**7th Week Hilary Term 2024 Student Council**
 TIME: 17:30
 DATE: Tuesday 27th January 2024
 LOCATION: Wadham College

If you have any questions about Student Council, please feel free to contact: Chair of Oxford SU Council: chair@oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk

SU Staff: studentengagement@oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk

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A. Minutes of the previous meeting

See Week 3 Hilary 2024:

 <https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/minutes/>

B. Matters arising from the minutes

C. Reports from and questions to Sabbatical Trustees Written reports can be found here: <https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/>

D. Reports from and questions to CRAE, Refugee Rights Campaign, International Students’ Campaign, Suspended Students’ Campaign & It Happens Here. Written reports can be found here: <https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/>

E. Reports from and questions to Divisional Representatives for MedSci, Conted and Humanities. Written reports can be found here: <https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/>

F. Report from Trustee Board can be found here: <https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/>

G. Reports from projects approved and confirmed by council Written reports can be found here: <https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/>

H. Elections in Council

I. Items for resolution

1. **Arts and Culture Representatives across Colleges**

Motion to Mandate an SU Officer (VP Activities & Community)

Proposer: Mia Clement, Oxford SU

Seconder: Jennifer Lynam Oxford SU

**Council Notes:**

1. The diverse and vibrant arts community within the student body of Oxford University, encompassing a wide range of disciplines such as visual arts, performing arts, literature, and more.
2. The valuable contributions of arts-related activities and events to the cultural and intellectual atmosphere of the University.
3. The existing representation in common room committees that may not fully encompass the unique perspectives and needs of the arts community.

**Council Believes:**

1. In fostering an inclusive and representative environment that considers the interests and concerns of all students.
2. That the arts community plays a crucial role in enhancing the overall experience of students at Oxford University.
3. That the establishment of an Arts Representative position within college common room committees will provide a dedicated voice for the arts community, including but not limited to students engaged with drama, fine arts and music.
4. That the establishment of an Arts RepCom within SU RepComs will provide a dedicated voice for the arts community, including but not limited to students engaged with drama, fine arts and music.

**Council Resolves:**

1. Mandate the VP Activities & Community to encourage collaboration between the Arts Representative and other committee members to address the specific needs and interests of the arts community.
2. Mandate the VP Activities & Community to actively seek input from fellow arts students, and promote the inclusion of arts-related perspectives in decision-making processes and feedback on the University's Cultural Program.
3. Mandate the VP Activities & Community to work towards the implementation of initiatives and events that support and showcase talent and creativity within the arts community at Oxford University.
4. Mandate the VP Activities & Community to regularly review and evaluate the effectiveness of the Arts Representative position in addressing the concerns and promoting the interests of the arts community.

**2. Changes to rules of Council**
Proposer: Isaac Chase-Rahman, Corpus Christi

**Council Notes**:

1. W3HT24 council discussed changing requirements to call an extraordinary meeting. The discussion point brought had the following text:

*Rules of Council 4.11 states how on extraordinary meeting can be called - this can be done by 5 Constituent Organisations, 100 Student Members, a procedural motion, or the Executive. In light of the change to Council schedule last term from 4 meetings a term (once a fortnight) to 2 meetings a term (once a month), it should be made easier to call an extraordinary meeting. Discussion on whether the numbers of constituent organisations and student members numbers should be changed to. Recommended starting point at 3 Constituent Organisations and 40 Student Members.*

1. The discussion on this point was positive, in light of the rules of Council changing last term to reduce the meetings of Council by 50%.
2. The changes to rules of Council last term have impacts like making extraordinary meetings more important and likely to be used.

**Council Believes**:

1. The things that Council wants, council should get.
2. Council should be able to effectively use extraordinary meetings easily when necessary to ensure that student representation is timely and worthwhile.

**Council Resolves**:

(i) Change the Rules of Council rule 4.11(a) from ‘any five Constituent Organisations’ to ‘any three Constituent Organisations’

(ii)Change the Rules of Council rule 4.11(b) from ‘a hundred Student Members’ to ‘forty Student Members’

J. Items Below the Line

1. **Appointment of External Appeals Officer**

Proposer: Mia Clement, Oxford SU

Seconder: Jennifer Lynam, Oxford SU

**Council Notes:**

1. Student Council must approve the appointment of an External Appeals Officer (EAO), who is responsible for supporting the student Returning Officer in dealing with any SU Elections complaints.
2. Heather Newton is an Education and Policy Consultant at Oxford Brookes and fulfils the criteria outlined in Bye-Law 8.5.

**Council Believes:**

N/A

**Council Resolves:**

1. To appoint Heather Newton as the EAO for the Oxford SU NUS Delegate By-Election 2024 to support the Returning Officer

**2. Amend It Happens Here’s Constitution**

**TW: Sexual Violence**
Proposer: Yasmin Poole, Green Templeton

Seconder: Ffion Samuels, Green Templeton

**Council Notes:**

1. It Happens Here is an anti-sexual violence campaign that is part of the Oxford SU.
2. The current It Happens Here Constitution mandates that there can only be one person in each position apart from two Co-Chairs.

**Council Believes:**

1. It Happens Here's advocacy deals with sexual violence which can be time intensive and triggering.
2. The campaign would benefit from two (rather than one) representatives in the LGBTQ+, Disabilities, BAME, Women\*s, Men\*s, International Students, Suspended Students and Graduate Representative positions.

**Council Resolves:**

1. To amend section 5.1 of It Happens Here's Constitution as follows:

i. add 'or two LGBTQ+ Representatives' under section 5.1(d)

ii. add 'or two Women\*s Representatives' under section 5.1(e)

iii. add 'or two Disabilities Representatives' under section 5.1(f)

iv. add 'or two BAME Representatives' under section 5.1(g)

v. add 'or two International Students' Representatives' under section 5.1(h)

vi. add 'or two Suspended Students' Representatives' under section 5.1(i)

vii. add 'or two Men\*s Representatives' under section 5.1(j)

viii. add 'or two Graduate Representatives' under section 5.1(k)

ix. add 'or two Class Representatives' under section 5.1(o)

x. rename 'Women's Representative' in section 5.1 (e) to Women\*s Representative

2. It Happens Here can choose to elect either one or two representatives in these categories.

[https://unioxfordnexus.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/sites/OUSU-StudentUnion/\_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?sourcedoc=%7B4359A6F0-A70A-4CE1-9956-2780F20650D3%7D&file=IHH-Campaign-Constitution\_Yasmin%20Poole%201.docx&action=default&mobileredirect=true](https://unioxfordnexus.sharepoint.com/%3Aw%3A/r/sites/OUSU-StudentUnion/_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?sourcedoc=%7B4359A6F0-A70A-4CE1-9956-2780F20650D3%7D&file=IHH-Campaign-Constitution_Yasmin%20Poole%201.docx&action=default&mobileredirect=true)

**3. Add Handover Rep to LGBTQ+ Campaign Constitution**
Proposer: Joel Aston
Seconder: Bella Done

**Notes**
The LGBTQ+ Campaign is one of the SU's Campaigns.
The Committee will be changing over at the end of this term after elections.
It is the Constitutional right of the Campaign to ensure all new members receive handover documents.

**Believes**
The Handover Process can lead to the loss of institutional memory.
Without having the guarantee of a previous campaign member to formally be present to answer any questions, the handover process can be made more difficult.
Having an express role in which the handover process is the focus would ease the transition of Campaign Committees.

**Resolves**
Add a new role to the LGBTQ+ Campaign Constitution titled 'Handover Officer' (change section 5 (p) to ‘BME Rep,’; (q) to ‘Faith Rep, and’; add afterwards (r) Handover Officer)
Add a description of that role (add point 10.18 The Handover Officer is responsible for: a) Ensure the handover process between campaigns is as seamless as possible, and (b) Be available to answer any questions the incoming campaign would have.
Allow for the peculiarity of the election of the role by amending Section 8 Elections (addition of point 8.2 The Handover Officer is to be appointed by an outgoing chair at the end of HT. They will stay on the committee for 1 term (TT).)

4. **Trustee Board Accountability & Transparency**
Proposer**:** Luca di Bona, St Hilda’s
Seconder**:** Joel Aston, St Hilda’s

**Council Notes**
1. According to Article 40.1 of the articles of association "The Board must keep minutes of all: (a) resolutions of Members in general meeting and of the Board, and (b) proceedings at general meetings and of the Board, and any minutes, signed by the chair of the meeting, or by the chair of the next succeeding meeting, shall, as against any Member or Trustee, be sufficient evidence of the resolution or proceedings"
2. Article 33 allows decisions to be made outside of meetings
3. According to the SU, decisions made outside of meetings under article 33 are captured within the minutes of the following meeting under matters arising
4. Minutes of general meetings are regularly not published until following the next meeting
Council is aware of decisions that trustees have made outside of meetings, including changing the rules of council at the start of MT23 as well as a routine role in considering student council submissions
5. Sabbatical trustees and student trustees are voted by students, and recallable by them
6. Sabbatical officers are already mandated to provide a termly report to council

**Council Believes**
1. Transparency is important
2. Students have a right to know, in a timely manner, about decisions made by the trustee board
3. Students have a right to know how the sabbatical trustees and student trustees have voted when making decisions, in part so that they can make decisions.

**Council Resolves**
1. To insert into the bye-laws after 10.4 bye-law 10.5, 10.6, 10.7 and 10.8 the below

“ 10.5 As part of their report under bye-law 10.1 (b), the President must include in their report a list of all decisions the trustee board has made outside of general meetings since the submission of their previous report given to council under this bye-law. Where voting occurred, this should include how every sabbatical and student trustee voted. If the decision was about a confidential matter that the trustee board cannot legally share with council, this bye-law does not apply. ”

“10.6 Sabbatical trustees, including the president, may if they so wish include in their report to council their reasoning for voting a certain way on a decision. Student trustees are entitled to provide the chair of council up to three hours before the council meeting with a statement explaining their reasoning for voting a certain way on any decisions, but are not required to do so.”

“10.7 Where the President is not able to submit a report to council, or there is no President, another sabbatical officer should include the information outlined in bye-law 10.5 in their report to council. In exceptional circumstances, a sabbatical officer may instead inform council that there are exceptional circumstances, and then publish the information outlined in bye-law 10.5 as quickly as possible.”

“10.8 Bye-laws 10.5, 10.6 and 10.7 only apply to decisions made after the end of 4th week of Hilary Term 2024, and do not remove the responsibility of trustees to include decisions made outside of general meetings in the minutes of the following general meeting.”

K. Items for Discussion

1. **Proposed increment of student course fees in Medical Science Division (MSD).**

MSD Graduate Joint Committee had their meeting on 2nd February 2024. I was in attendance. One of the issues discussed was a proposal by the university to increase the division's course fees. I and another student representative suggested that increasing the fees would put more financial constraints on students and the impacts including the University of Oxford becoming less appealing to intellectual students from diverse regions could far outweigh the gains. Instead, the university should consider other means of increasing their revenues to cover inflation which was cited as one of the factors necessitating increment.