

Draft Minutes of

THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE DEBATE SELECTION COMMITTEE

2nd Week Michaelmas Term 2018

Monday 15th October

The Morris Room, 9:00

Present: **The Chair of the Debate Selection Committee** (Andrew Seow, *Lincoln College*), **The President** (Stephen Horvath, *New College*), **Director of Training** (Rachel O Nunain, *Trinity College*), **Externals Officer** (Lee Chin Wee, *Trinity College*), **DSC Treasurer** (Bryan Yan, *Keble College*), **Standing Committee Delegate** (Sara Dube, *St. Hugh's College*)

Apologies:

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

Late: **Internals Officer** (Louis Collier, *St. Hugh's College*),

DSC opens at 9:11

Business of the CDSC

CDSC asks the Treasurer what the cap for Novi Sad was. He also asks about KCL pro-am selections and asks the Treasurer and the Director of Training to go for this as pros.

The Director of Training says that she is willing to put her name down for this.

The Treasurer asks about the KCL IV, which is on the 27/28th of October and has 3 teams and 2 judges. He asks if anyone has claimed expenses for Novi Sad.

The Director of Training says that she has claimed some of her travel expenses.

The CDSC asks the Treasurer to search for the flight expenditure to Novi Sad.

The Internals Officer enters at 9:18.

The CDSC asks how the DSC will account for people's travel within London.

The Internals Officer points out that compared to other travel expenses travel within London is not that expensive.

The CDSC says that currently the expenses are capped at the price of the Oxford Tube (£14) and the only exception to this occurs in the case of immovable academic commitments – where debaters are allowed to take the train and claim these expenses instead. He brings up the problem of accountability: that there is no way of verifying how much was spent on an Oyster card when travelling on the tube.

The President adds that people also pay for the tube with a contactless card.

The Director of Training asks whether people will really cheat DSC for the price of a tube journey.

The CDSC points out that the problem is more of an auditing problem in not having an itemized receipt for travel expenses.

The Internals Officer mentions that this is not that significant of a problem as travelling in London is relatively cheap.

The CDSC agrees but reiterates that compensation for travelling within London requires a change in the rules with regard to the expenses cap on the price of the Oxford Tube.

The Director of Training suggests working out the price of one journey between different zones in London and adding these prices to the pre-existing £14 cap.

The CDSC agrees and says that the specific numbers can be worked out at a later time. He decides that if a debater takes the Oxford Tube and then buys a train station ticket after that, DSC can cap expenses at the Oxford Tube price added to the zone travel price.

The Director of Training mentions that it is possible to attach a rail card to an Oyster card at a tube station and then to get a receipt for these expenses off the Oyster card.

The Treasurer asks what people who don't use a rail card can do.

The Director of Training replies that such people can still print off the receipt of the Oyster card.

The CDSC asks the Director of Training to send him the exact wording for this change.

Business of the Director of Training

The Director of Training reports the intermediate squads will occur on Tuesday evenings and upper-intermediate and advanced squads will occur on Wednesday evenings. She says that one of the aims of training this year is to get around the image of an intimidating DSC and that the first squads session this week will be quite social. She encourages DSC to go to the intermediate squad training on Tuesday night as the majority of debaters in this squad will be new to Oxford, at least relative to the members of the advanced squad.

The Internals Officer asks when they should come to squads on Tuesday.

The Director of Training says to probably come at the end of squads but that she will check with the Secretary and get back to DSC.

The Internals Officer suggests that some DSC members could go to squads to debate in them along with intermediate debaters, for instance.

The Director of Training points out that last year the upper intermediate squad debated the advanced squad and says that DSC can ask top debaters to go to intermediate squads too this year.

The President brings up Mr. Peter Collins, an experienced debater who has expressed interest in helping out with squad training. The President says that he will ask Mr. Collins to get in touch with the Director of Training to potentially hold a workshop for Oxford debaters.

The CDSC says for the record that there is an extremely high amount of emails regarding squads and training on the CDSC email account. He brings up the problem of having all 'ams' and no pros apply for the KCL pro-am, suggesting that those going to WUDC could participate in this. He also mentions that the cap for flights to WUDC in Cape Town is £1,600 pounds and asks the Treasurer to let the WUDC debaters know to inform them by midday Wednesday 17th October whether or not they would like the Union to book flights for them and whether they have any special requests.

The Director of Training leaves the room at 9:32

Business of the Internals Officer

The Internals Officer brings up the upcoming Debater of the Year competition.

The CDSC says that he will open applications for this today and that he has booked all rooms except for the Union library. He asks whether they need to book the library.

The President asks whether so many rooms are needed.

The Internals Officer suggests capping the number of teams at 36 (meaning 72 people) and asks whether the tournament could potentially be restricted to non-freshers.

The President suggests instead putting out an announcement for the tournament on DA, to advertize the sign-up time and to give spots to people on a first-come, first-served basis.

The CDSC says that he will also announce that there is a prize available for the winners of the tournament and that he will also indicate that spots will be given to the first 36 pairs to sign up. The tournament will take place on Sunday 21st October 2018.

The President says that he will be available to judge for the 3rd round onwards of the tournament and that he will arrange for someone else to be at the Union for the first part of the day.

The Internals Officer says that he will get in contact with Mr. Joe Sisson for tabbing the tournament.

Oxford Schools CAs

The CDSC moves the meeting *in camera*. The CDSC asks the Treasurer to leave, as he applied to CA Oxford Schools.

The Treasurer leaves the room at 9:38

The Treasurer re-enters the room at 9:43

Business of the Treasurer

The total expenses to be passed: £374.87.

As Mr. Teck Wei Tan has graduated, the President says to put Mr. Tan's permanent mailing address on his expenses form.

The CDSC brings up the question of paying for Bobbi Leet's flight.

The President says that this issue is worth discussing in a larger DSC meeting. He adds that the Bursar wants to know why international CAs are flown in while the Union does not pay for speakers to fly in. The President points out that expenses on international CA flights are something to be cautious and aware of in the future, especially as DSC did not have enough money last year.

The CDSC suggests discussing this issue after the Oxford IV. He adds that there has traditionally been a CA from the USA at the IV to attract more US teams but says that the issue of CA flight expenses is worth including in the updated convenor's handbook.

The Treasurer asks whether the amendments to pro-am requirements with regard to WUDC squads suggested by the Director of Training have been passed.

The CDSC says that it is worth the Director of Training explaining these requirements in more detail.

The Treasurer says that he is able to go to the KCL pro-am.

The Internals Officer says that he is unable to do so.

The Externals Officer points out that one more pro is needed for the pro-am as currently only the Director of Training and the Treasurer have put their names down. He asks the Treasurer to check with the rest of the WUDC squad whether anyone else is willing to go for this tournament.

The CDSC provisionally calls the next meeting for Sunday the 21st of October at 18:00, immediately after the Debater of the Year tournament has finished.

CDSC closes the meeting of DSC at 9:50

Signed,

Sara Dube

Standing Committee

St. Hugh's College