

## **OUSU Termly Council to be held before 7<sup>th</sup> week council**

- 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)*

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### **The following positions were elected in OUSU Termly Council of 7<sup>th</sup> week.**

David Barclay (Worcester):

Please run for Returning Officer or encourage someone you know to run. It is a very important term with regard to elections. So we really need to encourage people to run.

**Chair of Council** - To serve for Michaelmas Term. They will chair Council meetings, and chair Steering Committee, helping to put together the Agenda for Council.

Ugochukwu Okoroafor (St Hilda's):

Husts for Chair as it is contested.

Jack Matthews & Adam Tyndall

Jack Matthews (St Peter's):

Earth Scientist would like to be your Chair of Council again, would do the same job as I did then. Think a lot I could bring through, both have own style as work very closely with Exec and staff. I will promise elections in Council will always be advertised in the OxStu and Divisional Board Reps are advertised in the Divisions. Will make sure that the Agenda comes out on term. Have visited other Uni's to see there council and visited NUS. Will also continue inviting people from the University to attend. Will put an event at beginning of MT council.

Adam Tyndall (Hertford):

Pilfer Jack's idea. I am aware I don't know rules as well, and have been a few confusions with documents but pledge to do better. Both very different styles let voting commence.

Questions:

No questions.

Returning Officer - To serve for Michaelmas Term. They will administer any elections for OUSU, both cross campus and elections in Council. For more information please contact [ugochukwu.okoroafor@st-hildas.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ugochukwu.okoroafor@st-hildas.ox.ac.uk) (TT1 | Returning Officer)

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### **iii. Termly Report of the President and Vice Presidents**

#### **President – David Barclay**

Hi everyone going to do annual report, from day we all arrived in OUSU clear that organisation like no other on the planet. I have to start by thanking last year's team as they took the institution from the dark to the sun. What have we done from then?

#### **Common Room Support**

Focus on quality of relationship. Not just about turning up to meetings that we needed to develop a depth. Meant we could celebrate the successes in common rooms. Successes happened that OUSU felt a part off.

Also making sure we were provisional, bringing NUS along to train, McKinsey and rent breakfast. Exec have put a huge amount of effort into engaging and has been a really successful factor. Think we have a better relationship with students.

### **Union Development**

Finished off great work that started last year, such as registering as a charity and creating trustee board. We have a really shit hot trustee board. Really exciting that OUSU has a trustee board, which is working at such a high level.

### **Financially**

Really solid year, we are on course for making a small surplus in the first year as being independent from the University. Loads of thanks to staff particularly Kershia as she has smashed her target. We have a budget for next year, which is a budget of savings but also a budget of growth. Martha and team spend wisely.

### **Hiring CEO**

Hiring Brona is one of the biggest things we have done. Her stability makes a world of difference and next year OUSU will develop a strategic plan for the next 3 – 5 years. We also have a new building so I fulfilled a pledge, do come and visit. It makes a huge difference to the people that work there.

### **The Big Campaigns**

MT focussed on tuition fees 400 students to London and more press coverage than other student unions. Even though we didn't win. Now see Lib dem credibility has fallen, we had a big hand. We were the first one to call them on their broken promises.

HT was all about bursaries and fee waivers. We changed their mind and we are the most generous university in terms of disadvantaged students.

TT only University to ever pass a vote of no confidence in a government minister came from you.

To sum up want to thank you, you have been lucky to have staff and sab team. But massive thanks to you for getting involved and the part time exec. Those that come under my remit huge thanks you will struggle to find three more proactive.

### **VP Access & Academic Affairs – Alex Bulfin**

Mandate to feed back on.

Mandated to write letter to NUS, has been drafted and is going round for feedback, will be sent next week. David covered meet. David mentioned the staff, they have all been fantastic, far more gets seen than you all see. Want to thank Target Schools committee you are awesome. Common room officers thank you for all your help. One of my highlights has been A star campaign gave me a really boost. Finally echo what David says about the part time exec. Nathan and Harriet. And Hannah and Simran, thanks for giving all your time. Really sad time to be leaving especially with White paper. Really exciting time clubs and societies, access. Finally speak for all sabs so much more to do than can ever be done, but feel we can leave saying that we leave OUSU as a stronger organisation than found it, think can safely say that.

### **VP Graduates – Beth Evans**

Hi Council Really far too much to take in here at council, sometimes feels like doing 3 jobs in one. I just want to cover some thanks. First of all to the Exec you do an incredible job amazes me that you do so much alongside your studies. MCR Presidents I think that when we worked together on visas, amazing, really excited to see where goes. Single out DJT as don't know how he does what it does. Thank Sarah who's been incredibly supportive. As does Mr Jonny Medland weird double act but really enjoyed thanks for all your work. Talk about other sabs, we've had a really busy year and think we've done well to stay really strong. David massive respect for all you has pulled off. David and Alex work on fee waiver and bursars. Kat think you don't have an easy job you've pulled off with good grace. Daniel you put a lot into this organisation. Tom in one of the most understated ways you get everything done and make it look effortless you do an incredible job.

Thank Lisa, Karen, Brona really adds to organisation. Think left incoming sabs with a good place to start.  
Tom

Half way there, most thank yous David mentioned before stepped out into Sun. Thanks to last years sabs for leaving us a good starting place. Think my main achievement is the student advise service has gone from strength to strength we have had a 25% increase in number of students, going to appoint a new student advisor. Like to thank student advise service they work so hard to keep it going. Want to thank part time exec and campaigns reall privilege to working with them. Look forward to seeing where Martha and team take it next year.

### **VP Women – Kat Terrell**

It is sad to be leaving without a doubt, know that it is the circle of life, at times can be overwhelming we really appreciate dedication, gone through so many emotions of the course of the year. Thanks for WomCam for getting me here today, WomCam campaign, Nicola has done fantastic job of getting women's voices into council. Keep the voice diverse stay humble and remember we are representative of students and we represent them. Tania has put on some great events. Thanks to staff, really useful to back us up and remind us not to take ourselves to seriously. Thanks to partners, who have been there. We have a life again – yeah. Thanks again.

### **VP Charities & Communities – Daniel Lowe**

Annual report, like to say I got all of my pledges done because I wrote none. Apologised for not answering question.. Have written environment policy. Returning Officer, really encourage you to run, especially if you have two friends who are trying you to encourage them to vote to them. 5th year or 51st council, have spent about a week here. I have written all my thanks down. Thanks Jack for keeping us on our toes, with scrutiny and loads for common room support. Most intimate council except for new college. So council not a waste of anyone's time. I can honestly say that it is always important when we bring them back, as circle of life continues to turn, I encourage you to bring stuff back to council. Most vibrant council ever. Got 80 members that attend, lots of part time exec, and 6 sabs. Student Union is only as effective as members.

One last thank you to Elton John.

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## **iv. Termly Reports of the Executive and Committee Chairs**

Sarah Santhosham

Thank you for all that helped with Living Wage. Would be great to hear from common room presidents if you have worked on living wage policies.

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## **v Termly Report of the Scrutiny Committee**

### **I. Report of Scrutiny Committee**

#### **Council Notes;**

I. The Report of the OUSU Scrutiny Committee, Trinity Term 2011.

#### **Council Resolves;**

I. To accept the report and its recommendations.

**Proposed: Jack Matthews, St. Peter's College**

**Seconded: Alex Shattock, New College**

Jack Matthews (St Peter's):

Chair of scrutiny thanks to Scrutiny committee, for their help. We talked to all exec, and all summarised here, focussed on part time exec. If haven't time to read all which I would encourage to do. Then please read recommendations, most to OUSU officers, some to those considering running. If not good to read anyway to ensure that continue to be scrutinised. Can confirm that sabs work incredibly hard.

There is some critical stuff so please read.

Any opposition

None.

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

### **I. Oxford Living Wage Campaign**

#### **Council Notes:**

1. That OUSU has had policy on the Living Wage since Michaelmas Term 2005
2. That this policy was renewed in OUSU Council in Trinity Term 2010
3. That there is a small but active Oxford Living Wage Campaign, consisting of Oxford University students, who feel that lobbying power would be significantly improved if it were to become a permanent OUSU campaign

#### **Council Believes:**

1. That people should be paid enough to live decently, and the best way to ensure this is to support a living wage
2. That employees of the University and its Colleges should be paid a Living Wage
3. That campaigns are stronger when more people get involved
4. That the Oxford Living Wage Campaign should be given the formal status of permanent committee of OUSU

#### **Council Resolves:**

1. To make the Oxford Living Wage Campaign a permanent committee of OUSU
2. To mandate the OUSU Executive to assist, where possible, in terms of mobilising students, providing publicity and liaising with University and College officials who have the power to make changes and implement the Living Wage.

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

1. To amend the Standing Orders as appropriate
2. To amend E 4 'The Equal Opportunities Campaigns' and E 5 'The Nominations Committee' to E 5 and E 6 respectively
3. To insert:
  - a. E 4 'The Oxford Living Wage Campaign'
  - b. 4.1 The Oxford Living Wage Campaign shall be a Permanent Committee of OUSU. All provisions relating to Permanent Committees shall as such apply to the Oxford Living Wage Campaign
  - c. 4.2 The Oxford Living Wage Campaign shall be responsible for:
    - i. calculating and seeking accreditation for the Living Wage in Oxford and liaising with relevant bodies to do so
    - ii. campaigning for a Living Wage for all staff in Colleges and Departments of Oxford University
    - iii. encouraging Colleges and Departments of Oxford University who currently pay a Living Wage to be recognised as Living Wage employers
    - iv. working with the wider community to achieve a city-wide Living Wage in Oxford
  - d. The Oxford Living Wage Campaign shall elect a Chair or Co-chairs annually
  - e. 4.4 The Oxford Living Wage Campaign shall have an executive which shall consist of the Chair or Co-chairs, the OUSU Community Outreach and Charities Officer, the OUSU VP (C&C) and any other such officers as decided by the Oxford Living Wage Campaign.

**Proposed: Sarah Santhosham (Corpus Christi)**

**Seconded: Daniel Lowe (St Edmund Hall)**

Any opposition if passes today, becomes part of standing orders?

Seeing none passes.

## **Motion K from 7th Week council should be in termly council.**

David Townsend to propose

The substantive motion. Hi I'm David after last elections became clear problems with how OUSU runs elections, turn out low. We decided to get a group together to decide how could be improved, and solicite contributions and submissions for what people think should be done. Review group met, and settled on most of the suggestions that have been made her. We try to improve way OUSU conducts its elections. Without this the low turn out undercuts whatever it does. This is why proposing these. Welcome debate on it, but would like to see put through, well thought out and will improve how OUSU does elections.

Daniel Lowe (St Edmund's):

Point of order, that it is moved in parts on paragraph headings.

What is on the page is only what can be passed.

David Townsend (St John's):

I will propose the different parts, separately. Each will end with a straight up and down vote. Any that are passed will go to a referendum in 8th week, anything that passed.

Question:

When would the referenda be and what would be the campaigns.

Ugo Okoroafor (St Hilda's):

Will be Thursday of 8th week. Am supposed to publish information in OxStu, question will be as stated in Agenda of last week. I think that is about really. The deadline ill either be at the end of this week or the beginning of next week. Certain items such as manifesto.

Jonny Medland (Wolfson):

When deadline set.

Will communicate to sabs and this will be distributed.

Ben Gold

Anyway can split into separate parts?

Straight vote.

Pass some nem con without discussion.

David Townsend (St John's):

Posting of official elections

1 – 3 pass

Inclusion of VP Grads on slates

Opposition

Media Involvement

Opposition

Collation and clarification

Opposition

Use of mailing lists

Opposition

Alternative hustings

Passes

Publication of results of election

Passes

Correcting miscellaneous errors  
Passes.

Referendum  
Inclusion of VP Graduates on slates

David Townsend (St John's):

Don't know how many people know about torrid history. Have had to have by election in HT I I. We have been lucky that we have got good people. How can we get them interested in running, how when have first come to Oxford when elections in MT I I. One suggestion shifted to HT the other get them more involved in the team in MT. Election in HT problem would take to years to do, and permanently split team.

Way to get them more involved in election, is by encouraging them to work in teams with those who are already interested in running, so that they can build links. Also encourage teams to look around for people who might be interested in running. All it does is provide an extra £10 for a slate that already running. Not disadvantaging independent candidates. Encourage together to work on campaign.

Opposition

Daniel Lowe (St Edmund's):

Perhaps a reason that grads don't run in first 4 weeks term. They manage to figure out position of VP graduates, they think they would be good for the job, but find out MCR rep who has been hacking away for a long time alright. I advocate shifting election to Hilary, so people can figure out where their library is before working out whether they run for VP grads. Don't go for the quick fix. David says it would take two years could have been done by MT. There are already 3 slates in this room who are thinking about how the results of this referenda will effect their election campaigns. £130 is nothing I had so much money left over. An extra 300 people in common room will make a difference. Number of feet under table counts.

POI Jack disapproved as I had more activists and lost.

It is the death knell for the independent candidates. Vote these changes down.  
Move to debate.

Ed Watson:

Even if move to Hilary, wont the MCR president still have the disadvantage? Not putting grad on slate doesn't have an effect on fairness.

Jim O'Connell (Univ):

I ran uncontested, good for me not good for OUSU democracy. In favour as contested elections are a good thing, the more people out and about discussing it and raising turn out is good. Think will lead to more competitive election. Contested elections have higher rates of turn out. 500 last contested mine 300.

Jonny Medland (Wolfson):

Ideal solution would be to move to HT, don't think nec relevant. Sympathetic to points Daniel made, what on earth of this, some should be taken out. What I wouldn't give for MCR presidents to think that they were hacking in trinity term. I think engagement of Graduates would be a good thing, might have more slates forming. Isn't ideal far better than what's currently on table. Think having 6 sab slates would be a bad thing, but think this a good thing.

Hannah Cusworth (Brasenose):

I am now going to take over from Alex, when running for part time exec, was the only time when thought had to include a grad. Think benefit of including a graduate.

Rob Collier

Like story of hacking from Trinity, if happened let hack win, obviously hasn't. If student in first year then will be more likely to run.

Move to vote.

## Summary speech

David Townsend (St John's):

Glad talking about, the shoes, was in exactly those shoes. Much more interested in running if get institutional support. We want contested elections, that is what get them interested in OUSU.

Daniel Lowe (St Edmund's):

To correct Hannah grads do get involved. MCR Pres hacking, independent candidate, at least more than a week to make more friends. We are talking about disenfranchising one year students, you get loads of people turning out in single vote elections. Vote down for independent candidates.

Passes by overwhelming majority.

## Media involvement

David Townsend (St John's):

Hearing a lot this is about media involvement. Way which OUSU currently does media involvement doesn't work. The RO has to get the Cherwell and OxStu to sign up to agreements in fairness. Doesn't work in practice, they won't sign away their editorial independence. OUSU should monitor candidates, turn away from RO as gatekeeper. People can approach media, might have existing links and don't want to be exploited. There are detailed rules if you want to engage with media. Have to make sure at least 4 hours before go to press so other candidates can get involved. When finished interview you have to contact your imposing candidates and tell them you did it and what talked about purpose of this, if candidate wants to do interview with student newspaper, she has to tell everyone else about it. These have been carefully thought out, to encourage proper media coverage by allowing candidates to interact directly with media, but that each has a fair opportunity.

Daniel Lowe (St Edmund's):

How will you impose, onus on candidates. What if candidate says did those things, and newspaper said not.

David Townsend (St John's):

Question of evidence, you have to prove if has been a breach. If tell candidates been interviewed but not what talked about. The RO will ask for justification as does in the same way as all the other rules.

Ben Gold (Mansfield):

The purpose on this, is to put the onus on the first candidate.

David Townsend (St John's):

It is to encourage candidates, to give opposition chance.

Alex Bulfin (Univ):

What if writing up, the journalist ignores all but one candidate.

David Townsend (St John's):

We don't regulate papers, we cannot hold pen or fingers on tying board, but can do everything possible to ensure that the candidates will get a chance.

Alex Shattock (New):

How did you come to time limit of 4 hours?

David Townsend (St John's):

Thought didn't want shorter time, 4 hours seemed reasonable. Press deadlines aren't moveable. Chosen as reasonable time as all opposing candidates should find a chance.

Ben Gold (Mansfield):

Is there anything in collusion rules, to prevent the others from having interview?

David Townsend (St John's):  
Don't have in front of me.

Jack Matthews (St Peter's):  
If did editor or writer would have to be a registered activist and could be done that way.

Katharine Terrell (St Hilda's):  
Want to know why the candidate didn't have to go to RO, as then RO could issue the rules.

David Townsend (St John's):  
Point of this to shift to candidate engagement because only one RO and this slows it down. If candidates can't prove did then they are libel. Encourage candidates to do the right thing.

Katharine Terrell (St Hilda's):  
Would they be advised?

David Townsend (St John's):  
Yes and RO would give media briefing.

Daniel Lowe (St Edmund's):  
These changes do nothing, say I'm shagging editor of the Cherwell, and follow all the rules. The old requirements ensured fair coverage.

Andrew Hood  
The old requirements ensured we had no coverage or scarce coverage. Not covered in way you expect, can only imagine due to stringency.

David Townsend (St John's):  
Might lead to lack of balance but small price to pay for a turnout which gives legitimacy.

Ben Gold (Mansfield):  
I think that yes we have to wary of candidates colluding with press. When passing have to bear in mind the rules Jack mentioning, have to be kept in mind. Try ensure members of press are unbiased.

Jack Matthews (St Peter's):  
Don't forget RO has the power to make more rules if need more clarification.

Move to vote  
Summary in proposition

David Townsend (St John's):  
None or very little media involvement drives down coverage and turnout. This will remove bottle necking and encourage candidates to take part. Can;t hold fingers cannot force them but make sure candidate is punished. Lets get media involved.

Daniel Lowe (St Edmund):  
Active in election, most second years, not taken part in many elections. Four articles last year and 12 the year before. Opens doors to corruption.

Need two /thirds majority.

Two thirds majority passes.

Collation and clarification

David Townsend (St John's):

One of problems with uncontested positions is rules are too complicated, which puts a number of people off. People think OUSU is rules obsessed. What we are proposing is putting all the rules in one place, so that people can look at them in one place. When RO is briefing will just have to look at one simple set of rules. People end up campaigning conservatively as not sure what rules they might break.\

Jonny Medland (Wolfson):

What practically does this change? Have you taken anything out?

David Townsend (St John's):

Just puts them together. Mostly an administrative tidy up.

Use of internet made by returning officer.

No opposition passes.

Mailing lists

David Townsend (St John's):

Last one reason this proposed, as said at start have miserably poor turnout, we need to drive up way do this is by communicating them. Survey done and 8/10 people didn't know in week of election. We have moved on and we all communicate by email. Rulings currently forbid ruling of more than 5 people, at present can send neutral email, know what happens either boring or accidentally stray into promoting one person or another. People have natural interest in supporting people that support policies that they support. We should subject this to the RO, if there are specific requirements then the RO can come up with these, to ensure fairness. Lets not prevent communication.

David Bowe (Somerville):

Why haven't restrictions been put on?

David Townsend (St John's):

It was decided that it would be better for the RO to do this, The point of this detail is if we put into standing orders wording might become obsolete, and would become annot=ying. Specific requirements can therefore be made on a yearly basis.

Daniel Stone (St Peter's):

Do you think president will send out a special email or include in a general.

David Townsend (St John's):

Depends on how they use maillists. Up to way administrators administer their maillists.

Katharine Terrell (St Hilda's):

What happens if someone lies, and sends it out?

David Townsend (St John's):

Breaching regulations, there is a whole set of processes for the RO dealing with this.

David Barclay (Worcester):

Move to debate

Andrew Hood:

How does this sit with people only endorsing people in personal capacity.

David Townsend (St John's):

Common rooms will have to decide for themselves. Administration is the same as way JCR and MCR administer now on basis of how run now.

David Barclay (Worcester):

Opposed in last debate, and oppose now. Just because neutral doesn't have to be boring. Just because we want engagement doesn't mean we want bias. We want real engagement and not way to get it.

Eleanor:

Isn't it contradiction of point 7 of your basic regulations. You are then essentially seeking endorsement of a common room.

Alex Bulfin (Univ):

Would like to reiterate think lowers engagement as have to target specific group of people. Quite surprised that if consultative exercise was still brought to council.

Daniel Lowe (St Edmund):

Context 8/10 who trusts Cherwell survey, who trusts a Cherwell editor who hates OUSU. This is banned at Warwick and they have the highest turnout. This is not the best way to engage people. One thing hasn't been addressed. IF in charge of OUSU maillist can't use it, they won't be able to use the maillist despite having the most relative experience.

Jim O'Connell (Univ):

Want to pick up on Eleanor's point, think common room president would have to make sure in personal capacity. Issue that Daniel just addressed sensible RO would allow candidates OUSU candidate to use mailing list.

Chair of living wage would be able to say.

Last thing I want to say, would unleash hacking not the case, research suggests that OUSU does not have a significant effect, but it does inform you.

Vote on move to vote

Alex feel covered majority of points, other motions keen to see debated.

Opposition, not had significant impact of debates.

10 in opposition.

Graduates to speak.

Lara Perrier:

If look at way engagement happens especially for graduates, is mainly through mailings and email.

Daniel This is about whether you are allowed to send partisan emails.

Chris Smith:

Some people worried that people will only target illustrious people, think deluding ourselves if we think that this doesn't happen already.

David Townsend (St John's):

Can the RO regulate this, use of common room mailings list could be partisan but wouldn't it be good if could be sent round.

Summary

Neutral emails sound nice, if send neutral email out of the blue which prevents them saying why a policy is good, they are not interested not a nice thing to say but undoubtedly true. Should be free would be subject to returning officers regulations. On issue of spam illusory, get rude responses if send out a large email. Largely self-regulating. OUSU has to be neutral that is why OUSU mailing lists cant be used lets have meaningful engagement. The evidence is that doesn't engage.

David Townsend (St John's):

Just on Chris's point people administer mail lists, still think problem. I think that what people will do, don't think will raise engagement we want. Think will be partisan, will be as simple as will you vote for my friend.

Don't think this change will bring the engagement we want. Think can make RO to make rulings about what can be put in mailings. That's why still imposed.

Falls

Everything except that section will go to