

The Ratified Minutes of
THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
6th Week Hilary Term 2019
18th February 2019
TV Room, 16:00

Present:

The President (Mr Daniel Wilkinson, *Oriel College*), **The Librarian** (Mr Brendan McGrath, *Oriel College*), **The Treasurer** (Ms Amy Gregg, *Somerville College*), **The Secretary** (Mr Nicholas Leah, *Lincoln College*), **The Elected Member** (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*), **The Elected Member** (Mr Shining Zhao, *University College*), **The Elected Member** (Ms Mahi Joshi, *Trinity College*), **The Elected Member** (Mr Jim Brennan, *St Peter's College*), **The Elected Member** (Mr Elliot Bromley, *St Edmund Hall*), **The Elected Member** (Ms Olivia Leigh, *Keble College*), **The Elected Member** (Mr Rai Saad Khan, *Christ Church*), **The President-Elect** (Ms Genevieve Athis, *Christ Church*), **The Librarian-Elect** (Ms Sara Dube, *St Hugh's College*), **The Ex-President** (Mr Stephen Horvath, *New College*), **The Ex-Secretary** (Mr Shanuk Mediawaka, *Lincoln College*)

Attending:

The Senior Treasurer (Mr Stephen Dixon, *Downing College, Cambridge*), **The Bursar** (Mrs Lindsay Warne), **The Returning Officer** (Mr Liam Frahm, *Jesus College*), **The Chair of the Debate Select Committee** (Mr Chin Lee Wee, *Trinity College*), **The Access Officer** (Ms Amelia Harvey, *Kellogg College*), Mx Charlie Willis, *Wadham College*, Mr Hugh Bellamy, *Lady Margaret Hall*, Mr Adam Watson, *Hertford College*, Mr Dominic Brind, *Magdalen College*, Mr Andrew Seow, *Lincoln College*, Mr Joe Sisson, *St John's College*, Mr Troels Boesen, *St John's College*, Mr Hugh Bellamy, *Lady Margaret Hall*

Absent:

The Senior Librarian (Mr Sean Power, *Oriel College*), **The Chair of the Consultative Committee** (Mr James Dix, *Christ Church*)

The President opens the meeting at 16:08

Apologies

The President states that they have received apologies from the Chair of the Debate Selection Committee.

The President states that they will be leaving early for an event.

Requests to Pass Absences from Previous Meetings

The President moves that the Standing Committee pass the Chair of the Consultative Committee's absence from the 4th week ordinary meeting of the Standing Committee due to society business of paramount importance with good reason

The motion passes nem. con.

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

The Secretary notes that they have made a change in the fourth week draft minutes by adding Mr Lewis Roberts as a ratified Deputy Returning Officer

The Ex-President states that they wanted to raise an important matter arising from the last week's minutes, namely the President's proposed financial reform change.

The President asks if the Ex-President's request was circulated on the agenda.

The Ex-President argues that it is a matter arising from the previous minutes.

The Ex-President states that they have a number of concerns. The first is that they are concerned about the numbering and typing of the proposed change. The second is that they have serious concerns about the creation and powers of the Audit Committee. They note that the society already has a strong Finance Committee with elected members who have a strong commitment to the transparency of investigation. They state that such members are very important to the transparent functioning of the society. They add that as they often say with the Union the culture rather than the rule enables such a good job to be done. They further add that detailed expenditure breakdowns are always provided for particular projects and that the Bursar has just elucidated financial details about the society's creditors and staff employment in the earlier meeting of the Finance Committee. They express concern about a second body being institutionalised with overlapping duties and a largely similar jurisdiction. They state that they are particularly concerned about the procedures that could be used to be able to go after members of staff or members of committee.

The President states that they are not creating the Audit Committee. They argue that they have dropped this idea. **The Ex-President** replies that the President is attempting to move the powers of the Audit Committee.

The President notes that they did bring the proposed change to the Standing Committee last week and they did pin the new change to the noticeboard. **The Ex-President** states that it was duplicitous of the President to say last week that they were going to bring the change to the Standing Committee again and then not do that. **The President** replies that they were not present last week to properly discuss the change.

The President asks the Ex-President which bits in the rules change that they disagree with. They add that a lot of detail that was discussed last week has been taken out of the proposed change. **The Ex-President** gives way for Mr Adam Watson.

Mr Adam Watson notes that they were the person who led the disagreement last week.

The President asks Mr Adam Watson if they have checked the new rules. **Mr Adam Watson** replies that they have not seen the new rules change.

The President states that they are struggling to understand why people are saying they disagree with the proposed change but they do not know which parts they disagree with.

Mr Adam Watson asks if the President will circulate an electronic copy of the change.

The Treasurer notes that it sounds like the key concern last week was about the Audit Committee and its disciplinary powers. They ask the President to clarify if they have changed this part of the proposed change. **The President** replies that they believe they took it out. **The Ex-President** questions the President's word 'believe.'

The Treasurer states that it makes sense for the Standing Committee to discuss the changes made to the proposed change. The Ex-President agrees with the Treasurer that the Standing Committee should go through the changes.

The President-Elect asks if the Standing Committee could have a copy of the one pinned to the noticeboard.

The Treasurer-Elect asks the President what was the point of bringing the proposed change to the Standing Committee last week if it is not being brought this week. **The Treasurer** notes that they recognise that a rules change does not always have to be brought through the Standing Committee.

The President replies that they wanted to bring the proposed change to a public business meeting on the 21st February.

The Ex-President maintains that this was duplicitous when the President explicitly stated that they wanted to raise the issue with the Standing Committee but then they did not include the proposed change on the agenda. They note that the Treasurer is correct that no one is obliged to bring the proposed change through the Standing Committee. They add though that where revisions take place it is important that these are brought to the Standing Committee.

The Treasurer states that there has been some honest confusion regarding President's intention. They add that they are not sure whether the matter is one arising from the previous minutes.

The Ex-President argues that discussion in a meeting of the Standing Committee is still an appropriate way for the President to respond to questions.

There is a substantial pause whereby the Standing Committee wait for the President to circulate an electronic copy of the updated financial reforms change.

The President notes that they assume members of the Standing Committee have had a change to read the changes.

Mr Adam Watson confirms they have the changes.

The President asks the Standing Committee for their thoughts.

Mr Adam Watson states that the proposed changes are confusing because the President has two motions that override the same chapter.

The President bring one that was posted first

Mr Adam Watson recommends that the President delete a chapter. They add that this can be fixed with an amendment.

The Ex-President questions whether an amendment might be suppressed by the President.

The Chair of the Consultative Committee enters and leaves the room at 16:20

Ms Alexandra Galloway enters the room at 16:22

The President states that they are happy to discuss amendments to the proposed changes.

The President states they have delegated the chair to the Librarian.

The Ex-President asks the Librarian if they are okay to talk.

The Librarian asks the Ex-President for their point.

The Ex-President states that under the proposed changes the President, Treasurer and Librarian relationship would all be significantly restricted. They note that under the change the Treasurer can raise money but never spend money. They add that this is problematic because quite often a Treasurer might spend money for events. They cite an example of the Ex-Treasurer who hosted a drinks event in the Goodman Library in Michaelmas term. They add that it is an honourable intention of the President to increase transparency but there is no formal process about the delegation of expenditure. They express concern that an informal delegation system offers no protections for the Librarian.

The Treasurer asks if anyone would like a hard copy of the changes.

The Bursar asks for a hard copy.

The Treasurer distributes a number of copies around.

There is a considerable pause while the Treasurer distributes hard copies of the proposed change.

The Ex-President raises an issue about rule 62(s). They ask what a definition of ‘private events’ may be. They note that there needs to be a definition of what ‘private events’ constitute. They add that in Michaelmas term that there was considerable overlap between events organised by the Treasurer and the Events Manager. They state that the President’s admirable drive of transparency is being stifled by a lack of clarity.

Mr Adam Watson states that many of the changes being discussed were rushed through and railroaded through the House eight years. They note that these changes were not properly scrutinised by the Standing Committee. They add that due to the fact that these powers were never used before, it is almost like they are being used from fresh.

The Ex-President adds that a lot of changes would not come into effect until next term meaning that the Standing Committee would have to take the appropriate remedial actions next term.

Mr Adam Watson raises an issue about Appendix D, in particular Rule 23(d), about the powers of the Finance Committee. They concede that the part where the Finance Committee could find a single member guilty has been removed; however, they maintain that the proposed change would still give the Finance Committee greater power than a Senior Disciplinary Committee. They add that Rule 23(d)(i) could be interpreted to mean something like private emails as long as there was some vague resemblance to the Union’s finances. They invite the Standing Committee to think about whether they would like them or Mr Troels Boesen to have such power.

The Ex-President notes that there is a cumulate double compounding issue with the proposed change, with regards to both Rule 25(a)(ii) and Rule 25(d)(i). They express concern that these are not necessarily related to finance and it will simply result in the creation of an investigatory force. They add that this investigatory force is given more power than any other committee but without any accountability. They further add that it is strange that this body has no stringent requirement for election. They note that ordinary members should be able to view annual accounts rather than having to go in-camera. They argue that there is another logical contradiction with the proposed change in that by having to go in in-camera ordinary members are unable to view things. They applaud the initiative for its attempts to create more transparency but they maintain that it would in turn create an exclusionary divide between members of the Standing Committee and members of the Finance Committee.

The Treasurer notes that the Standing Committee have identified several problems, but also several merits. **The Ex-President** responds that they cannot see a single merit with the proposed change as it currently stands.

The Treasurer asks if the Ex-President would be in a position to put together an amendment given their experience with finance. **The Ex-President** replies that the Standing Committee cannot just pass any amendment. They state that renumbering is only useful if the Standing Committee move all these things. They add that there is not much to amend. They further add that the Standing Committee can pass a motion encouraging transparency.

Mr Adam Watson notes that the Standing Committee has already done that in 1998. **The Ex-President** thanks Mr Adam Watson for reminding them of this.

The Ex-President states that there is not much to amend and moves to invoke Standing Order B5(c) to oppose the proposed motion on the grounds that it creates ambiguous reporting mechanisms and ambiguous powers.

The Treasurer asks about this area of the rules. **The Ex-President** replies that if the motion is opposed then the Standing Committee cannot consent to an amendment being brought about.

Mr Adam Watson confirms that motions shall mean motions, amendments or riders. **The Ex-President** reaffirms that amendments becomes a body of that motion.

The Treasurer expresses concern about doing this in the President's absence. They note that there are several days between now and Thursday for the President to make changes.

The Ex-President states that there are two issues with the current situation. Firstly, they note that no amendment could save the proposed change. It is problematic in how they it is structured and vaguely clarified. They use an analogy that the proposed change should describe what amber looks like, rather than detail what is between green and red. Secondly, they note that the solutions to the proposed change are multiple and debatable. They note that it is uncomfortable that the Standing Committee cannot bind the President to make amendments, but rather the Standing Committee can only respond to the text in front of them.

The Librarian asks the Ex-President if they would you like to move to a vote. **The Ex-President** replies that they are happy for further discussion.

The President-Elect states that it is worthwhile moving to a vote. They argue that amendments were not made last week that satisfied the issues and they express concern that it will not change again.

The Treasurer asks the Returning Officer how an amendment would interact with the proposed change. **The Returning Officer** replies that their reading of the rules is that an amendment would need to be friendly.

Mr Adam Watson states that the Standing Committee has now accepted that the amendment is friendly and it would be incorporated into the motion. They add that if it is passed in the House after the second set of speeches then there is a distinction.

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) asks what this means for Standing Committee if they wished to speak in favour of the amended proposed change.

Mr Adam Watson clarifies Standing Order B5, noting that the Standing Order states that anyone can oppose it, but no one could speak for the motion. They note that would mean that if Standing Committee chose to oppose the substantive motion on the noticeboard then no one

could speak for that. They add that the President could then propose an amendment that, if accepted, could still not be spoken on. They note that if members propose their own amendments that are then debated and passed by the House then the Standing Committee could speak on those amendments. They argue that it would fall on the Chair at the time.

The Ex-President adds that there is usually a debate on the motion followed by a debate on the amendments, then a return to a debate on the motion.

Mr Adam Watson states there are some grey areas with how it would work.

The Returning Officer reads out an extract from Standing Order B5(d) confirming that a motion includes any motion, amendment, or rider. They note that the restriction on speaking rights would therefore apply to the amendment.

Mr Adam Watson states that their reading is that you can independently support an amendment.

The Ex-President states that it is logically impossible to oppose on certain grounds and not apply an amendment or a rider.

The Treasurer states that the logical way forward is for the Standing Committee to vote on the proposed motion as it stands. They note that this will give the President the option to put forward amendment or propose an amendment in the chamber, which can be debated by ordinary members.

The Returning Officer agrees that this is a sensible way forward.

The President begins to move to a vote.

The Treasurer notes that the Ex-President needs to do two motions.

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) notes that they need to vote on both the committee changes and the financial reform changes.

The Ex-President states that they will start with the financial reform change.

The Ex-President moves that the Standing Committee invoke Standing Order B5(c) to formally oppose the motion of private business motion on financial reform posted by the President due to be debated on the 21st February 2019 for or against the proposed motion

Seconded by the President-Elect

The motion passes with 8 for (The Secretary, The Ex-President, the Ex-Secretary, the President-Elect, the Treasurer-Elect, Mr Elliot Bromley, Mr Rai Saad Khan, Ms Olivia Leigh) and 2 against (The Librarian and Ms Mahi Joshi), including 2 abstentions (The Treasurer and Mr Chaitanya Kediya).

The Ex-President begins to move a motion of informal concern about how the financial rules change has been brought about.

The Treasurer states that this is unfair given that the motion has been on the noticeboard for a number of days.

The Ex-President moves that the Standing Committee notes with concern the extent of the rules change to restructure the society's changes without proper discussion

Seconded by the Treasurer-Elect.

The motion passes with 8 for (The Secretary, The Ex-President, the Ex-Secretary, the President-Elect, the Treasurer-Elect, Mr Elliot Bromley, Mr Rai Saad Khan, Ms Olivia Leigh) and 4 against (The Librarian, The Treasurer, Mr Chaitanya Kediya, Ms Mahi Joshi).

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, Exeter College) informs the Ex-President that the Standing Committee pass a motion that opposes the committee name change.

The Ex-President raises another matter arising from previous minutes that is the committee restructuring issue.

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, Exeter College) states that there is a rule that deletes Audit Committee's name from the rules because the first motion tries to move the Audit Committee. They note that if the first motion does not pass then the second motion does.

The Ex-President notes that their understanding is that this is a second motion in a formal sense.

The Librarian asks if the Standing Committee can we move to a vote.

There is some general confusion that lasts for a few minutes.

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, Exeter College) notes that the Bursar has just informed them that one of the changes has a misspelling of the committee name.

The Treasurer asks the Standing Committee if they have any substantive concerns with this motion. **The Ex-President** confirms that they do.

Mr Adam Watson asks if the motion deletes the Development Officer. They revisit the proposed change and note that it does not.

The Treasurer notes that the proposed change creates a bicentenary strategy committee.

Mr Adam Watson notes that their main concern is that the proposed change does not delete the Development Officer.

The President-Elect states that this does not make sense.

The Ex-President states that there are further unique problems with the change. They state that it does not make sense to have the Cellar Strategy Committee. They note that the Union has a very different arrangement with the Plush Lounge to what it did with the Purple Turtle. They add that the society is less involved with the management and the Cellar Strategy Committee is now defunct in light of that.

The Treasurer asks the Bursar about the society's arrangement with the Plush Lounge and about whether there is any agreement regarding a certain number of meetings a year. **The Bursar** replies that they have an informal agreement to meet monthly.

The Ex-President argues that informal meetings are more productive than the creation of a formal committee. They express an additional concern that the committee is designed for deadlock with 2 voting members from the Union and 2 from the Purple Turtle. They add that this amounts to creating a redundant committee.

The Treasurer thinks that mandating the President or President-Elect to meet formally with the Plush Lounge is a productive exercise.

The Ex-President maintains that it makes sense for this to remain informal. They note that there might be a Secretary or a member of the Bar Strategy Committee with particularly relevant issues.

The Bursar notes that a committee arrangement should have been put in the lease.

The Returning Officer leaves the room at 16:54

The Treasurer asks if this was it in the lease with the Purple Turtle.

The Ex-President states the Union no longer has the same management agreement with the Plush Lounge. They add that is entirely different and a committee is no longer appropriate.

The Treasurer notes that they believe the President simply wants the committee to have some interest or some involvement in what the Plush Lounge is up to. They state that the relationship has clearly changed.

The Treasurer asks the Ex-President if they have any more 'unique' concerns.

The Ex-President raises another concern with the Fundraising Strategy Committee. They note that the pages are not numbered which makes it is confusing.

The Treasurer states that the photocopying was done in the wrong order because of how the proposed change was pinned to the noticeboard.

The Ex-President summarises their concerns by saying that there are a very large number of people on the Fundraising Strategy Committee to the extent that it is just the Standing Committee. They add that they do not think it will be neither efficient nor an appropriate committee for accountability. They express concern about the professional fundraising of the society and the interface between OLDUT and OUS. They further add that the proposed change encourages another muddying of the water.

The Treasurer states that they were under impression that the President had discussed this with OLDUT.

The Ex-President notes that there was a Steering Committee meeting on a Saturday at start of term between OLDUT and OUS. They add that they tone of OLDUT was one that wanted limited involvement over policy rules and changes.

The Returning Officer enters the room at 16:57

The Senior Treasurer notes that OLDUT do not want to interfere in anyway at all.

The Treasurer asks if there will be a committee assisting with the fundraising work. They add that without OLDUT here it is not clear what their opinion will be. They further add that the Sponsorship Officers this term and them have been putting together a database of former Officers of the society.

The Ex-President asks if the society does not already have this. do we not already have this?

The Bursar notes that the Ex-President Mr Nikolay Koshivov had already done a lot of work on a database of old Officers.

The Ex-President argues that the proposed change does not make mention of the Bicentenary just the Fundraising Strategy Committee. They also argue that they have serious concerns about structuring and goals of this committee being fit for purpose.

Mr Adam Watson states that it ridiculous that the Standing Committee is being asked to create a committee that will last for several year based on the recollections of an Ex-President. They add that the committee member proposing the change is not here and this is an important change.

The Treasurer agrees that this is not ideal.

The Ex-President notes that they have already discussed the Development Officer role in the first week meeting at the start of the term.

The Ex-President moves that the Standing Committee invoke Standing Order B5(c) to formally oppose the private business motion titled 'rules change: committee reform' to be brought by the President on Thursday 21st February 2019

Seconded by the Treasurer-Elect.

The motion passes with 8 for (The Ex-President, the Ex-Secretary, the President-Elect, the Treasurer-Elect, Mr Chaitanya Kediya, Mr Elliot Bromley, Mr Rai Saad Khan, Ms Olivia Leigh) and 0 against, including 4 abstentions (The Secretary, The Treasurer, Ms Mahi Joshi, Ms Amy Gregg).

The Treasurer notes that the President needs to be given time to amend the proposed changes before it is debated before the House.

The Ex-President maintains that the motion needs wholesale change.

Ratification of Minutes

The Secretary notes that they will bring all of the updated minutes to the Standing Committee next week, including the draft minutes for the fourth week and the fifth week meetings, in order to give them sufficient time to make the relevant changes.

The President

Business of the President:

Press Requests

The Librarian notes that they have not received any press requests to pass on in the President's absence.

Mr Adam Watson states that they have received a number of requests from student journalists about the threats of the revocation of society membership. They add that member of the Secretary's Committee have expressed concerns about the President's claims that they have the power to revoke membership.

The Librarian replies that they will pass on this request to the President.

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 moves that the Standing Committee pass DSC expenses to the value of £1,070.45, as recommended by the Finance Committee

Seconded by the Mr Chaitanya Kediya.

The motion passes nem. con.

Questions to the Treasurer:

There are no questions to the Treasurer

The Secretary

Into the Wardrobe Ball Accounts

The Secretary states that they have circulated the Hilary Term 2019 Ball accounts with members of the Standing Committee and they have presented a full breakdown of them in the earlier meeting of the Finance Committee.

The Secretary moves that the Standing Committee pass the accounts for the Hilary Term 2019 Ball, as recommended by the Finance Committee

Seconded by the Librarian

The motion passes nem. con.

The Secretary notes that there are only two tickets remaining for the Murder Mystery evening taking place later today.

The Secretary checks the FIXR app to discover that all of the tickets have been purchased.

Mr Chaitanya Kediya moves that the Standing Committee congratulate the Secretary for a sell-out social calendar in Hilary Term 2019

Seconded by the Librarian.

The motion passes nem. con.

Questions to the Secretary:

There are no questions to the Secretary

Mr Chaitanya Kediya

Business of Mr Chaitanya Kediya:

Mr Chaitanya Kediya has no business

Questions to Mr Chaitanya Kediya:

There are no questions to Mr Chaitanya Kediya

Mr Shining Zhao

Business of Mr Shining Zhao:

Mr Shining Zhao has no business

Questions to Mr Shining Zhao:

There are no questions to Mr Shining Zhao

Ms Mahi Joshi

Business of Ms Mahi Joshi:

Ms Mahi Joshi has no business

Questions to Ms Mahi Joshi:

There are no questions to Ms Mahi Joshi

Mr Jim Brennan

Business of Mr Jim Brennan:

Mr Jim Brennan has no business

Questions to Mr Jim Brennan:

There are no questions to Mr Jim Brennan

Mr Elliot Bromley

Business of Mr Elliot Bromley:

The Elected Member (Mr Elliot Bromley, *St Edmund Hall*) asks the Treasurer for an update about graduate access membership. **The Treasurer** replies that they have been in contact with various colleges and that they will provide a thorough update next week.

Questions to Mr Elliot Bromley:

There are no questions to Mr Elliot Bromley

Ms Olivia Leigh

Business of Ms Olivia Leigh:

The Elected Member (Ms Olivia Leigh, *Keble College*) states they they have been asked to express concern about the quality of the Wifi by members of the Library Committee. They add that there are concerns about the building and its reception. They further add that there are troubles with accessing eduroam in the Union.

The Bursar notes that they should be able to fix these problems. They add that some of the issues have beyond the control of the

The Treasurer informs the Bursar that the Wifi in the Officer's offices is not working. **The Secretary** confirms that this is a problem.

The Treasurer adds that the Wifi seemed to stop working at the start of the term.

The Bursar replies that there is a router in the Librarian's office that can be turned on and off to fix this problem.

Questions to Ms Olivia Leigh:

There are no questions to Ms Olivia Leigh in their absence

Mr Rai Saad Khan

Business of Mr Rai Saad Khan

Burns Night Social accounts

The Elected Member (Mr Rai Saad Khan, *Christ Church*) states that they have circulated copies of the updated Burns Night Social accounts. They add that they have just made a number of changes, as recommended by the Finance Committee.

Mr Rai Saad Khan moves that the Standing Committee pass the accounts for the Hilary Term 2019 Burns Night Social, as recommended by the Finance Committee

Seconded by Secretary.

The motion passes nem. con.

The Elected Member (Mr Rai Saad Khan, *Christ Church*) begins to move to pass a private business motion brought by Mr Hugh Bellamy.

The Librarian asks if this was put on the agenda and circulated. **The Elected Member** (Mr Rai Saad Khan, *Christ Church*) replies that they do not think that it was on the agenda.

The Librarian states that the Standing Committee is unable to discuss it then.

There is a large amount of disruption by certain members of the Standing Committee, lasting several moments.

The Ex-Secretary notes that the private business motion seems like a relatively benign proposal. They suggest that the Standing Committee read the motion and then discuss it.

The Librarian maintains that the private business motion needed to be circulated on the agenda for it to be discussed.

Mr Hugh Bellamy claims it is difficult to make changes within this society.

Questions to Mr Rai Saad Khan:

There are no questions to Mr Rai Saad Khan

The President-Elect

Business of the President-Elect:

The President-Elect notes that there was an issue discussed about the proposed Standing Order change last week. They clarify that this concerns the problem about Presidents picking who they wanted to take to an Intermediate Disciplinary Committee.

Mr Elliot Bromley leaves the room at 17:11

The Treasurer states that they thought the Standing Committee agreed to add the provision 'unreasonably' to deal with this issue. **The President-Elect** replies that they did agree to these changes.

The Treasurer asks the President if they have kept the 100% vacation day requirement in their rules change.

The President-Elect notes that Mr Elliot Bromley made it clear that they thought the completion of 100% of vacation days was the appropriate amount to expect before an automatic Intermediate Disciplinary Committee. They state that they do not disagree with this thinking.

The Librarian states that they would prefer a 50% requirement.

The Treasurer notes that there was concern expressed last week about the workability of an automatic Intermediate Disciplinary Committee. They ask the Returning Officer if they are happy with how this would work.

The Returning Officer replies that they are happy with how it would work as far as they have looked into it.

The Librarian maintains that 100% is still a very high number for the vacation day requirement.

The Treasurer notes that the Standing Committee did endorse a motion to reduce the number of vacation days. They ask if the motion passed. **The President-Elect** replies that the motion will be debated this Thursday.

The Treasurer asks the President-Elect what the numbers would be for the new vacation day requirement. **The President-Elect** replies that they want to pass a change that would mean Officers-Elect and Standing Committee members for Michaelmas term would be required to work 20 vacation days and the Officers-Elect and Standing Committee members for Hilary and Trinity terms would be required to work 15 vacation days.

Mr Shining Zhao enters at 17:17

The Ex-Secretary expresses their concern about the automatic Intermediate Disciplinary Committee. They note their own experience with being unable to complete their vacation days due to personal circumstances. They add that an automatic Intermediate Disciplinary Committee would make the experience all the more harrowing.

The Treasurer notes that the Standing Committee can waive the Inter by 2/3s

The President-Elect notes that they faced a similar issue in Ms Laali Vadlamani's vacation when they had a personal consideration.

The Librarian notes that the wording in the change seems strange. **The President-Elect** notes that they are happy to change the phrase 'at the start of the vacation' in their change.

Mr Elliot Bromley enters the room at 17:20

The Treasurer states that people make a commitment to do their vacation days in the Union when they nominate. They add that it does make sense to have a temporal element incorporated into the change.

The Librarian asks the President-Elect if they are happy to make that change. **The President-Elect** replies that they are happy to do so.

The Elected Member (Mr Elliot Bromley, *St Edmund Hall*) states that they agree that a 20 day vacation day requirement over Michaelmas term for Officers-Elect and the Standing Committee is a good idea. They add that if the previous idea was to advertise more days than people are expected to do then they cannot understand that. They further add that a 50% fulfilment of someone's expected work contributions in most walks of life would be pathetic.

The Treasurer notes that it seems fair for the Standing Committee to say this is the standard deemed acceptable so long as the President-Elect's edit factors in sufficient flexibility.

The President-Elect maintains that they think that considerations are necessary for this motion to work.

Ms Sara Dude enters the room at 17:23

The Treasurer states that there is a drafting point to note. They ask the President-Elect what the draft means by 'committee members.' They question whether it simply means the elected committee or appointed officials.

Mr Adam Watson notes that this is not defined specifically in the rules. **The President-Elect** adds that when they drafted the motion they were thinking just the elected committee not a Deputy Returning Officer or something similar.

The Treasurer notes that they have not checked the rules but it would be useful to have clarity on this point.

The Elected Member (Mr Elliot Bromley, *St Edmund Hall*) states that it seems like the Standing Committee have lowered the vacation day requirements and set the completion rate at 50%. They state that either or would be a compromise.

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) replies that the Standing Committee is not setting the completion rate at 50% anymore.

The Elected Member (Mr Elliot Bromley, *St Edmund Hall*) questions this.

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) replies that the rules change does not set it to 50%.

The President-Elect moves that the Standing Committee grant Mr Joe Sisson speaking rights for the duration of the meeting

Seconded by the Librarian.

The motion passes nem. con.

Mr Joe Sisson notes that vacation days are not explicitly defined for appointed officials. They add that the vacation days of appointed officials are defined by Standing Order B15 and therefore the committee members in this Standing Order does include appointed officials. They add that they do not think it is unreasonable to have two standards. They further add that it would make sense for elected committee members to be taken to an automatic Intermediate Disciplinary Committee, but if you are an appointed official the Standing Committee can vote to immediately remove you from office.

The Treasurer agrees that this makes sense for appointed officials because they do not have a democratic mandate. They add that the President-Elect could add an extra note into clause E because it is the only section that deals with differentiation.

Mr Joe Sisson agrees with the Treasurer.

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) mentions that the Standing Committee discussed appointed officials with extenuating circumstances. They ask if an appointed individual who failed to meet their vacation day requirements would have to explain to the entire Standing Committee what their unforeseen circumstances were. They add that there might be very sensitive issues that the appointed officials do not wish to disclose. They ask if the Standing Committee should hope that as a general practice the appointed officials tell the President at the time about any unforeseen circumstances or does every member of the Standing Committee have to know what happened.

The President-Elect replies that the system must rely on human decency not to press people about their personal issues. They add that any reasonable Standing Committee would vote not to send them to an Intermediate Disciplinary Committee. They further add that this is what has been done in the past and what they imagine will continue to be done in the future. They note that the purpose of the change is not to humiliate people in front of the Standing Committee.

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) states that they just wanted to know.

The Treasurer states the Standing Committee needs to have a little faith with this change that the system would be carried out with decency.

The Librarian asks the Standing Committee if they have any other points.

The President-Elect asks that the Standing Committee summarise the points of discussion.

The Treasurer summarises the amendments to the Standing Order. Firstly, that the Standing Order reads 'a vacation day must be completed in the society's buildings, save if the President has given written permission in advance.' Secondly, that the words 'unreasonably withheld' be added. Thirdly, that in clause e(i) there will be two insertions of the word 'elected' before the words 'committee member' in the first line and the words 'committee member' in the fourth

line. The same will also be inserted before the words ‘committee member’ before the second line of e(ii). Fourthly, that the word ‘unforeseen’ is removed from clause e(i).

The President-Elect moves that the Standing Committee pass the aforementioned amendments to Standing Order B15 on vacation days

Seconded by the Treasurer-Elect.

The motion passes with 12 for (The Librarian, The Treasurer, The Secretary, the Ex-Secretary, the President-Elect, the Treasurer-Elect, Mr Elliot Bromley, Mr Rai Saad Khan, Ms Olivia Leigh, Mr Shining Zhao, Miss Mahi Joshi, Mr Chaitanya Kediya) and 0 against.

Mr Troels Boesen leaves the room at 17:26

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 Librarian-Elect has no business

Questions to the Treasurer-Elect:

There are no questions to the Librarian-Elect

The Ex-Officers

Business of the Ex-Officers:

The Ex-Officers have no business

Questions to the Senior Librarian:

There are no questions to the Ex-Officers

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 notes that they have just discussed the accounts with the Finance Committee regarding the Union's creditors and its employment payments. They ask the Secretary to put the accounts on their business for next week.

Questions to the Treasurer-Elect:

There are no questions to the Bursar

The Returning Officer

Business of the Returning Officer:

OBPM reports

The Returning Officer notes that they have issued fines for late OBPM reports. They thank Mr Elliot Bromley for the payment of their fine.

The Returning Officer notes that they have received a disciplinary complaint about the actions of a member at the Ball. They add that this complaint was made by a member of staff.

Mr Adam Watson notes that they have a question with the OBPM reports. They add that they are looking at Standing D1 about OPBM reports and it says that must outline all activities that they have undertaken including all successful speaker invitations. They ask the Returning Officer if they have considered checking, which they can do under clause b, as to whether the reports are adequate. They note that there are a number of reports that are written in a jokey manner. They ask the Returning Officer if they would consider fining members for an inadequate OBPM report.

The Returning Officer states that there is no precedent for fining committee members for an inadequate OBPM report so they would have to look into it.

The Treasurer asks the Returning Officer if they can confirm that the Standing Order B15 has been validly passed and that it is not something that needs to be passed by the House or by poll.

The Returning Officer states that it has not been passed.

The President-Elect adds that a Standing Order can be passed in the Standing Committee.

The Treasurer asks about how Standing Order B15 was initially introduced.

The Returning Officer states that they thought that Standing Order B15 was passed by recommendation to the House. **The Treasurer** replies that they thought that the Standing Committee passed it.

The Treasurer states that they just want confirmation from the Returning Officer that when B15 was originally introduced the Standing Committee did it.

Mr Adam Watson notes that they have been on the Standing Committee and they think that it was Mr Stephen Horvath who introduced Standing Order B15.

The Treasurer notes that this seems likely. **The Returning Officer** agrees.

Questions to the Returning Officer:

There are no questions to the Returning Officer

The Chair of the Consultative Committee

Business of the Chair of the Consultative:

The Librarian states that they have not received any business in the Chair of the Consultative Committee's absence.

Questions to the Chair of the Consultative Committee:

The Treasurer-Elect notes a concern they have heard regarding allegations of rota manipulation by the Chair of the Consultative Committee for political reasons. They note that they have had conversations with members of the Secretary's Committee about how upset they are about how they are being treated. They further add that certain members of the Secretary's Committee have used the word 'bullying.'

The Treasurer-Elect states that they are raising this because they would like to ask the Chair of the Consultative Committee about these allegations. They add that these allegations may be true or false.

The Returning Officer replies that if any members of the Secretary's Committee are disturbed enough then they can get in touch with them.

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) notes that they have wanted to discuss something with the Standing Committee for some time but they waited until after the issue of the Librarian's impeachment. They state that they were anonymously sent an email on the day of the impeachment vote, which highlighted and shared screenshots between the Librarian and Chair of the Consultative Committee.

Mr Adam Watson notes that Mr Chaitanya Kediya may wish to consider going into camera at this point to avoid potential disciplinary issue.

The Librarian states that they think this is a good idea.

The President-Elect agrees that this should be in-camera.

The Senior Librarian states that the Standing Committee should make sure that this qualifies for an in-camera discussion.

The Access Officers

Business of the Access Officers:

The Access Officers have no business

Questions to the Access Officers:

The Access Officers have no business

The Chair of the Debate Selection Committee

Business of the Chair of the Debate Selection Committee:

DSC Corporate Objection

The Librarian moves that the Standing Committee grant Mr Andrew Seow speaking rights for the duration of the meeting

Seconded by Mr Chaitanya Kediya.

The motions passes nem. con.

The Bursar suggests that this matter goes in camera. **The Senior Treasurer** agrees with this.

There is a general discussion about whether the DSC Corporate Objection needs to be held in camera. After a long discussion with the Returning Officer, **the Librarian** states that it does need to be in-camera.

Mr Andrew Seow states that the DSC Corporate Objection concerns a vacancy in the Debate Selection Committee. They explain that usually the Debate Selection Committee calculate the total number of points that people have based on the scales of B12 and B13. They note that the Debate Selection Committee are making a corporate objection to the person who would have filled the vacancy based on a consistent track record of a lack of integrity and not being competent. They add that this is particularly problematic for the Debate Selection Committee at a time where they are moving onto new projects or the advancement of projects next year for the Intervarsity. They further add that they were the Chair of the Debate Selection Committee during most of the time where the individual concerned displayed some of these failures.

The Librarian states that at the end of the discussion there will need a secret ballot vote. They ask if the committee has a secret ballot box?

The Treasurer replies that they will go and get the secret ballot box from the President's Office.

The Returning Officer confirms that this does not need to be in-camera but the other points of discussion do.

There is general discussion about the secret ball vote.

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) asks whether or not Mr Andrew Seow is able to propose a motion when they are not a member of the Standing Committee.

Mr Adam Watson replies that Mr Andrew Seow does not.

Mr Adam Watson asks about the changes made earlier in the term regarding the Debate Selection Committee.

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) replies that were changes made about the Debate Selection Committee point system but they state that the point system determines who can represent Oxford and has nothing to do with applications to the Debate Selection Committee.

The Treasurer states that it is obvious reading the circulated document that the accusations are very hard. They point out that the individual in question is not here to defend themselves. They ask whether or not they require any representation.

The President-Elect asks if the individual in question knows that this will be discussed in the Standing Committee.

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) notes that the correct procedure is that an objection comes before the Standing Committee and then they have the decision to decide whether to put it up on the noticeboard or not.

The Returning Officer moves to grant Mr Dominic Brind speaking rights for the duration of the meeting

Seconded by the Librarian.

The motion passes nem. con.

Mr Dominic Brind explains that a large part of this process rests on the committee panel that last term, at which point in individual in question was offered the opportunity to respond.

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) notes that anything cited in appendix A is a report based on the individual's opportunity to have a hearing. They note that these details can be found in the agenda.

Mr Andrew Seow notes that the documentation attached to the agenda concerns the Oxford Intervarsity that took place last November. They state there was a panel that selected to convene the Intervarsity. They add the individual in question was found to have lacked some of the questions. They further add that there was a second selection panel convened between then and the questions from that panel are attached to the agenda.

The Treasurer asks if they have a copy of their responses.

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) states that it is integrated into their report in appendix A.

The Treasurer ask if the Standing Committee do not vote in favour of the Corporate Objection whether an individual member can bring more objections. They state that they are not sure if they can vote to object to the individual question as they do not know them. They further state that they would be more comfortable if individuals who had dealt with the individual in question were given a vote.

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) maintains that this is exactly what the Debate Selection Committee has done by registering the corporate objection. They add that the Debate Selection Committee have heard a large amount of discussion about this individual, some of which was in-camera.

The Treasurer asks whether the individual in question was free to come to the Debate Selection Committee. **The Elected Member** (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) replies that a registering of a corporate objection takes into account the reports that were generated when the individual had the opportunity to respond to the claims. They add that paragraph 9 in Appendix A points to this.

The Returning Officer states that there is no process for individual objection through the Debate Selection Committee, but only a corporate one. They ask if this is correct.

Mr Andrew Seow confirms that this is the case.

Mr Chaitanya Kediya moves that the Standing Committee vote on the Debate Selection Committee corporate objection

Seconded by the Librarian.

The motion passes nem. con.

The Librarian moves that the secret ballot be administered by the Senior Librarian

The motion passes nem. con.

The Senior Treasurer expresses concern that if the individual in question is condemned then they are not here to defend themselves.

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) maintains that the material for the corporate objection and the Intervarsity issue are the same.

Mr Dominic Brind notes that upon reading over the Debate Selection Committee Standing Orders it is clear there is no other way to resolve the situation than through a corporate objection.

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) unfair to retrospectively change the procedures

There is general discussion for several minutes while the secret ballot vote takes place.

The Senior Librarian announces the results of the secret ballot with 1 votes for no and 11 votes for aye.

Changes to the Composition of this Committee

There are no changes to the composition of the Standing Committee.

Any Other Business

There is no other business.

Date of Next Meeting

The Librarian notes that the President will call the next meeting for Monday 28th February at 16:00

The Librarian closes the meeting at 18:01

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicholas Leah". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nicholas" written in a larger, more prominent hand than the last name "Leah".

Nicholas Leah
Lincoln College
Secretary