

The Ratified Minutes of
THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
4th Week Michaelmas Term 2017
Monday 30 October 2017
President's Office, 16:00

Present: **The President** (Mr Chris Zabilowicz, *Worcester College*), **The President-Elect** (Ms Laali Vadlamani, *Trinity College*), **The Librarian-Elect** (Ms Sabriyah Saeed, *Somerville College*), **The Treasurer** (Mr Gui Cavalcanti, *Pembroke College*), **The Treasurer-Elect** (Mr Stephen Horvath, *New College*), **The Secretary** (Mr Ed Evans, *St John's College*), **The Elected Member** (Mr James Lamming, *Exeter College*), **The Elected Member** (Ms Shivani Ananth, *St Anne's College*), **The Elected Member** (Mr Julian Kirk, *Magdalen College*), **The Elected Member** (Mr Jan Bialas, *Magdalen College*), **The Elected Member** (Mr Kaleem Hawa, *Lincoln College*), **The Bursar** (Ms Lindsay Warne), **The Senior Librarian** (Mr Sean Power, *Oriel College*), **The Senior Treasurer** (Mr Stephen Dixon, *Downing College, Cambridge*), **The CDSC** (Mr Andrew Seow, *Lincoln College*), **The Returning Officer** (Mr Neb Jovanovic, *St Peter's College*).

Attending:

The Chief of Staff (Ms Molly Greenwood, *St Hilda's College*).

Apologies:

The Librarian (Ms Melissa Hinkley, *Keble College*), **The Elected Member** (Mr Brian Wong, *Balliol College*), **The Elected Member** (Ms Grace Joel, *Balliol College*).

Absent:

The President opens the meeting at 16:01

Requests to Pass Absences from Previous Meeting

The President moves that Mr James Lamming's absence from the Ordinary meeting of TSC in 3rd week as with good reason, due to an unmovable class.

Nem. con.

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

The President moves to ratify the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of TSC in 3rd week.

Nem. con.

The President

Meetings missed: 0, Missed without good reason: 0

Business of the President:

The President has no business.

Questions to the President:

There are no questions to the President.

The Librarian

Meetings missed: 1, 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 says that while DSC expenses are recorded under his business on the agenda, the expenses were not passed at the meeting of DSC, so he has nothing to put to TSC.

The President-Elect enters the room at 16:01.

The Treasurer will postpone the expenses and combine them with those for next week.

Questions to the Treasurer:

There are no questions to the Treasurer.

The Secretary

Meetings missed: 0, Missed without good reason: 0

Business of the Secretary:

The Secretary has no business.

Questions to the Secretary:

There are no questions to the Secretary.

Mr Lamming

Meetings missed: 1, Missed without good reason: 1

Business of Mr Lamming:

Mr Lamming has no business.

Questions to Mr Lamming:

There are no questions to Mr Lamming.

Mr Wong

Meetings missed: 1, Missed without good reason: 0

Business of Wong

Mr Wong has no business.

Questions to Mr Wong:

There are no questions to Mr Wong.

Ms Ananth

Meetings missed: 0, Missed without good reason: 0

Ms Ananth has no business.

Questions to Ms Ananth:

There are no questions to Ms Ananth.

Mr Julian Kirk

Meetings missed: 0, Missed without good reason: 0

Business of Mr Kirk:

Mr Kirk has no business.

Questions to Mr Kirk:

There are no questions to Mr Kirk.

Mr Jan Bialas

Meetings missed: 0, Missed without good reason: 0

Business of Mr Bialas:

Mr Bialas has no business.

Questions to Mr Bialas:

There are no questions to Mr Bialas.

Mr Kaleem Hawa

Meetings missed: 0, Missed without good reason: 0

Business of Mr Hawa:

Mr Hawa has no business.

Questions to Mr Hawa:

There are no questions to Mr Hawa.

Ms Grace Joel

Meetings missed: 2, Missed without good reason: 1

Business of Ms Joel:

Ms Joel has no business.

Questions to Ms Joel:

There are no questions to Ms Joel.

The President-Elect

Meetings missed: 0, Missed without good reason: 0

Business of the President-Elect:

The President-Elect has no business.

Questions to the President-Elect:

There are no questions to the President-Elect.

The Librarian-Elect

Meetings missed: 1, Missed without good reason: 1

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: 0, 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 has no business.

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:

The Access Officers have no business.

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 to the composition of the committee.

Any Other Business

Ms Shivani Ananth raises the point that vacation day spending was discussed in the Access Committee. They noted that members of appointed committee do not receive the £8/day food expenses that elected committee receive, and thought this should be discussed by TSC. They suggest, if budgeting is the concern, that both elected and appointed should get £6/day.

The President observes that some members of appointed committee do receive the usual expenses.

Mr Julian Kirk says that he used to receive expenses in a previous term while a Guest Liaison Officer.

Ms Ananth points out that this has not been the case more recently.

The Treasurer says that expenses are granted at the discretion of the President.

The President-Elect adds that the rationale behind giving elected expenses and not appointed (though she cautions that this is not her view, merely the original thinking), is that elected committee has a mandate to do work through election, so they receive expenses, while appointed committee is not obliged to do vacation days. She recognises, however, that this is an access issue. On the point that some members of appointed committee get expenses, she notes that these are generally those committee members that are expected to carry out a particularly large amount of work. Generally speaking, appointed committee do less than elected.

The Bursar enters the room at 4:02

Mr Kaleem Hawa enters the room at 4:03

Ms Ananth replies that in her experience appointed committee works very hard, but felt that it was not part of the 'team' – she suggests that there is a discrepancy between elected and appointed committees.

Ms Molly Greenwood points out that there was a perceived sense of segregation between elected and appointed, where elected were more valued, for example.

The Bursar asks what appointed committee were working on.

The President replies that appointed help to draft invitations, and find contact details for speakers, among other tasks.

The Bursar says that appointed have had expenses in some years. Who receives them is at the discretion of the President.

The Treasurer-Elect strongly opposes decreasing the amount of expenses available to elected committee, since this would itself be an access issue in preventing people running for committee. He notes that there is a difference between elected and appointed committee – for the former, the hours that they are expected to work prevent them from preparing their own meals, whereas this is possible on the hours expected of appointed committee. He suggests limited expenses could be provided for

lunch, for example, but that anything more is not justifiable if people are working between 10 am and 5 pm.

Ms Ananth points out that a vacation day is defined as 8 hours, and is the same for both appointed and elected.

The Treasurer-Elect replies that some members of elected committee are in the Union from 8 am until midnight, and as such do not have time to cook their own meals, whereas appointed often do not work those hours.

Ms Ananth says that, in her experience, appointed are inclined to stay longer than the hours suggested.

The President disagrees, and says that only a minority remain while most leave several hours earlier than elected.

The President-Elect says that the issue is at the President's discretion, since it depends on for how long people work. She herself does not intend to make people work for as long hours as over the summer vacation.

The Treasurer suggests that a member of appointed committee with Access Membership should automatically be entitled to expenses, but this should remain at the President's discretion for others.

The Treasurer-Elect notes that while £8 per day can go a long way, it does not cover the costs of staying in Oxford. He suggests the concerns are in fact concerned with the work that appointed committee is given, but thinks it reasonable that appointed committee should be granted limited expenses to cover lunch.

Mr Kirk argues that the issue raised is much more about how well elected committee use the resource that is appointed committee, rather than any issue with the latter. He sees no reason that elected should work longer than appointed, as long as tasks are completed. Appointed can do a similar amount of work and lack the same entitlements as elected. He sees no reason why appointed should not be held in the same value as junior members of elected committee.

Mr Kaleem Hawa asks whether there is anything in the rules concerning this issue.

The Treasurer-Elect replies that the rules are not explicit, as they do not really encompass a large appointed committee. Since appointed is not obligated to complete vacation days, it is difficult to grant expenses unless they are obliged to do so.

The President-Elect says it is important that appointed committee be at the President's discretion, such as in whether it is a large or small committee, since a larger committee would mean more spending with expenses granted. It is, additionally, difficult to monitor work done by appointed committee, especially if it comprises many members, so it is hard to judge who should and who should not receive expenses. In Mr Kirk's experiences, she argues, the committee was much smaller and it was easier to have oversight.

The President suggests that Access Committee discuss this further, and make recommendations to TSC to be presented by the Access Officers. He would like to discuss this issue.

The Treasurer suggests the Access Committee prepare a summary report, in addition, for TSC.

Mr Kirk says that it is not straightforward for the Access Committee to do this, as they do not know how decisions are made at the level of TSC.

The President notes that the Standing Committee Delegate to each committee enables this to be known.

The Treasurer-Elect suggests the overlap between appointed committee and the Access Committee membership would make this quite an awkward issue, when it is important that it is approached from a position of neutrality. He suggests the views of Ordinary Members with access membership be heard as well as those of the members of the Access Committee.

Ms Molly Greenwood points out that there are elected members of the Access Committee as well, but adds that those Access Committee members also on appointed committee can speak from their own experiences, and should be heard.

Ms Ananth agrees.

The Treasurer-Elect argues that one issue with access should not be conflated with another, which is the managerial methods for Appointed Committee. He argues issues of expenses should be carefully considered.

The Bursar thinks it would be useful to investigate this further.

The President-Elect suggests that the Treasurer-Elect's point is important as the Access Committee would essentially be lobbying on behalf of themselves as, in many cases, members of appointed committee, and this could come across badly. She argues it is important that the issue is considered from an external perspective, so that expenses can be considered in a fair way.

The Treasurer-Elect asks if the Access Officers have attended TSC this term.

The President replies that they have not yet this term.

Ms Greenwood says that they will be in attendance next week.

The Senior Librarian asks if there has been any news of the recruitment drive.

The President-Elect says a general report was given last week.

The Senior Librarian asks if there are any statistics available.

The Senior Treasurer points out that the figures have never really been considered in public, because of the financial sensitivity of the information.

The Bursar says that there will be a report by the end of term.

The President-Elect agrees.

Mr Julian Kirk recalls that someone was mandated in 2nd week to look at the cost of benches in the Chamber.

The Bursar says these are still being quantified.

The Treasurer asks if there is any sense of when the new standing capacity (for fire safety) of the Chamber will be known.

The Bursar replies that she does not yet know.

The Senior Treasurer asks if any details are available.

The Bursar replies that she will follow it up tomorrow.

Date of the Next Meeting

Monday 6th November 2017, at 16:00 in the President's Office.

The President closes the meeting at 16 18.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a stylized 'E' followed by a horizontal line.

Ed Evans
St John's College
Secretary