**Wadham SU meeting – Sunday 1st week MT17**

**Apologies received:** Women’s

**Officers absent:** Communities, POCRE, Tech

**Election of chair**

* Michael Sackur elected unopposed as Chair
* Pizza as yet undelivered

**Officers’ reports**

* Pres: Not that much to report, cleaned out SU shop and office. He and Lizzy might be putting on surgeries- details to follow. Self Selection Option for rent went well with sign ups, 30% opting for reduced rent. On college building works: college has yet to get planning permission for works planned in 2018-9. Please take free folders and calendars in the JCR
* Pizza arrives
* VP: No elections for two weeks, then Tech Officer and Rep, and Suspended Students Officer. Have attended meetings about accommodation shortfall due to building works
* Treasurer: have sent email today about how to get money from SU and college. We don’t have that much money yet but because college hasn’t handed it us yet. Wants to present a motion next meeting to discuss how to spend less money than we did last year.
* Academic: Jack and I went to meeting about collections, which haven’t changed, college not budging on guideline. When you get a collection back, your tutors should
* Access: attended meetings to improve website, including ‘day in the life’ feature and filmed open days
* LGBT: Thanks to those who helped deliver LGBT workshops, will hold another pub trip. On Tuesday there will be a meet-up to go to the university wide social. Various posts in Oxford wide LGBT campaign cttee come up on second week
* Arts: Intention was to have guide to arts at Oxford and Wadham for freshers but this won’t be done until next week
* Bar: We want to get people alcohol trained for Queerfest. Also need to put together team for University Challenge
* Charities: Still haven’t got bank account access but will soon have those to hand out last year’s charities money. Will be a Promise auction around 4th week so look out for that.
* Communications: weekly bulletins have resumed, otherwise nothing to report.
* Domestic: We are in the process of buying airbeds, information to follow. Want to improve system to keep track of what happens to expensive mattresses when borrowed.
* Entz: we will need people to volunteer for alcohol training. There will be a bop/matriculash in first week.
* Food: If you have any complaints about food at Wadham do approach me or send an email. But don’t tell me something about the dinner we’re having.
* Freshers: We’ve been discussing about what to do with unsold freshers T shirts, only a few mishaps in the past wek
* Housing: Will be some living talks arranged by OUSU on week 6 for Freshers. Information to follow
* International: organising crew date with international students from other colleges.
* Sarah Lawrence: no officer elected yet
* Sports: have run some gym inductions, please take a form from my pidge to fill in for access to the gym on your bod card, we have an annual Sports Day with Chist college Cambridge hosted at Wadham coming up, keep your eye out for that. Let me know if you want equipment
* Staff Liaison: Nothing to report
* Welfare: We will be awarding SU members of the week: John who helped with bop welfare space at last minute and the Freshers Committee for doing amazing job. If people want to volunteer to help with welfare space at future bops, please look for email to this effect.
* Trans: I can reimburse for transition products for trans students

**Discussion points**

* Sunday brunch on bop weeks. Ellie says as college is now providing regular weekend brunches, welfare brunch is obsolete. We’d like to keep some fortnightly social event though. What about a hot chocolate and cookies evening? Hazem proposed holding tea and cake in the JCR in non bop weeks
* Alumni networking. Jack had a meeting with the Wadham network, they have elected a networking officer, they want us to use them as contacts. How can we use them? Sarah suggests less structured, casual, networking events. Other suggestions include subject specific stuff. Ellery: could we have a student consultation about this. Perhaps subject specific talks followed by drinks. Georgia says anything requiring studemts to proactively contact is unlikely to be popular.
* Subject specific events seem popular in the room

**Motions**

• **Funding for production of play “Random” by Debbie Tucker Green**

• Proposed by John Livesey and Taiwo Ava Oyebola

* John says that he is involved in this play that is majority Wadham produced. The play is about a female POC who identified as Muslim and is affected by knife crime. It investigates intersectionality, gender and the experience of British Jamaicans in London.
* John is worried Oxford drama is particularly uninclusive, especially on ethnic lines. This would help address that
* We estimate the whole project will cost £850, including £400 for writing fees and set, marketing and venue. We would like £400 from Wadham
* Q. Have you asked for money from other JCRs?
* A. We have a loan from a university organisation if we don’t get funding, but it would be a bad deal. We reckon St Johns JCR would give us £200
* Q. Are you wanting to make a profit? Would it be possible to squeeze John’s as they’re rich?
* A. We don’t hear from Johns and we don’t know how realistic the £200 figure even is. If we do get the funding, we will make a profit, but that means future productions can be better funded. I am not looking to make money and wouldn’t be allowed to benefit personally.
* Q. How soon do you need to have the money?
* A. Treasurer says we can cover it now
* Q. What will tickets cost
* A. £5 for students. We can’t control ticket prices
* Jack: I think it is the sort of thing Wadham should fund
* Q. What’s the current status of Wadham drama society?
* A. I wasn’t aware Wadham drama society was functioning until the other day, but the funding is likely to be quite restrictive.
* Q. All productions in that studio have been funded by the uni drama society before, I don’t understand why you’re not doing that?
* A. They will only give £150 upfront, and as I’ve said it’s a bad deal. Other funding bodies will be similarly restrictive
* Q. If Wadham SU were to loan you the money, would this be better than the drama society deal?
* A. I’m getting mixed messages about the feasibility of granting the money. I am arts officer and can grant £250 discretionary spending anyway
* Prez and VP correct him, this is not possible
* Son: it feels like Wadham SU does get exploited by those with good political causes. This is fine, but we do run out of money at the ends of terms.
* Rhian: we do indeed need to think about pacing how we’re spending money
* Perhaps we should administer a termly application system for grants. But Ivy does warn that it’s often time sensitive when making arts funding applications. Ivy says Wadham SU would ideally not be the first of call for these things
* John: OUDS’ response to our funding was slow and Wadham SU was not our first port of call. We felt this play was in line with Wadham’s political beliefs and appropriate for a play run by Wadhamites.
* Jack: have you spoken to Wadham Drama Society directly?
* A. Yes, but they were offering a loan. We’d prefer a grant.
* Ellery asks that Wadham’s name be featured in any production. John agrees.
* Eli: what and how have we funded drama productions recently? Are we setting a precedent that we’re willing to keep up?
* Ivy: we get about £13,000 a term, but £5k went to fund the vac. Queerfest should break even but the cost is needed upfront.
* **Motion passes**

• **Motion to add Halal and Kosher options to the online Meal Booking System**

* Proposed by Nazmus Saadat and Abbas Husain.
* Nazmus: I came to college early. Before college served food at all, I found few halal food suppliers in Oxford. Halal options are generally vegetarian which can get a bit boring. But would be nice to have more halal and kosher meat served. Understand this would be difficult but would like to see this happen.
* Q. Would this increase the cost of preparing food?
* A. I don’t know but could look this up
* Point: it would be more expensive as its in low quantity. That which is Kosher is Halal but not vice versa
* Point: Some Muslims would object to eating kosher, and some non-Muslims would object to consuming halal meat
* Dan: Sikh people would object to consuming halal
* Rhian: Wadham already make vegan, vegetarian and allergen options available. Don’t see why college couldn’t accommodate others?
* Rhian: bear in mind college will prepare individual meals but they often won’t get eaten, which is wasteful
* Theo: not serving religious-required food is more important than catering to individual preferences, low take-up would not mean the provision is not worth it
* Saahil: it would be good to find out what take-up would be made and thus what the financial implications would be. We can make accommodations but we don’t want to be wasteful
* Ray: the number needing kosher or halal would be very small. However the number who wouldn’t care would be large. While there should be an opt out, we could use this to ensure enough is consumed to make it affordable
* Lizzy: remember all this motion does is require Rhian to talk to college about this
* Point: perhaps Wadham could cater to the university-wide halal consuming population. However that would be too expensive.
* **Motion passes**

**Oxford SU**

* Summarised role of Oxford SU (formerly OUSU) and its Council for benefit of freshers.
* Largely technical but important decisions by Council at this week’s meeting, such as the election of Scrutiny officers and vote on allowing the disability and mental health campaigns to merge
* Also motion to end wearing of scholars’ gowns to exams comes back to Council, but given a roughly two to one vote against in the student consultation it seems unlikely Council will vote it through

**AOB**

* Amy raises emergency discussion about failure to pay interview hosts at the end of this term.
* Last year’s compensation to those living out was just £114. Most colleges do pay their hosts
* Ellery: they know we’ll come and help anyway and they’ll exploit that. Rhian emphasises how bad the college will be to volunteers as they know to exploit them. We didn’t have a lunch break at open day. We can’t leave this matter.
* Jack: should we pass a motion boycotting open day and making sure people won’t sign up? Will they do that?
* Fresher says she had a lovely time at interview but couldn’t believe that people would help out without being paid
* It is suggested that, like the UCL rent strike, if and only if 50% agree to boycott then they boycott takes place
* Lucas: I’m not sure that not helping the interview process itself would be wise. That would hurt the interviewees. We could use a rent strike to put pressure on instead.
* Ray: actually boycotting the strike is insane, but strongly suggesting we might would be effective. The majority of those who would volunteer are probably attending this meeting, so the SU motion would probably be effective.
* Amy: we would go through college but the strike would be our leverage
* Joseff: I think we should go through college, but nobody will take the strike seriously unless we show we’re serious about it
* Jack: I’m pretty sure college would not let it get to the stage we wouldn’t be volunteering. And college would have to pay living wage to us if they did pay.
* Was pointed out that when rent strike took place then discussion was taken out of minuted SU meetings.
* Lizzy: if we’re discussing and planning action on this, we should be discussing housing shortage in third year as well.
* We should remember that free accommodation is not pay. College needs us to be there. Milo says college needs to see the SU is annoyed and will take the matter seriously.
* Amy asks if it better to have an SU motion to back her up in discussions with college.
* Ivy doesn’t see why summer school volunteers get paid but not interview helpers. Lucas says this is funded by a donor.
* Ellery says we can roughly outline and propose a motion about the discussion in this meeting.
* It is instead proposed that the SU discusses a motion next week demanding payment for interview help and making vague threats of further action.
* Son says the volunteering atmosphere of comradery is something to keep. It might change the type of people who volunteer. Although we are too nice as Wadham students.
* Amy says this is definitely a job, and thus needs to be paid
* Louis: if the college SU were to immediately escalate to boycott, would this put off applicants, making Wadham students seem less friendly
* Rhian: paying people is more likely to improve the effort and quality of the work, and broaden the range of volunteers, as otherwise some may be put off by financial constraints
* We are entitled to be treated as anybody who is giving up large numbers of hours for two weeks
* Milo: we should be clear that in the unlikely event we do get to boycott then we will carry it through
* Son: but if college do know us at all they’ll just not take us seriously
* A “this SU resolves” motion will be brought to the next meeting
* Jack: important to see that interviews is not an access matter like open days are
* Dan: if I’m not going to be paid to help with interviews, I can’t afford my living costs. I am positive person but I need to support myself
* It was pointed out that in selecting interview hosts, the college will filter out those only in it for the money. It will only make it possible for more people who wanted to apply to do so.
* Ray: I enjoyed volunteering at interview. I think for some people, we’d find they’d be attracted to a college with an SU that robustly defends its students’ interests
* It would show political engagement as Wadham wants to be known for, and is already known for
* Living wage is not high enough to attract those who wouldn’t want to stay here anyway
* Rhian: many interviewees will become students here. It is in their long term interests that we make sure they are treated better as all students by the college.
* Tarafa: talk of putting people off applying doesn’t make sense: they’ll have already applied now. They won’t turn down an Oxford interview just because Wadham SU is on strike!
* Saahil: are we seeking change for this interview session or next year’s? It is a big financial change for college to approve in a short space of time
* Volunteer at last year’s UNIQ summer school says pay was not hourly there and need not be during college interviews.
* Lizzy: not planning on publishing SU minutes this term by email. Possibly FB page or on request.