**Wadham SU meeting – Sunday 3rd week MT17**

**Apologies received: Housing, International**

**Officers absent: Arts, Freshers, Sports, Tech, LGBT**

**Officers’ reports**

* Pres: SU has secured the living wage for interview hosts, college has screwed up guest dinner booking but we will be seeking to avoid fiasco in future.
* VP: ran successful elections for every due role except suspended students officer. However turnout was low and this was partly due to lack of candidates. We need more candidates.
* Treasurer: have had busy week compiling the spreadsheets which have been emailed. Met with college and secured Queerfest funding
* Academic: nothing
* Access: nothing
* Amenities:
* LGBT:
* Arts:
* Bar: Will have another quiz next week
* Class: nothing to report after election to new role yesterday
* Charities: I need the SU to confirm that Anastasia (Tasie) Tsikas is no longer President and Jack Wands is now the SU president. I need this in writing for the bank. Does anyone dispute that it’s the case?
* Nobody disputes this. The meeting notes that Jack Wands is President of the SU.
* Milo also asks people contribute to the promise auction either in a bid or an item
* Comms: nothing to report
* Domestic: please park bikes properly in the bike shed! Actual coffee cups will be restocked in the JCR this week
* Entz: reminds people not to bring glass into the JCR during bops
* Food: nothing to report
* Freshers: nothing to report
* Housing: We have put on a Living Out talk for freshers this week
* PoCre: will have another informal social, with pizza this time. May be screening a film for Black History Month
* Sarah Lawrence: nothing to report
* Sports:
* Staff Liaison:
* Tech: will be sorting the cupboard out
* Trans:
* Welfare: Will be holding first hot chocolate evening. Please volunteer for fourth week bop and rainbow peers. SU member of the week is Amy for securing pay fpr interview hosts and Lizzy for running all the elections
* Women’s: Will be running a women’s social, please keep an eye out for an email with details

**Motions**

* **Motion to have more guest dinners**
* Proposed by Jack Wands, seconded by Natalie Becket
* Spoke to college: demand for these dinners is through the roof and there are not enough spaces. We normally have two guest dinners per term and they sell out really quickly
* No questions
* **Motion passes**
* **Motion to make Library Court toilets gender neutral**
* Proposed by Harriet England and seconded by Samson Dittrich
* Harrie: the toilets by bar quad are already gender neutral, but we will retain some segregated toilets for anybody who wants them
* Son: Library Court is mostly populated by DPhils, have we consulted them
* DPhils are members of the SU and would have heard about the motion. MCR would also be asked before implementation
* Jack: college have refurbished toilets so they can be gender neutral, only a matter of changing the signs
* **Motion passes**
* **Motion to purchase an SU Entz camera**
* Proposed by Theo Anton, seconded by Joseff Reed
* Son: previously Entz reps have had to use their own equipment at their own risk. We’d be looking at a £350 model
* Jack: could the SU insure it?
* Yes, if it chose
* Eli: where are you storing it?
* Son: the Entz cupboard is a mess so not there. Possibly the SU Pres office
* **Motion passes**

**Discussion points**

* **SU Facebook group**
* Jack: Wadham SU group has 1,050 members, there are only 450 students. The rules are clear: you’re supposed to leave it when you leave Wadham. But people don’t
* It would be easier to form a new group from a list of students than to comb out 600 non Wadhamites
* Lots of students don’t have FB so some are concerned they don’t get access to the minutes of SU meetings
* Jack: only circulating them on FB was a one off because of sensitive deliberations on negotiations with college. Anyone who wants minutes can always get them by emailing Pres, VP or Comms officer
* Lucas: I like scrolling through the old Wadham SU posts. It would be a shame to lose that
* Son: a lot of alumni like staying on the group for nostalgic reasons
* **Letting out SU rooms to recruitment companies**
* Thus far we have been rejecting firms who want to book with us. SU technically controls the Old Refec as well as the JCR
* College want the SU to decide a policy on bookings one way or another
* The money for bookings would go to college to cover costs.
* We have been advised that if, as a charity, Wadham SU took bookings from one private company, it cannot discriminate. We would not be able to block bookings from companies we didn’t like
* However, SU could easily make them feel unwelcome via boycotts etc. They would not come back.
* Son: how can we make sure rooms are booked for events that are actually relevant to Wadhamites?
* All room bookers must advise their purpose and they’d be fined if they’re dishonest
* Straw poll says small majority in favour of letting companies book rooms for recruitment
* **Treasury: how Wadham SU needs to spend less money**
* Ivy: I have sent out a breakdown of last year’s accounts. Last year we overspent by £7k.
* Some of this deficit will sort itself out, for example our owning a coffee machine now will save about £3,000
* A big proportion of spend is given out in money meetings, where people can ask for money for their academic-related expenses. We spent £8k last year
* We need to scale this down without abolishing it, as it is quite important. The college has an academic support grant that will help with rare books the college library can’t supply
* Ivy: I am inclined to direct people to ask the library to buy books they need, they very rarely turn students down.
* Would people be affronted if we abolished these altogether?
* Ellery: are there not other things people ask for reimbursement for?
* Ivy: mostly books, but the odd language exam and class, extracurricular things and stationery.
* How does the amount given in money meetings compare to those the SU hands out in grants from motions?
* Money meetings last year resulted in spending of about £1,000 more than that from SU motions
* Lucas: where do money from the Battels levies go?
* Charities levies go to Milo.
* Jack: the SU has four levies. The FSS levy of £11.50 per term goes to fund a scholarship, there is also a Sexual Health and Refugee levy. The Refugee Campaign has enough money so this is likely to stop being levied for.
* Lucas: given we don’t spend much on sexual health supplies, we should reduce the levy.
* Ivy: that or maybe just rename the sexual health levy to a prescriptions levy, as this is a larger expense.
* Jack: four years ago the levy was £6 per person per term. Maybe we need to recalculate it.
* Joseff: We usually spend about £300 per term on sexual health supplies. £125 this term
* But if everyone paid the levy the money raised would be several times this
* Queerfest normally breaks even (but made a small loss in 2015) but Wadstock is somewhat profitable
* Some object to the idea of making Queerfest a profit-driven enterprise
* Son: any profit that is made is usually made at the bar, which the SU doesn’t really control
* Officer spending last year was £8,000, which was less than money meetings
* Lucas: regular spending such as on newspapers, coffee supplies and newspapers would be worth distinguishing from irregular discretionary spending
* Amy suggests the SU replacing money meetings with a book grant every year for non-freshers
* Jack suggests the SU compiles a list of requested books for the library on behalf of students, and then funds any that are not bought
* Ivy will draw up a motion on budgeting based on points raised in meeting
* **Queerfest ticket pricing**
* Son: Queerfest is much more expensive than people realise. We were hoping to increase ticket prices by £2.50 to £3 to cover costs
* Q. If Queerfest broke even last year, why increase the price?
* A. We need to get a new tent supplier as last year’s was a disaster and college wants a chill out space. Both of these will raise costs.
* Tent hire will by about £4k. Ticket revenue is about £15/16k. To have independent drag performers we need to pay for public liability insurance. Revenue and costs this year will both be about £17.5k for 815 tickets. Of these a little under 800 will actually be sellable due to free tickets for SU volunteers
* Q. Could the SU subsidise the tickets rather than increase the cost?
* Ivy: yes but we’d need to cut something
* Jack: last term we did hand out £800 for a drama production. £1.5k for Queerfest is not a huge expense
* For a Wadham Student the present cost of a Queerfest ticket is £15
* Ellery: why not give funding we’d be prepared to give to Queerfest to the race symposium or other queer week events? A one off increase in ticket costs of £2.50 will not put people off
* Jack: last year, with Queerfest and Queerweek, the net profit was £900. We would increase Queerfest funding by £1k and Queer Week by £1k and turn this into a £1100 loss. This is not a problem. Alternatively just increase the price of tickets. I propose the former
* Ivy: we have a substantial deficit and money to pay back to the college over the next two years
* We do not have accounts stretching back further than a couple of years
* College have confirmed that running a surplus at the end of a term will not lead them to cut the grant to the SU
* Also the finance bursar is loaning the SU all the money to run Queerfest and will not require that this is repaid immediately after queerfest
* Ellery: important to remember the SU is not a business and does not have the culture to support a long-term approach to hypothecating funds. It is only realistic to expect a balanced budget.
* It is not unreasonable to raise prices after they’ve been frozen for a long time. Inflation happens
* Is it not feasible to raise alcohol prices slightly rather than ticket prices?
* Chris runs the bar and it would be difficult to manage this
* Straw poll: increase ticket prices to make a profit, break even or subsidise Queerfest?
* The room felt tickets should be increased by £1 for Queerfest to break even
* Queer Week will have a budget of £1,000

**Oxford SU**

* The room complained at length about the £17,000 rebrand from OUSU over the summer.
* Harry: At this week’s council there will be a vote on giving £500 towards transport to the Yarls Wood protesters.
* Jack: I have spoken to people who are lobbying against detention and they are making progress with politicians. The protests antagonise the guards and get the detainees riled up, they are counterproductive.
* Michael highlighted the allegations surrounded Movement for Change, the organisation leading the protests. On top of abusive behaviour, it is alleged they are a Leninist front organisation
* Without details about the Oxford SU motion that will emerge when it is debated, the meeting did not feel able to mandate its delegates.

**AOB**

* None