MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE UNION COUNCIL MEETING [called for 5pm on 16 June; held over until 5pm 23 June 2014 under Schedule C8]

Meeting opened on time

Present

Dominic Dold (Magdalene); Fedir Kiskin (St Catharine’s); John Morgan (Downing); Clare Collins (Hughes Hall); Stevan Voljkovic (Peterhouse); Christopher Ashcroft (Homerton); Chris Truscott (Robinson). As the meeting was carried over from 16 June, it was deemed to be quorate under Schedule C8.

Apologies were received from the Churchill College representatives.

The President of the Graduate Union chaired the meeting.

1. Minutes

The minutes from the last GU Council Meeting were approved without change.

2. Actions from Previous Meeting

No actions arising from previous meeting.

3. Declarations of Interest

The President declared that he had corresponded with all applicants expressing an interest in serving as trustees of the Graduate Union [item 4.3], and had met with Deniz Vatansever; Katie Fitzpatrick; Darshan Brahmbhatt; and Demetrius Floudas.

4. Matters for Discussion

4.1 President’s Update – The President informed Council that the proposed 2014 version of the GU Constitution had passed all necessary stages in the ratification process, and was now in force. Council was also informed that Evianne van Gijn was the duly elected GU President for 2014-15, and would take office this summer. The President reported that moves were underway to further augment the internal administrative structures and processes of the GU, to aid the transition to the new team.

4.2 Welfare and Right’s Officer’s Update – The WaRO reported that alongside
recent periods of absence from the GU, she had been heavily involved in administering the elections, and in compiling the annual report for the Student Advice Service (which had seen some 230 students during the year, with around 45% of the caseload being graduate students). Work continues in developing the agenda for tutor training within the colleges, and on strengthening the sexual health scheme open to students.

4.3 [this item was taken after 4.4 and 4.5]. The President reported that there had been a positive response to the call for applications to serve as GU trustees. The Executive Committee had screened the applications, and was able to make recommendations for GU Council to approve. **GU Council unanimously approved: Katie Fitzpatrick and Deniz Vatansever to serve as student trustees** until such time in the Michaelmas term when elections can be held for student trustees on full one year terms; that **Tim Yates and Demetrius Floudas be confirmed as external trustees** for the full term; and that **Darshan Brahmbhatt be confirmed to serve as alumnus trustee** for the full term.

4.4 The President reported that the positions of GU Council Chair and Secretary were available to be filled, and that interested parties should get in touch to discuss the roles.

4.5 The President reported that all positions on the GU Executive Committee under the 2014 Constitution were vacant on an interim basis until the annual elections during Michaelmas Term, and that anybody interested in joining the GU team should contact him. He requested that MCR representatives on GU Council pass this message around their own MCR committees and communities, to generate as much interest as possible.

5. No other business was raised.

The President thanked all members of GU Council who attended meetings during the year, and explained that the date of the next meeting would be arranged by members of the new team in the GU after they had entered office.

The meeting closed at 5.42pm.