**Student Council 7th Week Michaelmas Term 2021**

**Tuesday 23rd November 2021**

**Virtual – 5:30PM**

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| **Item** | **Agenda** | **Actions** |
|  | **Welcome and apologies**  Marcin Pisanski (Chair of Council) welcomed council members to the 7th meeting of the term and explains how Student Council will run, and some ground rules. | To note |
| **A** | **Minutes of the previous meeting**  Chair opened the floor to questions and comments regarding the minutes of the previous meeting and any matters arising from the minutes. | To receive |
| **B** | **Matters arising from the minutes**  There are no matters arising | To receive |
| **C** | **Elections in Council**  Chair hands over to the Returning Officer Wesley Ding. The returning officer goes through all the roles that are up for election.  **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.  **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.  RO invites candidates to address members:  The first candidate is Asif Malik  **Asif:** Hi! Thank you for the opportunity and I wanted to stand as chair of council. I have been involved with the Students Union and Oxford’s different MCRs for over a year now. I would be graduating hopefully next year. I’m on a term extension. I want to bring the same ethos that Wesley and Marcin brought about and to conduct council matters to the best that we can together. **Full nomination can be found** [**here**](https://www.oxfordsu.org/pageassets/representation/student-council/21mt7w/Asif-Khadim-Malik-Chair.docx)  The second candidate is Nurana Mammadova  **Nurana:** Hi! My name is Nurana. I’m doing an Mst. In Diplomatic Studies at the moment and I’m here at Oxford since October. I want to stand for the Chair of Counsel on the basis of my previous work experience and a big interest in coming up with some creative ideas for event engaging more students to the community. If you have more questions, I’d be glad to elaborate.  **Full nomination can be found** [**here**](https://www.oxfordsu.org/pageassets/representation/student-council/21mt7w/Nurana-Mammadova-Chair.docx)**.**  RO Opens floor to questions while technical issue is resolved  The third candidate is Otto Barrow  **Otto:** My name is Otto barrow and my pronouns are he/they and I’m a third year PPS student at Magdalen College. I’m currently on the Council already as the Social Sciences divisional rep for undergrads. I’d like to be Chair of Council because I think it’s a great way of overseeing the runnings of the SU council and making sure everything runs smoothly. I think there’s a huge amount the SU council can do in making sure that we’re all working in a streamlined manner and to make sure all the reps meet and talk to all the other colleges. I’m very much in favor in moving to a hybrid format. I think there are lots of things in inperson discussions, such as informal discussions and working groups. I think these are some of the things we’ve missed out in the pandemic. However, I understand that online meetings are a lot more convenient in terms of location. So I push for trying to make sure every college is represented and look into including other groups and societies within the substructures and making sure there's plenty of options people to speak and make sure their voices heard. But also keep the agenda streamlined. I've already Chaired other things within the University so have a good idea of how that role would work.  **Full nomination can be found** [**here**](https://www.oxfordsu.org/pageassets/representation/student-council/21mt7w/Otto-Chair.docx)**.**  RO opens floor to questions for the position of Chair of Council.  Chair invites candidate for the post of Returning Officer to address the council.  **Wesley:** So, I'm running for the third term as a returning officer. So, in terms of experience, I’ve previously served as the chair of council and student trustee, so I think I really understand the election process both from a constitutional perspective and also candidates in terms of getting people to participate in elections. My target for elections in the coming year would be to make sure that as many people as possible are able to take part in elections both as candidates and voters. In particular, I think the framing focuses would be firstly turn out, reaching out to students who have been traditionally under represented such as grad students and other groups of students as well. Secondly, ensuring that we have a large and diverse field of candidates who have a very good understanding of what the role entail. And even welfare, making sure candidates feel supposed in the process. So those are my goals in the coming year.  **Full nomination can be found** [**here.**](https://www.oxfordsu.org/pageassets/representation/student-council/21mt7w/Wesley-Ding-retuning-officer.docx)  Chair opens floor to questions for the post of Returning Officer.  The second candidate is Philip Dietrich. Philip is not present, so the candidate statement of Philip is read by the Returning Officer.  **Philip:** Dear all, my name is Philip. I am a second year M Phil candidate in Russian and East European studies at St. Anthony's College. I've already been a member of steering over the last term. It was not a particularly busy one for steering, so I really enjoyed gaining more insights to the work of the SD and working with the team. Hopefully next term it will be a little easier and more productive for all of us for in person events since I would like to stay with the steering committee. For one more term, I nominate myself again for the position. Please don't hesitate to send me a message if you have any questions.  **Full nomination can be found** [**here.**](https://www.oxfordsu.org/pageassets/representation/student-council/21mt7w/Philipp-Dietrich.docx)  **Results:**  ***Chair of Council***  Total: 7  Otto – 5  Nurana-1  Asif-0  Reopen Nominations- 1  ***Returning Officer***  Total – 7  Wesley- 6  Reopen Nominations- 1  ***Steering Committee*** Total- 7  Philip- 6  Reopen Nominations- 1 | To receive |
| **D** | **Reports from and questions to Sabbatical Trustees**  Sabbatical Trustees supplemented their written reports available on the website with a short verbal update.  President’s full report can be found [here.](https://www.oxfordsu.org/pageassets/representation/student-council/21mt7w/MT21-Week-7-President-Report.docx)  Chair opens questions to President.  Chair’s questions: Do we have any interesting insights about college ranking as a part of this new Ox Bridge Climate Emergency project? Any specific parts that you feel like mentioning?    President: We did this project called CLOC which stands for Climate League of Oxford and Cambridge and we essentially we ranked all the colleges when their climate action and push for more transparency in terms of the colleges making that information more publicly available and what stuff they’re doing on climate so that it gives students a better idea of how they’re doing in relation to one another, but also what key lobbying areas might be. The project went quite well and now we’re trying to see how we can build further momentum. Reps are more than welcome to pass motions at your JCRs and MCRs in support of it and there’s a lot more stuff that can be seen on the website.  More information on CLOC can be accessed [here.](http://www.oxcamcloc.org/)  Safa, VP Access and Academic Affairs  Safa’s full report can be found [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/pageassets/representation/student-council/21mt7w/Safa-Council-Report-MT7.docx).  Chair opens questions to VP Access and Academic Affairs. There are none  Aleena, VP Charities and Community  Aleena’s full report can be found [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/pageassets/representation/student-council/21mt7w/Week-7-Aleena.docx).  Chair opens questions to VP Charities and Community. There are none.  Devika, VP Graduates  Devika’s full report can be found [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/pageassets/representation/student-council/21mt7w/Devika-Vice-President-Graduates_MTW7.docx).  Chair opens questions to VP graduates. There are none.  Keisha, VP Welfare and Equal Opportunities  Keisha’s full report can be found [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/pageassets/representation/student-council/21mt7w/Officer-Report-_-Vice-President-Welfare-and-Equal-.docx).  Chair opens questions to VP Welfare and Equal Opportunities. There are none.  Kemi, VP Women  Kemi’s full report can be found [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/pageassets/representation/student-council/21mt7w/Student-Council-Officer-Report-Kemi-4-22nd-Nov-2021.docx). Reminder about Race Equality task force being open from comments and suggestions before 5 PM on 1st December. More details can be accessed [here](https://edu.web.ox.ac.uk/race-equality-task-force-consultation-mt21)  Chair opens questions to VP Women. There are none. | To receive |
| **E** | **Reports from and questions to Campaign for Racial Awareness and Equality**  No reps from the CRAE Campaign are present. Full report can be found [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/pageassets/representation/student-council/21mt7w/CRAE-Campaign-Report-1.docx) and interested persons can message the reps for further questions. | To receive |
| **F** | **Reports from and questions to PG and UG Humanities Representatives**  Anwār Omeish, I am the post grad rep for the Humanities. Anwar’s report can be accessed [here.](https://www.oxfordsu.org/pageassets/representation/student-council/21mt7w/Humanities-Rep-Report.docx)  Highlighted issues that were raised in conversations with faculties – The sexual harassment conversation happening in the Humanities in the light to increasing revelations in the department of History and English. GJCC has decided to convene a humanities wide graduate group to recommend concrete policies towards the Humanities division, but rep thinks students have not felt that there is any outreach from the SU side. Would appreciate VP graduates and academic can look through that and get back regarding this.  Second issue is the structure around representation. Reps are poorly trained in terms of what structures they have access to in terms of faculty. Biggest goals of the year is to work on doing a big structure review that I’m hoping to do in Hilary term with all the reps.  Another recurrent challenge is graduate funding in the Humanities. Students would love to see more advocacy for Humanities funding from the SU to the University on a larger level and pushing for clarity on data on how many students are self-funded. Might be useful to get this information from the SU.  Chair comments that this is the most extensive report they’ve seen from a divisional rep. Chair opens floor for questions. There are none.  Rep from the Undergrad Rep of Humanities Division. His report can be accessed [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/pageassets/representation/student-council/21mt7w/Vihan-Jain-23_11-Div-Rep-Report.docx.pdf).  Undergraduate specifics have been around exams, with faculties and college departments using widely variant different methods of assessment for exams that ought to be examined in the same way. Would appreciate SU to have official view about mask wearing. Want to help students from the Oriental Studies school want to take on a subsidiary language.  Chair opens floor for questions there are none.  Report from the Scrutiny Committee is due and will be up on the website shortly. | To receive |
| **G** | **Items for Resolution** |  |
| **1** | **Ratification of the Divisional Representatives**  **Proposed by: Safa**  **Seconder: Devika**  Highlights of the statement from Safa: Oxford SU select eight divisional Rep to represent students at the divisional level and we select two for each Division. One for undergraduate students and one for graduate students, except for MPLS we select one store shootings and once the research units due to the requirements of the division. All reps have now submitted reports to council, and so everyone will have had a chance to read about all the work they've done so far and what they retrieved. Asking students to approve ratifying of these7 divisional wraps as the representative position.  **Council notes:** Approve ratifying 7 divisional reps in lieu of their important work and detailed reports in the past term.  Chair opens floor to questions. There are none.  **Council Resolves:** To ratify the 7 divisional reps to their positions.  Results:  Votes 7  For 6  Against 1  Abstain 0 |  |
| **2** | **Motion to Amend Election Regulations (Voting Period and Candidate Wellbeing)**  **Proposer** Wesley Ding, Returning Officer  **Seconder** Anvee Bhutani, Oxford SU President  Full details of motion can be found here.  **Council Notes:**  Wesley: Firstly, the voting period is extended from 3 days to 4 days and the hope is that this will allow our members to cast their votes in our annual elections. And secondly, it imposes a duty on the returning officer to report to student council on measures that have been taken to improve candidate wellbeing. Any amendments, motions need to be passed at two consecutive meetings in student council and that’s why it’s here again.  Chair opens floor to questions. There are none.  **Council resolves:** The motion was deemed to be carried.  Results:  Votes: 7  For: 7  Against: 0  Abstain: 0 |  |
| **H** | **Any Other Business**  Chair proposes to discuss the prospect of having in person student council.  Avnee: In favor of in person meetings because in person meetings are more engaging and really think the side conversations that take place adds a lot to student council and opens up the SU space more for students to visit. I do recognize that with students not being here, we could implement a hybrid model.  Aleena: I would prefer online as it’s a lot more accessible in terms of students schedule and following the procedure of the meeting is easier when its online. But I agree that to make it more engaging we could have events to make it more social.  Anwar: My undergrad counterpart isn't here so at the very least we should have a hybrid option.  Kevin: In favour of hybrid version as this would be considerate of both people who are unable to attend and those who would like to and can.  Chair notes that the person making the decision would be the next Chair of Council with the Steering Committee and hopes that they take into consideration the points that were made today.  Chair asks if there are any other questions.  Devika: Reminds council of Race Equality Task force. Deadline is 5 PM on 1st December. Document can be accessed [here](https://edu.web.ox.ac.uk/race-equality-task-force-consultation-mt21). | To note |
|  | **Chair declares meeting finished at 18:16** | To note |