

# Extraordinary Council Agenda

## 8<sup>h</sup> Week Michaelmas Term 2016

### Council Agenda

*8th week Michaelmas Term 2016*

8th Week Extraordinary Council to start at 5pm, with sign in opening at 4.45pm on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at Wadham College.

- a) Welcome and introduction from the Chair
- b) Quoracy Count.
- c) Motions for debate
  - a. NUS National Ballot

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### C.) Items for Debate

#### NUS Ballot

This Council notes that

1. *a)* A National Union of Students (NUS) National Ballot has been called in order to consult upon the need for a risk assessment prior to the planned boycott and/or sabotage of the National Student Survey (NSS).  
*b)* A National Ballot asks each student union which is affiliated to NUS to vote on what is effectively NUS Policy outside of a National Conference. Its result is binding insofar as it has the same status as other NUS Policy. It cannot overturn Policy decided upon at National Conference.  
*c)* This National Ballot asks all student unions which are members of the NUS to respond YES or NO to the question, **Should NUS conduct and publish a risk assessment and equality impact assessment before finalising the NSS boycott / sabotage action?**
2. This has been called due to concerns that a boycott or sabotage of the NSS could disadvantage smaller institutions and devalue degrees.
3. The arguments against a risk assessment and equality impact assessment include: the consultation which has already occurred, the likely cost to NUS, and the likely delay and detrimental effect on the campaign against NSS and more widely the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF).
4. The NUS motion to organise a boycott or sabotage of the NSS was passed at National Conference, and consultation with SUs on the practicalities of the campaign has been carried out.
5. OUSU Council has mandated the Sabbatical Officers to 'organise a boycott or sabotage of the NSS', and to take part in 'national actions and demonstrations linked to the NSS boycott/sabotage.' This is part of a wider strategy on opposing the TEF.

6. The result of this ballot will not impact OUSU's own commitment to a boycott or sabotage of the NSS, but will have an impact on the national campaign.

This Council believes that

1. OUSU's vote on whether to recommend a risk assessment and equality impact assessment must be informed by its democratic processes and the opinions of its membership.

This Council resolves

1. That should this motion pass, a YES/NO ballot will be held in the room, allowing voting members to indicate their decision on the question, **Should NUS conduct and publish a risk assessment and equality impact assessment before finalising the NSS boycott / sabotage action?**
2. That prior to this ballot, Council will discuss the question and the possible impacts of either a YES or a NO vote.
3. That the result of this ballot shall bind the sabbatical officers to vote accordingly.

Proposed by Orla White (Brasenose)

Seconded by Bethany Currie (Corpus Christi)