**Student Council 1st Week Michaelmas Term 2020**

**Tuesday 13th  October 2020**

**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. | 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 were no matters arising | To receive |
| **C** | **Elections in council**  Chair explains the different [roles](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/20mt1w/) that were up for elections  There were no contestants recorded | To receive |
| **D** | **Reports from and questions to Sabbatical Trustees**  Chair requested updates from relevant officers . | To receive |

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|  | **Reports from and questions to Sabbatical Trustees** | To receive |
| **Nikita Ma SU President**    Full video report can be found [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I69QHaeN-gU).  NM noted that she  Virtual Freshers Fair was a success and spoke at two webinars.  Meetings with SECG (student experience coordination group) to discuss all things Michaelmas, University Council, Conference of Colleges, and PRAC;  NM also had the chance to speak with the Vice Chancellor (Louise Richardson) and the Chair of Conference of Colleges (Miles Young)  Campaigning and lobbying work: honour the offer and save iffley road, both successful! | To receive |

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|  | **Tucker Drew VP Access & Academic Affairs**    In addition to the written report, TD noted that he had been involved in developing a survey with VP Graduates and Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) staff on decolonizing and diversifying the curriculum, in order to gauge student perceptions on what work needs to be done in their respective courses. Plans to launch in beginning of Hilary.    TD stated that he had been involved in Supporting the CTL in the relaunching of Open Feedback Channel from Trinity term so students can provide feedback on their experience of taught content throughout Michaelmas  Full report can be read [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/20mt1w/). | To receive |

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|  | **Lauren Bolz VP Graduates**  LB noted that she was developing a survey in partnership with TD (**VP Access & Academic Affairs)** and Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) staff on decolonizing and diversifying the curriculum, in order to gauge student perceptions on what work needs to be done in their respective courses. Plans to launch in beginning of Hilary.  LB Met with Oxford’s and Cambridge’s Centres for Teaching and Learning to discuss how to improve student staff partnerships on issues like decolonising the curriculum and anti-racism    Full report can be read [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/20mt1w/). | To receive  . |

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|  | **Amelia Holt VP Welfare & Equal Opportunities**  In addition to the written report, AH states that she met with JCR and MCR welfare reps to discuss their concerns for the coming term.  AH is in the process of organising WelfComm to meet twice this term and planning a series of informal drop ins for welfare reps to come and speak to me if they need to.  AH noted that she has discussed the face coverings policy and digital accessibility in relation to remote learning and her Disability sub-group  Full report can be read [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/20mt1w/). | To receive |
|  | **Alex Foley, VP Women**  AF informed the group that they received CUREC Ethics Approval for putting out a survey on students’ previous sexual health education experiences in order to better tailor the content of the resource they are putting together. AF has been approaching potential outside experts and putting together a list of speakers.  Full report can be read [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/20mt1w/). | To receive |
|  | **Ben Farmer VP Charities and Community**  BF Informed the group of his involvement in writing the SECG guidance for events (over 209 clicks) and delivered training to students on delivering student events in a covid world (over 100 attendees)  In addition to the written and video report, BF highlights the success of the 1st virtual freshers with  7800 attendees, 264,000 individual stall visits  BF, Co-produced 10 live events on the day which had a total of 1300 attendees.  Full report can be read [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/20mt1w/).  Full Video report can be read [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bVRrZTCyK6I). | To receive |

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|  | **Chair opens the floor for Questions and comments on officer reports**  **Question from (Vihan Jain):** Is there a mechanism through which officers and the Union can circulate support information regarding welfare during these uncertain times to different MCRs that they can use.  BH: Student Engagement team are your first point of call, they are happy to let you know what services we as a Union we can provide or sign post. From an officer point of view we are here and are the front face of any activities  **Question from (Assad Asil):** Is it possible to lobby/negotiate with the university under what circumstances the capacity to gain earlier alert services access to be expand.  **NM:** Student feedback is key to our roles as officers, it would be great to hear more detail about all your concerns around this topic under the discussion section.  Chair informs group that there is an item to discuss regarding student Concerns on COVID-19 and the Return to Oxford and reminds members to raise hands if they have any questions or type in the chat. | To note |
| **E** | **Reports from and questions to LGBTQ+ Campaign and Disabilities Campaign**  **LGBTQ+ Campaign did not** submit a report  **Disabilities Campaign** submitted a [written report](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/20mt1w/) online but no member was present. | To receive |
| **F** | **Reports from and questions to MPLS Divisional Representatives**  The Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences Divisional Representative submitted a written report online but was not present.  Full report can be read [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/20mt1w/). | To receive |
| **G** | **Items for resolution** | To receive |
|  | **To amend the It Happens Here constitution**  **Proposer:** Clara Riedl-Riedenstein, Lincoln College  **Seconder:** Oluwakemi Agunbiade, Wadham College    Both CR and OA were not in attendance at the meeting.    **Council Notes:**   1. That graduate students are not explicitly represented by It Happens Here SU Campaign. 2. That there is only one committee role to specifically represent male survivors.   **Council Believes:**   1. Student engagement is improved by having designated college representatives. 2. Students, regardless of age and gender, should be represented by It Happens Here SU Campaign. 3. There must be more awareness around sexual violence, meaning student engagement must be improved.   **Council Resolves:**   1. To adopt the amended the It Happens Here constitution (Appendix A) which: 2. Adds a men\*s representative to the committee 3. Adds a graduate representative to the committee 4. Adds a Rep Liaison Officer    * 1. Responsible for encouraging colleges to have a IHH officer   Voting for motions opened at **17:00pm Wednesday - 17:00pm on Thursday 1st Week.** Only Common Room delegates, SU Campaign delegates, Divisional Representatives, and SU Sabbatical Officers were eligible to vote.    The amendment is accepted as friendly.  A Motion on Amending Motions  Total Votes: 37  FOR: 34  AGAINST: 0  ABSTAIN: 3  Motion passes. |  |
|  | **Arts Guide Project**  A Representative submitted a [written report](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/20mt1w/) online but was not present. | To receive |
| **H.** | **Items for discussion** | To receive |
|  | Student Concerns on COVID-19 and the Return to Oxford  **Proposer:** Nikita Ma, President of Oxford SU  Your Sabbatical Officers have been representing you to the University and Colleges in multiple committees and meetings, and we would love to hear your thoughts and concerns surrounding the return to Oxford, as well as how the pandemic may be affecting aspects of your student life.  **Chair opens the floor for Questions and comments**  **Question from (Assad Asil)** We’ve seen a lot of social events happening outs our MCRs, we’ve tried to do a lot of virtual sessions around this, I feel that the SU has to do more work to encourage students to run more safer social events  **NM:** Would you say that socialisation is required in a physical environment rather than a virtual one?  **Response from (Assad Asil):** I believe it would be more physical  **BF:** I believe its something the Student Union and engagement team should be pushing on and organising events in line with colleges guidelines and share best practice  **AF:** we have a meeting a all college reps and find out what sort of events they are organising so we can support them and work with them  **Question from (Jamie Slagel)**  Mental Health concerns and COVID, how is the SU working with colleges to address this matter and offers another meeting to discuss further  **NM:** Informs group that the University will be creating a task group to support mental health during these tough time.  NM: To share a flow chart with the JCR/mcr welfare reps? That way they can post it on the relevant FB pages  **BF:** Informs group that officers are also pushing different departments in the university to be more transparent and increase their support mechanisms  **AF:** Informs members that they have been lobbying for the past 3 weeks finally for the creation of a welfare task force, it has finally been approved last week and they have committed to putting some funds into it and supporting students with their mental health. More updates will be available when the task force meets  **Council member raises concerns:** My worry is that university sport guidelines seem to directly contradict college covid policies. Has this been discussed? And if so, do colleges plan to clarify how the different regs intersect?  **BF:** Yes we’re aware that’s an issue, oxford university sport have been working with college domestic bursars to sort things and we’ve been lobbying for colleges to line up to the university line on sport of following national governing body guidance for sports- the document circulated has details about who to contact for this or happy to pick up with you directly!  **Follow-up question on testing from (Sean Telford):** Is testing also available for those who have been contacted by EAS? (eg. friends of someone who has tested positive)?  **AF:** there is an option to book at test if you have been in close contact with a proven case of Covid-19  Question from **(Uri Sharell):** I was wondering if the Union can lobby colleges not to charge students rent if they are self isolating.  **LB:** We did lobby colleges for these costs to be frozen however not all college agreed which means as officer we are still continuing to lobby the University and colleges on this matter.  Follo-up from testing question (**Mairi Franklin)** I think one public health downside, however, of non-symptomatic testing is that people will use it in order to break guidelines - while not necessarily terrible could get messy!  **AF:** We are not going to police the rules, our priority is student welfare and promote safety on campus  Follow-up point on testing**: (Sean Telford)** Just checked the system - there is an option to book at test if you have been in close contact with a proven case of Covid-19  **NM:** Might be something we can look into regarding the criteria, might be worth us having a broader student consultation into this. | To receive |
| 7 | **Any Other Business**  **Chair opens the floor for AOB to members**  **Rebecca peters:** Is it Possible to hear more about plans for the year around anti-racist action, and how Student Reps (eg. Course Reps, Div Reps and those at the College level) can liaise and act in solidarity?  **NM:** One of my main priorities this year is working on anit-racism and making the university a more diverse place. **NM** lays out her key main plans (having more diversity at senior university committee meetings, working with the pro-vice chancellor to tackle this issue)  **AF:** states that they are on a people and culture sub-committee for Oxford SU, realised earlier on that we need to clean up our own kitchen and conducted an internal audity on how to be an actively anti-racist organisation and we have come up with a series of action plans  **LB:** We’ve listed several different action plans been embedded within each staff PDP. LB informs members on her work with **TD** on decolonising the curriculum  **TD:** Survey has been launched regard decolonising the curriculum to find out what students want  AF: in addition to our internal staff audit, AF informs group that they are conducting a democracy review and role review for sabbatical officers. A more clear focus on racial justice within our roles.  Question from **Vihan Jain:** Wanted to point out about the survey that was sent out regarding decolonising the curriculum a lot of students didn’t know what it means therefore sending out survey asking students to decolonising their curriculum would not make sense to them when they wont understand the importance of doing that.  **LB:** The survey is meant to be a student experience survey, which will be as treated as a curriculum and teaching review survey where we will define what decolonising the curriculum means  Question from **(Rebecca peters):** how does the SU representatives and others tend define by what we mean by decolonising the curriculum. Its important that we all have common shared sense of what that looks like across teaching and learning in the curriculum.  Question from **(Rebecca peters):** how does the SU representatives and others tend define by what we mean by decolonising the curriculum. Its important that we all have common shared sense of what that looks like across teaching and learning in the curriculum  **Vihan Jain:** Would love to know what advances have been made in making mental health professionals who don't identify as straight, white people available to students  **AH:** the University is committed to hiring a more diverse range of counselling staff and also they are committed to giving more money to counselling services and we are sitting on that committee which is going to influence the decision making on how that money is spent. Therefore we shall make sure we have a big influence in the recruitment process. | To note |
| 8 | Chair declares meeting finished at 18:45 and informs members of the Ban Beef motion and[**date for next council meeting**](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/20mt3w/) | To note |