

Ratified Minutes of
THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
4th Week Michaelmas Term 2015
Monday 2nd 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 Tim Cannon, *Wadham 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-President** (Miss Olivia Merrett, *St John's College*), **the Ex-Secretary** (Mr Nikolay Koshikov, *Exeter College*), **The 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** (Miss Claire Butler, *Worcester College*), **The Chair of the Debate Selection Committee** (Mr Jamie Jackson, *St John's College*).

Attending:

Apologies: **The Librarian** (Mr Robert Harris, *New College*), **The Treasurer** (Miss Verity Hubbard, *Lady Margaret Hall*), **The Elected Member** (Miss Mia Smith, *Oriel College*), **The Senior Librarian** (Mr Sean Power, *Oriel College*), **The Access Officer** (Mr Harry Samuels, *New College*).

Absent:

The President opens the meeting at 16:07.

Requests to Pass Absences from Previous Meeting

The President moves that TSC pass the absence of the Treasurer from the Ordinary Meeting of TSC of MT15 3rd Week as being with good reason due to a compulsory class.

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 TT15 6th and 7th Weeks and MT 15 3rd Week, and from the Extraordinary Meeting of TSC of TT15 6th Week.

Passed nemine contradicente.

The Bursar enters the room at 16:10.

The President

Business of the President:

The President explains to TSC that, since Professor Noam Chomsky had to cancel his visit to the Union due to ill health, he shall be awarded with the Honorary Membership of the society, which was due to

be conferred upon him during his planned visit, at some point in the future when his visit to the Union can be rescheduled. The President informs TSC that the trustees of the Oxford Union have already approved the awarding of Honorary Membership to Sir Elton John and that it is now only the approval of TSC which is required.

The President moves that TSC approve Honorary Membership of the Oxford Union for Sir Elton John.

Passed nemine contradicente.

Questions to the President:

There are no questions to the President.

The Librarian

Business of the Librarian:

The Librarian-Elect, on behalf of the Librarian, moves that TSC approve the appointments of Christopher-John Ozga (Lincoln College), Arwa Awan (St Peter's College), Redha Rubaie (Corpus Christi College), Alice Wilcock (Brasenose College), and Kosta Karamanakis to the Library Committee.

Seconded by the President.

Passed nemine contradicente.

Questions to the Librarian:

There are no questions to the Librarian.

The Treasurer

Business of the Treasurer:

The Librarian-Elect, on behalf of the Treasurer, moves that TSC pass the DSC expenses, totalling £242.89

Seconded by the President.

Passed nemine contradicente.

Questions to the Treasurer:

There are no questions to the Treasurer.

The Secretary

Business of the Secretary:

The Secretary presents a candidate for Residential Membership of the Oxford Union, namely one Mr. Robert de Newtown, who has been living in Oxford and attending Union events for 30 years. The Secretary informs TSC that he was a very polite gentleman with a great deal of interest in the Union.

The Bursar asks the Secretary whether or not he thought that the Mr. Robert de Newtown might be disruptive.

The Secretary informs the Bursar that he did not get such an impression from the applicant.

The Secretary recommends that TSC approve the application of Mr Robert de Newtown to Residential Membership of the Oxford Union.

Seconded by the President.

Passed nemine contradicente.

Questions to the Secretary:

There are no questions to the Secretary.

Miss Henna Dattani

Business of Miss Henna Dattani:

Miss Henna Dattani presents her budget for the “Sparkling Night of Jazz and Chocolate” social on Thursday 19th November. Miss Henna Dattani informs TSC that the budget has already been seen by the Finance Committee, which recommends that TSC pass it with one amendment, namely the spelling of ‘Somerville’, which, incorrectly, had two Ms.

The President suggests that ‘Jazz quartet’ be amended to ‘Jazz band.’

The Bursar informs Miss Henna Dattani that one figure in her budget needs to be amended to include VAT.

Miss Henna Dattani proposes that TSC pass the budget for the “Sparkling Night of Jazz and Chocolate” social with three amendments, namely the change in spelling of ‘Somerville’, the change of ‘jazz quartet’ to ‘jazz band’, and the addition of the VAT cost of the jazz band.

Seconded by the Secretary.

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 informs TSC that, following further discussions about the CiviCRM database with Mr Sam Haskell and the Librarian, the CiviCRM project has been reduced slightly, a 10% discount has been applied, and a price quotation of £8125.50 has been fixed. The President-Elect adds that Mr Sam Haskell has committed to an agreement whereby if any new requirements arise, which Mr Sam Haskell should have already anticipated, no additional costs will be made, although new features which were not previously discussed will cost extra. The President-Elects explains to TSC that overseas developers were not a realistically viable option since, whilst they have lower production costs, it would take them too long to become as accustomed to the system and the Union's needs as Mr Sam Haskell is.

The Bursar asks the President-Elect what the initial figure suggested was.

The President-Elect responds that it was just over £9,000.

The Senior Treasurer enquires into whether or not this discussion should be conducted *in camera*, since this will require a contractual agreement.

The President explains to TSC that the rules state that *in camera* discussion must be the negotiation of sensitive financial contracts and expresses his opinion that these contracts are not sensitive in nature as third parties having knowledge of the negotiations will cause no harm to the Society.

The Secretary agrees with the opinion of the President.

The President-Elect notes that these contracts have been openly discussed in three Ordinary Meetings of TSC up to this point, so it seems unnecessary to have this discussion *in camera*.

The Senior Treasurer agrees that there is, perhaps, no point in it now but expresses his view that this discussion should have been conducted *in camera* from the outset.

The President disagrees with the Senior Treasurer, responding that in the interests of transparency TSC should adopt a restrictive rather than expansive interpretation of the relevant rule determining when it can go *in camera*.

The Senior Treasurer expresses his unwillingness to commit another £8,000 to this project as the membership drive was not as successful as had been expected, so he wonders where the money for this project shall be found. The Senior Treasurer stresses his view that such a large sum of money should not be spent blithely without due consideration.

The President-Elect responds that he, Mr Nikolay Koshikov, and the Librarian-Elect have been doing a lot of work for sponsorship, adding that they are already in the process of signing some contracts. The President-Elect asks TSC to recognise that a similar amount was spent already with no problems and, since the principles are the same now as they were then, there should not be so much of a problem. The President-Elect says that TSC cannot keep discussing this matter again and again and implores TSC to have faith in the efforts of the sponsorship team.

The President explains that he is in support of the project in principle, especially now that a reduced fixed quote has been offered, but adds that, given that the membership drive underperformed and the budget for the year is already tight, he does not think that the Union can afford this at this time. The President adds that it is not sensible to rely on money that has not actually been received yet.

The President-Elect responds that he has been working a lot with the Events Manager with regard to increasing money through more external hire events. The President-Elect states that this projects needs to be approved and passed today as time is of the essence.

The Senior Treasurer states that he is not opposed to the project in principle either but that, given that the project was presented as a one-off cost, he is very unhappy for so much money to be spent on it again. The Senior Treasurer stresses that this cannot happen again.

The President-Elect responds that he and the Librarian have gone through everything meticulously with Mr Sam Haskell so, whilst he cannot promise that it is perfect, much more informed decisions and precautionary measures have been made.

The Bursar expresses her disappointment that the project was not discussed adequately enough initially.

The President informs the Bursar that he believes that the product is worth how much was paid for it initially, adding that these additional requirements were difficult to foresee and would have cost more anyway.

The Senior-Treasurer states that he is very happy that a fixed quote has been reached.

The Bursar asks if the new figure includes everything that was originally demanded.

The President-Elect responds that one feature was removed, amounting to 4 hours of work.

The President asks whether or not the Union has the money to pay for this project.

The Bursar responds that the Union does not.

The Senior-Treasurer reiterates the Bursar's comment that there is not enough money left in the budget for this.

The President-Elect responds that the money is not going to come from the budget, but from sponsorship. The President-Elect says that it is not fair that he is coming into a deficit and that he has responded to this with his co-Officers-Elect by working so hard to secure sponsorship.

The Bursar responds that, unfortunately, Hilary and Trinity Term presidents invariably always have less money in the budget than Michaelmas presidents.

Miss Henna Dattani leaves the room at 16:45.

The President-Elect states that he is trying to absorb this cost in this term.

The President expresses his opinion that the Union needs to be in the black for the budget and, given the underperformance of the membership drive and the insufficient amount of money raised through sponsorship, if this project does pass, it will put the budget of the Union in the red, so the future committee needs to ensure that it does in fact raise a lot of money.

The President-Elect says that he will take this responsibility of fundraising on personally.

The President responds that he believes that it is a responsibility to be shared with others, namely the Treasurer.

Miss Henna Dattani enters the room at 16:47.

The President-Elect moves that TSC authorise the expenditure of £8125.50 to pay for upgrades of CiviCRM

Seconded by the Treasurer-Elect.

Passed with one objection.

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 President reminds TSC that the Ex-Secretary, Mr Nikolay Koshikov, has been doing a lot of sponsorship work over the summer. The President adds that, since TSC passed a motion last week allowing the signing of sponsorship contracts to be within his remit, Mr Nikolay Koshikov should be afforded some sort of title, which he can use in his email signature, to explain to companies why he is contacting them rather than an officer with a title, such as the Treasurer.

The Bursar says that such things are meaningless when not sent from Oxford Union email addresses.

The President suggests that Mr Nikolay Koshikov be given an Oxford Union email address also, in that case.

The President-Elect suggests that his role be called the “Development Officer”.

The President proposes that TSC appoint Mr Nikolay Koshikov as the Development Officer for MT15.

Passed nemine contradicente.

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 has no business.

Questions to the Bursar:

There are no questions to the Bursar.

The Returning Officer

Business of the RO:

The R.O. has no business.

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 has no business.

Questions to the CDSC:

There are no questions to the CDSC.

Changes to the Composition of this Committee

It is announced to TSC that Mr Peter Corden (Oriel College) has now assumed the position of Returning Officer.

The President congratulates Mr Stanislas Lalanne on his time in office.

Any Other Business

There is no other business.

Date of the Next Meeting

Monday 5th Week Michaelmas Term 2015 (Monday 9th November 2015), 16:00, in the President's Office.

The President closes the meeting at 16:53.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ssuuna Golooba-Mutebi', written in a cursive style.

Ssuuna Golooba-Mutebi
St John's College
Secretary