

*Draft Minutes of*

THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE ACCESS COMMITTEE

2<sup>nd</sup> Week Michaelmas Term 2018

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October

The Goodman Library, 12:30

**Present:** **The Access Officer** (Brian Wong, *Wolfson College*), **The President-Elect** (Daniel Wilkinson, *Oriel College*), **The Elected Member and Secretary** (Sara Dube, *St. Hugh's College*), **The Women's Officer** (Minal Haq, *Christ Church College*), **The Brookes Officer** (Olly Woodhouse, *Oxford Brookes University*), **The LGBTQIA+ Officer** (Dominic Gray, *New College*)

**Absent:** **The Disabilities Officer** (Rebecca Wright, *Keble College*), **The Ethnic Minorities Officer** (Antonia Heng, *Christ Church College*), **The Bursar**

**Apologies:** **The President** (Stephen Horvath, *New College*), **The Standing Committee Delegate** (Anisha Faruk, *The Queen's College*)

**Late:** **The Access Officer** (Kirsten Stewart, *Trinity College*), **The Graduate Officer** (Thomas Crook, *Wolfson College*), **The International Officer** (Lee Chin Wee, *Trinity College*), **The Standing Committee Delegate** (Rebecca Collins, *Balliol College*), **The Ordinary Member** (Daniil Ukhorskiy, *Brasenose College*), **The Ordinary Member** (Joseph Grehan-Bradley, *Christ Church College*)

*Access Committee Opens at 12:30*

**Ratification of Minutes**

The Access Officer Brian Wong moves to ratify the minutes of the two previous meetings

*Motion passes nem. com.*

**Business of The President**

No business.

**Business of The Access Chairs**

Access survey

*The Access Officer Kirsten Stewart enters at 12:31*

The Access Officer Brian Wong suggests having check boxes on the survey to make it more straightforward to fill out.

*The Graduate Officer and The Standing Committee Delegate Rebecca Collins enters the room at 12:33*

The Access Officer Brian Wong suggests having different sections for different types of concerns members may have, with check boxes for these options and a comment section at the end.

*The International Officer enters the room at 12:35*

The President-elect agrees to have a writing section where people can indicate their concerns as there may be concerns that Committee can't predict.

The Brookes Officer suggests having a balance between check boxes and comment sections as some people may not have enough time to fill the comment sections out properly.

The President-elect suggests giving a £25 voucher to one randomly selected person who fills out the survey to increase incentive to complete it. He also suggests giving out one free ball ticket.

The Brookes Officer suggests giving someone a choice of attending a meet-and-greet with their preferred speaker instead.

The Access Officer Brian Wong agrees and suggests giving 10% of the total number of people who fill in the survey a meet-and-greet with one preferred speaker.

The Access Officer Kirsten Stewart says that we may need to be wary of giving 10% of the respondents a meet-and-greet as we may not be able to accommodate too many people.

The LGBTQIA+ Officer points out that people may want their concerns to be anonymous and may therefore not want to fill out their membership information to receive a meet-and-greet/ball ticket.

The Brookes Officer suggests instead asking just for people's membership number and then finding out their names through that.

The President-elect asks when the survey will be released.

The Access Officer Brian Wong suggests the middle of Week 4 of this term.

The President-elect says that it would be good to have something preliminary ready for Week 3 TSC, finalize the survey during Week 3 TAC and get the final go-ahead from TSC in Week 4.

The Access Officer Brian Wong suggests that every liberation officer can have their own section in the survey.

The LGBTQIA+ Officer asks what kind of check box questions we would be looking for.

The Access Officer Brian Wong suggests including questions on the kinds of speakers who come to the Union, the potential misrepresentation of members and the use of gender-neutral language – and members would be asked to check boxes if they think these items are issues in the Union.

The LGBTQIA+ Officer suggests including a question asking whether members think there is enough LGBTQIA+ representation in the term card and also asking what members feel about general behaviour towards the LGBTQIA+ community.

The Brookes Officer says that she would like to include a question on Brookes lifetime membership.

The Access Officer Brian Wong brings up the issue of having an Oxford Union stall at the Brookes Freshers Fair and asks whether the Union is still banned from doing this.

The Brookes Officer responds that the Union is no longer banned but that there is now a cost of £2,000 pounds to have a table at the fair. She also suggests including questions on what Brookes students would feel about electoral eligibility for Union Office of Brookes students.

The International Officer says that he would like to include questions on what members feel on a potential lack of events to cater to international students, a possible lack of debating opportunities for international students, a potential over-emphasis of UK-centric debates and panels and a possible under-representation of international speakers in the term card.

The Graduate Officer points out it may not be a good idea to include leading questions in the survey as, for instance, any graduate would check yes to a question asking if they think there is a lack of representation of graduates in the Union.

The Access Officer Brian Wong points out that the point of the survey is to identify problems in the Union.

*The Ordinary Member Daniil Ukhorskiy enters the room at 12:48*

The Graduate Officer suggests asking questions on what graduates feel about graduate representation on both sides of committee and questions on graduate networking events. He says that graduates often come to Oxford with a preconception of what the Union is and often feel that there is not enough graduate representation on Committee.

The Women's Officer suggests having a box where women can specifically write what changes they would personally like to see happen in the Union as everyone would seem to agree that women are underrepresented.

The Access Officer Brian Wong suggests changing the framing of the survey questions to "How can we make the Union better" in order to avoid negative bias.

The Women's Officer agrees that we should avoid using negative words in the survey.

The Brookes Officer suggests creating more information on how to get involved with the Union.

The Access Officer Brian Wong says that there was an election guide created in TT17 but that it never got through to the members.

The Access Officer Kirsten Stewart says that The Librarian was thinking of doing similar access-related work.

The Access Officer Brian Wong suggests having more welfare drinks for women.

The Women's Officer says that she personally didn't find any issues with running for election and points out that the current election shows that female involvement no longer seems like a problem. She also suggests adding a section on the survey where members can fill out what their favourite parts of the Union are.

The Access Officer Brian Wong suggests having a segregation between positive and negative parts of the survey.

The Standing Committee Delegate Rebecca Collins suggests adding a section that asks what members feel about previous Oxford Union initiatives.

#### HT18 Non-Members Survey

The President-elect says that sending out the survey to non-members would be possible through Nexus accounts but that this would cost £750.

The Ordinary Member Daniil Ukhorskiy asks whether there is a directory of all student emails.

The LGBTQIA+ Officer mentions that the survey will not be directed towards one specific minority group.

The Standing Committee Delegate Rebecca Collins asks how likely it is that people will engage with the survey.

The President-elect says that he can offer two ball tickets to two randomly selected respondents to increase incentive to respond to the survey.

The Brookes Officer points out that most Brookes students don't even know that they are eligible for Union membership.

The Access Officer Brian Wong says that the two parts of the survey could include: a) why the respondent is not currently a member; and b) what would convince the respondent to become a member.

The Ordinary Member Daniil Ukhorskiy asks whether the survey will only be sent out to freshers.

The President-elect responds that the survey will be sent out to everyone, even members – who will not fill it in.

The Access Officer Brian Wong points out a concern that there may be a selection bias in that the only people who will respond to the survey are those that hate the Union.

The President-elect responds that it is valid for them to hate the Union as long as they give a valid reason for why they hate the Union.

The LGBTQIA+ Officer points out that it is the people who have strong opinions that we want to hear from in the survey.

The President-elect suggests releasing the results of the survey to show members that we are taking their criticisms seriously.

The Graduate Officer says that the kind of graduates that would fill out the survey would be those who are on the fence about getting membership and not those who hate the Union.

The LGBTQIA+ Officer suggests having a list of tick boxes asking why the respondents didn't get Union membership and then a comments box for any more suggestions.

The Graduate Officer suggests incorporating impartial questions such as "How do you think the access membership should be decided?" as it currently has a narrow scope and only applies to undergraduates.

The Access Officer Brian Wong suggests discussing the question of access membership as a separate item of business in a later meeting as it's a significant issue.

The President-elect suggests moving the survey up to take place this term instead of in HT19. He mentions that he loves progress.

#### **Business of The Disabilities Officer**

No business.

#### **Business of The Ethnic Minorities Officer**

No business.

#### **Business of the LGBTQIA+ Officer**

No business.

#### **Business of the Women's Officer**

The Women's Officer would like to pass her absence from last week due an immovable academic commitment.

The Access Officer Brian Wong moves to pass The Women's Officer's absence from last week due to an immovable academic commitment.

*Motion passes nem. com.*

#### **Business of the Graduate Officer**

The Graduate Officer would like to pass his absence from last week as he was not included in the email chain detailing when the meeting would take place.

The Access Officer Brian Wong moves to pass the Graduate Officer's absence from last week as he was not included in the email chain detailing when the meeting would take place.

*Motion passes nem. com.*

#### **Business of The International Officer**

The International Officer says that he would like to hold a pub quiz on the 13<sup>th</sup> of November that will be themed on geography and where each round will focus on one area of the world. Although anyone can take part, due to the geography theme, there will be a higher chance of diverse/international teams winning. He has checked that there will be no clashes with other Union events on that day.

The Access Officer Brian Wong says that the International Officer will have to talk to The Secretary, the Events Manager and the Bursar about organizing this event.

The LGBTQIA+ Officer suggests that each member could bring a non-member to this event to encourage more people to get involved in the Union.

The President-elect points out that there is a perception to non-members that they can no longer come to the Union after the open period and agrees that it would be a good idea to encourage people to continue coming to the Union.

The Ordinary Member Daniil Ukhorskiy suggests extending the membership discount a bit further past the open period – so that if people forget to sign up during the hectic open period they could have a few more days to do so.

*The Ordinary Member Joseph Grehan-Bradley enters the room at 13:15.*

### **Business of the Brookes Officer**

No business.

### **Business of The Standing Committee Delegates**

No business.

### **Business of The Elected Member**

No business.

### **Changes to Composition of the Committee**

The Access Officer Brian Wong points out that the Committee needs to elect new members – and that the two candidates Daniil Ukhorskiy and Joseph Grehan-Bradley will each give a speech talking about why they would like to be elected.

The Ordinary Member Daniil Ukhorskiy says that he is a second year undergraduate at Brasenose College and that he has recently gotten more involved in the Union. Despite coming from an international private school, the fact that he is not from the UK meant that he did not know much about the Union/its committees when he came to Oxford. The main reason he would like to be a part of the Access Committee is to see how the mechanism of access interacts with the leadership of the Union. He would also like to reach out to international students to increase their overall engagement in the Union.

The Ordinary Member Joseph Grehan-Bradley says that he is an undergraduate from Christ Church College and would like to be on Access Committee because of his strong interest in access. He was previously the access representative on his college JCR committee and thinks that the aim of access should be redirected in the Union. He would like to encourage more people from state schools to get involved in the Union and in debating and would also like to see increased access for Oxford Brookes students.

The Access Officer Brian Wong asks the two candidates to leave the room so that the Committee can vote on their election.

*The Ordinary Members Daniil Ukhorskiy and Joseph Grehan-Bradley leave the room at 13:21.*

The Access Officer Brian Wong moves to elect Daniil Ukhorskiy to the Access Committee.

*Motion passes nem. com.*

The Access Officer Brian Wong moves to elect Joseph Grehan-Bradley to the Access Committee.

*Motion passes nem. com.*

The Access Officer Brian Wong notes that Ordinary Member Naren Koratamaddi has expressed interest in joining the Access Committee as an Elected Member but that since he is not present at the meeting his election will be delayed until next week's meeting.

The Access Officer Brian Wong sets the date for the next meeting of the Access Committee at 13:00 on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2018 in the President's Office.

*The Access Officer Brian Wong closes the meeting at 13:24*

Signed,

Sara Dube

**Elected Member**

*St. Hugh's College*