

Council Minutes

7th week Trinity Term 2014

7th Week Council took place at 5.30pm, on Wednesday 11th June 2014 at St Anne's College.

- a. Minutes of the Previous Meeting
- b. Matters Arising from the Minutes
 - 1. BME Conference Feedback
- c. Ratifications in Council
- d. Elections in Council
- e. Passage of Motions *nem con**
- f. Motions of No Confidence or Censure
- g. Emergency Motions
 - 1. Extraordinary Council

Ruling of the Chair of Council

 - 2. Motion Appealing for a Reversal of the Home Office Decision on Junior Deans (Proposed by Daniel Zajarias-Fainsod in representation of the MCR Presidents Committee)
 - 3. Motion Concerning the Sultan of Brunei's Honorary Doctor of Law Degree
- h. Motions Authorising Capital Expenditure
 - 4. OUSU Budget 2014-15
 - 5. NUS Re-affiliation
 - 6. Abortion Rights Re-affiliation
 - 7. 'Losing Sleep' Project
 - 8. Funding the printing of The Aut of Communication (TAoC)
 - 9. Awarding Oxford UNICEF On Campus £250
- i. Other Motions
 - 10. Officer Remits
 - 11. Repeal of Rules and Standing Orders
 - 12. Kebab and Chips
 - 13. Campaigns Governance Review
 - 14. Living Wage
 - 15. OxHub Memorandum
 - 16. Trigger Warnings in Council
 - 17. Fairtrade Policy
 - 18. Procedure for filling vacancies of Returning and Deputy Returning Officer
 - 19. Reforming the Pastoral Tutor System
- j. Any Other Business

* *Nem con* means "without objection". Here, the Chair will read all items under "Other Motions". If you wish to hear a speech in proposition, ask the proposers a question, amend the motion, or speak in opposition, please raise your hand when the motion is called here. If no one raises their hand, the motion passes without any discussion.

a. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

None.

b. Matters Arising from the Minutes

1. BME Conference Feedback

The conference was great. The morning panel was a discussion and sharing of experiences with "I, Too, Am SOAS" activists. We compared notes about the racism we experience is similar and how SOAS is not as racially sensitive as it makes itself out to be and how at both of our universities many tutors still operate with a colonial/white saviorist mentality towards African and Asian people.

The second session was focused on bringing diversity into the curriculum. Elleke Boehmer and Patricia Daley spoke about their experiences as academic lecturers in all-white faculties and some of the barriers that face those of us who want to change the Eurocentrism and "Great White Man" canonization of literature, philosophy, history, and other disciplines. The point was made that having more readings from non-Western, BME, and otherwise diverse perspectives in the curriculum is a benefit not just to BME students, but to white students too. The third session was about BME representation in the media and featured Julian Henriques and Kurt Barling of the BBC. Following that session, we had a brainstorming session about how to take some of these ideas forward and some great connections and conversations were had throughout the day. Overall it was a really positive day.

On that note, I want thank OUSU for its support!

Jack Matthews (University) - Thanked those that have submitted the reports but expressed concern about those that have not.

Will Obeney (Regent's) - Asked if anyone was present to feedback.

Anya Metzger (Wadham) - Reported that the turnout was really good, the event was successful and there was an excellent mix of people, including a good mix of grads and undergrads.

Will - Confirmed that he asked this as he heard that attendance in the morning was not good.

c. Ratifications in Council

None.

d. Elections in Council

8 Divisional Board Representatives:

- **Humanities Undergraduate** - Lucy Clark (Regent's) and Eden Bailey (Magdalen) nominated.

Hust requested.

Lucy Clarke (Regent's) - Informed council that she is a first year English student. Recognised that there is a difference in the way in which information is distributed about each course, and acknowledged that this is a particular problem with joint honours. Stated that if elected she wanted to do a feedback survey, enabling her to pinpoint and address key issues. Added that she would want this to cover welfare issues as she wants students to feel comfortable.

Eden Bailey (Magdalen) - Informed council that she is the chair of the Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) at the music faculty this term, and has received positive feedback regarding the work that she has done. Stated that there are significant problems with the intersection of welfare and academic issues which she would particularly like to address during her role.

Jack Matthews (University) - Suggested that the hardest thing for Divisional Reps to do is link up successfully between JCCs and departments. Asked how the candidates will interact with JCCs.

Lucy - Responded that her survey would be a summation of results on this and other issues which would go to departments.

Eden - Acknowledged that there are currently no meetings between JCCs and departments which needs to change. Added that she would hope to bring a new level of transparency between the two.

Sarah Pine (Wadham) - Asked for the candidates thoughts on significant gender gaps across the University.

Eden - Responded that she is aware of work which shows that education up until the point of University can also affect this gender gap, and the confidence of young women in their first year of University. Stated that she would like to look into this further and address the problem throughout the humanities.

Lucy - Answered that she is very aware of this as in her seminars she often sees particular questions directed specifically at women due to their content. Suggested that work needs to be done with tutors to avoid this, and stated that she would want to work with the VP Women in this issue.

David Bagg (Balliol) - Informed candidates that currently the JCC rep for classics is unfilled in Balliol, along with many others, and asked what could be done about these gaps.

Lucy - Responded that information circulation is key, to ensure that students actually have an awareness of what JCCs do.

Eden - Replied that we need something on public websites which informs people who their JCCs are. Stated that all faculties need to do this on a basic level, and added that teaching staff concerns need to be raised from a higher level in order to protect vulnerable students.

Eden - 42

Lucy - 17

Spolied, Blank or Void (SBV) - 3

Eden was elected.

- **Medical Sciences Undergraduate** - Raj Dattani (St Peter's) and George Gillett (St Anne's) nominated.

Martine Wauben (Pembroke) - Informed council that the candidate George Gillett had withdrawn his application. Asked if husts were still wanted with just one candidate.

Hust requested.

Raj Dattani (St Peter's) - Stated that many important things are currently happening in the Medical Sciences. Explained that the GMC report is coming in. Added that many courses, which fall under the umbrella of medical sciences, are not necessarily recognised as stuff and are being under-represented. Commented that it is a huge division, which requires sufficient representation, which he would like to work towards.

Sarah Pine (Wadham) - Asked Raj what the GMC is.

Raj - Responded that this is the General Medical Council.

Raj - 54

George - 2 (transferred to Raj)

RON - 4

SBV - 2

Raj was elected.

- **Medical Sciences Postgraduate** - Kristin Schmidt (Green Templeton) nominated.

No hust requested.

Kristin - 58 votes

SBV - 4

Kristin was elected.

- **MPLS Undergraduate** - Emma Carr (St Hugh's) nominated.

Martine Wauben (Pembroke) - Informed council that Emma Carr was not able to attend and read out a message from Emma in her absence:

Unfortunately, I am not able to be here today so you will not have the pleasure of grilling me with questions, however, I just wanted to say a little something. So as you may know, I have been in this position for a term and a half and I finally feel like I can really start to make a big difference. I now have a better understanding of the issues affecting this Division and the University as a whole. I have also had chance to get to know both student representatives and staff members on the various board and because of this, your views are getting more and more attention. If I am voted in, I will be really excited to work with the new OUSU employee who will be training me up to be even more effective in this position.

I will make 3 main pledges, firstly to make recordings of lectures a much more regular practice. Secondly, to make exam model answers more accessible and thirdly to make compulsory field trips funded for by the department. Related to this, I also plan on looking into the funding of extended terms.

Emma - 59

SBV - 3

Emma was elected.

- **Social Sciences Undergraduate** - Joshua Jesudason (Balliol) and Emma Alexander (Keble) nominated.

Joshua Jesudason (Balliol) - Explained to council that he is a joint school student, and consequently recognises the problems which these particular students face, in particular a lack

of academic identity. Stated that there is a need to open up more subjects to all students. Noted that exam timetables are also prejudiced against joint honours students. Argued that there is currently a lack of engagement with div reps which he would like to change, and informed council that he could bring an outsider perspective to this role.

Emma Alexander (Balliol) - Reported that over the previous year she has produced two detailed reports, as well as helping out with the Student Led Teaching Awards. Added that she has three primary aims for next year: the representation system needs fundamental organisation; actual physical meetings are needed with JCC Reps, and disparities which arise from women, BME and disabled students need to be addressed.

Dan Templeton (St Catz) - Informed the candidates that he actually just had to look up which division his department came under, and asked what could be done to incorporate law students, who tend to view themselves as independent.

Emma - Stated that it would a good idea to have a cross-divisional website and greater use of social media, in order to reach more students, especially those who do not associate themselves within the division.

Joshua - Claimed that increased engagement and more physical meetings are needed with representatives from Law. Stated that he would aim to highlight problems which are common across subjects.

James Stokes (Magdalen) - Claimed that different students tend to receive different advice about what options can be taken. Questioned what would be done about this.

Joshua - Acknowledged that this has been a problem for himself and stated that he would plan to work on the standardisation of rules, and a review of how this information is presented online.

Emma - Replied that option modules are online in some subjects already and she would work on having this replicated across the division.

Emma - 55 votes
Joshua - 14
SBV - 3

Emma was elected.

Mature Students' Officer - Leonie Smith (Harris Manchester) nominated.

No hust requested.

Leonie - 59
SBV - 3

Leonie was elected.

e. Passage of Motions *nem con*

11. Repeal of Rules and Standing Orders

Council Notes:

1. Its previous decisions to make Bye-Laws, Election Regulations (for Direct Elections), and General Regulations, all of which are required by the governance arrangements introduced in 2010 when OUSU became an incorporated charity.
2. That all remaining Rules and Standing Orders have now been superseded by Bye-Laws and Regulations, and need to be repealed as no longer being required.
3. The commentary of Internal Affairs Committee (Appendix 2 to Termly Council).

Council Believes:

1. That superseded Rules and Standing Orders should be repealed now in the interests of clarity and certainty.

Council Resolves:

1. In the exercise of its powers under Bye-Law 2.3(b) of the Bye-Laws approved by Council on 9th May 2012, to repeal, with immediate effect, all remaining Rules and Standing Orders (specifically Rules B4, B6, B7, B8, E1, E2, E3, E5, E6, F1, F2, G1, G2, and Standing Orders B1 - B7[2], C8, D6, E1 - E4, G9, I2.1 & 2.2, N1 - N4, N6 - N10, Schedule 4 A2 - A4) and any regulations (including election regulations) or other governance provisions made from time to time under the Rules and Standing Orders.

Proposed: Tom Rutland (Jesus)

Seconded: Alfred Burton (Queen's)

Motion passed Nem Con

13. Campaigns Governance Review

Council Notes:

1. A rolling programme of governance review has been established this year as a means of encouraging OUSU to continue to evaluate its activities.
2. OUSU's Trustee Board has expressed its desire for that review to examine campaigns, as an area of governance that requires attention.

Council Believes:

1. A rolling governance review led by the sabbatical officers and relevant OUSU committees and reporting to Council and the Board is an effective mechanism for OUSU to examine all elements of the organisation.
2. The Board is right to propose campaigns as a necessary aspect of OUSU for that review to examine now.
3. This Council has a duty to ensure as a matter of urgency that all campaigns are on a firm, stable and sustainable footing, to enable and empower them to achieve change.
4. All campaigns ought to have certain key features in place, namely effective governing structures and documents, financial controls, and relationships with the other elements of OUSU, particularly Council, the sabbatical officers, and the Board.

Council Resolves:

1. To mandate the incoming sabbatical officers to conduct a review of all campaigns, speaking to their leaders, committees and members, and reviewing their governance structures and documents.
2. To mandate the incoming sabbatical officers to present at least an initial report on their review to the Board and to Council in 1st Week Council of Michaelmas Term 2014, and to update Council in further meetings as the review progresses.
3. To mandate the incoming President to bring a proposal for the full programme of the rolling governance review to Council in Michaelmas Term.
4. To make Council believes 1 Council policy.

Proposed: Anna Bradshaw (Wadham)

Seconded: Chris Pike (St Edmund's)

Motion passed Nem Con

14. Living Wage

Council Notes:

1. That OUSU has an established Living Wage Campaign
2. That when the campaign became an official OUSU Campaign OUSU Council passed associated policy, and that this policy has been incorporated into the OUSU Council believes and resolves sections of this motion.

Council Believes:

1. that people should be paid enough to live decently, and the best way to ensure this is to support a Living Wage. That employees of the University and its Colleges should be paid a Living Wage.

Council Resolves:

1. To mandate the OUSU Executive to assist, where possible, in terms of mobilising students, providing publicity and liaising with University and College officials who have the power to make changes and implement the Living Wage.
2. That the Oxford Living Wage Campaign shall be responsible for:
 - a. Campaigning for a Living Wage for all staff in Colleges, Departments and the central administration of Oxford University
 - b. Encouraging Colleges and Departments of Oxford University who currently pay a Living Wage to become accredited Living Wage employers
 - c. Working with the wider community to achieve a city-wide Living Wage in Oxford.
3. To make OUSU Council believes 1 and OUSU Council resolves 1 and 2 OUSU Council Policy.

Proposed: Daniel Tomlinson (University)

Seconded: Tom Rutland (Jesus)

Motion passed Nem Con

f. Motions of No Confidence or Censure

None.

Nick Cooper (St John's) - Received request to move motion 19 to the top of the agenda.

No objections.

19. Reforming the Pastoral Tutor System

Council Notes:

1. That at Oxford University, the Personal Tutor assigned to pastoral care of a student is generally also their academic tutor.
2. That said tutors, whilst often excellent teachers, are not necessarily particularly appropriate or trained to be useful from a welfare perspective.
3. That at Cambridge University the pastoral tutor does not have any academic relationship with the student, ensuring separation between academic and welfare aspects of university life.
4. That such a system as ours has caused problems in the past.

Council Believes:

1. That the current pastoral system needs to be reviewed, perhaps by considering Cambridge's system of having pastoral tutors separate from academic tutors.
2. That, more importantly, this issue has strong relevance for student life and merits discussion.
3. That reviewing the system should be a long-term focus for OUSU.

Council Resolves:

1. To mandate the VP for Welfare and Equal Opportunities and the Health and Welfare Officer and other appropriate officers to facilitate discussion and a review of the current pastoral system.
2. To feedback progress to Council by Trinity 2015.

Proposed: Pravina Rudra (Pembroke)

Seconded: Charlotte Hendy (Pembroke)

Pravina Rudra (Pembroke) - Informed council that welfare issues can obviously have an impact on academic work, but there are significant disadvantages to having the same tutor for pastoral care. Added that she is not saying that we have to change the system but believes that it at least enquires some looking into.

Eden Tanner (St John's) - Stated that there is already a system in place for graduates, however the pastoral tutor, including her own, is often the academic tutor's best friend. Claimed that this is highly inappropriate.

Pravina - Agreed that this should not be happening and is separate issue, which also needs to be considered.

Motion passed with no opposition.

g. Emergency Motions

1. Extraordinary Council

Council Notes:

1. That many motions have been submitted to be considered at this meeting of Council.
2. That the next Ordinary Meeting of Council is on October 15th, over four months away.
3. That a meeting of Council is closed where it lacks quorum, where Council votes to close it,

or where all business has been conducted.

Council Believes:

1. That the motions brought to this meeting of Council cover important topics that deserve full and proper debate, and that the debate and voting should be resolved this term.

Council Resolves:

1. To hold an Extraordinary Meeting of Council on Thursday 19th June at 4pm at St John's College if, and only if, this meeting of Council is closed before all motions on the agenda either have been voted on or have passed nem con (without discussion).
2. That the agenda for the Extraordinary Meeting will comprise all motions which have not been voted on or passed nem con (without discussion) at the time that this Meeting of Council is closed, and no other business.

Proposed: Tom Rutland (Jesus)

Seconded: Adam Roberts (Wadham)

Tom Rutland (Jesus) - Explained to council that there is a particularly long agenda this week, and extraordinary council is therefore a necessary provision. Added that without it, some motions may have to wait four months to be heard.

David Bagg (Balliol) - Questioned if we would still require extraordinary council if everything was passed during this meeting.

Nick Cooper (St John's) - Replied that we would not need it if this was the case.

Motion passed with no opposition.

Ruling of the Chair of Council

I have received an emergency motion on Supporting UNICEF's Campaign for Legal Guardianship for Trafficked Children. Pursuant to Standing Order B1.2(d), I rule that the matter that is the substance of the motion *has not* substantially arisen after Thursday 6th week at 12pm ("the deadline"), and I therefore, with reluctance and with no reflection on the motion's content, rule that it may not appear on the Agenda for 7th week Council. My reasoning is as follows.

- The motion states it could not be brought before the deadline because it required the approval of a society executive committee (namely, that of Oxford UNICEF on Campus). However, motions to Council must come from two individual Student Members, and explicitly cannot come on behalf of a collective body (Standing Order B1.2(g)). Therefore, provided the substance of the motion substantially occurred (and could therefore, in theory, have been brought to Council by two Student Members) before the deadline, this fact cannot be brought into consideration.
- In my opinion, the substance of the motion occurred before the deadline. The UNICEF briefing paper referred to in the motion was published on 30th April 2014, and UNICEF's campaign on this matter seems to date back to at least 19th February 2014. Even if this was refreshed by last Wednesday's Queen's Speech, this still occurred before the deadline, albeit by one day.
- On a side note, I believe I would make the same decision even in a quieter Council or one that wasn't the last for four months, and that I consider these factors irrelevant to this ruling.
- Furthermore, although a comparison may be drawn to my acceptance of the motion on the Home Office Decision on Junior Deans, I understand this matter was confidential (and therefore could not be brought as a motion to Council) until approved otherwise by MCR PresCom. This is in contrast to the UNICEF campaign, which as noted above, has been public for over a month.

I draw Council's attention to its power to overturn a Ruling of the Chair by a 2/3 majority via a procedural motion under Standing Order B5.2(b)(iii).

2. Motion Appealing for a Reversal of the Home Office Decision on Junior Deans (Proposed by Daniel Zajarias-Fainsod in representation of the MCR Presidents Committee)

Council Notes:

1. The recent paper arising from the Conference of Colleges which met to deal with the legality of Tier 4 visa students serving as Junior Deans; and
2. The decision of the Conference of Colleges to not challenge—informally or formally—Home Office advice that 'on call' hours should count as part of the overall hours a Tier 4 student is allowed to work.
3. That “contrary to previous understanding, communications from Home Office officials have now said that on call hours count towards the 20 working hour/week maximum during term time for Tier 4 visas. The [Conference of Colleges for Graduate Affairs] working group concluded that it was not appropriate to contest the redefined advice from the Home Office. It asked the University Student Administration team to clarify with the Home Office the basis of its advice in law and/or policy. It also asked whether other institutions were affected. Cambridge colleges do not have an equivalent role and are therefore not affected.” (from Appendix A: Junior Deans employment issues conf 1429.pdf)
4. That “the working group’s advice to colleges is that it would be prudent from a precautionary view NOT to recruit Tier 4 visa holders into post as Junior Deans if there is an expectation that the inclusion of on call hours will lead to an excess of 20 hours per working week in term time.” (from Appendix A: Junior Deans employment issues conf 1429.pdf)
5. That a motion was unanimously passed by MCR Prescom (6th Week TT) resolving to raise this issue at OUSU Council for discussion; to move a motion at OUSU, calling on OUSU to lend its support to this cause, including but not limited to raising this issue within University structures; and to motion at OUSU Council to mandate the relevant OUSU Officers to communicate with the Home Office and other relevant government branches to clarify the legal basis of this policy and appeal for reconsideration/reversal of this policy.
6. That this motion was ratified by the MCR Presidents committee after the deadline for objections expired at 07:14 hrs on Friday 6th June and therefore could not be submitted as an ordinary motion before the deadline and that the importance of this issue requires action before the next ordinary council meeting in October 2014.

Council Believes:

1. Many students on Tier 4 visas apply for Junior Dean's posts as a means of substituting the costs of graduate work which are prohibitively expensive for all students, and non-British/EEC international students in particular;
2. That Oxford has a vibrant Tier 4 visa graduate community who contribute academically, socially and financially to this University and that the University benefits from their membership despite their 'international' status;
3. That international students, especially those who are contributing to the University and research within the UK more broadly, should be given every opportunity, within reason,

to earn extra money to fund themselves;

4. This limitation is unnecessary and unwarranted: 'on call' hours are not active hours worked and they were not previously counted as part of the overall work allowance.
5. That the policy dictated by the Home Office is unjust and not legally based and therefore should be revised.

Council Resolves:

1. To lend its support to this cause and to continue challenging this decision, including but not limited to, raising this issue within University structures and to make this Council Policy;
2. Directly and indirectly lobby University structures to (a) challenge this advice, whether formally or informally, and (b) continue the practice of employing Tier 4 students as Junior Deans.
3. To mandate the relevant OUSU Officers, including but not limited to the President, the VP Graduates, and the International Students' Officer, to communicate with the Home Office and other relevant government branches to a) clarify the legal basis of this policy, and b) appeal for reconsideration/reversal of this policy.

Proposed: Daniel Zajarias-Fainsod (Wadham)

Seconded: Garlen Lo (Wolfson)

Daniel Zajarias-Fainsod (Wadham) - Informed council that we have voted unanimously for a motion very similar to this. Explained that according the Home Office, on call hours now count towards the hours that a Tier 4 student serving as a Junior Dean is allowed to work. Added that all MCRs are appealing to council to pass this in support of our Junior Deans and our International Students. Stated that there is a need to clarify the legal basis of this policy.

Motion passed with no opposition.

3. Motion Concerning the Sultan of Brunei's Honorary Doctor of Law Degree

Council Notes:

1. On 22nd April 2014, the revised penal code came into effect in Brunei which allows for the death penalty to be administered by stoning for homosexual acts.
2. The Sultan of Brunei, Hassanal Bolkiah, has full executive authority in Brunei and also serves as the Prime Minister of Brunei.
3. A widespread boycott of the Sultan's interests has taken place in recent months.
4. Hassanal Bolkiah holds an Honorary [Doctor of Law](#) degree from the University of Oxford.
5. When approached by the press, the University stated that they would not revoke his degree and refused to comment further.
6. A motion is being put to King's College London Student Council to ask for KCLSU to lobby the College to revoke the Sultan's Honorary Doctor of Law Degree from KCL.

Council Believes:

1. OUSU is supportive of LGBTQ students and the rights of LGBTQ people worldwide
2. The actions taken by the Sultan of Brunei are shocking, barbaric and in violation of fundamental human rights
3. The University of Oxford, which claims to be supportive of LGBTQ students, should not be endorsing someone who has called for, and enacted laws to enable, the stoning to death of LGBTQ people

Council Resolves:

1. To mandate the OUSU LGBTQ Campaign to write a letter to the relevant authorities containing:
 - a) An outline of the current situation facing LGBTQ people in Brunei.
 - b) A request that the University clarify why they have thus far refused to revoke Hassanal Bolkiah's honorary degree.
 - c) Encouragement for the University to strip Hassanal Bolkiah's of his honorary degree.
 - d) A request that the University reveal any funding it has received from the Sultan of Brunei.
2. To contact King's College London Lesbian Gay Bi-sexual Trans* Society and offer support in their endeavours .

Proposed: Daniel Templeton (St Catz)

Seconded: Crash Wigley (New)

Dan Templeton (St Catz) - Informed council that in April, the Sultan of Brunei revised the penal code, which means that the death penalty can be administered by stoning for homosexual acts. Stated that the Sultan has honorary doctorates from Oxford, King's College London and Aberdeen and all three are currently refusing to revoke them, yet despite this Oxford are refusing to provide an explanation of their refusal. Noted that the Sultan provides funding to Oxford. Asked council to mandate himself to find out why they are refusing to revoke the doctorate, and to disclose exactly what funding is received. Concluded that he would be happy to work with KCL and Aberdeen on this and will be in contact with them.

Alexander Rankine (Corpus) - Asked if there was any precedent for revoking the degree.

Dan - Stated that he is unsure if there is at Oxford but is aware that although one exists at Aberdeen, they are currently claiming that it is too complicated.

Amendment:

To edit Council Resolves 2 to read:

'To work with the King's College London and Aberdeen University LGBTQ societies in their endeavors.'

Proposed: Daniel Templeton (St Catz)

Seconded: Crash Wigley (New)

Amendment accepted as friendly.

Amendment

To edit Council Resolves 1 to read:

'To support the LGBTQ Campaign in writing a letter to the relevant authorities containing...'

Proposed: Sarah Pine (Wadham)

Seconded: Rowan Davis (Wadham)

Amendment accepted as friendly.

Motion passed with no opposition.

h. Motions authorising Capital Expenditure

4. OUSU Budget 2014-15

Council Notes:

1. That the interim Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the President, Vice-Presidents and other Trustees of OUSU, has compiled a draft OUSU Budget 2014-15 (Appendix 1).
2. That the draft OUSU Budget 2014-15 has been approved by the Budget Sub-Committee of the Finance Committee of the OUSU Trustee Board, which includes students elected by OUSU Council.
3. That the draft OUSU Budget 2014-15 has been approved by the OUSU Trustee Board.

Council Resolves:

1. To recommend the OUSU Budget 2014-15 (Appendix 1)

Proposed: Tom Rutland (Jesus)

Seconded: Christina Toenshoff (St Anne's)

Tom Rutland (Jesus) - Stated that he is very pleased to be presenting OUSU's biggest ever budget, explaining that OUSU will be spending just shy of £1M on improving the lives of Oxford students, after gaining made a significant block grant increase. Reported to council the following speech on how the budget will be spent:

'As you can see, total income for 2014/15 is anticipated to be £926k, total expenditure is anticipated to be £973k (just shy of £1m) and this results in an anticipated deficit of £47k. This deficit is funded by use of OUSU's reserves, which have grown to 400k over the years, and should be reduced to a smaller level. The use of reserves allows us to negate the University's staggered increase in our block grant. OUSU's Trustee Board has approved the deficit.

- The increase in income from last year's budget is primarily from the increase in the block grant, up from 502k to 630k.
- Advertising and Freshers' Fair income are predicted to remain static, whilst NUS Extra Card income is anticipated to be inline with the results this year, which were significantly higher than expected.
- With more promotion of the card, I believe we can increase this income further.
- Finally, welfare supplies and OUSU stash income are projected to remain static.

Moving on to expenditure:

- Expenditure on elected staff, i.e., sabbatical officers, is set to increase by £10k. This is partly due to inflation, but primarily due to new pension legislation that requires sabbatical officers to be offered a pension, despite only working for OUSU for one year. Employers must make pension contributions, so we must assume that all sabbatical officers will take up this offer. If this does not transpire, the money saved simply goes into OUSU's reserves - as is true of any underspend in the budget.
- Business staff costs remain static, as does student officer training.
- There is an increase in expenditure on the Student Advice Service, which will be staffed by a full time Manager and 2 part-time advisors, which represents a doubling in its staffing. There will be more expenditure on publicizing the service to students and training for the Service's staff.
- Welfare income is expected to remain static, as we provide welfare supplies to common rooms at cost price.
- Democratic structures costs have increased due to the hiring of a new Academic Representation Officer to develop the academic representation structures in the university and to provide training and support to all course reps. The upgraded Democratic Support Officer costs are included in here, as are the costs of the new Single-Sign-On voting system for the new website. Our NUS affiliation fee of £26k and elections publicity are also included in this budget line.

- Website and publicity costs will be slightly down on this year, with this budget line covering the continued development of the website to make it a more interactive experience. This budget line also covers all of our publications like the Freshers' Guide and The Oxford Student newspaper. We have also increased, within this line, the publicity and marketing budget from £2k to £10k to give the communications team money to play with in order to better engage students.
- We expect expenditure on the Freshers' Fair to remain static.
- The increase in Office Staff costs is due to the confirmation of the Operations and Events Manager (who deputises for the CEO) as a permanent position, the hiring of a Digital Communications Officer, making the Reception and Services Administrator full time (who previously only worked in term time) and increasing our capacity in design and communications.
- Office running costs are expected to rise slightly, due to the increase in the number of staff we employ.
- Finally, professional and insurance costs are expected to remain static.

Those are the headline figures, but the pages after the first two give a more detailed breakdown of non-staff expenditure in each category. As you'll see on the 'Projects and Outreach' page, all of OUSU's permanent campaigns (bar Target Schools, which already receives more money than the others) have had their budgets increased from £500pa to £600pa.

On the next page, 'Democratic Support Costs', you'll see our affiliation fee for NUS outlined, as well as the cost of an online voting module for our website, which will allow students to vote using their Single-Sign-On as opposed to using Mi-Voice. This will hopefully increase turnout in our elections, as well as providing a more secure voting platform.'

Raj Dattani (St Peter's) - Questioned why the audit costs are so high.

Tom - Replied that it reflects an increase in cost from the people that do the auditing.

David Bagg (Balliol) - Asked why the total office costs are increasing by over 50%.

Tom - Answers that this reflects that we will be purchasing more equipment due to increased numbers of staff. Added that previously the amount budgeted has not been sufficient.

Rebekka Hamelsbeck (University) - Asked how much of the discretionary fund has been used so far this year.

Nick Cooper (St John's) - £1682.

Jack Matthews (University) - Suggested reviewing audit costs.

Tom - Agreed and confirmed that this will be suggested to the new CEO.

Raj - Asked if the reserves are in cash or assets.

Tom - Confirmed that they are in cash.

David - Asked what results are expected from the website, marketing and publications costs.

Tom - Explained that the new website is much more accessible, and will also allow people to log in with their single sign on, meaning we will be able to run elections from this system. Added that all of these costs will allow us to be better able to push out messages to students.

Motion passed with no opposition.

5. NUS Re-affiliation

Council Notes:

1. That, as requested by TT13 WK7 OUSU Council, a referendum on NUS membership was held this Trinity Term.
2. That the voiding of the referendum means the question must be formally put to OUSU Council.
3. That, with the spare ballots that were used to cast votes but never sent to individual students excluded, re-affiliation was supported by a margin of 70% to 30% by the student body.

Council Believes:

1. That referenda are held to garner and act in accordance with the views of the student body.
2. That Oxford students overwhelmingly supported re-affiliation to NUS in the referendum this term.
3. That OUSU Council should respect the view of the student body as expressed in the referendum held this term.

Council Resolves:

1. To re-affiliate to the National Union of Students (NUS) for the forthcoming academic year 2014-15.

Proposed: Tom Rutland (Jesus)

Seconded: Jack Matthews (University)

Tom Rutland (Jesus) - Stated that the question of affiliation now needs to be put to a democratic body following the voiding of the referendum. Urged council to listen to the voice of students and vote for affiliation before it lapses.

Raj Dattani (St Peter's) - Questioned if NUS affiliation is accounted for in the budget.

Tom - Confirmed that it is.

David Townsend (St John's) - Requested an update on any ongoing investigations.

Tom - Reported that the Proctors Office are still investigating but as of yet are unable to comment. Added that OUSU are prioritising using Single Sign Ons for elections in time for Michaelmas.

Amendment:

To ADD:

Council Resolves;

2. To hold a referendum in or before Trinity Term 2015 to determine whether OUSU should renew its affiliation to the National Union of Student for the academic year 2015-2016.

Proposed: Jack Matthews (University)

Seconded: Louis Trup (Brasenose)

Jack Matthews (University) - Stated that he supports re-affiliation this time following the voiding of the referendum, as the correct thing to do is stick with the status quo. Argues that he does not accept however, that we have had a valid referendum, and therefore another one needs doing, to ensure that a legitimate answer is delivered.

Tom - Not accepted as friendly.

Sarah Pine (Wadham) - Informed council that she does not believe that OUSU should hold another referendum as it takes up a huge amount of time for both staff and sabbs which could be spent on

positive representation for our students. Added that she has received considerable support from the Women's Officer at NUS.

James Blythe (Brasenose) - Stated that we have an opportunity to do something really good. Added that we humiliated ourselves in the eyes of the student body so the best thing to do is to run it again.

Tom - Responded that it was not as if the referendum has not already been run with publicity and argued that another one would be a waste of time that could be spent on better things.

Joe Miles (Wadham) - Agreed with Tom, reminding council that once the invalid ballots were removed, the results were clear. Suggested that we now draw our attention to better engaging with the NUS.

Dan Tomlinson (University) - Argued that we should not be binding incoming sabs and representatives to do this, and should allow them to make their own decision in the first week of Michaelmas if they wish to go ahead with another referendum.

Josh Platt (Hertford) - Agreed that campaigning consumed a lot of sabbatical time, however informed council that on speaking about this with common rooms, the impression is that many believe the issue to be unresolved.

Move to vote.

Jack - Reminded council that we cannot be considered to be lumbering the incoming sabbatical team with this, when the incoming president is seconding the amendment and we've just heard another member of the team speak in favour of it. Added that this is not based on your opinions of the NUS, this is simply an amendment to allow the issue to be sealed off legitimately with a valid referendum.

Tom - Argued that having another referendum would be playing into the hands of whoever caused this in the first place. Considered the matter as settled as the real result is clear.

Vote on amendment.

For - 15
Against - 32
Abstain - 6

Amendment fell.

Move to vote.

For - 53
Against - 0
Abstain - 2

Motion passed.

Nick Cooper (St John's) - Informed council that there is £318 left in the discretionary budget and four motions requesting an approximate total between them of £800.

Rachel Pickering (Hertford) - **Proposed a procedural motion** to debate motions 6, 7, 8 and 9 before voting.

Raj Dattani (St Peter's) - Asked if council have the power to increase the budget.

Nick - Confirmed that they do not.

No objections to procedural motion.

6. Abortion Rights Re-affiliation

Council Notes:

1. That OUSU has a pro-choice policy, which resolves 'to support a woman's right to choose', and 'to campaign to extend students' right of practical access to an abortion', and to 'extend their rights of choice over their own pregnancies'.
2. That this policy further resolves 'to work with other groups campaigning for the above objects'.
3. That Abortion Rights is the only abortion-focused campaigning and advocacy organisation in the UK, providing up to date information to campaigners and campaigning materials.
4. That the VP (Women) and the Graduate Women's Officer have organized student parent socials this year, and have put active effort into making other events family-friendly.

Council Believes:

1. That OUSU's pro-choice policy should be acted upon.
2. That Abortion Rights offers helpful resources and support to assist OUSU in its work.
3. That the work of OUSU's women's representatives has emphasized that OUSU supports choice, rather than preferencing any response to a pregnancy.

Council Resolves:

1. To affiliate to Abortion Rights at a cost of £50 per annum.
2. To emphasize the mandate of the VP (Women) to make it easier to have a child whilst being a student at Oxford.

Proposed: Sarah Pine (Wadham)

Seconded: Eden Tanner (St John's)

Sarah Pine (Wadham) - Stated that the affiliation cost listed in the motion is incorrect and informed council that she was bringing an amendment to correct it.

Amendment received:

To change resolves 1 to:

To affiliate to Abortion Rights at a cost of £40 per annum.

Proposed: Sarah Pine (Wadham)

Seconded: Tom Rutland (Jesus)

Amendment accepted as friendly.

Sarah - Explained that Abortion Rights provides an invaluable service to OUSU and WomCam, providing resources to us that are crucial. Claimed that Abortion rights fits into OUSU more broadly, as students that may be pregnant need a free choice. Informed council that according to Bpass, this is now an issue that affects 1 in 3 women. Stated that Abortion rights will provide training to Welfare Officers if we re-affiliate, and will help us to campaign. Added that students from Northern Ireland still do not have easy access to abortions and we need to support those students to ensure that all women have a genuinely free choice.

Dan Tomlinson (University) - Asked if there is some money in WomCam if we wish to re-affiliate.

Lucy Delaney (Wadham) - Responded that WomCam would probably cover it if the motion fell, but stated that they already have a chronically low amount of funds and have accounted for them already. Asked the chair if WomCam can use the discretionary budget if they have a speaker event.

Nick - Confirmed that is correct.

Sarah - Added that council would still need to actively support affiliating with Abortion Rights if the money came from WomCam.

Jack Matthews (University) - Asked if WomCam speakers appearing in Michaelmas would not come from the WomCam budget.

Sarah - Explained that they are trying to organise themselves now while they have some money to use.

Jack - Claimed that many people would want to speak on this issue but feel like they cannot do it due to emotional constraints. Informed council that he does not believe that we need to spend money in order to support this pro-choice belief, stated that he feels strongly about scrutiny but does not need to join an external organisation to display this, and requested more information on exactly what we gain from affiliation.

Lucy - Responded that it is unfair to compare abortion with scrutiny as this is completely trivialising it.

Sarah - Provided examples of when Abortion Rights have supported her, stating that in her third year, they came to speak at WomCam gender equality week at the most highly attended event of the week, they have provided her with information on selective abortions, and she spoke to them just yesterday about trigger warnings, which is crucial for mental health and welfare.

Rebekka Hammelsbeck (University) - Insisted that it is important to have a body campaigning for this on a national level, adding that Sarah may not always have the time to do so.

Alexander Rankine (Corpus) - Stated that money will come out of WomCam for this if council do not agree to money from the discretionary budget, so worry that we are being asked to fund marginal aspects of WomCam.

Annie Teriba (Wadham) - Argued that this would place a significant burden on WomCam.

Move to discuss Motion 7 - no objection.

7. 'Losing Sleep' Project

Council Notes:

1. That 1 in 4 women university students experience sexual assault during their time as a student.
2. That 1 in 5 women over the age of 16 experience sexual violence at some point in their adult life. (Rape Crisis England and Wales)
3. That students are engaged with the project "Losing Sleep", an art project concerned with the emotional effects of experiencing sexual violence.
4. That a description of the project, information about sources of funding and a budget is available. (Appendix 2)

Council Believes:

1. That work raising awareness of sexual violence in our community is valuable. It gives a voice to survivors whilst also educating others on the issue.
2. That artistic projects around sexual violence complement OUSU's previous work on prevention and support.

Council Resolves:

1. To allocate £250 of the discretionary campaigns budget to Losing Sleep

2. To mandate the VP (Women) to make this project available for students to appreciate in the most appropriate way. (e.g. through organizing an exhibition)

Proposed: Mary-Danielle Johnson (Jesus)

Seconded: Erin Floyd (Christ Church)

Mary-Danielle Johnson (Jesus) - Hoped that the physical medium used by this project would convey the effects of sexual violence. Recognised that Oxford has been in the press recently on this topic, and stated that it was crucial that OUSU support this initiative.

Sarah Pine (Wadham) - Asked if it is happening over the summer, and if "It Happens Here" will be providing money.

Mary-Danielle - Answered yes to both.

Joe Miles (Wadham) - Questioned the nature of the project.

Mary-Danielle - Explained that it is a visualisation of the dreams of the survivors which consider the psychological impact of sexual violence. Urged that it is really important that we are taking a position on the problem of sexual violence in Oxford.

Josh Platt (Hertford) - Asked the proposer is she would accept an amendment to the motion which requested less money.

Mary-Danielle - Requested that we hear this amendment after we have heard the other motions accepting money, but added that yes, in principle, she would accept it.

David Bagg (Balliol) - Asked if the artists would be willing to fund the project.

Mary-Danielle - Replied stating that the artists are already working and giving up their time.

Moved to discuss motion 8 - no objection.

8. Funding the printing of The Art of Communication (TAoC)

Council Notes:

1. That at least 1 in 100 people in the UK have autism, suggesting that it affects around 2.7 million people (families inclusive) every day.
2. That autism can have devastating effects on individuals and families without the right support.
3. That more could be done to raise awareness and understanding of the autism spectrum among our student population.
4. That TAoC will be a publication collating written and pictorial perspectives on autism from students with both personal and academic interests in the subject.
5. That it will cost £213.52 to print 150 colour copies of TAoC.

Council Believes:

1. That a broad range of students across the University has expressed enthusiasm to learn more about autism through this print publication.
2. That several contributors (inc. students with autism themselves) have said that they have long hoped for such a project.
3. That developing communication is a key method of mitigating autism's potential harm.
4. That awareness-raising projects such as TAoC deserve financial support.

Council Resolves:

1. To give £213.52 from the campaigning budget to cover the printing costs of TAoC.

Proposed: Sophie Baggott (Corpus Christi)
Seconded: James Wells (Corpus Christi)

Sophie Baggott (Corpus) - Explained that the aim of this project is to collate perspectives on autism for a one-off publication. Read out a section from 'The Aut of Communication' facebook page:

'Autism features in many young people's lives in varying degrees and ways, but discussion and understanding seem to be lagging behind. Since my younger brother Danny's diagnosis earlier this year, I've spent some time talking to Oxford students both with and without direct experience of the autistic spectrum, and all from both angles have been very much behind this call for more awareness.

As developing communication is key to keeping the potential downsides of autism at bay, T.A.o.C. hopes to prompt interaction between anyone who has encountered it either personally or via a friend/relation, as well as providing a platform for those with an interest in autism (academic or otherwise) to share thoughts and resources.'

Added that to the best of her knowledge, this publication is the first of its kind in Oxford.

Amendment received:

In Notes 1:

Change 'have autism' to 'are autistic'.

Replace Notes 2 with:

'That autism creates challenges and needs the right support.'

Replace Believes 3 with:

'That developing communication is a good way to make autistic people heard and to support autistic people.'

Insert Believes 5:

TAoC does not aim to speak for autistic people, and will not claim to do so, except in those articles which are themselves written by autistic people.'

Proposed: Sophie Baggott (Corpus)
Seconded: Jamie Wells (Corpus)

Amendment accepted as friendly.

David Bagg (Balliol) - Asked if other sources of funding are available if this motion does not pass.

Sophie - Responded that she would put a motion in her college but they would have to fund the projects themselves and request the money retrospectively.

Will Obeney (Regent's) - Questioned the plan for long term sustainability.

Sophie - Explained that this is just a one-off publication.

Sarah Pine (Wadham) - Asked how much of the content is from autistic people.

Sophie - Answered that 6 out of the 13 current submissions are.

Joe Miles ((Wadham) - Added that this will soon be 7.

Moved to discuss motion 9 - no objection.

9. Awarding Oxford UNICEF On Campus £250

Council Notes:

1. That Oxford UNICEF On Campus is a recently formed society, dedicated to promoting and advancing UNICEF's missions and campaigns within the University.
2. That UNICEF has many laudable aims that correspond with the policy adopted by OUSU Council.
3. That Oxford UNICEF On Campus is keen to organise events such as club nights, comedy evenings and film screenings in order to raise money and awareness for UNICEF's aims.
4. That a newly founded society of students may well be lacking in 'start up funds'.

Council Believes:

1. That Council wishes to support the endeavours of Oxford UNICEF On Campus and UNICEF as an organisation.

Council Resolves:

1. To award Oxford UNICEF On Campus £250 from the Discretionary Campaigns Budget to assist in the running and promotion of events.

Proposed: Anna Bazley (St. Peter's)

Seconded: Rebecca Roughan (Regent's Park)

Rebecca Roughan (Regent's) - Explained that in order to put on events, produce posters, put down deposits etc, they need some money. Added that they are hoping to gain £250 from the discretionary budget, and will look at other sources to reach their total requirement of £400.

Dan Tomlinson (University) - Questioned why they are asking for money from OUSU rather than Clubs Committee.

Anna Bazley (St Peter's) - Answered that they are applying to both.

Sarah Pine (Wadham) - Asked if the money is required over the summer period.

Anna - Confirmed that this is the case.

Anna Bradshaw (Wadham) - Asked if there is any indication of the likelihood of gaining money from other sources.

Rebecca - Replied that she will be applying to her JCR but believes that it is important to have OUSU's support.

David Bagg (Balliol) - Suggested that they ask UNICEF for some money as a float.

Rebecca - Explained that they are a franchise and while UNICEF provides them with support, they do not give out money in that way.

Move to discuss motions 6 to 9.

Opposed.

Vote on moving on - Moved on to discuss the break down of money.

Amendment received:

To give £40 to Abortion Rights and £92.66 each to 'Losing Sleep', 'The Art of Communication' and Oxford UNICEF on Campus.

Proposed: Annie Teriba (Wadham)

Seconded: Caitlin Ticknell (Balliol)

Opposed.

Annie Teriba (Wadham) - Stated that she would be upset to see one or more of these motions leave with no money and views this as away to prevent that from happening.

Anya Metzger (Wadham) - Recognised that all appeals are very valid, however, considers the divide of money inappropriate as the requests are for different amounts.

David Bagg (Balliol) - Announced that he does not support the amendment, explaining that although he considered all of them to be worthwhile, he believes that motion 8 is much more urgent.

Jamie Wells (Corpus) - Pointed out that while motion 8 is costed down to the penny, the others are just ballparks, and all three are actually pretty even.

Rebecca Roughan (Regent's) - Stated that she wouldn't support giving to Abortion Rights but would accept splitting the money equally between the other three motions.

Sarah Pine (Wadham) - Fully support dividing the remaining money between the three after giving £40 to Abortion Rights. Reminded council that this is OUSU's affiliation to Abortion Rights, not OUSU WomCam's affiliation to Abortion Rights.

Annie Teriba (Wadham) - Asked if we will vote on re-affiliation with Abortion Rights first.

Nick Cooper (St John's) - Confirmed that as it stands, yes.

Jack Matthews (University) - Confirmed that he is not in favour of the amendment, and believes that in motions you need to be very specific about what you ask for. Noted that some of these motions have been far more specific than others.

Move to vote on amendment.

Opposed.

Charlotte Hendy (Pembroke) - Stated that we should move to vote on the amendment and then consider the substance of the motions after this.

Nick - Clarified that as the amendment stands, the money will be split equally between those that pass, with the exception of Abortion Rights which requires the full £40.

Annie Teriba (Wadham) - Withdrew her objection to move to vote on amendment.

Amendment passed.

Move to vote - passed.

Nick - Ruled that there would be no summary speeches.

David Bagg (Balliol) - Opposed Chair's ruling.

Vote on summary speeches - no summary speeches.

Motion 6 - Abortion Rights Re-affiliation

For - 35
Against - 3
Abstain - 4

Motion passed.

Motion 7 - 'Losing Sleep' Project

For - 28
Against - 5
Abstain - 9

Motion passed as amended.

Motion 8 - Funding the printing of The Aut of Communication (TAoC)

For - 42
Against - 0
Abstain - 1

Motion passed as amended.

Motion 9 - Awarding Oxford UNICEF On Campus £250

For - 22
Against - 12
Abstain - 10

Motion passed as amended.

Nick Cooper (St John's) - Called for a quorum count.

Sarah Pine (Wadham) - Requested to run through passage of motions nem con with remaining motions.

Nick - Agreed and asked for objections.

Will Obeney (Regent's) - Objected on the basis that motions should not be pushed through due to time constraints or the loss of quorum. Added that this is why the motion for an extraordinary council was put in place.

Nick - Withdrew proposal.

Tom Rutland (Jesus) - Re-proposed another run through passage of motions nem con.

Vote on proposal:

For - 27
Against - 10

Passes.

No further motions passed nem con.

Jack Matthews (University) - Raised a point of order, and explained that OUSU has existing policy which states that council cannot be held between the hours of 9 and 5, therefore the timing of extraordinary council would need to be changed.

Nick - Announced the closure of the meeting.

i. Other Motions