

Ratified Minutes of
THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
5th Week Hilary Term 2015
Monday 16th February 2015
President's Office, 16:00

Present: **The President** (Miss Lisa Wehden, *Worcester College*), **The Librarian** (Mr Charlie Vaughan, *St. John's College*), **The Secretary** (Mr Robert Harris, *New College*), **The Elected Member** (Mr Joe Fowles, *Pembroke College*), **The Elected Member** (Miss Cindy Yu, *Christ Church*), **The Elected Member** (Mr David Browne, *Merton College*), **The Elected Member** (Mr Alastair Holder Ross, *St. Hilda's College*), **The President-Elect** (Mr Roberto Weeden-Sanz, *St. Benet's Hall*), **The Librarian-Elect** (Mr Stuart Webber, *Somerville College*), **The Treasurer-Elect** (Miss Antonia Trent, *St. Hugh's College*), **The Senior Librarian** (Mr Sean Power, *Oriel College*), **The Senior Treasurer** (Mr Stephen Dixon, *Downing College, Cambridge*), **The Bursar** (Mrs Lindsay Warne), **The Returning Officer** (Mr Michael Flagg, *St. Hugh's College*), **The Chairman of the Consultative Committee** (Miss Felicity Blackburn, *Somerville College*), **The Access Officer** (Mr Samuel Billington, *Somerville College*), **The Chair of the Debate Selection Committee** (Mr Jamie Jackson, *St. John's College*).

Attending: **The Ex-Elected Member** (Mr Joseph Miles, *Wadham College*), **The Ex-Returning Officer** (Mr Thomas Reynolds, *University College*), **The Deputy Returning Officer** (Mr Robert Boissonneault, *Keble College*), **The Deputy Returning Officer** (Miss Ceri Smith, *St. Anne's College*), **The Deputy Returning Officer** (Mr Jamie Lagerberg, *Corpus Christi College*), **The Deputy Returning Officer** (Mr Will Barnes, *Hertford College*).

Apologies: **The Treasurer** (Miss NamPhuong Dinh, *Corpus Christi College*), **The Elected Member** (Miss Verity Hubbard, *Lady Margaret Hall*), **The Access Officer** (Mr Daniel Haynes, *New College*), **The Access Officer** (Miss Claire Butler, *Worcester College*).

Absent: None.

The President opens the meeting at 16:06.

Requests to Pass Absences from Previous Meeting

There is no discussion on absences from the previous meeting.

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

There are no matters arising from the previous minutes.

Ratification of Minutes

The President moves that TSC ratifies the Minutes from the Ordinary Meeting of TSC of HT15 4th Week.

Nem. con.

The President

Meetings missed: 0, Missed without good reason: 0

Business of the President:

The President explains that we need to update Standing Order B1.

The Librarian explains that, on Thursday night, rules changes were passed, including changes to Rule 54, which is about speaking to the press. This means that Standing Order B1 must be updated accordingly to avoid inconsistency.

Mr Browne notes that the updated Standing Order also removes the second sentence.

The Librarian says that this is because it created an absurd inconsistency.

Mr Fowles asks for clarification on exactly what the new Standing Order allows.

The Librarian explains that it allows candidates to talk to the press regarding elections without the need for the President's permission, as some Presidents are biased. It does not change the status quo with regard to speaking to the press about other matters.

Mr Robert Boissonneault (DRO) enters the room at 16:09.

The President-Elect asks whether, under the new electoral rules, the President is allowed to campaign for a candidate.

The Librarian responds that they are not, as this would be an abuse of office. This applies to any official position in the society and depends on the severity of the breach.

The Bursar asks where this leaves the status of members of TSC being able to speak in the House on matters recommended by TSC.

Mr Browne says that it has no impact as this is a Standing Order, not a Rule.

Mr Fowles queries why individual members of TSC should not be allowed to speak for or against a certain issue in the House or in the press just because it has been recommended by TSC.

Mr Browne responds that this is because TSC acts as a single body.

The Librarian notes in addition that dissenting members can make their views publicly heard in the minutes of TSC, and the press is then allowed to report on these if they so wish.

Miss Yu asks how members have access to the minutes.

The President responds that all the minutes are posted on the noticeboard and that they can be requested. We are currently looking into whether an online noticeboard would be feasible.

Mr Browne notes that the Library Committee already operates with an online noticeboard.

The President moves that TSC passes the updated Standing Order B1.

Nem. con.

The President says that we finally have the updated complaints pack, which is pretty self-explanatory. If members want to make a complaint, they should pick one up in the General Office. We are about to instruct a barrister who will deal with these complaints.

The Librarian explains that bringing this matter to TSC is just for courtesy. Jenny Carter-Manning (the Complaints Consultant) has put it together; any concerns with the pack can be passed onto her.

Mr Holder Ross asks whether there is any need to facilitate anonymous complaints.

The Librarian says that it is unclear what form an anonymous complaint would take, particularly who would be the complainant; in terms of actually launching complaints of misconduct, we cannot have an anonymous complainant. Of course, complainants can request that disciplinary committee meetings happen in camera, but there cannot be anonymity at the point of launch.

Mr Thomas Reynolds (Ex-RO) enters the room at 16:14.

Mr Browne notes that the RO is not a public prosecutor, nor should he be.

The President explains that she received a letter from some MBA students at the Saïd Business School (SBS) regarding their concerns about the Union's rules. She had a meeting with the student representative at SBS and has written a thorough response letter dealing with each of their points.

The Bursar notes that MBA students are only here for a year.

Miss Felicity Blackburn (CCC) enters the room at 16:17.

Miss Yu asks how they responded to the President's letter.

President says that, at the meeting, Nathan Lambert still thought the Union was not the place he wanted to be spending his money on. She responded to each of his points, but his grievances seem to be personal. We are already in the process of dealing with points 2 and 4. Miss Yu brought up the issue of gender-neutral pronouns in an earlier meeting of TSC this term, and the Forms of the House have already been updated accordingly. Point 1 makes a fair comment but is currently a work in progress. Point 3 represents a historical problem of pidgeing manifesto booklets to SBS students, especially as most MBA students do not check their College pidgees. They are valued members of the Union and it is important to take on their concerns. Rishi (our SBS Liaison Officer) is working hard to ensure we maintain our good relationship. The position of SBS Liaison Officer is currently appointed by the President, but they have been considering electing their own Officer. However, this could potentially cause certain procedural problems under the rules; members of committee should report back next week with their thoughts on this.

The President says that she wants to talk about the YouTube channel.

Mr Browne asks whether we will stray into discussion of sensitive commercial contracts.

The President says that we will not, so there is no need to go into camera. The YouTube channel will soon be going back online. We have control again and are currently in the process of editing videos.

The Librarian-Elect asks whether all the videos and 'hits' are still there.

The President responds they are.

The Librarian-Elect asks when the missing videos (those which have been recorded since the channel was taken offline) will go up.

The President explains that she is currently working out a schedule for putting up the missing videos, but they will probably be put up in a staggered chronological order.

Mr Browne says that it is important for the interests of the Union to upload all of the missing videos as soon as possible.

Questions to the President:

There are no questions to the President.

The Librarian

Meetings missed: 0, 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: 1, Missed without good reason: 1

Business of the Treasurer in her absence:

The Treasurer-Elect explains that we need to pass DSC expenses.

The CDSC explains that, when a judge dropped out from a regional round of Oxford Schools', a Cambridge student was drafted in at the last minute to help out and bought a £4.60 bus ticket. He was not aware that we require actual receipts, rather than mere photocopies, in order to claim back expenses. He did us a massive favour and so we should be slightly lenient on this one occasion.

The Senior Treasurer says that he does not object.

The Treasurer-Elect moves that TSC passes DSC expenses totalling £342.55.

Seconded by Mr Browne.

Nem. con.

The Librarian checks that, since the DSC expenses did not go through Finance Committee as the Treasurer has gone home for family reasons, the Senior Treasurer is happy to waive this requirement.

The Senior Treasurer responds that he is.

The Bursar notes that the expenses passed in 4th Week TSC were done so subject to the approval of a Senior Officer (neither of whom were present at the time).

The Senior Treasurer says that gives his approval.

Questions to the Treasurer in her absence:

There are no questions to the Treasurer.

The Secretary

Meetings missed: 1, Missed without good reason: 0

Business of the Secretary:

The Secretary says that he will bring the accounts for his 'A Night in Paris' Ball to the Finance Committee and TSC next week.

Questions to the Secretary:

There are no questions to the Secretary.

Mr Fowles

Meetings missed: 2, Missed without good reason: 1

Business of Mr Fowles:

Mr Fowles explains that he would like to pass his absence from 4th Week TSC as being with ‘good reason’ as he was at an internship interview with IBM in Winchester. He has presented TSC with email evidence corroborating this claim.

The Librarian says that we need to decide if it was a pressing and extraordinary engagement. In his opinion, it most certainly was both.

Mr Browne agrees that it would be unreasonable to expect that Mr Fowles should have missed his interview.

President jokes that we should wait to hear the result of the interview before deciding.

Mr Fowles moves that TSC passes his absence from the Ordinary Meeting of TSC of HT15 4th Week as being with ‘good reason’ due to his having a pressing and extraordinary engagement.

Seconded by Mr Holder Ross.

Nem. con.

Questions to Mr Fowles:

There are no questions to Mr Fowles.

Miss Hubbard

Meetings missed: 1, Missed without good reason: 1

Business of Miss Hubbard in her absence:

Miss Hubbard has no business.

Questions to Miss Hubbard in her absence:

There are no questions to Miss Hubbard.

Miss Yu

Meetings missed: 0, Missed without good reason: 0

Business of Miss Yu:

Miss Yu has no business.

Questions to Miss Yu:

There are no questions to Miss Yu.

Mr Browne

Meetings missed: 0, Missed without good reason: 0

Business of Mr Browne:

Mr Browne has no business.

Questions to Mr Browne:

There are no questions to Mr Browne.

Mr Holder Ross

Meetings missed: 0, Missed without good reason: 0

Business of Mr Holder Ross:

Mr Holder Ross has no business.

Questions to Mr Holder Ross:

There are no questions to Mr Holder Ross.

The President-Elect

Meetings missed: 3, Missed without good reason: 1

Business of the President-Elect:

The President-Elect says that he was at his Grandmother's funeral last week.

The President-Elect moves that TSC passes his absence from the Ordinary Meeting of TSC of HT15 4th Week as being with 'good reason' due to his having a pressing and extraordinary engagement.

Seconded by Mr Browne.

Nem. con.

Questions to the President-Elect:

There are no questions to the President-Elect.

The Librarian-Elect

Meetings missed: 0, 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: 1, Missed without good reason: 1

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 in their absence:

The Ex-Officio have no business.

Questions to the Ex-Officio in their absence:

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 President moves TSC into camera to discuss a commercially sensitive matter at 16:28.

The President moves TSC out of camera at 16:41.

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 Returning Officer explains that we need to pass the tribunal shortlist for HT15 with an amendment to add in Miss Katherine Sidders (who was missed out by accident).

Mr Browne asks in which year she was RO.

The Returning Officer says that he is not completely sure but believes it was 2008.

The President moves that TSC passes the tribunal shortlist for HT15 with an amendment to include Miss Katherine Sidders.

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:

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.

Any Other Business

There is no other business.

Date of the Next Meeting

Monday 6th Week Hilary Term 2015 (23rd February 2015), 16:00, in the President's Office.

The President adjourns the meeting at 16:41 until the JDC at 17:10.

The JDC occurs, chaired by the Librarian (since the President brought the complaint on behalf of Union staff members).

The Librarian closes the meeting at 18:01.

Signed,

Robert Harris
New College
Secretary