**Student Council 1st Week Trinity Term 2021**

**Tuesday 27th April 2021**

**Virtual – 5:30PM**

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| **Item** | **Agenda** | **Actions** |
|  | **Welcome and apologies**  Wesley Ding (Chair of Council) welcomed council members to the meeting and explains how Student Council will run, and some ground rules.  **Chair’s Announcements**  The Chair informs the Council that elections for the next Oxford SU President are now open, with nominations closing 9th May at midnight.  The Chair also informs the Council that applications for the divisional representative positions are now open, with information and an applications link both being present in the latest email from Oxford SU as of 27/04. Link to applications can be found [here](https://bit.ly/DivRepApplications?fbclid=IwAR0c4joiw5wa95QlmS0c0PcT1_3URGElVQ8-tlAS41Mf6u2PTv-wFQyLQE8.):  The Chair also informs the Council that the meeting is being recorded. | 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 Caleb. The returning officer goes through all the roles that are up for election.  **Rules Committee (x2) :** Rules Committeeis the University Committee which sets Regulations on all matters of student conduct. Currently the Committee has set Regulations on Societies, Sports, Publications, vandalism, trashing, and rowing on the river.  Alongside the 5 elected student members, the Committee’s membership includes the Senior Proctor, two Proctors-elect, two College Deans, a member of Congregation, and the Oxford SU Vice President Charities and Community.  You can find the full Terms of Reference for the Committee [here](https://governance.admin.ox.ac.uk/legislation/council-regulations-42-of-2002) and their current Regulations on student conduct [here](https://governance.admin.ox.ac.uk/legislation/rules-committee-regulations-1-of-2017).  **The Returning Officer welcomes Victoria Goldstraw, the one nomination for the Rules Committee, to deliver a short speech.**  **Application from Victoria for Rules Committee:**  **Victoria:** Hi, I am Victoria Goldstraw, she/her, Wadham, 2nd year law student. I am really keen to represent the needs of the student body with the university to make sure we are treated fairly by the university administration. I am the Chair of the Wadham Student Union and I have been for the academic year. I have experience working alongside other students and with the college and I am also the resident constitution nerd, writing out amendments to the constitution and kept in order. I am a law student, so experience with reading through statutes, and I can apply theses skills to the role of Rules Committee.  Full nomination can be found [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/pageassets/representation/student-council/21tt1w/Nomination.docx):  **The Returning Officer thanks the nomination and informs the Council that voting is now open on the SU website.**  **The Returning Officer opens for questions to the nomination.**  **Otto:** As a current member of Rules Committee, I found it interesting that it was a meeting done entirely by correspondents, done with some of the most senior figures in the university. What is your experience like with doing those sort of meetings and standing up to some of the big figures on issues that affect students?  **Victoria:** As Chair, I have not been so much in direct correspondence with college, however I have worked closely with the other executives in the (Wadham) SU, the Wadham SU president and vice president, including working on arguments against college, particularly related to COVID regulations, which I feel would be useful experience.  **Otto:** That’s very good.  **The Chair thanks both.**  **Results of election**   |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Candidate | Stage 1 | Stage 2 | Stage 2 Total | Result |  | | [9403] Re-open Nominations (R.O.N.) | 0 | 0 | 0 | Excluded @ Stage 1 |  | | [9404] Victoria Goldstraw | 33 | 0 | 33 | Elected @ Stage 1 |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | Non-Transferable Differences | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |  | | To receive |
| **D** | **Reports from and questions to Sabbatical Trustees**  **Reports from and questions to Sabbatical Trustees**  Chair informed members that officer written updates can be accessed on the website pages for the Sabbatical Trustees. Sabbatical Trustees supplemented these updates with a short verbal update. Reports from the Sabbatical Trustees can be found [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/21tt1w/).  **Chair opens the floor for Questions and comments on officer reports**  **Question from the Teams chat for Amelia from Vihan Jain:** Will the year abroad session be recorded for student who cannot attend?  **Amelia:** We are looking at creating a resource that will be distributed to everyone who wants it and an informal Q&A with students who have already been on their year abroad with the advice team, but that is definitely something we can look into recording for people who cannot attend.  **Uri:** VP, he/him, Wadham student union, I was wondering is there any university wide policy on charging students rent if they choose not to come back, but could theoretically come back, like students from the 17th of May, because we have been in correspondence with our college and they claim that a lot of other colleges are charging students rent, even if they don’t come back, but would be able to under university regulations and they are using this as justification for that.  **Amelia:** Our understanding is that as the residency requirement has been waived and there is no obligation to be in Oxford for Trinity term, this shouldn’t be the case. There is no university line that colleges should be charging people. It is not an issue we have come up against, unless the other Sabbs have seen it directly, but this is definitively something we can take going forwards to our comates, as that doesn’t sound right, it sounds completely out of line with what was agreed for Trinity.  **Uri:** Thank you. We have been sending college administration 1600-word essays on why they should not do that, but thy have still done it. | To receive |
| **E** | **Reports from and questions to Disabilities Campaign and LGBTQ+ Campaign**  **Report from the Disabilities Campaign**  The Disabilities Campaign is not present, but a submitted report can be found on the [Student Council page](https://www.oxfordsu.org/pageassets/representation/student-council/21tt1w/DisCam-TT2021-Campaign-Report.docx)  **Report from the LGBTQ+ campaign**  Our main targets for this term are to finish compiling the list of questions for the Trans report, which has been one of the main things we have been working on for the first part of this academic year. Our goal is to have that in place and ready to distribute before Summer Vac. People will be able to complete it over the Summer Vac and then we will look at the results and analyse that throughout Michaelmas. Another one of our goals for this term, which is already fairly underway is rolling out sensitivity training with MedSoc around trans and queer issues. We have already started pulling the resources together and liaising with MedSoc and that should be going ahead in 10th week and depending on the uptake, we are hoping to do more sessions next term as well. Because it is Pride month this term, we are hoping to hold a greater number and variety of social events and open drop-in sessions to engage more regularly with college reps, establish more open lines of communication, so we can tackle problems. That was one of the things that came up in RepCom last term was that college reps felt they would benefit from more direct communication. Other main goal is reviewing and improving student rep training resources ahead of freshers' week workshops, obviously staring Michaelmas Term next year, as that is another thing that came up from RepCom and from generally talking to new committee members, is that they would like to see the existing resources improved and expanded.  Full report can be found [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/pageassets/representation/student-council/21tt1w/LGBTQ-Campaign-report-TT21.docx)  **The Chair opens the floor to questions for the Report from the LGBTQ+ campaign.**  There are no questions. | To receive |
| **F** | **Reports from and questions to MPLS PG Divisional Representative**  Chair explains there is no UG MPLS Divisional Representative, due to a resignation and the PG Representative is not present. [Submitted report](https://www.oxfordsu.org/pageassets/representation/student-council/21tt1w/ben-fernando.docx) can be found on the Oxford SU website. | To receive |
| **G** | **Reports from and questions to the Returning Officer**  **The Chair welcomes the Returning Officer, Caleb to deliver their Report.**  **Key highlights from the Report:**  The Returning Officer gave a primary review of the 2021 annual elections report. They marked the excellent engagement with the elections, which showed significant increases from previous years. They express their hope for the continuation of this trend. They expressed that the feedback from the outreach programme for the nominations was positive and that they hope to continue providing this in future. They hope to continue to develop activities to support candidates, to ensure the process is accessible and so as to maximise engagement. They noted the focus on communications from the SU staff and the elections teams regarding rules and regulations, which were generally good, with any arising issues being dealt with via clarification. They highlighted that a key target for these elections was to encourage BAME candidates, which has occurred to great success. Feedback also indicates improved rates of candidate satisfaction, which was an aim for this election. The Officer notes that there was a significant number of nominations via the ‘recommend-a-friend' system, which they note is a wonderful way to highlight well suited students, and they hope to continue the system in the future. There have been some recommendations regarding nominations, namely the gap between closing of nominations and the opening of voting. They state the aims to look at the timings of the election process, yet confirmation of changes is yet to occur. There is also a recommendation to improve candidate briefing, to make sure the rules and regulations of the process are clear to candidates. There is also a focus on candidate wellbeing, with aims to develop this scheme, as well as to make sure that understanding of the rules and regulations is good to ensure transparency of the process. The Officer remarked that the successes were testament to the hard work of the Oxford SU.  Full report can be found [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/pageassets/representation/student-council/21tt1w/Leadership-Elections-2021-Summary-report-1.docx):  **The Chair thanks the Returning Officer for their Report and opens the floor to questions.**  **Otto:** Thank you for your report Caleb. This may not be within your control, but why was there such a large delay between the resignation of the person who was elected to be SU President and the current elections, given that that happened over two months ago now?  **Caleb:** Thank you for bringing that up. There is a process that needs to be followed with regard to the nominations and it is important that we ensure everyone is given due notice, so that candidates can decide to put themselves forward, particularly for the position of President of the Oxford SU, we think it is really important to follow the set process with regards to the nomination deadlines and the like and because there was at the end of the term coming up shortly after the resignation, regrettably it wasn’t possible to conduct the process prior to the vac, therefore there was this resulting delay on the process. But, as you can see on the website, the nomination process has begun and we will be holding the elections this term. | To receive |
| **H** | **Report from and questions to the NUS delegates**  Oxford SU President introduces the NUS delegates and states that the full NUS conference report can be found on the website. The President praises the delegates and explains about the NUS conference process. The President welcomes the NUS delegates to report back to Council about their experiences at the NUS conference.  **Report highlights**  **Otto:** Otto speaks highly of the NUS conference and explains the process of the Conference to support future applicants for the role of NUS delegate. Otto remarks the unique position of Oxford students having primary negotiation with colleges rather than private landlords with regard to housing. Otto notes ERASMUS and such programmes, with regard to accessing existing schemes rather than developing new ones.  **Aaliyah:** Aaliyah speaks positively of attending the conference and notes her involvement in housing and sexual health policy, including the interesting comparisons between other UK universities and possibilities for Oxford in the future.  **Jade:** Jade notes her attendance at a decolonization workshop, including grassroots requirements for this, student finance sessions including the issue of educational de-marketization and international student fees and finance and housing, including nation tenancy law comparisons.  Full report available [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/pageassets/representation/student-council/21tt1w/Lead-Delegates-Report-2021(1).docx).  **The Chair opens for questions to the NUS delegates regarding their reports.**  There are no questions. | To receive |
| **I** | **Items for resolution** |  |
| **1** | **Motion to ‘Create a Trans Rep Position for the SU Women’s Campaign’**  **Title:** Create a Trans Rep Position for the SU Women's Campaign  **Council Notes:**   1. There is currently not a Trans Rep position on the SU Women's Campaign.   **Council Believes:**     1. It is essential that as part of its activist work, WomCam should fight transphobia and transmisogyny, and so a position dedicated to representing the voices of trans women/misogyny-affected trans people would be an incredibly important addition to WomCam.   **Council Resolves:**  To amend the WomCam constitution in order to add the following:  10.12 The Trans Rep is responsible for representing the views of Trans Full Members to the Campaign and other bodies. and thus create a Trans Rep position for WomCam.  **Proposer:** Ellie Redpath, Magdalen College  **Seconder:** Isabel Creed, St. Edmund Hall  **Statement from Eleanor Redpath:**  Eleanor is present and explains the importance of a Trans rep in light of significant transphobia and trans issues in feminist and wider spaces across the university.  **The Chair thanks the Proposer and opens for short, factual questions.**  There are none.  **The Chair opens for speeches on this motion.**  There are none. The Chair highlights that voting is now open for this motion on the website.  **Motion to Create a Trans Rep Position for the SU Women's Campaign**  **Total Votes:** 40  **For:** 37  **Against:** 0  **Abstain:** 3  Motion passes |  |
| **J** | **Lapsing policy**  The Chair explains what policies are, where the policy book can be found on the Council website and which policies are expiring at the end of Trinity, as well as how to renew these policies by submitting a motion. | To note |
| **K** | **Any Other Business**  **The Chair opens for Any Other Business.**  **Asif:** Are we voting for the lapsing policies separately?  **Chair:** Lapsing policies expire automatically at the end of Trinity Term, so if you want to renew any or all of them, then you can submit a motion to renew that policy through the normal motion form.  **Ben:** Bike doctors 28/04 at the RadCam, and 5 other dates across the term. Look out for updates about LoveOxford, our campaign for student events and events across the community in Oxford for you to get involved with, which will be launching next week.  **Chair notes that voting will be open until noon tomorrow and that there is one election and one motion and thanks everyone for attending.**  **Link for voting:** <https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/21tt1w/>. | To note |
|  | **Chair declares meeting finished at 18:16** | To note |