# The Draft Minutes of

#### THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

0th Week Trinity Term 2019 Wednesday 24th April 2019

TV Room, 17:00

#### **Present**

The President (Genevieve Athis, Christ Church), The Treasurer (Charles Coverman, Brasenose College), The Secretary (Amelia Harvey, Kellogg College), The Librarian-Elect (Mahi Joshi, Trinity College), The Treasurer-Elect (Shining Zhao, University College), The Elected Member (Spencer Cohen, Brasenose College), The Elected Member (Nikhil Shah, Exeter College), The Elected Member (Beatrice Barr, St Peter's College), The Elected Member (Adam Wilkinson-Hill, Jesus College), The Elected Member (Kitsu Egerton, Regent's Park), The Elected Member (Mohamed Iman, Somerville College)

## **Attending**

The Bursar (Lindsey Warne), The Senior Treasurer (Stephen Dixon), The Senior Librarian (Sean Power), The Chair of the Consultative Committee (Elliot Bromley, *St Edmund Hall*), The Returning Officer (Stanislas Lalanne, *Merton College*), The Events Officer (Oliver Tushingham, *St John's College*), The DRO (Charlie Willis, *Wadham College*), The LGBTQIA+ Officer (Joseph Sisson, *St John's College*), The Ordinary Member (Troels Boesen, *St John's College*)

# **Absent**

The Librarian (Sara Dube, *St Hugh's College*), The Elected Member (Ayman D'Souza, *Christ Church*), The President-Elect (Brendan McGrath, *Oriel*), The Chair of the Debate Selection Committee (Lee Chin Wee, *Trinity College*)

#### **Apologies**

The Librarian (Sara Dube, *St Hugh's College*), The President-Elect (Brendan McGrath, *Oriel*), The Elected Member (Ayman D'Souza, *Christ Church*), The Chair of the Debate Selection Committee (Lee Chin Wee, *Trinity College*)

The President opens this Ordinary Meeting of the Standing Committee at 17:10.

#### **Requests to Pass Absences from Previous Meetings**

There are no requests to pass absences from previous meetings.

## **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

**The President** asks whether or not both motions and minutes need to be sent out together as a separate file with the motions.

The Returning Officer confirms that the minutes are to be sent as a separate file with the motions.

The Secretary states that they will be sent together from now on.

**The President** mentions an amendment to a statement in the minutes that has been discussed with the Secretary for the 9th Week Minutes of the Standing Committee.

The Treasurer-Elect requests to discuss in camera about previous in camera minutes.

The meeting moves in camera at 17:13.

The meeting moves out of in camera at 17:17.

#### **Ratification of Minutes**

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify the draft minutes of the Hilary Term 2019 9th Week Ordinary Meeting of the Standing Committee, pending modifications of a statement discussed with the Secretary.

Seconded by the Treasurer.

The motion passes nem. con.

#### The President

Business of the President:

## **Committee Vacation Days**

Genevieve Athis, President: 40 days

Sara Dube, Librarian: 36.5

Charlie Coverman, *Treasurer*: 32

Brendan McGrath, President-Elect: 15

Mahi Joshi, Librarian-Elect: 15

Shining Zhao, Treasurer-Elect: 15.5

Amelia Harvey, Secretary: 30

Elliot Bromley, CCC: 19

Chaitanya Kediyal, Chief of Staff: 21

Miriam Feldman, Director of Operations: 15

Spencer Cohen, Standing Committee: 23.5

Ayman D'Souza, Standing Committee: 16.5

Nikhil Shah, Standing Committee: 15

Beatrice Barr, Standing Committee: 16.5

Adam Wilkinson-Hill, Standing Committee: 15

Kitsu Egerton, Standing Committee: 12

Mohamed Iman, Standing Committee: 15

Chengkai Xie, Secretary's Committee: 10

Liam Willis, Secretary's Committee: 10

Celeste McGinley, Secretary's Committee: 15.5

Harry Deacon, Secretary's Committee: 12

Benjy Penny, Secretary's Committee: 10

Olivia Streeten, Secretary's Committee: 10

Nils Lovegren, Secretary's Committee: 12

Alice Zhang, Secretary's Committee: 10

Hannah Kidner, Secretary's Committee: 10

Jeremy Mbararia, Secretary's Committee: 10

Jack Solomon, Secretary's Committee: 11

Beth Chamberlain, CCS: 1.5

Daniil Ukhorskiy, Director of Press 10.5

Hugh Bellamy, Director of Digital Operations: 9

Olivia Leigh, Director of Sponsorship: 10.5

Rabii Malik, Access Officer: 7.5

Felicity Graham, Access Officer: 6

Kofo Braithwaite, Logistics Officer: 9

Teresa Puzca, Logistics Officer: 5

Cameron Bovell, Logistics Officer: 13.5

Emily Richards, Logistics Officer: 9.5

Robert Chamberlain, Logistics Officer: 10

Francesco Galvanetto, Guest Liaison Officer: 9.5

John Glance, Guest Liaison Officer: 6.5

Geneva Roy, Guest Liaison Officer: 6

Melanie Onovo, Guest Liaison Officer: 10

Jack McClure, Guest Liaison Officer: 7

James Slater, Guest Liaison Officer: 9

Lucy Lamoury, Guest Liaison Officer: 9.5

Oliver Tushingham, Events Officer: 11

Sahil Shah, Press Officer: 8

Arjun Bhardwaj, Press Officer 10

Aastha Tyagi, Press Officer 5

Julia Willemyns, Press Officer: 9.5

Cansu Uyguroglu, Sponsorship Officer 10

Simon van Teutem, Sponsorship Officer 9

Nicholas Crompton, Sponsorship Officer: 9.5

Laura Lonsdale, Sponsorship Officer: 6

Varuna Mitra, Women's Officer: 10.5

Joseph Sisson, LGBTQIA+ Officer: 6.5

Mehr Farhan, Socio-economic Officer: 11

Fletcher Ransberry, Disabilities Officer: 2

Kamran Ali, Ethnic Minorities Officer: 3

Priyesh Patel, Graduate Officer: 1

Noorie Abbas, International Officer: 9.5

Maxwell Quinn Stewart, Temporary Membership Officer: 1.5

## Ratification for appointed officials

**The President** states that there are four people on appointed committee who have failed to complete more than half of their vacation day requirement and that these four people must express to the President that they wish to be re-ratified.

**The President** is happy in general with the work done over the vacation, but these four fell below what was expected.

**The President** says the four will have a week to request ratification.

**The Bursar** asks if there will be a penalty of any kind.

**The President** replies that they will be given more work during term time should they choose to be ratified.

## **Standing Committee Delegates**

Spencer Cohen: Access Committee

**The President** states that Mr D'Souza needed to have formally told someone of his committee preferences in advance and will thus no longer have second choice.

Nikhil Shah: Finance Committee

Beatrice Barr: Debate Selection Committee

Adam Wilkinson-Hill: Access Committee

Kitsu Egerton: Library Committee

Mohamed Iman: Finance Committee

Ayman D'Souza: Bar Strategy Committee

## **Press Requests**

**The President** states that they received one press request from Cherwell.

**The President** gave comments on the speaker events, diversity of the term card, the special events, and the debates.

The President encourages the committee to look at the article, which is now live and online.

Questions to the President:

There are no questions to the President.

## The Librarian

Business of the Librarian: The Librarian has no business in their absence. *Questions to the Librarian:* There are no questions to the Librarian in their absence. The Treasurer Business of the Treasurer: **DSC** expenses The Treasurer states that DSC expenses have been postponed until the return of the Chair of the Debate Selection Committee. Questions to the Treasurer: There are no questions to the Treasurer. **The Secretary** Business of the Secretary: The Secretary has no business. Questions to the Secretary: There are no questions to the Secretary. Mr Spencer Cohen Business of Mr Cohen: Mr Cohen has no business. Questions to Mr Cohen: There are no questions to Mr Cohen. Mr Ayman D'Souza Business of Mr D'Souza: Mr D'Souza has no business in their absence. Questions to Mr D'Souza: There are no questions to Mr D'Souza in their absence. Mr Nikhil Shah

Business of Mr Shah:					
Mr Shah has no business.					
Questions to Mr Shah:					
There are no questions to Mr Shah.					
Ms Beatrice Barr					
Business of Ms Barr:					
Ms Barr has no business.					
Questions to Ms Barr:					
There are no questions to Ms Barr.					
Mr Adam Wilkinson-Hill					
Business of Mr Wilkinson-Hill:					
Mr Wilkinson-Hill has no business.					
Questions to Mr Wilkinson-Hill:					
There are no questions to Mr Wilkinson-Hill.					
Mr Kitsu Egerton					
Business of Mr Egerton:					
Mr Egerton has no business.					
Questions to Mr Egerton:					
There are no questions to Mr Egerton.					
Mr Mohamed Iman					
Business of Mr Iman:					
Mr Iman has no business.					
Questions to Mr Iman:					
There are no questions to Mr Iman.					
The President-Elect					

Business of the President-Elect:

The President-Elect has no business in their absence.

Questions to the President-Elect:

There are no questions to the President-Elect in their absence.

#### 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-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.

Questions to the Senior Librarian:

There are no questions to the Senior Librarian.

# **The Senior Treasurer**

Business of the Senior Treasurer:

**The Senior Treasurer** informs the committee that they have submitted their resignation, effective at the end of this meeting.

The Senior Treasurer expresses their gratitude and assures the committee that they are not leaving because they hate the place, but rather that they love the society and wish it all the best, despite being from 'the other place'.

**The Senior Treasurer** states that they have their eye on two people who may become Prime Minister.

The Senior Treasurer states that a lot has been enjoyable and very little has been unenjoyable.

The Senior Treasurer expresses their thanks to all.

The President moves that the Standing Committee extend a formal motion of thanks to the Senior Treasurer.

Seconded by the Treasurer.

The motion passes nem. con.

**The Bursar** states that the Senior Treasurer will be missed.

The Senior Treasurer requests that the President explain the process for their replacement.

**The President** states that there are currently two candidates for the position of Senior Treasurer who will visit during 2nd Week, then the Standing Committee will vote, then it passes to the Chamber to be done by 3rd Week.

The Senior Librarian asks to clarify when the Standing Committee vote will occur.

**The Returning Officer** states that the Standing Committee is to vote during 3rd Week.

**The Senior Librarian** confirms that the candidates will meet the Standing Committee during 2nd Week and that the Standing Committee will vote to recommend to the Chamber during 3rd Week.

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 Returning Officer:

#### **IDC List**

**The Returning Officer** states that the composition of the list is automatic and is brought to TSC to check for errors.

**The Returning Officer** explains that the list is comprised of four categories of either Ex-Junior Officers or Ex-ROs.

**The Returning Officer** stresses that the list can only be amended for errors and asks if anyone has noticed any.

**The President** states that the list looks good and that they can see no errors.

The Returning Officer moves that the Standing Committee ratify the IDC List for Trinity Term 2019.

Seconded by the President.

The motion passes nem. con.

## **Past Reports Schedule**

**The Returning Officer** states that they are updating past reports and reviewing the past reports system.

**The Returning Officer** clarifies that the Past Reports schedule is non-binding and does not require the Returning Officer to follow it.

**The Returning Officer** states that *in camera* reports are almost never accessed, except in the case of an SDC or election tribunal.

**The Returning Officer** states that the only circumstances under which a member has access to reports are being a defendant or writing a report.

**The Returning Officer** asks for comments on the Past Reports proposal.

**The Senior Treasurer** notes that it would be interesting to know who are practising lawyers on the IDC list.

**The Returning Officer** clarifies the difference between the IDC and SDC list, stating that only certain categories would have the possibility of currently being a lawyer.

The Senior Treasurer thank the Returning Officer.

The Senior Librarian notes that the lists often get mixed up.

**Mr Bellamy** asks whether or not members have access to these reports and if ordinary members could see them.

**The Returning Officer** states that the index is accessible to ordinary members.

**Mr Bellamy** asks whether the Returning Officer thinks it is not important to see the reports.

**The Returning Officer** replies that there is not much demand from members unless they are defendants and that some people on the Standing Committee may have an interest in reading them.

**The Returning Officer** continues that they are wary of creating a culture where people can use one-sided precedent gathered from reports.

**Mr Bellamy** states that this culture already exists, as it did during Michaelmas Term.

**The Returning Officer** points out that some people have private arsenals, but that the Past Reports procedure is a long-term solution that will work due to the high turnover rate of committee.

**The President** states that there is little evidence of this being the culture now.

**The Returning Officer** states that they also have discretion when providing reports.

The President moves that the Standing Committee grant the LGBTQIA+ Officer (Joseph Sisson, *St John's College*) speaking rights.

Seconded by the Treasurer.

The motion passes nem. con.

**Mr Sisson** states that reports contain personal information from people who are now relatively high up outside of the Union and that would be wary of putting this information on display in the public domain.

The Returning Officer states that most ordinary members and committee members will never be involved in activities requiring reports, and it is thus not representative of what the Union is like or what the members need to know above other information.

**Mr Iman** asks if one would not be able to access reports unless they are a potential complainer or defendant.

**The Returning Officer** clarifies that anyone can request access under specific precedent and permission from the Returning Officer.

**The Bursar** asks for assurance that all the reports and the archives are held securely and will not be destroyed in any way.

**The Bursar** points out that these reports are a part of the Union's history and will be of interest and value in 200 years' time.

**The Bursar** clarifies that they are not suggesting it be made open to the public, but that it will be retained securely.

The Returning Officer states that there will be a Dropbox account.

Mr Sisson states that it is also provisional that copies of all reports be left with the Bursar as well.

**The President** points out that access to a Dropbox account could be easily cut off should a predecessor not grant access.

The Returning Officer states that they are happy to have a member of staff with access.

**The President** asks if this amendment could be added to Rule 5.

**The Returning Officer** reads out the wording of the amendment.

**Short changes to Rule 71** 

**The Bursar** asks why the Returning Officer wants to delete the form.

The Returning Officer clarifies that it is not the criminal conduct form, but the rules complaints form that people do not tend to use.

**The Bursar** states that they have the criminal complaint form, but that they have never had any other form for people who have come in with complaints about the rules, continuing that it possibly no longer exists.

The Returning Officer states that the form was created in 2015 and that an electronic copy does exist, but they suggest submissions to the Returning Officer via email, as there is no need to continue using a process that has never been used before.

**The Bursar** requests the creation of a leaflet or page that contains the protocol so that people can be given instruction on where to start.

The President states that this would be useful and could be pinned to the noticeboard.

The Returning Officer states they are happy to do this.

The Bursar continues that is makes it easier for those who are not used to the processes.

**The President** states that it is all sensible.

**The President** states that this rule change will be recommended to the Chamber during 1st Week.

**Mr Sisson** states that it will have to be during 2nd Week.

The President asks the Returning Officer if they will be responsible for it.

The Returning Officer confirms that they will be responsible for it.

The Returning Officer moves that the Standing Committee recommend the changes to Rule 71, including friendly amendments, to the Chamber.

Seconded by the President.

The motion passes nem. con.

## **Changes to fines**

**The Returning Officer** explains that this is a simplification of current rules, as there are currently 21 different Standing Orders and Rules under which members could be fined.

**The Returning Officer** states that bringing all of the fines into a single rule, Rule 6, will increase transparency, make future amendments easier, increase options for appeal, improve the fining process in terms of informing members of fines and their due dates.

**The Returning Officer** clarifies that this change does not create any new fines or circumstances and does not change any amounts.

**The President** states that this is a sensible change.

**The Bursar** asks for clarification about how members are notified.

**The Returning Officer** states that the rule issuer is responsible for the specified time and then the General Office will be notified.

**The Senior Treasurer** states that they think the trustees of the Union should be prioritized over the trustees of OLDUT.

**The Returning Officer** replies that they are happy to add this as a friendly amendment.

**Mr Bellamy** asks for clarification about the fine concerning getting permission from the President to enter the General Office, stating that certain committee members have to go into the General Office to carry out their duties, suggesting that the CCC or a different amendment be added.

**The Bursar** states that this fine exists because there used to be riots in the General Office due to the members.

**The President** asks for clarification of Mr Bellamy's suggested amendment.

**Mr Bellamy** proposes that something along the lines of 'unless a committee member is in the line of duty' should be added to the end.

The Returning Officer states that there may need to be a review into the level of circumstance for fines use, such as the vacation day fine.

**The President** clarifies that the fine pertaining to vacation day completion was removed when the auto-IDC was added.

**The Bursar** states that fines used to be much more punitive.

**The President** agrees that there needs to be a review.

**Mr Sisson** points out that there is agency in the rules for Purple Turtle to fine and asks if it should be modified to Plush.

**The President** does not think that the club should be able to fine, but rather be able to take membership cards and advise the Union.

**The Bursar** agrees that Plush's role should be advisory.

Luke Bellamy (Ordinary Member) enters the room at 17:55.

**The Returning Officer** reviews the friendly amendments to the rule concerning the General Office and the Union Trustees.

**The President** suggests adding a line about the term's committee members having agency.

The Returning Officer suggests 'in pursuit of duties'.

The Senior Librarian leaves the room at 17:56.

The Returning Officer moves that the Standing Committee ratify changes to the Standing Orders and attached appendices, including friendly amendments.

Seconded by the Treasurer.

The motion passes nem. con.

**The Returning Officer** states that he will bring these changes to the Chamber during 2nd Week.

Hugh Bellamy (Director of Digital Operation) and Luke Bellamy (Ordinary Member) leave the room at 17:56.

Questions to the Returning Officer:

There are no questions to the Returning Officer.

## The Chair of the Consultative Committee (CCC)

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 in their absence.

Questions to the Access Officers:

There are no questions to the Access Officers in their absence.

## The Chair of the Debate Selection Committee (CDSC)

Business of the CDSC:

The CDSC has no business in their absence.

Questions to the CDSC:

There are no questions to the CDSC in their absence.

# **Changes to the Composition of this Committee**

There are no changes to the composition of this committee.

#### **Any Other Business**

**The President** remarks that since Mr Egerton did not complete all required vacation days that they are facing an auto-IDC.

**Mr Sisson** states that this will need to be discussed during first week.

**The President** states that they are happy with his work and recommends waiving the IDC since Mr Egerton is an international student who had already booked his flights.

**The Treasurer** adds that Mr Egerton still completed a majority of their vacation days, rather than three or four.

**The President** states that there was an overall increase in the number of vacation days, believes that the auto-IDC was a motivating factor, and is happy with the work everyone did.

The Returning Officer asks about the auto-IDC motion.

**Mr Sisson** states that they will send the final version of the motion.

**The Returning Officer** states that they need to see all changes, as they appear to not have the updated rules.

**The President** explains that the fine was removed and that elected committee who do not complete 100% of their vacation days will be IDC'd unless the Standing Committee chooses to waive it.

The Librarian-Elect states that Mr D'Souza has told them the preferences for committee delegation.

Ms Barr moves that the Standing Committee grant the Events Officer (Oliver Tushingham, St John's College) speaking rights.

Seconded by the Mr Wilkinson-Hill.

The motion passes nem. con.

Mr Tushingham states that there are notes about order of preference for Standing Committee.

The President states that Mr D'Souza had sufficient time.

**Mr Tushingham** states that the order is explicit in the rules.

**The Bursar** asks if there is any point to making it clear in advance.

**Ms Barr** mentions Mr D'Souza's seniority as second-elected member.

**The President** states that they received an email from Mr D'Souza thirty minutes into the meeting and will thus not be changing the delegations.

**The Senior Treasurer** says that they mentioned OLDUT at the 9th Week meeting, and suggests that the Senior Librarian explain it at the next meeting.

The President asks the Senior Treasurer to explain OLDUT's role during this meeting.

**The Senior Treasurer** explains that OLDUT was established when the Union was on the verge of bankruptcy in the 1980s by a group of people in Oxford who wanted to rescue the Union. OLDUT was founded as a charitable trust whose only purpose is the funding and well-being of the Oxford Union. The current chairperson of OLDUT is a close friend of Benazir Bhutto, and will be meeting with the Steering Committee on Friday at noon to discuss the Union and share reports.

**The Senior Treasurer** points out the ODUT is to be informed of any majorly controversial speakers, as they need to be challenged in order to stay out of trouble with the charity commission.

**The Bursar** clarifies that OLDUT does not approve or deny speakers, but seek to ensure that all speakers will be challenged as opposed to just given an audience.

**The President** states that they will meet with OLDUT and present the term card.

**The President** continues, stating that the Standing Committee need to be informed of any controversial speakers at least one week before.

#### **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held Monday 29 April 2019 in the TV Room at 16:00.

The President closes the meeting at 18:11 in the TV Room.

Signed,

**Amelia Harvey** 

Kellogg College

Secretary