**Student Council 5th Week Trinity Term 2021**

**Tuesday 25th May 2021**

**Virtual – 5:30PM**

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| **Item** | **Agenda** | **Actions** |
|  | **Welcome and apologies**Wesley Ding (Chair of Council) welcomes council members to the meeting and explains how Student Council will run, and some ground rules.**Chair’s Announcements**The Chair informs the Council of the following:* Nominations for Student Awards are now open. Student awards are awards that Oxford SU gives out to students who make contributions to campus, whether that be as part of a club or society, in an SU campaign or in the wider community. There are 7 awards: diversity, student voice, target schools, RAG fundraising, sustainability champion, impact and special recognition. If you know anyone you want to nominate, please do so by the link.
* This year's awards are...
* Diversity
* Student Voice
* Target Schools: Paving the Way
* RAG Fundraising
* Sustainability Champion
* Impact
* Special Recognition

The Student Awards are our way of recognising the outstanding achievements of students who work tirelessly to make our community a better place to be. Whether that's as part of a club or society, an SU campaign, or in the wider community, we know that so many of you consistently work to make positive change during your time at University.Nominate someone to receive a Student Award: [https://www.oxfordsu.org/student-awards/](https://www.oxfordsu.org/student-awards/?fbclid=IwAR0I-zs7MlZa8iW8Dc4qfjH6sIYUmy9Q1LydnH3PDAs4an8p-vqHdn59kRM) | **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 are no matters arising. | **To receive** |
| **C** | **Elections in Council**Wesley: There are no elections in Council this week, but nominations for open for Chair of Council, Returning Officer and 2 Steering Committee members. If you are interested in any of those positions, feel free to chat to any of the current officers. I will also be running a drop in session next week on the positions. Chair of Council is my position, leading meetings. Returning Officer runs elections in Council and SU annual and by elections. The Steering Committee members help us to review the agenda for each meeting and ensure our meetings run smoothly. Nominations close Week 7 Monday 1pm.  | **To receive** |
| **D** | **Reports from and questions to Sabbatical Trustees**Sabbatical Trustees supplemented their written reports available on the website with a short verbal update. Reports from the Sabbatical Trustees can be found [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/21tt5w/).Wesley: Apologies from Sabbatical Trustees. Amelia is attending the Rhodes Must Fall protest in line with the SU policy of supporting the Rhodes Must Fall movement. Amelia indicates she would be in support of WomCam’s motion and accessibility policy motion. Lauren is also at the protest. Alex is on annual leave. Ben is in curators of the University Parks meeting. Wesley provides a summary of Ben’s update, which can be found on the SU website via the link above. It’s not enough campaign: <https://www.facebook.com/OxfordSU/posts/10157816269827676> Here is the link to the form for the "it's not enough." campaign if anyone wants to quickly fill it out now, will only take 30 seconds! Thank you for contributing your voice to our movement [https://forms.office.com/r/JSg6Cx5E8F](https://forms.office.com/r/JSg6Cx5E8F?fbclid=IwAR3GMmoJou32raz69tTaaDnypTqtyTpAcndHOguCZii5wsJb3S2VRB6p-3A)Page on the work of the SU Sabbatical Officers this term: <https://www.oxfordsu.org/news/article/6013/What-are-your-Oxford-SU-Sabbatical-Officers-working-on-this-term/>**Chair opens the floor for Questions and comments on officer reports**Uri: he/him from Wadham. I think last time we were discussing the library suspension policy, could you give an update on what happened with that?Tucker: Sure, the library suspension policy has, from our perspective, been largely resolved. The numbers of people that have been suspended by the library have gone down quite significantly, there are only a few dozen people across the University who are currently suspended. The disabilities librarian is going through the list basically daily and removing anyone who is registered with the DSA from the suspension list or who may have missed a library spot from the tally that is getting them so they don’t even know they are at risk of suspension, so that’s being […] handled by the library’s team. The number of spots have continued to go up and the number of no-shows are now very low, approximately 5% across the libraries, great improvement from 8th week Hilary when it was like 50-60&%. We had a meeting with the head of Bodleian to discuss this and Ben and I shared a Facebook post on our Facebooks on what we have done around the suspension policy, so if you check out our Facebooks, there is a public post regarding this. **Note: Sabbatical officers are maintaining blog pages on the Oxford SU website in the hope that this will be more accessible to students.****Note: Meeting being recorded and minutes are being taken and will be made available to all students.**  | **To receive** |
| **E** | **Reports from and questions to International Students’ Campaign and It Happens Here campaign****Report from International Students’ Campaign**Bartek Trzos: Recently we organised a pub trip for international students, which was a great success and we are thinking of organising something more this term in person. We are thinking more long term over the holidays for international students in Michaelmas when they come. Angel, could you talk about the handbook we want to create?Angel Chun: Today we had a RepCom with the International Officers from the different colleges and we proposed the idea of designing an e-handbook for the incoming international freshers, which will add on to the existing guides we have and we will work with people from Target Schools who are working on the Alternative Prospectus. We hope to include content that covers not only hard details like bank details and where to buy for everything, but also more soft details, for example where to go for leisure and how to integrate yourself with British culture. We hope to offer a different perspective for incoming international students for better integration and returning to Oxford. **Full report can be found** [**here**](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/21tt5w/)**.****The Chair opens the floor to questions for the Report from the International Student’s campaign.**Nikita(SU President):I love the idea of this guide you are creating, how do you plan to disseminate it with the incoming freshers?Bartek: We want to disseminate it, we are thinking of how best to approach it, so that it reaches as many incoming Freshers as possible. We will be probably be […] with the SU, to somehow disseminate it in the most effective way possible. We want to actually produce the document before we start talking about promoting it.Nikita: I do understand that it is very important to create this document, but I would also say that it would be great for you to start thinking about the means of disseminating it, as I do understand a lot of hard work will go into this and I would think it’s a waste if everyone puts in a lot of work and this amazing booklet gets created, but the students, the incoming freshers, don’t get to see it. So, I think it's important to think about how you can raise maximal awareness about this booklet and to get it out to as many students as possible. But, yes, I am in support of the idea.Angel: Thank you, we will explore the possible options.**Report from It Happens Here campaign**Natasha Lovel (Co-Chair): One focus is increasing awareness of street harassment in Oxford and improving the measures for street safety around Oxford in different colleges. So there was the safe lodge, which you have probably seen the little green circles all around the different colleges, a college with that sign means you can go in and get safe sanctuary any time you need it and it is not specific to sexual violence, it is just any time you are in need, these colleges are going to be a sanctuary. Originally there was around 11 colleges, that has now increased to around 30, it might be a bit more, it might be 15 or so. We have been working with the security service as well in debunking myths about the security service and making them more accessible. Like, I always talk about it, but their phone number is on the back of the Bod Cards and no one talks about it, so we are hopefully going to be working with them a bit more. We also fixed lights on Merton Street and worked with the Council on that. We have also been involved with OxWarnings and other things like that. Timea Illiffe (Co-Chair): A lot of it has been getting ourselves informed on the projects of our predecessors, getting a sense of scope of certain issues, we are keen to continue our policy on banning staff-student relationships at a University and college level, we have met with the HR manager of the Personnel committee on that and a representative from the Medical Sciences division, where that policy has been passed, who has passed it on to divisional representatives. We have an event coming up this Friday, which I very much encourage everyone to come to if you can, 4-5 pm, about information on the sexual violence service, OSoc, and Alex Foley will be represented as well. We have been supporting other student groups, for example […], we have supported the Our Space survey and some of the PhD students on their work. Right at the start of our hand over period, we helped speak at the online vigil for Sarah Everard and some of the stuff on Clapham Common that was happening digitally. We have also recruited a new set of college representatives, although I think that form is set ongoing, as we don’t have all colleges filled.Event link: [Tackling sexual violence at Oxford: What's next? (oxfordsu.org)](https://www.oxfordsu.org/ents/event/2269/) Natasha: Next targets are to increase awareness of our different resources in the campaign. We have already start looking at collaborations with LGBTQ SU equivalent and we also started making a resource that we will check through with them and start promoting. There is going to be international specific resources to do with sexual violence, as obviously if you are coming as an international student and having to get to grips with the UK system, that’s a very difficult dynamic that might not have been considered too much, so hopefully we are going to create some resources on that. Our LGBTQ rep wants to do an analysis on whether Plush is a safe space, so we are going to support her in that and she has already been having meetings with Bridget Steele who is in charge of the Our Space survey. We are also working with Sports Federation and sports teams and VP Charities and Community and […] to discuss sexual violence in sport as sport is treated as a separate entity, which we don’t think is right and needs to be addressed, given the current things that are going on with articles about the boat race. So, we have been having open conversations about that, so hopefully that is going to continue and there will be a few quick fixes in the mean time, so put up more to do with harassment in their loos and Iffley sports centre and stuff, but we are properly going to have those conversations.Timea: we have been chatting to Tucker as well about looking at establishing a coherent policy on trigger warnings for sexual violence and other potentially harmful content in academic papers and the like based on some issues that students have raised to us. If anyone has any more examples of that, do feel free to get in touch with us as well.Natasha: we are hoping to organise some events as we have our budget to spend, so hopefully coming up with some events for when the weather is nicer and COVID is a bit better and maybe doing an in person support group, an It Happens Here support group, we are working with OSoc on that and working out the welfare logistics, so if anyone has any plans on how to go about that, that would be great. We are also hoping to hold a by-election for some new positions including disabilities rep, suspended students rep, class rep, welfare rep and trans rep, so quite a few. We have disabilities and suspended kind of already, they are already people in the committee for another main position. **Full report can be found** [**here**](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/21tt5w/)**.****The Chair opens the floor to questions for the Report from the It Happens Here campaign.**There are no questions | **To receive** |
| **F** | **Reports from and questions to Medical Sciences UG and PG Divisional Representatives****Report from the Medical Sciences UG Divisional Representative**Not present and no report submitted on the website.**Report from the Medical Sciences PG Divisional Representative** Not present, report can be found on the website.**Full report can be found** [**here**](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/21tt5w/)**.** | **To receive** |
| **G** | **Items for resolution** | **To receive** |
|  | **Cycling (Policy Renewal)****Council Notes:**1. The policy “Cycling” will lapse at the end of Trinity Term 2021 unless it is renewed.

**Council Believes:**1. This policy is crucial.

**Council Resolves:**1. To renew the Oxford SU Policy titled “Cycling” without amendment. The text of the Policy reads:

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| **Cycling** Oxford SU resolves to mandate the Vice President (Charities & Communities), or another named sabbatical officer, to regularly correspond with the cycling advocacy group Cyclox and support them in any campaign where student involvement may be useful for improving cycle safety. |

 **Proposer**: Michael Woods, Brasenose College**Seconder**: Edward Peckston, Brasenose College**The Chair provides a brief explanation on what policies are and the process of policy renewal.****Highlights of statement from Michael Woods on motions 1-4:**The proposer highlights how they and the seconder decided to renew the policies. He states that they are open to changes in language in the motions. They felt these motions made sense.**The Chair thanks the Proposer and opens for short, factual questions on motions 1-4.**Proposer identifies written error on ‘Council believes’ section of Motion 4, which the Chair identifies will be corrected.**The Chair opens for speeches on motion 1-4**There are none.**Cycling (Policy Renewal)**Votes 39For 34Against 2Abstain 3 |  |
|  | **Vegetarian Default at Oxford SU Events (Policy Renewal)****Council Notes:**1. The policy “Vegetarian Default at Oxford SU Events” will lapse at the end of Trinity Term 2021 unless it is renewed.

**Council Believes:**1. This policy is crucial.

**Council Resolves:**1. To renew the Oxford SU Policy titled “Vegetarian Default at Oxford SU Events” without amendment. The text of the Policy reads:

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| **Vegetarian Default at Oxford SU Events**Where Oxford SU provides food, it will be vegetarian by default (having meat or fish will be considered a dietary requirement). |

 **Proposer**: Michael Woods, Brasenose College**Seconder**: Edward Peckston, Brasenose College**Vegetarian Default at Oxford SU Events (Policy Renewal)**Votes 39For 30Against 6Abstain 3 |  |
|  | **Reproductive Justice Policy (Policy Renewal)****Trigger warning: abortions****Council Notes:**1. The policy “Reproductive Justice Policy” will lapse at the end of Trinity Term 2021 unless it is renewed.

**Council Believes:**1. This policy is crucial.

**Council Resolves:**1. To renew the Oxford SU Policy titled “Reproductive Justice Policy” without amendment. The text of the Policy reads:

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| **Reproductive Justice Policy**Oxford SU is an organisation dedicated to representing the interests of Oxford students. Oxford SU believes that as such, Oxford SU as an organisation should affirm the rights of all students to choose what happens in their lives and what happens with their bodies, including the choice of whether or not to continue with a pregnancy, and should campaign accordingly. Oxford SU Believes:1. That abortion can be a difficult moral choice, and we should trust students to make it for themselves.
2. That Oxford SU can and should do more to support both students who choose to have children during their time at Oxford, and students who arrive in Oxford as parents.
3. That Oxford SU should, through their Student Advice service, continue to make available impartial and non-directional welfare support to those students who are pregnant and in need of advice.

 Oxford SU Resolves:1. To lobby for before a legal requirement that abortion providers verify that no patient is being coerced into an abortion.
2. To oppose imposition of any criminal penalties on a person that has an abortion.
3. To support the right of all pregnant people to choose, and to campaign in support of this right being legally established.
4. To oppose measures to make it more difficult for students to choose either to terminate a pregnancy or to carry it to term and to work to ensure that no additional restrictions are imposed at any level so that Oxford students have a real choice.
5. To campaign to extend students’ right of practical access to an abortion, and to extend their rights of choice over their own pregnancies.
6. To campaign for the University and the colleges to provide greater support for students who choose to carry their pregnancy through to term.
7. To work with other groups campaigning for the above objectives.
8. To reaffirm the importance of the VP (Women) and VP (Graduates) in representing and supporting student parents, in order to further the provision for student parents by Oxford SU and the University.
9. To clearly affirm our support for a non-directive, impartial and supportive Student Advice, as laid down in the Oxford SU Bye-Laws.
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 **Proposer**: Michael Woods, Brasenose College**Seconder**: Edward Peckston, Brasenose College**Reproductive Justice Policy (Policy Renewal)**Votes 38For 34Against 1Abstain 3 |  |
|  | **Accessibility policy (Policy Renewal)****Council Notes:**1. The policy “Accessibility Policy” will lapse at the end of Trinity Term 2021 unless it is renewed.

**Council Believes:**1. This policy is crucial.

**Council Resolves:**1. To renew the Oxford SU Policy titled “Accessibility Policy” without amendment. The text of the Policy reads:

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| **Accessibility Policy**1. All Oxford SU events should consider trigger warnings, content notes, and pronouns to be regular practice, including those held by permanent/issue campaigns, and for it to be regular practice to specify one’s pronouns when one speaks at an event.
	1. For clarity, trigger warnings and content notes are information on the upcoming content of an event, a talk, a paper, a Council motion, or any other Oxford SU contribution, which serve to allow students to avoid or to be aware of topics that may cause distress.
	2. Pronoun circles are an aspect of the beginning of any meeting or event in which people will be referencing what other people have said, where each person states the name and the third-person pronoun (he, she, they, etc.).
2. Oxford SU should endeavour to limit the use of jargon and acronyms, and to explain these, when necessary.
3. Those who are organising Oxford SU events should consider the timings of other Oxford SU campaign meetings / events when scheduling, to ensure students are able to access as many events as they’d like to attend.
4. Oxford SU should be as accessible as possible:
	1. Student Council should always be held in a venue with step-free access 18 and should accommodate as far as possible any accessibility requests made by students who wish to attend.
	2. All events hosted by Oxford SU should list relevant accessibility requirements (e.g. step-free access is available to the room) and details for a named contact (who can handle accessibility requirements discreetly) in the event description
		1. Examples of accessibility requirements include:
			1. Step-free access
			2. Gender-neutral, accessible bathrooms
			3. Baby-changing facilities
			4. Places available to sit
			5. Quiet areas
5. Oxford SU should endeavour where possible to hold Student Council at a postgraduate College at least one in every five times and at an absolute minimum, once in an academic year (assuming that these Colleges are willing to provide and that they have accessible venues).
6. Oxford SU should be promoting accessibility online as well, including:
	1. Providing captions and an easily accessible text transcript for any Oxford SU-related video they help create
	2. Providing image descriptions and alternative text descriptions, where needed
	3. Providing black-and-white, readable versions of documents, where needed
7. Oxford SU branding should take account of concerns that may arise, and ensure that it remains as accessible as possible (e.g. preference for light background dark text)
8. Oxford SU should endeavour where possible to follow the following Family Friendly Checklist:
	1. The venue is child-friendly (e.g. not around sharp corners or precious furniture) and there are baby-changing facilities nearby.
	2. The event includes at least one activity that might interest children
	3. If the event includes food, there is food suitable for children (i.e. not spicy or too messy; finger foods are great)
	4. The event doesn’t take place late at night or during work hours (you’re looking at 5-7pm on weekdays and 9-7pm on weekends)
	5. Any children need to be supervised (likely by their parents/guardians), and this should be reminded.
	6. The event does not involve people exclusively getting drunk, and may not involve alcohol at all (with the exception of summer activities)
	7. If an event does not allow for children, relevant information on access to childcare provision is provided and supported, where necessary.
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 **Proposer**: Michael Woods, Brasenose College**Seconder**: Edward Peckston, Brasenose College**The Chair informs Council that voting is now open for this and all other motions from this Council.****Accessibility Policy (Policy Renewal)** Votes 39 For 34 Against 2 Abstain 3 |  |
|  | **Amend the Oxford SU Women’s Campaign Constitution to Create a “Welfare Officer” Position****Council Notes:**1. Women and non-binary students face specific challenges, and WomCam committee members may need support when working on projects of a sensitive nature or which may deal with triggering material. Class Act has a Welfare Officer role.

**Council Believes:**1. It would be beneficial for there to be a Welfare Officer on the Women’s Campaign in order to help women and non-binary students and committee members with welfare issues and generally promote the welfare of committee.

**Council Resolves:**1. To amend the Oxford SU Women’s Campaign constitution to create a Welfare Officer post, as per the appendix.

 **Proposer:** Ellie Redpath, Magdalen College**Seconder:** Issy Kenney-Herbert, Lady Margaret Hall**Proposer and Seconder are not present.** **The "Create a Welfare Officer Position for the Oxford SU Women's Campaign motion" has been withdrawn by the chair as nobody was present to propose the motion.** **In line with past precedent, the chair withdrew the motion from this meeting. The proposers have been informed and advised to bring this back at a future meeting.** |  |
|  | **Educating Oxford Eating Disorder Training****Trigger warning: eating disorders****Council Notes:**1. Eating disorders are becoming increasingly prevalent in society, something which has been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. An Oxford SU survey in 2016 revealed that at least 5% of the student population suffered from an Eating Disorder. This is around 1200 students.
3. A recent Health England survey in 2019 showed that 16% of adults have signs of an Eating Disorder up from 6.7% in 2007.
4. Eating Disorders have the highest mortality of any mental health condition, with estimates as high as 10%. To put this into perspective, this is 3 times higher than the average mortality of COVID-19 over all age groups, which according to our world data is around 3%.
5. According to an Oxford SU survey in 2016, 58% of undergraduates and 53% of graduate students have experienced a mental health problem in the last year, with women being twice as likely as men to have experienced issues. The survey found that 51% of Postgraduate Research (PGR) students said that being at Oxford has had a negative effect on their mental health. Common mental health issues included anxiety, depression, and eating disorders.
6. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, an Oxford academic in psychiatry said in 2019 that university mental health services were at a tipping point.

**Council Believes:**1. Welfare officers should have specific training in Eating Disorders to help understand issues affecting these students, allowing them to direct them on to further support, and to have more understanding of them when faced speaking to a student with an Eating Disorder about the problems they face giving them more confidence in dealing with situation.
2. Freshers at Oxford University should be given Welfare training in Fresher’s week on both Mental health problems and Eating Disorders, to allow them to understand and recognise the signs of different mental health issues and in particular Eating Disorders, and to seek help early, as well as to be able to understand what fellow students may be going through.

**Council Resolves:**1. To mandate VP Women to lobby the Colleges to allow time and space in their Fresher’s Week 2021 programme for Eating Disorder Training assisted by Educating Oxford.

 **Proposer:** Isabel Creed, Exeter College**Seconder:** Alex Foley, Oxford SU**Proposer and seconder are not present.****The "Educating Oxford Eating Disorder Training motion" has been withdrawn by the chair as nobody was present to propose the motion.** **In line with past precedent, the chair withdrew the motion from this meeting. The proposers have been informed and advised to bring this back at a future meeting.** |  |
|  | **Establish “Khalik Allah: A Retrospective Conversation” as an Oxford SU Project****Council Notes:**1. Khalik Allah, artist, photographer, filmmaker, and his work celebrates Blackness and the Jamaican diaspora while honestly confronting the brutal realties of colonial white supremacist spaces. Through this practice, Allah aims at transcending the medium of motion picture to communicate an inner light of the soul - the subject of his work.
2. Allah's exceptional work as a filmmaker directly questions assumed languages around cinema.
3. Allah’s work expands into a universal ontological exploration with the musical instrument of the recording, eschewing the Euro-centric conception of aesthetic purity as necessitating a break from the political reality.
4. Allah’s website reads:
	1. Khalik Allah (b.1985) is a New York-based photographer and filmmaker whose work has been described as "street opera" simultaneously visceral, hauntingly beautiful and penetrative. Khalik's passion for photography was sparked when he began photographing members of the Wu-Tang Clan with a camera he borrowed from his dad. Real and raw, his profoundly personal work goes beyond street photography. His eye for daring portraiture and bold aesthetics takes us into an entire world. While the people he photographs on the corner of 125th and Lexington Avenue in Harlem have been his central inspiration, his work also extends to documentary film with “Field Niggas”, a chronicle of summer of nights spent at the intersection of 125th Street and Lexington Avenue. The film takes its name from Malcolm X’s famous lecture, “Message to the Grassroots.” Khalik shoots with a manual, analogue film camera, as photography and film-making form a venn diagram in his work.
5. Khalik Allah's work has been shown internationally in festivals and museums, and his work is available through the illustrious Criterion Collection and Muvi online streaming platforms.
6. Khalik Allah has already tentatively accepted any proposal, to give an online 90 minute presentation to be accompanied by links to his catalogue of film work.

**Council Believes:**1. Khalik Allah is one of the most important filmmakers working today.
2. It is important as an SU that we think of the welfare of Black students and students of colour also from the perspective of the artists and guests that we invite (not simply in terms of demographic representation). Allah's intimate and honest portraitures elucidate elements of the Black experience that are otherwise seldom depicted in cinema.
3. His work is one of the most radical examples of Hip-Hop filmmaking, the study of which is almost non-existent at the University.
4. The University has a further obligation, through decolonizing its curriculum, to reflect upon and research Hip-Hop as one of the most important art movements of the last 500 years.

**Council Resolves:**1. To establish “Khalik Allah: A Retrospective Conversation” as an Oxford SU Project (see appendix) and allocate £200 from the project bid pot.

 **Proposer**: Michael Woods, Brasenose College**Seconder:** Louisa Johnson, St Edmund Hall**Highlights of statement from Michael Woods:**The proposer highlights the nature of the work of Khalik Allah, mentioning the pieces ‘Field’ and ‘Black Mother’ for their critical acclaim. The proposer notes the position of Khalik Allah in the art collective, Magnum Photos, as well the capabilities of the artist as a speaker and the insights and understanding of his heritage and life in New York, particularly for Black citizens. The proposer highlights that with £200, Khalik Allah can be brought for a retrospective conversation. He also notes the unique perspective of the artist on Jamaican diaspora and the impacts of the artist’s work on the subject of hip hop. He notes that ideally the screening would take place on the week beginning June 21st.**The Chair thanks the Proposer and opens for short, factual questions.**Uri: We cannot seem to find the appendices for this motion and the next on the Oxford SU website for this meeting.Wesley: We will check through afterwards and make sure it is uploaded this evening. The appendices(?) provide information on the technical support the SU will be giving to the proposers.**The Chair notes that the project documents are being put up and so should be accessible shortly.****The Chair opens for speeches on this motion**There are none.**Khalik Allah: A Retrospective Conversation (Project)**Votes 38For 29Against 0Abstain 9 |  |
|  | **Establish “Student Consultancy of Sensitivity Readers” as an Oxford SU Project****Trigger warning: References to anti-Semitism and other forms of bigotry.****Council Notes:**1. Last term, one student paper published a contributor's piece defencing Wagner's music in spite of his antisemitism. This was widely considered amongst Jewish students to be highly problematic and was then taken down by the paper.

**Council Believes:**1. The need for better editing in student papers but also in JCR affairs, society publications, and other areas of Oxford life is clear from the amount of 'scandals', that is, problematic articles being published. These could represent a certain group of people unfairly or inaccurately, be implicitly racist or sexist, or just generally inaccurate and insensitive.
2. There are not enough mechanisms for editing teams to handle sensitive pieces.
3. A more formal system is needed to deal with issues like this to help Oxford's student scene produce more accurate, sensitive, considered journalism.
4. Using elected reviewers who can take pieces to people more qualified than them can help ameliorate the potential damage from content. This could add more pressure to peer-review work.

**Council Resolves:**1. To establish “Student Consultancy of Sensitivity Readers” (see appendix) as an Oxford SU Project.

 **Proposer:** Ellen Hendry, Keble College**Seconder:** Alfie Hoar, Pembroke College**Highlights of statement from Ellen Hendry:**The Proposer highlights the aim of the project to increase the sensitivity and accuracy of student journalism, communications and published material in Oxford, including in Common Rooms. The Proposer highlights the high incidences of insensitive material being published and her own experiences of the lack of mechanisms available for published materials to be reviewed and checked. She highlights the benefit of crowd sourcing sensitivity readers to students and the wider community. The service would be for anyone producing content to be submitted to the crowdsourced group who likely be elected members of perhaps societies. It would be part of the SU website and committee format would be established.**The Chair thanks the Proposer and opens for short, factual questions.**Vedang: I was wondering about how members would be elected. If you could speak a bit more on the election process on how to ensure a representative opinion rather than a biased one based on the composition of the reviewers.Ellen: This is one of the main areas that would be looked over considerably in the planning processes for setting this up, as one of the biggest pitfalls would be having one person speaking for a whole issue, which we wouldn’t want at all. My initial thoughts have been that members of societies would be elected, like any other secretary or treasurer of a society would be. I think strength in numbers would be part of it too, making sure there are as many people are possible to fill every kind of aspect of people who could read over things, which I think is why working through the SU is better than setting this up as a society because it will get more publicity and get out more, but I think a big consultation of people interested to get a committee sorted to see what people thought about that, as whilst I think that having things there for sensitivity is something I like the idea of, I don’t want to unanimously on my own say how to do that, so having that as part of the consultation process, I think some kind of democratic method predominantly done by members of any identity groups concerned.Vihan: Are the sensitivity readers going to be paid for the work they do?Ellen: I think this would be something that would be very nice to look into, I think it would depend on the scale on how much this was used at the beginning. Again, I think that is something that would be considered if this motion was to go ahead. As the SU and the better outreach policies of the University believe in no labour for free, which we want to do and that is one of the main concerns with bringing the proposal because at the moment, the only advice given to editors is to get people you know to look over things, which is always free labour. People may be approached to look at pieces if they fit in a particular group, which is a huge problem that we would like to fix with this. That’s why it would have to be strictly sign up and wanting to do it, it would never be something where people are approached without expressing that they want to do it. Actual payment would be on the cards and other things we have looked into are other SU benefits like offering out rooms. The free labour situation is one of the big things on our mind to avoid.**The Chair opens for speeches on this motion**There are noneProposal for this project: <https://teams.microsoft.com/l/file/c6bd2e1a-d74b-44eb-8d15-31e53849bde3?tenantId=cc95de1b-97f5-4f93-b4ba-fe68b852cf91&fileType=docx&objectUrl=https%3A%2F%2Funioxfordnexus-my.sharepoint.com%2Fpersonal%2Foxsu0018_ox_ac_uk%2FDocuments%2FMicrosoft%20Teams%20Chat%20Files%2FStudent%20Sensitivity%20Readers.docx&baseUrl=https%3A%2F%2Funioxfordnexus-my.sharepoint.com%2Fpersonal%2Foxsu0018_ox_ac_uk&serviceName=p2p&threadId=19:meeting_NzE4M2FlOWEtMjNhMS00MDc2LWE5NmMtY2ViMzRkNDZmOWY1@thread.v2&messageId=1621963093107> **Student consultancy of sensitivity readers (Project)**Votes 38For 26Against 5Abstain 7 |  |
| **H** | **Items for discussions** |  |
|  **1.**  | **Creating a motion on strongly encouraging colleges and common rooms to use anti-racist strategies when approaching all programming of events and/or visiting speakers****Notes**:1. The Ruskin School of Arts has, for the past three weeks, engaged in dialogues between student representatives and the faculty on the construction of an Anti-Racist Art School. Among the many policy proposals, the Ruskin has reconsidered the method by which visiting artists and other guests are selected.
2. I would like to discuss the possibility of making a motion that encourages all colleges to develop anti-racist practices. For instance, Brasenose College's Principal Conversations for Trinity term feature almost exclusively white men. If we adopt an anti-racist framework, the work of decolonizing involves developing an academic space reflective of the world, and not just whiteness.
3. I would like to discuss achievable goals and methods by which the SU can effectively lobby colleges to think first from an Anti-Racist perspective.
4. What artists, academics, alumni best exemplify Anti-Racist strategies in their own work? What does it mean to be an Anti-Racist curator, events coordinator, or programmer? How can students affect changes to curriculum/programming that inadequately address or ignore the experience, intersectionality, and therefore the welfare, of students of colour?

**Proposer:** Michael Woods, Brasenose College**Highlights of statement from Michael Woods:**The Proposer notes that a strategy group has been convened at the Ruskin school of art to form the vision of an anti-racist art school. The Proposer notes the repeat issues of financing raised by the school, including establishing a welfare position for students of colour who have experienced racism within the university. The Proposer notes that this term a way for students to more democratically select visiting artists and speakers through an anti-racist strategy has been implemented, which occurred due to a past speaker with inappropriate content in their work. Brasenose College has Principles Conversations with non-diverse speakers. The Proposer is looking to identify language that can be used for a proposal to bring anti-racist strategy to all programming across the University. **The Chair thanks the Proposer and opens for questions.**There are none.**The Chair opens for speeches on the item for discussion.**Asif Malik: I think it is a great idea and thank you for that Michael. In the world of art that I am very unfamiliar with, it would be great to have diversity in art itself. I have seen so many different things from so many different places and so many different forms, that would be wonderful as well. |  |
| **I**  | **Any Other Business** Wesley: Reminder of the announcements from earlier. You can nominate people for student awards, elections in council next week- nominations close 1pm Monday 7th Week- you can run for Chair, Returning Officer or Steering Committee, I will also be holding a session introducing those roles sometime in the next few weeks which I will send in an email, you can vote on the motions on the Oxford SU website for 5th Week Council and type in the chat if you have any issues.**Vote here:** <https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/21tt5w/> The Chair closes the meeting at 18:27.  |  |