

*Draft Minutes of*

THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE DEBATE SELECTION COMMITTEE

3<sup>rd</sup> Week Michaelmas Term 2018

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October

The Morris Room, 18:00

**Present:** **The Chair of the Debate Selection Committee** (Andrew Seow, *Lincoln College*), **Externals Officer** (Lee Chin Wee, *Trinity College*), **DSC Treasurer** (Bryan Yan, *Keble College*), **Standing Committee Delegate** (Sara Dube, *St. Hugh's College*), **DSC Secretary** (Rosa Thomas, *St. Anne's College*), **Access and Equity Officer** (Brian Wong, *Wolfson College*), **Communications Officer** (Jason Xiao, *Wadham College*), **Internals Officer** (Louis Collier, *St. Hugh's College*)

**Attending:** **Ordinary Member** (Joe Sisson, *St. John's College*), **Ordinary Member** (Dominic Brind, *Magdalen College*)

**Apologies:** **Director of Training** (Rachel O Nunain, *Trinity College*), **The President** (Stephen Horvath, *New College*)

**Absent:**

**Late:** **Elected Member of Standing Committee** (Gemma Timmons, *Magdalen College*)

*DSC opens at 18:05*

**Business of the CDSC**

**Oxford IV Update**

The Communications Officer says that the convenors have booked flights, ordered stash and opened pre-reg for the IV.

Mr. Sisson points out that more people need to sign up for crash.

The Communications Officer asks for the Bridgewater interview list and mentions that they are still looking for outrooms.

The Treasurer says that St. Peter's College is able to offer 2 rooms from 2pm onwards on the Friday and Saturday of the IV and that he is calling them again tonight to check about further availability.

## Oxford Schools CAs

The CDSC moves the meeting *in camera*.

*The Treasurer, Secretary, Access and Equity Officer and the Communications Officer leave the room at 18:08.*

*The Treasurer, Secretary, Access and Equity Officer and the Communications Officer re-enter the room at 18:19.*

The CDSC notes that the Women's Convenors are once again absent. He continues to say that DSC was informed on Thursday that the WUDC quota for the overall delegation has come into force this year as opposed to 2020, based on the previous discussion.

The Internals Officer notes that the website had not been updated and contained the wrong information regarding the quota.

The CDSC says that they were only informed about this after the conclusion of trials. There have been a series of steps taken to get in touch with the eligibility appeals committee for WUDC to try to get an exemption from the quota rule for this particular year. They have also been exploring the possibility of purchasing an extra judge spot to send another female judge to WUDC in order to fulfil the quota. The CDSC says that one of the members of the appeals committee has got back to him and has said that they can only make the appeal once they get to Cape Town.

Various members of DSC point out that this seems like an unreasonable policy.

### **Business of the Secretary**

The Secretary says that she is keeping an informal helper points record but that she can't find the official spreadsheet on the DSC drive. She says that she has messaged the ex-Secretary of DSC about this today. She adds that she would like to organize a pub trip for everyone in squads and is thinking of making a squads Facebook group for the 2018-19 academic year separate from the Oxford Debaters one.

Various members of DSC agree with this proposal.

The Secretary says that socials will take a pause around the IV as she will try to market taking crash as a social opportunity. Later in the term, she'd like to have one big debating social or two crewdates: one with lower and upper intermediate and the other with advanced and DSC/old debaters. She will look into the viability of both options and she notes that crewdates have the benefit of costing no money as everyone will pay individually. She points out that they could potentially hold a Macmillan room social but that this has been done many times before.

*The Elected Member of Standing Committee Gemma Timmons enters the room at 18:25.*

Women's Open update

Ms. Timmons says that she and Olivia Railton, the other Women's Convenor, met with the House Manager a week ago. They currently have 31 responses on Goggle sheets for registration and are looking at booking 7-9 rooms. They have booked 6 rooms in EC and might have to get an Outrooms Officer to stand in EC during the day.

The CDSC says that this officer should be a woman/non-binary person – but that it could be a male in the worse-case scenario.

Ms. Timmons asks whether the officer can be a fresher.

The CDSC says that they can.

The Secretary suggests asking people in squads to do this as it may seem like something fun to be involved in.

Ms. Timmons says that on the day breakfast and lunch will not be provided as there are relatively inexpensive alternatives around the area of the Union. Dinner, however, will be provided – and they are looking into setting up a Taste of Goa stall in the Union where a meal would cost £5 per head.

The CDSC says that a decision needs to be made on this issue.

The Internals Officer says that he thinks the food should be free.

The Secretary points out that there doesn't seem to be any benefit to selling food in the Union as there are plenty of places all around Oxford to eat.

The CDSC says that they could potentially justify not providing dinner and instead spending the money on drinks for a social instead.

The Secretary reiterates that a decision needs to be made soon.

The CDSC agrees and points out that DSC will be fine with most ideas but that they need the convenors to actually come to a decision.

Ms. Timmons says that the House Manager would like the Open to be finished by 22:30 on Sunday night.

The Secretary suggests registering the novice and ESL speakers on the day and then deciding whether or not to have a novice/ESL final.

The CDSC brings up the possibility of having 5 minute speeches.

The Secretary says that 7 minute speeches would be ideal unless this would mean having only 3 rounds, which would make the Open less competitive.

The CDSC says that ideally they should have 4 rounds of 7 minute speeches but if the timing is not comfortable 4 rounds of 5 minutes should be considered.

Ms. Timmons says that Baillie Gifford has pulled out of sponsorship and notes that she is still pushing last minute sponsorship opportunities. She also brings up the question of Ms. Leet's funding.

The CDSC says that there is no reason to split the cost of flights and that the IV budget will cover all the costs.

The Secretary asks about the tab team and whether the convenors have gotten invoices checked by the Union yet.

Mr. Sisson says that there are only 3 female/non-binary tab people in the country – and that Alex Murray is already doing the Cambridge IV and Women's Open as well as the Oxford IV. He says that he will teach a female first year debater tabbing and support her on the day. He mentions that Beth Molyneux may be interested.

Ms. Timmons says that the invoices will be sent out tomorrow.

The Treasurer suggests sending out a form on DA for runners on the day of the Open.

The CDSC moves the meeting *in camera*.

*The Treasurer, the Internals Officer, Ms. Timmons, Mr. Sisson and Mr. Brind leave the room at 18:45.*

*The Treasurer and the Internals Officer re-enter the room at 18:48.*

The CDSC thanks The Internals Officer for arranging Debater of the Year and says that the final will be held on the 27<sup>th</sup> of November.

### **Business of the Access and Equity Officer**

The Access and Equity Officer moves to pass their absence from the previous week.

*Motion passes nem. com.*

### **Business of the Treasurer**

The Treasurer says that there has been an increased flights cap from WUDC to £1,675.

The total expenses to be passed for the week are £3,474.35.

The Treasurer also notes that we will not be able to pay for the KCL IV before the deadline of the 25<sup>th</sup> of October.

*The CDSC closes the meeting of DSC at 6:53 pm*

Signed,

Sara Dube

**Standing Committee**

*St. Hugh's College*