

Ratified Minutes of

THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE ACCESS COMMITTEE

5th Week Hilary Term 2018

Friday 15th February

The TV Room, 13:15

Present: **The Access Officer** (Amelia Harvey, *Kellogg College*), **The Ethnic Minorities Officer** (Priyesh Patel, *St. Anthony's College*), **The Temporary Membership Officer** (Olly Woodhouse, *Oxford Brookes University*), **The Standing Committee Delegate** (Mahi Joshi, *Trinity College*), **The Standing Committee Delegate** (Rai Saad Khan, *Christ Church*), **The Elected Member/Librarian-Elect** (Sara Dube, *St Hugh's College*), **The President-Elect** (Genevieve Athis, *Christ Church*), **The Bursar** (Lindsay Warne), **The Librarian** (Brendan McGrath, *Oriel College*)

Apologies: **The International Officer** (Alice Zhang, *Trinity College*), **The Elected Member** (Joseph Grehan-Bradley, *Christ Church*), **The Socioeconomic Officer** (Amelia Bircham, *Keble College*)

Absent: **The President** (Daniel Wilkinson, *Oriel College*), **The Women's Officer** (Priscilla Guo, *Keble College*), **The Elected Member** (Daniil Ukhorskiy, *Brasenose College*)

Access Committee opens at 13.25

Garang Dut enters the room at 13.47

Brian Wong resigned from their role as Senior Access Officer on Wednesday.

Absences to Pass

Rai Saad Khan moves to pass Joseph Grehan-Bradley's absence due to immovable academic commitment.
Passes nem con

Ratification of Minutes

The Access Officer says that according to the RO, none of the previous minutes have been ratified. The RO intended to come to the meeting today, but is ill.

Rai Saad Khan suggests that we move to ratify the 4th week minutes, Mahi Joshi says that we should wait until next week to receive clarification from the RO before we do this. Rai Saad Khan says that this is not necessary, and even if the previous minutes are not valid, the new ones should be.

Rai Saad Khan moves to ratify the minutes of 4th week.

Seconded by the Access Officer

Passes nem con

Business of The Access Officer- Amelia Harvey

The Access Officer and the LGBTQIA+ Officer have a motion to condemn TSC for making two events inaccessible, which the Access Officer says was supported by Brian Wong before they resigned.

The President-Elect asks if this is common practice, because she is aware that two events took place in the upstairs rooms of the Union in Trinity Term 2018. The Access Officer says that it may not be common practice, and there may not be a precedent for this, but now might be the time to set one.

The Bursar asks if we know for certain if the accessibility issues actually hindered attendance to the event. Amelia Harvey says there is no way for us to know that, since individuals may have seen the accessibility

issue in advance and not attended the event at all.

The Access Officer stresses that alternatives were proposed to having the events in the inaccessible, upstairs rooms of the Union, but that these were largely neglected or refused by the Standing Committee.

The President-Elect asks what these alternatives were, and if they weren't they just rejected by the Returning Officer. The President-Elect reinforces that that poorly attended events are always put in Gladstone Room.

The Access Officer moves that we grant speaking rights to the Librarian, Brendan McGrath. Seconded by the President-Elect.

Passes nem com

The Librarian says the alternative to having the events in the upstairs room was to have the Impeachment Poll in the Chamber, and instead have the events in the Goodman Library as normal. The Returning Officer opposed this alternative due to logistical difficulties and challenges. Amelia Harvey says TSC did not focus on this discussion for long enough.

The President-Elect says that the motion politicizes the Access Committee, and is brought because the proposers are unhappy with the Impeachment Poll which took place on Wednesday, 5th Week, not the accessibility issues at all. The President-Elect says that Access Committee should not be politicised.

The Access Officer asks the President-Elect if she does not think that the resignation of the Access Officer, Brian Wong was not political. The President-Elect says that she cannot speak on behalf of Brian Wong, and therefore what she says is not a contradiction.

The Librarian says that this motion does not politicise all of the Access Committee, since all of TSC is condemned as result of it. The Access Committee is only condemning the prioritisation by the TSC of Returning Officer's convenience over the accessibility of events.

The Bursar says that is extremely difficult to find a solution to this problem. Uses the example of a chair lift. Gives example of a debate speaker for whom she borrowed a chair, who asked for 'four strong lads' instead of this mechanism due to its infeasibility and danger. Additionally, it makes people feel insecure.

The Temporary Membership Officer asks about temporary ramps, Bursar says these already exist and can be set up upon request.

Bursar says that inaccessibility is inevitable due to the nature of the building and guidelines set by English Heritage.

The President-Elect says that this motion is a sad precedent to set, since it underestimates the magnitude of the situation. She suggests other cases, like the Poetry Room and Snooker Room. She again calls the motion an overly politicised move.

Bursar says that she knows from people on duty that nobody was inconvenienced. Amelia Harvey replies that this is not the point.

Amelia Harvey says that since Mo Iman, the co-signer of the motion, nor the President, nor the RO is here, the vote on the motion will be pushed to the next meeting.

Questions to The Access Officer- Amelia Harvey

There are no questions to the Access Officer.

The Business of the Disabilities Officer

There is no business of the Disabilities Officer in her absence.

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There are no questions to the Disabilities Officer in her absence.

The Business of the Ethnic Minorities Officer

The Ethnic Minorities Officer discusses his idea for an event on South Asia and mentions that he has suggested a debate motion to the President: “This House Believes Secularism Is The Way Forward If South Asia Is To Progress”. Speakers are already arranged. This would be likely to take place during Week 7 and be a student-centered debate in coordination with other student societies. The President has not yet responded, but the Ethnic Minorities Officer will coordinate.

Bursar suggests that 7th week is too full and week 6 is equally complicated.

The President-Elect says that we are looking at doing something similar next term and to get in touch after the meeting.

The Access Officer offers to follow up with the President and ask him to respond.

Questions to the Ethnic Minorities Officer

There are no questions to the Ethnic Minorities Officer.

The Business of the Graduate Officer

The Graduate Officer explains that he has been meeting with the Blavatnik School, who have spoken to the Union in the past. The Blavatnik School is unhappy with the deal so far, with the reasoning that Said Business School (SBS) has a better deal.

Bursar notes that SBS is five times the size.

The Graduate Officer says that he has proposed a similar fee structure as SBS and will get back in touch.

Bursar says that if they have any more questions that she is available to get in touch with for answers.

Questions to the Graduate Officer

There are no questions to the Graduate Officer.

The Business of the LGBTQIA+ Officer

The LGBTQIA+ Officer has asked for his business about an LGBTQIA+ Social after the Ruth Hunt talk to be pushed to next meeting in light of his absence.

The Bursar asks about the Ruth Hunt event, and notes that we would not have time to organise the LGBTQIA+ Officer’s proposed event if it is pushed.

Questions to the LGBTQIA+ Officer

There are no questions to the LGBTQIA+ Officer in his absence.

Business of the International Officer

The International Officer has no business in her absence.

Questions to the International Officer

There are no questions to the International Officer in her absence.

Business of the Socioeconomic Officer

The Socioeconomic Officer says that she needs to talk to the Treasurer about students speaking at the debate.

Questions to the Socioeconomic Officer

There are no questions to the Socioeconomic Officer.

Business of the Temporary Membership Officer

There is no business of the Temporary Membership Officer.

Questions to the Temporary Membership Officer

There are no questions to the Temporary Membership Officer.

Business of the Women's Officer

There is no business of the Women's Officer in her absence.

Questions to the Women's Officer

There are no questions to the Women's Officer in her absence.

Business to the President

There is no business of the President in his absence.

Questions to the President

There are no questions to the President in his absence.

Business of Naren Koratamaddi

There is no business of Naren Koratamaddi in his absence.

Questions to Naren Koratamaddi

There are no questions to Naren Koratamaddi in his absence

Business of Sara Dube

There is no business of Sara Dube in her absence.

Questions to Sara Dube

There are no questions to Sara Dube in her absence.

Business of Mahi Joshi

There is no business of Mahi Joshi.

Questions to Mahi Joshi

There are no questions to Mahi Joshi.

Business of Rai Saad Khan

There is no business of Rai Saad Khan.

Questions to Rai Saad Khan

There are no questions to Rai Saad Khan.

Changes to the Composition of this Committee

The Access Officer says that the composition will be clarified with the RO in attendance of the meeting next week.

Any Other Business

There is no other business.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place Friday of 6th Week, 22 February, at 13:15 in the TV Room.

The Access Officer closes the meeting at 13:51.

Signed,

Mahi Joshi

Standing Committee Delegate to Access Committee

Trinity College