

Ratified Minutes of
THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
5th Week Trinity Term 2018
Monday 21st 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 President-Elect** (Mr Stephen Horvath, *New College*), **The Librarian-Elect** (Ms Genevieve Athis, *Christ Church*), **The Treasurer-Elect** (Mr James Lamming, *Exeter College*), **The Senior Librarian** (Mr Sean Power, *Oriel College*), **The Bursar** (Mrs Lindsay Warne), **The Returning Officer** (Ms Alexandra Galloway, *Magdalen College*), **The Access Officer** (Ms Kirsten Stewart, *Trinity College*), **The Access Officer** (Mr Chris Garner, *St. Peter's College*).

Attending:

Ms Anisha Farukh (*The Queen's College*)

Apologies:

The Chair of the Consultative Committee (Mr Matthew Vautrey, *Magdalen College*), **The Elected Member** (Ms Cecilia Zhao, *St. Catherine's College*), **The Senior Treasurer** (Mr Stephen Dixon, *Downing College, Cambridge*).

Absent:

The Chair of the Debate Selection Committee (Mr Andrew Seow, *Lincoln College*).

The President opens the meeting at 16:02.

Requests to Pass Absences from Previous Meeting

The President moves that TSC pass the Librarian's absence as with 'good reason' due to her engagement with Society business of paramount importance

nem. con.

The President moves that TSC pass the Secretary's absence as with 'good reason' due to an immovable academic commitment

nem. con.

The President moves that TSC pass the Treasurer-elect's absence as with 'good reason' due to a disabling and infectious illness

nem. con.

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

The President moves that TSC ratify the minutes from the 4th Week TT18 Ordinary Meeting of TSC

nem. con.

The President moves that TSC ratify the minutes from the 7th Week HT18 Ordinary Meeting of TSC

nem. con.

The President moves that TSC ratify the minutes from the 8th Week HT18 Ordinary Meeting of TSC

nem. con.

Ratification of Minutes

There is no discussion on the ratification of minutes.

The President

Meetings missed: 0, Missed without good reason: 0

Business of the President:

The President highlights a press request he received from Cherwell about ‘Lowkey’ speaking in the Churchill debate, noting that he had no comment as he did not speak.

Questions to the President:

There are no questions to the President.

The Librarian

Meetings missed: 3, Missed without good reason: 0

Business of the Librarian:

The Librarian has no business.

Questions to the Librarian:

There are no questions to the Librarian.

The Treasurer

Meetings missed: 0, Missed without good reason: 0

Business of the Treasurer:

The Treasurer has no business.

Questions to the Treasurer:

There are no questions to the Treasurer.

The Secretary

Meetings missed: 1, Missed without good reason: 0

Business of the Secretary:

The Secretary introduces an application for Residential Membership from Mr Lorenzo de Gregori, noting that he has interviewed Mr de Gregori in person and that he believes he is qualified to be elected to the Society.

The Secretary moves that TSC deem Mr Lorenzo de Gregori duly qualified for election to the Society as a Residential Member

nem. con.

Questions to the Secretary:

The President-elect asks about the ‘debater of the year’ project which the Secretary indicated he would work on.

The Secretary and **The President** respond that no progress has been made on this, after consultation with the CDSC.

Ms Zhao

Meetings missed: 0, Missed without good reason: 0

Business of Ms Zhao:

Ms Zhao has no business.

Questions to Ms Zhao:

There are no questions to Ms Zhao.

Mr Sukumaran

Meetings missed: 0, Missed without good reason: 0

Business of Mr Sukumaran:

Mr Sukumaran has no business.

Questions to Mr Sukumaran:

There are no questions to Mr Sukumaran.

Mr Brown

Meetings missed: 0, Missed without good reason: 0

Business of Mr Brown:

Mr Brown has no business.

Questions to Mr Brown:

There are no questions to Mr Brown.

Mr Kamal

Meetings missed: 0, Missed without good reason: 0

Business of Mr Kamal:

Mr Kamal has no business.

Questions to Mr Kamal:

There are no questions to Mr Kamal.

Mr Williams

Meetings missed: 0, Missed without good reason: 0

Business of Mr Williams:

Mr Williams has no business.

Questions to Mr Williams:

There are no questions to Mr Williams.

Mr Sutton

Meetings missed: 0, Missed without good reason: 0

Business of Mr Sutton:

Mr Sutton says DSC is happy to move the date of the Women's Open, and that it would like to book all Society rooms for the whole weekend.

The President-elect asks about the extra costs of Sunday hiring.

Mr Sutton says that the CDSC will liaise with staff.

The Bursar asks about timings for the competition.

Mr Sutton says he will arrange to have the building opened early on the Sunday.

Questions to Mr Sutton:

There are no questions to Mr Sutton.

Mr Parr-Reid

Meetings missed: 0, Missed without good reason: 0

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

Meetings missed: 0, Missed without good reason: 0

Business of the President-Elect:

The President-elect raises the issue of electoral reform rules change, and suggests invoking 67(b)(iv) in relation to Mr Williams' proposed rules change. He explains the effect of the invocation, to delay debate on the motion by 6 to 14 days, to advertise the motion in colleges and halls, to and give notice of the motion in a national and local newspaper. He gives reasons for his proposed invocation, including that banning slates at this time would constitute entrapment, as electoral agreements have already been made for this term. By delaying the rule, he says, it could not apply to this election. He believes the change is sufficiently important to merit invocation of 67(b)(iv). He further argues that the process which the motion has gone through has been confusing for members, and that it would be useful to publicly clarify when the debate will take place.

Treasurer-elect enters the room at 16:10

Mr Williams suggests bringing a friendly amendment to delay implementation of the rule.

The President-elect says this is not acceptable to him, as Mr Williams would be free to withdraw the amendment.

The President notes that the House could dispose of the amendment.

Mr Williams claims that this notice will cost more than £100.

The President says he is confident that notice can be included in one of the regular weekly interviews which newspapers conduct with speakers.

Mr Sukumaran asks about the nature of the motion which the President-elect is suggesting.

The President-elect and **The RO** clarify what is involved in Rule 67(b)(iv).

The President-elect asks whose responsibility it is, the President or the RO, to send publicity to colleges and halls.

The RO replies that she believes it is hers.

The President mentions specific journalist who is interested in giving a speaker interview.

Mr Sukumaran asks if student newspapers count towards the rule.

The President responds that they do not.

The Librarian asks which newspapers are eligible.

The President-elect responds that there must be partisan balance to the newspapers.

Mr Williams asks to which meeting the President-elect would like to delay.

The President-elect says within 6 to 14 days of the initial debate time, depending on convenience.

The Secretary asks who may decide to which Public Business Meeting the rules change is brought.

The President-elect says it is unclear, and suggests the coming Tuesday 6th Week Public Business Meeting.

Mr Kamal queries whether publicity on the rules change could influence the term's elections.

The President-elect responds that he does not believe so, as the rule will not influence this election.

Mr Williams comments on the strangeness of the fact that arguments for greater publicity are being accompanied by the suggestion that it takes place in a smaller Tuesday Public Business Meeting which has not been broadly publicised.

The President-elect recognises this point, and agrees that the main 6th or 7th Week debates may be more appropriate.

Mr Williams asks what would happen if the measures required by the publicity rule were not taken.

The President-elect says that a Disciplinary Committee would be brought against the committee member.

Mr Williams clarifies that he wishes to know the effects on the rules change motion in particular.

The President agrees that this is an interesting question.

The RO expresses confidence that committee will be able to carry out the required measures.

The President asks the RO to draft the notice of the motion.

The President-elect moves that TSC invoke Rule 67(b)(iv) regarding the rules change motion proposed by Mr Williams, currently set to be debated on the 24th May 2018

Seconded by the Treasurer-elect

nem. con.

The President-elect raises the policy of meet and greet photos. He says some members come to meet and greets and are uncomfortable with having their photos uploaded on Facebook.

The Secretary asks where the discomfort arises if members can opt out of having their photo taken.

The President-elect responds that members may wish to have their photo taken and to receive it, but not to have it uploaded on Facebook.

The Librarian-elect asks how the current system of members requesting to have photos taken down works.

The President-elect responds that he has received few such requests.

The CCC suggests a mechanism whereby members could fill in on their balloting form whether they would like to have their picture published.

The CCC leaves the room at 16:29.

Mr Sutton raises the concern that members could use this mechanism to get individual photos with guest speakers.

The President suggests an alternative way, where members who have opted out will be placed on the edge of the photograph, and then cropped out of the published image.

Mr Sukumaran suggests that members who do not wish to have their photographs uploaded should not have photographs taken at all.

The President agrees this is fair.

The President-elect summarises that a good policy would be to notify successful ballottees that, should they not wish to have their photos published on Facebook, they should not have their photos taken at all. He wishes that this be communicated to the CCC.

The President-elect delegates the Chair to the President-elect at 16:31, and leaves the room.

The President-elect raises his proposed reforms to Standing Order C7. He says issues have been raised regarding expenses for appointed committee during vacation days, and regarding the constitutional implications of appointed committee in the rules. He notes that more members of appointed committee exist than are provided for in the rules, which means they exist outside of a regulatory framework. He says his change has the function of making the Standing Order more transparent; delineating the roles on offer to people on appointed committee; and to limit the size of appointed committee. He says this last point limits the costs of appointed committee. He raises the further concern that positions on appointed committee can be used as a political tool, with the President being lobbied to offer positions to members to discourage them from running for election. He believes this is undemocratic and unmeritocratic. He points to appointed officials named in his change which have not been referenced in the rules. He also points to the proposed distinction between senior and junior roles. He clarifies the titles of senior roles, and highlights the usefulness of continuity in the titles of senior appointed roles. He claims that other sections have been restructured and clarified. Further, he introduces a new policy on resignations, noting that vacancies must be filled from the original application pool.

Mr Parr-Reid leaves the room at 16:33.

The Treasurer says that codifying existing practice is good, but raises concern that this limits Presidential discretion regarding the structure of their appointed committee - particularly merging positions.

The President-elect responds that 'merging' of roles is possible by appointing the same individual to multiple roles, and that limiting Presidential discretion to some extent is the purpose of the change.

Mr Sukumaran asks what the current status of certain Officers are, given that they are not names in the Rules.

The President-elect responds that they are appointed informally by Presidential discretion, which his change abolishes.

Mr Sukumaran asks how the number of 15 positions was arrived at.

The President-elect responds that 15 is the number of additional discretionary appointments, which are in addition to roles which must be filled.

ES, PE

Mr Sukumaran questions whether the roles of each position are specified in the Rules.

The President-elect replies that the names of the positions give a broad picture of the role.

Librarian-elect leaves the room at 16:42.

The Librarian says that the President-elect's argument for the consistency of titles applies similarly to consistency of portfolios for positions.

The President-elect says that rough specification of portfolios may be useful as a later reform, but that some openness should be allowed.

Mr Sukumaran says the lack of flexibility in the size of the committee worries him.

The Treasurer-elect leaves the room at 16:45.

The President-elect says that the Standing Order could be waived in special circumstances.

The Burar notes that the burden of work on appointed committee has not increased in line with its size.

The President-elect claims that consistency of positions will also help the staff's interactions with appointed officials.

The Librarian-elect enters the room at 16:48

Mr Brown asks why the number 15 has been arrived at for the upper limit.

The President-elect says it is partially arbitrary, but partially based on investigation of past committees.

Mr Kamal asks about vac expenses.

The President-elect suggests that vac expenses lie outside the scope of debate on his proposed change.

The President-elect moves that TSC amend Standing Order C7 according to his proposed change.

nem. con.

The President-elect notes that he has previously amended Standing Order C7.

Questions to the President-Elect:

There are no questions to the President-Elect.

The Librarian-Elect

Meetings missed: 1, Missed without good reason: 0

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

Meetings missed: 2, Missed without good reason: 0

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 introduces the Election Tribunal Short List for TT18.

Mr Garner leaves the room at 17:01

The Bursar and **The President-elect** suggest amending the name of one person on the list.

The RO accepts this.

The President-elect asks about the ethnic and gender breakdown of the shortlist.

The RO comments on the difficulty of reaching eligible members, that she is putting forward the list with some regret, and states that there are few women on the list but that she does not have definite numbers on ethnic breakdowns.

The President-elect asks about the breakdown of ex-Officers and ex-RO's on the list.

The RO says there tends to be higher engagement from ex-RO's in comparison to ex-Presidents.

The President-elect asks how many names must be on the shortlist.

The RO responds that between 15 and 20 names must be on the list.

The President-elect asks the RO to outline the procedure for objections.

The RO does so.

The President-elect objects to the inclusion of Mr Ronald Collinson, citing past complaints about his record. He claims that many have said he has made elections difficult to run.

The Senior Librarian agrees that his removal may be beneficial.

The Bursar claims that the Senior Treasurer has also objected to Mr Collinson.

The RO expresses regret at TSC feeling the need to object to Mr Collinson.

Mr Brown asks for specific details regarding Mr Collinson's transgressions.

The President-elect says he feels inappropriate repeating the stories which he has heard.

The President-elect moves that TSC remove Mr Ronald Collinson from the TT18 Election Tribunal Shortlist

nem. con

The RO proposes Ms Sara Hannan, ex-Librarian TT92, noting that she may not be available.

Mr Kamal asks the RO on which criteria she uses to decide the list.

The RO says that availability is the primary consideration.

Mr Sukumaran leaves room at 17:10

The President-elect notes that ex-CDSC's are now becoming eligible to be included on Election Tribunal Shortlists, and asks if the RO has reached out to any.

The RO says that she does not have contact details for many ex-CDSC's.

The President-elect comments on the relatively high diversity of ex-CDSC's, but worries at their lack of electoral experience.

The RO responds that this is a consideration.

The RO moves that TSC pass the Election Tribunal Shortlist for TT18 with one removal of a name, one addition of a name, and one friendly amendment regarding the spelling of a name

Seconded by the President-elect

nem. con.

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:

Mr Garner gives a summary of work done by the Access Committee, including school tours of the Union. He says that he is working on a proposal regarding the accessibility of committee, including

providing bedding for committee members. He references the Secretary's recent International Pub Quiz, and a meet and greet with the Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga. He says that international student drinks have been proposed, as well as a meet and greet for ethnic minority students with Vince Staples. He continues that the Disabilities Officer has been working with the Bursar to improve access for disabled students. He highlights that the Graduate Officer wishes to organise a Cryptocurrency Panel. He remarks that the Brookes Officer has been working with the Brookes SU, and that the Womens' Officers are planning a Public Speaking Workshop, and interviews with women in the union.

The Librarian suggests a particular speaker as being appropriate for a meet and greet.

Ms Stewart raises the possibility of tours for the UNIQ summer school program, along the lines of existing school tours.

The Bursar asks if students will be on holiday during the summer.

Ms Stewart states the running dates of the summer schools.

The President-elect thanks the Access Officers for their work and their detailed report.

The Bursar says that the proposal regarding access tickets were rejected.

Mr Sukumaran asks about the Cryptocurrency Panel, and how this relates to access.

Mr Garner replies that the topic would attract Graduates in particular.

The President-elect commends the idea of summer school tours, but notes that private hire events book out rooms on some days during the Summer, so that staff should be consulted. He remarks that attendees of summer schools often speak of their positive experiences in Oxford, and that this could also be true of the Union in particular.

Mr Kamal thanks the Access Officers, and suggests there should also be social events which specifically include members who are celebrating Ramadan..

The President-elect asks if the timing of speaker events is inconvenient to those celebrating Ramadan.

Mr Kamal responds that it can be.

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 has no business.

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

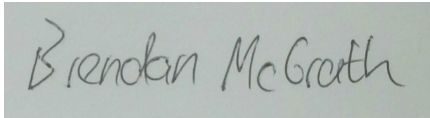
There is no other business.

Date of the Next Meeting

Monday 6th Week Trinity Term 2018 (20th May 2018), 16:00, in the President's Office.

The President closes the meeting at 17:14.

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