# 3rd Week Michaelmas Term 2022 Student Council

**TIME: 17:30**

**DATE: Tuesday, 12 October 2021**

**LOCATION: Hybrid/** 75 Hayes House on George Street

If you have any questions about Student Council, please feel free to contact the  
Chair of Student Council on [**chair@oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk**](mailto: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@oxfordsu.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:/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@oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk)

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Click [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student_council_holding/) for minutes

1. **Matters arising from the minutes**
2. **Elections in Council**

**Elections Committee (x3):** Elections Committee work behind the scenes during Oxford SU’s Leadership Elections to ensure they are run fairly and properly. From making rules on the use of social media, to the use of mailing lists, to the rules surrounding endorsements. Elections Committee is only its second year so you can play a key role in shaping its future and how it should operate.

**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.

**Scrutiny Committee (x2):**Scrutiny are elected at the start of Michaelmas to serve for the entire academic year. It is their task to interview the Sabbatical officers at the end of each term and ensure that they are doing the job they have been elected to do. Scrutiny will craft a report to be delivered to Council in 7th Week of each term.

1. **Reports from and questions to Sabbatical Trustees**
2. **Report from and questions to Disabilities Campaign**
3. **Reports from and questions to Class Act Campaign**
4. **Reports from and questions to Women’s Campaign**
5. **Items for Resolution** 
   1. **Using ‘clear days’ in the Council schedule Rules often leads to mistakes.**

Council Believes:

* + 1. The current schedule for Council is unnecessarily spread out.
    2. Members should have more time to vote.

Council Resolves:

1. To amend rules to remove mention of ‘clear’ days and relax deadlines.
2. Replace the footnote to make schedule clearer. Explicit amendments are detailed in [appendix](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/22mt3w/).

**Proposer:** Joe Bell, Merton (Returning Officer)

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

* 1. **Student Council to ratify the appointment of Charlie Palmer as External Trustee**

Council Notes:

* + 1. The Trustee Board must appoint an External Trustee.
    2. This appointment must then be ratified by Council.
    3. The External Trustee acts as a way to help scrutinise the operations of the SU and provide strategic direction for our operations
    4. The Trustee Board have selected Charlie Palmer as the External Trustee.

Council Notes:

1. Charlie Palmer is well equipped with experience to fulfil the role of External Trustee.

Council Resolves:

1. To approve the appointment of Charlie Palmer as an external Trustee

**Proposed:** Ellie Greaves , Oxford SU

**Seconded:** Michael-Akolade Ayodeji, Oxford SU

* 1. **Student Council to approve ratifying Divisional Representatives**

Each year Oxford SU selects 8 Divisional Representatives to represent students at a divisional level. We select two for each division, one for undergraduate students, and one for graduate students. This year the divisional representatives are:

Osita Malcolm Onyeabo (ContEd Non-Matriculated)

Sara Borghi (UG MPLS)

Rosie McDonald-Hill (Medical Sciences UG)

Zoe Edwards (UG Social Sciences)

We are asking student council to approve ratifying these students as divisional representatives for this year. “

Proposed: Jade Calder, Oxford SU

Seconded: Michael-Akolade Ayodeji, Oxford SU

1. **Items for Discussion**
2. **2023 Leadership Elections Timeline**

Student council is asked to receive the 2023 leadership election timeline

Nominations Open

Friday 13th JAN | 00:00

Nominations Close

Friday 27th JAN | 23:59

Candidate Briefing

Mon 30th JAN | 17:30

Manifesto Deadline

Thur 02nd FEB | 12:00

Campaigning Begins

Friday 03rd FEB | 00:00

Hustings

Friday 03rd| FEB

Voting Opens

Mon 06th FEB | 08:00

Voting Closes

Thurs 09th FEB | 18:00

Results Announcement

Thurs 09th FEB | 21:00

1. **(Approaches to) the Annual Elections**

Council notes:

The SU’s Annual Elections will be held in Hilary Term. Whilst strides have been made in recent years, last year’s turnout was still under 20% (and under 10% for Postgrads). The candidate withdrawal rate last year was 46%. The Returning Officer invites discussion on ways the elections team could boost turnout and candidate retention, and ensure that the election process is fair, transparent, and accessible.

Proposer: Joe Bell, Merton College (Returning Officer)

1. **Returning Officer Term Length**

**Council notes:**

Currently, the Returning Officer is elected in Student Council each term. While the Returning Officer has regular duties running voting and elections in Student Council, their most significant role is chairing Elections Committee in each Michaelmas Term and running the Annual Elections in each Hilary Term.

Student Council should consider amending the governing documents to have the Returning Officer elected once a year rather than in each term (with a one-year term limit). It is worth noting that the three elected student members sitting on Elections Committee are elected to serve one-year terms. Given that the role of the Returning Officer is so heavily weighted towards Hilary Term, it may make more sense to bring the RO’s term limit in line with Elections Committee. Of course, there are other factors to consider, including the accountability of the RO if it becomes an annually elected position, and the interest in enabling more people to serve in Council roles.

Proposer: Yasmin Poole, Wadham College (Student Council Chair)

1. **Any Other Business**