

Draft Minutes of

THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE DEBATE SELECTION COMMITTEE

7th Week Michaelmas Term 2018

Monday 19th November

The Morris Room, 9:30

Present: **The Chair of the Debate Selection Committee** (Lee Chin Wee, *Trinity College*), **The Access and Equity Officer** (Brian Wong, *Wolfson College*), **The Internals Officer** (Louis Collier, *St. Hugh's College*), **Standing Committee Delegate** (Sara Dube, *St. Hugh's College*), **Director of Training** (Rachel O Nunain, *Trinity College*), **The DSC Secretary** (Rosa Thomas, *St. Anne's College*), **The DSC Treasurer** (Bryan Yan, *Keble College*)

Apologies: **The President** (Stephen Horvath, *New College*), **Communications Officer** (Andrew Seow, *Lincoln College*), **The Externals Officer** (Jason Xiao, *Wadham College*)

DSC opens at 9:41

Business of the CDSC

The CDSC moves to ratify the DSC minutes of weeks 1-5 of the term.

Motion passes nem. com.

Ratification of DSC Week 6 Minutes

The CDSC brings up the fact that Ms. Timmons has suggested 7 amendments to the draft minutes of 6th week DSC. He says that some of her proposed changes are factually incorrect and suggests either not making these changes or amending them in the Week 6 minutes and writing in the Week 7 minutes that Ms. Timmons did not explicitly say what she claims to have said in the Week 6 changes she proposed.

The DSC Secretary says that the minutes should not reflect something that was not actually discussed in the meeting.

The CDSC bring up Ms. Timmons' first change:

1. (P2): Amend 'She adds that NYT has said that they are happy to exclusively sponsor the Oxford Women's Open next year'

To read: 'She adds that NYT has said that they are happy to sponsor, **not exclusively**, the Oxford Women's Open next year.'

This changes passes.

The CDSC brings up Ms. Timmons' second change: 2. (P3): [With reference to the delayed

start of the Open] Amend ‘The Member of Standing Committee Gemma Timmons acknowledges that this was her fault’

To read ‘The Member of Standing Committee Gemma Timmons acknowledges that this was **partly** her fault, **in addition to the delayed start being due to technical difficulties with the tab, a delay in the outrooms cleaner opening the outrooms and some participants arriving late**’.

The Director of Training points out that Ms. Timmons did say in the meeting that it was her fault.

The DSC Secretary says that Ms. Railton was also late so it was not entirely Ms. Timmons’ fault and that Ms. Timmons’ point about the delay in opening the outrooms was true. She says that it is fair to say that the competition running late was only partly Ms. Timmons’ fault but that reg ran late because nobody was there on time.

The DSC Treasurer notes that the outrooms cleaner was late because the outrooms were not properly booked by the convenors.

The CDSC suggests amending Ms. Timmons’ change to:

2. (P3): [With reference to the delayed start of the Open] Amend ‘The Member of Standing Committee Gemma Timmons acknowledges that this was her fault’

To read ‘The Member of Standing Committee Gemma Timmons acknowledges that this was **partly** her fault, **in addition to other mitigating circumstances mentioned later**. This changes passes.

The CDSC brings up Ms. Timmons’ fourth change:

4. (P5): Amend ‘She notes that she is very particular in terms of how she organizes things and that she communicated this to Ms. Railton when starting to organize the Google drive. She says that if something wasn’t done on her end it was meant to be picked up by Ms. Railton and vice versa but more of what Ms. Timmons couldn’t do was not picked up by Ms. Railton than the other way around. Ms. Timmons says that because she knew the system she therefore thought she’d rather pick up all the work herself and do it right’.

To read: ‘She notes that she is very particular in terms of how she organizes things and that she communicated this to Ms. Railton when starting to organize the Google **Drive**. She says that **she and Ms. Railton split the tasks**, but if something wasn’t done on her end it was **agreed** to be picked up by Ms. Railton and vice versa. **Some of Ms. Timmons’ tasks were not picked up by Ms. Railton. Ms. Timmons says that this was because she knew the system and she therefore thought she’d rather pick up all the work herself and do it right**’.

This change passes.

The CDSC brings up Ms. Timmons’ sixth change:

6. (P5): Amend ‘The Member of Standing Committee Gemma Timmons says that she would like to play a big part in the next Women’s Open because she had a lot of fun on the day of the Open and found it to be very rewarding.’

To read: 'The Member of Standing Committee Gemma Timmons says that she would like to play a big part in the next Women's Open because she had a lot of fun on the day of the Open and found it to be very rewarding, **and understands from first hand experience what went well and what could be improved.**'

The DSC decides to strike this change as it was not said in the meeting.

The CDSC brings up Ms. Timmons' seventh change:

7. (P6): Amend 'The Member of Standing Committee Gemma Timmons says that this was an idea put forth to improve the prestige of the Open - and having it before the IV may result in a higher turnout as people would be incentivized to come to it to prepare for the IV'.

To read: 'The Member of Standing Committee Gemma Timmons says that this was an idea put forth **during the Open at the Women's Discussion Forum** to improve the prestige of the Open - and having it before the IV may result in a higher turnout as people would be incentivized to come to it to prepare for the IV'.

The DSC agrees to pass this change.

The CDSC brings up Ms. Timmons' third change:

3. (P4): [With reference to whether Ms. Railton was pulling her weight on the Women's convening team]: Amend 'The Member of Standing Committee Gemma Timmons says that Ms. Railton was not.'

To read: 'The Member of Standing Committee Gemma Timmons says that Ms. Railton was, **but that some of what both she and Ms. Railton did could have been improved**'.

The Internals Officer notes that Ms. Timmons' proposed change is factually untrue.

The CDSC notes that it was within Ms. Timmons' power to say make her proposed amendment during the meeting but that she did not do so.

The DSC decides to strike this change.

The CDSC brings up Ms. Timmons' fifth change:

5. (P5): Amend 'The Member of Standing Committee Gemma Timmons says that she had a stronger drive on logistics but acknowledges that Ms. Railton was good in soring [sic] out the Equity and CA teams'

To read: 'The Member of Standing Committee Gemma Timmons says that she had a stronger drive on logistics but acknowledges that Ms. Railton was **good at sorting** out the Equity and CA teams, **drawing up the invoices, entertainment, and food.**'

The DSC decides to correct the spelling mistake of 'soring' but to strike to second part of the proposed change as this was not said in the meeting. He notes that Ms. Railton did indeed help with invoices, entertainment and food but that he is not comfortable with including this in the minutes of Week 6 as Ms. Timmons did not make this statement during the meeting.

The CDSC moves to ratify the minutes of the 6th week meeting of CDSC with the above amendments.

Motion passes nem. com.

Oxford IV update

The CDSC moves to delay this item of business to the next week, when the External Officer will be present.

Motion passes nem. com.

Workshops update

The CDSC asks the Director of Training to provide an update of how the workshops series run by top debaters idea is progressing for next week.

Fresher of the Year

The CDSC says that the President has asked the Internals Officer to send him a message with an update regarding the Fresher of the Year internal.

The Internals Officer states that the DotY final is on the 27th of November and says that there will be two external and three internal judges for this. He says that he will set a motion for the final.

The CDSC asks the Internals Officer to provide him with an update about the exact timings of this tournament as soon as possible.

The Internals Officer says that he will and asks whether applications for FotY will open the next week.

The CDSC says that they will open after 8th week DSC.

Business of the DSC Treasurer

Cambridge Women's

The DSC Treasurer points out that train fares back from Cambridge Women's will have to be paid for – which costs about £37 per person.

The Director of Training says that it takes £42 to go there by train and suggests telling people that they have to crash for Sunday night.

The DSC Treasurer says that they can do this but may not always be able to guarantee Sunday night crash. He says that it would be more cost efficient to take the extra expenditure used on Cambridge to fund an entire team going to a London tournament instead.

The CDSC says that if they were to do this it would need to be made clear to future DSCs that we are reserving slots in these London tournaments exclusively for women. He adds that he does see value in all-female teams.

The Director of Training says that the Cambridge Women's is a tournament that has a certain level of prestige and that if Oxford can provide a strong team, winning Women's would be something positive. She says that we shouldn't not send teams to Cambridge because it is too expensive.

The DSC Treasurer notes that it costs less to send people to the Cambridge IV than any other tournament because of no reg fees.

The DSC Secretary says that DSC should be wary of saying that we are never going to send any women to one of the best women's competitions. She points out that being an all female team at a normal competition isn't the same as at a women's competition. There is inherent value in the latter and it should be acknowledged that sending two women to a London competition isn't the same as sending two women to a Women's competition such as the one at Cambridge.

The CDSC says that he agrees with the points made by the Director of Training and the DSC Secretary and says that he feels we should send the best female team to Cambridge Women's.

The Internals Officer points out that this is assuming that they wish to go.

The CDSC agrees. He says that beyond this point the DSC can have a cost versus prestige justification for any other teams depending on the specific case, therefore not tying the Committee down to a rule.

Expenses

The DSC Treasurer says that £445.95 has to be passed as DSC expenses today.

Budget

The DSC Treasurer says that the flight costs on the budget are less than what the CDSC budgeted for – they are only slightly over £14,000 instead of £14,400.

The Director of Training points out that while this is true DSC does subsidize reasonable transport to the airport – and therefore this extra amount should stay in the budget.

The CDSC says that he is happy to send more teams to EUDC this year contingent on Schools making enough money and DSC being prudent in terms of sending debaters to external IVs – such as more London opens. He also suggests cutting the amount spent on internal competitions. The CDSC states that the DSC is in a healthy budgetary position and that the profit amount for the IV and Women's are actual and not expected. In addition, the convenors of Oxford Schools have indicated that they expect £32,000 in revenue from Schools – but it may be sensible not to expect this amount at this point. The CDSC asks the DSC Secretary to ask the Sponsorship Officer to come to the next week's DSC. He concludes that DSC finances are in a healthy position considering we are not hosting ICYD this year and says that he will send the budget to the Bursar.

Business of the DSC Secretary

8th Week Squads

The DSC Secretary suggests replacing 8th week squads with crew dates.

DSC generally agrees with this proposal.

The DSC Secretary asks whether people will be up for this change or whether she should put up a poll on the squads Facebook page.

The Internals Officer suggests putting up a poll.

The CDSC asks who will go to the crewdate.

The DSC Secretary says that on Tuesday there will be a crewdate between lower and upper intermediate squads and on Wednesday it will be between advanced squads, DSC and older debaters. She says that she will make a poll for this later in the day.

Helper points

The DSC Secretary says that she is worried that someone has stopped updating the helper points record and that the most recent version seems to be from February of this year. She says that the previous DSC Secretary has not replied to her messages asking about this.

The Director of Training suggests keeping a Google doc for helper points.

The CDSC says that this is clearly a procedural problem and that DSC needs to try its best to get some kind of record of the people who have done tournaments and helped out over the past terms.

The DSC Secretary says that she has a list of people who have helped out and who have gone to competitions. She says that the record for this term is therefore not a problem – but rather the main issue is compiling this with last year's records. She says she will follow-up with the previous secretary again on this issue.

The CDSC suggests that the DSC Secretary can give a helper point update in each meeting going forward.

The DSC Secretary says that these updates will be posed on a Google drive once the final version of the record is available.

The CDSC notes that he would like to examine how to reshuffle the roles on DSC next term because some people tend to do more work than others.

The CDSC closes the meeting of DSC at 10:23

Signed,

Sara Dube

Standing Committee

St. Hugh's College