**5th Week Trinity Term 2023 Student Council**

**TIME: 17:30**

**DATE: Tuesday 23rd, 2023**

**LOCATION: 4 Worcester Street (Oxford SU) - Hybrid**

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%20and%20Communications/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 the 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)

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**F.** Reports from and questions to UG and PG Medical Science Divisional Representative

**G.** Reports from Scrutiny Committee (HT23)

**H.** Student Project Follow Up: Voices from the Death Row

**I.** Items for Resolution

* Motion to Amend a Governing Document: Campaign Constitution
* Discussion on Student Project:Africa Day 2023: A Cultural Celebration with Jally Kebba Susso
* Amend a Governing Document – PG Divisional Representatives

**J.** Items for Discussion

- Student Project Follow-Up: Voices from the Death Row

- Clarity around events following Council's motion concerning the Oxford Union Society.

**K.** Any Other Business

**A. Minutes of the previous meeting**

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

**E. Reports from and questions to International Students’ Campaign and It Happen’s Here**

**F. Reports from and questions to UG and PG Medical Sciences Divisional Representative**

**G. Reports from Scrutiny Committee (HT23)**

**H. Student Project Follow Up: Voices from the Death Row**

**I. Items for Resolution**

****Title:**** Amending It Happen’s Here Constitution

**Council Notes:**

1. It Happens Here will be running a consent education reform campaign over the next year, aimed at improving consent education across colleges. 2. It Happens Here projects evolve and change with every new committee, and so It Happens Here wishes to have the authority to create new roles if and when the need arises rather than having to pass a motion in Student Council each time.

**Council Believes:**

1. It Happens Here has appointed a student to lead this campaign. As this role will involve a lot of external outreach, It Happens Here wishes to create a role called 'Consent Education Lead' for clarity.

****Council Resolves:****

1. To add the role 'Consent Education Lead' in the It Happens Here Constitution. 2. To add a constitutional clause that states "The Co-Chairs, if mutually agreed, may create a role if it is necessary to further the campaign's purpose".

****Proposer:**** Yasmin Poole, Wadham College

****Seconder:**** Ffion Samuels, Green Templeton College

**Item for resolution 2:**

**Discussion on Student Project: Africa Day 2023: A Cultural Celebration with Jally Kebba Susso**

**Purpose:**

1. The aim of this event is to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Africa Day. Africa Day is celebrated throughout the world on 25 May to commemorate the liberation of African countries from decades of brutal colonial rule, and the founding of the Organisation of African Unity (precursor to the African Union) on 25 May 1963. On this day, Africans on the continent and across the diaspora gather to celebrate African cultural resilience, and to also discuss challenges and opportunities that African countries and peoples continue to face.
2. This year, the Oxford Africa Society, of which I currently serve as social secretary, has collaborated with the Cheng Kar Shun Digital Hub at Jesus College to commemorate the 60th Africa Day at Oxford with a special cultural evening, featuring Jally Kebba Susso.
3. Susso is an award-winning, self-described Afro-futurist kora player and composer, who is expanding the boundaries of the griot tradition while keeping its heart and soul intact. With his unique ability to seamlessly blend traditional West African sounds with electronic effects and beat. Susso will perform traditional and contemporary West African songs, and will also discuss the significance of Africa Day and the historical importance of music, culture, and traditional storytelling in the quest for African liberation.
4. The objective of this event is to celebrate Africa day with the Oxford student body and enable all students to learn more about African cultures, music, and histories.
5. Our goal is to make the event accessible and potentially free for all students. However, the Society budget is currently very limited and Jesus college has also allocated limited funding to the event. As such, we currently have a budget gap.

**Council Resolves:**

We are, therefore, seeking your support to help bridge this gap and meet our costs. An ideal contribution of £750 would enable us to meet our costs for the performance.

**Proposer:** Abdel Dicko

**Item of Resolution 3:**

**Title:** Amend a Governing Document – PG Divisional Representatives

**Council Notes:**

1. Oxford University's student population is 51% postgraduate. 2. This past year a clear issue with the workload has emerged among the PG Divisional Reps.

**Council Believes:**

1. There should be strong postgraduate representation at the Postgraduate level. Having two Divisional Representatives at each Division will cater to the distinct needs of the Postgraduate Taught (PGT) and Postgraduate Research (PGR) community.

2. Increasing the number of representatives will also help resolve the workload issues and facilitate better communication with the course / departmental representatives.

3. Postgraduate students tend to have more engagement with their departments compared to undergraduate students, who tend to take a more active part in their college communities. Hence the need for more postgraduate representatives is in line with their stronger connection to their divisions.

4. Selecting Divisional Representatives in Michaelmas can make handovers more difficult, especially with regards to loss of institutional memory from year to year.

**Council Resolves:**

1. To increase the number of postgraduate Divisional Representatives from 4 to 8.

2. Within the postgraduate Divisional Representatives, have one Postgraduate Taught and one Postgraduate Research role for each division.

3. To enshrine the two Divisional Representatives (one matriculated, one non-matriculated) for the Continuing Education department in the SU's bye-laws.

4. To change the timing of the presentation of Divisional Representative reports to Student Council to 7th week for all positions.

5. To select Postgraduate Research representatives in Trinity term (as opposed to Michaelmas) in order to make the handover transition smoother.

**Proposer:** Shreya Dua, Oxford SU

**Seconder:** Jade Calder, Oxford SU

**J. Items for Discussion:**

**Title:** Clarity around events following Council's motion concerning the Oxford Union Society.

**Council Notes:**

Council invites clarification from the Sabbatical Officers about the events following the supposed passing of the motion 'Financial Dependence from the Oxford Union' in the last meeting of Council. In particular, (a) what discussions has the SU and/or its Trustee Board had with (i) the University, (ii) the Press and (iii) any legal counsel, (b) what is the SU's understanding of (i) the validity of the motion purportedly passed at the last meeting of Council and (ii) any liabilities the motion raised, and (c) what decisions the Trustees have made and why they made them. Additionally, Council should consider (a) how the situation could have been better managed by both Council and the SU, given the intense (and potentially invacuate) press coverage, and (b) any next steps (if any) concerning the issues originally raised in the motion, bearing in mind the SU's duties to uphold the freedom of speech and represent its members.

**Proposer:** Joe Bell, Merton College

**K. Any other business**