

Draft Minutes of
THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE ACCESS COMMITTEE

3rd Week Hilary Term 2018

Friday 1st February

The TV Room, 13:15

Present: **The Access Officer** (Amelia Harvey, *Kellogg College*), **The Access Officer** (Brian Wong, *Wolfson College*), **The International Officer** (Alice Zhang, *Trinity College*), **The Socioeconomic Officer** (Millie Bircham, *Keble College*), **The Ethnic Minorities Officer** (Priyesh Patel, *St. Anthony's College*), **The Disabilities Officer** (Elisa Gomez Aleman, *Kellogg College*), **The Graduate Officer** (Garang Dutt, *St Catherine's College*), **The Temporary Membership Officer** (Olly Woodhouse, *Oxford Brookes University*), **The Standing Committee Delegate** (Mahi Joshi, *Trinity College*), **The Standing Committee Delegate** (Rai Saad Khan, *Christ Church*), **The Elected Member/Librarian-Elect** (Sara Dube, *St Hugh's College*), **The President** (Daniel Wilkinson, *Oriel College*), **The Bursar** (Lindsay Warne)

Apologies: The Socioeconomic Officer sends his apologies for being late due to an immovable academic commitment

Absent: **The Women's Officer** (Priscilla Guo, *Keble College*), **The Elected Member** (Jim Brennan, *St Peter's College*), **The Elected Member** (Daniil Ukhorskiy, *Brasenose College*), **The Elected Member** (Joseph Grehan-Bradley, *Christ Church*), **The Elected Member** (Naren Koratammadi)

Access Committee opens at 13.16

Elisa Gomez Aleman enters the room at 13.20

Priyesh Patel enters the room at 13.22

Garang Dutt enters the room at 13.37

The Bursar enters the room at 13.40

Absences

Brian Wong moves to pass the absence of Garang Dutt, with immovable an academic commitment constitution good reason

Seconded by Mo Iman

Passes nem con

Amelia Harvey moves to pass her absence, with an immovable academic commitment constituting good reason.

Seconded by Brian Wong

Passes nem con

Mo Iman moves to pass his absence, since he was in Paris with an infectious and disabling illness constituting good reason.

Seconded by Brian Wong

Passes nem con

Ratification of Minutes

Mahi Joshi moves to ratify the minutes of the First Week Ordinary Meeting of the Access Committee
Seconded by Brian Wong
Passes nem con

Rai Saad Khan moves to ratify the minutes of the Second Week Ordinary Meeting of the Access Committee
Seconded by Brian Wong
Passes nem con

Business of The Access Officer- Amelia Harvey

Amelia Harvey apologises for not being able to attend the previous week's meeting due to her immovable academic commitment. However, she places great emphasis on the need for members of this committee to attend its meetings, and ensure that they do turn up every week so the committee can work together to achieve its goals.

Questions to The Access Officer- Amelia Harvey

There are no questions to the Access Officer

Business of the Access Officer- Brian Wong

Brian Wong moves to pass a formal motion of congratulations for Amelia Harvey, Access Officer for a fantastic speech at the Weekly Debate on Thursday evening.
Seconded by President
Passes nem con

Brian Wong moves to pass a formal motion of congratulations for Sara Dube, Elected Member of Access Committee and Librarian-Elect for a fantastic speech at the Weekly Debate on Thursday evening.
Seconded by President
Passes nem con

Questions to the Access Officer- Brian Wong

There are no questions to the Access Officer

The Business of the Disabilities Officer

The Disabilities Officer has no business.

Questions to the Disabilities Officer

There are no questions to the Disabilities Officer.

The Business of the Ethnic Minorities Officer

The Ethnic Minorities Officer has no business

Questions to the Ethnic Minorities Officer

There are no questions to the Ethnic Minorities Officer

The Business of the Graduate Officer

The Graduate Officer has no business

Questions to the Graduate Officer

There are no questions to the Graduate Officer

The Business of the LGBTQIA+ Officer

The LGBTQIA+ Officer raises the issue of better gender neutral toilets which do not require keys, and also do not contain a sign where it says it is prone to breaking down. He says that there was a compromise reached at the previous meeting, and it was agreed that there is a need women's toilets which in order to create a comfortable environment for women at dinners, balls and other Union events.

The Temporary-Membership Officer says that in an ideal world, we would have three types of toilets- a gender neutral, a men's and a women's toilet but recognises that this is not possible due to constraints on the Union's resources.

Mahi Joshi agrees the Temporary Membership Officer, and asks if it is worth discussing potential issues that could arise from turning the men's toilet into gender neutral ones.

The Access Officer, Brian Wong says they cannot see any, and this change seems like a normatively good idea to promote inclusivity.

Rai Saad Khan asks about the practicalities of this change. Would this change entail the removal of a metal plated sign? Or anything else.

Brian Wong says it could entail a change of metal sign.

The Access Officer, Amelia Harvey asks about the structure of the men's toilets at the moment, specifically if the urinals are now in the open.

Brian Wong informs that they are in the open, and would need a partition

Amelia Harvey asks the President if the construction of this partition is at all possible.

The President says that he would have to ask the architect, before which the proposal would have to go through the Standing Committee.

It is decided that the LGBTQIA+ Officer, and Brian Wong write the proposal this weekend, and look over wording at the weekend, a copy of which the LGBTQIA+ Officer is to circulate around the Access Committee.

Questions to the LGBTQIA+ Officer

There are no questions to the LGBTQIA+ Officer

Business of the International Officer

The International Officer has no business

Questions to the International Officer

There are no questions to the International Officer

Business of the Socioeconomic Officer

The Socioeconomic Officer has no business

Questions to the Socioeconomic Officer

There are no questions to the Socioeconomic Officer

Business of the Temporary Membership Officer

The Temporary Membership Officer says that her project is to obtain lifetime membership for students at Oxford Brookes, amongst other institutions.

The President says that OLDUT is finally looking at the legal feasibility of this, but the chances are that they will probably say no. However, the President maintains that this can be changed by looking at changing the Trustees, which is not difficult and can be done. The Temporary Membership Officer if this is looking positive, and the President says yes.

Amelia Harvey asks whether this would apply retroactively.

The President says this is to be seen, and would need further discussion.

Questions to the Temporary Membership Officer

There are no questions to the Temporary Membership Officer

Business of the Women's Officer

The Women's Officer has no business in her absence

Questions to the Women's Officer

There are no questions to the Women's Officer in her absence

Business to the President

The President reports that Garang Dut, the Graduate Officer, has spoken to the Blavatnik School of Government to look into the possibility of a membership deal with them.

Brian Wong says this is key to improving Access to the Oxford Union.

Questions to the President

There are no questions to the President

Business of Naren Koratamaddi

Mr Koratamaddi has no business in their absence

Questions to Naren Koratamaddi

There are no questions to Mr Koratamaddi in their absence

Business of Sara Dube

Sara Dube has no business

Questions to Sara Dube

There are no questions to Sara Dube

Business of Mahi Joshi

Mahi Joshi has no business

Questions to Mahi Joshi

There are no questions to Mahi Joshi

Business of Rai Saad Khan

Rai Saad Khan brings up the issue of an election workshop, which has is finalised for Wednesday, 6th Feb at 2pm, which is normally attended by the President, President-Elect, CDSC and RO.

It is stated clearly by Brian Wong that no member of elected committee who plans on running in an election should attend this event.

Questions to Rai Saad Khan

There are no questions to Rai Saad Khan

Changes to the Composition of this Committee

Any Other Business

The LGBTQIA+ Officer asks whether all the Liberation Officers are actually mandated to do an Access Event. The President says that this is explained in Rule 31(page 39), and includes the Ethnic Minorities Officer, the Women's Officer and LGBTQIA+ .

The President expresses annoyance at the errors in the rules, and offers to read out the full rules. Amelia Harvey says that this is not required.

The President also states that rules under SO E9, it is required that each year in February the LGBTQIA+ flag be flown visibly every February, and that it need not be purchased since the Union already possess one.

The Bursar says this is not necessarily possible today, since there is no pole and we cannot simply have the flag hanging it out of the window.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for the Friday of 4th Week, 8th February at 13.15 in the President's Office.

Brian Wong closes the meeting at 13.42.

Signed,

Mahi Joshi

Standing Committee Delegate to Access Committee

Trinity College