules] "All delegations to National Conference must include at least 50% women, rounded down. Where a union is only entitled to send one delegate and this not delegate is not a woman, the union's free observer place must be taken by a woman"

Proposed: *David J Townsend (St John's College)*

Seconded: *Eleanor Davidson (New College)*

David J Townsend (St John's)

Background is institution called NUS an umbrella group that is a union for all students; they have a conference in April. They have feeder committees, which come up with ideas. Every union should send a 50% proportion of women. Oxford has 7, two ex office. 5 who are elected as NUS delegates. WE would have to change our rules. At least 3 must be women if the NUS changes this. Ellie is one of the NUS delegates thought it would be useful to have a discussion as the vote as to whether this passes takes place at NUS Conference.

SFQ's

Kate Roll (GTC)

Is there a history of having a disproportionate representation for a number of things?

David J Townsend (St John's)

Yes ethnicity, women.

Katie Colliver (Univ)

5, 50% of this isn't it two?

David J Townsend (St John's)

2 we are unable to gender limit as the President is whoever is, and Sab Elect who is whoever they are. But the other 5 we could say 2 men and 3 only.

16mins for debate advised by Chair

Jonathan Metzger (Worcester)

Would this require a change in the electoral system? Would it require a male and female election?

David J Townsend (St John's)

Yes it would require. As a matter of eligibility the top 3 female candidates would have to be picked.

Henry Watson (Magdalen)

Does this mean we could have 7 women?

David J Townsend (St John's)

Yes

If President and President Elect women would you have all women.

David J Townsend (St John's)

What is likely to happen, we would just say look at 5 and minimum 3 of them.

Alex Cibulskis

Would my vote pick out 3 women without separating the ballot?

David J Townsend (St John's)

Operational would look at if occurred.

Motion to have debate passed.

Suzanne Holsomback (GTC)

I don't like this motion, don't think helpful. We still have problems, NUS it dealing with top down but this needs to be done at grass roots and why women are not running for these positions. This is a way to try and fix it, which doesn't fix it. I think the thing is to look hard at our structures what are barriers, are we encouraging women to run. It looks good but isn't going to help. Insulting and patronising. We want people to represent us passionately not just you are a women you will do.

Emily Cousens (Wadham)

Quite exciting, think women don't run because women don't see women in these positions. Women see it as not normative to go to into this position. This will speed up progress. Think patronising to say won't get good quality women to run for these.

Tom Rutland (Jesus)

Instinctively in support as the gender make up is not 50/50 important to have this split on gender and welfare issues. Regarding voting problems, we could run as a separate election. Open place and women's place which would help transfer process.

Jack Matthews (Univ)

There is a problem but this motion aren't solving problem just a sticking plaster, should elect people on policy as we will then elect on this. Don't mind if we send seven women or seven men or seven undefined gender. At last conference 40% women. If we at Oxford want to do this then we can make this decision but we don't force common rooms to who can attend and who cant should bring a motion saying common rooms should send 50% to this council. Electorally will be problem this will cause real issues at other unions.

Jonathan Metzger (Worcester)

Positive discrimination has its place but this isn't here. Huge disadvantages to this. Creates division and a battle of the sexes. Given that situation is not ideal but not really bad don't think should hamstring rules as there is no place for nuance. At border lines which may prove unsatisfactory. Doesn't tackle root issue, positive discrimination is too blunt an instrument to be used in this case.

Harry Burt (Trinity)

Some senses the motion to be considered males NUS delegates are incapable of representing female members of the su and would hope this wasn't the case. Would hope all delegates could consult a

Ivan

This discussion has dragged on since 60's this will be going on forever need to legislate.

Rosie Carpenter (Somerville)

Usually used in positions where they are appointed. Trying to impose on democratic vote flies in the face of democracy. If wanted to challenge number of women representatives, allow democracy to work.

Theo Jones

Think ridiculous and unworkable and don't like the idea of positive discrimination and want position placed on record.

David Messling (St John's)

Do we know OUSU's figures? We ourselves don't have much imbalance. Should be at

Tulalah.

There are ways to do if want to do. As a scientist a lot of selection is self-selection no positive role models. Doesn't have to be forever.

Jack Matthews (Univ)

NUS and 5 VP's of these team 2 men and 4 women there are role models. Want to see women running but need to encourage them to run not force people to have balanced delegations.

Tom Rutland (Jesus)

Problem long running. Representation of delegates won't know how they are elected so won't think less of anyone.

Straw Poll to give information to NUS delegates and the way they should vote.

David Messling (St John's)

When delegates attend will they take this into consideration.

David J Townsend (St John's)

Don't want to bind our delegates but we do want them to have knowledge of what Oxford students think.

In favour 17
Against 44
Abstentions 11

[Motions 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 are PROPOSALS on policy for the NUS Conference]

3. TAX AVOIDANCE

OUSU COUNCIL NOTES

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2. That the policy of the National Union of Students is set in its annual Conference, which will occur in April 2013.
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OUSU COUNCIL RESOLVES

1. To submit the following amendment for inclusion in the agenda for the NUS Conference 2013:

For Motion 404 (Tax Avoidance), add to Conference resolves:

“To work with relevant organisations to shift the media focus from the proportionately low cost of benefit fraud to the scandalous expense of tax avoidance and the impact it has on public services including education.”

Proposed: Aled Jones (Corpus Christi College)
Seconded: Helena Dollimore (St Hilda's College)

Amendment to a proposal being brought to NUS Conference

Aled Jones (Corpus Christi)

In the various sections of the motion, talked about tax avoidance and benefit fraud. The NUS will work with organisations from cost of tax fraud to cost of benefit fraud.

SFQ's

Jack Matthews (Univ)

If this passes at conference will you follow it up and hold them to account.

Aled Jones (Corpus Christi)

Yes would expect them to follow through.

Jonathan Metzer (Worcester)

Is this about tax avoidance or tax fraud?

Question:

What exactly does work with relevant orgs mean.

Aled Jones (Corpus Christi)

NUS works with a lot of pressure groups we would be looking for them to work with them. TO publicise the difference between ta

Harry Burt (Trinity)

The existing motion is about tax avoidance and then benefits fraud.

Should we allow this amendment to motion

Arianna Tassinari

Is there a word limit, are we within the word limit, If this takes away from our word count.

David J Townsend (St John's)

We are nowhere near our word limit even if pass all.

Opposition to Motion

Henry Watson

Want to say that the use of the term tax avoidance we may want to use. All tax avoidance means. Thinks tax evasion should be inserted rather than tax avoidance as not talking about people having an ISA or small businesses making sure that they stay afloat. Think this is targeted at Amazon. Rather than Oxford or individuals or small businesses.

Nick Cooper (St John's)

Broadly in support, but one point not sure quite how much effect NUS will have on Daily Mail and Daily Express think their power is minimal. Point about Oxford relevant. Tax avoidance in contrary to spirit of government.

Anya Metzger

Even if there is fluidity with terminology, think clear that it is targeted at organisations not individuals.

Tulalah

The NUS could spend their time better on things that are more relevant to students. Don't think helps students.

Henry Watson

If use tax avoidance should qualify or if not use a different word to say clearly what we mean.

Aled Jones (Corpus Christi)

This is the motion.

In favour 38

Against 13

Abstentions 20

Motion passes

[Motions 4, 5, 6 and 7 are PROPOSALS on policy for the NUS Conference]

4. SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION

OUSU COUNCIL NOTES

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OUSU COUNCIL RESOLVES

- I. To submit the following motion for inclusion in the agenda for the NUS Conference 2013:

“Conference believes

1. That comprehensive Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) is more important than ever with high levels of domestic and sexual violence in Britain, with two women a week being killed by a former or current male partner and one in three women experiencing sexual violence in their lifetime, and many men also being victims of domestic abuse.

1. That current SRE in schools is wholly inadequate, with a quarter of pupils receiving none, and this problem is compounded by government cuts to citizenship and PSHE education funding.

2. That reports of ideologically-driven organisations delivering inaccurate presentations in schools are worrying, and that all SRE education should be impartial and promote tolerance of all sexualities.

Conference further believes

1. That current Government policy on SRE is not sufficient, with no requirement upon schools to provide SRE in the curriculum. The problem is often exacerbated in free schools and academies which receive even greater freedom on what to teach.

2. That it should be compulsory for schools to provide SRE which emphasises a zero-tolerance approach to violence and abuse in relationships, as well as the need for safe sex and SRE that covers all types of relationships including same sex relationships.

Conference resolves

1. To lobby political parties and MPs to support compulsory comprehensive SRE in schools, and oppose cuts to SRE and PSHE funding

2. To support the ongoing campaign by MPs to pass legislation to make SRE education compulsory in schools, and pressure the Government to implement the measure in full should it pass Parliament”

Proposed: *Helena Dollimore (St Hilda’s College)*

Seconded: *Aled Jones (Corpus Christi College)*

Passes nem con.

5. CHILD POVERTY

OUSU COUNCIL NOTES

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OUSU COUNCIL RESOLVES

1. To submit the following amendment for inclusion in the agenda for the NUS Conference 2013:

For Motion 405 (Child Poverty), add to conference believes:

** "Child poverty reduced dramatically between 1998/9-2010/12 when 1.1 million children were lifted out of poverty. This reduction is credited in large part to measures that increased the levels of lone parents working, as well as real and often significant increases in the level of benefits paid to families with children.*

** Under current government policies, child poverty is projected to rise from 2012/13 with an expected 300,000 more children living in poverty by 2015/16. This upward trend is expected to continue with 4.2 million children projected to be living in poverty by 2020.*

** That the current government signed up to the Child Poverty Act 2010, which aimed to abolish child poverty by 2020."*

Add to conference further believes:

** "Child poverty imposes costs on broader society - estimated to be at least £25 billion a year. Governments forgo prospective revenues as well as commit themselves to providing services in the future if they fail to address child poverty in the here and now."*

Add to Conference resolves:

** "To condemn the current government for reversing the reduction in Child Poverty achieved by the last government and its failure to comply by the Child Poverty Act 2010."*

Proposed: Emily Cousens (Wadham College)

Seconded: Eleanor Davidson (New College)

6. REINSTATE THE PSW VISA ROUTE

OUSU Council NOTES:

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5. That OUSU can make amendments to this draft agenda, or submit new motions, before 1 March 2013.

OUSU Council now therefore RESOLVES:

1. To submit the following amendment for inclusion in the agenda for the NUS Conference 2013:

For Motion 501 (Reinventing the Study Leaver Employment Landscape), add to Conference believes:

That both international student welfare and UK economy suffer dearly under the stringent student visa policies of the coalition government, and these policies have led to a brain drain of UK-educated talents.

Add to conference further believes:

There is a serious backlash from the student community, including prospective students, regarding the policies and behaviour towards international students by the government.

Add to conference resolves:

That NUS should lobby the government to reinstate the Post Study Work (PSW) visa route immediately for international student leavers to give them a fair opportunity.

Proposed: Yulin Zhang (Wolfson College)

Seconded: David Townsend (St John's College)

Passes nem con.

7. TARGETS IN CAMPAIGN FOR INTEGRATED ACCESS AGREEMENTS

OUSU Council NOTES:

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OUSU Council now therefore RESOLVES:

1. To submit the following amendment for inclusion in the agenda for the NUS Conference 2013:

For Motion 301 (The public value of education), amend Conference resolves 4 to read:

Work with students' unions to help them campaign on the inclusion of meaningful evidence-based targets in access agreements, that take into account the full diversity of students' needs and experiences. This should include specific targets

for mature, disabled, BME, international, LGBT and other specific student groups' access and success.

Proposed: *Yulin Zhang (Wolfson College)*

Seconded: *David Messling (St John's College)*

Passes nem con.

[Motion 8 has NOTHING TO DO with the NUS Conference]

8. SAME SEX MARRIAGE

OUSU COUNCIL NOTES

1. The second reading of the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Bill was passed in the House of Commons on Tuesday with 400 MPs voting in favour and 175 against.
2. Oxford East MP Andrew Smith voted for the proposals, while Oxford West and Abingdon MP Nicola Blackwood did not vote at all.
3. The passing of the second reading is only one stage in a long process to bringing the bill into law.

OUSU COUNCIL BELIEVES

1. Equal marriage for same-sex couples is a fundamental right and it is right of the government to try to introduce it into law.
2. Because the bill will not force any religious institution into conducting a same-sex marriage, the bill will not restrict the freedom of anyone, only serving to increase the freedoms of many people in the UK including many people here at Oxford, and as such, MPs should support the bill.

OUSU COUNCIL RESOLVES

1. Declare its public support for equal marriage and for the principles of the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Bill.
2. Thank Andrew Smith MP for his support, and encourage both him and Nicola Blackwood MP to support the proposals at all further stages.

Proposed: *Katherine Stagg (Christ Church College)*

Seconded: *Christopher Pike (St Edmund Hall)*

Katherine Stagg (Christ Church)

Although passed through House of Commons, think important organisations declare their support hopefully. Was more relevant a few weeks ago.

Rebekka Hammelsbeck

Who will thank our MP's?

Katherine Stagg (Christ Church)

I will do as part of my role.

Question:

Can we express our disappointment?

Katherine Stagg (Christ Church)

Yes will do.

David Messling (St John's)

Many JCR's have policy. I oppose as it defines marriage in a different way. There is something about complementary nature of men and women. Personally oppose not because homophobic. Think complementarity is important for raising a family.

In favour 64
2 against
5 abstentions

Motion passes.