

Termly Council 7th Week Hilary Term 2000

Meeting opened 2.37pm. Abigail Coates (St Hilda's) in the Chair.

00/HT7/01 Election of Chair of Council for Trinity Term 2000

Four candidates were duly nominated and husted:

Sean Sullivan (SEH)

Wished to contribute to Council. A good Chair has 3 requirements – independence, experience and effectiveness. Independence is key to make sure Council is run fairly. Will work with exec to make sure there is smooth running but would ensure no groups got priority. Doesn't know Sabs and Exec personally which prevents favouritism. Has been to 6 previous Councils. Would offer a firm hand if disruptive elements raised their heads. As a law student he has no exams and has knowledge of constitutional style language.

Eleanor Fletcher (Worcester)

Would ensure firm and fair debate. Agree with those efforts to improve Council. Council in room with a time limit is a problem. She is not a party political person. Has missed only one Council since MT 98 – indeed she likes Council! Has seen 5 chairs at work and have a good idea of what makes a good chair. Also has a good knowledge of Standing Orders (SO's) and the Constitution through their practice. She will put a firm cap on intimidatory behaviour to allow all to speak – no criticising of minority views. She is calm but bossy.

Matthew Taylor (St Benet's)

Declared his membership of the Labour Club. Has previous experience of chairing debates and student representative councils. He has constitutional skills as a lawyer. He is a fair candidate who will make no attempt to stifle business. Would need to learn SO's over the vacation.

Alex Jackson (Balliol)

2nd yr Maths and Phil student at Balliol. Chaired 6th Form Council at school. Been to about 2/3 of Councils in the last 12 months. His style of chairing is to be a bit of a bastard to all people...will border on the harsh with all to prevent any meeting from degenerating. He has no vote so his election would not be a disenfranchisement. His aim is to stamp on people who become irrelevant or go over 5 minutes. Would follow the people-handling strategy that his old physics tutor used.

Questions

John Storey (Somerville) asked what commitments the candidates had for next term?

SS – nothing other than being Chair of Council

EF – Entz Co-chair but would be coming to Council anyway as a delegate.

MT – none

AJ – chair practice but would bin that if necessary.

Jason Dorsett (Oriol) asked what experiences the candidates had at chairing unruly meetings? Also what would they do in such circumstances?

SS – At his school they were well-behaved! He would have no question in using a firm hand if people are causing a problem.

EF – Chaired school debating team. If I project a calm image this will urge others to calm down.

MT – twist the rules to your own purposes

AJ – was Chair of 6th Form Council but that wasn't unruly. He would be strict – ultimately expel people.

Tony Lord (Wadham) asked what academic year the candidates were in?

SS – 1st

EF – 2nd
MT – 1st
AJ – 2nd

Mary Stevens (Hertford) asked the candidates their opinions on a priority ballot for motions.
SS – disagreed - only fair way is in the order of submission. You can already change the order if Council so wants.
EF – is sympathetic but there are logistical problems
MT – some motions need priority especially those on how OUSU works
AJ – would not be happy with that change. Present system works fine.

Jeff Glekin (Mansfield) asked if all the candidates agreed that the Chair should be a bit of a bastard to all people?
SS – would show love and affection to all people.
EF – wouldn't be a bastard but bossy. Hopes to use this sparingly.
MT – primarily apply the rules – bastard qualities would be used if necessary.
AJ – it is the only way to stop people being stupid.

Tony Lord (Wadham) asked candidates if I = General Pinochet and IO = Lenin where are your political views?
SS – politically centre-right but not at dictatorial extremes.
EF – 3.5 – 4.5 but this wouldn't affect the job.
MT – between 4 and 6
AJ – a 7ish Hattersleyite

Jason Dorsett (Oriell) asked candidates if they had any idea of what constitutes an emergency motion?
SS – the issue can't have risen before the deadline. Would talk it over with exec.
EF – one that requires a response before next Council
MT – arises out of what is proposed and if it is new. Would examine all motions closely.
AJ – we are talking in too general terms here. Wouldn't be a too problematic decision to make.

Andrew Hewitt (Queens) asked if candidates would seek to curtail debate if motions go on for a long time?
SS – would not go beyond my duties listed in the SO's and constitution
EF – First part of Council goes on a long time but this is very a lot of important work is done.
MT – agrees with EF. Also give priority to those motions directly relevant to students.
AJ – some exec reports could be trimmed down a bit

Council then voted. The Returning Officer later declared that Eleanor Fletcher (Worcester) had been elected as Chair of Council for Trinity 2000.

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Procedural motion – Jason Dorsett (Oriell) moved that attendance rights be granted to two students from Warwick University Student Union who were interested in setting up their own Council and wanted a good model to follow (!). Agreed.

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00/HT7/02 Termly Reports

The termly reports were distributed with the agenda. It was agreed to combine ordinary Council reports by Sabs and Exec in this part of Council.

President

In addition to the termly report, Anneliese Dodds (St Hilda's) reported that:

- She had been approached by the Target Schools co-ordinators to push for people to go on the tour 9/10 Week.
- There was to be an NUS march on top-up fees soon.
- Letters to deliver to MP's against tuition fees would be distributed to colleges soon
- SCR letters on the same subject were being drafted in Oriell Sunday 4pm
- The current status with top-up fees is that there is a review of HE Funding by Vice Chancellors Group but also the Russell Group (which includes Oxford) is doing a further one solely on top-up fees
- NUS committee would be giving guidance for all those at going to conference – Keble Sunday 12.30pm

- The Ethics Committee Report on Stagecoach – the OxStu article was creative journalism that went too far. It gave the wrong impression of how Council worked. She would be taking further action.

Questions

John Storey (Somerville) asked why he was not pursued and no-conned in 5th Week Council?

AD replied that she forgot to resubmit the motion.

Dan Waites (St Anne's) asked what AD meant when she wanted to tighten up our relationship with the NUS? – AD said it was issues like the region we are in being completely inappropriate. All NUS officers would be consulted over this.

Daniel Moore (Queens) asked if the money spent on pursuing General Pinochet would have been better spent on education? AD said this was nothing to do with her job.

VP – Finance

In addition to his termly report, Alex Freudmann (Magdalen) reported that:

- He would be going on the Target Schools Tour
- There were grave concerns over the OxStu article on Stagecoach esp. the word 'deceitful'
- He was taking action to recover oxfordstudent.com from 2 students at Brookes who had tried to get us to pay for them to develop a website on us.
- The Term Diary would be going to the printers promptly

Questions

Mary Stevens (Hertford) asked about the reserves and the drawing up of a business plan for their use.

AF said that the reserves do not need to be so big and any big changes would come before Council next term.

Matthew Taylor (St Benet's) asked if Alex had any sites in mind for a CSU or if his discussion was just general? AF – just general though a meeting with the University Surveyor and the Clerk to the Proctors is happening soon.

John Courouble (Campion Hall) asked if OUSU would have a thriving bar and shop by the end of 2000? AF – unlikely.

VP – Women

In addition to her termly report, Rachel Griffin (Exeter) reported that :

- Mighty Aphrodite was being held in Oriel, 8th Week.

No questions

VP – Welfare

In addition to her termly report, Alice Hodgson (New) reported that :

- She must thank Michael van Gelderen, Anna McNay and Joel Brookfield for all their work on Queer Rights Action Campaign. The march was really good.

No questions

VP – Graduates

In addition to his termly report, Jason Dorsett (Oriel) reported that :

- The Electoral Reform Working Party had met twice and lots of great ideas had come forth
- BBC Radio 5 are looking for medical students to participate on a debate on the NHS
- He has been posing as a prospective graduate student to get all college details sent to him to check for quality etc...

Questions

John Courouble (Campion Hall) asked what false name Jason had been using? His brother's first name and mother's maiden name. Was it true he rang St Hilda's by mistake? Yes

John Courouble (Campion Hall) asked about Jason's comment that 'OUSU is not primarily a campaigning body'. Would he not accept that things like occupations are often about implementation of policy by the University or are you saying we should only occupy the DfEE because that is where policy is made?

Jason said that occupations were a sledgehammer to crack a nut. The university does not have much scope in this area. SU's should not be supporting illegal acts. Occupations are better if done in unity with other SU's.

Tony Lord (Wadham) asked Jason if lobbying had failed on fees? Jason said the only thing going to have an impact on fees is the ballot box. One idea is a campaign to draw students attention to those candidates opposed to fees.

Costas Pateras (St John's) asked Jason if his comments were a valid thing to say as VP-Graduates? Yes – because the occupation put the relationship with the university in reverse for a while and if we had proposed anything to Hebdomadal Council from that point onwards for about a term, it would have met with total hostility.

Andrew Small (Balliol) asked if it is consistent for a VP-Graduates to make such statements to the press when OUSU has standing policy on peaceful occupations? Jason said that he could because the policy does not cover fees.

Exec Reports

In addition to their termly reports, the following Exec Officers reported:

Jon Worth:

- Is holding a tutorial on how to build web-pages Mon 9th Week 10.00am in OUSU
- There is no vacancy for a Co-chairship on OUSU reps committee
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Hanna Kwiatkowska:

- International Students Cmtte meets Wed 8th Week at 2pm in Oriel JCR annexe.
- She has tickets for Mighty Aphrodite – please buy some off her.

Sonia Sodha:

- There have been 259 responses to the Target Schools request for help. 500-600 schools will get visited
- There is vacancy for the Ethics Cmtte Co-chairship

Laura Davies:

- NUS Training for conference delegates is going ahead – Sunday 12.30pm Keble

Mary Stevens:

- There is to be an additional Entz Co-chair
- Lots of AcAf policy will be going to Council next term.

Committee Co-Chairs – none wished to add to their reports.

00/HT7/03 Readings of Motions to amend the Standing Orders or Constitution

Motion 1 – Representation on University Committees (SO changes)

Anneliese Dodds (St Hilda's) said the motion clarified all the positions in Standing Orders.

Passed nem-con. **The motion is accordingly incorporated into Standing Orders**

Motion 2 – Calling of Referendums (Constitutional changes)

Adam Killea (Balliol) said it was passed last time on a full and frank debate and thus should be again.

Passed nem-con. **The motion was accordingly read for a first time at a Termly Council. Second Reading - Termly Council, Trinity Term 2000.**

Motion 3 – Ratifications in Council (SO changes)(Taken at 4pm due to motion not being sent out with agenda)

Jason Dorsett (Oriol) said it put into SO's what the Chair has been tacitly doing for the last 2 councils.

Opposition: Hanna Kwiatkowska (St Hilda's) said not enough opposition would be made to allow people to decide on ratification.

Kirsty McNeill (Balliol) said that in those circumstances, you can overturn SO's by the suspension rule and allow a debate.

On a show of hands the motion was clearly carried. **The motion is accordingly incorporated into Standing Orders.**

Termly Council closed at 3.38pm