**Student Council 7th Week Michaelmas Term 2020**

**Tuesday 24th  October 2020**

**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. | 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 explains the different [roles](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/20mt1w/) that were up for elections  Two position were contested  Chair invites candidates to give a 2 minute speech   1. Returning officer candidate (Caleb van Ryneveld) to give a speech. Full manifesto can be found [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/20mt3w/)   **Returning officer results are pending.**   1. Elections committee candidate candidate(Gaurav Dubey ). In the absence of the candidate, the chair read out the candidates manifesto to members. Full manifesto can be found [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/20mt3w/)   **Total number of votes= 18**    **Abstentions=2**    Gaurav Dubey **(Elected)** | To receive |
| **D** | **Reports from and questions to Sabbatical Trustees**  Chair informed members that officer reports can be accessed on [student council website](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/20mt3w/) .  **Chair opens the floor for Questions and comments on officer reports**  **There were no questions raised**  All officer reports can be found [here.](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/20mt3w/) | To receive |

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| **E** | **Reports from and questions to Class Act**  **Key highlights from Class Act:** They inform members that they are thrilled to have been able to successfully implement the Class Act families scheme. We received applications to be part of a Class Act family from 268 current students and offer holders - over 100 more than last year - across the majority of colleges. We hope that this scheme will re-emphasise Class Act’s presence across the University, and help to ensure freshers feel supported and represented.  **Chair opens the floor for Questions and comments on class act report**  **Question from member:** How do you think the campaign can raise awareness of the issues your community faces in the broader student body and the benefits that might have for the community  **Chair of class responds:** Have a better relationship with the student publication so that every issue has an article to talk about  **Class Act** submitted[written report](https://www.oxfordsu.org/edit/page/?page_name=/representation/student-council/20mt3w/) and can be found online | To receive |
| **F** | **Reports from and questions to Comedy** V **Climate Change**  **Key highlights from Comedy** vs **Climate Change: They inform members that have a live** WordPress website which can be found here [www.comedyvsclimatechange.org](http://www.comedyvsclimatechange.org), it launched at the beginning of October.  They also have a blog (*The Dump*) hosted on the website, that releases content from comedians (once or twice a week). We have also expanded our social media from Facebook to Twitter and Instagram, from which we are getting more engagements and traffic to the blog.  **Chair opens the floor for Questions and comments on class act report**  There were no questions for Comedy Vs Climate Change  Comedy V Climate Change submitted a [written report](https://www.oxfordsu.org/edit/page/?page_name=/representation/student-council/20mt3w/) online | To receive |
|  | **Reports from and questions to PG and UG Social Science Representatives**  **Key highlights from the UG Rep**  Improved library booking – many spaces are left unfilled due to no-shows and poor planning, leading to a shortage of library availability. Contact made with library committee and JCC to raise issue  **Key highlights from the PG Rep**  **Consultations/informational interviews:**To learn more about anti-racist actions and priorities for the year across University, Divisional, and Departmental levels. In relation to ongoing work with the School of Geography (as a student in the Department), informational interviews are being scheduled to learn more from existing groups and how Divisional and SU action may be in solidarity with their goals. Seek to understand the Student Union priorities for anti-racist action.  **PG and UG social Sciences submitted** [written reports](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/20mt3w/) |  |
| **G** | **Items for resolution** | To receive |
|  | **Michaelmas Vacation Residence for International Students**  **1 . Michaelmas Vacation Residence for International Students**  **Council Notes:**   1. Vacation residence for students is currently independently managed by individual colleges, who adopt a wide range of practices.      1. The termly rate for college accommodation, averaged across all colleges, is £23 a day (<https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/fees-funding/living-costs>). Vacation rates either match term time rates or are in surplus of £2-4 per day.      1. There has since been no formal guarantee from the University that colleges will guarantee accommodation for their students during the vacations.      1. Students returning early at the beginning of this term who needed to undergo quarantine were in some cases charged extortionate rates for their accommodation (<https://cherwell.org/2020/09/07/self-isolation-for-international-students-how-has-your-college-responded/>).      1. The situation in the UK with regards to the coronavirus pandemic is constantly evolving, but has been worsening in the past month, with predictions for the situation to escalate the closer one gets to December.     **Council Believes:**     1. The uncertainty surrounding vacation residence for this upcoming Christmas vacation 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.      1. International (or otherwise) students deserve the right to more security surrounding their arrangements.      1. The disparity between colleges in terms of vacation arrangements creates unfair situations for some undergraduate or graduate students. 2. In March, due to the very unprecedented nature of the pandemic, international students at some colleges were put under pressure to leave their term time rooms with little to no notice, and this caused considerable distress to students. 3. Some international students are currently prevented from returning home, either due to the lack of flights available or due to family health issues, and if the situation in the UK worsens this number will continue to rise.      1. The current price of vacation residence renders it prohibitive to stay over the vacation for some students who nonetheless have to.      1. Charging students who have to quarantine on their return, should they wish to leave for the vacation, is insensitive to the situation’s potential for emotional and financial stress.     **Council Resolves:**     1. Mandate the VP Access and Academic Affairs and VP Welfare of the Oxford SU to bring to the attention of the University officers the following requests:      1. The formal guarantee from each college that the university will be able to offer vacation residence to all international students who wish to remain in residence for the vacations for whatever reason. 2. That the daily accommodation charge be reduced by 15% with respect to vacation rates. 3. That international students who must quarantine on their return in January      1. Be offered accommodation for free. 2. That their food provision match the average rate of each college’s hall prices.   **Proposer:** Cecilia Bronzoni, Merton College  **Seconder:** Ben Chuah, Regent's Park College    **Chair opens floor for discussion:**  **Question from council member:** Do you know of any college/s that didn’t charged for students who needed to quarantine?  **CB response:** Wadham college didn’t charge and students were given money from the college. We do realise that every college has different support mechanism however we are seeking for consistency  **Supporting statement from council member:** as a JCR welfare officer I am in support of this motion especially our international students who come here expecting support.  Full motion can be found [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/20mt3w/)  The amendment is accepted as friendly.  A Motion on Amending Motions  Total Votes: 24  AGAINST: 0  ABSTAIN:  4  **Motion passes.** |  |
|  | **Divisional Board Rep Ratification**  Each year Oxford SU selects 8 Divisional Representatives to represent students at a divisional level. We select two for each division, one for undergraduate students, and one for graduate students. For MPLS we select 1 taught and 1 research student instead of one undergraduate and one graduate student.  **Council Resolves:**    To approve the appointment of:     1. Rashmi Samat (MPLS Taught) 2. Ben Fernando (MPLS Research) 3. Theo Kelly (Social Sciences UG) 4. Rebecca Peters (Social Sciences PG) 5. Colm Lambert (Medical Sciences UG) 6. Bronwyn Gavine (Medical Sciences PG) 7. Jamie Slagel (Humanities UG) 8. Daniel Grimmer (Humanities PG)   **Proposer:** Tucker Drew, Oxford SU  **Seconder:** Nikita Ma, Oxford SU  **Chair opens floor for discussion**  There were no further questions from members  Full motion can be found [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/20mt3w/)  Total Votes: 24  AGAINST: 0  ABSTAIN:  4  **Motion passes.** | To receive |
| **H.** | **Items for discussion** | To receive |
|  | Beef and Lamb account for 50% of all animal related greenhouse emissions. They are not necessary for human survival. When calculating emissions per calorie or per kilo, beef and lamb are the worst offenders. The EAT-Lancet report from 2019 for sustaining planetary health shows that in the Global North, consumption of red meat needs to be severely limited and the intake of fruit, vegetables, nuts and legumes should be increased. This will also lead to healthier populations. The University should adopt the principles laid out in the report and aim to minimize its greenhouse emissions. The worst effects of human activity related climate change are felt by Black and Brown peoples in the Global South, with women and disabled peoples being disproportionately affected. The University has a duty to minimise its participation in human activity related climate change.  **Proposer:** Vihan Jain, Worcester College  **Chair opens floor to members**  **Student questions**  **Question from council member :** When you mention removing beef, does that mean from all colleges?  **Response from VJ:** University and colleges have their own catering services  **Question from council member:** Could we not request the University to sign a pledge as opposed to ban beef, would it not be to discuss what the University serves as opposed to what people can eat?  **Response from VJ:** People can still eat what they want colleges can be able to serve what they want to. We don’t have the exactly text for the motion so we are happy to work together on text of the motion  **Question from council member:** what do you want to achieve from this motion?  **Response from VJ: mainly for the University not to participate in excessive** greenhouse emissions when it can choose to do so. To also use this a starting point to go into colleges.  **Question from council member:** What proportion of red meat is served in colleges vs the facilities you are currently looking at and if it would be more effective to tackle this at the college level also.  **Response from VJ:** We would lobby the colleges with a few to lowering the greenhouse emissions  **Question from council member**: Is it your goal for the University to reduce red meat consumption or remove it from their menus?  **Response from VJ:** We aim to lobby the University to completely stop selling beef and lamb on their menus.    Item for discussion motion can be found [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/20mt3w/) | To receive |
| 7 | **Any Other Business**  BAME Leadership Conference being held next week (Monday 2nd November 2020)  Serval council position need filling so please check them out  If you have any motions please submit them. You will receive an email from myself.  Chair opens the floor for AOB to members | To note |
| 8 | Chair declares meeting finished at 18:30 | To note |