

Ratified Minutes of
THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
6th Week Michaelmas Term 2015
Monday 16th November 2015
President's Office, 16:00

Present: **The President** (Mr Charles Vaughan, *St John's College*), **The Secretary** (Mr Golooba-Mutebi, *St John's College*), **The Elected Member** (Miss Henna Dattani, *Brasenose College*), **The Elected Member** (Mr Callum Tipple, *Hertford College*), **The Elected Member** (Mr Jonathan Tan, *Exeter College*), **The President-Elect** (Mr Stuart Webber, *Somerville College*), **The Librarian-Elect** (Miss Niamh Coote, *Pembroke College*), **The Treasurer-Elect** (Mr Noah Lachs, *Lincoln College*), **the Ex-Secretary** (Mr Nikolay Koshikov, *Exeter College*), **The Senior Librarian** (Mr Sean Power, *Oriel College*), **Senior Treasurer** (Mr Stephen Dixon, *Downing College, Cambridge*), **The Bursar** (Mrs Lindsey Warne), **The Returning Officer** (Mr Peter Corden, *Oriel College*), **The Chair of the Consultative Committee** (Mr Michael Li, *Magdalen College*), **The Access Officer** (Mr Harry Samuels, *New College*), **The Chair of the Debate Selection Committee** (Mr Jamie Jackson, *St John's College*).

Attending: **The BME Officer** (Mr Ryan Tang, *Pembroke College*).

Apologies: **The Treasurer** (Miss Verity Hubbard, *Lady Margaret Hall*), **The Librarian-Elect** (Miss Niamh Coote, *Pembroke College*), **The Elected Member** (Mr Tim Cannon, *Wadham College*).

Absent:

The President opens the meeting at 16:09.

Requests to Pass Absences from Previous Meeting

The President moves that TSC pass the absence of the Librarian from the Ordinary Meeting of TSC of MT15 5th Week as being with good reason due to his having to host a guest speaker.

Passed nemine contradicente.

The Librarian apologises for having to soon leave to host a guest speaker, meaning that he shall miss a large part of the meeting.

The Secretary moves on the behalf of Mr Tim Cannon that TSC pass his absence from the Ordinary Meeting of TSC of MT15 6th Week as being with good reason due to his being unwell.

Seconded by the President.

Passed nemine contradicente.

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

There are no matters arising from the previous minutes.

Ratification of Minutes

The President moves that TSC ratify the minutes from the Ordinary Meetings of TSC of MT15 5th Week.

Passed nemine contradicente.

The President

Business of the President:

The President has no business.

Questions to the President:

There are no questions to the President.

The Librarian

Business of the Librarian:

The Librarian informs TSC that SBS students now all automatically become members of the Oxford Union and that the new SBS Liaison Officer has made many efforts to coordinate the relationship between SBS and the Union in terms increasing the involvement of its students in the running of the Society. The Librarian adds that SBS students not only could bring a great deal of knowledge and experience regarding handling finances and monetisation of digital content but also have good contacts with important business and political figures, so they feel that they could have a useful contribution to the Union. The Librarian expresses his view that, as a signal to SBS student members that their input to the Union would be greatly valued, it would be good if TSC gave speaking rights to the SBS Liaison Officer for the duration of his office, i.e. one year.

The President-Elect adds that speaking rights would be being given to the SBS Liaison Officer in a personal capacity and not just by virtue of holding the office.

The Librarian adds that this is so that each new SBS Liaison Officer could be given automatic speaking rights individually, should they be as helpful as the current holder, Mr Matt McGrath, has been.

The President-Elect expresses his view that Mr Matt McGrath would be a fantastic contribution to Ordinary Meetings of TSC.

The Senior Treasurer states that he is strongly opposed to the suggestion of awarding the SBS Liaison Officer as he is not an elected officer.

The Librarian responds that Mr Matt McGrath actually was elected by SBS students.

The Senior Treasurer responds that he was not elected by the Union membership at large, however, which would make awarding him automatic speaking rights unfair on other appointed officers and also go against the principle of who has automatic speaking rights at TSC.

The President-Elect responds that the situation is different with SBS members since many of them have real life experience in areas in which most student members do not, citing one SBS member whom he met earlier in the day who previously worked on monetisation of digital content for Warner Bros., expertise that could be extremely useful.

The Senior Treasurer expresses his unwillingness to have another unelected person be given automatic speaking rights.

The President asks why the Senior Treasurer is so opposed to this suggestion since they would be being given in a personal capacity and not the position as routine.

The Senior Treasurer reiterates his view that only elected members of TSC should have automatic speaking rights.

The President asks why this is such a problem, given that meetings of TSC are public and people are so rarely denied speaking rights.

The Senior Treasurer expresses his view that it is good for ordinary members to be able to make their opinions heard at these meetings but that they are given speaking rights on each occasion that they turn up, so the SBS student members should not be given a privilege over other members.

The President asks the Senior Treasurer whether he is concerned that this might lead to the SBS Liaison Officer becoming a member of TSC or for the principle of only elected members of TSC having automatic speaking rights.

The Senior Treasurer responds that it is the latter, as it puts SBS member in a different position to members at colleges.

The President expresses his view that it would not be a greatly different position.

The Bursar adds that other organisations whose members gain automatic Union membership have never had such a position, so SBS should not be treated any differently.

The President responds that SBS is different as it a large proportion of the Union's financial revenue comes from its student members, adding that this would be more of a symbolic political gesture.

The Senior Librarian says that he does not have an issue with the proposal but asks what benefit it is intended to have.

The Librarian explains that it will be of primarily political benefit, ensuring that SBS student members do not feel marginalised within the society and enabling them to have more input in it.

The Senior Librarian asks what the point is, then, as he would be given speaking rights anyway each time he came to meetings.

The President explains that the point is that it is a gesture that will ensure that SBS student members do not wrongly feel that the SBS Liaison Officer is undervalued.

The Librarian leaves the room at 16:20.

The Senior Librarian asks if there are any other positions within the Union that have a similar arrangement.

The President informs the Senior Librarian that all of the liberation and access officers have automatic speaking rights, so awarding them to the SBS Liaison Officer would not be anomalous.

The Senior Librarian suggests that the post be given these rights, then, and not the individual.

The President explains that the reason why this would be for Mr Matt McGrath personally is that he in particular has been an exceptional SBS Liaison Officer, whereas others in the past have not been.

The Bursar adds that no other colleges have Liaison Officers.

The Senior Librarian responds that SBS is not itself a college, with all its students being members of colleges.

The Bursar explains that she is aware of this but is still a unique position that no college or other organisation has. The Bursar adds that she thinks that doing this would set a precedent that would make

it effectively impossible to stop it becoming every SBS Liaison Officer automatically receiving speaking rights, which she would be disinclined to accept given what a negative effect the last SBS Liaison Officer had. The Bursar adds that she also has received several complaints from staff regarding alleged arrogant behaviour of this year's new group of SBS members.

The President responds that there are always some individuals who are unpleasant in any group of people and that this does not reflect the nature of SBS students at large. The President reminds the Bursar that the most of the problems experienced in the past arose because of SBS Class Reps, which are separate from the SBS Liaison Officer, and that this position was created after much thought and discussion to give representation to SBS student members, who contribute significantly to the Union's budget. The President adds that the difference between giving automatic speaking rights to Mr Matt McGrath and just any useful person is that he is someone who has been elected by a large number of students to represent them, as a person who can be useful to the Union, not just any so and so.

The Bursar expresses her fear that the TSC governing body could lose its distinct nature by adding more unelected people to its composition.

The President explains that this is not what would be happening, as he would not have the right to initiate or vote on motions, but could still contribute to their discussion. The President reiterates the point made previously that SBS student members have expressed some unhappiness with what they perceive is their underrepresentation in the Union so TSC needs to do something to show them that their input is valued.

The Senior Treasurer emphasises that TSC should be careful about not feeling compelled into doing something due to financial pressures, as has been the case in the past. The Senior Treasurer suggests that Mr Matt McGrath be given speaking rights when he attends and has something to contribute and not for everything, most of which has nothing to do with SBS in particular.

Mr Harry Samuels expresses his view that it would become difficult to explain why the next SBS Liaison Officer were not given automatic speaking rights if this were to occur, reiterating the Bursar's earlier concerns.

The President expresses his view that the nature of SBS student members is different as, since they have little involvement in their colleges, they do not have as direct a link to the Union committee as other students might, hence why some of them might feel underrepresented.

The Returning Officer suggests that Matt McGrath and future SBS Liaison Officers should instead be given speaking rights termly, with their renewal contingent on his continuing usefulness.

Miss Henna Dattani agrees with the Returning Officer's suggestion. Miss Henna Dattani adds that not giving the next SBS Liaison Officer automatic speaking rights could also sour the relationship between the Union and SBS.

The Bursar concurs, adding that this would offend them.

The Returning Officer offers his suggestion again as a potential solution.

The President expresses his view that this would be even more problematic if they were ever to not be granted again mid-tenure, since the position is held for an academic year and not a term.

The Bursar asks why he cannot just be awarded speaking rights every time he attends, like other people.

The President-Elect responds that this would not resolve the 'political gesture' goal.

The Secretary contends that this would not, in practice, be any different from the current situation, rendering that suggestion meaningless.

Miss Henna Dattani asks why the Returning Officer's proposal cannot be adopted instead.

The President reiterates that it would be extremely politically problematic if automatic speaking rights for the individual were ever not renewed during their time in the role and that would also give the idea to SBS students that TSC did not consider the democratic decision of SBS students members to be good enough.

The Bursar adds that it would resolve the issue of giving them automatic speaking rights at all.

The President-Elect expresses his opinion that TSC needs to do something to show SBS members that they are valued, as many have been asking for greater representation.

The Senior Treasurer expresses strongly his view that the SBS Liaison Officer should not be treated any differently from other unelected officers.

The President suggests that, since the Librarian is not here to move his own motion, which has proved divisive, it should be postponed until next week, when he can do so himself.

The Senior Treasurer adds that we should not have all the discussion again.

The President delays voting on this proposal until the next meeting of TSC.

Questions to the Librarian:

There are no questions to the Librarian.

The Treasurer

Business of the Treasurer:

The President moves on behalf of the Treasurer that TSC pass the DSC expenses, as recommended by the Finance Committee, totalling £1463.66

Passed nemine contradicente.

Questions to the Treasurer:

There are no questions to the Treasurer.

The Secretary

Business of the Secretary:

The Secretary explains to TSC why he has not yet done the accounts for the ball, citing difficulty with getting a few business to send through their invoices, and assures TSC that he shall bring them next week.

Questions to the Secretary:

There are no questions to the Secretary.

Miss Henna Dattani

Business of Miss Henna Dattani:

Miss Henna Dattani brings a proposed change, on behalf of the BME Officer and the Access Officer, Mr Harry Samuels, to the name of the BME Officer to 'Ethnic Minority Officer'.

The President notes that he believes the reason certain members want this change is on the grounds of inclusivity.

The Secretary adds that the reason why it was argued last time that the role should be called "BME Officer" instead of "Ethnic Minority Officer" is that the former makes it more obvious that this is a race-related role and not just for ethnic minorities, which could include white Europeans.

The BME Officer explains that many students, who come from ethnic minority backgrounds, especially Asian students, have expressed confusion over the title of the BME Officer. The BME Officer explains that 'Ethnic Minority Officer' clarifies that it is for anyone who identifies as an ethnic minority and would seek a point of reference regarding racial matters.

Mr Jonathan Tan expresses his view that it would be so facetious for a white person to apply for this position that this would never happen.

Miss Henna Dattani adds that, since 'Ethnic Minority' is included in what the term 'BME' means, this name change does not change the nature of the position, only taking away emphasis on people who identify as Black over other racial groups.

Mr Harry Samuels adds that most members with whom he discussed this seemed most enthusiastic with the new title.

Miss Henna Dattani moves that TSC resolve that the title of the Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Officer henceforth be changed to 'Ethnic Minority Officer', with the rules and standing orders of the Society amended where necessary.

Seconded by Miss Mia Smith.

Passed nemine contradicente.

Questions to Miss Henna Dattani:

There are no questions to Miss Henna Dattani.

Miss Mia Smith

Business of Miss Mia Smith:

Miss Mia Smith has no business.

Questions to Miss Mia Smith:

There are no questions to Miss Mia Smith.

Mr Tim Cannon

Business of Mr Tim Cannon:

Mr Tim Cannon has no business.

Questions to Mr Tim Cannon:

There are no questions to Mr Tim Cannon.

Mr Callum Tipple

Business of Mr Callum Tipple:

Mr Callum Tipple has no business.

Questions to Mr Callum Tipple:

There are no questions to Mr Callum Tipple.

Mr Jonathan Tan

Business of Mr Jonathan Tan:

Mr Jonathan Tan has no business.

Questions to Mr Jonathan Tan:

There are no questions to Mr Jonathan Tan.

The President-Elect

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

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 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 brings the budget before TSC, explaining that it was amended at the meeting of the Finance Committee before.

The President explains to TSC that there was a discrepancy between what Presidents in Hilary and Trinity Terms can spend, so the amounts were equalised by increasing the budget for Trinity to reflect that of Hilary rather than reducing that of Hilary to match that of Trinity. The President explains that this required more money to be sourced, resulting in the amount of sponsorship that both need increasing. The President adds that it is a balanced budget, which is in the black and, thus, passable.

The President moves that TSC pass the budget.

Passed nemine contradicente.

The President-Elect leaves the room at 16:56.

Questions to the Bursar:

There are no questions to the Bursar.

The Returning Officer

Business of the RO:

The Returning Officer presents the list of names for the election tribunal shortlist.

The Returning Officer informs TSC that it can accept or reject the list altogether or any individuals included therein.

The President moves, on behalf of the Returning Officer, that TSC pass the election tribunal shortlist.

Passed nemine contradicente.

Questions to the RO:

There are no questions to the RO.

The Chair 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 thanks all of the committee members who helped out with the Oxford IV, which was a great success.

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 this committee.

Any Other Business

There is no other business.

Date of the Next Meeting

Monday 7th Week Michaelmas Term 2015 (Monday 22nd November 2015), 16:00, in the President's Office.

The President closes the meeting at 17:00.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ssuuna Golooba-Mutebi', with a stylized, cursive script.

Ssuuna Golooba-Mutebi
St John's College
Secretary