

The *Ratified* Public Minutes of
THE ORDINARY MEETING OF STANDING COMMITTEE
8th Week Trinity Term 2019
Monday 17th June
4pm, TV Room

Present: **The President** (Ms Genevieve Athis, *Christ Church*), **The President-Elect** (Mr Brendan McGrath, *Oriel College*), **The Librarian** (Ms Sara Dube, *St Hugh's College*), **The Librarian-Elect** (Ms Mahi Joshi, *Trinity College*), **The Treasurer** (Mr Charles Coverman, *Brasenose College*), **The Secretary** (Mr Spencer Cohen, *Brasenose College*), **The Elected Member** (Mr Ayman D'Souza, *Christ Church*), **The Elected Member** (Mr Nikhil Shah, *Exeter College*), **The Elected Member** (Ms Beatrice Barr, *St Peter's College*), **The Elected Member** (Mr Adam Wilkinson-Hill, *Jesus College*), **The Elected Member** (Mr Kitsu Egerton, *Regent's Park*), **The Elected Member** (Mr Mo Iman, *Somerville College*), **The Elected Member** (Mr George Hargrave, *Hertford College*), **The Returning Officer** (Mr Joe Sisson, *St John's College*)

Attending: **The Senior Librarian** (Mr Sean Power, *Oriel College*), **The Bursar** (Ms Lindsey Warne), **The Director of Digital Operations** (Mr Hugh Bellamy, *Lady Margaret Hall*), **The Junior Access Officer** (Ms Felicity Graham, *Christ Church*)

Apologies: **The Treasurer-Elect** (Mr Shining Zhao, *University College*), **The Senior Treasurer** (Mr Tim Myatt, *Wolfson College*), **The Chair of Debate Selection Committee** (Mr Lee Chin Wee, *Trinity College*)

Absent: **The Chair of Consultative Committee** (Mr Elliot Bromley, *St Edmund Hall*)

The President opens the Ordinary Meeting of Standing Committee at 4.10pm.

Requests to Pass Absences from Previous Meetings

The President-Elect moves to pass his absence from the 7th Week Ordinary Meeting of Standing Committee due to societal business of paramount importance.

Seconded by the President.

The Motion passes nem. con.

The Elected Member (Mr George Hargrave, *Hertford College*) moves to pass his absence from the 7th Week Ordinary Meeting of Standing Committee due to an immovable academic commitment.

Seconded by the President.

The Motion passes nem. con.

The Elected Member (Mr Mo Iman, *Somerville College*) moves to pass his absence from the 7th Week Ordinary Meeting of Standing Committee due to disabling or infectious illness.

Seconded by the President.

The Motion passes nem. con.

The Returning Officer moves to pass his absence from the 7th Week Ordinary Meeting of Standing Committee due to pursuit of service to the Society agreed to be of paramount importance.

Seconded by the President.

The Motion passes nem. con.

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

The Secretary notes that the Minutes for 7th Week Standing Committee were late, and recommends postponing their ratification to 9th Week. **The President** agrees to allow this.

Ratification of Minutes

The Secretary notes that the minutes for 7th Week Standing Committee were late, and recommends postponing their ratification to 9th Week. **The President** agrees to allow this.

The President

Business of the President:

Press Requests

The President indicates that she has received press requests about the tribunals brought after the election and how this might affect the office of the **President-Elect**, and indicates that she did not comment. She indicates that she had received another one regarding the rules change abolishing the Office of Librarian-Elect, which the **Returning Officer** commented on. Finally, she indicates that she has received some about access to the Billy Joel event.

Standing Order C11

The President indicates that the **Bursar** has suggested an amendment to Standing Order C11 that would create an online storage unit for contracts, that the President, Treasurer, and Bursar have access to, and that is passed on every term.

The Bursar asks if the Rules can include negotiations in this box. **The President** believes that the term “negotiations” is too loose of a term to include in her opinion.

Access Committee

The President believes that Access Committee has worked particularly well this term, and that an Access Committee hand over would be useful, to update the new Committee on procedure and the dossiers the Committee is leaving the next.

Questions to the President:

There are no questions to the President.

The Librarian

Business of the Librarian:

The Librarian has no business.

Questions to the Librarian:

There are no questions to the Librarian.

The Treasurer

Business of the Treasurer:

DSC Expenses

The Treasurer indicates that Finance Committee has recommended, pending the approval of a Senior Officer, that Standing Committee pass Debate Selection Committee expenses for 7th Week.

The Treasurer moves that Standing Committee pass Debate Selection Committee Expenses of £49.35 for 7th Week.

Seconded by the Elected Member (Mr Nikhil Shah, *Exeter College*).

The Motion passes nem. con.

Questions to the Treasurer:

There are no questions to the Treasurer.

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The Secretary

Business of the Secretary:

The Secretary has no business.

Questions to the Secretary:

There are no questions to the Secretary.

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Mr Ayman D'Souza

Business of Mr Ayman D'Souza:

Mr Ayman D'Souza has no business.

Questions to Mr Ayman D'Souza:

There are no questions to Mr Ayman D'Souza.

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Mr Nikhil Shah

Business of Mr Nikhil Shah:

Mr Nikhil Shah has no business.

Questions to Mr Nikhil Shah:

There are no questions to Mr Nikhil Shah.

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Ms Beatrice Barr

Business of Ms Beatrice Barr:

Ms Beatrice Barr has no business.

Questions to Ms Beatrice Barr:

There are no questions to Ms Beatrice Barr.

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Mr Adam Wilkinson-Hill

Business of Mr Adam Wilkinson-Hill:

Mr Adam Wilkinson-Hill has no business.

Questions to Mr Adam Wilkinson-Hill:

There are no questions to Mr Adam Wilkinson-Hill.

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Mr Kitsu Egerton

Business of Mr Kitsu Egerton:

Mr Kitsu Egerton has no business.

Questions to Mr Kitsu Egerton:

There are no questions to Mr Kitsu Egerton.

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Mr Mo Iman

Business of Mr Mo Iman:

Mr Mo Iman has no business.

Questions to Mr Mo Iman:

There are no questions to Mr Mo Iman.

Mr George Hargrave

Business of Mr George Hargrave:

Mr George Hargrave has no business.

Questions to Mr George Hargrave:

There are no questions to Mr George Hargrave.

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The President-Elect

Business of the President-Elect:

The President-Elect has no business.

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.

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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.

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The Ex-Officers

Business of the Ex-Officers in their absence:

The Ex-Officers have no business.

Questions to the Ex-Officers in their absence:

There are no questions to the Ex-Officers.

The Junior Access Officer (Felicity Graham, Christ Church) enters at 4.20pm.

The Senior Librarian

Business of the Senior Librarian:

Approval of Fees and Salaries

The Senior Librarian that Standing Committee must approve the Membership Fees for the upcoming year.

The Bursar explains that the inflation rate this year stood at 3%, and wants to increase Membership Fees in line with inflation. **The President-Elect** asks if the costs are going up with inflation, and **The Bursar** answers that they are.

The President-Elect asks why Standing Committee doesn't deal with fees and salaries at the same time it deals with a budget. **The Bursar** indicates that this is common practice, and that increasing Membership Fees in line with inflation has never impacted standard or access Membership figures.

The President-Elect indicates that he would be more comfortable discussing fees in conjunction with a budget, to have a better idea of how preventable the increase in fees is. **The Bursar** indicates that the only time fees were not raised before a budget was set, fees had to be increased twice over the course of the following years.

The Senior Librarian stresses that this is common and accepted practice, but concedes that the **President-Elect's** point is valid.

The President indicates that if the **President-Elect** wishes to change the procedure by which this is done, he should bring a Rules change. **The Senior Librarian** indicates that how important passing this is. **The Returning Officer** agrees with the **Senior Librarian**, but concedes that this is a structural problem.

The President moves that Standing Committee mandate the President-Elect to consider changing the structure by which Standing Committee adjusts yearly fees in order to do it in accordance with yearly budgets.

Seconded by the the Elected Member (Mo Iman, *Somerville College*).

The Motion passes nem. con.

The Senior Librarian moves that Standing Committee pass the increase in membership fees by 3% as presented by the Senior Librarian and the Bursar.

Seconded by the President.

The Motion passes nem. con.

The President moves Standing Committee *In Camera* at 4.30pm, to discuss the financial provisions of staff contracts.

The President moves Standing Committee *Ex Camera* at 4.38pm.

Questions to the Senior Librarian:

There are no questions to the Senior Librarian.

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The Senior Treasurer

Business of the Senior Treasurer in his absence:

The Senior Treasurer has no business.

Questions to the Senior Treasurer in his absence:

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:

Election of the Chair of Consultative Committee

The Returning Officer announces that Mr Oliver Tushingham (Events Officer, *St John's College*) has been Elected unopposed as Chair of Consultative Committee, and will take over on Sunday of 9th Week.

Election Tribunal

The Returning Officer reminds the Committee that Members must answer a subpoena, and if they do not attend, they could be fined or otherwise convicted of Electoral Malpractice *in absentia*.

Questions to the Returning Officer:

There are no questions to the Returning Officer.

The Chair of Consultative Committee

Business of the Chair of Consultative Committee in his absence:

The Chair of Consultative Committee has no business.

Questions to the Chair of Consultative Committee in his absence:

There are no questions to the Chair of Consultative Committee.

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The Access Officers

Business of the Access Officers:

Brookes Membership Fee

The Junior Access Officer (Ms Felicity Graham, *Christ Church*) indicates that a discussion around a change in quality of Membership Cards for Temporary or Permanent Members, as he has observed that they are coloured in and of lower quality. **The Bursar** agrees to investigate how she can mend this, highlighting the technical difficulties of this, and indicating that the General Officer would have to use up the stock they currently have.

External Polling Stations

The Junior Access Officer (Ms Felicity Graham, *Christ Church*) explains that she would like to discuss the possibility of installing off-site polling booths for Elections.

The Librarian indicates that she previously sought to accomplish this and that it is possible, and many places could host them that aren't Colleges.

The Returning Officer indicates that they are a host of logistical, security, and practical reasons that negate the feasibility of this plan. **The President** warns of the risk of ballot-box stuffing with off-site polling booths. **The Elected Member** (Mr Mo Iman, *Somerville College*) highlights the problem that an off-site polling booth would just create new "winners" and "losers".

The Treasurer indicates that the quality of the Candidate has more of an effect on their result than the distance of their College, and cites recent examples to prove it.

The Junior Access Officer (Ms Felicity Graham, *Christ Church*) indicates that Brookes students are very far away from polling booths. **The President** indicates that this is a discussion worth having only if Brookes students feel more engaged in the Society.

The President moves to grant Mr Liam Frahm (Ex-Returning Officer, Deputy Returning Officer, *Jesus College*) speaking rights.

Seconded by The Elected Member (Mr Adam Wilkinson-Hill, *Jesus College*).

The Motion passes nem. con.

The Ex-Returning Officer (Mr Liam Frahm, Deputy Returning Officer, *Jesus College*) indicates that the incentives for the Deputy Returning Officer team are simply insufficient for this to be feasible. **The Access Junior Officer** (Ms Felicity Graham, *Christ Church*) agrees to look into this more.

Questions to the Access Officers:

There are no questions to the Access Officers.

The Chair of Debate Selection Committee

Business of the Chair of Debate Selection Committee:

The Chair of Debate Selection Committee has no business.

Questions to the Chair of Debate Selection Committee:

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

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Changes to the Composition of this Committee

There are no changes to the composition of this Committee.

Any Other Business

The Elected Member (Mr Mo Iman, *Somerville College*) moves a Motion of thanks to the President for her outstanding contributions to the Society.

Seconded by The Treasurer.

The Motion passes nem. con.

Date of the Next Meeting

To be confirmed.

The President closes the Meeting at 5.02pm in the TV Room.

Signed,

Spencer Cohen
Secretary
Brasenose College