

Draft Minutes of

THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE DEBATE SELECTION COMMITTEE

3rd Week Hilary Term 2019

Sunday 27th January

The Morris Room, 17:30

Present: **The Chair of the Debate Selection Committee** (Lee Chin Wee, *Trinity College*), **The Internals Officer** (Louis Collier, *St. Hugh's College*), **The DSC Treasurer** (Bryan Yan, *Keble College*), **The DSC Deputy Secretary** (Jason Xiao, *Wadham College*), **The Externals Officer** (Andrew Seow, *Lincoln College*), **The DSC Secretary** (Rosa Thomas, *St. Anne's College*), **The President** (Daniel Wilkinson, *Oriel College*)

Attending: **Ordinary Member** (Dominic Brind, *Magdalen College*)

Apologies: **Director of Training** (Rachel O Nunain, *Trinity College*), **The Access, Communications & Equity Officer** (Brian Wong, *Wolfson College*)

Absent:

Late: **Standing Committee Delegate** (Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*)

DSC opens at 17:40

Apologies

Request to pass Absences from Previous Meetings

Matters arising from Previous Minutes

Ratification of Minutes

The CDSC moves to ratify the minutes of week 2 of Hilary term.

Motion passes nem. com.

Business of the Externals Officer

Manchester IV

The Externals Officer says that applications need to be opened for Manchester IV, which will be taking place between 16 and 17 March.

The CDSC notes that two teams and one judge will be selected for Manchester IV.

The CDSC moves the meeting *in camera* for Warwick IV, Leiden Open and LSE Open selections

The Standing Committee delegate enters the room at 17:56

Warwick IV

The CDSC announces that Ms Vikki Perijainen and Ms Kristine Wilson, and Ms Olivia Railton and Mr Conor Sheehan will speak at the Warwick IV. Ms Louisa Broeg will judge.

Leiden Open

The CDSC announces that Ms Gigi Gil and Mr Tommy Peto, and Ms Geneva Roy and Mr Peter Wallich will speak at the Leiden Open. Mr William Prescott will judge.

LSE Open

The CDSC announces that Mr Dhruva Bhat and Mr Lee Chin Wee, and Mr Chaitanya Kediya and Mr Luke Dunne will speak at the LSE Open. Ms Jessy Jindal and Ms Marua Mukanova-Finch will judge. The CDSC adds that applications will be re-opened for one more team.

The External Officer submits their resignation from DSC.

The CDSC moves a formal motion of thanks to Mr Andrew Seow for serving as the External Officer and the CDSC before that, and adds that Mr Seow has contributed a great deal to DSC in these roles, and also as convenor of ICYD.

Motion passes nem. com.

Business of the CDSC

Opening Applications for DSC

The CDSC says that, following Mr Andrew Seow's resignation, applications will be opened for a position on DSC.

The External Officer leaves the room at 18:17

Oxford World Schools Debating Championship proposal

The CDSC asks whether there are any comments on the OxWSDC proposal sent over email.

The Internals Officer says that there should be a more detailed briefing since most schools will not be well acquainted with the WSDC format. The Internals Officer also adds that it might be a good idea to send briefing materials directly to the schools.

The DSC Deputy Secretary suggests that an extensive briefing could be given while registration takes place.

The Internals Officer mentions that they like the balance created by having a hidden round 4, since it allows for teams to participate in more rounds while reducing the length of the tournament.

The DSC Deputy Secretary asks whether it should be announced beforehand that round 4 is a hidden round.

The Internals Officer says that this can be decided at a later time.

The CDSC says that a total of £8410 can be earned as a result of hosting OxWSDC.

The Internals Officers asks whether the proposal's assumption on number of teams participating is too high.

The CDSC points out that the proposal budget has taken a conservative estimate. The CDSC also asks whether instead of pricing OxWSDC per participant, a flat fee should be charged per team.

The DSC Secretary asks the Ordinary Member how much a team is charged for Oxford Schools.

The Ordinary Member replies that schools are charged between £25-30 per team.

The DSC Secretary points out that £35 is a large sum of money for participation in OxWSDC and mentions that this price, especially at the end of the year, might make it difficult for schools to participate in OxWSDC.

The CDSC says that the price for OxWSDC could be announced shortly and schools could accordingly allocate their budgets.

The DSC Secretary agrees that it is better to announce it as early as possible, but adds that schools usually plan their budget in advance, and asks whether the price of participation should be reduced.

The Ordinary Member adds that the combination of nearing exams and price might mean that schools do not participate at all.

The DSC Deputy Secretary points out that there is currently interest among schools and debating companies to participate in OxWSDC.

The DSC Treasurer says that setting prices low would attract more schools, but creates a problem in terms of finding the necessary number of rooms.

The CDSC says that they will figure out the pricing scheme. They suggest have three different price points. One for local school with a segment for access, one for national teams and debating companies, and one for teams training after OxWSDC.

The Internals Officer ask why trainers are being paid and judges are not being paid.

The DSC Deputy Secretary points out that the work expected from trainers is a lot greater than the work expected from judges.

The DSC Deputy Secretary leaves the room at 18:30

The CDSC adds trainers are expected to develop slides and spend more time whereas the time commitment for judges is far shorter.

The Internals Officer asks whether Oxford Schools conveners should also be paid, and emphasises the need for consistency.

The CDSC says that they will get back to DSC next and will update TSC about this proposal as well.

Backdating helper points

The CDSC asks whether a viewable and non-editable Google sheet of the helper points has been prepared which can be shared to create transparency and accountability.

The DSC Secretary says that they have been able to compile all helper points for members who conducted workshops last terms, and adds that they will be able to have a complete sheet up and ready by the next meeting of DSC.

The Internals Officer adds that it would be useful to allow members to adduce evidence in case they believe that they have been accredited with the wrong number of helper points.

The CDSC asks whether a preliminary sheet could be prepared by tomorrow.

The DSC Secretary responds that all helper point from Hilary Term 2019 and Michaelmas Term 2018 are now online, but that the points need to be calibrated with the older data on helper points.

Pro-am and Prosecco

The CDSC shares that the Access Committee has allocated £75 for the event, pending recommendation by TFC and confirmation by TSC. The CDSC points out that this would mean that separate receipts would have to be created for the different sources of the budget.

Ratification of Oxford Schools OrgComm

The Ordinary Member suggests ratifying the following as members of the Organisation Committee of the Oxford Schools Final Day:

Convenors: Dominic Brind and Joe Sisson

Deputy Convenor: Will Prescott

Chief of Staff: Jamie Johnson

Equity Officers: Olivia Railton and Marua Mukanova-Finch

Outrooms Officers: Sara Singh Dube and Yee Kwan Lee

Food Officers: Peter Wallich and Geneva Roy

Stash Officer: Xavier Redmond

The CDSC moves to ratify the above as members of the Organisation Committee of the Oxford Schools Final Day.

Motion passes nem. com.

The Ordinary Member reports that Oxford Schools Regional Rounds are going well and that there have been no major issues to report.

The CDSC says that the Ordinary Member is free to drop by in future meetings of DSC and raise any issues if they do emerge.

Business of the DSC Treasurer

Expenses

The DSC Treasurer mentions that Mr Tommy Peto has not attached itemised receipts for certain claims, as a result of which they cannot be reimbursed.

The DSC Treasurer points out that as a result of the Birmingham regional round of Oxford Schools running over time, members had to purchase a second return ticket. This has increased the total sum which will have to be reimbursed. The DSC Treasurer adds that they will introduce amendments to the Standing Orders to make the helper points for convening a regional rounds variable, in line with the recent Standing Order change regarding helper points for conveners.

The Ordinary Member says that the round ran over time due to a range of problems including schools arriving late.

The DSC Secretary mentions that the convener of the round could have assumed a later finish time to prevent creating a situation in which multiple tickets have to be bought.

The CDSC says that Mr Cameron Bovell could have done a better job as convener of the regional round, but notes that there were other difficulties that contributed to the delays. The CDSC further notes that Mr Cameron Bovell did manage to secure judges, when it seemed that there would not be sufficient judges.

The DSC Treasurer says that £406.56 has to be passed as DSC expenses today.

Business of the Internals Officer

Business of the DSC Deputy Secretary

Business of the Director of Training

Business of the DSC Secretary

Changes to the composition of this Committee

The Externals Officer (Mr Andrew Seow, *Lincoln College*) has resigned.

Any Other Business

Policy regarding reimbursement of taxis

The Ordinary Member asks what DSC's position is on reimbursing the cost of taxis between stations and host schools.

The DSC Secretary says that DSC would look in to the distance travelled, availability of public transport alternatives, as factors in determining whether the expense was reasonable. They also add that in most

cases the use of taxis would only be reasonable in emergency situations and the decision to take taxis should not be ad hoc, since in most instances it would not be a reasonable expense.

The Internals Officer suggests that regional round conveners should look into travel plans as an aspect of planning their rounds, to determine what would be reasonable expenses.

The CDSC says that the DSC Treasurer and CDSC could be informed of travel plans to approve expenses.

The Internals Officer offers to place this role of determining the reasonableness of travel expenses within the responsibilities of the Internals Officer.

Discussion about Pro-am requirement

The Internals Officer says that next week's meeting should discuss the pro-am requirement, to identify strategies to ensure compliance with the requirement.

The CDSC closes the meeting of DSC at 18:46

Signed,

Chaitanya Kediya

Standing Committee

Exeter College