

The Ratified Minutes of
THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
7th Week Hilary Term 2019
25th February 2019
TV Room, 16:00

Present:

The President (Mr Daniel Wilkinson, *Oriel College*), **The Librarian** (Mr Brendan McGrath, *Oriel College*), **The Treasurer** (Ms Amy Gregg, *Somerville College*), **The Secretary** (Mr Nicholas Leah, *Lincoln College*), **The Elected Member** (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*), **The Elected Member** (Mr Shining Zhao, *University College*), **The Elected Member** (Ms Mahi Joshi, *Trinity College*), **The Elected Member** (Mr Jim Brennan, *St Peter's College*), **The Elected Member** (Mr Elliot Bromley, *St Edmund Hall*), **The Elected Member** (Mr Rai Saad Khan, *Christ Church*), **The President-Elect** (Ms Genevieve Athis, *Christ Church*), **The Librarian-Elect** (Ms Sara Dube, *St Hugh's College*), **The Ex-President** (Mr Stephen Horvath, *New College*), **The Ex-Secretary** (Mr Shanuk Mediwaka, *Lincoln College*)

Attending:

The Elected Member (Ms Olivia Leigh, *Keble College*), **The Senior Treasurer** (Mr Stephen Dixon, *Downing College, Cambridge*), **The Senior Librarian** (Mr Sean Power, *Oriel College*), **The Bursar** (Mrs Lindsay Warne), **The Returning Officer** (Mr Liam Frahm, *Jesus College*), **The Chair of the Debate Select Committee** (Mr Chin Lee Wee, *Trinity College*), **The Access Officer** (Ms Amelia Harvey, *Kellogg College*), Mr Mo Iman, *Somerville College*.

Absent:

The Senior Librarian (Mr Sean Power, *Oriel College*), **The Chair of the Consultative Committee** (Mr James Dix, *Christ Church*)

The President opens the meeting at 16:03

Apologies

The President states that they have received apologies from the Elected Member (Ms Olivia Leigh, *Keble College*).

Requests to Pass Absences from Previous Meetings

The President moves that the Standing Committee pass the President's absence from the 6th week ordinary meeting of the Standing Committee due to society business of paramount importance with good reason

The motion passes nem. con.

The President moves that the Standing Committee pass the Chair of the Consultative Committee's absence from the 6th week ordinary meeting of the Standing Committee due to a disabling and infectious illness with good reason

The motion passes nem. con.

The President moves that the Standing Committee pass the Chair of the Debate Selection Committee's absence from the 6th week ordinary meeting of the Standing Committee due to a pressing and extraordinary engagement with good reason

The motion passes nem. con.

The President moves that the Standing Committee pass Mr Shining Zhao's absence from the 6th week ordinary meeting of the Standing Committee due to an immoveable academic commitment with good reason

The motion passes nem. con.

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

There are no matters arising from previous minutes.

Ratification of Minutes

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify the minutes from the 4st week HT19 Ordinary Meeting of the Standing Committee

The motion passes nem. con.

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify the minutes from the 5st week HT19 Ordinary Meeting of the Standing Committee

The motion passes nem. con.

The President

Press Requests

The President notes that before they move onto their press requests for the week they need to appoint a new Access Officer.

The President moves to pass a formal motion of thank you to Mx Brian Wong for their dedication to access at the Oxford Union

The motion passes nem. con.

The President states that they would like to appoint Mr Mo Iman to the position of Access Officer.

The President-Elect objects to this appointment because Mr Mo Iman is running for the Standing Committee and if they are elected they would have to resign.

The President maintains that they need someone to work for two weeks as Access Officer. They add that there would be no overlap between the two roles.

The President-Elect notes that Mr Mo Iman would be elected to the Standing Committee pending tribunals

The Treasurer-Elect states that if Mr Mo Iman is elected they would have to attend many meetings and inductions in eighth week. They add that it would be better to appoint someone who can solely dedicated themselves to the role of Access Officer.

The President-Elect says Mr Mo Iman is the current LGBTQ+ Officer and would do an excellent job.

The Treasurer moves that the Standing Committee grant Mr Mo Iman speaking rights for the duration of the meeting

Seconded by the President-Elect.

The motion passes nem. con.

Mr Mo Iman states that they think they would be able to perform both roles. They acknowledge the President-Elect's concern but maintain that they have a lot of available time in the coming weeks.

The President-Elect accepts this point and maintains that they are not questioning Mr Mo Iman's commitment or competence. They add that under the rules a committee member cannot be on both the senior appointed committee and the junior committee. They further add that the President would need to appoint a new LGBTQ+ Officer if Mr Mo Iman is appointed to the role of Access Officer.

The President argues that Mr Mo Iman has been the most dedicated committee member on the Access Committee this term. They add that Mr Mo Iman would be an engine for hard work during the final two weeks of term.

The President-Elect maintains that the President-Elect would need to appoint a new LGBTQ Officer. They question the point of such an appointment with only a few weeks left of the term.

The President argues that the Access Committee does not need to have two Access Officers. They add that the Access Committee would lose a junior appointed official but gain a senior appointed official.

The Treasurer asks the President-Elect if they are proposing leaving the role vacant.

Ms Amelia Harvey enters at 16:13

The President-Elect replies that they think that someone should be appointed but they should be from outside the current committee.

The Treasurer-Elect notes that the Access Committee would be facing an unusual situation where both access officers are running in the upcoming election.

Mr Mo Iman maintains that they have a day off on Friday and they are happy to commit to the role despite running in the upcoming election.

The President-Elect maintains that they have nothing against Mr Mo Iman but they need to appoint someone who can work for longer than two weeks.

The President asks Ms Amelia Harvey if they have anything to say.

Ms Amelia Harvey states that it would be nice to have a second person in chasing handover documents.

The President moves that the Standing Committee appoint Mr Mo Iman as Access Officer for the remainder of Hilary Term 2019

The motion fails with 4 votes in favour (the President, the Treasurer, Mr Shining Zhao, Ms Mahi Joshi) and 7 votes against (The President-Elect, The Librarian-Elect, The Treasurer-Elect, Mr Chaitanya Kediya, Mr Elliot Bromley, Mr Jim Brennan, Mr Rai Saad Khan), including one abstention (The Secretary).

The President notes that they have received press requests from Cherwell and OxStu about Mr Chin Lee Wee disqualification from running for the position of Treasurer in the upcoming election. They add that the Returning Officer gave a rules based response.

Financial reform

The President notes their desire to discuss their proposed financial reform change.

The Treasurer-Elect opposes this invoking Rule 23h(ii). **The President-Elect** states that they are oppose discussion of the proposed change.

The Treasurer-Elect argues that it was discussed in Consultative Committee earlier on that an item of business cannot be discussed if it was received late.

The Treasurer asks if the proposed change was posted on the noticeboard. **The President** replies that it was.

The Senior Treasurer states that for any motion related to money there needs to be the explicit consent of a Senior Officer. They add that there are two Senior Officers present in the meeting. They further add that they have not read the proposed change as it was circulated this morning by the President and they need sufficient time to read the change. They note that normally old rules are suitably annotated in order to give the change a proper reading. They argue that they would prefer if the Standing Committee did not make changes today.

The President expresses concern about the lack of desire to improve transparency and accountability within the society.

Questions to the President:

There are no questions to the President

The Librarian

Business of the Librarian:

The Librarian has no business in their absence

Questions to the Librarian:

There are no questions to the Librarian in their absence

The Treasurer

The Treasurer moves that the Standing Committee pass DSC expenses to the value of £334.96, as recommended by the Finance Committee

Seconded by the President.

The motions passes nem. con.

Questions to the Treasurer:

There are no questions to the Treasurer

The Secretary

The Business of the Secretary:

Ball Accounts Update

The Secretary notes that they have some good news about the Hilary Term 2019 Ball accounts. They state that Matthew Clark, the drinks supplier, are happy to buy back some of the drinks that were not used at the ball to the value of £576.19.

The Treasurer asks if the Bar is willing to pay for the drinks too. **The Secretary** replies that they have spoken with the House Manager and it does not look like the Bar is interested in the remaining drinks.

The Secretary states that they will be redraft the Ball accounts.

Event Suggestions form and Event Feedback form

The Secretary provides a full summary of their proposal for an event suggestions form and an event feedback form. They state that this was a proposal that was supported by the President-Elect, the Librarian-Elect, and the Treasurer-Elect in last term's election. They add that Mr Chaitanya Kediya has been very supportive of the proposal. They begin their summary by outlining that the event suggestions form would have two principal purposes: firstly, as a outlet where ordinary society members can articulate their suggestions for events, and thus provide the committee with an appropriate place to initiate the planning of events as issues arise in real time; secondly, as a way for ordinary society members to leverage their personal connections to potential guest speakers.

The Secretary adds that the event feedback form could serve as a useful tool for ordinary members to articulate their thoughts about the organisation and quality of the events, including whether speakers were sufficiently challenged in their interviews. They note that this has been a central figure of recent discussion about the society's events.

The Bursar expresses concern that the event feedback form will only be used by people who wish to say something negative about the society.

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) states that there are huge benefits from the event suggestion form as it centralises speaker suggestions. They add that whilst they agree with the Bursar that the event feedback form would often be negative, it would serve as an important outlet for members to voice their concerns about the society's event or offer their feedback. They note that this form could be overseen by the Director of Operations.

The Elected Member (Mr Elliot Bromley, *St Edmund Hall*) notes that they have a few thoughts about the event suggestion form. They state that it is important to manage people's expectations and it could set a precedent of rejection. They add that they have a second concern about a

minority against majority issue with the event feedback form, whereby we only hear from a few people who have particularly negative views about events.

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) maintains that it is still a useful form for people to express their grievances or make suggestions for the improvement of events.

The Treasurer states that they really like the event suggestions form. They add that it would be useful for the society to utilise people with valuable connections. They further add that they are concerned that most of the feedback with the event feedback form will be negative.

The Bursar states that there will always be a few members who are not happy.

The President notes that the society already provides opportunities for feedback with the termly access reports. They express concern that a weekly form will lead to a culture of feedback.

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) questions why this is such a bad thing. They ask the President who they think should oversee the event suggestions form. **The President** replies that they do not think a President would have enough time.

The Bursar states that the Chair of the Consultative Committee could do it.

The President replies that giving someone with discretion that responsibility is dangerous.

Mr Mo Iman leaves the room at 16:38

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) suggests that future committees ensure there is sufficient oversight by multiple people.

The Treasurer maintains that it is still a sensible suggestion for the event suggestions form to come to Consultative Committee

Ms Mahi Joshi asks whether the form would categorise the events. **The Secretary** replies

The Elected Member (Mr Rai Saad Khan, Christ Church) suggests that it makes sense for the President-Elect to have access to the form so they have more time to prepare for their term.

The Treasurer states that it is important that Presidents and President-Elects establish a good relationship working together overseeing the form.

The President-Elect states that they are very supportive of the initiatives. They add that it is a good idea to centralise the event suggestions form, the event feedback form, and the access surveys so that Presidents and President-Elects can oversee the views of the society's membership.

Ms Amelia Harvey notes that the access report had a lot of complaints about the Steve Bannon event.

The Bursar states that they believe that there should be some involvement from the House Manager.

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) states that whilst the access and member surveys are useful, the Secretary and them want something more dynamic. They note that is a great deal of inertia when acting upon feedback in the Union.

The Secretary notes that there is no possibility for the society to design a perfect tool. They add that they think it is important that members are given the opportunity to provide feedback on a regular basis rather than in a termly access report. They add there might be a practical issue with the Chair of Consultative Committee bringing updates from the event feedback form to the Standing Committee as they often have logistical duties on Monday afternoons. They further add that it is important to proceed with caution with the event feedback form. They suggest that they pin the event feedback form this week whilst think about how it might be adapted in a more suitable manner.

The Treasurer asks the Secretary how they are going to word the event suggestions form. **The Secretary** replies that it will be worded as per the circulated documentation. They add that they will be sure to use a clear N.B. that speaker suggestions will not necessarily be followed through.

The Secretary moves that the Standing Committee endorse the idea for an event suggestion form being circulated in the society's weekly newsletter

Seconded by Mr Chaitanya Kediya.

The motion passes nem con.

Questions to the Secretary:

There are no questions to the Secretary

Mr Chaitanya Kediya

Business of Mr Chaitanya Kediya:

Mr Chaitanya Kediya has no business

Questions to Mr Chaitanya Kediya:

There are no questions to Mr Chaitanya Kediya

Mr Shining Zhao

Business of Mr Shining Zhao:

Mr Shining Zhao has no business

Questions to Mr Shining Zhao:

There are no questions to Mr Shining Zhao

Ms Mahi Joshi

Business of Ms Mahi Joshi:

Ms Mahi Joshi has no business

Questions to Ms Mahi Joshi:

There are no questions to Ms Mahi Joshi

Mr Jim Brennan

Business of Mr Jim Brennan:

Mr Jim Brennan has no business

Questions to Mr Jim Brennan:

There are no questions to Mr Jim Brennan

Mr Elliot Bromley

Business of Mr Elliot Bromley:

Murder Mystery Night Accounts

Mr Elliot Bromley notes that the Secretary has circulated copies of the Murder Mystery night accounts earlier today. They state that the accounts are fairly simple and the only additional expenses were a prize and dinner for the actors.

Mr Elliot Bromley moves that the Standing Committee pass the Hilary Term 2019 Murder Mystery Night Accounts

Seconded by the Secretary.

The motion passes nem. con.

The Secretary moves that the Standing Committee pass a formal motion of thank you to Mr Elliot Bromley for the organisation of the Murder Mystery Night Social

Seconded by Mr Chaitanya Kediya.

The motion passes nem. con.

Ms Olivia Leigh

Business of Ms Olivia Leigh:

Ms Olivia Leigh has no business in their absence

Questions to Ms Olivia Leigh:

There are no questions to Ms Olivia Leigh in their absence

Mr Rai Saad Khan

Business of Mr Rai Saad Khan:

Mr Rai Saad Khan has no business

Questions to Mr Rai Saad Khan:

There are no questions to Mr Rai Saad Khan

The President-Elect

Business of the President-Elect:

Access to the Speaker Database

The President-Elect notes that the President has been busy this term but there needs to be a better mechanism for the handover of the Civi database. They ask what a solution there could be.

The Treasurer-Elect asks why it took so long to be given access to the database.

The President-Elect replies that the President clearly had a busy week and more important things to do.

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) expresses concern about putting down a formal deadline for the speaker database handover on paper.

Ms Mahi Joshi asks when the handover is normally done by. **The President-Elect** replies that handover usually takes place at the end of fourth week or early in sixth week. They add that this year it took place in sixth week.

The President states that the handover depends on what each President wants. They argue that it does not make sense to bind the President.

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) asks if creating a formal handover deadline would come under Rule 71.

The President asks if this would bind the President

The Treasurer states they would not want to have a strict deadline. They add that if the new President does want access to the speaker database then the old President is not able to decline the request.

The President-Elect states they did want it

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) asks if binding future Presidents is giving them no flexibility at all.

The Treasurer asks the President-Elect to clarify why it took so long for the database to be handed over. **The President-Elect** replies again that it was not the President's top priority.

The Treasurer asks how long it should take to handover the database. **The President-Elect** replies five minutes.

The Treasurer asks why five minutes could not have been found in two weeks.

The Treasurer-Elect asks the Bursar if this has been a problem in the past. **The Bursar** replies that it has not usually been a problem.

The President-Elect moves that the Standing Committee endorses the recommendation the Presidential handover of the speaker database takes place no later than the beginning of 6th week

Seconded by the Treasurer-Elect.

The motion passes nem. con.

Questions to the President-Elect:

There are no questions to the President-Elect

The Librarian-Elect

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

Business of the Treasurer-Elect:

The Librarian-Elect has no business

Questions to the Treasurer-Elect:

There are no questions to the Librarian-Elect

The Ex-Officers

Business of the Ex-Officers:

The Ex-Officers have no business

Questions to the Senior Librarian:

There are no questions to the Ex-Officers

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:

Society Accounts

The Bursar notes that they wish to discuss the society accounts from last week. They note that the Finance Committee wanted to wait a week. They add that the Oxford Union is heading towards contribution of £46,000. They further add that one thing that does concern them is that Oxford Union Limited, the photography and filming company used, is heading towards a deficit of £47,000. They note that the photography and filming budget for Hilary Term is considerably higher than any previous term. They add that that the amount for the photography and filming budget needs to be underwritten by Oxford Union Society.

The Treasurer states that Mr Roger Askew's charging of £160 per event for photography seems very high.

The Bursar notes that they used to charge less but then it went higher when he secured the copyright. They add that if the committee have any thoughts about what can be done then they should be shared with the President-Elect.

The President states that although Mr Roger Askew is quite expensive it is very useful to know that someone is always there to do the work.

The Treasurer suggests that the committee introduced a rota of appointed photographers.

The Elected Member (Mr Elliot Bromley, St Edmund Hall) notes that the appointed photographers might charge more given the aforementioned figure.

The Bursar states that the committee is getting into discussions that they should not. They add that they simply wanted to flag the society's accounts.

The Senior Treasurer suggests that the President exercises discretion on which events are uploaded onto Youtube and which are not. **The President** replies that you devalue when you the videos when you exercise discretion.

The Treasurer adds that speakers are invited on the promise that videos will be uploaded onto the Youtube page.

The Bursar states that there needs to be sure more control in the chamber regarding members filming on their phones. **The President** replies that this can be difficult to achieve.

The Bursar notes that people did not used to want press coverage. They add that now the world has turned full circle and speakers like press coverage.

The President adds that Oxford Union Limited OUL is on companies house and student media outlets do not understand how the society is structured with OLDUT, OUS, and OUL.

The Senior Treasurer states that it is useful that the society knows where its money is going. They ask the Bursar about whether the filming has a copyright. The Bursar replies that only the photography has a copyright.

The Bursar states that they have no further points to make.

Questions to the Bursar:

There are no questions to the Bursar

The Returning Officer

Business of the Returning Officer:

The Secretary notes that they have been asked to pass a number changes to the Debate Selection Committee Standing Orders in the absence of the Returning Officer.

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) asks the Secretary if they can offer a formal explanation. **The Secretary** agrees to this.

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) notes that the Debate Selection Committee rules are within the Standing Orders not the broader rules. They note that the Returning Officer wants to make the Debate Selection Committee rules a separate schedule within the rules. They add that there are conceptually distinct ideas between H1 and H14. They further add that it is very good work from the the Chair of the Debate Selection Committee and the Returning Officer to make it clearer.

The Treasurer asks if the content has been changed. **The Elected Member** (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) replies that only the layout has been changed. The Senior Treasurer agrees that it is a very good idea.

Mr Chaitanya Kediya moves that the Standing Committee pass the proposed changes to the Debate Selection Committee as follows: Amend Standing Orders B12, B13 and B14 to read 'UNUSED'; Introduce a new Chapter H in the Standing Orders titled 'Debate Selection Committee', as outlined in Appendix A; Introduce Standing Orders H1, H2, H3, H4, H5, H6, H7, H8, H9, H10, H11, H12, H13, and H14 as outlined in Appendix A.

Seconded by the Secretary.

The motion passes nem. con.

The Secretary moves that the Standing Committee passes a motion of thank you to Mr Thomas Laver their last minute representation of election candidates during the society's scrutiny meetings at the weekend

Seconded by the President-Elect.

The motion passes nem. con.

The Secretary moves that the Standing Committee passes a motion of thank you to Mr Joe Sisson for their last minute representation of election candidates during the society's scrutiny meetings at the weekend

Seconded by the President-Elect.

The motion passes nem. con.

Questions to the Returning Officer:

There are no questions to the Returning Officer

The Chair of the Consultative Committee

Business of the Chair of the Consultative:

The Chair of the Consultative Committee has no business in their absence

Questions to the Chair of the Consultative Committee:

There are no questions to the Chair of the Consultative Committee in their absence

The Access Officers

Business of the Access Officers:

The Access Officers have no business

Questions to the Access Officers:

The Access Officers have no business

The Chair of the Debate Selection Committee

Business of the Chair of the Debate Selection Committee:

The Chair of the Debate Selection Committee has no business in their absence

Questions to the Chair of the Debate Selection Committee:

There are no questions to the Chair of the Debate Selection Committee in their absence

Changes to the Composition of this Committee

There are no changes to the composition of the Standing Committee.

Any Other Business

Graduate access membership

The Treasurer notes that they have been making further enquiries to colleges about graduate access membership. They add that they have nothing substantive to report yet.

Date of Next Meeting

The President will call the next meeting for Monday 4th March at 16:00

The President closes the meeting at 17:41

Signed,



Nicholas Leah
Lincoln College
Secretary