



council minutes

termly hilary 2006

Elections in Council, chair yielded to Oliver Russell.

Oliver: Our illustrious chair is stepping down today

Applause

Dan Simpson: No clapping in Council

Iain Simpson: You don't chair this bit.

Elections for Chair of Council

Rich Hardiman: Lib Dem party member

Ruth Larkin: No affiliations.

Ruth: Been recently involved in WomCam and think what OUSU does is really important, have been speaking to current chair about what he thinks Council is about, think it would be fun. Have time, only commitment in JCR woman's officer.

Rich Hardiman: I've finally made the transition from OxStu to OUSU, I'm stepping down from OxStu, have been to Council before and know how it works.

Iain Simpson: How many times have you been to Council?

Richard: 8 times

Ruth: None, but don't think that's a barrier.

?: Favourite part of standing orders?

Ruth: Haven't read them.

Rich: 2b

Stef (St Hughs): Best and worst qualities of current chair?

Rich: Worst quality, not finding the jokes at end of last term funny. Best knows rules.

Ruth: Think has a lot of good qualities, think having a woman is important.

?: What would someone have to do before you'd remove them?

Ruth: Be offensive or speak over the chair.

Rich: Offend someone.

?: Previous experience chairing meetings?

Richard: Editorial meetings, 6th form Council, Greyfriars JCR

Ruth: 6th form council

Election of Council delegate

Request for hust.

Max Lewis: I'm a believer in OUSU think it does it a good job with campaigns. Am scientist and SRI involved.

OUSU complaints board:

No requests for hust.

Report from sabbatical officers

Emma Norris: Nothing to add to report but NUS conference 28th March, forms need to be in as a matter of urgency.

Chris Allan: Nothing to add, sorry no free drinks. Can get you spare OUSU cards, email Emma.

Aidan Randle-Conde: First term OUSU has been making pregnancy tests available at 50p each, have sold over 200, get in touch with me or Ellie Cumbo. Barnes unit is facing closure, am putting together campaign. Went to peer support conference.

Medical certificates for exams have been raised with Proctors, am speaking to college doctors on that. Please get back to me any comments. No cause for concern though, shouldn't be a problem. Now have MSN address for welfare officers.

Charlyenne Pullen: Have been ill hence no council report. Am doing target schools stuff in ninth week, will get back to you all very soon.

Oliver Russell: 819 yes, 3563 voted no on subfusc poll. Hence OUSU's policy on subfusc will be set by a motion Emma Norris will bring to Council next term.

Hannah Stoddart: RAG stuff is happening, will be doing a community get involved week next term. Green electricity, university will be renewing its contract over the vac, will have demo outside university offices next Thursday at 1pm.
Emma Norris: VP-Women will be here in about 25 minutes.

No reports from p-t exec or co-chair committees.

Benny Spooner, Pembroke: Will V-P Finance publish electronic voter data?

Chris Allan: Have to ask OUCS.

Herve Hansen, Queens: What happens to cuts we voted?

Chris Allan: As it no longer looks like all of those will be necessary, probably won't have to cut all of them. Will bring next years budget soon.

Charlyne Pullen: How do we elect observers to NUS conference?

Emma Norris: President and a p-t exec officer with NUS portfolio.

?, St Catz: What action should common rooms be taking on NUS central affiliation?

Emma Norris: Motions going round common rooms asking them what they want to do, will have referendum next term.

Second Reading of Constitution and standing order changes.

Benny Spooner: I'm confused as to why standing orders and constitutional business are passed separately.

Dan Simpson: That might be a point you want to make in debate, but unless the motion as a whole is passed standing order changes won't come into effect.

Publications:

Aidan Randle-Conde: This affects three publications. Changes name of Oxford Survival Guide to Welfare Handbook. Scraps Women's handbook and ensured information goes elsewhere.

Passes nem con

Electoral Reform:

Iain Simpson: Same as we passed two weeks ago – just eliminating any ambiguities.

Benjamin Spooner: Good to be back here – we need to repeat the debate. I've examined the standing orders, and it does seem to be unconstitutional to have electronic voting because not every college got a ballot box. I was not convinced with the electronic voting this week. One of the problems was that OUSU was seamlessly merged with the university's single-sign in. This might confuse students. Might not matter that much this time but on a bigger issue it would. I'd still like to know how the counter works, I don't know if we will find that out.

Iain Simpson: Talk to OUCS and expect the integrity of their systems. Students probably are clever enough to realise that we are different from the university.

Chris Allan: Move to vote.

No opposition.

Dan Simpson: Requires two-thirds to pass. Please raise your voting cards.

Passes 36-3-2

Part-Time executive reform:

Alan Strickland: Students are given no choice at the moment over who does what, that's decided in a closed meeting and candidates can't be RONed. This will make elections far easier to understand. This will also create clear accountability. I think it would increase number of candidates, because would be more obvious as to what candidates would go for. I think it would increase participation in elections, because people would know what they were voting for. Would be obvious who you'd have to get in touch with. Much fairer on the officers, because they'd come into their jobs knowing what they were doing. PGA are in favour of this, just want to make small tweaks. I've personally committed myself to dressing in the most ridiculous costume that can be found in Oxford to encourage turnout. I think this motion will go a long way to tackling OUSU's biggest problems.

Benny Spooner: Has any consideration been given to having RON on STV?

Alan: Would be too complicated.

Benny Spooner: doesn't D2.4 contradict constitution?

Alan: Yes

Charlyne Pullen: Will create hierarchy within the executive, I think people seeking accommodation will go to V-P Welfare and Equal Opportunities. This creates an established, formal hierarchy in the executive. A lot of current members of the Executive have different interests, Rob does SRI and Target Schools, I did Target Schools and WomCam. This doesn't allow for flexibility. Currently the International Students committee is doing a lot, what if it doesn't? I don't think many of these executive officers would have enough work. This is far too inflexible. OUSU is supposed to cater for both common room officers and ordinary students. You're creating a system where each exec officer would only exist to liaise with common room officers.

Chris Allan: At the moment we have on the website what Exec Officers do what. Presumably in future students wanting to know who does what would look on the website. The way the part time executive works is that the work just gets done. What the executive does on a week by week basis is that it looks at what needs doing and adjust to do that. If this works we're going to get 50-60 manifestos. I don't think we'll get 50-60 students reading 50-60 manifestos and voting accordingly.

Hannah Stoddard: This wouldn't create a hierarchy, having named exec officers gives them a sense of who they are and what their identities are. The point about having named exec officers with specific portfolios is that people can get in touch with them. The only thing the role will aid is simple communication. I disagree with Chris's point about what happens if OUSU gets contested elections. At the moment we have a situation whereby portfolios won't be fulfilled.

James Lamming, Merton: I think having contested elections would be good. Committees with delegates responsibilities still help out with stuff.

MTV

Hannah Stoddard: Have had all the arguments already.

Iain Simpson: Have had people who've been wanting to talk from the start.

MTV passes

Alan Strickland: All the problems are unfounded, this is a good idea.

Charlynnne: Think it's significant that those against this are those who've been on part-time exec.

Motion passes.

Appointments Board

Ed Mayne: General manager has to do a lot of work with the business manager, so he/she should be on the appointments board.

Dan Simpson: Any Opposition?

Benny Spooner: We had an unusually short discussion on this last time, so I hope we have an unusually long discussion this time. This motion would be better if it said???? This is a slippery slope. Since we can't amend it we'll have to oppose it.

Oliver Russell: Don't think this is slippery slope.

MTV

MTV Passes nem con

Motion clearly passes.

Council delegates:

Ed Mayne: There's the problem that Council delegates + executive can outvote Common Room votes. And Council delegates don't turn up. Think we should wipe the slate clean, and start again. If anyone has any better ideas should do so.

Rob Robinson: This does allow students who aren't in the OUSU clique to get a vote and I think that's important, if it needs reform then lets reform it instead of outright abolishing it.

Iain Simpson: We're just about to centrally affiliate to the NUS, why are we scrapping the delegates? If we want to reform the way we do central representation then lets reform, but timescale means that we can't scrap them.

?: We don't have the situation where there's a delegate block vote.

Herve: How many delegates are here, should be 12?

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?: There should be over 200 common room delegates here today, nothing close to that number.

Aidan: The BNP could pack Council with 12 delegates, and we couldn't no con them until the next meeting.

Charlynnne: I think it's important that we have people who are minorities here.

James Lamming, Merton: The system doesn't work, and the people are unaccountable. JCRs do represent the generality of students, and there are risks that Council could be packed from minority groups.

Oliver Russell: I object to Council notes 7, it has been enforced. People shouldn't be so short-sighted as to only remember what's happened in the last year. We have no platform policy for the BNP. Graduates are people who feel more affiliation to the University than colleges. The current system isn't perfect but it works.

MTV

?: Have heard arguments.

Benny Spooner: More to say.

MTV Passes

Ed Maine: Should come up with a system which works for the current NUS deal.

Kieran: There are flaws in the current system, but no position except delegate was contested. Harm caused by Council delegates is small and outweighs the benefits they bring. Lets more people get involved in OUSU who otherwise wouldn't be. Arguments are contradictory, not enough turn up to overturn common rooms.

21-22-7 Motion falls.

All uncontested elected, Rich Hardiman elected chair of Council.

Termly Council Ends