

Draft Minutes of

THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE DEBATE SELECTION COMMITTEE

1st Week Michaelmas Term 2018

Sunday 7th October

The Morris Room, 17:00

Present: **The Chair of the Debate Selection Committee** (Andrew Seow, *Lincoln College*), **The President** (Stephen Horvath, *New College*), **Director of Training** (Rachel O Nunain, *Trinity College*), **DSC Treasurer** (Bryan Yan,), **Internals Officer** (Louis Collier, *St. Hugh's College*), **Externals Officer** (Lee Chin Wee, *Trinity College*), **Communications Officer** (Jason Xiao, *Wadham College*), **Standing Committee Delegate** (Sara Dube, *St. Hugh's College*)

Attending: **Ordinary Member** (Joe Sisson, *St. John's College*), **Ordinary Member** (Dominic Brind, *Magdalen College*), **Ordinary Member** (Xavier Redmond, *Magdalen College*)

Apologies: **DSC Secretary** (Rosa Thomas, *St. Anne's College*), **Access and Equity Officer** (Brian Wong, *Wolfson College*)

Absent:

Late:

DSC opens at 17:05

Business of the CDSC

The CDSC asks Mr. Joe Sisson and Mr. Dominic Brind for an update on Oxford Schools.

Mr. Sisson explains that they are in the middle of the first round of Schools workshops and asks people to help with these workshops. The second round of workshops is almost set, the regional rounds dates are set and emails have been sent out regarding these dates. He reports that the sign-ups for Schools are looking good and that they have the same number of teams as last year. There is a slightly larger South Central round this year and Mr. Sisson and Mr. Brind plan to push more judges into that round. There are no major round clashes with the week of the South Central round and no one round is overwhelmingly big.

The CDSC asks if there are any problems with the workshops.

Mr. Sisson reports that he and Mr. Brind have had to cancel a few workshops because not many people wanted to be involved in them.

The CDSC requests Mr. Sisson to send him the list of workshops for him to send out in the DA.

The Director of Training mentions the judge shortage for Schools from last year and suggests having a meeting for regional conveners so that they can get more help in the process of running the round and with judge-finding.

Mr. Brind suggests that the regional convener announcements be included in the next DA.

Mr. Sisson mentions that he and Mr. Brind would like to get started with CA appointments and would also like to start pushing sponsorship.

The President brings up Tom O'Reilly at the McKinsey Academy and mentions that he tried to work with them for sponsorship for 2017 Schools and asks to follow-up on this as they would be willing to pay enough.

Mr. Redmond mentions that he passed on sponsorship deals to Mr. Brind and Mr. Sisson.

The President says that he will follow-up with Mr. O'Reilly.

Mr. Sisson asks to revisit the judge requirements and to make the Oxford Schools round finalists-only or finalists-priority.

The Director of Training says she does not think this was enforced last year.

The CDSC points out that this was because it was a large round last year.

Mr. Sisson suggests giving extra helper points to people who travel to further-away rounds.

The CDSC asks Mr. Sisson and Mr. Brind to send him a short list of people they are considering as CAs for Schools.

The Director of Training suggests opening applications for CAs like last year.

The CDSC agrees.

Mr. Sisson asks about booking rooms for Finals Day.

The President mentions that there won't be a room clash as it will take place on a Saturday and that the only potential clash may be in the Gladstone Room.

The CDSC asks for an update on the Oxford IV.

Mr. Xiao reports that there are 136 teams registered. Bridgewater has offered less money than they did last year: while the amount has been negotiated to 3,000 pounds from 2,500 pounds, this is in comparison with the offer of 4,000 pounds from last year.

The CDSC mentions that Bridgewater plans to hold interview on the Sunday of the Wom*n's Open, that they are using the Gladstone and TV rooms for this and that Ms. Timmons and Ms. Railton are fine with this.

Mr. Xiao reports that they have lost 6 rooms for the IV as EC is renovating their second floor.

The President suggests booking 3 rooms at Exeter College and perhaps asking Jesus College to use their rooms too.

Mr. Brind suggests using St. Peter's College for rooms too.

The CDSC mentions that there he does not want to put a burden on one person to book all these rooms.

Mr. Redmond mentions that he has a friend in the year below in St. Peter's College that he can approach to ask about rooms.

The President mentions that Mr. Chaitanya Kediya, Outrooms Officer for the IV, can coordinate rooms at Exeter College.

Mr. Xiao brings up that the Accounts Manager has to follow-up with people who paid with the wrong bank account number and asks what happens if people paid money to a different bank account.

The CDSC says that the plan is for the teams that have paid to the wrong account to let them know that the Conveners are working with finance to sort out a solution and stresses the importance of being in touch with the teams to let them know what's going on.

Mr. Xiao mentions that he has gotten plenty of receipts of payment via email. He says that crash will start to be advertising in second week once people have joined squads. Food will be arranged through the Org Comm. With regard to Bobbi's flight, they will have to talk to Bursar the next morning about booking a flight.

The CDSC asks for an update on the IA situation.

Mr. Xiao responds that the CAs have not gotten back to him in a while.

The CDSC says that as Dhruva is the ACA, Mr. Xiao should get in touch with him soon to ask when he wants to run the judge test and to book the necessary rooms for that.

Mr. Yan reports that the base code of the website has not been updated for at least the past 3-5 years and that there is no point in renewing the domain. In the next week he will try to create a temporary domain.

Mr. Xiao mentions that a couple of teams have dropped out and that there is lower sponsorship this year. The profit is 9,300 pounds and they are trying to figure out where to make more money. He suggests the IA registration as one potential way.

The CDSC asks if they will be providing all the meals for the IV.

Mr. Xiao says that they are.

Mr. Yan suggests cutting breakfast or lunch out of the budget to save money.

The CDSC agrees and points out that people go to Cornmarket Street to get their own food.

The President suggests getting the Socials Office of the IV to approach re-branded clubs to get good deals as a way of cost-saving.

Mr. Xiao suggests that it may be an inconvenience to international debaters in getting lunch independently if they don't have the local money and points out that they are in fact charged more money and that the first international dinner is not worth 15 pounds.

The President points out those who come to the debate dinner will get more than 15 pounds out of it and suggests Mamma Mia as a place to go for good deals.

The CDSC moves on to the Wom*n's Open and suggests discussing it when the conveners are present. Ms. Timmons is not present because she ran a half-marathon that morning; there is no reason given for Ms. Railton's absence.

Mr. Redmond brings up sponsorship for this event, saying that he is awaiting a reply on a 2,500 pounds offer in return for naming rights and being able to talk to people at the Open.

The President suggests having a more appropriate division between Sponsorship Officer and Convener. He mentions that it has been very unhelpful that one of the conveners for Womn*n's was trying to insert themselves into everything the Sponsorship Officer did.

Mr. Redmond asks if he is to look into sponsorship for WUDC.

The CDSC says yes.

The Director of Training mentions that many institutions have sponsored hoodies.

The CDSC mentions that people can be stopped from wearing hoodies at WUDC. He also brings up B13 changes with regard to the women's quota. The World's constitution was changed so that it rounds up instead of rounding down and two specific clause changes take place in 2020 and not 2019. He asks if the DSC wants to implement the changes so that they take effect now instead of in 2020. The clauses in question are 43A1 3 and 4.

The Director Training suggests that it take place in 2020 as one of the second judges would have to be a woman if the change is implemented now.

The President suggests that the change should be implemented next year.

Mr. Xiao agrees.

The CDSC mentions that the two clauses affect whether the Oxford delegation has 1 or 2 teams. The ones that do affect the delegation also relate to delegation composition. He states that the DSC is in agreement that they should delay the change until the next year and will take it off the TSC agenda for the 8th of October 2018.

The President brings up the Debater of the Year competition and says that the people who run the charitable trust were in touch from May to July and were unhappy that the competition did not occur in the previous academic year. He says that the Final will take place at 2:15 pm on Tuesday of 8th week this term. From the next academic year onwards the trust will decide at which point in the academic year it will be held as long as it happens once in an academic year. Stephen has also picked a motion for the Final. He reports that the UKIP lord is not coming to judge but David is coming along with the warden of New College.

The Director of training asks if there will be debaters on the judging panel.

The CDSC says that there will.

The President mentions that the preliminary rounds need to be organized soon and that the appropriate bookings need to be made. He asks the Internals Officer to do this and also asks whether he will be CAing the competition. The President says that he will judge as he set the motion and therefore cannot compete.

The Internals Officer says that he will CA the competition. He suggests holding it in the style of Fresher-of-the-Year: on one day and then sending teams through to the final.

Mr. Xiao suggests holding it on the Sunday of the KCL pro-am weekend as it's a one-day competition.

The Internals Officer says that this is Sunday of 3rd week, on the 21st of October.

The CDSC says that he will get a booking for this room.

The Internals Officer asks about judges and says that most of the good debaters in Oxford would want to compete.

The CDSC says that he is happy to judge and that he can open applications after squads have been set.

The Internals Officer suggests opening applications now and leaving them open for the rest of the week.

The CDSC says that the lunch and dinner for the final will happen in the Macmillan rooms and that the lunch will be paid for for people in the final.

The Internals Officers asks how much money the finalists and winners will receive.

The President responds that the overall money that will be granted is 1,600 pounds: 700 pounds for the best speaker and 900 pounds for the winning team.

The Internals Officer asks if some of this money should go towards the DSC.

The President says that it is the prerogative of the DSC to cap earning at 100 pounds.

The Director of Training asks how much money DSC lost last year.

The President responds that he does not have the numbers. He brings up the fundraising effort of the charitable trustees that support the union, saying that they are launching a huge fundraising campaign. This will take place on October 24th at the Reform Club and will target raising money from ex-officers. He asks the CDSC to write a couple of paragraphs on Oxford Union debating achievements in the past years. The President adds that one of the aims of the fundraising is to set up an endowment for debating to lead to more security for debating. The interest off the endowment will be for the DSC to use every year and money will be specifically reserved for debating. The CDSC is to give this in by the 20th of October 2018.

The CDSC suggests booking flights for people individually even if they are on the same flight, bringing up situation where debaters were transferred from one flight to another as a group, leading to unfavourable landing timings. He adds that people could turn up to tournaments earlier if flight bookings are made individually. He adds that he has been contacted by Mr. Toby Tricks with regard to rules expenses that have not been returned from Talinn.

The President states that based on precedent, if the DSC has records of passing the expenses claim, it is possible to find the week where the finance committee passed the claim.

The CDSC points out that he does not have a clear answer on how to pay Mr. Tricks back.

The President asks whether there is no record of the expenses.

The CDSC responds that there is no record.

The Presidents asks if it is possible to resubmit the expenses claim form and write initial date of submission on it.

The CDSC says that it is.

Business of the Director of Training

The CDSC brings up the judging requirements to trial for WUDC, suggesting that the requirement that one has to judge squad trials is problematic because it is not in the standing orders as a requirement.

The Director of Training responds that it has been a requirement for the past 2 years.

The CDSC suggests that it perhaps never got to standing.

The President says that the trials policy is not in the standing orders and that it's fine that it is not formalized.

The Director of Training points out that there is a need to sort out instructions to selector for WUDC trials and asked if we are standing by the ESL final is equivalent to Open quarters instruction from EUDC.

The CDSC responds that it is.

The Director of Training points out that there are 4 ESL speakers trialling this year: 3 as an ESL team and 1 as an Open Speaker. She suggests that selectors should make teams explicitly consent to compete in the ESL break and to tell the CDSC that this has happened in order to get the best teams possible for both ESL and Open.

The President responds that we need to clarify that the Oxford delegation meets the ESL criteria of the rules.

The Director of Training brings up the need to check that speakers need to meet the WUDC criteria for competing at Oxford.

The President suggests using matriculation into Oxford as a student as a criteria.

The Director of Training brings up the point of people in squads not filling out their CVs properly and suggests asking people to fill the CVs in again.

The CDSC agrees.

The Director of Training brings up the pro-am criteria for speaking at WUDCs, saying that if we look at the amount of pro-ams some people do it is reasonable to get more people under the umbrella of who should contribute, suggesting the following:

- 1) Get judges to have to do pro-ams
- 2) Apply requirements to people who have gone to EUDC or WUDC
- 3) Stop funding unless people have done pro-ams
- 4) Higher burden on some of the speakers – more help with judging of squads

Mr. Xiao asks why there is an additional burden on speakers over judges.

The Director of Training responds that speakers tend to be better than judges and that judging is something done to facilitate speaking. She says that as you get the most out of going as a speaker, you should give the most back.

The Externals Officer asks the Director of Training to email a proposal to DSC.

The President asks that the point about judging squads should be taken out as the principle should focus on how to make pro-ams more effective and that there should be more focus on that rather than adding a separate judging requirement. He adds that we don't necessarily need WUDC-level squads judges.

The CDSC points out that many people don't turn up to squads because of other commitments; therefore demanding judging squads as a requirement may be disingenuous. He adds that there is more clear of a connection between giving back and going to pro-ams.

The Director of Training suggests implementing these changes now so that they apply to the new WUDC squad.

The CDSC expresses concerns regarding budgeting in requiring to send so many people to pro-ams. He asks the Director of Training to send through a full proposal via email. He asks the Externals Officer to chair the *in camera* meeting on Imperial Open Selections.

The CDSC, Mr. Sisson, Mr. Redmond and Mr. Brind leave the room at 18:00

Meeting moves in camera at 18:00 for Imperial Open Delegation Selections

The Director of Training, Externals Officer and CDSC enter the room at 18:12

The Internals Officer repeats the teams and judges selected for the Imperial Open.

The CDSC says that he is opening KCL pro-am selections this week.

Business of the Treasurer

The total expenses to be passed is 348.44 pounds.

The CDSC calls the next meeting for Monday on the 15th of October at 9am.

CDSC closes the meeting of DSC at 18:15.

Signed,

Sara Dube

Standing Committee

St. Hugh's College