



council minutes

**7th week Council held at 5.30pm on Wednesday 1st June 2011,
in the MCR at St John's
Sign in from 5.15pm**

- 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

b. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None

d. Elections in Council

The following positions were elected in OUSU Council of 7th week.

2 positions for Steering Committee - responsible for compiling the agenda for OUSU Council, and referring motions, submitted to OUSU Council, to other committees for preliminary discussion, if they see fit. For more information contact chair@ousu.org.

2 positions for Internal Affairs Committee - gives advice and feedback on any proposed motion which seeks to amend the Constitution or Standing Orders. For more information contact president@ousu.org.

1 position for Deputy Returning Officer - Deputy Returning Officers are responsible for assisting the Returning Officer in running elections, including this term's annual cross-campus elections. Successful candidates will serve for **ONE TERM**, and will be required to chair hustings, undertake administrative tasks in the OUSU offices, and to support the Returning Officer generally. The Returning Officer is happy to meet with any prospective candidates to talk through what will be involved, and can be contacted via ro@ousu.org

1 position for Humanities Undergraduate Divisional Board Representative - responsible for representing their peers directly to the heads of faculties and division. Serve until end of TT11.

2 positions for Complaints Committee - Complaints board deals with any complaints raised through OUSU's statutory complaints procedure. Successful candidates will serve for **ONE YEAR**, and further information can be obtained from president@ousu.org

There are also by-elections for the following positions on the Executive. Term of office is from election to the end of MT11. For more information on these positions email president@ousu.org.

Mature Students Officer

**Black & Minority Ethnic Students & Anti Racism Officer
Graduate Women's Officer
Graduate Academic Affairs Officer**

Nominations should be submitted by **12 noon, Tuesday of 7th Week**, to motions@ousu.org. A nomination form can be found at www.ousu.org/democracy/ousu-council <<http://www.ousu.org/democracy/ousu-council>>. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Returning Officer at ro@ousu.org.

Returning Officer:

Both candidates have left. Manifestos are in the pink booklets. Add Francesco to the ballot for grad acaf officer

h. Emergency Motions

I. OUSU/Oxford Hub Memorandum of Understanding

Council Notes and Approves the OUSU/OXford Hub Memorandum of understanding. (This is an additional paper)

Proposed: Daniel Lowe, St Edmund Hall

Seconded: Genevieve Laurier, Hertford College

Chair:

The MOU didn't exist before the deadline.

Motion passes

i. Passage of Motions Nem Com

ii. Motions affecting OUSU members as students at Oxford University

1. Student Representation on the Committee to Review Donations

Motion passes nem com.

iv. Motions affecting OUSU members as residents of Oxford

2. City Council Housing Plan 2011

Motion passes nem com.

k. First readings of Motions to Amend the Constitution or Standing Orders

I. Proposed Election Regulation Changes

WHEREAS

1. An Electoral Review Group was established in Michaelmas Term 2010 to review OUSU's electoral rules and propose any changes it thought necessary.
2. The Electoral Review Group comprised 9 OUSU members who had been most directly involved in the immediate past elections.
3. The Electoral Review Group solicited and considered evidence from members of OUSU at large over a period of several weeks between Michaelmas Term 2010 and Hilary Term 2011.

4. The Electoral Review Group met on several occasions during Hilary Term 2011 to discuss in detail possible changes to OUSU's electoral regulations.
5. The Electoral Review Group submitted an interim report to OUSU Council in Hilary Term 2011 and various proposed changes to the electoral rules were discussed in Council.

Now THEREFORE this Council does resolve

To approve the following changes to OUSU's Standing Orders:

Posting official election notifications on the OUSU website

1. To replace "noticeboard" with "website" in SO C.1.c.2.
2. To replace SO C.2.h.2 with the following:
The Returning Officer shall publish notice of all valid nominations received before the day of the election(s) to the membership of OUSU by e-mail, and, additionally, shall take reasonable steps to publish such notice before the day of the election(s) to the membership of OUSU by other available media.
3. To replace "noticeboard" with "website and e-mailed to relevant candidates" in the current SO C.3.e.4 (which would become SO C.3.f.4 on the passage of resolution 6 below).

Inclusion of Vice-President (Graduates) on slates

4. To replace C.3.s.f.1.i with the following:
Three candidates for Sabbatical Office (or four such candidates if one is a candidate for the office of Vice-President (Graduates))

Media involvement in OUSU elections

5. To rename SO C.2.i as 'Briefing Sessions' and to insert as SO C.2.i.2:
Members of elections committee shall organise and conduct not fewer than two briefing sessions for editors and producers of student news media to follow the close of nominations.
6. To renumber the current SO C.3.e as SO C.3.f, and to insert before it a new SO C.3.e named 'Engagement with News Media' reading as follows:
 1. Between the issuing of the notice of poll and close of nominations, prospective candidates and nominated candidates are free to engage with news media as they see fit, subject always to the Basic Restrictions in C.3.a.
 2. After the close of nominations, candidates in competition with one another should, in principle, have equal opportunity for participation in interviews.
 3. If a candidate is to participate in a pre-recorded interview (radio, television, newspaper or other) which is not a simultaneous interview of all candidates for the relevant office, the candidate shall
 - i. ascertain before participating in the interview that the press/transmission deadline is not less than 4 hours after the conclusion of the interview (and shall not participate if unable to so ascertain); and
 - ii. inform the interviewer of OUSU's principle of equal opportunity for media participation and the need to balance the interview by the involvement of any opposing candidates, whose names will be provided by the candidate; and
 - iii. inform the principal agent of any opposing candidate (or candidate himself/herself, if there is no principal agent) of the interview within 1 hour of its conclusion, the name of the interviewer and the subjects discussed.

Failure to comply with this rule shall constitute an electoral offence.
4. If a candidate is to participate in a live transmission interview, the candidate shall ascertain before participating in the interview that invitation to the interview has been communicated to every candidate for the position at least 24 hours in advance of the commencement of the interview (and the candidate shall not participate if unable to so ascertain). Failure to comply with this rule shall constitute an electoral offence.
5. The rules in C.3e.3 and C.3e.4 above do not apply in respect of interviews in which a candidate participates in fulfilment of any other office which he or she may hold.

Collation, clarification and simplification of electoral rules

7. To rename SO C.3.a as 'Basic Restrictions' and replace the text with the following:
 1. OUSU as an institution is committed to the upholding of individuals' freedom of speech and freedom of association. In order to ensure that these freedoms can be meaningfully exercised within the context of an honest, fair and open election or referendum, it is necessary to implement some Basic Restrictions on these freedoms during the campaigning period. For the avoidance of doubt, no OUSU member's freedom of speech and freedom of association are limited otherwise than by these Basic Restrictions and other relevant restrictions laid down in the Articles, Bye-Laws, Regulations relating to Elections and/or Referenda, and Rules of Interpretation.
 2. The Basic Restrictions shall be that:
 - i. No person shall bribe or intimidate any person, whether a member of OUSU or not, in connection with any election, referendum or indicative poll.
 - ii. No person shall deliberately purport to campaign for any candidate/slate, or referendum option, in such a manner as in fact to weaken that candidate/slate or option's campaign, or to register as a campaigning group under C9.2 below in order to obtain all or a portion of a referendum option's publicity and/or expenditure allocation with the intention of not using the same fully, in order to disadvantage that option.
 - iii. No person shall partake in cross-slating or collusion between two or more candidate campaigns for candidates not on the same slate, between two or more slate campaigns, or between a slate campaign and a candidate campaign for a candidate not on the slate in question.
 - iv. No person shall partake in cross-slating or collusion between a candidate campaign or a slate campaign and a referendum campaign, or between two or more referendum campaigns.
 - v. No person shall give or offer to give any benefit, material or otherwise, intended to draw attention to any candidacy or influence the outcome of any election, except in the case of expenses counted towards the expenditure limits, or other charges that the candidate may be required or permitted to pay.
 - vi. No candidate or slate shall disseminate in any form any unlawful, false or misleading statements in the conduct of any campaign.
 - vii. No candidate or slate shall seek or claim the support or endorsement of OUSU or any OUSU committee, campaign or similar body; nor shall any candidate or slate seek or claim the endorsement of any college, common room or college student union.
 - viii. No candidate or slate shall knowingly exceed the expenditure limit in C.3.c.3

These Basic Restrictions shall apply from the issuing of the notice of poll by the Returning Officer to the issuing of the final electoral ruling by the Returning Officer.

3. For the purposes of C.3.a.2 above, evidence of collusion shall include, without limitation:
 - i. The giving or acceptance of strategic advice in relation to any aspect of the election.
 - ii. Communication in relation to any aspect of the disciplinary process except in respect of a complaint, or appeal or referral in which both or either candidates are directly concerned.
 - iii. The sharing of one or more agents between candidates not standing on the same slate.
 - iv. Consistent expression of an opinion by a candidate or agent about other candidates with whom the candidate is not in direct competition.
 - v. Consistent campaigning on behalf of more than one candidate/slate by those active on their behalf. This may include but is not limited to, more than ten people active on behalf of the same two candidates.

Use of mailing lists

8. To replace SO C.3.b.6 with the following:

No candidate, slate or third party may make use of any OUSU mailing list. All other uses of the internet are subject to the Basic Restrictions and other relevant restrictions laid down in the Articles, Bye-Laws, or Regulations relating to Elections and/or Referenda.

9. To delete SO C.3.b.8 and SO C.3.b.9

Format of Alternative Hustings

10. To replace "45 seconds" with "30 seconds" in current SO C.3.e.15.v (which would become SO C.3.f.15.v on the passage of resolution 6 above).
11. To replace the current SO C.3.e.15.vi (which would become SO C.3.f.15.vi on the passage of resolution 6 above) with the following:
Once the other candidates have answered, allocate 30 seconds to the candidate who proposed the question to answer, and then open the question to debate between the candidates for up to 3 minutes, seeking to ensure equal time between them

Publicising of results of election

12. To insert at the end of SO C.6.a.1 the following:
As soon as reasonably possible after the making of such an announcement or declaration, the RO shall cause it to be communicated to the generality of OUSU members by means of the OUSU mailing list, and shall cause it to be posted on the OUSU website.

Miscellaneous typographical corrections

13. To insert the word "with" between "compliant" and "this" in SO C.2.d.2.
14. To insert the word "with" between "compliant" and "this" in SO C.2.e.2.
15. To replace the word "less" with "fewer" in SO C.2.g.1.
16. To renumber SO C.2.g.4 as SO C.2.g.3
17. To renumber SO C.3.c.6 as SO C.3.c.5
18. To delete SO C.3.d.5 and renumber following subsections accordingly

Proposed by: David J. Townsend, (St John's College)

Seconded by: Loren Parry, (St John's College)

n. Other Motions

ii. Motions affecting OUSU members as students at Oxford University

1. Student Representation on the Committee to Review Donations

Council Notes:

1. Oxford University receives millions of pounds worth of donations each year.
2. The largest of these are reviewed by the committee to review donations on a variety of criteria, including: the reputation of the donor, the source of the funds and whether accepting the donation will have a negative impact on the University's reputation.
3. There is no student representation on CRD.
4. There is student representation on Development Committee and Socially Responsible Investment Review Committee.

Council Believes:

1. Students are stakeholders in this university
2. As such, students should have a voice in how the university funds itself.
3. That the university should not accept donations from unethical or suspect donors.

Council Resolves:

1. To mandate the president to work for a representative of OUSU to gain a place on DARC.

2. To mandate such a representative to pursue an agenda of rejecting donations from unethical or suspect sources.

Proposed: Daniel Lowe, St Edmund Hall
Seconded: Roberta Iley, Brasenose College

Passes nem com.

iv. Motions affecting OUSU members as residents of Oxford

2. City Council Housing Plan 2011

Council Notes:

1. The city council released a housing plan with the following 'preferred options'
'a maximum of 20% of houses in any 100m stretch of residential street permitted (with HMOs anywhere above this threshold being resisted), following the introduction of new local planning powers'
'a refined policy for new student accommodation, which resists student accommodation in quieter residential streets.'
2. The notion passed by council in 5th week TT11 mandating the VP (C&C) to write a response to this plan.
3. An HMO is defined as any property inhabited by more than two adults who aren't related or cohabiting.

Council Believes:

1. The recommendations in this plan are tantamount to ghettoising students
2. The sentiment of this plan tars all students with the same brush of poor neighbours, noisy and uninterested in their community. This is wrong and unfair.
3. Community relations will never be improved if there continues to be a 'them-and-us' attitude of families vs students: such an attitude is counterproductive.
4. The housing plan undermines the work of the student unions of both Oxford and Oxford Brookes.
5. The resistance to having more than 2 HMOs in a 100m stretch of road is a dangerous move and could negate migration of young professionals into the city, curbing economic growth.

Council Resolves:

1. To endorse the response to the housing plan written by the VP (C&C) (attached)

Proposed: Daniel Lowe, (St Edmund Hall)
Seconded: David Barclay, (Worcester College)

Motion passes nem com.

vi. Motions affecting OUSU members as citizens of the world

3. Boycott and Advertising Ban: UBS

Council Notes:

1. The continuing humanitarian crisis in Darfur, Sudan.
2. A loan to the Sudanese government from Petrochina is helping to fund this ongoing genocide.
3. This loan is being underwritten by UBS.
4. UBS is a company that actively promotes itself to Oxford Students.
5. UBS has been subject to an advertising ban boycotted by OUSU since it underwrote this loan on the condition that this will be lifted when the cease to underwrite the loan.
6. OUSU's commercial activity has flourished, even without UBS as a patron.

Council Believes:

1. We should stand by our principle of maintaining the ban until our demands are met.
2. The boycott and advertising ban should continue.

Council Resolves:

1. To uphold the boycott and advertising ban of UBS.
2. To mandate the Vice President (Charities and Community) to write to UBS again informing them of our continued objection to their practices.

Proposed: Daniel Lowe, St Edmund Hall

Seconded: Claire Thorpe, St Hugh's College

Daniel Lowe (St Edmunds):

There is genocide in Darfur. UBS regularly try and advertise with OUSU. We don't need their money. They are underwriting a loan to the government and helping them commit genocide. Continue the boycott.

Opposition:

Jonny Medland (Wolfson): We have boycotted the UBS for 3 years but we don't boycott any other investment bank. We need a more consistent ethical stance on this. 8.5k is a lot of money and I think we could do a lot of good work. I'm opposing this, as there doesn't seem to make any difference. The movement is dead. We could use their money.

Daniel Lowe (St Edmunds):

We don't boycott all the investment banks as no one has brought a motion. I am one person, can't do it all. We know what UBS do. People are dying and UBS are helping that happen. We don't gain any benefit from lifting this boycott, we already sell all our advertising space.

Move to vote. Passes overwhelming.

4. Chinmersia Motion**Council notes:**

1. That OUSU has received a letter titled 'Chinmersia: I have a dream
2. That the above letter puts forward a powerful case for the amalgamation of the People's Republic of China and The United State of American (sic) under the new name of... 'Chinmersia'.
3. That the letter has thought of literally everything, including the fact that Chinmersia would have two seats in the UN Security Council but would have to vote as a bloc ('as comrades, as brothers').
4. That the letter promises that "this ideal of a single nation coming from two super powers would be like nectar to a traveler in a desert."
5. That the letter asks for the idea to be "discussed in universities and in high schools, in USA, in China, and in the rest of the world."

Council believes:

1. That with the Cherwell deciding that we've launched a crusade against cross-dressing bops, the time might be right to launch this valiant mission.
2. That the political, cultural, social and ethnic barriers that might be encountered in the creation of Chinmersia are nothing compared to the power of OUSU Council's word.

Council resolves:

1. To mandate the outgoing OUSU President to go to China and raise awareness of the campaign to create Chinmersia.

Proposed: Daniel Lowe, St Edmund Hall

Seconded: Alex Bulfin, University College

Not read

All uncontested elected. Chidi elected BME officer. Jack Mathews elected as Chair.

Ugo: Referendum: will be held on Thursday 8th week. 8am-6pm. If you wish to run a campaign speak to Ugo.