

Council Agenda

5th Week Michaelmas Term 2016

5th Week Council to start at 5:30pm prompt, with sign in opening at 5:15pm, on Wednesday 9th November 2016, at Room 6, Examination Schools, High Street.

Please note: We will be starting prompt 5:30pm start due to only having the room until 7pm. Please ensure you are here 5 minutes early. Registration will open at 5.10pm.

We aim to make Council as accessible as possible, and ensure that it is always in accessible venues. However, if there are any accessibility requirements that we are not meeting for yourself or others, please contact OUSU's Democratic Support Officer at dso@ousu.ox.ac.uk. If you have any questions about OUSU Council, please feel free to contact the Chair, Matthew Dawe, at chair@ousu.ox.ac.uk.

- a. Minutes of the Previous Meeting
- b. Matters Arising from the Minutes
- c. Elections in Council
- d. Reports from and questions to the Sabbatical Officers, Executive Officers, Representatives of the OUSU Campaigns and RAG (*Raise and Give*)
- e. Items for Resolution
 1. Sabbatical Officer remits
 2. #UnisResistBorderControl
 3. ~~Urging the Oxford University Press to withdraw its appeal in the Rameshwari Photocopy Services case before the Delhi High Court~~
(WITHDRAWN)
 4. Central University harassment policy
 5. Oxford Students' Refugee Campaign
 6. Updating guidance for Council's Scrutiny Committee
 7. Orgreave
- f. Items for Debate
- g. Any Other Business

Please Note:

OUSU's team will be filming elements of Council as part of a new marketing and communication plan to promote OUSU Council. If you are not happy to be filmed or would like to remain out of the footage please contact Matt Tennant, Membership Services Manager (msm@ousu.ox.ac.uk) or Jo Gregory-Brough, Communications Manager (commsmanager@ousu.ox.ac.uk)

a. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

b. Matters Arising from the Minutes

c. Elections in Council

JSc(EC)SM (Joint Subcommittee of the Education Committee with Student Members) (x2) – The principal committee for OUSU's relationship with the University. Responsible for reviewing the democratic procedures of the Student Union, such as our elections and budget. **Must be filled by a graduate student.** To serve for two meetings (one in Hilary Term 2017; one in Trinity Term 2017).

Language Centre Committee (x2) - One of these positions must be filled by a graduate student. To serve from Michaelmas 2016 to Trinity 2017.

Steering Committee (x2) - Steering Committee is responsible for compiling the agenda for Council, and referring motions submitted to Council to other committees for preliminary discussions as and when needed. To serve for Michaelmas Term 2016.

Budget Advisory Group (x3) – This is an advisory subcommittee of OUSU’s Finance Committee. To serve until the end of Trinity Term 2017.

d. Reports from and questions to the Sabbatical Officers, Executive Officers, Representatives of the OUSU Campaigns and RAG (*Raise and Give*)

e. Items for Resolution

1. Sabbatical Officer remits

Council Notes:

1. Its power to set (and amend) remits for OUSU's sabbatical officers. Officers are accountable to Council for carrying out these remits.
2. The current remits, approved in Trinity Term 2014.

Council Believes:

1. The current remits are too vague - and this is problematic because students considering running in elections may not have a clear idea what the roles entail.
2. That the proposed new remits in Appendix 1, written by the current Sabbatical officers, more accurately reflect the duties of the six roles.

Council Resolves:

1. To replace the Sabbatical Trustees' remits with the new remits in Appendix 1.

Proposed: Sandy Downs (Corpus)

Seconded: Eden Bailey (Magdalen)

Motion Requiring Expenditure: As of 09/11/2016-£920 Remains in Council Discretionary Fund

2. #UnisResistBorderControl

Council Notes:

1. #UnisResistBorderControl is a campaign launched in March 2016 to combat the racist and xenophobic treatment of non-EU international students and migrant workers within UK universities by the Home Office and UK Visa and Immigration (UKVI).
2. A statement by #UnisResistBorderControl, endorsed by over 50 academics, students, and activists.
3. Many international students have their education and very lives threatened by deportation attempts, for instance Luqman Onikosi a disabled student from Nigeria with a chronic liver condition who would face death if removed from the UK.
4. The importance of #UnisResistBorderControls is shown by the fact that Home Secretary, Theresa May has been found to have 'wrongly deported' 48,000 international students'.

Since then, the court of appeals in October 2016 ruled against the long-running programme to deport international students on the basis of hearsay evidence.

5. Nevertheless, as the UK finalises the last stages of Brexit, we are contending with ever growing state imposed racism and xenophobia that creates a precarious situation for non-EU and EU students, lecturers, and university staff alike. This is evident in the governmental push for UK universities to be graded in an Olympic-styled system to allocate which university takes on non-EU international students, benefiting top tier universities like Oxford, Cambridge and other Russell Group institutions and further marginalising traditionally racially and ethnically diverse and working class universities, such as London Metropolitan University, which was site to an immigration raid in 2012.

Council Believes:

1. Ultimately, we as students, scholars, and university workers need to interrogate and resist higher education becoming a tool for the political elite to enforce further inequalities that turn the spirit of learning and knowledge into a racist and xenophobic money making endeavour, and strengthening right-wing nationalism.
2. We must combat racism, xenophobia and state surveillance via UKVI and PREVENT within our university.
3. We must support EU and non-EU international students, especially those who are Black and people of colour, from racist and xenophobic university and state action.
4. We must also support financially and legally EU & non-EU international student and staff activists and campaigns, such as SOAS Justice for Cleaners, Justice4Sanaz, #DontDeportLuqman, #SaveKelechi, #SaveLord and any other EU and non-EU international student experiencing institutional and state action.

Council Resolves:

1. To support the #UnisResistBorderControls campaign by funding a twice yearly sum of £150 for them to produce a booklet-zine with a 'know your legal rights' information section provided by Garden Court Chambers London for each academic year to incoming non-EU international students.
2. To put a £300 donation for the In Limbo For Justice documentary project currently being produced jointly by Unis Resist Border Controls and Justice4Sanaz.
3. To support sharing the crowdfunder with contacts within Oxford University Student Union and encourage more discussion around issues discussed within the trailer of the film.
4. To help UnisResistBorderControls put together a pro-bono legal clinic of legal scholars, barristers, solicitors and legal students at Oxford University who would be willing to provide pro-bono legal support for non-EU international students who find themselves encounter legal problems with the Home Office and UK Visa and Immigration.

Proposed: Meera Sachdeva (LMH)

Seconded: Marcelo Nascimiento (Wadham)

2. Urging the Oxford University Press to withdraw its appeal in the Rameshwari Photocopy Services case before the Delhi High Court (referred from 3rd week Council) - **Withdrawn on request of proposers – will return at 7th week Council.**

3. Central University harassment policy

Council Notes:

1. That Universities UK has released a report on sexual violence, harassment and hate crime, with special focus on disciplinary breaches which may also be criminal.
2. Previously, the recommendations made to UK universities on dealing with potential criminal acts, especially sexual violence, were to ignore and defer responsibility.
3. That the UUK report specifically urges universities not only to take a proactive stance on dealing with disciplinary breaches that may be criminal, but to publicise and make these policies clear and well-understood.
4. That currently there is University policy which allows for disciplinary action to be taken in the case of acts which may be criminal, but that it is unclear and inaccessible, and that this makes reporting harassment, sexual violence and hate crime very difficult.
5. That the UUK report also makes the case for clear centralised systems and clarification of the extent of university jurisdiction over disciplinary matters, especially those which may also be criminal.
6. That currently the college system and the variation in standards of care across the University prevent such clarity.

Council Believes:

1. That many students feel unsafe and unsupported, and do not know how to use University or college harassment policies.
2. That the University has a duty of care towards its students and should exercise that duty of care to its fullest extent.
3. That the central University policy should be revised to reflect the recommendations in the UUK report;
4. That college policies should be revised to reflect and complement this revised central policy.
5. That any revision of the policy in line with UUK recommendations must seriously consider the current lack of clear information on college/University jurisdiction.
6. That students should be involved throughout this process.

Council Resolves:

1. To mandate OUSU sabbatical officers to lobby for a revision of the current policy based on the UUK taskforce report as a matter of urgency.
2. To support attempts to standardise policy across colleges.

Proposed: Orla White (Brasenose)

Seconded: Tuesday Doherty (Worcester)

4. Oxford Students Refugee Campaign

Council Notes:

1. The ongoing refugee crisis has displaced many thousands of students worldwide.
2. These students have been deprived of the chance to pursue higher education courses in

their native countries or in the country they currently reside.

3. These students are often in extraneous circumstances where access to funding for application fees and language entrance examinations are difficult, and previous transcripts and official records of qualification are unavailable.
4. The University of Oxford and its constituent colleges have yet to provide funded scholarships to specifically support refugee students from all parts of the world.
5. The University of Oxford has a tradition of aiding students seeking asylum as proven by the efforts of the Bureau of Information for Refugee Scholars in the 1930s.
6. Several other UK Universities have committed to funding scholarship places.
7. The Oxford Students Refugee Campaign have garnered the support of more than 11,000 students and have been pledged more than £240,000 at the student level.
8. Most colleges that have accepted motions to pledge money to the campaign have yet to live up to their pledge and collect funds for the campaign.

Council Believes:

1. The University of Oxford has a moral duty and the resources to support refugee students.
2. The University of Oxford should provide access to higher education based on merit, not nationality, immigration status, or race.
3. Given that the University of Oxford is one of the leading universities in the world, by supporting this cause, it has the potential to influence the policy pertaining to student refugees at an international level.

Council Resolves:

1. Mandate the Sabbatical officers to call on the University to provide a proportionate, clear and comprehensive institutional response to welcome students who are fleeing persecution by classifying them as home students and creating studentships or bursaries.
2. Mandate the Sabbatical officers to call on the University of Oxford to make compromises with potential applicants regarding application requirements in situations where test centres are inaccessible due to visa requirements or safety reasons, or when transcripts are lost.
3. Mandate the Sabbatical officers to call on each Junior and Middle Common Room in Oxford, to financially support the expected tuition and living costs incurred by a refugee student studying at the University.
4. Mandate the Sabbatical officers to call on each Junior and Middle Common Room in Oxford that have accepted to financially support the expected tuition and living costs incurred by a refugee student studying at the University to follow up with each Junior and Middle Common Room to live up to their financial pledge as soon as possible.

Proposed by: Thaís Roque (Magdalen)

Seconded by: Beth Currie (Corpus)

5. Updating guidance for Council's Scrutiny Committee

Council Notes:

1. That formal policy for scrutiny is unclear at the moment with the Bye-Laws and OUSU Policy barely touching upon it.
2. That Scrutiny Committee has not been updated in line with the recent changes to the OUSU Bye-laws and governing documents which restructured OUSU.

Council Believes:

1. Scrutiny of our officers not only lets our students evaluate how well their elected representatives are doing in their jobs, but also allows our elected officers to better think about how to grow in the role.
2. That if used correctly scrutiny of our officers will increase the profile of their work by examining it from an uninvolved perspective.
3. Official policy clarifying the work of a committee is not really a bad thing.

Council Resolves:

1. To shrink the current committee from 4 to 2 members to reflect the reduction of the work load to just scrutinising the sabbatical officers.
2. That each member of Scrutiny Committee should undertake an interview with each member of the sabbatical team (this should normally take the form of 3 shorter and 3 longer interviews each so that each officer shall receive one long and one short interview each from a different person).
3. That all findings the committee makes should be unanimous among the two people as there will no longer be a formal chair.
4. That the committee should normally present its report at 7th week council, where it shall be voted on by OUSU Council.
5. That Sabbatical officers should be judged both on the pledges they made to the students of the university in their manifestos and on the goals they set themselves in the first report to Council of the year.
6. To update OUSU Policy on attendance at Council for sabbatical officers due to the removal of Part-Time Officers, in line with Appendix 2 below.
7. To amend OUSU's Bye-Laws as follows to reflect these changes (track changes version in Appendix 2 below):
 - a. In Bye-Law 9.6, replace "four" with "two".
 - b. In Bye-Law 10.2, replace "The chair of the Scrutiny Committee" with "The Scrutiny Committee", and "the chair" with "it".
 - c. In Bye-Law 10.3, delete "the chair of".
8. To make Council Resolves 2-4 OUSU policy.

Proposed: Dan Mead (St John's)

Seconded: Joe Small (Jesus)

6. Orgreave

Council Notes:

1. On 18th June 1984, striking miners at the Orgreave coking plant in south Yorkshire were the victims of severe and organized police violence, including the deployment of cavalry.
2. A 2.5 year IPCC 'scoping exercise' conceded that "the unwillingness to disclose evidence of wrongdoing by officers does raise doubts about the ethical standards of officers in the highest ranks of the South Yorkshire Police at the time".
3. Despite an ever-growing body of evidence suggesting severe malpractice on the part of the South Yorkshire Police on that day, the Home Secretary on Monday 1st November refused *any* form of inquiry into the 'Battle of Orgreave'.
4. The basis of the Home Secretary's decision was, putatively, that "ultimately there were no deaths or wrongful convictions".

Council Believes:

1. In the historic and ongoing solidarity and community binding the trade union movement and students in Britain.
2. In the case of Orgreave, the non-occurrence of death or wrongful conviction constitutes an excessive and simplistic criterion for a judicial inquiry.
3. The military-hooligan police methods, 95 wrongful arrests, police statements manufactured by senior officers and unfaltering government support for the police's actions throughout not only deserve a full public inquiry, but were emblematic of the Thatcher government's assault on the British labour movement and northern mining communities.
4. In explaining the decision of 1st November, it is potentially not coincidental that the current government, like that of 1984, belongs to a Conservative Party pervaded by the ideas of Thatcherism.
5. Regardless of what the Home Secretary says, a judicial investigation into the military style policing used on that day is now long overdue and only a full public inquiry can adequately investigate this.

Council Resolves:

1. To mandate the Sabbatical Officers, on its behalf, to write to the Home Secretary – simply and concisely - condemning her decision to reject any form of public inquiry into the actions of the police at the Orgreave coking plant on 18th June 1984 during the miners' strike of 1984-5 and calling for her to reconsider
2. To express solidarity with the Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign and to from now take up all practical opportunities to positively contribute to its work throughout the ongoing struggle for a full public inquiry
3. To mandate the Sabbatical Officers to urge the University to do the same

Proposed: Lucas Bertholdi-Saad (Wadham)

Seconded: Pete Morgan (Wadham)

f. Items for Debate

g. Any Other Business

Appendix 2

Changes to OUSU policy

Council holding the Executive Committee to account (MT14; updated TT16, MT16)

~~OUSU notes that no part of this motion affects the right of any Student Member to bring a motion of censure or No Confidence to Council under any circumstances. OUSU believes that many Sabbatical and Part Time Officers work hard in the interests of students, and that this work should be communicated to students. That a fundamental responsibility of members of the Executive Committee is to report their work to Council. That Council should hold officers who do not report their work to Council to account.~~

OUSU Resolves:

1. To mandate all ~~Sabbatical Trustees Executive Officers [the Sabbatical and Part Time Officers]~~ to:
 - a) Provide a written report to (or where not possible, a verbal report at) and;
 - b) Attend (or where not possible, send apologies for); every Ordinary Meeting of Council.
2. To encourage all Divisional Board Reps to attend (or where not possible, send apologies for) every Ordinary Meeting of Council, and to encourage them to provide written reports to every Ordinary Meeting of Council.
 1. ~~To mandate all Executive Officers to attend (or where not possible, send apologies for) every meeting of the Executive Committee.~~
 2. ~~To mandate the President to communicate the list of attendance and apologies to each meeting of Council and of the Executive Committee to the Chair of Scrutiny Committee.~~
 - c) ~~To mandate the Chair of Scrutiny Committee (along with another member of the Scrutiny Committee of the Chair's choosing) to bring to Council a motion of censure against an Executive Officer a Sabbatical Trustee, in the event that the Chair of Scrutiny Committee becomes aware that the member Trustee has failed to fulfil either:~~
 - ~~d) a) b) Both of the mandates in Resolves 1, at two Ordinary Meetings of Council, or;~~
 - c) ~~The mandate in Resolves 3 at two meetings of the Executive Committee.~~
 - 4.3. ~~To permit the Chair of Scrutiny Committee to disapply the requirement of Resolves 5 where, in the Chair of Scrutiny Committee's opinion, exceptional circumstances apply that explain the Executive Officer's Sabbatical Trustee's actions.~~
 5. ~~To mandate the President to ensure any Executive Officer or Divisional Board Representative is notified of:~~
 - a) ~~the existence of this Policy;~~
 - b) ~~how to sign in at meetings of Council and the Executive Committee, and of how to send apologies for these meetings;~~
 - c) ~~how to send reports to meetings of Council;~~
 - d) ~~the consequences of not fulfilling the mandates in this Policy;~~

~~by email to their University email address, and within two weeks of taking office.~~

Amendments to OUSU Bye-Laws

9.6 The Scrutiny Committee has particular responsibility for scrutinising the work of the Sabbatical Trustees. Its members are ~~four~~ two Student Members (other than a member of the Executive).

10.1 Council must hold each Sabbatical Trustee to account, and scrutinise their activities, through (a) questions at Council meetings, and (b) termly reports to Council from the Scrutiny Committee.²⁴

10.2 The ~~chair of the~~ Scrutiny Committee may require a Sabbatical Trustee to supply the chair ~~it~~ with such documents as the committee may reasonably require. A document may be edited before submission to ensure confidentiality.

10.3 A Sabbatical Trustee, in consultation with the ~~chair of the~~ Scrutiny Committee, must attend one or more meetings as the committee may reasonably require.

10.4 Council must from time to time provide the Scrutiny Committee with guidance on the exercise of the committee's responsibilities.

