Appendix Eight – Environmental Affairs Campaign Constitution

Environmental Affairs Campaign

Article I: Reasons for Campaign

Environmental and social justice, within the context of environmental affairs, are closely related concepts that address the fair and equitable treatment of all individuals and communities in matters related to the environment. These principles aim to rectify historical and contemporary environmental inequalities and ensure that environmental benefits and burdens are distributed fairly, and that the most vulnerable and marginalized populations are protected.

**Environmental Justice**: Environmental justice focuses on addressing disparities in the distribution of environmental benefits and burdens. It advocates for fair and equitable access to a clean and healthy environment for all, regardless of factors like race, income, or social status. Key aspects of environmental justice include:

* Equity: Ensuring that environmental policies do not disproportionately burden or deprive specific communities of environmental benefits and protections.
* Community Involvement: Encouraging the meaningful participation of affected communities in environmental decision-making processes.
* Addressing Environmental Racism: Recognizing and rectifying systemic discrimination that has led to the unequal exposure of marginalized communities to environmental hazards.
* Health and Well-being: Prioritizing the protection of public health and ensuring access to clean air, clean water, and safe environments for all.

**Social Justice**: Social justice is a broader concept that includes environmental justice as one of its components. It focuses on the fair and equitable treatment of all individuals in society, not only in environmental matters but in all aspects of life. In the context of environmental affairs, social justice seeks to:

* Address Economic Disparities: Recognize and alleviate economic inequalities that can lead to differential environmental impacts on different socioeconomic groups.
* Promote Inclusivity: Ensure that all voices and perspectives are considered in the development and implementation of environmental policies.
* Consider Multiple Dimensions: Recognize that social justice encompasses a wide range of issues beyond just environmental concerns, including education, healthcare, housing, and more.

In summary, environmental justice specifically addresses environmental disparities and the fair distribution of environmental benefits and burdens, with a focus on historically marginalized and disadvantaged communities. Social justice, on the other hand, is a broader concept that encompasses environmental justice but extends to the broader societal context, seeking fairness and equity in all aspects of life, including environmental affairs. Both environmental and social justice are essential principles in efforts to create a more equitable and sustainable society.

I.I Aims

* Raise Awareness: Increase environmental awareness and consciousness among the Oxford student community, faculty, and staff.
* Promote Sustainable Practices: Advocate for and implement sustainable practices within the university campus to reduce its environmental impact.
* Educate and Empower: Educate students about environmental issues and empower them to take action for a more sustainable future.
* Advocate for Policy Change: Advocate for environmentally responsible policies and practices within the university and work towards their implementation.
* Inspire Community Engagement: Foster a sense of environmental and social responsibility and community engagement within the university and the local community.
* Reduce Carbon Footprint: Take concrete steps to reduce the university's carbon footprint, with a focus on energy efficiency, transportation, and waste reduction.

I.II Objectives

* Awareness initiatives: Conduct information and awareness initiatives, workshops, and seminars on environmental and social issues.
* Sustainability Initiatives: Implement and promote sustainable practices across colleges and the University, including energy-saving measures and waste reduction programs.
* Curriculum Integration: Advocate for the inclusion of environmental and social topics in academic curricula and work with faculty to develop relevant courses.
* Reduce Single-Use Plastics: Collaborate with campus services to reduce and eventually eliminate single-use plastics on campus.
* Carbon Reduction Targets: Set clear and measurable targets for reducing the university's carbon emissions and track progress.
* Biodiversity Enhancement: Develop and maintain green spaces on campus that promote biodiversity and provide habitat for wildlife.
* Waste Management: Improve recycling infrastructure, reduce food waste, and promote responsible electronic waste disposal.
* Sustainable Transportation: Encourage the use of sustainable transportation methods such as cycling, public transport, and carpooling.
* Community Outreach: Collaborate with local environmental organizations, schools, and community groups to expand environmental initiatives beyond the campus.
* Policy Advocacy: Engage with the university administration to advocate for environmentally and socially responsible policies and practices.
* Events and Workshops: Organize environmental and social events, workshops, and educational campaigns to engage and inform students.
* Student Involvement: Encourage student involvement through environmental and social clubs, volunteering opportunities, and leadership roles.
* Measurable Goals: Set clear benchmarks for success, such as reducing energy consumption by a specific percentage or achieving zero waste at campus events.
* Partnerships: Forge partnerships with environmentally and socially conscious businesses, government agencies, and non-profits to support and promote sustainability efforts.
* Ethical Investments: Advocate for ethical and sustainable investment practices within the university and divest from environmentally and socially harmful industries.
* Support Research: Promote and support research related to environmental sustainability and climate change at the university.

Article II: Membership

**Section 1: Eligibility**

Membership in the Campaign is open to all students of the University of Oxford who express an interest in and commitment to the Campaign's goals.

**Section 2: Rights of Members**

Members of the Campaign have the right to participate in meetings, vote on campaign matters, and hold elected positions, as specified in this constitution.

Article III: Campaign Leadership

**Section 1: Committee**

The Campaign shall be led by an Executive Committee, composed of the following positions:

* 2x Campaign Co-Chairs
* Secretary
* Treasurer
* Communications Officer
* College Reps Officer

A committee member can be removed with a 2/3rd majority vote at the open meeting of all campaign members

**Section 2: Duties of the Executive Committee**

a. The Campaign Co-Chairs shall oversee the overall activities and direction of the Campaign. This includes, but is not limited to:

I. Ensuring compliance with this constitution

II. Preparing and sending the Campaign's termly report to student council

b. The Communications Officer shall handle all communication and publicity for the Campaign.

c. The Treasurer shall manage the Campaign's budget and financial matters.

e. The Outreach and Engagement Coordinator shall work on increasing membership and community engagement.

f. The College Reps Officer is responsible for:

i. Maintaining good relations between the campaign and JCR/MCR Enivronmental & Ethics reps (and those in similar positions)

ii. Helping JCR/MCR Environmental & Ethics reps (and those in similar positions) work together, including administering a group chat

j. Committee members are responsible for providing handover to their successors

h. All Committee Members shall accept the duty to promote the expressed wishes of Full Members on or to other bodies, as well as duties enumerated elsewhere in this Constitution

i. All Committee Members shall accept the duty to promote the expressed wishes of Full Members on or to other bodies, as well as duties enumerated elsewhere in this Constitution:

i. attending any required training provided by Oxford SU, and

ii. the Campaign’s compliance with the Bye-Laws and Oxford SU’s Policies and Procedures

**Section 3: Election and Term of Office**

a. Executive Committee members shall be elected by Campaign members through a democratic process, annually, in accordance with byelaw 32.4

b. The term of office for Executive Committee members shall be one academic year (Hilary term to Hilary term).

c. In case of removal/resignation of an Executive Committee member, an election should be held within two full term weeks of position being vacant.

**Section 4: Removal or Resignation of a Committee Member**

1. A Member of the Committee may resign by informing the Chair, or in the case of the Chair, informing the Secretary, in writing of their desire to do so.
2. A Member of the Committee may be removed by a 2/3 majority vote at an Open Meeting, providing the member has been given at least a week’s notice, and has been given an opportunity to reply.

**Section 5: Non-Executive Committee Roles**

a. The Executive Committee may establish other Committee Roles from time to time, by a 2/3 majority vote. They must determine the role description and method of appointment or election.

b. Holders of Committee Roles established under (a) are Committee Members.

Article IV: Meetings

**Section 1: Open Meetings**

a. The Campaign shall hold regular open meetings (at least once per term) to discuss and plan activities.

b. Open meetings shall be open to all members.

**Section 2: Campaign Committee Meetings**

a. The Campaign Committee shall hold regular meetings (at least once per term) to coordinate Campaign activities.

b. Campaign Committee meetings shall be open to all members, but only Executive Committee members shall have voting rights.

Article V: Finances

**Section 1: Budget**

a. The Treasurer shall maintain the budget for the Campaign.

b. All expenditures shall be approved by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

**Section 2: Fundraising**

The Campaign may engage in fundraising activities, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee and the Student Union.

Article VI: Amendments

This constitution may be amended by a motion to that affect passed by Student Council in accordance with the Bye-Laws.