

Council Minutes

7th Week Michaelmas Term 2014

7th Week Council started at 5:30pm prompt, on Wednesday 26th November 2014, at St John's College, in The Garden Quad Reception Room.

If you have any questions about OUSU Council, please feel free to contact the Chair, Anna Bazley, at chair@ousu.org.

- a. Minutes of the Previous Meeting
- b. Matters Arising from the Minutes
- c. Ratifications in Council
- d. Elections in Council
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- f. Reports from the Executive Officers and the Divisional Board
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 - 4. Prelims Feedback Motion
 - 5. Oxford UNICEF
 - 6. Electoral and Referendum Review Group
 - 7. Policy Book Great Repeal
 - 8. OUSU response to University Consultation on Part-Time
Students
 - 9. OUSU Vision for Education
 - 10. Higher Education Review
- m. Any Other Business
 - 1. Quinquennial Review
 - 2. Campaign Governance
 - 3. Castle Mill

a. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

No issues were raised with the minutes.

b. Matters Arising from the Minutes

No matters arising from the minutes.

c. Ratifications in Council

None

d. Elections in Council

None.

e. Reports from the Sabbatical Officers

Louis Trup (Brasenose) – Explained that he would be taking a more termly viewpoint in his report. Reported that lots of things that OUSU have been working on, that are not the fire-fighting emergency issues that have popped up, are starting to come into fruition now. Informed council that in the coming weeks, two new projects would be opening. The first of these will be the IT Innovation Fund for students, where students can submit an idea which will improve the University and as a result can receive up to 20k to make it happen and get paid to do it over the summer. This is OUSU and IT services working together to do something new that may appeal to those that are not interested in existing elements of OUSU. Reported that OUSU are also opening nominations for the OUSU student awards, another event that has never happened before, and listed the categories which students can nominate in: Outstanding Individual Contribution to Oxford Life; Campaign of the Year; Cultural or National Society of the Year; Outstanding Event of the Year; Society of the Year; Student Innovation of the Year; Creative Piece of the Year; and Outstanding Senior Member. Informed council that the event will be taking place on February 3rd in the Town Hall. Returned to the Innovation Project, and stated that OUSU will be trialing a new open innovation platform where you can submit ideas and comment on them and vote on them, which may be useful relating to a motion that came in third week council about an online suggestion box.

James Blythe (Brasenose) – Explained that his written report reflects the last fortnight, so he will use this time to focus on the term. Reported that term has been dominated by committees but believes that some good things have been achieved. Reported that the discussion about feedback on prelims is ongoing and that he spoke about it at Undergraduate Panel of Education Committee yesterday who seem reasonably keen to allow departments to give feedback on part one finals and projects and thesis, but much less keen to provide it on prelims. They have asked for a paper explaining why we want this. Advised that if we lose, this result can be used during the visit of the University's regulator, the Quality Assurance Agency, who will be coming in January 2016 and provide opportunity for us to talk about how seriously we feel the University takes us.

Anna Bradshaw (Wadham) – Reported on an incredibly busy term with successful steps towards fulfilling manifesto pledges. Confirmed that if the motion on student parents

passes, then she will have made a substantial step in every one of the four major manifesto areas: student parents and carers; sexual violence and sexual consent; women in leadership and academic attrition.

Yasser Bhatti (Green Templeton) – Highlighted key areas, firstly on managing supervision expectations of supervisors. The University always places a big responsibility on students for the relation between them and the supervisor, but want the University to recognise that the supervisor has a responsibility too. Graduate Studies Admissions Procedures Group has now accepted our OUSU paper to change the DSS notification that goes to students to make sure it also goes to supervisors. This morning confirmation was received that bus discounts have been extended to include students as well as staff.

Chris Pike (St Edmund Hall) – Reported that OUSU held the accessibility summit which was useful but had low turn out. Added that a full report will be brought in Hilary. Updated that a survey on the mental health charter had been carried out with the Student Advice Service, and with external charity, Student Minds, to begin work on implementing a mental health charter for all colleges, which states what is expected of colleges regarding mental health, particularly mental health based suspensions, and what the minimum requirements are. Encouraged people to get in touch if they feel passionate about this issue.

Anna Bazley – Read out a written report from Ruth Meredith (Brasenose):

Hi Council! I'm not feeling great tonight, so really sorry I'm not here. The past fortnight has been really hectic. Congratulations to Emily Silcock, who will be a really great successor!

Read my termly report for more info, but some highlights are:

The community wardens have been amazing - tonight, the Jericho wardens are putting on the first in their celebrate Jericho series. It's an advent wreath-making workshop with participants from a local group of elderly carers, students and residents. The East Oxford wardens have just finished making their first newsletter, which will be going out next week with tips on leaving houses safe over Christmas vac, and on cool events to go to in 8th week.

E&E - I have a meeting with the committee which gets to decide whether or not to recommend divestment tomorrow morning, so much of my work for E&E in the past fortnight has been prepping for that.

RAG - Jailbreak sign-ups are closing on Friday, and the Naked Calendar is selling well. We've chosen events for next term, and I've got a plan to evaluate this term during the vac.

**f. Reports from the Executive Officers and the Divisional Board
Representatives who wish to make Reports**

Will Neaverson (Christ Church) – Requested any final submissions from undergraduate presidents of common rooms for the common room information survey and stated that the deadline has been extended but it will be going to 8th week prescom. Updated council that he has also been looking at fellow representation within All Souls to the wider University and Student Union, as well as preparing his handover with Joe, his successor.

Jena Meinecke (Merton) – Informed council that she has already met with her successor and is planning handover. Explained the first two thirds of the year were extremely active in office, particularly working with Garlen Lo and Rachel Pickering on a document called the 14 points, which gives advice on graduate representation in the division and subsequent departments. Consequently able to hire an administrator, whose sole purpose is to help out representatives. Reported on work with the Brilliant Club to encourage graduate students to work with under privileged students. Explained she has not been as active this term due to work and due to being out of the country for a portion of it.

Eden Tanner (St John's) - Thanked Anna for the work they had done together. Encouraged people to stay involved and work with her successor.

g. Questions to Members of the Executive and the Divisional Board Representatives

Kristina Carney (Hertford) – Explained that she had sent an email to Anna and to the Women's Committee over the weekend about the abortion debate controversy and asked if she was going to receive a response.

Anna Bradshaw (Wadham) – Explained that she has been waiting on the Womens Campaign to finish their statement but apologised for not emailing to inform of the reasons for the delay. Took the opportunity to say that the Woman's Campaign is an autonomous campaign and acted autonomously on this. Confirmed that she supported their decision in a personal capacity, and in a professional capacity, due to OUSU's prolife policy, would have attended the planned protests. Reminded council that the Women's Campaign does not have any power to get anything shut down, and that it was a decision made by a college.

Nick Cooper (St John's) – Requested a report from the Clubs and Societies Officer.

Anna Bazley – Updated council that she has been helping to set up the Oxford University Cypriot Society, answering emails on people's various concerns, and is planning a workshop on setting up clubs and socs for the following week. Added that she attended Clubs Committee where various funding was granted.

Will Neaverson (Christ Church) – Asked for a timescale on the proctors' response to the NUS referendum.

Louis Trup (Brasenose) – Explained that OUSU don't know and will never be given this information. However, secured ourselves a place on the committee that manages the proctors' office.

Jack Matthews (University) – Asked if the Exec will commit to doing handover meetings with their successor, and if not, are they content to be censured.

Eden – Agreed.

Jamie – Answered that he has already had his handover meeting and will be sending over a follow up document.

Will – Responded that he would be taking his successor to as many meetings as he could between now and the end of term.

Anna – Informed council she is meeting with successor on Friday and her handover document written ready.

Emily – Reminded council that there is no one for her role but would love to do a handover if anyone wants to run.

Jack Matthews (University) – Asked Louis if he would be making a report as chair of the trustee board.

Louis – Answered that he can do, and was going to include this during the QR AOB, but will circulate it in a more formal matter if that is preferred.

h. Passage of Motions without Discussion

Content Note: Violence against children

Trigger Warnings: Violence, abuse

5. Oxford UNICEF

Council notes:

1. That the millennium development goals are up for revision in 2015.
2. That the UK government have the opportunity to suggest ideas to be included in the goals.
3. Every 5 minutes a child dies as a result of violence.
4. 1/5 of all homicide victims are under 19 and a third of them are under 10.
5. Millions more children will be subject to abuse that will affect them for a lifetime.
6. UNICEF is campaigning for the UK Government to include ending violence against

children in the 2015 Development Goals.

Council Believes:

1. That the 2015 Millennium Development Goals should include a pledge to end violence against children.
2. That UNICEF's campaign is therefore worthy of support.

Council Resolves:

1. To be a signatory to UNICEF's petition to the UK Government calling for a commitment to end violence against children's inclusion as one of the new Millennium Development Goals.
2. To mandate the OUSU President to work with the proposers to publicise the petition.

***Proposed:* Michael Comba (St. Peter's College)**

***Seconded:* Rebecca Roughan (Regent's Park College)**

Motion passed with no discussion.

9. OUSU Vision for Education

Council Notes:

1. That OUSU has put a significant percentage of its budget increase into strengthening student representation.
2. The motion on the Council agenda in relation to the visit of the Quality Assurance Agency in 8th Week Hilary 2016.

Council Believes:

1. That the time is now right for OUSU to have a coherent, lasting and strategic approach to what students from an Oxford education.
2. That this strategic approach should inform and support the work of all student academic representatives.
3. That any new coherent approach will only be representative and effective if it includes the voices of all different kinds of students: all different levels of study; all 4 divisions and Continuing Education; all liberation groups, and both full-time and part-time students.

Council Resolves:

1. To mandate the Vice-President (Access & Academic Affairs) and Vice-President (Graduates) to establish a steering group to plan this new approach, called the OUSU Education Vision, mindful in the composition of that group of Believes 3 and which must include representatives of liberation groups.
2. To discuss for a period determined by the Chair of Council after the passage of this motion the broad areas it would wish to see included in an Education Vision.

3. To mandate the Vice-President (Access & Academic Affairs) and Vice-President (Graduates) to bring the broad parameters of the Vision evidence-gathering process to Council in Hilary Term.
4. To mandate the Vice-President (Access & Academic Affairs) and Vice-President (Graduates) to bring the full Vision to Council for approval as policy in Trinity Term.
5. To indicate its intention to rescind all previous Academic Affairs-related policy in Trinity Term, to make clear that the Vision is OUSU's Academic Affairs policy.

Proposed: James Blythe (Brasenose)

Seconded: Yasser Bhatti (Green Templeton)

Motion passed without discussion.

10. Higher Education Review

Council Notes:

1. That in 8th week of Hilary 2016, Oxford University will be visited by the Quality Assurance Agency, the regulator for higher education. This will be called the Higher Education Review (HER).
2. That students are expected to submit a substantial written submission in advance of this visit, by the end of Michaelmas 2015.
3. That students are expected to appoint a lead student representative to co-ordinate the submission and the opportunities for the inspectors to meet students.
4. That OUSU officers have been in early discussions with the University about planning for this important visit.
5. The motion on an OUSU Vision for Education also on the Council agenda.

Council Believes:

1. That the visit of the University's regulator represents a significant opportunity for students to give their views on the educational experience at Oxford.
2. That Council, as the representative body for all students at Oxford, should set the strategic direction for, and have overall oversight of, student participation in the HER.
3. That it is vital that the student written submission reflect the wide range of views, experiences and priorities within our student body. Students at all levels of study, from all liberation groups and from a wide range of college and department experiences must have their voices heard.
4. That sabbatical officers are the only people with the realistic time to co-ordinate this process, but the process will only be valid if the views of a wide range of students feed into it.
5. That the OUSU Education Vision process will provide OUSU with an excellent range of student views and concerns, if done well.

Council Resolves:

1. To appoint the Vice-President (Access & Academic Affairs) as lead student representative for the Higher Education Review (HER).

2. To mandate the Executive Committee to establish a steering group, with membership as appropriate, to oversee the preparation for the HER on behalf of Council.
3. To mandate the Vice-President (Access & Academic Affairs) to involve the Vice-President-elect (Access & Academic Affairs) as closely as possible in this process, since they will have to take over the role of lead student representative in July 2015.
4. To mandate the Vice-President (Access & Academic Affairs) to consult closely with the Vice-President (Graduates) on how to engage postgraduate students in the HER.
5. To mandate the Academic Affairs Campaign Officer, Graduate Academic Affairs Officer and the Divisional Board representatives to provide all necessary support in preparing for the submission and the HER itself.
6. To mandate the Vice-President (Access & Academic Affairs) to bring the Student Written Submission to Council for approval before the end of Michaelmas 2015, with drafts for discussion beforehand as appropriate.

Proposed: James Blythe (Brasenose)

Seconded: Yasser Bhatti (Green Templeton)

Motion passed without discussion.

i. Motions of No Confidence or Censure

None

j. Emergency Motions

None

k. Motions Authorising Capital Expenditure

1. Motion for a One-Off Donation to Oxford Women for Women International Society

Council Notes:

1. In conflict zones around the world, women are frequently denied access to employment and education, as well as being disproportionately affected by violence and rape.
2. Women for Women International are a charity that works directly in countries affected by war and conflict, helping women to rebuild their lives through increasing female empowerment and education. Since 1993, the charity has worked with over 420,000 women in Iraq, Afghanistan, DRC, Bosnia, Kosovo, Rwanda, Nigeria and South Sudan.
3. Through organising talks, film screenings, fundraising concerts and other events, Oxford Women for Women International Society aims to engage the Oxford community in issues of international women's rights, and encourage students to give generously to help support the important work of Women for Women International.

4. Currently, a large proportion of the funds raised by Oxford Women for Women International Society is used to cover the costs associated with running events, including paying speakers' travel expenses and booking venues, meaning that the fundraising ability of the society is significantly reduced.

Council Believes:

1. By raising awareness of international women's rights, Oxford Women for Women International society undertakes important educational work of significant benefit to members of the Oxford community.
2. In order to continue to ensure that Oxford Women for Women International Society can continue to run educational events and maximise their fundraising efforts in the process, the Society deserves financial support from OUSU Council.

Council Resolves:

1. To donate £200 of the Discretionary Budgets campaign to Oxford Women for Women International as a one-off donation, which will be used to cover costs associated with the running of events for the academic year 2014-15.

***Proposed:* Elsa Field, Magdalen College**

***Seconded:* Annie Smith, Pembroke College**

Elsa Field (Magdalen) – Introduced herself as president of Oxford Women for Women International Society, a society that put on events that aim to raise awareness and educate about women's rights around the world and also has a significant fundraising role, aiming to fundraise for Women for Women International. Explained that they are asking for £200 from the discretionary budget which would be so important to our society in helping promote education as much as they can, as they need to pay speaker travel expenses and don't want to dip too much into fundraising efforts. Stated that they are not trying to cover costs but trying to fundraise, and want to keep all of educational events free to students as we view them as very educationally important.

Jack Matthews (University) – Asked if they charge a membership fee, if this request is a one-off donation, and what is it that is special about this one donation that means that you won't be in the same situation needing the same amount of money in a year's time.

Elsa – Responded that there is no membership fee as they want to keep events as free as possible. There is a newsletter and a committee but no members as such. Explained that part of her ambition for the year is to make sure there is a solid fundraising system in place to ensure that future committees are not in this position and to make the group financially sustainable. There is also a big aim and ambition for what we want to achieve this year.

Keble student – Asked what the difference is between this society and the international

part of WomCam.

Elsa – Stated that WomCam is a University society, whereas they are not registered as an official University club, but as part of the ethical branch of Oxford Hub.

Anna Bradshaw – Stated that the international Women part of WomCam has changed significantly over the last few months. Also added that it is an OUSU campaign rather than a University society. The working group has representatives of various countries and cultures who link to external representatives in these groups.

Elsa – Women for Women International Society focus mainly on events raising awareness about women who work in conflict zones around the world.

Chris Pike (St Edmund) – Asked what countries specifically they focus on.

Elsa – Responded that they work in 8 countries, several in Africa and the Middle East such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Rwanda, Congo, and mainly countries that are going through conflict or have been through conflict.

Emily (St Antony's) – Asked if they had considered registering with the University if that would lead to funding.

Elsa – Replied that they are also looking into that avenue, however it would require significant changes to the structure and constitution of the society.

Chris Pike (St Edmund) – Stated that most of the countries that the society focuses on are predominantly non-white, and asked if the committee members are also predominantly non-white.

Elsa – Responded that it is not entirely white but much like the rest of Oxford is dominated by white people. Stated that she doesn't particularly see why that has relevance.

Anna Bradshaw (Wadham) – Spoke in opposition to the motion, stating that she would like to make two points, one procedural, and one which relays a message. Reminded council that they had previously tuned away a similar motion to this as it is not what the fund is for. Argued that there are more appropriate sources of money for this society. Added that she consulted people that lead the working groups of WomCam for different liberation intersections, and has been asked to relay the message from both the Women of Colour working group and the Trans Women working group that they have very serious reservations about this charity. Noted that this is not necessarily regarding the society in Oxford, but worries about those that lead it with regard to colonial overtones and trans-exclusionary events. Argued that we should be listening to people from disadvantaged groups when making decisions such as this.

Elsa – Responded that everything she has heard from women campaigners about this charity is overwhelmingly positive and in support of the charity. Added that it works across the globe so it is very difficult to generalise issues, and she has no idea when the trans exclusionary suggestions come from at all. Urged council to consider how much this charity helps women when voting for this motion.

Mark Tomlinson – Stated that he is the president for Oxford Unicef and last term they received money from the discretionary fund. Found it was incredibly helpful and made us more sustainable despite the claims that it would be asked for it every year so regards the procedural objection to this motion as unfounded.

Worcester student – Asked if a funding request would be taken to the University Clubs Committee if this motion were to fall.

Elsa – Answered that she definitely would.

Louis Trup (Brasenose) – Pointed out that this would not be possible as it is not open to University affiliated clubs.

Elsa – Answered that she would proceed with an application to be registered.

James Blythe (Brasenose) – Argued that it would not be fair on the French Law students that we turned down, and urged that this fund is for campaigning, not for clubs and societies.

Move to vote.

For – 5

Against – 27

Abstain – 27

Motion fell.

I. Other Motions

2. Introduction of a Student Parents and Carers Officer

Council Notes:

1. There are at least 200 student members who are student parents or carers.¹
2. The current responsibility for student parents and carers lies with the Vice-President

¹ A conservative estimate based on the Student Parents' mailing list and University Childcare figures.

(Women).

3. The NUS has put out two reports on student parents and carers, *Meet the Parents* (2009) and *Learning with Care* (2012), which make a number of recommendations for Universities and Student Unions.
4. Many other Student Unions have representative positions for student parents and carers.²

Council Believes:

1. Student parents and carers face particular and specific challenges, including but not limited to sourcing and funding childcare and integrating into student communities.
2. The challenges that student parents and carers face are important, and the fact that OUSU is working to address them should not depend on the year-to-year priorities of the Vice-President (Women).
3. It is inappropriate that no student parents and carers who are not women are currently able to run for the position that has responsibility for working for student parents and carers.
4. OUSU should take steps to address some of the recommendations made in *Meet the Parents* and *Learning with Care*, including but not limited to:
'Students' unions and institutions should work together to enable student carers to participate in student life to as great an extent as they wish.' (*Learning with Care*)
'Students' unions should consider the ways in which student parents' interested can be represented through their democratic systems, given the restraints on their time.' (*Meet the Parents*)
5. Introducing a new Part Time Officer role, the Student Parents and Carers Officer, would solve the problems discussed in **Believes 2.** And **3.** and would increase OUSU's ability to tackle the challenges discussed in **Believes 1.** and the recommendations discussed in **Believes 4.**

Council Resolves:

1. To introduce a new Part Time Officer role, the Student Parents and Carers Officer, by making the following alterations to the General Regulations (additions are in **bold**, removals are in ~~strikethrough~~):
 - 2.1 The number of Part Time Officers for the purpose of Bye-Law 16.1 is ~~18~~ **19**
 - 2.2 The titles of Part Time Officers for the purpose of Bye-Law 16.1 are:
 - Academic Affairs Campaigns Officer
 - Access and Admissions Officer
 - Black and Minority Ethnic Students Officer
 - Clubs and Societies Support Officer
 - Common Room Support Officer
 - Community Outreach and Charities Officer

² Including, for example, Cambridge University Student Union.

Disabled Students Officer
Environment and Ethics Officer
Graduate Academic Affairs Officer
Graduate International Students Officer
Graduate Welfare Officer
Graduate Women's Officer
Health and Welfare Officer
International Students Officer
LGBTQ Officer
Mature Students Officer
Rent and Accommodation Officer
Student Parents and Carers Officer
Women's Campaign Officer

2. To note and accept the proposed remit for this role (Appendix 1).
3. To mandate the Vice-Presidents (Women) and (Graduates) to work closely with the new Student Parents and Carers Officer to refine the remit of the role, anticipating that this role may require more support than others, and report to Council on this progress in Trinity Term 2015.³

Proposed: Anna Bradshaw (Wadham)

Seconded: Yasser Bhatti (Green Templeton)

Anna Bradshaw (Wadham) – Reminded council that they have already seen this at the previous meeting and asked questions. Reiterated that this will introduce a new member of the part time executive, which will allow men to both stand and vote for a position that represents student parents.

Motion passes with no opposition.

3. Change in Raise and Give General Regulations

Council Notes:

1. Raise and Give (RAG) is one of OUSU's biggest and most successful campaigns, and raised approximately £195,000 in 2013-14.
2. RAG's current operation does not conform to the governance provisions in OUSU's General Regulations due to funds raised through raids and national collaboration.

³ This is likely to involve determining whether this position should function like other PTE positions (e.g. the International Students' Officer) which are generally filled by someone who represents the group descriptively as well as functionally. This will need serious consideration because student parents and carers often have greater restraints on their time than other students.

3. The current regulations prevent RAG from supporting student fundraising events organized by students who are not members of RAG's committee, and from spreading best practice by collaborating on external events.

Council Believes:

1. RAG should continue to increase its fundraising total.
2. RAG should spread best fundraising practice amongst Oxford University students.
3. Believes 1.-2. will best be achieved if the RAG committee is responsible for agreeing an annual programme with Council for the raising and distribution of funds, and the selection of charities and fundraising events.

Council Resolves:

1. To replace the current provisions for RAG in the General Regulations with those in Appendix 2, and to make any necessary consequential amendments.
2. To mandate the Vice-President (Charities & Community) to work with the RAG executive to bring an annual programme to Council by 3rd week Hilary Term 2015.
3. To continue to support RAG in distributing funds as currently happens until such time as Council has passed the annual programme in Resolves 2.

***Proposed:* Ruth Meredith (Brasenose)**

***Seconded:* Molly Gilmartin (Queens)**

Molly Gilmartin (Queens) – Explained that RAG are steadily increasing their fundraising total each year, however current governance is very restrictive about which charities the money goes to. Explained that the new plan means RAG would come to council with a detailed plan of where the money is to go.

Motion passes with no opposition.

4. Prelims Feedback Motion

Council Notes:

1. That detailed prelims feedback is not currently supplied to students.
2. That in the 2013 National Student Survey only 73% of Oxford students were satisfied with feedback provided on their work, compared to the overall satisfaction rate for Oxford courses which was 91%.
3. That under Section 7 of the Data Protection Act 1998, individuals have a right to see data personal to them which is stored by others.

Council Believes:

1. That feedback on prelims would be beneficial to students.
2. That there might also be beneficial consequences for tutors, such as a greater understanding of marking variations among their departmental colleagues.

Council Resolves:

1. To mandate the Vice-President (Access & Academic Affairs) to negotiate with the University towards the following objectives:
 - a. Raw per-question scores to be provided to those who take prelims.
 - b. The return of scripts to those who take prelims.
2. To mandate the Vice-President (Access & Academic Affairs) to provide Council with regular updates on the progress he is making towards these objectives.
3. That should negotiations fail, to support Freedom of Information requests for this data being made in Trinity term 2015 for and on behalf of those taking prelims that term, as a form of limited direct action.

Proposed: Jack Hampton (St Catherine's)

Seconded: Christopher Casson (St Catherine's)

Jack Hampton (St Catz) – Introduced himself as the JCR president at St Catz. Explained that this motion builds on what James relayed in his report, as students have a right to feedback on exams which they have worked incredibly hard on. Insisted that this is not just beneficial to students but to tutors who expected much higher and cannot see the reasoning behind the grades given. Tutors need to see if they are going wrong in comparison to central marking.

Danny Waldman (St John's) – Asked if they would support freedom of information request for previous prelim results.

Jack – Explained that this is not in the motion as those scripts have already been destroyed.

Motion passes with no opposition.

6. Electoral and Referendum Review Group

Council Notes:

1. The Statutory Elections in 6th week.
2. The referendum held in 4th week Trinity Term 2014, on OUSU's affiliation to the NUS.
3. That, in previous years, an Electoral Review Group has been established to investigate concerns relating to the elections.

Council Believes:

1. That a review of election and referendum practices and the Election Regulations is desirable.

Council Resolves:

1. To create, with immediate effect, an Electoral and Referendum Review Group (ERRG) to review the Election Regulations (both for Direct Elections and Referenda), and all practices associated with Statutory Elections and Referenda.
2. To appoint to the ERRG:
 - a. The current Returning Officer, as Chair;
 - b. The current Deputy Returning Officers;
 - c. One of the Sabbatical officers, to be chosen by the Sabbatical officers.
3. To appoint to the ERRG any persons in the following categories who express interest in being part of the Group:
 - a. all Candidates for Sabbatical office in the recent Statutory Elections;
 - b. the Student Trustees-elect;
 - c. a representative from each Equal Opportunities Campaign;
 - d. no more than two other Sabbatical officers, to be chosen by the Sabbatical officers;
 - e. the leaders of the Yes and No campaigns in the TT14 NUS affiliation referendum.
4. To mandate the ERRG to advertise for submissions from all students, initially no later than Friday 8th week, Michaelmas Term 2014, and to consider any that are received.
5. To mandate the ERRG to issue a report to Council at its meeting in 5th week of Hilary Term 2015, suggesting such changes as it considers necessary and desirable. This report must include as an appendix a summary of all submissions received before Friday of 3rd week of Hilary Term 2015.

***Proposed:* Nick Cooper (St John's)**

***Seconded:* Martine Wauben (Pembroke)**

Amendment received:

To add Council Resolves 2 (d) – 'The Democratic Support Officer as a non-voting member'.

***Proposed:* Louis Trup (Brasenose)**

***Seconded:* Chris Pike (St Edmund)**

Amendment accepted as friendly.

Nick Cooper (St John's) – Explained that we set this group up every year to discuss issues around the election and suggested that low turnout may be a point of discussion. Added that it has been extended to include the Referenda.

Louis Trup (Brasenose) – Asked if the Returning Officer from Trinity Term had been invited, due to the inclusion of Referenda.

Nick Cooper (St John's) – Answered that he has not invited the Trinity Term officer on the grounds that given the circumstances surrounding the Trinity Term referendum he felt it was inappropriate.

Martine Wauben (Pembroke) – Added that it was worth noting that a report from the Referendum has not yet been received from the Trinity Term Returning Officer, and that given that he resigned shortly after, he did not preside for the whole of the term.

James Blythe (Brasenose) – Asked if Nick would consider inviting the proctors to comment.

Nick - Stated that this would be a decision for the chair to make but felt it would be appropriate.

Martine – Explained that the review group is about the way in which the regulations apply to the elections/referenda, rather than anything which goes wrong outside of this.

Will Neaverson (Christ Church) – Asked if the meeting would take place outside of lab hours.

Nick – Answered that the chair would decide but he personally would like that to happen.

Motion passed as amended with no opposition.

7. Policy Book Great Repeal Motion

(as amended by Nick Cooper, St John's & Anna Bradshaw, Wadham – in red italics)

Council Notes:

1. The requirement for Policy Guidelines, usually set by Council, to guide how OUSU is run (Article 13.2; General Regulation 6).
2. The Policy Book, containing all Policy Guidelines, which stands at 116 pages.
3. That prior to Trinity Term 2013, *all* Council motions entered the Policy Book.
4. Appendix 4, a commentary on the Policy Book.
5. The motion to this meeting of Council regarding academic affairs policy, which this motion does not affect.
6. That the motion's proposer and seconder are happy to keep any Policy Guidelines proposed for removal that Council think are still relevant.

Council Believes:

1. That it is important to streamline the Policy Book, making it easier, especially for the Sabbatical Officers, to see what Policy has been passed by Council.

Council Resolves:

1. To overturn all Policy Guidelines listed in Appendix 3a in entirety.
2. To overturn all Policy Guidelines listed in Appendix 3b to the extent given in that Appendix.
3. *To make Appendix 3c Policy Guidelines.*
4. *To mandate the Sabbatical Officers to review Policy Guidelines within their respective portfolios, and bring amendments or any Policy Guidelines they consider to be important to have as OUSU Policy but which are absent from the current Policy Book to 1st week Council, Hilary Term 2015 [or, if they have no such suggestions, to report this to 1st week Council.]*

Proposed: Nick Cooper (St John's College)

Seconded: James Blythe (Brasenose College)

Nick Cooper (St John's) – Explained that prior to a motion in Trinity Term 2013, every motion that passed in council went into the policy book, meaning that it contains things that are out of date, superseded, repeated etc. Proposed that all of these elements are all scrapped. Explained that the amendment is just some additional changes that missed the deadline.

Jack Matthews (University) – Asked why it is really important that we have lots of policy on different things.

Nick – Responded that this is a way for council to tell the body of elected officers that this is what we want and should be working for. Added that to make something policy, it simply needs to state “to make policy guidelines” at the end of a motion.

Motion passed as amended with no opposition.

8. OUSU response to University Consultation on Part-Time Students

Council Notes:

1. OUSU was provided with draft policy framework from Education Policy Support (EPS) for consideration of applications from departments to provide part-time provision at Master's and Doctoral levels.
2. This is part of wider consultation with divisional boards, continuing education board, conference of colleges, and OUSU.
3. The plan employed for this consultation as per “Responding to University Consultations: A Paper for the OUSU Trustee Board” passed by OUSU Trustee Board on 22 September, 2014 is as follows:
 - a. Paper received 27 August.
 - b. Sabbatical team agree for VP Graduates to lead consultation 23 Sept.
 - c. Lead sabb writes consultation document for Executive and Council 20 Oct.

- d. Executive committee asked to comment on part-time policy response 5 Nov.
 - e. Council invited (in VP Grads report) to comment on draft OUSU response 12 Nov.
 - f. Council requested in motion to approve response to EPS 26 Nov.
 - g. Lead sabb sends OUSU consultation response to EPS by 15 Dec.
4. The following stakeholders have been consulted to solicit OUSU comments:
- a. Sabbatical officers
 - b. Part-Time Exec
 - c. OUSU PG Divisional Reps, OUSU ARO
 - d. ContEd
 - e. Conference of colleges Graduate Committee

Council Believes:

- 1. OUSU *supports* greater provision of part time studies contingent on careful evaluation of needs of both students and departments.
- 2. OUSU *encourages* that part-time students have the same Oxford experience as close as possible to full-time students.
- 3. OUSU *expects* part-time students will receive full value for money from both department and college engagement.

Council Resolves:

- 1. To approve the response in Appendix 5 to EPS on part-time consultation.

***Proposed:* Yasser Bhatti (Green Templeton College)**

***Seconded:* James Blythe (Brasenose)**

Yasser Bhatti (Green Templeton) – Explained that Education Policy Support wants to provide better provisions for part-time students and that OUSU have pursued a fairly vigorous consultation process and this is what we would like council to approve: supporting the better provision of part-time courses and ensuring that part-time student will receive full value for their money. Full response is available on page 15 of appendix 5. Explained that a priority is to fight for the option for part-time students to transfer from full-time to part-time or vice versa if the need should arise.

Emma (Keble) – Asked for clarification on part 3. Asked if the intention is to state that part-time students should not be excluded from number caps and if this is not what it means, should it state this explicitly somewhere.

James – Answered that this is something we can discuss but that our primary concern is that we handle the college link well. Stated that he would happily discuss this further.

Yasser – Added that it might be slightly more complicated an issue than simply adding an amendment.

Emma (Keble) – Asked if we voted for the motion if it removes any further avenues for discussion on this.

Yasser – Confirmed that it would not.

Amendment received:

To add Council Resolves 2 – “To make Council Believes 1, 2, 3 and Council Resolves 1 policy guidelines.”

Proposed: Nick Cooper (St John’s)

Seconded: Jack Matthews (University)

Amendment accepted as friendly.

Motion passes as amended with no opposition.

m. AOB

1. Campaign Governance (Appendix 6)

James Blythe (Brasenose) – Informed council that the sabbatical officers are still reviewing the campaign governance and that a further update will be provided over Hilary.

2. Quinquennial Review

Louis Trup (Brasenose) – Informed council that one of the elements that is currently being discussed for the Quinquennial Review of OUSU’s Memorandum and Articles is student trustees. Explained that as a part of this process, that we are proposing to increase the number of student trustees from 3 to 5, as there is a plan to slightly re-structure board committees so that there is a different student trustee sitting on each. Secondly, there is a legal issue that a charity board must have at least 50% unpaid trustees, meaning if just one of our students or externals stepped down, we would be left at 50/50, which would leave us very close to breaking the law. This increase would also assist in ensuring that OUSU is as much lead by students as possible.

Council gave broad approval for this change.

Will Obeney (Regent’s) – Asked if this could increase the risk of a bad trustee board due to a lack of interest in running for these positions.

Louis – Responded that the trustee board should not be involved in making political manifesto pledges and should instead arguably be elected for their relevant skills sets and this focus can be communicated out to students.

3. Castle Mill (Appendix 7)

Louis Trup (Brasenose) – Explained that this has been a long running story, which began with the University building graduate accommodation for over 300 students on the edge of Port Meadow. Local Residents Association has now launched a Save Port Meadow campaign claiming that the accommodation ruins the views of Port Meadow. The University did not conduct an environmental impact assessment prior to planning, as the council told them they didn't have to. They have now had to do a retrospective review that provides three alternative ways to mitigate the situation. The first is to plant trees and re-paint the building. The second option is to remove the top floor, which will cost a lot of money. We are against this, as it would mean removing everyone out for an unspecified amount of time. More importantly, long term, the top floor provided accommodation for families. We have just passed a motion for a Student Parents and Carers Officer, and we want to make these more of a focus in OUSU. The third option is to remove the whole development which would cost an awful lot of money which would lead to increased rent prices and less money available for graduate accommodation. Much of this debate has become a town/gown debate but there is an important issue in that the more students looking for private rent accommodation the higher the rent prices. The reason that this has been brought to council in this way is firstly because the deadline was missed and the deadline for the consultation is mid-December and also because we have sufficient policy that would support us being in favour of not disrupting graduate accommodation.

Will Obeney (Regent's) – Claimed that it should have come as a motion as it is controversial but understand the reason why it didn't. Asked for more information on where OUSU has policy that would defend their decision.

Louis – Policy on low rent, support for graduate accommodation, issues with family and student parents.