

Draft Minutes of

THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE DEBATE SELECTION COMMITTEE

6th Week Michaelmas Term 2018

Monday 12th November

The Fletcher Room, *Trinity College*, 9:00

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

Attending: **The Ordinary Member** (Dominic Brind, *Magdalen College*)

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

Absent:

Late: **The Member of Standing Committee** (Gemma Timmons, *Magdalen College*)

DSC opens at 9:10

Business of the CDSC

Oxford IV Update

The CDSC notes that in the future students from Pembroke College will only take 1 person for crash as their porters were unhappy about the crash situation for this IV.

The CDSC approves the regional convenor list for Oxford Schools presented by Mr. Brind.

Mr. Brind says that Joe, Will or himself will convene the Oxford round.

The Director of Training suggests pairing people who aren't well connected with Oxford debating with those who are more experienced for rounds that have co-convenors.

Mr. Brind says that some rounds have two convenors because he and Joe wanted to give everyone who applied a chance to convene.

The Communications Officer asks the CDSC to put out a notice asking if anyone wants to help out with Oxford Schools Regional Rounds as a mentor.

The Internals Officer proposes a motion of formal thanks to the convenors of the Oxford IV.
Motion passes nem. com.

The DSC Treasurer leaves the room at 9:18

The CDSC mentions that the total expenses to be passed that week are £1977.48 and says that the bulk of these are Ms. Vikki Perijainen's flight to Cape Town

Business of the Director of Training

The Director of Training says that she was meant to speak with Gigi at the Oxford Women's Open but Gigi was unable to make it. The Director of Training therefore pro-ammed the tournament with someone from squads and asks if this can count as one of her pro-ams.

The CDSC says that he is okay with this. He also notes that the Fresher of the Year tournament will be on the 13th of January.

The Member of Standing Committee Gemma Timmons enters the room at 9:27

The CDSC moves a motion of congratulations to the convenors of the Women's Open
Motion passes nem. com.

The CDSC asks when the Debater of the Year finals are.

The Communications Officer says they are on the 27th of November.

The Member of Standing Committee Gemma Timmons shares a Google document with the rest of DSC regarding the running of Women's Open. She says that it was a good tournament in terms of size and in terms of retention from the Oxford IV. She says that they were able to obtain last-minute sponsorship from the NYT stall by talking to them at the IV. She adds that NYT has said that they are happy to exclusively sponsor the Oxford Women's Open next year. Some improvements that could be made next year include planning sooner to obtain sponsorship and pushing for more sponsorship.

The CDSC notes that it is difficult to sell sponsorship to a company for exposure to 80-100 people compared to 300-400 for the IV. He says that whoever organizes sponsorship for Women's in the future will have to realize these limits of the tournament.

The Communications Officer notes that this is not something that is within the purview of the Women's convenors and that the Sponsorship Officer can do this instead.

The Director of Training notes that the DSC Sponsorship Officer should come into DSC meeting more often in a term, suggesting two times every term.

The Communications Officer says that the President only stepped down from his role as Sponsorship Officer in HT18 and it was unclear to the new Sponsorship Officer what to do with the role during such a short timeframe. He suggests asking a new Sponsorship Officer to start coming to DSC earlier this year.

The Director of Training notes that there were complaints during Women's the people had to pay for dinner and suggests adding this extra cost into the reg fee.

The Member of Standing Committee Gemma Timmons says that she wants to avoid pushing up reg fees by too much.

The Communications Officer notes that he is skeptical of whether there was a need for an exclusive food stall in the first space. He says however that if there continues to be an exclusive stall this would make Women's different from other competitions and would justify a hike in the reg fees.

The CDSC says that there is no need to hike up reg fees but to just let people get their own food instead.

The Communications Officer suggests scrapping the provision of food for the next tournament.

The CDSC asks why there was a delayed start to the Women's Open.

The Member of Standing Committee Gemma Timmons says it was because she didn't get to the Union premises early enough.

The CDSC asks what time the tournament started.

Member of Standing Committee Gemma Timmons says it began an hour later than it was meant to.

The Director of Training notes that it was a little more than an hour.

The Member of Standing Committee Gemma Timmons acknowledges that this was her fault.

The Internals Officer thanks her for her honesty.

The Member of Standing Committee Gemma Timmons says that she planned to get to the Union at 8:05-8:10 but only got there at 8:30. She says that her co-convenor Olivia Railton got to the Union at 8:40. She had spoken to the Union cleaner and a representative from EC about this, who had agreed to be there to open the rooms at 8:15. She rang the representative from EC at 8:45 and they arrived late to open the outrooms. Although both she and her co-convenor arrived late the rooms were also not opened in time.

The CDSC says that in future it would be wise to arrive half an hour before the Union is scheduled to open. He asks if Ms. Railton was pulling her weight on the Women's convening team.

The Member of Standing Committee Gemma Timmons says that Ms. Railton was not.

The Communications Officer asks what went wrong.

The Member of Standing Committee Gemma Timmons says that at the start of TT18 everything was going well in terms of planning. She notes that she is very particular in terms of how she organizes things and that she communicated this to Ms. Railton when starting to organize the Google drive. She says that if something wasn't done on her end it was meant to be picked up by Ms. Railton and vice versa but more of what Ms. Timmons couldn't do was not picked up by Ms. Railton than the other way around. Ms. Timmons says that because she knew the system she therefore thought she'd rather pick up all the work herself and do it right.

The CDSC asks if there were more applications to convene Women's aside from those by Ms. Timmons and Ms. Railton.

The Communications Officer notes that there were not.

The Externals Officer enters the room at 9:45

The Member of Standing Committee Gemma Timmons says that she had a stronger drive on logistics but acknowledges that Ms. Railton was good in sorting out the Equity and CA teams.

The CDSC asks whether DSC could have helped them more in convening the Open.

The Communications Officer notes that he found it strange over the summer that Ms. Timmons was asking him things that should have been sorted out between herself and Ms. Railton. He says that the convenors were not approaching DSC with the right things for DSC to help them with.

The CDSC notes that the discussion can be wrapped up at this point.

The Member of Standing Committee Gemma Timmons says that she would like to play a big part in the next Women's Open because she had a lot of fun on the day of the Open and found it to be very rewarding.

The Communications Officer asks why it says on the Google doc shared to DSC that Women's could happen before the Oxford IV rather than after.

The Member of Standing Committee Gemma Timmons says that this was an idea put forth to improve the prestige of the Open – and having it before the IV may result in a higher turnout as people would be incentivized to come to it to prepare for the IV.

The Director of Training says that she thinks it would decrease the turnout as it requires missing academic contact hours on Thursday (a weekday) as opposed to on Sunday. She also notes that people are already in Oxford on Sunday after the IV due to the way flight costs and structure work.

The Communications Officer points out that it would also be structurally difficult to implement this change due to Thursday night debates at the Union.

The Member of Standing Committee Gemma Timmons asks if there will be a press release on the Women's Open.

The CDSC says that there will not.

The Director of Training says that the Women's Open was a 10-11 room comp and that this is more than most other IONA comps. She says that we should look at Women's as a strong comp rather than something just tacked on to the IV. She suggests adding more organizational positions for the Open.

The CDSC agrees.

The Member of Standing Committee Gemma Timmons says that convening Women's is only 5 points compared to 12 points for Oxford Schools. She suggests increasing this.

The Director of Training asks how many points convening the IV is as that may be a better comparison.

The Member of Standing Committee Gemma Timmons says that convening the IV is 10 points.

The CDSC says that this discussion should be paused and returned to at a later time.

The CDSC says that the expenses for the week are £1,977.48.

The DSC agrees to pass these expenses.

The CDSC says there are 3 teams and 2 judges being sent to the London Open.

The External Officer says that Beatrice Barr dropped out as a judge for the Cambridge IV but is still going to Cambridge Women's.

The CDSC says that the replacement has been narrowed down to Jack Solomon or Chaitanya Kediya.

The Externals Officer says that Mr. Kediya was on the Oxford IV Org Comm and also runs Beginner's Squads.

The CDSC suggests replacing Ms. Barr with Mr. Kediya.

The CDSC moves the meeting *in camera* due discuss selections for the Bristol Pro-am.

The Member of Standing Committee Gemma Timmons leaves the room at 9:59.

The CDSC closes the meeting of DSC at 10:15

Signed,

Sara Dube

Standing Committee

St. Hugh's College