

Council Minutes

Termly Council michaelmas term 2011

Termly Council at 5.30pm on Wednesday 23th November 2011, held in St. Edmund Hall.
Sign in from 5.15pm

If you have any questions about OUSU Council, you should feel free to contact the Chair, Jack Matthews at any time on chair@ousu.org

- 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)

The following positions were to be elected in OUSU Termly Council.

i. Election of Chair of Council

To serve for Hilary Term 2012. The Chair of Council compiles the agenda with the help of Steering Committee, which they also Chair. They Chair all meeting of OUSU Council, be that Ordinary, Extraordinary, Special or Termly. The Chair also has various minor roles to perform under the Rules of OUSU. For more information contact chair@ousu.org.

ii. Election of Returning Officer

To serve for Hilary Term 2012. The Returning Officer runs all elections within OUSU, both campus wide ballots and Election in OUSU Council. For more information contact ro@ousu.org.

No one stood for either of the positions they will therefore be elected in a by-election in 1st week council.

iii. Termly Report of the President and Vice Presidents

President - Martha Mackenzie

Flag up Liam Burns is coming to Oxford next week going to talk to him about White Paper Report, will be back next term and will get publicity up about that. If anything specific let me know and I will bring it up with him.

Budget Committee open committee so come along if you want to last one will be in 8th week please attend.

VP Women - Yuan Yang

Feminist forum - 47 people came to the forum, good opportunity to discuss what we want going forward, will send round minutes, let me know if you have any notes to feed in. Will hold again in 3rd or 4th week next term as a working group. If your hall would like to hold please let me know.

VP Graduates - Jim O'Connell

Most in report, brief updates. Last council central talks database, university likes idea, so this is proceeding smoothly. Next term review of Doctoral provision, will be focus group and online survey so will need your help.

Good debate with Careers service about International Academic careers. Graduate ambassadors are now recruited so hopefully they will raise lots of money for graduates. Had PhD movie last week, made lots of DPhils very happy good opportunity to talk to them.

Next week Alan Milburns team coming to Oxford going to talk to them about Graduate access, really important for social mobility.

VP Welfare & Equal Opportunities - Sebastian Baird

Disability Awareness week a great success will be writing up a report on its impact and will make it available for those doing awareness weeks in their college.

Prayer room - the University are putting together a working group to discuss this further.

VP Access & Academic Affairs - Hannah Cusworth

Couple of things, highlight points were shift has happened. Student Support and development office, we have really built on this, some measures most generous university, we are trying to help raise money for access to Oxford so more sustainable. Also on a NUS group about this, more stuff will be coming next term. Moment preliminary but will be looking into more.

Academic Affairs about building relationships. But have had some wins Post graduate feedback, can be traced back to OUSU's long term view. Some of the stuff we are doing are laying the ground work for our successors. We have also been working with the divisions on student lead teaching awards.

Might seem slow progress, but have laid good groundwork and am optimistic.

iv. Termly Reports of the Executive and Committee Chairs

Graduate Welfare Officer - Dai Bowe

Plea for someone to run for my position, very fulfilling role, a holistic position, basically if you know anyone who may be interested please do send them in my direction will be available at david.bowe@st-hildas.ox.ac.uk

Rent & Accommodation Officer - Eleanor Brown

Coming to end of time as Rent and Accommodation officer have produced a report into the feasibility of an OUSU letting agency. Conclusion no.

Graduate Women's Officer - Clara Ferreira

Consultations next term, concerning question of gender equality auditing. Have update will have a lighter version of Athena Swann for the humanities department.

There were no questions to the Executive.

v. Termly Report of the Scrutiny Committee

Report of Scrutiny Committee

Council Notes:

1. The Report of the OUSU Scrutiny Committee, Michaelmas Term 2011.

Council Resolves:

1. To accept the report and its recommendations.

Proposed: Jack Matthews (University College)

Seconded: Alex 'The Master' Shattock (New College)

Jack Matthews Chair of Council hands over to the Returning Officer - Jonathan Edwards, as he is the Proposer of the next motion.

Jack Matthews (Univ)

Scrutiny committee look at work of Exec and produce a report. The exec have been brilliant on whole, sabs have been doing good work. Please do read, we discuss things confidentially with the sabs so privileged position and often pick up on some things that others can't. Have picked up things three times that haven't been acted upon.

Important to have this committee. Plea to stand for this committee, we need 4 people to stand in 1st week, really interesting, gives a different perspective.

Run through 4 recommendations;

Issue on exec that people don't all know what each other are doing. Welfare all know what they are doing but they may not know what the rest of the exec is doing. Exec meetings have been cut down. Used to be more discussions of what was going on, please bring back. Termly reports, it is civil to send a report if you are in this position, people that are elected should send.

Handover, perhaps handover not as good as could be. All exec should produce handover doc, which should be sent to dso@ousu.org so that always handover docs on system. Important to have one to one handover meetings with their replacements.

Everything superb overall. Just points on OUSU could be better.

Motion Passes

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

Motion to grant Divisional Board Representatives Votes in Council

Council Notes:

1. Divisional Board Representatives represent us to the University's 4 Academic Divisions.
2. Each Board has one undergraduate and one graduate student representative.
3. Key decisions relating to students' academic experience are made at the Divisional Boards.
4. Divisional Board Reps therefore have a great responsibility to represent a lot of students.
5. Academic Representation is important for all students but particularly graduate students, who are taught and supervised within departments.
6. The Review of Academic Representation is working on extending and integrating representation across the University.

Council Believes:

1. Academic Representation is vital to securing students' interests.
2. Our academic representatives should be able to contribute to policy making at OUSU Council, in the same way that Common Room Officers do
3. Granting votes to Divisional Board Reps will encourage them to share their work through OUSU Council, as well as raise the issues facing their Divisions at Council.

Council Resolves:

1. To add '(v) Undergraduate and Graduate Divisional Board Representatives' to Section B 2.1 of the OUSU Rules/Bylaws.
2. To bring Divisional Board Representatives under the remit of Scrutiny Committee.
3. To request Divisional Board Representatives to report to Termly Council and make appropriate provision in the agenda.

Proposed: *Jim O'Connell (Univ)*

Seconded: *Martha Mackenzie (St John's)*

Jim O'Connell (Univ):

I talked about last time, we need to pass again so that it gets put into the standing orders. Think we liked it last time, so please vote for it again.

No opposition.

Motion clearly passes.
