

Policy Book of the Oxford University Labour Club

Secretary: Rose Harris, Wadham College

Michaelmas Term 2023

FUNCTIONS AND PURPOSES OF THE POLICY BOOK

Under Paragraph 1(h)(ii), the Secretary of the Oxford University Labour Club must:

“(ii) Maintain (and make available) an up-to-date version of both the Constitution and the policy book of the Club;”

The OULC Policy Book therefore serves **as a record of policies passed by the Labour Club at General Meetings, Termly General Meetings, and Extraordinary General Meetings** (the sovereign policy making body of OULC).

Unless **specifically stated otherwise (e.g. constitutional amendments)**, OULC policy expires after one calendar year at which point it is **removed from the policy book**.

Minutes, which contain summaries of the speeches in opposition / proposition of the motion and details of who proposed which amendments to final motions, can be **found on the [OULC Website](#)**, or **requested from the Secretary** (MT23: rose.harris@wadham.ox.ac.uk).

GENERAL MEETING (GM), TRINITY TERM 2021

Date: 14th May 2021

Presiding: Danial Hussain and Laura Ennis (Co-Chairs TT 21)

Motion 1: Motion to add a complaints procedure to the constitution, to deal with complaints to do with the club.

Proposer – Zed Nott

Seconder – Laura Ennis

OULC notes:

1. Currently, we do not have a formal complaints procedure which means those within and outside of the club have no clear guidance on how to submit a complaint and there is also no clear guidance on how to respond as the committee.
2. It has become clear with recent complaints not being dealt with appropriately that a formal complaints procedure is needed.
3. Currently, the constitution stipulates that if someone is elected as Co-Chair, they cannot stand for, or be elected to, Executive positions after their term as Co-Chair.

OULC believes:

1. That we need to ensure everyone in the club feels their complaints will be listened to and acted upon properly.
2. A complaints procedure will help to deal with any complaints in the future more effectively and appropriately.

OULC resolves:

1. We resolve to amend the constitution so that it includes a formal complaints procedure.
2. We resolve to add the attached document to the constitution.

Motion 2: Motion for the Campaigns Officer and the Membership Officer to have joint responsibility of the College Reps System

Proposer – Danial Hussain

Seconder – Laura Ennis

OULC notes:

1. The Communication Officer has a significant workload.
2. That the Membership and Campaigns Officers do not have as much of a workload

OULC believes:

1. Giving responsibility to the Membership and Campaigns Officers will ensure active management of the College Reps System.

OULC resolves:

1. We resolve to amend the constitution so that the responsibility of the college rep system is shared between the Membership and Campaigns Officers.
2. Mandate the OULC Secretary to amend **Paragraph 1(s)** of the Rules and Standing Orders of OULC to include the following passage:

“(vi) To have joint responsibility with the Membership Officer for ensuring that college reps share events in their respective JCR/MCR pages, as well as ensuring every OULC has an active rep for every college and that these reps are fulfilling their duties.”

3. Mandate the OULC Secretary to amend **Paragraph 1(p)** of the Rules and Standing Orders of OULC to include the following passage:

“(v) To have joint responsibility with the Campaigns Officer for ensuring that college reps share events in their respective JCR/MCR pages, as well as ensuring every OULC has an active rep for every college and that these reps are fulfilling their duties.”

TERMLY GENERAL MEETING (TGM), TRINITY TERM 2021

Date: 16th June 2021

Presiding: Zed Nott and Sofia Cotterill (Co-Chairs HT 21, Co-Chairs Ex-Officio TT 21)

Motion 1: Motion to allow all trans people to run for reserved positions

Proposer - Zedd Nott

Seconder - Hayden Barnes

OULC notes:

1. Currently, there are 3 positions on committee reserved for those who "fully or partly identify as a woman or transfeminine"; these positions rotate every term. One of the two co-chairs must also always be a woman on this definition.
2. The presumptive aim of this policy is to improve the representation of women in OULC and in politics as a whole.
3. This definition means that transmasculine people (who are not men) and other nonbinary people who would not identify themselves as transfeminine cannot stand for these reserved positions, despite their status as having a marginalised gender identity.
4. There are zero trans people in Parliament.

OULC believes:

1. OULC should be a welcoming space for trans people, and widening the inclusivity of our policies to include more trans people would do this.
2. It is valuable to have positions on Committee reserved for non-men, as those without male privilege may feel less empowered to stand for committee during meetings if they are less confident, or feel less qualified than men who have already self-nominated. Having space in meetings reserved for non-men to muster the courage to stand encourages those who would otherwise stay silent to put themselves forward.
3. Having a diverse mix of genders on committee is beneficial for making good decisions, as a wider range of perspectives is always a good thing.
4. It is nonetheless valuable that we always have at least one co-chair who identifies as a woman, because it remains important for women to be represented in leadership, so this wider definition would not apply to that.
5. This motion would also not change the definition of woman for women's caucus - women deserve their own spaces, and anyway it is invalidating to lump transmasculine/unaligned nonbinary people in with women (we aren't "women-lite"!).

OULC resolves:

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1. To mandate the OULC Secretary to amend Paragraph 1(j) of the Rules and Standing Orders of OULC to include the following text:

“(j) Of the Executive positions that are not Co-Chair, Co-Chair Elect, or Ex Officio Committee member, three positions shall be reserved for those with marginalised gender identities (this includes women, as well as all trans and nonbinary people):

- i. **The positions reserved for those with marginalised gender identities will rotate in the following order:**
 1. Treasurer, Social Secretary, and Secretary;
 2. Social Secretary, Secretary, and Publications Officer;
 3. Secretary, Publications Officer, and Communications Officer;
 4. Publications Officer, Communications Officer, and Membership Officer;
 5. Communications Officer, Membership Officer, and Campaigns and External Links Officer;
 6. Membership Officer, Campaigns and External Links Officer, and Treasurer;
 7. Campaigns and External Links Officer, Treasurer, and Social Secretary.
- ii. **The positions reserved for those with marginalised gender identities will be announced at least a week in advance of the TGM, in the notice of the TGM and emailed to members.**
- iii. **At the TGM, the Chair will invite those with marginalised gender identities to stand for the reserved position. If after this, no one with a marginalised gender identity stands, the then current Co-Chairs Elect must produce a report to the Executive by the next General Meeting, to be made public and publicised, detailing why no one with a marginalised gender identity stood for election, and what they, upon becoming Co-Chairs, will do to ensure that more people with marginalised gender identities stand in future and then the position may be opened to all members during the TGM. If nobody who self identifies partly or wholly as women or transfeminine stands for election for Co-Chairs, the Returning Officers will then reopen nominations, allowing anybody to stand at an Extraordinary General Meeting, to be held as soon as possible, and if elected, they must produce a similar report as mentioned.”**

Motion 2: Motion to introduce a code of conduct for Committee into the Constitution

Proposer – Laura Ennis

OULC notes:

1. There is currently no official code of conduct in the constitution, which makes it difficult to deal with issues arising from committee members' conduct.
2. There is currently a 'Harassment Policy' in the constitution, but this is an inadequate tool with regard to dealing with issues arising from committee members' conduct.
3. The lack of an official code of conduct means committee members all have varying levels of commitment to these values, which makes it difficult to have a cohesive committee at times.
4. This will be a constitutional change in the form of an addition to the constitution.

OULC believes:

1. There should be a basic outline of the conduct expected from committee members, so that committee members know clearly what is expected of them, and so it is easier to hold committee members accountable if necessary.
2. This code of conduct combined with the formal complaints procedure will mean OULC has a more streamlined, and more importantly explicit, method of dealing with issues arising from committee members' conduct.

OULC resolves:

1. OULC resolves to mandate the OULC Secretary to amend Paragraph 1 ("Members of the Executive") to introduce a Code of Conduct into the constitution as stated below:

"(cc) Each member of the Executive will be expected to follow this code of conduct:

- (i.) **All members of the committee must demonstrate a clear dedication to the principles of equality, fairness, and solidarity.**
- (ii.) **All members of the committee must attend the mandatory workshops regarding anti-racism and antisemitism, and carry these values into their conduct inside and outside of the club.**
- (iii.) **OULC as a university society is committed to the eradication of sexual harassment and assault, and members are expected to actively work toward this objective.**
- (iv.) **As a society connected to the Labour Party (UK), members of the committee should actively stand against all forms of abuse, as is stated in the official Labour Party Member's Pledge.**
- (v.) **Committee members agree that if they are deemed to have broken any of the above rules, they will be subject to the formal complaints procedure as outlined in the constitution."**

Motion 3: Motion to match an amount fundraised to donate the organisations who participated in the 'Reclaim the Night' Panel

Proposer – Toni Ledda

Seconder – Anjali Kawa

OULC notes:

1. The Maggie Oliver Foundation, Sistah Space and Centre for Women's Justice participated in a panel earlier this term exploring institutional failings in the criminal and judicial systems regarding gendered violence and sexual assault.
2. The organisations participated in the panel free of charge.
3. All the organisations are charities that rely on donations to carry out invaluable work where our state institutions are failing.
4. No money has been used by the Women*s Caucus in OULC so far this term

OULC believes:

1. A fundraiser would be a great opportunity to come together to create worthwhile change that is consistent with Labour values of freedom and equality

OULC resolves:

1. Match an amount fundraised through a women*s caucus social- up to £150
2. Split the total equally between the three organisations

Motion 4: Motion to remove Returning Officer and Freshers' Representative from the constitution

Proposer – Laura Ennis

Seconder – Toni Ledda

OULC notes:

1. The constitution is unclear and does not reflect how OULC is currently run.
2. We do not elect a fresher's representative and a returning officer.
3. OULC's co-chair ex officios chair the termly general meeting rather than an appointed returning officer.

OULC believes:

1. The constitution should be as clear as possible.
2. It is unhelpful for the constitution to refer to positions that are no longer elected and have not got a position in the committee.

OULC resolves:

1. To mandate the OULC Secretary to remove any mention of a Returning Officer or Freshers Representative from the Rules and Standing Orders of OULC, which would mean:
2. Amending Paragraph 1(a) to read;

“1. The Committee shall be referred to as the Executive and consist of:

- A. two Co-Chairs;**
- B. two Co-Chairs Elect;**
- C. up to two Ex Officio Committee Members;**
- D. a Secretary;**
- E. a Treasurer;**
- F. a Membership Officer;**
- G. a Publications Officer;**
- H. a Communications Officer;**
- I. a Campaigns and External Links Officer;**
- J. a Social Secretary;**
- K. a BAME Officer;**
- L. a Disabled Members’ Officer;**
- M. a LGBTQIA+ Officer;**
- N. a Women’s Officer;”**

3. Removing Paragraph 1(t);
4. Amending Paragraph (2) (Elections) to remove the statement; ‘A Freshers’ Representative will be elected only at the Trinity Term TGM to serve in the following Michaelmas Term.’
5. 5. Removing any mention of “Returning Officer” from Paragraph 2a-2e, and to replace with “Co-Chair Ex- Officios”

Motion 5: Motion to create an OULC Access Membership

Proposer – Anvee Bhutani

Seconder – Danial Hussain

OULC notes:

1. Joining OULC currently costs £8 for one year or £15 for a degree-long membership
2. Access is a problem at Oxford, specifically financial access

OULC believes:

1. Personal finances should not be a barrier to joining OULC
2. The most effective way to increase access to those who cannot afford to pay the current membership is to lower the membership fees

OULC resolves:

1. To create an access membership priced at £3 for one year or £5 for one's whole degree available for those who are eligible for the Full UK Government Maintenance Loan for their current course of study
2. Have the membership officer advertise this reduced fee on the OULC website and membership form

Motion 6: Motion to create a new "Welfare Officer" position on Committee

Proposer – Laura Ennis

Seconder – Danial Hussain

OULC notes:

1. It is difficult to be on the committee of any society, including OULC, and more generally, studying at Oxford can take a toll on one's mental health.
2. There can be inward pressure within the OULC community at times.

OULC believes:

1. The well-being of OULC members and the committee is a priority.
2. There should be someone on the committee and an OULC member whose role is dedicated to the welfare of those within OULC.

OULC resolves:

1. To mandate the OULC Secretary to amend the Constitution, and Rules and Standing Orders of OULC to add a welfare position so that one may be elected to the committee. This would mean amending **Paragraph 1(a)** of the Rules and Standing Orders as stated:

"1. The Committee shall be referred to as the Executive and consist of:

- A. two Co-Chairs;**
- B. two Co-Chairs Elect;**
- C. up to two Ex Officio Committee Members;**
- D. a Secretary;**

- E. a Treasurer;**
- F. a Membership Officer;**
- G. a Publications Officer;**
- H. a Communications Officer;**
- I. a Campaigns and External Links Officer;**
- J. a Social Secretary;**
- K. a BAME Officer;**
- L. a Disabled Members' Officer;**
- M. a LGBTQIA+ Officer;**
- N. a Women's Officer;**
- O. a Welfare Officer."**

2. To mandate the OULC Secretary to amend the Constitution, and Rules and Standing Orders of OULC to add a description of the welfare position. This would mean amending **Paragraph 1** of the Rules and Standing Orders to include the following text:

“(t) The Welfare Officer of OULC shall have the following responsibilities:

- i. Be available to support members of the committee and OULC.**
- ii. Offer support to the complainant when filing a complaint if this is wished by the complainant.”**

Motion 7: Motion to update the constitutional description of the Harassment Policy

Proposer – Laura Ennis

Seconder – Anjali Kawa

OULC notes:

- 1. The constitution includes a harassment policy that is unclear and out of date
- 2. In our last general meeting, we passed a formal complaints procedure that has been added to the constitution

OULC believes:

- 1. It is important for the club to have a clear complaints procedure and having the existing procedure still in the constitution prevents this.

OULC resolves:

- A. Mandate the OULC Secretary to amend the OULC Constitution to remove from the Harassment Policy section in the Constitution (26.g Application of policy i., below:), so that it can be replaced by the passed Complaint Procedure here.

“26(g)(i). Harassment is a serious offence. Any Member of OULC who feels they have been subject to harassment by another Member of OULC can make a complaint via the Procedure. This Procedure is limited wholly to allegations occurring during or at OULC events, in OULC spaces, including online spaces, or in direct relation to an individual in their capacity as a representative of OULC. For all other matters, a Student Member of the University of Oxford should use the University’s Policy and Procedures on Harassment (<http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/harassmentadvice/policyandprocedure/>) or the Policy and/or Procedure of the relevant College.”

- B. To amend the Harassment Policy Section in the Constitution to replace it with **26(g)(k). application of policy):**
“(k) The procedure is in detail on the OULC website along with the form to file a complaint”

Motion 8: Motion to edit the description of OULC Committee Roles in the Constitution to reflect how we currently run the club.

Proposer – Laura Ennis

Seconder – Anjali Kawa

OULC notes:

1. The constitution is unclear and the description of the OULC’s committee positions are not accurate to how OULC is currently ran.

OULC believes:

1. The constitution should be as clear as possible.
2. The description of committee positions in the constitution should reflect the roles of the officers and what we expected from them as a club.

OULC resolves:

1. To mandate the OULC Secretary to amend the Rules and Standing Orders of OULC to:
2. Amend **Rules 1.s** to include the role of Social Secretary in organising Beer and bickering:

“To organise a debate style social, Beer and Bickering, which will include creating a number of motions to be debated”

3. Amend **Rules 1. q** to correct the grammar and remove **“It is encouraged for the Publications Officer to develop some working knowledge of Adobe InDesign or another publication design program to help create the Look Left magazine.”**

4. Amend **Rules 1. p. iii** to read:

“iii. Taking control from the Membership officer responsibility for College Reps sharing events in JCR/MCR pages, as well as responsibility for ensuring OULC has college reps for each college.”

As in our last general meeting this is now the joint responsibility of the Membership officer and the Campaigns officer.

5. Amend **Rules 1. o** to include

“iv. To send a confirmation of membership when they are alerted that there is a confirmation that someone has paid and signed up to be a new member.”

6. Amend **Rules 1. g. i.**

“i. keep, distribute by e-mail and upload to the Website, the minutes of general meetings and meetings of the Executive”

7. Amend **Rules 1.f**

“(f) Attendance at Executive Committee meetings and presence on the Committee Facebook Group Chat is mandatory”

GENERAL MEETING, MICHAELMAS TERM 2021

Date:

Presiding:

Motion 1:

Proposer -

Seconder -

GENERAL MEETING, HILARY TERM 2022

Date: 8th February 2022

Presiding: Danny Leach and Amy Field (Co-Chairs HT 22, Co-Chairs Ex-Officio TT 22)

Motion 1: Motion to amend the responsibilities of the LGBTQIA+ Officer under Paragraph 1(iv) of the Rules and Standing Orders, to include the construction and realisation of the Campaign for National Transgender and Non-Binary Equality.

Proposer – Fionn McFadden

Seconder – Danny Leach

OULC notes:

1. Transgender and non-Binary individuals have played a historically significant role in the fight for queer liberation and the advancement of socialist principles, both in the UK and abroad.
2. OULC, as well as the national Labour Party, are both committed to campaigning for complete social and legal equality for all members of the LGBTQIA+ Community. Transphobia is a prevalent and dangerous issue in British society: the mainstream position of transphobic rhetoric in British politics and media has contributed to a spike in institutional and social transphobia. Coupled with political inaction as to the advancement of transgender and non-binary rights from the incumbent government, Britain has now created an unsafe, and in some cases deadly, society for transgender and non-binary individuals.
3. OULC, The Labour Party and the socialist movement at large are not excluded from this systemic transphobia: with regards to the national party, there is a noticeable and legitimised presence of individuals with transphobic, so-called “gender critical” views, such as Rosie Duffield, the MP for Canterbury.
4. The Preliminary Consultation undertaken by the incumbent (HT 22) OULC LGBTQIA+ Officer, Fionn McFadden in February 2022 found too that the University of Oxford is creating a socially hostile environment for transgender and non-binary students: through, for example, insufficient mental health services and instances of misgendering by college administrations.

OULC believes:

1. Discrimination against, and harassment of transgender and non-binary individuals is wholly insidious and unacceptable, and has no place in British society at large, let alone in socialist movements. No transgender or non-binary individual should feel unsafe, discriminated against or harassed.
2. OULC must do everything in its power and influence, particularly in its position as the largest and oldest student Labour Club in the UK, to actively fight against transphobia and stand up for all transgender and non-binary individuals.

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3. No transgender or non-binary student should feel unsafe, discriminated against or harassed, neither in OULC nor at the University of Oxford.
4. The current inaction from the national Labour Party means that it is playing an active role in upholding systemic transphobia, and is unacceptably letting down not just its transgender and non-binary members, but transgender and non-binary people across the UK as a whole.
5. Given the prevalence and intensity of social and structural transphobia in the UK, working to advance social and legal equality for transgender and non-binary individuals must form a central pillar of the work of LGBTQIA+ Officer.

OULC resolves:

1. To Mandate the OULC Secretary to amend Paragraph 1(iv) of the Rules and Standing Orders of OULC, to include the following passage:

“1.(iv) The LGBTQIA+ Officer shall have the following responsibilities: [...]

(v) To ensure the realisation of the Campaign for National Transgender and Non-Binary Equality (“The Campaign”), whose principal aim is to campaign for social and legal equality for transgender and non-binary individuals on a national scale.

1. More generally, at all times the LGBTQIA+ Officer must be seen to be taking an active and consistent role in tackling issues of discrimination and harassment against non-binary and transgender individuals, both on a local and national scale.

2. The LGBTQIA+ Officer must undertake regular consultations with the transgender and non-binary members of OULC to ensure that the Campaign is being realised in line with their opinions. The LGBTQIA+ Officer has the discretion to decide the frequency of these consultations, but they must amount at least to two per Term.

3. The LGBTQIA+ Officer has discretion to alter the precise aims of the Campaign as they see fit, taking into account local and national socio-political developments and the opinions of transgender and non-binary individuals during future consultations.”

4. If conducted in person, such consultations are to be carried out in the presence of the Welfare Officer.”

Motion 2: Policy motion in support of the Campaign for National Transgender and Non-Binary Equality

Proposer – Fionn McFadden

Seconder – Danny Leach

OULC notes:

1. Transgender and non-Binary individuals have played a historically significant role in the fight for queer liberation and the advancement of socialist principles, both in the UK and abroad.
2. OULC, as well as the national Labour Party, are both committed to campaigning for complete social and legal equality for all members of the LGBTQIA+ Community. Transphobia is a prevalent and dangerous issue in British society: the mainstream position of transphobic rhetoric in British politics and media has contributed to a spike in institutional and social transphobia. Coupled with political inaction as to the advancement of transgender and non-binary rights from the incumbent government, Britain has now created an unsafe, and in some cases deadly, society for transgender and non-binary individuals.
3. OULC, The Labour Party and the socialist movement at large are not excluded from this systemic transphobia: with regards to the national party, there is a noticeable and legitimised presence of individuals with transphobic, so-called “gender critical” views, such as Rosie Duffield, the MP for Canterbury.
4. The Preliminary Consultation undertaken by the incumbent (HT 22) OULC LGBTQIA+ Officer, Fionn McFadden in February 2022 found too that the University of Oxford is creating a socially hostile environment for transgender and non-binary students: through, for example, insufficient mental health services and instances of misgendering by college administrations.

OULC believes:

1. Discrimination against, and harassment of transgender and non-binary individuals is wholly insidious and unacceptable, and has no place in British society at large, let alone in socialist
2. movements. No transgender or non-binary individual should feel unsafe, discriminated against or harassed.
3. OULC must do everything in its power and influence, particularly in its position as the largest and oldest student Labour Club in the UK, to actively fight against transphobia and stand up for all transgender and non-binary individuals.
4. No transgender or non-binary student should feel unsafe, discriminated against or harassed, neither in OULC nor at the University of Oxford.
5. The current inaction from the national Labour Party means that it is playing an active role in upholding systemic transphobia, and is unacceptably letting down not just its transgender and non-binary members, but transgender and non-binary people across the UK as a whole.
6. Given the prevalence and intensity of social and structural transphobia in the UK, working to
7. advance social and legal equality for transgender and non-binary individuals must form a central pillar of the work of LGBTQIA+ Officer.

OULC resolves:

1. Support the construction, realisation and aims of the National Campaign for Transgender and Non-Binary Equality. The provisional aims of the campaign following the Preliminary Consultation are as follows:
 - “1. Ensure that the internal structures and outward actions of the Oxford University Labour Club renders it a welcoming, inclusive and productive space for transgender and non-binary individuals, through regular consultation with transgender and non-binary members, by the LGBTQIA+ Officer.**
 - 2. Pressure the University of Oxford to reform its welfare and internal procedures to make it a welcoming, inclusive and productive space for transgender and non-binary individuals, principally ensuring adequate and sufficient mental health provision, as well as strict College policies to combat misgendering.**
 - 3. Pressure the national Labour Party to reform its disciplinary and internal procedures to make it a welcoming, inclusive and productive space for transgender and non-binary individuals.**
 - 4. Utilise pre-existing links between the Oxford University Labour Club and the national Labour Party to put pressure on the government to enact reforms to stamp out transphobia in Britain, and ensure that society is a welcoming, inclusive and productive space for transgender and non-binary individuals (e.g. reform of the Gender Recognition Act, easier provision of HRT etc.)”**

Motion 3: Endorsement of Student Union (SU) Candidates

The Secretary of OULC (Madelaine Cooke, Keble College), was approached by the following SU Candidates for endorsement in the SU Elections:

- Otto Barrow for Student Union President (Magdalen College)
- Theo Sergiou for VP Welfare and Equal Opportunities (Keble College)

GENERAL MEETING, TRINITY TERM 2023

Date: 19th May 2023.

Presiding: Els Staddon (Co-Chair *Ex-Officio* TT23), Ali Khosravi and Nidhi Madhani (Co-Chairs TT23).

Motion 1: Motion to allow the welfare officer to temporarily suspend an individual's access to events while a complaint is ongoing.

Proposer – Martin Conmy

Seconder: Chloe Pomfret

OLC believes:

1. It is unacceptable that the timeframe between a complaint being submitted and processed means an individual who could pose a significant threat to the welfare and well-being of members can continue to attend events.

OLC resolves to:

1. To amend the constitution, by adding in section 90 b):

“If the complaints sub-committee has not had time to impose interim measures against a member, the welfare officer may decide to temporarily suspend the access of the individual who has been complained against to social events if they deem this individual to present an imminent threat to the safety and wellbeing of OLC members. This temporary suspension may last no longer than one week, or until the subcomplaints committee meets.”

Motion 2: Motion to allow the welfare officer to serve as a witness in complaints cases when requested by the complaints sub-committee.

Proposer: Martin Conmy

Seconder: Aaron McIntyre

OLC believes:

1. The current complaints procedure imposes too harsh a burden on individuals who have suffered sexual harassment or assault, by requiring them to openly come forward as witnesses if they wish a complaint to be evidenced.
2. It is essential to modify this procedure if OLC is to remain a safe and inclusive environment.

OLC resolves to:

1. To amend the constitution, by adding in section 89 h):

“In complaints cases of a highly sensitive nature, such as those relating to sexual harassment and assault, the complaints sub committee may elect to take testimony

from current or former welfare officers regarding the events specified in the complaint.”

TERMLY GENERAL MEETING (TGM), TRINITY TERM 2023

Date: 13th June 2023

Presiding: Els Staddon (Co-Chair *Ex-Officio* TT23), Thripty Dutt and James Melia (Co-Chairs MT23).

Motion 1: Motion to reform the proxy voting system

Proposer – Els Staddon

Seconder – Maia Hamilton

OULC notes that:

1. Section 40 of the Rules of the Oxford Labour Club states:

“If a member wishes to vote on a motion, including removal of members, or on a pre announced election, they must apply for this right at least 48 hours prior to the meeting in question. Applications are made by emailing a Returning Officer with a reason that the member cannot attend the meeting in person. What constitutes a valid reason is at the discretion of the Executive. If an application is approved, then the member in question shall be informed; at this point they can send a further email to a Returning Officer informing them of the direction of their vote. Who has voted via proxy, the direction in which proxy votes were cast, and the number of proxy votes must be kept secret from the members in the meeting, excluding the Executive, insofar as they must know how many applications were made and how many approved.”

2. Agenda’s for General Meetings, Termly General Meetings and Annual General Meetings are sent out on the same day as the meeting due to motion deadlines being the day before the meeting.

OULC believes:

1. Unless you are psychic or have a TARDIS (or other form of time machine) it is currently humanly impossible to vote for a motion in advance of said motions being announced.
2. Many people who require proxy votes for being unable to attend the meetings may not know before 48 hours that they will be unable to attend. For example, they may be feeling ill, or the meeting venue may be inaccessible. These people should not be penalised for not being able to attend in person.

OULC resolves to:

1. Section 40 of the Rules of the Oxford Labour Club be rewritten to state:

“If a member wishes to vote on a motion, including removal of members, or on a pre announced election, they must apply for this right before the beginning of the meeting in question. Applications are made by emailing the Club’s email address requesting a proxy vote. If an application is approved, the member in question shall be informed; at this point they can send a further email to the Club informing them of the direction

of their vote. Who has voted via proxy, the direction in which proxy votes were cast, and the number of proxy votes must be kept secret from the members in the meeting, excluding the Executive, insofar as they must know how many applications were made and how many approved.”

Motion 2: Two consecutive terms

Proposer – Jimmy Sergi

Seconder – Els Staddon

OULC notes:

1. The constitution currently says that someone can serve more than two consecutive terms on committee in the positions of Co-Chairs elect, BAME Officer, Disabled Member's Officer, LGBTQIA+ Officer, Women's Officer, Socio-Economic Officer and Ex Officio Committee Members.
2. This mistakenly does not include the Co-Chairs, who must also be allowed to serve two consecutive terms on committee if they can do so as Co-Chairs elect.
3. In order to be a co-chair of the Labour Club, one must spend at least three consecutive terms on committee, as Co-Chair elect, Co-Chair, and Co-Chair ex-officio.

OULC resolves:

1. To amend section 36 e) of the constitution to say:

“No member of the Executive may serve more than two consecutive terms, with the exception of Co-Chairs, Co-Chairs elect, Co-Chairs ex-officio, Treasurer ex-officio, BAME Officer, Disabled Member's Officer, LGBT Officer, Women's Officer, and Socio-Economic Officer.”

Motion 3: Els for Honorary Co-Chair

Proposer – Jimmy Sergi

Seconder – Ardeel Hussain

Thirder – James Melia

Fourther – Eli Sluyter

OULC notes:

1. As things stand, Els Staddon will no longer hold a Labour Club position (aside from the one in our hearts) next term.

OULC believes:

1. Els Staddon is a legend.
2. Neil Kinnock would be honoured to call Els Staddon his running mate.

OULC resolves:

1. To appoint Els Staddon as honorary Co-Chair (alongside Neil Kinnock) of the Labour Club for life.

GENERAL MEETING MT23

Motion to formalise the Secretary's power to extend time limits in the complaints process

Proposer – Rose Harris

Seconder – Louis Johnson

OULC notes:

1. There are many reasons why a secretary would take longer than the timeframe the Constitution provides to convene and respond to a complaint.
2. The Secretary is tasked with organising a Complaints Subcommittee and overseeing the resolution of a complaint.
3. The Constitution currently allows for reasonable extensions and reads thusly:

(a) Time limits in this procedure should usually be met by all parties. Time limits may only be extended by the Complaints Subcommittee where it is necessary to do so in order to ensure a fair outcome (for example, where more time is needed because of a party's illness, the timing of examinations or during the holidays).

This does not extend to the Secretary the same power, when they are the person tasked with convening the committee and seeing the complaint is resolved, which is often a convoluted and messy process.

OULC believes:

1. It is necessary to formalise the Secretary's ability to extend the time limits of a complaint.
2. The Club has often allowed the Secretary to make such extensions, and we simply need to formalise this.

OULC resolves:

1. To amend 5a of the Constitution to read thusly:

Time limits in this procedure should usually be met by all parties. Time limits may only be extended by the Complaints Subcommittee or the Secretary in lieu of a Complaints Subcommittee where it is necessary to do so in order to ensure a fair outcome (for example, where more time is needed because of a party's illness, the timing of examinations or during the holidays).