

*Draft Minutes of*

THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE DEBATE SELECTION COMMITTEE

1<sup>st</sup> Week Hilary Term 2019

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> January

The Morris Room, 17:00

**Present:** **The Chair of the Debate Selection Committee** (Lee Chin Wee, *Trinity College*), **The Internals Officer** (Louis Collier, *St. Hugh's College*), **Standing Committee Delegate**<sup>1</sup> (Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*), **Director of Training** (Rachel O Nunain, *Trinity College*), **The DSC Treasurer** (Bryan Yan, *Keble College*), **Communications Officer** (Andrew Seow, *Lincoln College*)

**Attending:**

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

**Absent:** **The President** (Daniel Wilkinson, *Oriel College*)

**Late:** **Ordinary Member** (Jure Hederih, *Green Templeton College*)

*DSC opens at 17:09*

**Apologies**

**Request to pass Absences from Previous Meetings**

**Matters arising from Previous Minutes**

**Fresher of the Year**

The CDSC inquires whether the preparation for the Fresher of the Year tournament is proceeding as planned last term.

The Internals Officer responds that preparations are going well. The tournament is going to consist of eight teams, and judges for the rounds have been confirmed.

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<sup>1</sup> Pending appointment by the President and ratification by TSC

## **Ratification of Minutes**

The CDSC moves to ratify the minutes of week 8 of Michaelmas term.

*Motion passes nem. com.*

## **Business of the CDSC**

The CDSC congratulates the members that represented Oxford, as speakers and judges, at the World University Debating Championship held in Cape Town for their incredible performance over the winter vacation.

The CDSC moves a formal motion of thanks to Mr Seow and Mr Xiao for smoothly running the regional round for the International Competition for Young Debaters on Saturday.

*Motion passes nem. com.*

## Women's workshops

The CDSC asks whether the Women's workshop is still taking place on Monday.

The Director of Training explains that there have been no steps taken to promote the event, such as creating an event on Facebook.

The CDSC suggests that the workshop could still take place tomorrow, however it would clash with the Beppe Grillo speaker event at the Union. Alternatively, the workshop could be moved to another day.

The Director of Training says that it would be better if the workshop takes place tomorrow, but she is not sure whether the DSC Secretary would be able to co-host the workshop tomorrow.

The Communication Officer adds that the DSC Secretary might not be in Oxford tomorrow and it would be helpful to check whether she would be able to attend the workshop.

The CDSC suggests that the Director of Training send him a brief paragraph about the women's workshop, and that he will get in touch with the Treasurer, Ms Gregg, in order to create an event on the Union Facebook Page.

## New initiatives and plans for the term

The CDSC asks all members of DSC to think about ideas that they could implement over the coming term to make debating a more engaging activity. He provides the example of the Pro-am and Prosecco event planned to take place later this term, as an example of one such initiative.

The Communications Officer asks what this event entails.

The Director of Training explains that this would be an event in which more experienced debaters who identify as women would be paired with relatively newer debaters who also identify as women. These teams would then compete against one another.

*The ordinary member, Jure Hederih enters the room at 17:13*

## **Business of the Treasurer**

### Expenses

The DSC Treasurer says the Oxford IV Chief of Staff, Ms Jiang, submitted her expense claim form for the gifts that she purchased for the Oxford IV Conveners two weeks after the expense was incurred.

The Communication Officer says that regrettably in compliance with the rules on reimbursing expenses £10 will have to be deducted from the total amount claimed.

The DSC Treasurer says that £320.61 has to be passed as DSC expenses today.

### Visa reimbursement

The CDSC says that DSC should reimburse the cost incurred by members to apply for a visa and to travel for applying for a visa. This makes debating a more accessible activity, because certain members are arbitrarily worse off because they have weaker passports. The reimbursement would be for reasonable costs incurred to travel, akin to cost to travel to compete in competition.

The DSC Treasurer agrees that this is fair, and that such costs will be reimbursed.

### Reimbursement for vacation-period tournaments

The CDSC points out that when tournaments take place over the vacation, people might travel to the location of the tournament from their home, since they no longer have accommodation in Oxford. In the past, the travel for such tournaments has been budgeted from Oxford to the location of the tournament. He points out that it would be fair to reimburse people who incur additional cost to travel from their home to the location of the tournament, since it is unreasonable to expect them to travel from Oxford. He also points out that this additional cost would not bear a huge burden on the budget at large.

The Director of Training says that this seems like a good idea, but that a reasonable restriction that should be placed is that the person's home should be in the UK.

The DSC Treasurer agrees with both points made, and mentions that such costs will be reimbursed.

## **Business of the Internals Officer**

### Drinks Budget for Fresher of the Year

The Internal Officer asks whether £100 could be allocated from the DSC budget to purchase drinks after the tournament.

The CDSC notes that £200 has been budgeted for social events and that the profits made in the regional round of ICYD have not been added yet. This means that it would not place an unreasonable financial strain to allow this expenditure.

The Communications Officer suggests that £50, rather than £100, should be allocated since it is a relatively small tournament.

The Director of Training agrees, and also points out that there will be other social events such as drinks for women debaters.

The Internals Officer accepts the reduction in the sum allocated.

*The ordinary member, Jure Hederih leaves the room at 17:17*

## **Business of the DSC Secretary**

### **Business of the Director of Training**

#### Coaching by External Debaters

The Director of Training says that she has been able to convince external debaters who have relative expertise to conduct workshops on those topics. She adds that the cost of travel for such debaters will be reimbursed, and asks how such workshops should be structured.

The Communications Officer inquires who will be able to attend such workshops.

The Director of Training responds that they will be pitched to advanced debaters who require more than just squads. However, she feels that such events should be open to everyone if they wish to attend.

The Communications Officer suggests that there should be some control over who is able to attend such workshops because the external debaters might not have the time to answer relatively simple questions that an inexperienced debater might ask.

The Internals Officer points out that there could simply be a limited time for questions.

The Communication Officers says that it might be better to open such workshops for advanced and intermediate squads. He also asks whether such workshops would be a pre-debate workshop or a substitute for squads.

The Director of Training explains that such workshops would be a substitute for squads. However, workshops would vary based on the schedule of the external debaters, and might happen over the weekends. Such workshops could end with the external debater judging a motion based on the topic that they discussed in the workshop.

The Communications Officer says that it is important to make sure that such workshops do not clash with tournaments.

The Director of Training says that she has been doing so, and there are currently the planned workshops do not clash with significant tournaments.

#### Trial by CV

The CDSC inquires when the results of the trial by CV for squads would be announced.

The Director of Training says that she will be sending out the emails tonight.

#### Pro-am requirement enforced

The Director of Training points out that the pro-am requirement should be strictly enforced retrospectively where necessary.

#### **Business of the Communications Officer<sup>2</sup>**

##### Leiden Open

The Communications Officer asks whether participants should be sent to the Leiden Open. He says that it would be helpful to open application for the tournament early, so that the cost of flights can be reduced and selected applicants can apply for visas.

The CDSC says that he thinks that opening applications is a good idea. He mentions that while financial prudence is important the DSC Budget is currently healthy. He also points out that it necessary to have lucrative opportunities for debaters as a reward for the work done by them. He suggests sending two teams and one judge.

The Communications Officer requests that this week's DA mention that applications are open for the Leiden Open. He also asks whether it would be possible to send three teams and two judges, depending on the interest garnered for the tournament.

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<sup>2</sup> Serving as the Externals Officer pending confirmation by TSC of SO change

The Director of Training mentions that it is important to also send less experienced debaters as well as students who are in their first year to such a tournament.

The Communications Officer brings up the fact that it is currently unclear what the travel regulations to Schengen nations will be after Brexit.

*DSC Moves in camera for Queen Mary IV selections*

*The CDSC and the Standing Committee delegate leave the room at 17:34*

*The CDSC and the Standing Committee delegate enter the room at 17:38*

The Communications Officer announces that Kit Mercer and Asisa Singh, and the CDSC and Oskar Sherry are the two teams for Queen Mary IV. The judge will be the Standing Committee delegate.

#### Opening Applications

The Communications Officer asks whether teams should be sent for the UCL IV, which is taking place in the Easter Vacation. He suggests sending two teams and one judge, as well as making this the default number of teams and judge for tournaments taking place in the vacation.

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

#### **Any Other Business**

*The CDSC closes the meeting of DSC at 5:45*

Signed,

Chaitanya Kediya  
**Standing Committee**  
*Exeter College*