

The Ratified Minutes of
THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
5th Week Hilary Term 2019
11th February 2019
TV Room, 16:00

Present:

The President (Mr Daniel Wilkinson, *Oriel College*), **The Librarian** (Mr Brendan McGrath, *Oriel College*), **The Treasurer** (Ms Amy Gregg, *Somerville College*), **The Secretary** (Mr Nicholas Leah, *Lincoln College*), **The Elected Member** (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*), **The Elected Member** (Mr Shining Zhao, *University College*), **The Elected Member** (Ms Mahi Joshi, *Trinity College*), **The Elected Member** (Mr Jim Brennan, *St Peter's College*), **The Elected Member** (Mr Elliot Bromley, *St Edmund Hall*), **The Elected Member** (Ms Olivia Leigh, *Keble College*), **The Elected Member** (Mr Rai Saad Khan, *Christ Church*), **The President-Elect** (Ms Genevieve Athis, *Christ Church*), **The Librarian-Elect** (Ms Sara Dube, *St Hugh's College*), **The Ex-Treasurer** (Mr James Lamming, *Exeter College*)

Attending:

The Senior Treasurer (Mr Stephen Dixon, *Downing College, Cambridge*), **The Bursar** (Mrs Lindsay Warne), **The Returning Officer** (Mr Liam Frahm, *Jesus College*), **The Chair of the Debate Select Committee** (Mr Chin Lee Wee, *Trinity College*), **The Access Officer** (Ms Amelia Harvey, *Kellogg College*), Ms Louise Kandler, *Lady Margaret Hall*, Mx Charlie Willis, *Wadham College*, Mr Hugh Bellamy, *Lady Margaret Hall*, Mr Adam Watson, *Hertford College*, Mr Samuel Burns, *St John's College*, Mr Joe Sisson, *St John's College*, Mr Troels Boesen, *St John's College*, Mr Havard Yttredal, *St John's College*

Absent:

The Senior Librarian (Mr Sean Power, *Oriel College*), **The Chair of the Consultative Committee** (Mr James Dix, *Christ Church*)

The President opens the meeting at 16:11

Apologies

The President notes that they have received no apologies for the meeting.

Requests to Pass Absences from Previous Meetings

The President moves that the Standing Committee pass the Chair of the Consultative Committee's absence from the 4th week ordinary meeting of the Standing Committee due to a society business of paramount importance with good reason

The motion passes nem. con.

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

The President notes that they were asked last week to look at the issue with Kayek Tours. They state that the company withdrew their request for comment.

Ratification of Minutes

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify the minutes from the 4th week Hilary Term 2019 Emergency Meeting of the Standing Committee

The motion passes nem. con.

The President

Business of the President:

Press requests

The President notes that they have received five press requests.

The first concerned the pride flag hanging from the Union. They state that they have received requests for a commentary from OxStu and Cherwell. They also say that they have received a requests from Cherwell about the resignation of the Chief of Staff, the validity of the slates ban, and finally about the government's guidelines about free speech.

Termly and yearly budget

The President outlines why the budget is important, not only because it is necessary to pass in the rules, but also because it is necessary for the President to action expenditure. They note that it was supposed to have been passed in 1st week. They add that the Finance Committee have now recommended it to the Standing Committee. They further add that it has been read through line by line so they do not think it is necessary to do this again in the meeting of the Standing Committee.

The Treasurer thanks the Bursar and Senior Treasurer for spending four hours going through the budget line by line.

The Bursar notes that it Is important for current standing committee planning.

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify the yearly and termly budget, as recommend by the Finance Committee

The motion passes nem. con.

Financial reform rules change

The President outlines their proposed change to the financial rules of the society. They state their intention to remove Audit Committee as it is never sat. They state that this function could be performed by the Finance Committee. They hope that this will clarify the reporting responsibilities for all committees.

The President states that they would like this schedule to take effect immediately.

There is a long discussion about the original and new copies of the proposed financial reform changes as the President had sent out two different copies to the Standing Committee. **The President** states there are only two changes between the different versions. **The Bursar** says that they are confused where these changes are in the physical copies of the documents.

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) provides clarity for the Bursar about where the changes have been listed.

The President states that if this were to pass it would change on the 21st February 2019.

The Chair of the Consultative Committee enters the room at 16:26

The President notes a change proposed by Mr Thomas Laver. They state that Mr Laver noted that the Audit Committee possessed useful powers that should be incorporated into the Finance Committee. They add that when this matter was discussed last it was given universal consent.

The Bursar states that they do not remember this.

The Senior Treasurer states that they thought that the Finance Committee already acted as the Audit Committee. They ask for clarity about the whistleblowing section and power to look at audited accounts.

The Ex-Elected Member (Mr Adam Watson, *Hertford College*) draws the Standing Committee's attention to Appendix C 25(d) from the proposed financial reform changes that would mean that Finance Committee could demand almost anything of its members. They add that it is on par with the powers of election tribunals. They further add that the Audit Committee effectively has the power to find someone guilty of abuses, and thus the Finance Committee could become very powerful like a Senior Disciplinary Committee.

The Bursar asks who sits on the Audit Committee.

Mr Hugh Bellamy notes that all members of the Finance Committee sit on Audit Committee.

The Ex-Elected Member (Mr Adam Watson, *Hertford College*) notes that the transfer of powers are sizeable.

The Senior Treasurer agrees that the Ex-Elected Member has identified an important point.

The President agrees that it would be worthwhile getting rid of the Audit Committee. **The Bursar** replies that the President would not be getting ridding of the Audit Committee, but rather just giving it a new name. **The President** agrees that is their intention.

The Ex-Elected Member (Mr Adam Watson, *Hertford College*) notes that a Senior Disciplinary Committee cannot demand a member to testify, whereas this proposed change would be giving the Finance Committee that power.

The Senior Treasurer expresses concern that it would constitute the movement of powers from one empty box to a full box.

The Ex-Elected Member (Mr Adam Watson, *Hertford College*) draws the Standing Committee's attention to Appendix C 25(d). They note that it is all loose wording, especially the point about 'summon[ing] any member who fails to comply with the requirement shall be found guilty.' They state the President would be creating a new system of court and police. They add that all of these powers could be granted to an individual member. They ask the Standing Committee if they would be happy if they were able to wield this power.

The Treasurer asks the Returning Officer if they have any comments.

The Returning Officer states that there is a major question around rule 73 and executive majority.

The Bursar also notes the employment issues with the proposed change.

The Senior Treasurer notes that people are under contract of employment or they will end up in a tribunal.

The Treasurer suggests that it would be sensible to include a clause that it is subsidiary.

The Senior Treasurer asks why the committee is transferring these powers. They express concern that the Standing Committee we will get it wrong.

The President states that they are trying to do something about the Audit Committee that has never sat.

The Chair of the Consultative Committee enters the room at 16:35

The Chair of the Consultative Committee leaves the room at 16:35

The Bursar maintains that the President would be abolishing Audit Committee, but rather calling it Finance Committee.

The President argues that there are some relevant parts of the Audit Committee and they thought about moving them into the Finance Committee.

The Librarian moves that the Standing Committee grant Mr Troels Boesen speaking rights for the duration of the meeting

Seconded by the Treasurer.

The motion passes nem. con.

Mr Troels Boesen notes a famous proverb in Denmark about 'the thief of something that everyone steals.' They add that the Finance Committee controls finance and it does make sense the Finance Committee is able to so.

The President asks to put a pin in the idea as they need to leave for an event at 17:00.

Ratification of appointed officials

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify Ms Amber Seaward as the Chief of Staff for the remainder of Hilary Term 2019

The motion passes nem. con.

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify Mr Hugh Nicholl as the Director of Operations for the remainder of Hilary Term 2019

The motion passes nem. con.

The President delegates that the chair be handed over to the Librarian. **The Librarian** asks what the President wants to do with their financial reform changes. **The President** responds that they would like to a vote to be take place at the Public Business Meeting on the 21st February.

The Treasurer reaffirms that the Finance Committee would now have new and substantial powers to punish people for not complying.

The Librarian states that their reading is not that finance committee would have the power to adjudicate such power.

The Ex-Elected Member (Mr Adam Watson, *Hertford College*) notes that whilst the Finance Committee would perform tasks like the reviewing of budgets, it would become what amounts to a police force. They state that at its best it would punish individuals who fail to produce minutes, but at its worst it would have the power to dig through emails. They add that the Mr Troels Boesen knows how useful it can be able to in search of financial information, but it is an aggressive concept. They ask those who support it if would they be happy with this power being used by particular committee members.

The Librarian moves that the Standing Committee grant Mr Joe Sisson speaking rights for the duration of the meeting

Seconded by the President-Elect

The motion passes nem. con.

Mr Joe Sisson states it makes sense to split the proposed change into two changes. They propose that the changes to rule 25 are removed and that provision 3 from appendix C go into its own motion.

The Ex-Elected Member (Mr Adam Watson, *Hertford College*) notes that they heard the President wanted to discuss the proposed changes more broadly.

The Librarian states the President wants something passed, if audit committee is controversial bit then lets do the rest

Mr Joe Sisson suggests that the Standing Committee ignore appendix C for now and focus on doing the rest of the proposed changes.

The Librarian asks if Mr Joe Sisson wants to suggest anything else.

Mr Joe Sisson notes that the proposed standing order E5 in appendix F be lifted from the current standing order.

The Librarian states that they do not think it is useful to discuss this without the President present. **Mr Joe Sisson** agrees.

The Librarian asks Mr Joe Sisson to park their idea for now.

The Senior Treasurer notes that would have preferred more time to read the proposed changes.

The Librarian maintains that the President did circulate the changes in very good time.

The Senior Treasurer summarises the course of discussion, stating that in their opinion appendix A and B seems fine, but appendix C appears to be the controversial one. They add that the Standing Committee should be cautious about removing the Audit Committee without replacing it with something.

The Librarian L: cautious of removing something, rule 66

The Treasurer-Elect notes that it is hard to have a discussion without the President here.

The Librarian states that they are going to leave this issue for the President to deal with.

The Librarian

Business of the Librarian:

The Librarian has no business

Questions to the Librarian:

The Elected Member (Mr Jim Brennan, St Peter's College) asks the Librarian when they will answer the noticeboard. **The Librarian** responds that they will do this.

The Elected Member (Mr Jim Brennan, St Peter's College) ask the Librarian why they walk out of the chamber on Thursday last week. The Librarian replies that it was a stressful night for then.

The Treasurer

DSC expenses

The Treasurer moves that the Standing Committee pass DSC expenses to the value of £984.60, as recommended by the Finance Committee

Seconded by The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, Exeter College).

The motion passes nem. con.

The Bursar notes that the Senior Treasurer did ask about the expenses in Rotterdam. **The Treasurer** responds that Chair of the Debate Selection Committee clarified that we have Oxford schools competitions outside of the country.

Mr Joe Sisson states that Oxford schools are regularly convened abroad. For instance, the society has sent three judges, qualified five teams, and run rounds in Zimbabwe. **The Bursar** asks Mr Sisson how long this has been taking place. **Mr Joe Sisson** responds that it has been taking place for decades.

Graduate Access Membership

The Treasurer expresses concern that undergraduate level access membership is available but no such provision is extended to graduate members. They state that their initial thought is to get the Standing Committee to mandate Treasurer to look into it. They state that graduate funding structured is quite differently. They proceed to provide details of this difference, pointing out that undergraduates receive a full loan for their tuition fees and a loan for maintenance. By contrast, graduates receive a £10,000 loan that can be used for tuition fees and general maintenance; however, for the great majority of people that is not sufficient. They explain that there is a lot less government support, no means-based university fund, and that it can vary between arts and humanities. They further explain that many graduates do not receive scholarships and this can put people into difficult financial positions. They elucidate that undergraduates have to submit their family finances, but they do not have same system at

graduate level. They add that colleges require graduates to send information that they can afford their place, after which they issue a letter confirming their place.

The Treasurer suggests that letters are issued by the Union for graduate members that have no external funding or funding sufficiently low so that Union would offer them access membership. They note that the only problem is that this would catch people who have sufficient private money to fund themselves but do not draw on any other sources of funding.

The Ex-Elected Member (Mr Adam Watson, *Hertford College*) states that it is a great principle, but they are not sure how much can be done without a motion.

The Treasurer responds that they wanted to gather a general idea about whether graduate access membership should be allowed.

The Senior Access Officer (Mx Brian Wong, *Wolfson College*) notes that graduates feel that the Union has a large barrier in terms of membership fees. They add that most interviewees floated this idea and even non-graduate students. They express concern about the legitimacy of the applications, noting that secondary measures might need to be used to call out dishonest cases.

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) notes that this should be about what the Treasurer wants to do.

Mx Brian Wong leaves the room at 17:02

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) states that international students have similar problems. They ask if the Treasurer would be happy to incorporate them

The Treasurer states they do not want to do two things at once then risk not doing any of them.

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) asks about whether the Treasurer wishes to include international graduate students. **The Treasurer** replies that of course they do.

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) notes that it would be helpful to think about alternative ways of measuring this issue.

The Treasurer states that they wish to focus on colleges issuing letters about financial need because they do not want to put an extra-administrative burden on the Union.

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) notes that when the Treasurers look at colleges it is important to think about uniformity in the applications, as some colleges are more generous than others.

The Bursar states that they were here when this was invented when this was invented. They maintain that the main problem is that there is no way the society can get involved with financial judgements. They add that there is larger percentage of postgraduates joining the society than ever before. They further add this would impose significant financial costs upon the Union and they think it might be a good idea if the society looks into an endowment fund.

The Treasurer notes that they have taken the loss of income point on board. They add that it seems like a more feasible proposal after going through the budget last week. They further add that the society is currently in a decent place, making a £39,000 contribution.

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) argues that it would only be a loss if people can pay less.

The Senior Treasurer states that it is difficult to consider the proposal until they know the expectations of numbers this would affect.

The Treasurer asks if the Standing Committee would be happy to mandate the Treasurer to look into the issue and make enquiries.

The Elected Member (Ms Mahi Joshi, *Trinity College*) asks whether it is appropriate for Access Committee to look at, especially the Socioeconomic Officer. **The Treasurer** responds that they would be very happy to work with them.

The Elected Member (Mr Rai Saad Khan, *Christ Church*) asks the Bursar about the role they see a potential endowment fund playing. **The Bursar** responds that it could be used for different types of purposes, one of which could be offering access membership to students who require it.

The Senior Treasurer states that they have a number of ideas about how they could spend the fund, particularly residential accommodation over the vacation.

The Librarian asks the Treasurer if they are going to move a motion mandating them to make enquiries.

The Treasurers move that the Standing Committee mandate them to make enquiries into the potential for graduate access membership

Seconded by Mr Chaitanya Kediya.

The motion passes nem. con.

The Secretary

Business of the Secretary:

Bar strategy committee members ratification

The Secretary moves that the Standing Committee ratify Mr Hugh Bellamy as an Elected Member of the Bar Strategy Committee

Seconded by the Librarian.

The motion passes nem. con.

The Secretary moves that the Standing Committee ratify Mr Ben Fraser as an Elected Member of the Bar Strategy Committee

Seconded by the Librarian.

The motion passes nem. con.

The Treasurer-Elect moves that the Standing Committee pass a formal motion of thank you to the Secretary for their organisation of the Hilary Term 2019 Ball

Seconded by the Librarian

The motion passes nem. con.

The Secretary thanks the Standing Committee.

The Secretary notes that they have discussed the Murder Mystery Social organised by the Elected Member (Mr Elliot Bromley, *St Edmund Hall*) with the Finance Committee.

The Secretary moves that the Standing Committee pass the Murder Mystery social budget with an expected contribution of £0 (excluding VAT) and £156 (including VAT)

Seconded by the Librarian.

The motions passes nem. con.

The Secretary notes that the Murder Mystery accounts needs to be presented next week.

The President-Elect points out that it might need to be done in eighth week with the election taking place next week.

The Secretary states that the Murder Mystery Social accounts will be presented to the Standing Committee during the ordinary meeting of the Standing Committee in seventh week, pending the advise of the Returning Officer.

Questions to the Secretary:

There are no questions to the Secretary

Mr Chaitanya Kediya

Business of Mr Chaitanya Kediya:

Mr Chaitanya Kediya has no business

Questions to Mr Chaitanya Kediya:

There are no questions to Mr Chaitanya Kediya

Mr Shining Zhao

Business of Mr Shining Zhao:

Mr Shining Zhao has no business

Questions to Mr Shining Zhao:

There are no questions to Mr Shining Zhao

Ms Mahi Joshi

Business of Ms Mahi Joshi:

Ms Mahi Joshi has no business

Questions to Ms Mahi Joshi:

There are no questions to Ms Mahi Joshi

Mr Jim Brennan

Business of Mr Jim Brennan:

The conduct of the President and the Librarian

The Elected Member (Mr Jim Brennan, *St Peter's College*) states that they would first like to apologise to the Returning Officer. They note that the impeachment was a surprise to many and it is unfortunate that the Returning Officer has to do a lot of work for it. They maintain that they feel it is important that the poll goes ahead.

The Elected Member (Mr Jim Brennan, *St Peter's College*) notes they have a question about regulation poll C. They ask the Returning Officer if notification of the impeachment poll will feature in the weekly email. **The Returning Officer** responds that it will feature in the weekly email. **The Ex Returning Officer** (Ms Louise Kandler, *Lady Margaret Hall*) states that it is impossible to do anything until the poll regulations have been agreed to and passed by the Standing Committee. **The Returning Officer** adds that this will be feature of their business during the meeting.

The Elected Member (Mr Jim Brennan, *St Peter's College*) notes that they are concerned about voter suppression in the poll. They note that there was an issue of curtain closure and that members were not allowed into the Union to sign the impeachment call during certain hours before the ball. They further note that under rule 19(d) it is the responsibility of the Secretary to manage the society's socials.

The Elected Member (Mr Jim Brennan, *St Peter's College*) asks the Secretary about this matter at the ball. **The Secretary** responds that they asked the President who had consulted the rules. They add that they kept the curtain open all night during the ball and maintain that ordinary members signing the motion during the ball hours would have caused immense complication. They further add that the President made it clear that they did not ordinary members to be able to enter the society during the hours of the ball, from 20:30 onwards. They note that there was a ruling pinned on the noticeboard by the Returning Officer that supported this position.

The Elected Member (Mr Jim Brennan, *St Peter's College*) replies that they understand it is a reasonable expectation to close the Union during the hours of the ball to ordinary members without a ticket.

The Bursar asks the Returning Officer when the signatories for the impeachment stopped. The Returning Officer replies 22:41 on the night after the ball.

The Elected Member (Mr Jim Brennan, *St Peter's College*) states that they have a straightforward question for the Librarian. They ask if the President granted the permission to

issue comments to the press after the motion after the motion was brought on Thursday evening and before the motion had reached 150 signatures. **The Librarian** asks for clarification about timing. **The Elected Member** (Mr Jim Brennan, *St Peter's College*) clarifies their question about timing. The Librarian notes that the President did grant him permission to speak with the press.

The Elected Member (Mr Jim Brennan, *St Peter's College*) asks the Librarian to estimate the number of people present on evening of the Thursday night debate. **The Librarian** states that they do not know.

The Elected Member (Mr Jim Brennan, *St Peter's College*) asks the Librarian to estimate the number of people who would have read their noticeboard responses to their questions. **The Librarian** states that they do not know.

Questions to Mr Jim Brennan:

There are no questions to Mr Jim Brennan

Mr Elliot Bromley

Business of Mr Elliot Bromley:

Mr Elliott Bromley has no business

Questions to Mr Elliot Bromley:

There are no questions to Mr Elliot Bromley

Ms Olivia Leigh

Business of Ms Olivia Leigh:

Ms Olivia Leigh has no business in their absence

Questions to Ms Olivia Leigh:

There are no questions to Ms Olivia Leigh in their absence

Mr Rai Saad Khan

Business of Mr Rai Saad Khan:

Mr Rai Saad Khan has no business

Questions to Mr Rai Saad Khan:

There are no questions to Mr Rai Saad Khan

The President-Elect

Business of the President-Elect:

The President-Elect announces that they have six pieces of business. There is a general grumble heard from the committee members present.

The President Elect states their intention to make a change to Rule 20(d) to abolish the Deputy Chair of the Consultative Committee rule. They note that the Director of Operations, a newly created role, is effectively the Deputy Chair of the Consultative Committee, as defined under Rule 31. They add that they do not see the point in having two Deputy Chairs of the Consultative Committee. They further add that it is not a necessary role and Logistics Officers can perform the same function.

The President-Elect notes that a two-thirds majority vote would mean that they could recommend this change to the chamber.

The Librarian points out that the change says the 14th February. **The President-Elect** notes that on the noticeboard it reads the 21st February. They state their intention to bring it forward on this date.

The Treasurer-Elect states that it seems like a very reasonable change.

The Librarian asks the Returning Officer if this is a legitimate way to delete a clause from a rules change. **The President-Elect** notes that they did consult some Ex-Returning Officers. **The Returning Officer** that this is possible.

The President-Elect moves that the Standing Committee recommends the following private business motion about removing the Deputy Chair of the Consultative Committee role to the public business meeting on Thursday 21st February 2019

Seconded by the Librarian-Elect.

The motion passes nem. con.

The President-Elect states that they have a second proposed change, namely to change certain junior appointed officials. They note that in the rules the junior appointed officials are currently the Logistics Officers, the Press Officers, the Sponsorship Officers, and the archivist. They add that there is no need to appoint an archivist with the Guest Liaison Officer. They further add that the Guest Liaison Officer role was abolished by Mr Ray Williams last term.

The President-Elect notes that they have spoken with the Director of Operations about the challenges of organising the debate nights in the absence of permanent Guest Liaison Officers.

The President-Elect notes that criticism of the role was that it was given to the President's friends, but this also applies to all appointed roles. They reaffirm their intention to bring back the role and swap it with the archivist.

The Librarian asks how the professional archivist is appointed. **The Bursar** responds that they have had an archivist for many years. They add that it would not be possible for a student to fulfil the role and assimilate all of the information.

The Treasurer agrees with the President-Elect that the Guest Liaison Officer role is a reasonable one. They note that they were initially on board with allowing other members of committee try out the role, but they recognise that this has not worked out as well as they first thought. They further note that the Guest Liaison Officer role is a substantial responsibility and it can perform a valuable function.

The Bursar notes that the Guest Liaison Officers are the face of the Union on debate nights.

The Secretary notes that the Guest Liaison Officer role was their first experience on committee. They argue that there is a real and tangible role for a Guest Liaison Officer so long as they are given proper training and they are dedicated. They further note that they wholly support this change.

The Librarian asks if the President-Elect thinks that members of the Secretary's Committee and the Standing Committee are doing a bad job as Guest Liaison Officers. **The Secretary** responds that the Guest Liaison Officer role is especially difficult when factored in with the additional duties of these committee members. They stress that there should be a real role for people who are competent, personable and organised administratively.

The Treasurer notes that there is also a manpower issue where committee members have a number of other duties on debate nights, including the minutes of the emergency debate or speaker events.

The recording device stopped working at 17:31, despite remaining plugged into a power source. The remainder of the minutes are taken using the Secretary's mobile device.

The Bursar asks the President-Elect how many Guest Liaison Officers they intend to appoint. **The President-Elect** replies four. **The Bursar** adds that the President-Elect could co-opt other members of committee on the night if they need extra assistance.

The Treasurer notes that there should be more than four appointed as sometimes there are six guest speakers. They add that it could become a burden if the Guest Liaison Officers have to be at the debates every week. **The President-Elect** believes that it is a Standing Order to have fifteen junior appointed officials. **The Treasurer-Elect** notes that the committee could waive the Standing Order.

The President-Elect moves that the Standing Committee recommend the private business motion about recreating the role of Guest Liaison Officer to the public business meeting on Thursday 21st February 2019

Seconded by the Librarian-Elect.

The motion passes nem. con.

The Treasurer asks about the President-Elect's motion that they passed about graduates being able to run for the Standing Committee in their first term if they are on a one year course. **The President-Elect** responds that it is going to the chamber this week.

The President-Elect notes that the Standing Committee have discussed the issue of elected members not being held to account for not doing their vacation day work. They state that there the primary reason for this is that the vacation day requirements are too high. **The President-Elect** states that they would like to make the requirements more reasonable. They add that there is an access issue because spending a long time in Oxford over the vacation can be expensive. They add that their rules change would mean that members of the Standing Committee and the Officers-Elect would only need to 15 vacation days rather than 20 for the Hilary and Trinity vacations.

Mr Joe Sisson notes that it is the President that has the discretion to decide on how many vacation days are required.

Mr Troels Boesen leaves the room at 17:33

The President-Elect states that they will move onto their fourth item of business. They note that currently the President can fine people for not doing over half of their vacation days. They state their intention to replaced a fine with an automatic intermediate disciplinary committee. They note that this would be more harsh but a reasonable thing to do.

The Elected Member (Mr Elliot Bromley, *St Edmund Hall*) asks why they are discussing half and not even one hundred percent.

The President-Elect notes that they are very happy to discuss a higher number of days.

The Treasurer notes that there can be major issues with remote work. They suggest that the President gives written permission to the members of committee to do remote work in case they are abroad.

The Returning Officer complete agree regarding remote vacation day clarification. They note that they already put an intimidating letter into the nomination packs about vacation day expectations.

The Librarian asks if anyone has been brought before an intermediate disciplinary committee panel for not completing their vacation day requirements. **Mr Joe Sisson** responds that there is one historic example of this, but it was unclear in the rules. They image that the intermediate disciplinary committee would look very dimly on it.

The Librarian asks what the President-Elect thinks the punishment should be. **The President-Elect** responds that they believe they should be removed from office.

The Librarian asks why the rule is not removal from office. **The President-Elect** responds that this needs proper discussion first as people might have complaints about vacation day work.

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) expresses their concern about the influence of President clearing someone. They argue that the best approach would be an automatic intermediate disciplinary committee, one which takes into account potential mitigating circumstances.

The Elected Member (Mr Jim Brennan, *St Peter's College*) states the President could abuse their office.

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) notes that the Standing Committee is not bringing the intermediate disciplinary committee. They ask the Elected Member (Mr Jim Brennan, *St Peter's College*) if they think it should be brought about by a two-thirds majority.

The Elected Member (Mr Jim Brennan, *St Peter's College*) note that they would support this is half could exonerate an individual. They add the Standing Committee would then acts as a filter about extraordinary circumstances.

The Returning Officer states that senior disciplinary meetings exists for a reason and they could be used for a President's abuse of office.

Mr Joe Sisson notes that intermediate disciplinary meetings cannot remove members of the the Standing Committee.

The Elected Member (Mr Jim Brennan, *St Peter's College*) asks how a vacation day is defined in the rules. **The President-Elect** responds that it is defined by eight hours work. **The**

Librarian notes that a vacation day is defined by either eight hours work or presidential satisfaction. They express concern about the huge amount of power a President would have about whether or not people are able to do their vacation days remotely.

The Treasurer notes that it could be rephrased.

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) suggests a friendly amendment is added using the word 'unreasonably' to describe the potential abusive actions of a President in refusing a committee member the opportunity to work remotely.

The President-Elect notes that they agree.

The Treasurer notes genuine mitigating circumstances, stress of it going to IDC is

The Elected Member (Mr Elliot Bromley, *St Edmund Hall*) asks in what walks of life the work would be satisfied with fifty percent. They express concern that this would be setting a dangerous precedent.

The President-Elect notes that they can

The Treasurer outlines what already exists, whereby someone would be sent to an intermediate disciplinary committee unless it is waived by a two-thirds majority of the Standing Committee.

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) asks the Returning Officer if an intermediate disciplinary committee acts like a court. They ask if it determines whether someone has committed a breach or does a burden fall on someone to prove that. **The Returning Officer** responds that arguments need to be made.

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) asks how does an automatic intermediate disciplinary committee happen? They note that if it's like English law then someone would present the case against them. **The Returning Officer** responds that as far as they are away there are no automatic intermediate disciplinary committees in the rules.

Mr Joe Sisson notes that there is no automatic intermediate disciplinary committee. They further note that an intermediate disciplinary committee is not granted investigative powers, whereas a senior disciplinary committee does, and as a corporate body it could launch an investigation.

The Treasurer expresses concern that they do not invent a new thing.

The President-Elect states that just because something does not happen in the rules does not mean that it cannot happen.

The Librarian asks why they would want to give the President this massive power.

The Treasurer asks for clarity about whether it is the case that only President can bring an intermediate disciplinary committee.

The President-Elect states that they assume that is the case.

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) thinks it is sensible to make it only one person who can bring an intermediate disciplinary committee otherwise Standing Committee members could accuse people they did not like.

The Elected Member (Mr Shining Zhao, *University College*) asks whether the Returning Officer or Deputy Returning Officers could be mandated to bring an intermediate disciplinary committee.

Mr Joe Sisson notes that this would automatically remove them from office as Deputy Returning Officers cannot bring intermediate disciplinary committees.

The President-Elect suggests that if the President of the day fails to bring someone before an intermediate disciplinary committee then it would be an offence under rule 71. They note that this would mandates them to do it for everyone not just those they do not like.

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) states that they want to make sure that the President goes after everyone.

The Returning Officer notes that a senior disciplinary committee have an ability to look into these cases but they are not sure how this would work on a personal level.

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) asks whether or not old intermediate disciplinary committee reports are accessible. **The Returning Officer** responds that they can be accessed by speaking to them.

The Bursar notes that the reports sometimes do not come in for a long time.

The Treasurer states that this would serve as a preventative impact and many people who cannot do vacation days will not run for office.

The Elected Member (Mr Rai Saad Khan, *Christ Church*) states that they believe there should be a safety valve.

The Librarian moves that the Standing Committee grant Mr Hugh Bellamy speaking rights for the duration of the meeting

Seconded by the President-Elect.

The motion passes nem. com.

Mr Hugh Bellamy agrees that there should be a safety mechanism in place to prevent authoritarian Presidents.

The Treasurer notes that they would be happy with a one hundred per cent vacation day requirement if the two proposed rules changes are passed simultaneously.

The President-Elect notes that they will try and do this in the chamber.

The President-Elect states that they think they might need to make an amendment to rule 71.

The Librarian states that they think the Standing Committee should see writing about this issue.

The Returning Officer suggests the President-Elect compiles the amendments and brings it fresh to the Standing Committee so that the committee can look at the proposed changes in their entirety.

The Librarian asks the President-Elect if they have anything else to discuss.

The President-Elect moves that the Standing Committee recommend the private business motion about changing the vacation day requirements for Standing Committee members and Officers-Elect to the public business meeting on Thursday 21st February 2019

Seconded by the Librarian.

The motion passes nem. con.

The President-Elect notes that their fifth item of business is to discuss the wifi. They note that the Librarian-in-charge wanted to know what the eduroam would come into effect. **The Bursar** responds that it should be working now.

The Treasurer notes that the wifi is not working in the Officer's offices too.

The President-Elect notes Mx Brian Wong does not intend to carry out as Access Officer next term and that Ms Amelia Harvey has notified them of their intention to run in the upcoming election.

The President-Elect asks Ms Amelia Harvey if they would like the President-Elect to appoint two new access officers in the event they are successful in the election. **Ms Amelia Harvey** notes that they will get back to the President-Elect on that issue.

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 Librarian-Elect has no business

Questions to the Treasurer-Elect:

There are no questions to the Librarian-Elect

The Ex-Officers

Business of the Ex-Officers:

The Ex-Officers have no business

Questions to the Ex-Officers:

There are no questions to the Ex-Officers

The Senior Librarian

Business of the Senior Librarian:

The Senior Librarian has no business in their absence

Questions to the Senior Librarian:

There are no questions to the Senior Librarian in their absence

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

The Business of the Returning Officer:

The Returning Officer states that they have three points to discuss.

The Returning Officer notes that the tribunal shortlist needs to pass today. They ask if anyone have any problems with people on this list.

The Returning Officer moves that the Standing Committee ratify the tribunal shortlist for Hilary Term 2019

Seconded by the Librarian.

The motion passes nem. con.

The Returning Officer states that the Senior Access Officer has automatically resigned because they have not attended any meetings this term.

The Returning Officer adds that the Women's officer might also be in danger of resignation for the same reason.

The Returning Officer states that their third and final business is a discussion of the interim poll regulations. They thank the Bursar for their assistance with the list of names on the noticeboard, which has enabled them to transcribe the names onto one word document. They

note that a few names were ruled as invalid as they cannot find their names on the society database. They further add that 150 names were needed for the motion of impeachment to be moved and the interim poll regulations from 1pm yesterday are now attached to the agenda.

The Returning Officer asks if anyone has any concerns. They note that the impeachment will have a description. They add that the abuse of office section of the description might not be true and asks the Standing Committee for their thoughts on this clarification.

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) asks if it can be amended.

The Librarian moves for the Standing Committee to grant Mr Samuel Burns speaking rights.

Seconded by the President-Elect.

The motion passes nem. con.

Mr Samuel Burns states that this is a political process.

The Librarian adds the abuse of office section of the impeachment motion might not be true. **The Treasurer** responds that this has not been established by the Union's court of law. **The Librarian** states that people could write whatever they want and does not think that members should be told what they did.

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) states that they agree with the Librarian.

The Librarian asks that if this section cannot be changed can provisions to the interim regulations still be added. **The Bursar** states that the polls they remember from the past include an incident about a smoking van and the invitation of David Irving. In these instances the paper put out both side's case.

The Librarian notes that there is nothing in the rules that says that is the only thing that should be on the ballot paper. **The Returning Officer** responds that there are rules about what the ballot paper has to have.

The Senior Treasurer suggests that the Returning Officer adds that the claims have not been subject to vetting procedures. **The Librarian** states that they are happy if the Senior Treasurer is happy with that. **The Senior Treasurer** adds that it would be a neutral statement.

The Librarian reads out a proposed provision to add to the poll regulations, stating 'the above grounds are alleged by the proposers of this impeachment; they have not been subject to vetting procedures.' **The Returning Officer** states that they are more than happy to add that.

The Elected Member (Mr Jim Brennan, *St Peter's College*) asks the Librarian if they will resign if the impeachment call is successful. **The Librarian** states that they have not thought anything about this. **The Elected Member** (Mr Jim Brennan, *St Peter's College*) adds that they do not want the will of the society subverted.

The Returning Officer states the Standing Committee needs to vote on the poll regulations. **The Librarian** suggests that the Standing Committee takes the Returning Officer's poll regulations and add the amendment.

The Bursar asks about advertising. **The Returning Officer** responds that nothing is required about poll advertisement in the national media. It falls on the Standing Committee to see what level of advertisement is necessary. They ask if the Standing Committee thinks emailing

members at time of the poll is sufficient, or if it requires further advertisement. **The Librarian** states that they think it should just have basic information.

The Treasurer-Elect adds that any email should surely include what people are voting on.

The Elected Member (Mr Rai Saad Khan, *Christ Church*) agrees about this.

The Returning Officer notes that the Goodman Library is going to be an issue as there are two events taking place that day.

The Ex-Returning Officer states that no one of the Deputy Returning Officer team has any logistics experience.

The Senior Treasurer leaves the room at 18:27

The Bursar asks where the events will take place.

The Librarian suggests that the events could be held in the Macmillan room.

The President-Elect leaves the room at 18:30

The Junior Access Officer notes that accessibility is still an issue.

The Bursar states that the poll has to go in the Goodman.

Mr Hugh Bellamy asks whether they should include the poll on website and on the app as an event. **The Bursar** tells the Returning Officer of their intention to do this.

The Librarian-Elect leaves the room at 18:32

The Elected Member (Mr Jim Brennan, *St Peter's College*) states needs to be in the Gladstone room, a place with electoral experience that is common to the members.

The Elected Member (Ms Mahi Joshi, *Trinity College*) agrees that the poll should go downstairs but worries that the society is losing two speaker events downstairs.

Mr Samuel Burns asks if it is possible to have the poll in the chamber.

The Ex-Returning Officer states that the Deputy Returning Officer team would need to sit down and plan how to do it.

The Treasurer-Elect adds that people would need to conceal the balcony if the poll takes place in the Chamber as people will be looking at who will be voting.

The Elected Member (Mr Jim Brennan, *St Peter's College*) asks how many people are likely to be affected by this.

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) suggests that apologies are sent to people about the speaker events not being held in the Goodman Library.

The Elected Member (Mr Rai Saad Khan, *Christ Church*) states that from the numbers on the Facebook events page why wouldn't the events just be held in the Gladstone room.

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) notes how bad it is giving up accessibility. **The Elected Member** (Mr Jim Brennan, *St Peter's College*) responds by asking

if the society has data on accessibility and attendance at events. **The Junior Access Officer** states that this cannot be known.

The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) suggests that apologies are sent out and polling takes place in the Goodman Library.

The Returning Officer states that they are pleased that issue has been resolved. They also note that they accidentally the President. **The Elected Member** (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) asks how. **The Returning Officer** responds that under normal election procedures the President cannot act as a representative, whereas with poll regulations the President can do.

The Treasurer-Elect asks why make this procedure is different from any other election.

The Returning Officer moves that the Standing Committee pass the poll regulations concerning the impeachment of the Librarian

Seconded by the Librarian.

The motion passes nem. con.

Mr Joe Sisson leaves the room at 18:41

Questions to the Returning Officer:

There are no questions to the Returning Officer

The Chair of the Consultative Committee

Business of the Chair of the Consultative Committee:

The Chair of the Consultative has no business in their absence

Questions to the Chair of the Consultative Committee:

There are no questions to the Chair of the Consultative Committee in their absence

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 Chair of the Debate Selection Committee:

The Chair of the Debate Selection Committee updates the Standing Committee on the LSE open where the Oxford team successfully reached the final.

Questions to the Chair of the Debate Selection Committee:

There are no questions to the Chair of the Debate Selection Committee

Changes to the Composition of this Committee

There are no changes to the composition of the committee

Any Other Business

No other business

Date of Next Meeting

The Librarian states that the President will call the next meeting for Monday 4th February at 16:00.

The Librarian closes the meeting at 18:42

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicholas Leah', written in a cursive style.

Nicholas Leah
Lincoln College
Secretary