

## Extraordinary Council Minutes

8th week Trinity Term 2014

8th Week Extraordinary Council took place at 5.00pm, on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2014 at St John's College.

- a. Passage of Motions without Discussion
- b. Motions
  1. Officer Remits
  2. Kebab and Chips
  3. OxHub Memorandum
  4. Trigger Warnings in Council
  5. Fairtrade Policy
  6. Procedure for filling vacancies of Returning and Deputy Returning Officer

---

### a. Passage of Motions without Discussion

#### 6. Procedure for filling vacancies of Returning and Deputy Returning Officers

##### **Council Notes:**

1. That Election Regulation 3.3 requires Council to establish a procedure for filling vacancies of the Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officers.
2. Current Council policy (5<sup>th</sup> week, Michaelmas Term 2012) that where no Deputy Returning Officers are elected by 3<sup>rd</sup> week of Michaelmas Term (or where a vacancy occurs), the Returning Officer may choose one Sabbatical officer to be a Deputy Returning Officer.
3. The Council policy in 2 does not cover the absence of a Returning Officer, or situations where all Sabbatical officers are ineligible due to campaigning in a Referendum.

##### **Council Resolves:**

1. To overturn the Council policy made in 5<sup>th</sup> week Council of Michaelmas Term 2012 pertaining to the appointment of Deputy Returning Officers.
2. To make the following text Policy Guidelines:

##### **Appointing (Deputy) Returning Officers (policy under Election Regulation (Direct Elections) 3.3)**

1. If no Returning Officer has been elected by 1<sup>st</sup> week Council of any term, or in the event there is a vacancy and a Referendum or Direct Election is upcoming or ongoing, a Returning Officer shall be appointed in the following order of succession:
  - a. Where there is at least one Deputy Returning Officer, the Deputy Returning Officer who was elected or appointed first;
  - b. Where there are none and the President accepts, the President;
  - c. Where the President declines, a Full Time Officer of the President's choice, except where all Full Time Officers are intending to campaign in an upcoming or ongoing Referendum;

- d. Where none of the above apply, a Part Time Officer or the Chair of Council, selected by the President, except where all are unable to act impartially or unwilling to serve;
- e. Where none of a), b), c) or d) apply, the President shall appoint the Democratic Support Officer as Returning Officer.
2. Where an appointment is made under 1), Council shall continue to advertise a vacancy, and where a candidate is elected to the position, the temporary appointment shall cease.
3. Council may replace a Returning Officer appointed under 1a), 1b), 1c) or 1d) with the Democratic Support Officer, by passing a motion to that effect, and 2) will still apply.
4. If no Deputy Returning Officers have been elected by 1<sup>st</sup> week Council of Michaelmas Term, or at any other time where there are no Deputy Returning Officers due to vacancies arising, the Returning Officer may appoint no more than one Deputy Returning Officer in the following order of succession:
  - a. A Full Time Officer of their choosing, except where all Full Time Officers intend to campaign in an upcoming Referendum;
  - b. A Part-Time Officer or the Chair of Council.
5. An appointment made under 4) shall last until the end of the Term in which it is made.

***Proposed:*** Tom Rutland (Jesus)

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

**Motion passed without discussion.**

---

## **b. Motions**

### 1. Officer Remits

#### **Council Notes:**

1. Its decision in Termly Council to replace remaining Rules and Standing Orders with General Regulations.
2. To complete that process, the Officers' job descriptions in Schedule 4 to the Standing Orders need replacing.

#### **Council Believes:**

1. That new Remits for all Officers are required.

#### **Council Resolves:**

1. In the exercise of its powers under General Regulation 8.1, to approve the Remits set out in Appendix 1.

***Proposer:*** Tom Rutland (Jesus)

***Secunder:*** Charlotte Hendy (Pembroke)

Tom Rutland (Jesus) - Explained that this motion is to bring officer remits into force, and reminded council that since the Rules and Standing Orders were repealed the previous week, there's currently nothing in place. Informed council that the sabbatical remits have been made more broad, while the executive remits have primarily been copied over from the standing orders, with irrelevant sections removed. Suggested the idea that these could be fleshed out by the incoming sabbatical team over the following academic year.

#### **Amendment received:**

To add the following to VP Women and Graduate Women's Officer:

'To support student parents and liaise with the University on behalf of the student parents.'

**Proposed:** Eden Tanner (St John's)

**Seconded:** Sarah Pine (Wadham)

Amendment accepted as friendly.

**Motion passed with no opposition.**

## 2. Kebab and Chips

### **Council Notes:**

1. That Hassan's, Ahmed's, Hussain's, Adam's and other fine portable vendors of greasy culinary treats are considered by many of the student body to form an essential part of Oxford life
2. That far more insightful political debate happens in a Hassan's queue than in OUSU Council
3. That it's Fifth Week and we're all bored shitless and/or terrified about exams
4. That not enough realistic, achievable and serious motions are put to Council and this motion rectifies that
5. To mandate the President-Elect to eat two portions of cheesy chips a week for his entire term of office
6. That proposers of motions shouldn't put points in 'Council notes' that should really go in 'Council resolves'
7. Chips

### **Council Believes:**

1. That a clear OUSU policy on kebab vans would fix OUSU's image problems and make it directly relevant to student life
2. That OUSU is best positioned to destroy the capitalist mode of production and abolish the state
3. That nationalising kebab vans would protect them from difficult economic times, ensure workers were in control of their labour, and ensure a steady and even expanded supply of fast food for the Oxford student body
4. That Council should be opposed in principle to three things, misused commas, irony and irrelevant lists.
5. That the time will come when hobbits will shape the fortunes of all.

### **Council Resolves:**

1. To adopt forthwith a policy of nationalising Hassan's under workers' control (along with other Oxford kebab vans)
2. To commit to the forced collectivisation of Andrew Hamilton's estimated £434k salary, which would buy every Oxford student roughly six kebab van meals a year
3. To prevent the need for further boring passing of motions, investigate the practicalities of a policy of simultaneously condemning and supporting everything, indefinitely
4. To campaign for cheesy chips, falafels, kebabs and burgers free at the point of use for all students
5. Chips
6. To make Council Resolves 1-5 Council Policy

**Proposed:** Nathan Akehurst (Lincoln)  
**Seconded:** James Elliott (St Edmund's)

Motion opposed.

Tom Rutland (Jesus) - Stated that the policy of nationalisation would make OUSU too political.

James Blythe (Brasenose) - Claimed that Louis needs to eat healthier food.

Jack Matthews (University) - Stated that a long-term gastronomic plan needs to be stuck to.

Move to vote.

For - 5  
Against - 28  
Abstain - 5

**Motion fell.**

### 3. OxHub Memorandum

#### **Council Notes:**

1. That OUSU and the Oxford Hub have an established working partnership.
2. That this partnership is set out in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) (Appendix 2).
3. That this was originally adopted as policy by OUSU Council in Trinity Term 2011.
4. That the MoU remains unchanged from Trinity 2011.

#### **Council Believes:**

1. That the OUSU/Oxford Hub partnership is beneficial to students and to both organisations and, as such, it should continue in line with the MoU.

#### **Council Resolves:**

1. To adopt the MoU, Appendix 2, as OUSU Council Policy.

**Proposed:** Dan Tomlinson (University)  
**Seconded:** Tom Rutland (Jesus)

Dan Tomlinson (University) - Informed council that Oxhub promotes and supports volunteering in Oxford, an aim which overlaps with the Mission, Vision and Values of OUSU. Explained that an agreement is required between our organisations to ensure that we work effectively without hindering each other. Added that the agreement reflects the working relationship between us.

Danny (Wadham) - Asked if there is any reason not to vote for this.

Dan - Replied that yes, if you disagreed with anything in the agreement.

Danny - Asked if there are any changes to the agreement.

Dan - Explained that the Oxhub has grown and OUSU has plans of doing more with clubs and societies and the agreement reflects that.

Motion opposed.

Jack Matthews (University) - Argued that there is a cultural problem with the relationship between OUSU and the Oxford Hub, and additionally, that there are very serious concerns with the finances behind student hubs. Added that he can find no evidence that the money coming from Turl Street Kitchen is sent to the hubs, and has wider concerns in general about where money comes from, where it goes, and suggested links to off-shore investments. Stated that he has put together a folder of information about this that people are welcome to look at.

Sarah Pine (Wadham) - Asked what would happen if we don't pass this motion.

Dan - Replied that we would have no formal agreement in place with Oxhub about how we both work with students.

Lucy Delaney (Wadham) - Reported that she interned at OxHub and received very dodgy answers when asking about finances.

Danny - Suggested that in light of this new information, we need to consider this motion further, and conduct research into exactly where money is going.

#### **Procedural motion to defer motion to 1<sup>st</sup> Week Michaelmas.**

Danny - Argued that there is a lot of information to take into consideration, and currently only Jack has read this additional material.

Dan - Accepted that these issues need investigating, however argued against terminating the agreement now as we need something in place. Suggested an amendment to look into this information instead.

#### **Vote on deferring motion.**

For - 19

Against - 19

#### **Motion to defer fell.**

Louis Trup (Brasenose) - Encouraged council not to pass this motion yet. Stated that he was VP at the OxHub and had big financial concerns. Added that he would like to speak to them before we pass something which is difficult to overturn.

Garlen Lo - Asked for a direct response from Dan about Jack's claims, and asked Jack if he had spoken to the OUSU team about his concerns prior to this meeting.

Dan - Acknowledged that these are very serious allegations that need looking into, but claimed that we as council do not yet have the full picture.

Jack - Replied that he had spoken to Dan and a number of other people. Accepted that there is a possibility of a legitimate explanation but asserted that this is very unlikely, and needs to be looked into regardless.

#### **Amendment received:**

To add resolves 2:

'To mandate the VP C & C to investigate the claims made by Jack, and report back at MT 1<sup>st</sup> week council, or at the earliest possible opportunity.'

**Proposed:** James Blythe (Brasenose)

**Seconded:** Margery Infield (St Edmund's)

### **Amendment accepted as friendly.**

Dan - Requested to table the motion until discussion of the other motions had been completed.

Accepted by council.

Returned to debate motion:

Tom Rutland (Jesus) - Argued that OUSU and OxHub are both full of keen students, and if no agreements are in place, we will infringe upon each other.

Dan - Acknowledged that interesting and serious concerns have been raised here today, however explained to council that without the agreement in place, the relationship would not be clearly defined. If the document had not existed this year, the OxHub could have gone ahead and ran events that OUSU ran, including the Education Conference, which we had the best expertise to do. Recognised concerns but stressed that we really do need to keep this in place.

Jack - Reported that he is pleased with the amendment and reminded council that he has information available of anyone wants to see it, however explained that he remains opposed to the motion following Louis' points. Concluded that the fact that we fear that they would encroach upon us highlights exactly the cultural contempt to which he referred earlier.

Danny - Agreed that the amendment is good but noted that the clause on termination requires 3 months notice, which needs amending before we commit.

Jamie Wells (Corpus) - Asked if it is difficult to remove policy.

Nick - Responded that it is not difficult, as council can take it away.

Garlen - Reminded council that this agreement protects us and we therefore need to push it through. Explained that we do not want OUSU to lose any of their activities.

Margery - Questioned if the agreement is still in place, even if it does not become policy.

Dan - Explained that it is not yet in place, and that the signed appendix is just an example.

Move to vote.

For - 20

Against - 13

Abstain - 4

### **Motion passed as amended.**

#### 4. Trigger Warnings in Council

##### **Council Notes:**

1. OUSU Council commonly discusses topics concerning welfare and/or oppression.
2. That students who may have experienced and of the issues discussed may be upset or triggered by discussion of them.
3. That issuing trigger warnings for topics enables students to prepare themselves emotionally, or to leave if they want to.
4. That many council attendees may not read the agenda prior to arriving at Council.
5. That there has been no cause for concern regarding the handling of sensitive issues in debate in Council.

### **Council Believes:**

1. That Council should be as accessible as possible to students, especially those who have been personally affected by the topics council discusses.
2. That triggering students unnecessarily can be damaging to their wellbeing.

### **Council Resolves:**

1. To mandate the Chair of Council to issue trigger warnings for potentially upsetting topics at the beginning of council, so as to give enough time for students to prepare themselves or to leave.
2. To highlight the multiple elected officers to whom the Chair can direct questions if they are unsure if a topic requires a trigger warning.
3. To make Council Notes 1, 2, 3, Council Believes and Council Resolves Policy.

**Proposed: Rowan Davis (Wadham)**

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

Nick Cooper (St John's) - Staged that he would cede the chair for this motion and handed over the Returning Officer, Martine Wauben.

Nick - Explained that this motion is proposal to have a trigger warning at the start of Council for any motions which contain issues that may be triggering. Recognised that some people may consider this pointless, but requested that they consider those that don't. Reminded council that these warnings would take just seconds of their time.

Garlen Lo (Wolfson) - Asked if this takes place at other institutions.

Sarah Pine (Wadham) - Answered that it happens at NUS Women's Conference.

**Motion passed with no opposition.**

## 5. Fairtrade Policy

### **Council Notes:**

1. OUSU's trustee board has policies, for example on equal opportunities, and that these policies are permanent until amended or withdrawn and, crucially, the board is able to closely monitor whether or not its policies are being implemented internally.
2. OUSU Council can pass policy and that this policy lapses after three years and must be brought as a new motion to Council in order to be renewed and remain OUSU policy.
3. OUSU Council last passed policy on Fairtrade in 2011, and so it will lapse at the end of the academic year unless it is renewed.

### **Council Believes:**

1. OUSU should have internal Board policy on Fairtrade policy that OUSU as an organisation adheres to.
2. OUSU Council should also make sure its commitment to Fairtrade is documented in policy.

### **Council Resolves:**

1. To request the Trustee Board to have Fairtrade Policy based upon Appendix 3a.
2. That the Trustee Board must consult with Environment and Ethics Campaign if it wishes to make any changes to the policy as drafted below.
3. To mandate the President, as Chair of the Board, to report back to OUSU Council once the Fairtrade policy has been agreed - reporting on any changes made to the proposed policy as

set out in Appendix 3a, and the reasons for these changes.

4. To make Appendix 3b Council Policy.

**Proposed:** Josh Richards (University)

**Seconded:** David Lawrence (Jesus)

Josh Richards (University) - Summarised the motion and stated his belief that OUSU should display its commitment to Fairtrade by documenting it in policy.

Will Obeney (Regent's) - Asked if the motion passed at the start of Hilary is sufficient to make this policy.

Josh - Answered that the previous motion did not make anything policy, but that he cannot see a way in which we can support that motion and not support this motion.

Garlen Lo (Wolfson) - Asked why this was not made policy in Hilary.

David Lawrence (Jesus) - Replied that there are practicalities that have come up since the motion was passed in Hilary.

Opposition to motion received.

Will - Claimed that he could see no reason to pass this, as very little of the money from Fairtrade goes to the third world and very little of it goes to farmers. Stated that we should be trying to do good, not look good.

Sarah Pine (Wadham) - Agreed with Will.

Danny (Wadham) - Claimed that he supports Fairtrade policy but not the Fairtrade mark. Agreed that consumption should be made more sustainable but is unsure if this is the right approach.

James Blythe (Brasenose) - Suggested that there is not enough information here to make a clear decision. Added that we would need to check if it would be sustainable for the tight budget which campaigns etc. are on.

Tom Rutland (Jesus) - Reminded council that we passed a motion last term which would be put into practise by passing this.

Josh - Agreed with Tom and acknowledged that he is not claiming that Fairtrade solves all issues, but argued that there is certainly no proof that it is doing any harm.

Eden Tanner (St John's) - Queried if this would include autonomous campaigns.

Dan Tomlinson (University) - Confirmed that it cannot.

Ali Lennon (St John's) - Asked if it is appropriate to mandate the sabs to this, considering the cost in time and money.

Josh - Argued that there are cheap and easy ways of being ethical and confirmed that he believes this motion to be reasonable.

Jamie Wells (Corpus) - Asked if Fairtrade is still a benefit over buying regular products and questioned whether any alternatives are available.

Danny - Argued that there is evidence that the Fairtrade mark is actually negative to some local, ethical traders who may not have the financial ability or time to get the mark.

Will - Added that there are a number of other ethical marks that could be considered.

Dan - Stated that a motion in favour of Fairtrade was overwhelmingly passed in a much fuller meeting of council, and all this motion does is implement that. Added that the loss at OUSU would be minimal as this already happens, and Fairtrade is really not that much more expensive than other products. Argued that he wants this to go to the Board.

Garlen - Asked if it is better for him to buy bananas from a stall in Gloucester Green, or to buy Fairtrade ones from Tesco.

Josh - Replied that Fairtrade is not mutually exclusive from other ethical causes, but asserted that it is positive overall.

Move to vote.

Josh - Reiterated that Council should pass this motion, following their support for Fairtrade in Hilary and encouraged people to vote in favour.

Danny - Argued that it is clear from the room that there is huge controversy on Fairtrade, and does not believe that council are ready to make it long-lasting policy.

For - 23

Against - 6

Abstain - 7

**Motion passes.**

AOB

Tom Rutland (Jesus) - Thanked everyone for coming to extraordinary council. Offered an extra big thanks to Nick Cooper for being a rock of support to OUSU as Chair of Council, Returning Officer, and in his various other roles throughout the year.

Nick Cooper (St John's) - Requested a round of applause for the outgoing sabbatical team.