**7th Week Hilary Term 2023 Student Council**

**TIME: 17:30**

**DATE: Tuesday 28th February 2023**

**LOCATION: Hybrid**

**LOCATION: Hybrid Student Council Meeting**

Student council this term will be moving to a hybrid-model, with in person meetings planned for the duration of term. Members are encouraged to attend at the SU **75 Hayes House on George Street** and there will be pizza provided during the meeting. There will also be an option to attend virtually for those who are isolating or otherwise unable to attend.

If you have any questions about Student Council, please feel free to contact the
Chair of Student Council on **chair@oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk**or the Student Engagement Team on[**studentengagement@oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk**](https://unioxfordnexus.sharepoint.com/sites/OUSU-StudentUnion/Shared%20Documents/.Oxford%20SU/Student%20Engagement/Student%20Council/Student%20Council%20Meeting%20Archive/Student%20Council%202020-21/Student%20Council%20MT20/1st%20Week%20MT20/studentengagement%40oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk)**.**

**Please Note:** Student Council will be recorded to increase the transparency of the meeting. If you are not happy to be recorded or would like to remain out of the footage please contact Student Engagement Team: [**studentengagement@oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk**](file:///C%3A/Users/ousu0041/Nexus365/Oxford%20SU%20-%20Student%20Engagement%20and%20Communications/Student%20Council/Student%20Council%20Meeting%20Archive/Student%20Council%202020-21/Student%20Council%20MT20/1st%20Week%20MT20/studentengagement%40oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk)

**Trigger warning**

Item: J1 Racism

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**I**. Items for resolution

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2. Rules Changes
3. Changes to the Working Group on SU Rules
4. Student Council mandates SU President and VP Liberation and Equality and to support Oxford Period Poverty

**J.** Item for discussion

1. Concern over Police Treatment of peaceful and non-voilent student protestors.

**K.** Any Other Business

**A. Minutes of the previous meeting**

<https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/23ht5w/>

**B. Matters arising from the minutes**

**C. Elections in Council**

**Chair of Council**: Chair of Council is elected in 7th Week Council each term to serve for the following term. They are responsible for the running, operation, and pre-planning of the meeting as well as sitting on Steering Committee. Council’s decisions have an impact across all levels of both the University and the Student Union, and as Chair you will be responsible for ensuring that this student decision making body is as effective as it can be.

**Returning Officer:** The Returning Officer is responsible for all things to do with Elections and voting. In Council they look after the electronic voting pads. During Oxford SU's Leadership Elections they chair the Elections Committee, handle complaints and count the results!

**Steering Committee (x2):** Steering Committee is comprised of two elected student steering members, the Chair, the President, and the Returning Officer. Steering is the committee tasked with deciding the agenda for the coming Council. They meet the week before to discuss whether submissions should make it to the agenda, whether they need to be amended, or whether they require ‘steering’ to another committee first. Steering are also the group responsible for ensuring that an All Student Consultation is held, if called for.

**D. Reports from and questions to Sabbatical Trustees**

**E. Reports from and questions to Campaign for Racial Awareness and Equality and Suspended Students' Campaign**

**F. Reports from and questions to PG and UG Humanities Representatives**

**G. Report from and questions to the Trustee Board**

**H.** **Report from and questions to the Returning Officer**

**I. Items for Resolution**

**1. Motion of Commendation (Vice-President Access & Academic Affairs)**

**Council notes:**

1. Where there is merit, a motion of commendation can and should be brought

**Council believes:**

In the past few weeks alone, Jade has been a crucial part of the workings of the Suspended Students’ Campaign; and it wouldn’t be able to continue without her work. - This includes both advocating with the Campaign in meetings with the head of SWSS & the Secretariat of Conference of Colleges, but also advocating on the Campaign’s behalf to Prescom, and spreading the word on what the campaign’s doing. - Alongside this, she’s helping the campaign on a paper consisting massive policy change across the colleges; focused on estranged and care leaver students who are the most vulnerable and will advocate that alongside the Campaign to the Senior Tutors Committee. - Outside of the scope of the campaign, she has also helped launch a lecture recording campaign with DisCam and has taken an active role in making sure that discussions as to best practice; and carrying out the next steps past that is taken, including discussing said policies with faculties. - This doesn’t even begin to scratch the iceberg of the work that Jade has done for the student body in the last few weeks alone; never-mind in her time in the role. This merits commendation.

**Council resolves:**

1. To Commend Jade Calder (The Current Vice President for Access and Academic Affairs) for the incredible work she’s been doing; and thank her for tirelessly putting the interests of the student body first.

**Proposer:** Gabriel Lazar, Mansfield College

**Seconder:** Connie Hammond, Mansfield College

1. **Rules Changes**

**Council Notes:**

1. It established the Working Group on SU Rules in the 2nd meeting of this Term.
2. The Group has produced a set of interim proposals for altering the Rules of Council.
3. The Group has approved this set of interim proposals without opposition.
4. A summary of the changes is as follows: to
	1. Re-establish the previous (until Covid) practice of restricting Council voting by default to those present at the meeting.
	2. Re-establish the previous (until 2021) practice of publishing how Council members voted. Make available to all students the list of members of Council.
	3. Require proposers and (for motions for resolution) seconders to be present at the meeting. Allow them to drop motions, but prevent a motion supported by another present person from being withdrawn.
	4. Completely restructure/redraft Rules of Council
	5. Formalise Chair’s accepted power to interpret Rules of Council. Specify how the Chair should use their casting vote.
	6. Require the RO to maintain, and seek termly updates to, a list of members. Membership expires after one year by default.
	7. Require all officers of Council (Chair, RO, Steering, Scrutiny) to maintain handover documents, to be available to anyone doing their job/succeeding them.
	8. Require appropriate records (‘minutes’) to be taken of Council meetings, especially including records of any votes/decisions taken. Require minutes to be approved at next meeting, and specify that they may not be subsequently altered, and should be available to all students.
	9. Clarify procedure for Elections and Bye-Elections in Council and extend deadline for nominations.

**Council Believes:**

1. The new Rules specify clearly current practice which was ambiguously specified or left to the SU’s discretion.
2. The new proposals make welcome alterations to Council, which will improve its efficiency and the SU’s democratic structures as a whole.
3. Council should accept the proposals.

**Council Resolves:**

1. To make the proposed changes, contained in the appendix, to the Rules of Council.

**Proposer:** Niall Pearson-Shaul, Merton JCR
**Seconder:** Joshua Loo, Oriel JCR

**3. Changes to the Working Group on SU Rules**

**Council notes:**

1. That the Working Group on SU Rules is to move its first set of proposals in this meeting.

**Council believes**:

1. That continuity in the proceedings of the Group would aid its work.

**Council resolves**

* + - 1. In exercise of its powers under Bye-Law 9.4, amend the rules of the Working Group on SU Rules, as laid down on the motion of the Returning Officer in its meeting of third week, as follows.
				1. In Resolves 1, insert, after ‘Returning Officer’, ‘of Hilary Term 2023’.
				2. In Resolves 1, at the end, insert ‘Membership arising from the right of members of Council to join the Group shall persist after demission from Council.’
				3. In Resolves 3, before the full stop, insert a comma, followed by ‘and to issue such other reports and recommendations within its terms of reference as it sees fit.’

**Proposer:** Joshua Loo, Oriel JCR

**Seconder:** Niall Pearson-Shaul, Merton JCR

*The appendix contains the proposed amended directions to the Working Group.*

**4. Student Council mandates SU President and VP Liberation and Equality and to support Oxford Period Poverty**

**Council Notes:**

The Oxford Period is a campaign for free periods at the University of Oxford, and against period poverty everywhere.

The Oxford Period was created out of a chance meeting between Maia (New College) and Sofia (Worcester College) at a Gender Repcom in the SU, in late 2021. Through sharing their experiences with other women's and gender equality officers, they began to realise the great discrepancies between colleges in providing free and accessible period products. After creating a survey to analyse the situation in each individual college and common room, and contacting The Cambridge Period Project, they decided to create a new society for Oxford. They’ve since built a team of college representatives, held events to destigmatise the conversation around periods, and are pushing to formally present their proposal to the university.

To encourage Oxford University to establish a long-term, adequate standard of period care provision across all colleges and departments. ​ Hosting events and sharing resources in order to start an important conversation around menstruation and to raise awareness of period poverty ​ Raising money for charities that are actively fighting period poverty ​ Working together with other groups tackling period poverty to increase education surrounding menstruation

**Council Believes:**

That although some colleges and departments of the University have existing schemes to provide free period products, there are great disparities in the range provided, ease of access, and origin and amount of funding. This must be addressed.

In the core goals of The Oxford Period campaign namely:

* To encourage Oxford University to establish a long-term, adequate standard of period care provision across all colleges and departments. ​
* Hosting events and sharing resources in order to start an important conversation around menstruation and to raise awareness of period poverty ​
* Raising money for charities that are actively fighting period poverty ​
* Working together with other groups tackling period poverty to increase education surrounding menstruation

**Council Resolves:**

1. To mandate for three years the SU President and VP Women, as well as future VP Liberation and Equality and SU President to work with The Oxford Period and wherever possible assist in the achievement of core goals.

**Proposer**: Maia Hamilton, New College

**Seconder**: Michael-Akolade Ayodeji, SU President

**J. Item for Discussion**

**Title: Concern over Police Treatment of peaceful and non-voilent student protestors.**

TW: Racism

**Council Notes**

The Government proposed the Public Order Bill in 2022 proposes the crimilaisation of methods of civil disobeideince and peaceful protest.the strengthening of powers to police non-violent protests has been critiqued as likely resulting in broader discrimination and

In the Scrutiny of the Bill, the Joint Committee on Human Rights (JCHR) stated “The right to peaceful protest is a cornerstone of democracy, which should be championed and protected rather than stifled”

Friends of the Earth also stated concerns about” the impact that extending police stop and search powers to protests (both with and without suspicion) could have on those wishing to attend peaceful demonstrations. The fear of being subjected to an invasive stop and search could deter the public from joining protests essential to voice the need to protect nature and accelerate climate action, having a worrying chilling effect outlined by the JCHR”

 **Council Further Notes**

On the Tuesday 21st of February the Oxford Union announced that they will be hosting on the Thursday 23rd February at 8pm a discussion panel between three ambassadors of the cosigning states of ‘Abraham Accords’. Shortly after, students and activists expressed their intention to protest this event.

The VP for Graduates received concerns from students regarding this event and organised a meeting on Wednesday 22nd February with the President of the Oxford Union. In this meeting they discussed issues raised by post-gradate students including the security and safety of student activists who plan to peacefully protesting the event.

At 18:00 hrs on Thursday 23th of Febraury, upon noticing heavy police presence, the SU President relayed concerns of tension and escalation between police and student activists directly with the President of the Oxford Union. During the event, The SU President received reports of racial profilling and police intimidation from students. These were corroborated by numerous tweet and student journalist reporting e.g. (<https://www.oxfordstudent.com/2023/02/23/racial-profiling-students-removed-and-threatened-arrests-protests-against-tzipi-hotovely-at-the-oxford-union> )

After the event concluded, the SU President met breifly President of the Oxford Union, this was later followed up with in in writing, reiterating concerns raised more formally and arranging online meeting the next day. It was concluded(as of 3pm Friday 24th of February):

* As of present the Oxford Union has not received any complaints in relation to the conduct of any individual during the event on the vening of Thursday 23rd February or in connection with the protest that occurred during.
* The SU President will write (or aid in the submission of) complaints to the Independent Office for Police Conduct, subject to consent of students who provided acocunt of mistreatment
* The Oxford Union will looking into the possibility of writing to IOPC should member of the Oxford Union come forth with complaints/accounts of mistreatment.
* The SU President shall seek recommendations from students on further action to be taken on this matter.

This mistreatment of studnet by law enforcement does not provide a conducive or welcoming environment. Student Council is asked to discuss this issue and suggest any further action members might want to recommend.

**Proposer:** Michael-Akolade Ayodeji, SU President

**Seconder:**Jade Calder, VP Access and Academic Affairs

**K. Any other business**