

Council Minutes

7th week Michaelmas Term 2013

7th Week Council took place at 5.30pm on Wednesday 16th October 2013 at T. S. Eliot Lecture Theatre, Merton.

- 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. Passage of Motions Nem Con
 - 1. University of Oxford Environmental Sustainability Policy
- i. Motions of No Confidence or Censure
- j. Emergency Motions
 - 1. Electoral Review Group
- k. Other Motions
 - 1. Selecting RAG Charities
- l. Any Other Business

a. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

None.

b. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None.

c. Ratifications in Council

None.

d. Elections in Council

- 2 Positions for Steering Committee - no nominations.
- 1 Position for Budget Sub Committee - no nominations.
- 2 Positions for the Rules Committee - Anna Bazley was elected.
- 5 Positions for Complaints Committee - Nick Cooper and Charlie Baker were elected.

e. Reports from the Sabbatical Officers

As per Termly Council.

f. Reports from the Executive Officers who wish to make reports

Anya Metzger (Wadham) - meeting in 5th week re: library hours. Difficult to change because Bodleian libraries have had cut every year in real terms but they're keen to improve facilities. Met with head of Bodleian Libraries and heads of Social Sciences/Humanities. Spoke about issues and what can be done in non monetary sense. Included shifting hours involved; do people want weekend/evenings? A lot of books but not always online. Discussing having requests being made to libraries open at weekend if your library is closed. Cross-campus polling to come. Any strong or weak feelings, contact Rachel.

g. Questions to Members of the Executive

Harry Burt (Trinity) - thanks to all involved in elections, much hard work. Question for Tom - in 1st week, Harry asked about hiring of Communications Officer.

Tom Rutland - job advert out and seeking applications. 1st week of New Year for interviews, and here in time for term.

h. Passage of Motions Nem Con

1) University of Oxford Environmental Sustainability Policy

OUSU Council Notes:

1. That University of Oxford has recently produced a new environmental sustainability policy (Appendix 1)
2. That this policy was produced in consultation with the previous Vice-President (Charities and Community) and has also been discussed with the current Vice-President (Charities and Community)

OUSU Council Believes:

1. That this document contains policy areas that are worth supporting.

OUSU Council Resolves:

1. To formally support the Environmental Sustainability Policy
2. To mandate the Vice-President (Charities and Community) to write to the Head of Environmental Sustainability informing her that OUSU Council supports this policy.

Proposed: Daniel Tomlinson (University)

Seconded: Tom Rutland (Jesus)

i. Motions of No Confidence or Censure

None.

j. Emergency Motions

1) Electoral Review Group

OUSU Council Notes:

1. The statutory elections in 6th Week.
2. That in previous years, Electoral Review Groups have been established to investigate concerns relating to the elections.

OUSU Council Believes:

1. That a review of the Election Regulations is desirable.

OUSU Council Resolves:

1. To create, with immediate effect, an Electoral Review Group, to review the Election Regulations, and all practices associated with the elections.
2. To appoint to the Electoral Review Group;
 - a. The current Returning Officer
 - b. The current Deputy Returning Officers
 - c. The current President
3. To appoint to the Electoral Review Group any persons in the following categories who express interest in being part of the Group:
 - a. The candidates for Sabbatical Office
 - b. The Principal Agents of the slates and candidates
 - c. The Student Trustees-elect
 - d. Candidates who did not run in the past election as part of a slate
4. To mandate the Electoral Review Group to advertise for submissions from any interested member of OUSU and to consider any that are received.
5. To mandate the Electoral Review Group to issue a report to this Council at its meeting in 5th Week of Hilary Term 2014, suggesting such changes as it considers necessary or desirable. This report must include as an appendix a summary of all submissions received before Friday of 2nd Week of Hilary Term 2014.

Proposed: Jack J. Matthews (University College)

Seconded: James Blythe (Brasenose College)

Jack- we had an election. Some involved may know there were a few issues about election governance. Discussed this 18 months ago in Council, and I opposed motion because I felt they weren't ready. Now found problems. Trying to tell story without sounding like self-righteous git. Electoral Review Group has same composition as last two years. What we need differently is when submissions go to Council, please engage, read and spot mistakes to avoid mistakes of last time. When we moved to Election Regulations, we lost rule about cost of free items. Please check you're happy with it.

Sarah Pine (Wadham) - as previous member, why was President chosen as one Sabb member?

Jack - merely used system from before because it worked. Not more specific. I know there are many people who want to be on Group but aren't, but everyone can raise submissions. People such as Sabbs have many avenues to feed into this, and concerned about group getting large. Alex Bartram (Balliol) - like idea but problem you raise doesn't seem like enough to have whole review. Is there more of a systematic problem?

Jack - great thing about group. Submissions requested, and not necessarily from people in this room.

Tom Rutland (Jesus) - to confirm this will go to all students and will go back to Council. Doesn't just look at rules of election but also how easy it was to run, easy to vote etc. Publicity etc.

AMENDMENT

To replace Council Resolves 2c. with "at least one of the current Sabbatical officers"

Proposed: Sarah Pine (Wadham)

Seconded: Aylon Cohen (St Antony's)

Sarah Pine (Wadham) - really good reasons. Tom is wonderful but we are all equal. Have all put in a lot of time with elections, so shouldn't automatically be the President.

Rob Jeffrey (Merton) Is the Sabbatical team going to choose?

Sarah - Sure - happy either way. Tom would be competent.

Taken as friendly.

Anya Metzger (Wadham) - clarification. Will this yield policy, discussion?

Jack - up for discussion. Come back to Council for discussion, if done as early as possible. Had 45 minute discussion in the past. Will have to at some point draft the Regulation changes; trickier then because we want amendments in before they go to Council, so it can go to legal trustee. There will be many opportunities to chip in, and many drafts.

Anya - most toxic part was the way student press handled this. I wondered whether having the editors of the papers on the committee would help?

Jack - I am more than happy to fulfil Hackdaq's prophecy of going Leveson on the press. Have been boiling for a fight, but will keep a level head. Student media is close to my heart and will bring discussion to Council on this matter next term.

Motion passed - 52-0-0

k. Other Motions

1) Selecting RAG Charities

OUSU Council Notes:

1. The selection process of RAG charities is to take place next term
2. In the past, four charities are selected annually of which two are student run, one is local and one national or international
3. Nominations are open to all members of OUSU
4. Successful charities are supported from the start of Trinity term of the year of their election to the end of the following Hilary term
5. That for the past three years cross-campus ballots have taken place in order to choose the RAG charities and that this will continue in line with the regulations set out in Annexe B of Appendix 2, as was agreed at 1st Week Council in Hilary Term 2013.
6. RAG often receives scores of nominations
7. A shortlist of these nominations is compiled by the Vice-President (Charities & Community) and RAG President from which voters may chose.
8. That Giving What We Can Oxford has produced, at the request of the Vice-President (Charities and Community), a number of recommendations as to how this shortlisting process can be improved.
9. That these recommendations are supported by the RAG Executive and the RAG Committee
10. That the Vice-President (Charities and Community) has drawn up new regulations (Appendix 2 Annexe A) for shortlisting RAG's charities in line with these recommendations and that these have been agreed by the RAG Executive.
11. That the most significant proposal is to change the balance of charities that RAG raises money for so that one is student run, one is local and two are national or international.

OUSU Council Believes:

1. That the new regulations strike an appropriate balance between Oxford RAG's desire to maintain strong links with the local community and with student charitable pursuits and the importance of making sure that our giving is effective.

OUSU Council Resolves:

1. To hold a cross campus ballot for the 2014-15 RAG charities using the Single Transferable Vote system
2. To mandate the Returning Officer to administer the selection process and ballot on behalf of RAG
3. To adopt the shortlisting criteria set out in Appendix 2 Annexe A
4. To continue to use the selection procedure set out in Appendix 2 Annexe B
5. To mandate the RAG executive to adhere to the results of the cross campus ballot in selecting the 2014-15 charities
6. To mandate the RAG executive to publicise nominations and the ballot
7. To mandate the VP (Charities & Community) to produce an annual report upon the conclusion of the RAG charity selection process, explaining why particular charities were or were not shortlisted
8. To apply Appendix 2 Annexes A and B to all future RAG charity selections unless and until Council resolves otherwise.

Proposed: Daniel Tomlinson (University)

Seconded: Jack Owen (Lincoln)

Dan - RAG (Raise and Give) selects four charities by cross campus vote. Previously two student run, one local, one national/international. Some parts of previous charity rules that were odd e.g. any charity that spends more than 30% on admin. RAG President and I sit down and look at

this. However Giving What We Can have said this is an ineffective way to decide. Will instead ask Giving What We Can to produce report on how to conduct it instead, and this is in motion. Final mention - can nominate charities next term by Thursday 4th week, and will be shortlisted by me and RAG President.

Henry Chong (Harris Manchester): What was change of balance?

Dan - This is what Giving What We Can suggested; most effective are national/international.

Charlie Baker (St Catz): In Appendix 2, Annexe A - what is meant by “being favoured?”

DT - In RAG’s interest to find charities who are helpful to us. Whole point of this is that there are many different criteria, and this is only one. Imagine two Oxford Food Banks and only one said they have innovative ways to work with students and other doesn’t. This is another reason why we changed the balance.

Alex Bartram (Balliol): lots of talk in Appendix of cost-effectiveness. What data will you use?

DT - Not fully thought through yet - this is a work in progress. The way we narrow down charities will be public; decisions will be made available.

No opposition 52-0-0

I. Any Other Business

Jack Matthews (Univ)- round of applause for Chair and for outgoing Part Time Exec.

Appendix 1 – University of Oxford Environmental Sustainability Policy

University of Oxford Environmental Sustainability Policy

The University of Oxford has over 22,000 students. The University's functional estate covers 600,000 m² and includes 220 departments distributed across 240 buildings. The Sustainability Steering Group is responsible for leading the sustainability strategy, while day-to-day sustainability initiatives are managed by the Environmental Sustainability Team.

Through its activities and actions the University recognises its impacts on the environment, locally, nationally and globally. The University will work to enhance its positive impact and reduce its negative impacts. The University of Oxford has made a commitment within the University Strategy 2013 – 2018 to continue to deliver its sustainable targets. These targets will be met through continual improvement.

The University will also meet legislation and other requirements to which the University subscribes, and where practicable strive for best practice.

The University has identified ten key areas through which environmental sustainability shall be approached. These are:

- **Energy and carbon management**- by encouraging energy efficient practices and investing in its estate where this will facilitate reduced carbon emissions.
- **Emissions and discharge**- by putting in place appropriate controls to prevent pollution and work to reduce where practicable emissions and discharges to air, land and water.
- **Waste and material resources** – by encouraging preventing and reducing waste risings and reuse of resources prior to recycling and disposal.
- **Water**- by reducing water consumption through water efficient practices and technologies.
- **Education, research and knowledge transfer**- by increasing awareness and understanding of environmental sustainability within staff and students; and serving society by contributing and promoting the University's research and knowledge transfer on sustainability.
- **Sustainable travel** –by reducing emissions from work-related travel and University-owned vehicles.
- **Sustainable buildings** – by making full use of available space and designing and refurbishing buildings in line with the University's Sustainable Building Philosophy.
- **Biodiversity** – by enhancing wherever possible wildlife habitat on University-owned land and supporting wider initiatives as appropriate.
- **Sustainable purchasing** – by encouraging and embedding sustainable and life-cycle considerations into purchasing decision.
- **Community**- is embedded within the community of Oxford, active within schools, and working closely with businesses, and through its students, supporting an extensive volunteering programme.

The University will set clear environmental objectives and targets reviewed annually by the Sustainability Steering Group, and supported by long-term strategies and plans. The University will also monitor, measure, and communicate performance to stakeholders as appropriate. To assist in delivering the University's strategy an environmental management system is being established and rolled out over the functional estate.

This policy covers the University of Oxford's functional estate and is endorsed by Council the University's executive governing body, and Oxford University Student Union (**TBC**). The policy will be made available to all students, staff working for or on behalf of the University and will be made publicly available. The policy will be reviewed annually by the Sustainability Steering Group and as a minimum every five years by Council.

Appendix 2 – Selecting RAG Charities

Annexe A: Proposed Criteria for Shortlisting RAG Charities

1. Only Charities registered in the United Kingdom with UK bank accounts will be selected.
2. A maximum of five student-run charities will be shortlisted, of which one will be elected.
3. A student-run charity is defined as one which was either founded by students (not necessarily students of the University of Oxford) and current students still maintain control or a student-led branch of a charity where students of the University of Oxford hold executive control.
4. A maximum of five local charities will be shortlisted, of which one will be elected.
5. Local charities are defined as those who are based in Oxfordshire and the majority of their work is conducted in Oxfordshire.
6. A maximum of ten national/international charities will be shortlisted, of which two will be elected.
7. Any charity which has been selected as a RAG charity will be excluded from the short list for the following year.
8. Any charity which has commissioned events from RAG will be excluded from the short list for one year if they have received more than £5000 in the previous 12 months.
9. Charities that are able to help RAG in their work such as by providing prizes, promotional material or expertise and training will be favoured.
10. The marginal impact of receiving funds from Oxford RAG will be considered, with charities which will do the most good with the additional support from Oxford RAG being favoured.
11. Charities which have been recognised for their cost effectiveness will be prioritised.
12. Oxford RAG will consider the alternative sources of funding available to charities, with priority given to organisations with fewer sources of income.
13. Charities which have received multiple nominations in one year will be favoured.
14. RAG cannot support individuals or organisations that exist solely to further religious or political beliefs. However community projects supported by religious organisations may be eligible, for instance a church hall that also houses community groups; check with us if you are unsure.

Annexe B: Selection Procedure for RAG Charities

1. The deadline for nominating charities shall be noon on Thursday of 4th week.
2. The shortlist of nominated charities will be announced within 48 hours after the close of nominations and will published in a full page of the Oxford Student.
3. Polling shall take place from 8am Wednesday – 6pm Thursday of 6th Week.
4. The Returning Officer shall resolve complaints about the Charity Selection process.

Activism and Campaigning

1. Any member of OUSU is permitted to formally campaign on behalf of the shortlisted charities.
2. Members of OUSU are free to express their opinion as to preferred charities.
3. The Returning Officer shall produce guidelines on campaigning to the nominators of the shortlisted charities.
4. Violation of these regulations may result in a nominated charity being removed from the ballot at the discretion of the Returning Officer.