

Termly Council Minutes

Termly Council Hilary Term 2014

Termly Council was held at 5.30pm on Wednesday 5th March 2014 at St Peter's Junior Common Room. Ordinary Council followed.

- i. Election of Chair of Council
- ii Election of Returning Officer
- iii Termly Reports of the President and Vice-Presidents
- iv Termly Reports of the Executive and Committee Chairs
- v Termly Report of the Scrutiny Committee
- vi Constitutional Business (Second and Final Readings of Motions to Change the Constitution and Standing Orders)
 - 1. Second and Final Readings of Bye-Laws, General Regulations and Election Regulations (Referenda etc.)
 - 2. Repeal of Rules and Standing Orders

i. Election of Chair of Council

A hust was requested for the three candidates for Chair of Council.

Jack Matthews (University) - Explained that there are numerous things that he would like to change in Council, which would result in restoring it to its rightful place within OUSU. Claimed that the Trustee Board currently has too much power which he wants to see restored to Council and the student body. Urged that Council needs to be made increasingly accessible to all, which would be partially achieved by the removal of acronyms and inaccessible language.

Nick Cooper (St John's) - Stated that he would produce a guide to Council in order to reduce confusion and complications. Aims to make Council easier and improve turnout. Also noted that regardless of who is elected, it would be nice to see more contested elections in Council - reminded that available positions remain and encouraged people to run for these.

Will Neaverson (Christ Church) - Explained that he also aims to produce a guide which explains Council in simple terms - no more acronyms, no more Latin. Claimed that Council needs to be made friendly to new members, who require full explanations of the various processes. Expressed that Council needs to be more representative of the entire student body, with all members feeling comfortable expressing their views.

Nick Cooper was elected as Chair of Council for Trinity Term 2014.

ii. Election of Returning Officer

No hust was requested. Alex Walker (Wadham) was elected Returning Officer for Trinity Term 2014 - 40 votes in favour, 3 RON.

iii. Termly Reports of the President and Vice Presidents

Tom Rutland (Jesus) - Reported on his main pledge made during the election campaign which was to increase the block grant given to us by the University. Confirmed that this will be happening and the increase is from £400k to £666k.

Garlen Lo (Wolfson) - Reported that his focus has been on the successful 2014 International Festival.

Charlotte Hendy (Pembroke) - Reported on suspended status students Information and Equipping Evening, which was attended by 60 students. Encouraged Council to get in touch if they have any thoughts/ideas to open out the discussion.

Sarah Pine (Wadham) - Directed attention towards the emergency motion which she would be proposing shortly.

Rachel Pickering (Hertford) - Commented that she has been working with Charlotte on suspended status students. Also mentioned the upcoming Student Led Teaching Awards, reporting that 170 individual nominations and lots of further group nominations have been received so far. Encouraged Council to take a poster and promote the awards.

Dan Tomlinson (University) - Reminded Council that the first ever University meeting about the Living Wage Campaign will be happening tomorrow. Informed Council that bike locks are available at both OUSU and Oxford University Security Services.

iv. Termly Reports of the Executive and Committee Chairs

None.

v. Termly Report of the Scrutiny Committee Council

Council Notes:

1. That Scrutiny Committee has been interviewing the elected officers of OUSU and has compiled its termly report.

Council Believes:

1. That Scrutiny of OUSU and reflection on its practices is of great importance.

Council Resolves:

1. To note and accept the report of the Scrutiny Committee for Hilary Term 2014 (Appendix 1).

Proposed: Rachel Jeal (Lincoln College)

Seconded: Will Obeney (Regent's Park College)

Rachel Jeal (Lincoln) - Briefly explained the process of scrutiny. Reported that Sabs are in general doing a great job and are becoming increasingly comfortable in their role as the year is progressing. The handover to new execs was praised. Claimed however that there are, as always, communications issues which need to be worked on. Introduced new Democratic Support Officer, who should take some of the workload away from sabs and is also available as a contact point to members of Council.

Reported an excellent email response from the part-time execs, particularly considering the time frame that they were given. Commented that there are often difficulties with time management while adjusting to the role. Reminded execs that council attendance is mandatory, and that communication between each other is key.

Explained that when interviewing the divisional representatives, it was found that their roles/remits remain unclear, and communication with sabs and departments is not great and needs improvement.

Thanked all involved and explained the time pressure of the situation.

James Blythe (Brasenose) - Pointed out that 3 members of the Exec did not reply.

Rachel - Explained that although a reply is mandatory, the time frame was very short this term. Furthermore some had only been recently elected. Next term face to face interviews will be conducted with all in greater advance, making it easier to ensure that no execs are left out.

Motion passed with no opposition.

vi. Constitutional Business (Second and Final Readings of Motions to Change the Constitution and Standing Orders)

1. Second and Final Readings of Bye-Laws, General Regulations and Election Regulations (Referenda etc.)

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. Its resolutions in 5th Week HT Council to give **First Readings** to proposals before Council to (a) to amend the Bye-Laws approved by Council on 9th May 2012 ("the 2012 Bye-Laws"), (b) to make Election Regulations (Referenda etc) 2014, and (c) to amend General Regulations 2013.
3. The commentary of Internal Affairs Committee (Appendix 2).

Council therefore Resolves, in the exercise of its powers under ...

1. Article 59 of OUSU's constitution, and in accordance with Bye-Laws 4.3 to 4.6 of the 2012 Bye-Laws, to give a **Second Reading** to the proposal now before Council to amend the 2012 Bye-Laws (Appendix 3).
2. Bye-Laws 3.3 and 3.4 of the 2012 Bye-Laws, and in accordance with Bye-Laws 4.3, 4.10 and 4.11, to give a **Final Reading** to the proposal now before Council to make Election Regulations (Referenda etc) 2014 (Appendix 4).
3. Bye-Laws 3.1 and 3.2 of the 2012 Bye-Laws, and in accordance with Bye-Laws 4.3, 4.8 and 4.9, to give a **Final Reading** to the proposal now before Council to amend General Regulations 2013 (Appendix 5).

Proposed: Nick Cooper (St John's College)

Seconded: James Blythe (Brasenose College)

Nick Cooper (St John's) - Briefly explained the motion.

Motion passed with no opposition.

2. 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 many existing 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).

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 effect from the end of Hilary Term, the superseded Rules and Standing Orders set out in Column 2 of the table in Appendix 6.

Proposed: Nick Cooper (St John's College)

Seconded: James Blythe (Brasenose College)

Nick Cooper (St John's) - Briefly explained the motion.

Motion passed with no opposition.