

Ratified Minutes of  
THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE  
6th Week Trinity Term 2018  
Monday 28th May 2018  
President's Office, 16:00

**Present:** **The President** (Mr Gui Cavalcanti, *Pembroke College*), **The Librarian** (Ms Shivani Ananth, *St. Anne's College*), **The Treasurer** (Mr Daniel Wilkinson, *Oriel College*), **The Secretary** (Mr Brendan McGrath, *Oriel College*), **The Elected Member** (Mr Eric Sukumaran, *Pembroke College*), **The Elected Member** (Mr Nick Brown, *Magdalen College*), **The Elected Member** (Mr Musty Kamal, *Harris Manchester College*), **The Elected Member** (Mr Ray Williams, *Wadham College*), **The Elected Member** (Mr Robert Sutton, *Magdalen College*), **The Elected Member** (Mr Maxim Parr-Reid, *Trinity College*), **The Librarian-Elect** (Ms Genevieve Athis, *Christ Church*), **The Treasurer-Elect** (Mr James Lamming, *Exeter College*), **The Senior Treasurer** (Mr Stephen Dixon, *Downing College, Cambridge*), **The Bursar** (Mrs Lindsay Warne), **The Returning Officer** (Ms Alexandra Galloway, *Magdalen College*), **The Access Officer** (Ms Kirsten Stewart, *Trinity College*), **The Chair of the Debate Selection Committee** (Mr Andrew Seow, *Lincoln College*).

**Attending:**

Mr Thomas Laver (*Balliol College*), Mr Joe Sisson (*St. John's College*), Mr Patrick Cole (*Lady Margaret Hall*), Mr Michael Harkness (*Magdalen College*)

**Apologies:**

**The President-Elect** (Mr Stephen Horvath, *New College*)

**Absent:**

**The Elected Member** (Ms Cecilia Zhao, *St. Catherine's College*)

*The President opens the meeting at 16:05*

The President moves that TSC appoint Mr Rob Sutton as secretary until the Secretary arrives at the meeting

*Nem. con.*

**Requests to Pass Absences from Previous Meeting**

The Treasurer-elect moves that TSC pass his absence as with 'good reason' due to an immovable academic commitment

*Seconded by the President*

*Nem. con.*

Mr Kamal moves that TSC grant Ms Zhao's absence as with 'good reason' due to an immovable academic commitment

*Seconded by the Treasurer-elect*

**The Librarian-elect** is sceptical that Ms Zhao genuinely has a collection.

*There are objections from the Librarian-elect and Treasurer*

The Treasurer-elect moves that the vote on this motion be conducted by secret ballot, conducted by the Bursar

*Seconded by the President*

*Nem. con.*

*The motion to pass Ms Zhao's absence fails with 1 for, 5 against, and 2 abstentions.*

### **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

There are no matters arising from the previous minutes.

### **Ratification of Minutes**

There is no discussion on the ratification of minutes.

### **The President**

#### **Business of the President:**

**The President** notes that a member of the library staff, Emma Quinlan, is leaving shortly, and commends her for her good work.

The President moves that TSC thank Ms Emma Quinlan, Trainee Librarian, for her work for the Society

*Nem. con.*

#### **Questions to the President:**

There are no questions to the President.

### **The Librarian**

#### **Business of the Librarian:**

The Librarian has no business.

#### **Questions to the Librarian:**

There are no questions to the Librarian.

### **The Treasurer**

#### **Business of the Treasurer:**

The Treasurer has no business.

Questions to the Treasurer:

There are no questions to the Treasurer.

**The Secretary**

Business of the Secretary:

The President moves that TSC delay the presentation of the Wine and Cheese Social Accounts until Monday of 7th Week TT18

*nem. con.*

Questions to the Secretary:

There are no questions to the Secretary.

**Ms Zhao**

Business of Ms Zhao:

Ms Zhao has no business.

Questions to Ms Zhao:

There are no questions to Ms Zhao.

**Mr Sukumaran**

Business of Mr Sukumaran:

Mr Sukumaran has no business.

Questions to Mr Sukumaran:

There are no questions to Mr Sukumaran.

**Mr Brown**

Business of Mr Brown:

Mr Brown has no business.

Questions to Mr Brown:

There are no questions to Mr Brown.

**Mr Kamal**

Business of Mr Kamal:

**Mr Kamal** thanks the CDSC for helping with a debating workshop.

Questions to Mr Kamal:

There are no questions to Mr Kamal.

Mr Williams

Business of Mr Williams:

**Mr Williams** raises the possibility of a rules change which would allow rules changes passed during the vacation to be more easily challenged by members.

**The President** reads out part of Standing Order B10, which he believe touches on this issue.

**Mr Williams** claims that his proposal is different as it refers to Special Private Business Meetings and rules changes rather than Standing Orders.

**The President** notes that Special Adjournment Motions may still apply to such rules changes.

**Mr Williams** replies that this does not feasibly allow members a chance to delay changes, given the time constraints of the SAM.

**The President** argues that provision to extend the time frame of SAM's would be useful.

**The Senior Treasurer** believes that Standing Orders cannot be changed during the vac.

**The Bursar** notes that the powers of vac Standing Committee are limited.

**Mr Williams** clarifies that he is referring to SPBM's rather than TSC.

**The President** believes that an SPBM may not be called in the vac. He claims that the proposal is nevertheless sensible.

**Mr Sukumaran** suggests amending an existing rule to include this provision.

The President moves that TSC grant Michael Harkness, ex-RO, speaking rights

*Nem. con.*

**Mr Harkness** suggests rather narrowing the times during which SPBM's may be called.

**The President** responds that he believes this to be too extreme.

**The RO** asks what an SPBM during the vac may hope to achieve.

**The Treasurer-elect** responds that authorising large amounts of expenditure would require an SPBM.

**The President** notes that Extraordinary Public Business Meetings may be called.

**Mr Williams** disagrees with Mr Harkness' suggestion. He believes that there should be an easy mechanism whereby rules changes made during the vac can be challenged.

**The Treasurer-elect** queries what would happen if a rules change with permanent consequences would be implemented during the vac, and then overturned during term.

**The President** concurs.

**Mr Williams** asks Mr Harkness asks if there is a distinction in the rules between expenditure motions and other motions.

**Mr Harkness** suggests a provision excepting motions to raise expenditure.

**The Treasurer-elect** queries whether there are other rules changes which, if undone, could have perverse consequences.

**The President** suggests that staff hiring falls under this category.

**The RO** suggests that it is changing the structure of positions, rather than filling existing, vacant positions, that would be problematic.

**Mr Harkness** argues that the House would never be hostile to a rules change which is so plainly necessary as is being supposed.

**Mr Williams** moves on to a new issue, asking when his proposed rules change will be debated among the available Public Business Meetings.

*Patrick Cole and Michael Harkness leave the room at 16:35.*

**The RO** notes that the publicity requirements of 67(b)(iv) cannot be fulfilled with no expenditure, as originally invoked. However, she notes, there is a SAM on the second motion of invoking 67(b)(iv). She is unclear on what happens next.

**The President** raises the possibility of revoking the first invocation.

**Mr Williams** points to an ambiguity as to when the rules change motion will be heard. The President expresses his preference for the 6th Week Thursday PBM.

**The RO** says that hustings will take place in 7th Week, making that PBM impractical.

**Mr Williams** asks if TSC can waive the publicity requirement.

**The RO** replies negatively. She believes that an impasse has been reached. She suggests that, given the President-elect's interpretation regarding the object of SAM's on invocations of 67(b)(iv), the SAM does hold against expenditure requirements.

**Mr Williams** asks if the President-elect's interpretation means that publicity requirements must not be met.

**The RO** does not see a problem with TSC revoking publicity requirements.

**The Treasurer-elect** is sceptical that TSC can amend previous motions that have been SAM'd.

**The RO** clarifies that she is referring to the second invocation of Rule 67(b)(iv).

**The Treasurer-elect** when the SAM is to be discussed.

**Mr Williams** says it is after Private Business on Thursday. He notes that, if the motion passes, the SAM becomes irrelevant.

**The Treasurer-elect** queries what happens if the motion fails and the SAM passes.

**The President** asks the RO if a Private Business Motion can be brought to the coming Thursday PBM.

**The RO** responds that she does not believe so.

**Mr Williams** asks if the SAM is relevant anymore, and suggests the conflict is to do with publicity requirements.

**The RO** disagrees and claims that the SAM is relevant to timing.

*The Secretary enters the room at 16:43.*

**The President** suggests revoking the invocations of 67(b)(iv).

**Mr Williams** suggests this would be perverse.

**The Treasurer-elect** suggests that the RO interprets that a SAM be heard before the motion to which it applies.

**The RO** replies that this is clearly precluded by the Rules.

**The President** suggests an interpretation whereby, if the invocation of 67(b)(iv) is revoked, the motion on which it was invoked be heard at the next Public Business Meeting.

**The RO** replies this would not affect the existence of the SAM. She notes that if the SAM fails, then Standing's decision to delay would be upheld. In this case, the substantive motion would have been debated already, and the SAM would only afterwards decide that the motion should have been delayed.

**Mr Williams** argues that the letter of the Rules, which are predominant, say that though this would be perverse it would be permitted.

**The Treasurer-elect** suggests an interpretation whereby an SAM is heard before the substantive debate to which it applies.

**Mr Williams** claims that the order of discussion is clear in the Rules, and precludes this. He argues that a high degree of publicity regarding the motion has been reached.

**The RO** notes that the publicity requirements have clearly not been achieved.

**Mr Williams** clarifies that he is arguing that TSC can decide that sufficient publicity has been achieved, and to revoke the formal publicity requirements.

**The Treasurer-elect** argues that TSC should not decide in that direction.

**Mr Williams** suggests an interpretation whereby the motion is heard at the 7th Week PBM.

**The Treasurer-elect** argues that it is senseless to hear a SAM after the substantive debate.

**The RO** asks for the opinions of members of TSC on revoking the invocations of 67(b)(iv).

**Mr Sukumaran** believes the slates issue could make its way to national newspapers, and therefore could interest Life Members outside Oxford.

*The RO and Joe Sisson leave the room at 16:53.*

**The Librarian-elect** believes that it would have significant consequences for how the Society is run.

*The RO and Joe Sisson enter the room at 16:54.*

**Mr Williams** suggests that national members may not have been aware of the initial rules change legalising slates.

The RO moves that TSC grant Joe Sisson, DRO, speaking rights

*Seconded by Mr Parr-Reid.*

*nem. con.*

**Mr Sisson** suggests delaying Private Business to the after-debate.

**The Treasurer-elect** queries whether this would be allowed.

**The President** claims that SAM's cannot be postponed.

**Mr Williams** emphasises that the order of Private Business is still fixed.

*Rob Sutton leaves the room at 16:58.*

**Mr Williams** claims that TSC should be able to mandate publicity for rules changes, but that this should not be restricted to the peculiar provisions of Rule 67(b)(iv).

**The Treasurer-elect** asks why this argument was not brought up in the initial debate on invoking the rule.

**Mr Williams** responds that he should have brought it up, but that the President-elect's unprofessional response to his questions in that meeting put him off.

**Mr Sukumaran** agrees with Mr Williams' argument.

*Rob Sutton enters the room at 17:01.*

**Mr Williams** suggests putting notice on Facebook or the Union website, while revoking the prior invocations of Rule 67(b)(iv).

**The Treasurer-elect** argues for postponing discussion of this issue until the President-elect is present, specifically by objecting to the discussion under Standing Order B6.

**The President** responds that this is not a valid use of the Standing Order.

*The Senior Treasurer leaves the room at 17:04.*

*Nick Brown leaves the room at 17:05.*

**The President** says that TSC should revoke the first invocation of 67(b)(iv).

Mr Williams moves that TSC revoke the invocation of Rule 67(b)(iv) from the 5th Week Ordinary Meeting of TSC regarding Mr Williams' proposed rules change

*Seconded by the Treasurer-elect*

*Nem. con.*

**Mr Kamal** suggests that the context of the BME admission report means that this rules change could draw national attention.

**The Treasurer-elect** agrees, and claims that the change would likely be picked up by national newspapers.

**The President** claims that, if the SAM fails, there is limbo and, if it passes, the substantive motion is delayed, but asks for confirmation.

*The Librarian leaves the room at 17:09.*

**The Treasurer-elect** suggests that the RO could not interpret that the House's decision on the substantive motion was invalid, should the SAM pass after substantive debate.

**Mr Williams** claims that the SAM would become empty, and that this - though perverse - is constitutionally unproblematic.

*Eric Sukumaran leaves the room at 17:11.*

**The President** recalls that, in the recent invocation of 67(b)(iv) regarding the legalisation of slates, publicity requirements were not met.

**The RO** clarifies that there is no clear demarcation of responsibility for meeting publicity requirements.

**The Librarian-elect** insists it would be unfair to blame the RO for a failure to meet publicity requirements.

**Mr Williams** suggests this is a reason to revoke the publicity requirements.

**The Librarian-elect** raises again Mr Kamal's point regarding national publicity.

**The Treasurer-elect** emphasises this point's force.



**Mr Williams** claims it is dubious that such national press uptake would occur, particularly given that the wording of the notice must be neutral.

**The Treasurer-elect** insists that advocates of the rule would highlight the access issues to newspaper.

**Mr Williams** points to the number of unlikely events which would have to occur for such uptake to happen.

**Mr Kamal** responds that journalists could independently take up the issue. He says that national press attention is necessary to broaden discussion of the issue.

**Mr Williams** argues that, though the proposed chain of events is feasible, it is extremely unlikely. He insists that such unlikelihood makes it something which TSC should not depend upon.

**The Librarian-elect** argues that the slates debate will be disruptive whichever week it occurs.

**The President** notes that he has called the 7th Week debate to start unusually early, and that he intends to delay Private Business to the after-debate.

**The Treasurer-elect** claims that there is a trade-off between disruption and publicity in the choice between the two dates. He argues that the greater publicity of the later date is worthwhile.

**The President** registers his preference for the 6th Week debate.

**The Librarian-elect** wishes to move to a vote.

Mr Williams moves that TSC revoke the invocation of Rule 67(b)(iv) from the 5th Week Emergency Meeting of TSC regarding Mr Williams' proposed rules change

*Seconded by Mr Parr-Reid*

The Secretary moves that the vote on this motion be done by secret ballot

*Nem. con.*

The President moves that this secret ballot be conducted by the Bursar

*Nem. con.*

*The motion to revoke fails with 3 for, 4 against and 2 abstentions.*

**The Treasurer-elect** claims that the issue is how to have a SAM heard before the substantive debate.

**The RO** claims this is not within her interpretive power.

**Mr Williams** agrees that it appears intractable. He argues that, if there is a majority in favour of the substantive motion, there should be a majority for voting against the SAM.

*Maxim Parr-Reid leaves the room at 17:30.*

**The Treasurer-elect** claims that the proposed order is a perversion of natural justice. He argues that the SAM being heard first is good for all, and that a misalignment between the votes on the SAM and the main debate would generate a constitutional crisis.

**The President** suggests that there is no Private Business Motion due to be brought yet.

**The RO** agrees and says that hearing the SAM in the closer PBM would result in the motion being heard at the next PBM.

*Kirsten Stewart leaves the room at 17:34.*

**The Librarian-elect** suggests changing the order of Private Business in the rules.

**The RO** agrees, but notes that this cannot be done in time to solve the problem at hand.

**The President** queries whether the order of Private Business is as rigid as supposed.

**Mr Williams** wonders whether an interpretation on order of discussion could be issued now.

**The RO** claims that there is no Private Business Motion to be heard on Thursday; if the SAM fails, the normal notice requirements still exist; if the SAM passes, she is not confident that we can roll back to a previous category of Private Business.

**The President** wonders whether items of business can be selectively postponed.

**The RO** believes they cannot.

**The Treasurer-elect** asks why, for instance, the Secretary's business is not postponed following a procedural motion to delay.

**The RO** claims that this is not a part of Private Business which may be postponed.

**The President** claims that the Chair may decide which parts may be postponed.

**Mr Williams** suggests that the Rules provide for which parts may or may not be postponed. He argues that the Rules are clear on the issue, but that they are unpalatable to members of TSC in this case.

**The Treasurer-elect** claims that this is a violation of natural law.

**The RO** insists that the substantive motion is not due to be heard this week. She says that it would be natural that, should an invocation of 67(b)(iv) be delayed, the motion to which it applies be heard at the next Public Business Meeting.

**The Librarian-elect** argues that the debate should therefore be held in 7th Week.

**The RO** agrees that this appears to be the only feasible option.

**Mr Williams** asks for confirmation that the motion will be heard in 7th Week.

**The Bursar** wonders whether a debate could be held in 8th Week.

**The President** wishes not to hold one.

**The Treasurer-elect** supports a 7th Week debate.

**Mr Williams** wishes for an interpretation confirming that this will happen.

**The RO** states that she believes that, should 67(b)(iv) not stand for any reason, then the motion be naturally heard at the next Public Business Meeting.

**Mr Williams** claims that this is true and non-obvious, so should be clarified in a formal interpretation.

**The RO** states that she is willing to make an interpretation along these lines.

**The Bursar** raises the concern that this could tie the hands of future RO's in unfortunate ways.

**The RO** does not believe that this interpretation could ever be inappropriate.

**The President** suggests narrowing the interpretation only to SAM's on invocations of 67(b)(iv).

**The Treasurer-elect** agrees.

**The RO** claims that it would be preferable to qualify according to time period.

**The President** agrees.

**Mr Williams** asks for clarification on what has been agreed.

**The RO** answers that she will write an interpretation.

**The Treasurer-elect** queries what will happen if publicity requirements are not met.

**Mr Williams** argues that the motion will be discussed anyway.

**The RO** suggests that the rule should be amended to remove ambiguity regarding which PBM a motion is heard at.

**The President** suggests that the mover of the motion may decide which meeting it is heard at.

**Mr Williams** suggests an interpretation clarifying that the motion will be heard regardless of whether publicity requirements are met.

**The Treasurer-elect** adds that an additional clarification of who decides which meeting the motion is brought to is necessary.

**The President** argues that the mover of the motion should naturally have this right.

**The RO** agrees.

**The Treasurer-elect** asks if this rule compels the mover to move the motion.

**Mr Williams** responds that he intends to move it.

Questions to Mr Williams:

There are no questions to Mr Williams.

**Mr Sutton**

Business of Mr Sutton:

Mr Sutton has no business.

Questions to Mr Sutton:

There are no questions to Mr Sutton.

**Mr Parr-Reid**

Business of Mr Parr-Reid:

Mr Parr-Reid has no business.

Questions to Mr Parr-Reid:

There are no questions to Mr Parr-Reid.

**The President-Elect**

Business of the President-Elect:

**The Treasurer** reads out a statement from the President-Elect in his absence, in which he supports the CDSC's proposed Standing Order changes and commends Mr William's collegial approach to his proposed rules change.

Questions to the President-Elect:

There are no questions to the President-Elect.

**The Librarian-Elect**

Business of the Librarian-Elect:

The Librarian-Elect has no business.

Questions to the Librarian-Elect:

There are no questions to the Librarian-Elect.

**The Treasurer-Elect**

Business of the Treasurer-Elect:

The Treasurer-Elect has no business.

Questions to the Treasurer-Elect:

There are no questions to the Treasurer-Elect.

**The Ex-Officio**

Business of the Ex-Officio:

The Ex-Officio have no business.

Questions to the Ex-Officio:

There are no questions to the Ex-Officio.

**The Senior Librarian**

Business of the Senior Librarian:

The Senior Librarian has no business.

Questions to the Senior Librarian:

There are no questions to the Senior Librarian.

**The Senior Treasurer**

Business of the Senior Treasurer:

The Senior Treasurer has no business.

Questions to the Senior Treasurer:

There are no questions to the Senior Treasurer.

**The Bursar**

Business of the Bursar:

The Bursar has no business.

Questions to the Bursar:

There are no questions to the Bursar.

**The Returning Officer**

Business of the RO:

The RO has no business.

Questions to the RO:

There are no questions to the RO.

### **The Chairman of the Consultative Committee**

#### **Business of the CCC:**

The CCC has no business.

#### **Questions to the CCC:**

There are no questions to the CCC.

### **The Access Officers**

#### **Business of the Access Officers:**

The Access Officers have no business.

#### **Questions to the Access Officers:**

There are no questions to the Access Officers.

### **The Chair of the Debate Selection Committee**

#### **Business of the CDSC:**

**The CDSC** puts forward two Standing Order changes, regarding the power of DSC to approve appointments. He clarifies this applies to members of organisation committees. He notes an amendment which was decided on during a meeting of DSC. He argues that this improves accountability of individuals and committees to DSC.

#### **The CDSC moves to amend the Standing Orders as proposed**

*Seconded by the President*

*nem. con.*

*Andrew Seow leaves the room at 17:37.*

#### **Questions to the CDSC:**

There are no questions to the CDSC.

### **Changes to the Composition of this Committee**

There are no changes.

### **Any Other Business**

MK moved to pass absence  
fails

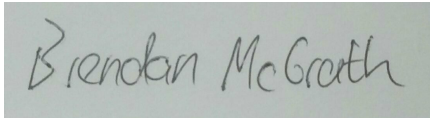
mk leaves the room

**Date of the Next Meeting**

Monday 7th Week Trinity Term 2018 (4th June 2018), 16:00, in the President's Office.

*The President closes the meeting at 18:19.*

Signed,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in dark ink. The signature is written in a cursive style and reads "Brendan McGrath".

**Brendan McGrath**

*Oriel College*

Secretary