# 5th Week Michaelmas Term 2022 Student Council

**TIME: 17:30**

**DATE: Tuesday, 08 November 2022**

**LOCATION: Hybrid**

If you have any questions about Student Council, please feel free to contact the
Chair of Student Council on **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%40oxfordsu.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%3A/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%40oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk)

Trigger Warning:

1. Rape
2. Sexual assault
3. Sexual assault survivors

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2. Matters arising from the minutes
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4. Reports from and questions to Sabbatical Trustees
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6. Reports from and questions to International Students’ Campaign
7. **Items for resolution**
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	2. Student Council to ratify the re-appointment of Emilie Tapping as External
8. **Items for discussion**
	1. Return officer reforms
	2. Changes to the consent workshop structure
9. Any Other Business

Welcome by the Chair

Chair thanks everyone for coming on a rainy day.

They provide a trigger warning for rape, sexual assault – and suggested students to feel free to step out if they wish to.

Chair was advised that people who offered climate and ecology bill might leave early so Nell will speak first.

1. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

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

Chair asks if they are approving minutes for the previous meeting - No response to this question.

1. **Matters arising from the minutes**

Chair questions if any matters arising from the previous minutes? No response to this question.

1. **Elections in Council**

The RO states that this week there are no candidates for elections – so unfortunately, they have no votes and thus, nothing to speak on this. However, RO states, there will an election for chair of council and termly jobs for Hillary term and encourages everyone to run and suggest the same to people they know.

**Elections Committee (x2):** 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.

1. **Reports from and questions to Sabbatical Trustees**

Chair informed that Shreya, VP Grads, and Michael will submit reports later due to their other commitments. VP Women absent but will also submit later.

President, Michael, informs that there is an event on 11th in support of academic free speech and Rushdie and encourages everyone to attend it. He also informs that the SU Sabs are working to track what goes into JCR and they met over Friday and Tuesday to discuss the shared goals of all JCRs and aim to do the same for MCRs in due time.

Floor open to questions – no questions.

Chair suggests that all reports, including that of VP Welfare, can be found online.

VP Charities and Communities – Anna Tina, states that she will highlight a few bits from her report that is available online. She is having several meetings and states that it is difficult in a collegiate system to be working with all the environment reps. She is also continuing her work on investments with the University and supporting colleges. The key things she is focusing on includes Oxford Local Plan 2040 for affordable housing requirements and University is quite responsive and so she is asking questions around this. This is a matter concerning city council. She is also busy planning for the social action fair that should happen in 1st week of Hillary, hopefully.

Floor opened to questions – No questions asked.

VP Access and Academic Affairs, Jade, states that the top thing of focus is that apart from Undergrad humanities she has been involved in course rep trainings for graduate access. She is also working with Career Services to deliver access for Crankstart Students in addition to Crankstart masters Scholarship. She is also trying to get the recurring transcripts problem fixed. She has seen that English has been a big issue for disparity of access. And has reached out to DisCam to work on a teaching framework. This is also an opportunity for undergrads to tell about the things they don’t or do enjoy about their course. She is also working on awarding gap and seeking data for this. She suggests that more work will happen this week on cost of living.

Floor open to questions -

ANY Q? –

Question – By the end of your section on interview arrangement, how will that happen?

Answer – Jade says she had a discussion with access reps and she is also working on interview groups. They are running a survey with finals and the 1st year survey that she has consulted as well. she wants stronger student feedback on this and there needs to be a big emphasis on improving offer holder days so they get a feel of the college before they arrive. She contends that maybe there is a favor for colleges to remain online – there can be downsides to either cases and students should have more voice. Cambridge has remained online but Trinity has gone offline, but at Oxford colleges likely to have the same decision.

No more questions.

Shreya, VP Grads – she claims that the last two weeks she worked with reps and worked on data collection for cost of living survey to submit it to a committee for an upcoming hardship fund. Last week she also got to MCR to encourage Graduates in SU, one of whom is present in the meeting, she points. She states that graduates are dealing with sensitive matters that require attention, there are also awarding gaps and we need data for this. Data is only being collected for Undergrads. She states that she is taking PCPG this week.

Floor open to questions – no questions.

1. **Report from and questions to It Happens Here Campaign**

Chair asks if anyone from campaign present here – no

No report submission yet. Chair informed members that IHH will report at 7th week

1. **Reports from and questions to International Students’ Campaign**

Chair asks if anyone from campaign present here – no

Report available online.

1. **Items for resolution**

1. Supporting the Climate and Ecology Bill

**Council Notes:**

1. The Climate and Ecology Bill, formerly named the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill, is a private member's bill before the Parliament of the United Kingdom aimed at tackling the climate and biodiversity crises
2. The Bill is the only proposed legislation before the UK Parliament that ensures a comprehensive and joined-up approach to the climate emergency.
3. The science behind the Bill was developed and supported by several scientists at the University of Oxford, including Professor EJ Milner-Gulland (Department of Biology), Professor Joseph Bull (Department of Biology), Professor Yadvinder Malhi, Professor Amy Dickman, and Professor Michael Bonsall.
4. The Bill is a cross-party bill, with the support of over 160 Peers and MPs from all major political parties; it is not associated with any particular political party.
5. A number of students and staff within the University also support the Bill.
6. The Bill is seeking support from institutions to show MPs and the Government desire for the Bill’s adoption.

**Council Believes**

1. In alignment with the Oxford Student Union and University of Oxford’s commitment to achieve Net Zero and become Nature Positive, the Climate and Ecology Bill is an important piece of legislation that should be supported to further climate action in the UK.
2. As a global university, the Student Union should support the Bill to promote climate justice internationally.
3. In supporting the Bill, the Student Union would evidence to the University students’ desire for climate action, encouraging the University itself to pledge support.

**Council Resolves**

1. To formally support the Climate and Ecology Bill by signing up to Zero Hour Oxfordshire's open letter to all Oxfordshire MPs (<https://www.ceebillallianceoxon.co.uk/open-letter/>) which asks that they back the Bill.
2. To campaign that the University of Oxford also pledges support to the Bill.
3. To work with Zero Hour Oxfordshire on a joint press release to document the passing of this motion and its implications

Results:

For: 35

Against:8

Abstain: 0

Motion Passes

Chair opens the floor to questions, no questions asked. She comments that no motion for resolution happened and voting is online. The voting closes next day and urges all to please vote.

**Proposer** Nell Miles, Hertford College

**Seconder** Mia Clement, Christ Church College

2. Student Council to ratify the re-appointment of Emilie Tapping as External Appeals Officer

**Council Notes:**

1. The Trustee Board must appoint an External Appeals Officer (EAO).
2. This appointment must then be ratified by Council.
3. The EAO acts as an appeals body in regards to complaints regarding the Returning Officer and appeals against the Returning Officer’s resolutions.
4. The Trustee Board have selected Emilie Tapping as the EAO. Please read information about Emilie in the appendix.

**Council Resolves:**

1. To approve the re-appointment of Emilie Tapping

Proposed: Michael Ayodeji Oxford SU

Appendix A

**Emilie Tapping– Chief Executive Officer, Oxford Brookes Students’ Union**

Emilie Tapping is the current Chief Executive Officer at Oxford Brookes Students’ Union having taken up the post 10 months ago. Prior to being the CEO at Brookes, Emilie worked at LSE/Arts Students’ Union for 4 and a half years, a joint Students’ Union with over 80 staff members, across 13 sites supporting students at both the University of Arts London and the London School of Economics. Emilie oversaw the elections at both LSE Students’ Union and Arts Students’ Union.

Emilie’s most relevant experience to this role is the 5 years she spent as a Student Conduct and Appeals Manager at Kings College University. Supporting students and staff through complex complaint and appeals processes.

Results:

For: 37

Against:0

Abstain: 0

Motion Passes

Michael emphasizes that we need her as she will be adequate for this role.

Floor open to questions – no questions asked.

1. **Items for discussion**

**Returning Officer Reforms**

We are planning to bring forward a motion for resolution next term on changes to the Returning Officer’s term length, and Election Committee powers. We would love anyone’s opinions on this, especially on the following:

1. When should the Returning Officer elections occur (end of Trinity or beginning of Michaelmas)?
2. Should (as is currently proposed) a unanimous Elections Committee have the power to remove the Returning Officer, for greater accountability?
3. Might it be worth separating the RO role into one for Council Elections (perhaps combined with the Chair), and one for the Annual Elections, Bye-Elections and Referenda?

Proposed by: Yasmin Poole, Chair Student Council

Returning Officer says that if anyone hear this last week they discussed if the role of the RO must be for a year. We have a set of subsidiary questions that we have tried to resolve, says RO. For example, if the role is not termly elected then will the RO be accountable? We need a committee of 3 people who can remove the officer if no accountability is assured but RO recommends other proposals too and he also says that it might be worth considering to delegate some responsibilities to other people. For example, the chair will have lesser on their plate and do less jobs of the RO. The current RO states that they are flexible on this and welcome any suggestions.

Floor open to questions.

Question – it seems pointless to have an RO for the whole year when their job is only of a term of Hillary. Don’t you think?

Answer by RO– first half of HT and MT the RO has to do a lot but yes the work is limited in TT. It is a role focused mostly towards Hillary but RO is also responsible for elections, referenda, etc.

Question- I have a question about term length. Elections are termly but they are given an option for a year, people might not have such a long commitment to offer. I would be reluctant to give power of removal to committee and we need an independent person, distinct from the chair – so RO’s role should not merge with the chair’s.

Answer – Change from MT to HT will be difficult because they get time to adjust and we do need a little bit of experience, RO states that he takes the questioner’s point that it tends to happen that way – regarding separation – while ideally RO is independent, usually the expectation does not play out because they have to get quite involved with most things and even chair is supposed to remain unpolitical – so they both maintain independence from SU and politics.

Question – I was wondering if its beneficial to have Annual RO so they are used to the process?

Answer – continuity is always useful and the lack of it has made the SU suffer – RO and Chair get termly elects perhaps extending the term length would be a good solution.

Question – How will the RO get held accountable and how can they get voted out of there role?

Answer – issue of getting voted out is rare, there is generally a lack of competition and there should be space to scrutinize the role. There is definite value to stability. Extended term lengths places an expectation to them so they do commit.

Chair closes the floor and suggests any other questions can be emailed.

**Changes to the consent workshop structure**

Appendix A highlights the issues that the Catz JCR had when organising and preparing ourselves for the consent workshops in fresher’s week. At the end of this report I will suggest some amendments to the consent training for Michaelmas 2023.

**Contents:**

1. Management
2. SU resources
3. Proposal for 2023

Proposed by: Awa Ndour (she/her) - Women\*’s Welfare rep of Catz JCR

Chair begins with a trigger warning since this involves discussion on rape, sexual assault.

Awa states that at Catz they had a workshop with a trust and the feedback states that just with the SU training the reps felt unprepared. However, with enhance training, like with the trust, chances are better. Likelihood of trauma from sexual assault is very high and Awa says they need opinions on this and suggests that similar training like that at Catz can be given by SU for changes to be made next year.

Floor open to questions.

Anna Tina – My question is to the VP Women that delivers this training – and this should be brought up again when she is here to start a conversation. Ellie will be back and she has read the feedback and the University might also be delivering more conversations.

WomCam rep – we discussed there could be lot more that could be done and we are hopeful.

Awa states that working with the trust is helpful and she can offer contacts to reach them.

Chair suggests to wait for Ellie and put it on the agenda

Shreya states that the major thing is that the University is making a centralized system, taking it away from the SU, and any feedback that we have we can share it with them. She also asks them their thoughts on peer-to-peer training or professional training.

Campaign members answer – Peer-to-peer trainings happens and it is a problem as it creates a huge chain of stress. It is a big workload for the peers.

Shreya – the University is facing the same issue, if they get it done professionally it will mean a larger sum. But we should give them this feedback

Campaigners – University has money, the students do not. Our peer to peer training is not official or very beneficial.

Awa states that the costs might not be as huge as she states they did’nt pay as much at Catz and some part is also covered by NHS.

Campaigner – why is it being put on students to be therapists to their peers?

Shreya – separate from this meeting we can draft feedback and give it to the committee campaigner.

Chair states that this is added for discussions for next meeting.

1. **Any Other Business**

Chair asks if there is anything to raise before they close?

No response.

Meeting ends.