**Student Council 1st Week Hilary Term 2021**

**Tuesday 19th January 2021**

**Virtual – 5:30PM**

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| **Item** | **Agenda** | **Actions** |
|  | **Welcome and Apologies**    Wesley Ding (Chair of Council) welcomed council members to the meeting and explains how Student Council will run, and some ground rules. Wesley explained that as no amendments were submitted, voting is now open online.  Chair makes announcements about the [leaderships elections](https://www.oxfordsu.org/leadershipelection)  Chair also introduces the new Facebook [Oxford SU Student Council Discussion Forum](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1480298045497750/?ref=share) | To note |
| **A** | **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**  Chair opened the floor to questions and comments regarding the minutes of the previous meeting and any matters arising from the minutes. | To receive |
| **B** | **Matters arising from the minutes**  There were no matters arising | To receive |
| **C** | **Elections in council**  Chair hands over to Caleb van Ryneveld (Returning Officer) who introduces the role of Nominations committee.  **Total Valid Vote 28**  Candidate Stage 1 Stage 2 Stage 2 Total Result  Re-open Nominations (R.O.N.) 4 0 4 Excluded @ Stage 1  Daniel Grimmer 24 0 24 Elected @ Stage 1  Daniel Grimmer Elected to Nominations committee | To receive |
| **D** | **Reports from and questions to Sabbatical Trustees**  Chair informed members that full officer written reports can be accessed on [student council website](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/21ht1w/). Sabbatical Trustees supplemented their written reports with a short verbal update.  **Chair opens the floor for Questions and comments on officer reports** | To receive |
| **E** | **Reports from and questions to Disabilities Campaign**  **Key highlights from International Students Campaign:**  **Chair opens the floor for Questions and comments on International Students Campaign**  There were no questions from delegates.  **Disabilities Campaign** submitted a[written report](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/21ht1w/) which can be found online | To receive |
| **F** | **Reports from and questions to PG and UG Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences Graduate Report**  **Chair opens the floor for Questions and comments for the PG Rep.**  There were no questions from delegates.  **Key highlights from Rashmi Samant UG Div Rep:**  COVID-19 Priorities : Safety net and mitigating circumstances for the departments in the MPLS division with taught courses.  Departmental funding for modules requiring foreign travel: some modules in the MPLS department require expensive field-trips for completion. Reduces access due to the high cost.  **Chair opens the floor for Questions and comments for the UG Rep.**  There were no questions from delegates  Both PG and UG submitted a [written report](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/21ht1w/) which can be found online. |  |
| **G** | **Reports from and questions to Arts Guide**  **Update from Eloise Fabre**  The project is basically finished, it's just a matter of adding it to the newsletter and making an Instagram post or something of the likes to distribute it.  Arts Guide submitted a [written report](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/21ht1w/) | To receive |
| **H** | **Items for resolution**  Wesley Ding (Chair) explained opened up the floor to members to discuss these items | To receive |
|  | **Mandating the Vice-President Welfare and Equal Opportunities to secure full sabbatical support for the End of Eating Disorders Crisis Now campaign**   1. Our letters can be read at the links here: [letter to the Vice Chancellor](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1F3RptE2NM3uAx0HLqa40-wyiMbJ-iSSzyx2JXjI72ss/mobilebasic):   [Letter to Members of Parliament](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-yRQBCnUnLDY6wX9xYMl4YhlA0EybtyClhwimW2eA6g/mobilebasic):   1. A survey in 2016 by Oxford SU showed that 5% of students at Oxford University had an Eating Disorder. This suggests that a staggering 1,200 students at Oxford University could currently suffer from an Eating Disorder. 2. Eating Disorders are serious mental health conditions, with Anorexia Nervosa having the highest mortality rate of any mental illness. 3. Cotswold House, a tertiary referral centre for adult Eating Disorder care covering three counties, has been forced, due to a lack of resources, to only accept referrals for severe or extreme Anorexia Nervosa (AN) or Bulimia Nervosa (BN) (classified by DSM-5 diagnostic criteria. Even those patients whose referrals are accepted are likely to face long waiting times - increasing from 12 months to 25 months over the last year alone. 4. The physical criteria for an individual to be accepted for a referral to Cotswold House eating disorder treatment is the same criteria below which a student fails the Fitness to Study guidelines. 5. Beat released a report on waiting times in 2018/2019 for the previous year. They found that long waiting times had the following effects: Declining health and quality of life of patients. Incentive to maintain or increase severity of illness. Allows doubt for patients on whether they deserve treatment or not. It also risks patient safety. 6. Medical education at Oxford University is insufficient at equipping doctors with the knowledge in Eating Disorders, according to the Eating Disorders Chair of the Royal College of Psychiatry.   **Believes:**   1. The mental health of the student population must be prioritised 2. Everyone with an Eating Disorder has the right to treatment regardless of how physically sick they are or their socio-economic status. 3. The University should fill the gap between the counselling service and NHS provisions, to prevent students getting to the point they are no longer fit to study at Oxford. 4. The University should lead the way as a world-leading institution to better education for our medical students on Eating Disorders and contribute to saving lives in the process.   **Resolves:**   1. For the Vice-President Welfare and Equal Opportunities to get all sabbatical officers to sign both of our open letters (Point 1. in Notes) to the University and Members of Parliament (MPs). 2. For the Vice-President Welfare and Equal Opportunities to take our MPs letter to senior members of the University (including the Vice Chancellor Professor Louise Richardson and Pro-Vice Chancellor for Education Martin Williams) and ask them to publicly join the fight for better Eating Disorders services in the NHS. If they refuse, we ask the President to secure a justification for their decision not to endorse or support this campaign. 3. For the Vice-President Welfare and Equal Opportunities to promote both campaigns on the SU mailout and encourage other members of the University to join the campaign.   **Proposer:** James Nevett - Brasenose College  **Seconder:** Isabel Creed - St Edmund Hall  **Opening statement from James Nevett - Brasenose College**  **Chair opens floor for discussion:**  Full motion can be found [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/21ht1w/)  Total Votes: 47  FOR: 42  AGAINST: 1  ABSTAIN: 4  **Motion passed.** |  |
|  | **To reinstate the LGBTQ+ Campaign as an Oxford SU Campaign with no changes to the previous constitution.**   1. The LGBTQ+ Campaign has been an SU Campaign for several years with the following purpose: "The promotion and defence of the academic, recreational, communal, welfare and cultural interests of lesbian, gay, bi, trans, asexual, aromantic, pan, intersex, queer, genderqueer, gender non-binary, or LGBTQ students at the University of Oxford. 2. The LGBTQ+ Campaign was automatically wrapped up in Michaelmas term 2020 after failing to report to Student Council   **Believes:**   1. The LGBTQ+ Campaign should be reinstated and thus allowed to continue their work for the interests of LGBTQ+ students at the University of Oxford.   **Resolves:**   1. To reinstate the LGBTQ+ Campaign as an Oxford SU Campaign with no changes to the previous constitution.   **Proposer: Victoria Chocqueel-Mangan, Wadham College**  **Seconder: Leo Gillard, Oriel College**  **Opening statement from Victoria Chocqueel-Mangan, Wadham College**  **Chair opens floor for discussion**  Full motion can be found [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/21ht1w/)  Total Votes: 40  FOR: 37  AGAINST: 0  ABSTAIN: 3  **Motion passed.** | To receive |
|  | **Motion to include 'self-isolation upon arrival' in the criteria allowing international students to return to Colleges before the UK students in Hilary term**  **Council Notes:**   * + - 1. The current guidelines from the University suggest that no student will be allowed to return to Colleges before mid-February, unless one meets strict criteria, and in-person teaching is suspended “for at least the start of Hilary term”.  1. Although the University website states that “you should speak to your college to agree the timing of your return to Oxford so that you can complete your self-isolation before your course’s in-person start date wherever possible” the need of self-isolation after arrival from a country outside the travel corridor list is not officially included in the strict criteria that allow students to return to Oxford before mid-February. 2. International students were asked to “reschedule” their travel plans; however, they were not given any guidance on which date they should reschedule the travel for, apart from the mid-February date. 3. If students would indeed be allowed to return to Oxford after mid-February, the length of the compulsory self-isolation period for individuals arriving from outside the travel corridors, which is now 10 days, would constitute approximately a half of the time remaining at the University this term.   **Council Believes:**   * + - 1. If given no early notice, international students from outside the travel corridor list would be excluded from the first 10 days of in-person teaching after mid-February on their return. As a result, most international students would probably decide to stay at home for the duration of the whole term, which could cause significant disruption to their studies.       2. While recognizing that the situation is dynamic and will most likely change at short notice, the number of students that would decide to come back 10 days before the mid-February would likely not be great enough to pose a significant COVID-19 transmission risk, since a significant proportion of international students have stayed in Oxford for the Christmas vacation.       3. The advantages of allowing international students to benefit from the in-person classes and student life at Oxford on the same terms as UK students are greater than the risks associated with an earlier arrival.       4. The uncertainty surrounding the travel is causing undue stress to international students in particular, as they must plan for flights and monitor the situation both in their home countries and in the UK.       5. International students should be free to plan their studies according to what is most conducive to their learning, rather than being indirectly forced to make that decision due to a lack of advantageous alternatives.       6. The means of international travel to the UK are significantly less flexible than the travel within the UK, especially considering the uncertainty surrounding air travel worldwide, meaning that it is both a greater financial and emotional strain for international students to plan and keep rescheduling their travel.   **Council Resolves:**   * + - 1. Mandate the VP Access and Academic Affairs and VP Welfare and Equal Opportunities of the Oxford SU to bring to the attention of the University officers the following requests:   1. That the policies concerning international students from countries not on the travel corridor list should be reconsidered irrespectively of the decisions concerning students travelling from the UK, as their situation is different.   2. To grant permission for international students from countries outside the travel corridor list to arrive 10 days before the date when UK students are allowed to return, expressed through including “self-isolation on arrival” in the criteria that allow students to return to Oxford before the mid-February (or another return date if it were to change). c. That international students who must quarantine on their return:      1. Will be offered accommodation for price not higher than the regular term-time fee rate;      2. . That their food provision will match the average rate of each college’s hall prices.   **Proposer:** Weronika Ślesak, Worcester College  **Seconder:** Cecilia Bronzoni, Merton College  **Opening statement from Weronika Ślesak, Worcester College**  **Weronika Slesak:** I just need to highlight that the rationale is mainly based around the fact that international students would need to self-isolate for 10 days, and the motion has the aim of allowing them to self-isolate before some in-person teaching starts (if it were to start). This particular "self-isolation issue" would not concern students within the common travel area. The difficulty of planning flights is just a reason to try discussing and negotiating the case as soon as possible, but "assisting international students travel" alone is not the aim of the motion.  **Chair opens floor for discussion**  **Brian Treacy:** A lot of the rationale is based around the difficultly of planning flights etc., with the conclusion being to assist International students travelling outside of the travel corridor list. Albeit operating within the common travel area, Irish students will still have a lot of these stresses of flight planning etc.  Full motion can be found [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/21ht1w/)  Total Votes: 53  FOR: 31  AGAINST: 9  ABSTAIN: 13  **Motion passed.** |  |
| **4.** | **One extraordinary year: Life at Oxford during the pandemic**  **The Project:** For all of us, this year has been truly unique; the Covid pandemic has turned the world upside down, and this year at Oxford will be unlike any in the University's recent history. This is has been a genuinely extraordinary year, and I think it is worth documenting this historic period properly in the form of something like a collective journal or collaborative art project.  I propose to create some sort of record of life at Oxford University in the time of the pandemic. I would extend an open submission to students and staff to share their experiences of this year - their highs and lows, successes and failures, thoughts and feelings, fears and hopes. Students and staff would be invited to share their experiences of living through lockdowns, online learning, social distancing and vaccinations, by submitting art projects, photos, writings, poetry, articles, diary entries, music, dance, monologues - anything that can be captured and which gives some sort of glimpse into living through a pandemic. I would hope for this to be a year-long project so that we can capture the transition from the current lockdown to (hopefully) something approaching normality. I feel like this is an historic moment that needs to be recorded before it is lost to posterity. Depending on how much content is submitted, and in what form, I suggest that the project be presented digitally in the form of a website, which would allow us to publish multimedia submissions. I would request the Students Union help in soliciting, managing and curating the submissions, and then preparing them for final publication, in whichever form or shape is deemed most appropriate.  **Proposer**: Andrew Omond  **Opening statement from Andrew Omond**  **Chair opens floor for discussion**  **Sean Telford:** I should clarify: I support the project but would ask for careful consideration in the way it is presented  Full motion can be found [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/21ht1w/)  Total Votes: 43  FOR: 29  AGAINST: 6  ABSTAIN: 8  **Motion passed.  (pending operational approval)** |  |
| **5** | **Student Council to Ratify the appointment of Emilie Tapping as External Appeals Officer**  **Council Notes:**   1. The Trustee Board must appoint an External Appeals Officer (EAO). 2. This appointment must then be ratified by Council. 3. The EAO acts as an appeals body in regards to complaints regarding the Returning Officer and appeals against the Returning Officer’s resolutions. 4. The Trustee Board have selected Emilie Tapping as the EAO. Please read information about Emilie in the appendix.   **Council Resolves:**   1. To approve the appointment of Emilie Tapping   Proposed: Nikita Ma, Oxford SU  Seconded: Amelia Holt, Oxford SU  Full motion can be found [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/21ht1w/)  Total Votes: 44  FOR: 36  AGAINST: 1  ABSTAIN: 7  **Motion passed.** | To receive |
| **H.** | **Items for discussion** | To receive |
|  | * + - 1. **Non-UK tuition disparity for subjects in price group C2 and D as defined by Office for Students**   **Notes:**  A 2-class fee system is currently in operation, with fees for UK students capped at £9,250 and fees for non-UK students uncapped and often exceeding £30,000 per year, with seemingly absent check on increases to prices. There is government funding for UK students on many expensive-to-administer subjects such as Medicine, which may partly explain why overseas fees are higher. There is no funding for Group C2 and D subjects such as maths, humanities, languages, business, social sciences, etc. <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/media/784a1671-6e18-45e5-8fa8-8a676f2c9530/ofs2019_18.pdf> , page 21. The university says that the high non-UK tuition fees reflect the true cost of administering the courses. This means that the university loses thousands of pounds on educating every UK student it chooses to accept on the aforementioned courses. The university is not obliged to accept students on these courses and incur massive losses, yet it chooses to do so willingly. Why is this privilege only extended to UK students? Why is the university not ready to incur these massive losses for international students as well? What is it that UK students are able to offer the university that justifies the massive losses incurred in teaching them? For a University that claims to want to reduce inequality, wouldn't a nationality-blind policy allow students from a wider range of backgrounds to attend Oxford, preventing it from being a university solely for the extremely privileged from outside the UK, as it currently is? The UK Govt.'s 2-class fee system is xenophobic. The university must not be complicit.  **Proposer:** Vihan Jain, Worcester College  Item to discuss can be found [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/21ht1w/)  **Opening statement from Vihan Jain (Worcester College):**  **Irem Kaki:** UK students who already have access to subsidized, student loan afforded world-class institutions not being able to afford university abroad and not going because of that is not the same thing as a student from a country without reliable, independent higher education institutions in their own country and looking to go abroad purely because they want access to at least acceptable quality education. This is a bit of a tangent and obviously education should be free for all and UK students have every right to look for the best institutions if they believe those are outside the UK but I do believe this is an important distinction to be made  **Vihan Jain:** Oxford literally trained people at the India Institute to go to India to loot and subjugate Indians - my ancestors have already paid any taxes due to get the reduced fee  **The chair opened the item up for discussion** | To receive |
| **I** | **Any Other Business**  **Chair opens the floor for AOB to members**  **Wesley Ding (Chair):** | To note |
|  | **Chair declares meeting finished at 19:030** | To note |