

The *Draft Minutes* of
THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE ACCESS COMMITTEE
4th Week Trinity Term 2019
Friday 24th May 2019
TV Room, 13:00

Present

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Access Officer (Rabii Malik, St Anne's College), **The Standing Committee Delegate** (Adam Wilkinson-Hill, Jesus College), **The Graduate Officer** (Cassandra Sullivan, *Linacre College*), **The Treasurer** (Charlie Coverman, *Brasenose College*), **The Women's Officer** (Varuna Mitra, *St John's College*), **The Librarian** (Sara Dube, *St Hugh's College*), **The Elected Member of Access Committee** (Coralie Lolliot-Bright, *St Anthony's College*), **The Elected Member of Access Committee** (Samir Baig, *Trinity College*), **The Elected Member of Access Committee** (Kofo Braithwaite, *Christ Church*), **The Secretary** (Spencer Cohen, *Brasenose College*), **The Standing Committee Delegate** (George Hargrave, *Hertford College*), **The Bursar** (Lindsay Warne)

Attending

The Ordinary Member (Yee Kwan Law, *University College*), **The Ordinary Member** (Cameron Bovell, *St Edmund's Hall*), **The Ordinary Member** (Ayman D'Souza, *Christ Church*), **The Ordinary Member** (Mohammed Alam, *Lady Margaret Hall*)

Apologies

Temporary Membership Officer (Maxwell Quinn Stewart, *Oxford Brookes*), **The Socio-Economic Officer** (Mehr Farhan, *Christ Church*), **The President** (Genevieve Athis, *Christ Church*), **Access Officer** (Felicity Graham, *Christ Church*)

Requests to Pass Absences from Previous Meetings

The Senior Access Officer moves that The Secretary's absence is passed for an immovable academic commitment

Seconded by the Standing Committee Delegate (Adam Wilkinson-Hill)

The motion passes nem. con.

The Senior Access Officer moves that The Standing Committee Delegate's (George Hargrave) absence is passed for a pressing and extraordinary engagement

Seconded by the Standing Committee Delegate (Adam Wilkinson-Hill)

The motion passes nem. con.

The Chair of Access Committee opens this ordinary meeting of Access Committee in the TV Room at 13:09

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Ratification of Minutes

The Senior Access Officer moves that the Access Committee ratify the draft minutes of the Trinity Term 2019 3rd Week Ordinary Meeting of the Access Committee

Seconded by the Librarian

The motion passes nem. con.

The President

Business of the President:

The President has no business

The Access Officers

The Senior Access Officer says that there are rules changes they wish to bring so that they can be recommended to the Standing Committee

The Senior Access Officer outlines that they have spoken with both the President and RO/LGBTIQIA+ Officer, as well as the Junior Access Officer

The Senior Access Officer directs people to (3), where there is a new clause that access should include the promotion of maintaining access fees, especially given the work that is going on currently, and that the burden of that should be on Access Committee

The Senior Access Officer says that under (4), there should be an addition that the provision of mental health and disability support services, following the Standing Committee motion and adoption of a new standing order

The Bursar says they have an issue with adopting that in the rules, as although they support what the Standing Order says, this shouldn't be obligated in the rules, especially as this rules change would bind us to the work of the Oxford University Students Union (hereafter referred to as OUSU)

The Bursar says that it is sufficient for this to be implicit in the existing rule (4) and the new Standing Order

The Treasurer asks about the Standing Order passed by the Standing Committee

The Senior Access Officer says they want to make it an obligation but agrees with the Bursar's concerns
The Librarian reminds the Treasurer that if he updates himself with the rules, it is already explicit in the existing rulebook

The Senior Access Officer says the OUSU is only mentioned because it's already mentioned in the rules previously

The Senior Access Officer says we shouldn't tie ourselves explicitly to OUSU

The Standing Committee Delegate (Adam Wilkinson-Hill) asks if we should mention "striving to commit to the Standing Order passed by the Standing Committee"

The Secretary says the Standing Committee Delegate's idea is a good one

The Senior Access Officer asks if we should amend this in the Access Committee's proposals to Standing Committee

The Secretary says that Access Committee should focus on upholding all welfare provisions

The Standing Committee Member (Ayman D'Souza) enquires about whether definitions of welfare, and titles of Standing Orders would need to be changed to group these together

The Senior Access Officer says "as mentioned in the rules" would suffice

The Senior Access Officer also wants to change the official composition of Access Committee to reflect the current situation

The Senior Access Officer says that in clause (1), it used to read "Access Officers who shall chair and report to TSC of business of the committee" but this should be changed to "Senior and Junior Access Officers shall report" and give the position of the chair to the Senior Access Officer, who can delegate as required in their absence

The Senior Access Officer says that in (2), the Socio-Economic officer wasn't in the list, so they have added that, and amended the name of the Temporary Membership Officer to the Oxford Brookes and Temporary Membership Officer, as was previously discussed

The Senior Access Officer adds that in (3), "delegate" should be pluralised and notes that although the RO can change this, it may as well be done now

The Senior Access Officer thinks that the President should be added as a voting member of access by adding clause (6) in order to obligate attendance

The Senior Access Officer notes they have spoken with the President, who agrees with this

The Standing Committee Member (Ayman D'Souza) asks about the position of current elected members of access committee and whether they can vote for new elected members, which would require them being in the voting members list

The Senior Access Officer says they can vote as voting members

The Standing Committee Member (Ayman D'Souza) asks if this extends to voting for themselves

The Secretary says that if they were re-running, their term would have expired, so they wouldn't be a voting member any longer

The Senior Access Officer resumes discussion of their changes, and making meetings weekly, rather than fortnightly (iii) to reflect current practices

The Senior Access Officer also wishes to talk about the possibility of introducing a budget, even if just to allow Access Committee to make small changes or small decisions without having to pass it through Standing Committee

The Bursar asks what costs could be envisaged as to require a budget

The Senior Access Officer says smaller socials which in the past have had struggles with funding

The Senior Access Officer wants it to be small but allow some authority for Access Committee, and wants to discuss with the Bursar, amounts and specifics

The Bursar reminds Access Committee that the Secretary has to get Standing Committee permission

The Secretary adds that they have to go through Standing for amounts over £100 but they can spend lower than £100 without going to Standing Committee

The Graduate Officer leaves the room at 13:27

The Senior Access Officer recommends adding "the access committee shall have the power to authorize expenditure up to the sum of £100 a term. Any expenditure exceeding £100 must be recommended to the Standing Committee and will only be undertaken subject to the agreement of Standing Committee," which they have already discussed with the President

The Bursar says Access Committee would still have to go through Standing Committee

The Senior Access Officer adds that the difference would be that Access would be getting money from their money rather than asking for money from the Standing Committee

The Bursar agrees £100 isn't much

The Senior Access Officer says that they think the small difference in Access Committee having their own money is the intended difference and is valuable

The Treasurer adds money could go toward things like a printing campaign

The Senior Access Officer asks about the cost of the wheelchair

The Secretary says it was less than £100 so it could've just been done in Access Committee if there was a budget

The Secretary asks that it be an obligation of Standing Delegates to report any spending to the Standing Committee in the rules

The Standing Committee Delegate refers to the Duties of Standing Committee delegates and says that reporting all motions, which would include financial ones with a budget, have to be reported to Access Committee

The Senior Access Officer agrees that it is in the rules and is confident that the Delegates will report

The Senior Access Officer adds that in the future, it could be explicitly made known to delegates Adam says that's already in the rules as part of the duties of the standing delegates to report any motions

The Senior Access Officer says that everything discussed today will be circulated by them

The Senior Access Officer adds a small change about re-ordering the duties of the President to adding their ability to break a tied motion into composition rather than duties as that is how it currently happens

The Senior Access Officer asks people to let them know if they have anything else to add and says they will circulate it

The Senior Access Officer adds that as there isn't a Public Business Meeting next week, it cannot be passed, so it would be better to wait until Week 5 Standing Committee meeting so it can be circulated properly and passed in the House

The Senior Access Officer has one other piece of business and asks if anyone present wishes to run for

The Senior Access Officer outlines the hust system and the process of election, using unanimity rather than secret ballot and anyone who objects can make their objections known when asked

The Bursar says if there are objections then we can get the boxes

The Bursar assumes the RO position

The Standing Committee member (Ayman D'Souza) leaves the room at 13:34

The Ordinary Member (Yee Kwan Law, *University College*) says that they have always wanted to get involved more with access schemes at the Union, as they are already involved in Project Access Hong Kong and thinks they can build upon that

The Ordinary Member (Yee Kwan Law, *University College*) says that international students have always wanted more opportunities, such as during freshers week, and they hope it possible for the Union to work with societies such as the Hong Kong society

The Ordinary Member (Yee Kwan Law, *University College*) says access schemes for debaters who debated before coming to university but are international and risk stopping debating should be considered

The Ordinary Member (Mohammed Alam, *Lady Margaret Hall*) says that they are a first year historian at Lady Margaret Hall and already work with the Islamic Society, meet with the social mobility foundation to help disadvantaged students, and work on access at their own college

The Ordinary Member (Mohammed Alam, *Lady Margaret Hall*) says they wish to make the Oxford Union more transparent, create booklets to improvement engagement

The Ordinary Member (Mohammed Alam, *Lady Margaret Hall*) says it has taken a while to understand the structure of the Union and wants to help open it up to more diverse backgrounds

The Ordinary Member (Mohammed Alam, *Lady Margaret Hall*) says they have known of the Union since watching previous debates

The Senior Access Officer moves that the Access Committee elect Yee Kwan Law (*University College*) as an elected member of Access Committee, pending the ratification by The Standing Committee

Seconded by the Librarian

The motion passes nem. con.

The Senior Access Officer moves that the Access Committee elect Mohammed Alam (*Lady Margaret Hall*) as an elected member of Access Committee, pending the ratification by The Standing Committee

Seconded by the Librarian

The motion passes nem. con.

The Senior Access Officer reminds those elected that there are now no spaces on the Access Committee for elected members, should Standing Committee ratify these

The Senior Access Officer reminds that the Standing Committee must ratify due to its position as the governing body of the Oxford Union

Disabilities Officer

Business of the Disabilities Officer:

The Disabilities Officer has no business

Ethnic Minorities Officer

Business of the Ethnic Minorities Officer:

The Ethnic Minorities Officer has no business

LGBTQIA+ Officer

Business of the LGBTQIA+ Officer:

The LGBTQIA+ Officer has no business

The Women's Officer

Business of the Women's Officer:

The Women's Officer has no business

The Graduate Officer

The Senior Access Officer says that the Graduate Officer has already been organising a debate through the Saïd Business School, which they were organising before becoming Graduate Officer

The Senior Access Officer asks if that can be advertised, that they have spoken with the President and that it is taking place in 6th Week

The Treasurer tells everyone that it is the Intervarsity debate.

International Officer

Business of the International Officer:

The International Officer has no business

The Temporary Membership Officer

Business of the Temporary Membership Officer:

The Temporary Membership Officer has no business

The Socio-Economic Officer

Business of the Socio-Economic Officer:

The Socio-Economic Officer has no business

Standing Committee Delegates

Business of the Standing Committee Delegates:

The Standing Committee Delegates have no business

Elected Members

Business of the Elected Members:

The Elected Members have no business

Any Other Business

The Secretary lets the Committee know that the Oxford Union is hosting a pride social in 6th week and that a budget should soon be available

The Secretary asks for suggestions, for how it should be advertised, as such an event will probably require different advertising to usual

The Secretary asks that any recommendations go to the Secretary or the LGBTQIA+ Officer

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Friday 31st May in the TV room at 13:00

The Chair of Access Committee closes the meeting at 13:41 in the TV room

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam Wilkinson-Hill', written in a cursive style.

Adam Wilkinson-Hill

Jesus College

Secretary of Access Committee