

The Ratified Minutes of  
THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE  
1st Week Hilary Term 2019  
14<sup>th</sup> January 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 Kediyal, *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** (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 Treasurer-Elect** (Mr Charlie Coverman, *Brasenose College*) **The Ex-President** (Mr Stephen Horvath, *New College*), **The Ex-Treasurer** (Mr James Lamming, *Exeter College*), **The Senior Treasurer** (Mr Stephen Dixon, *Downing College, Cambridge*),

**Attending:**

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

**Absent:**

**The Senior Librarian** (Mr Sean Power, *Oriel College*), **The Elected Member** (Ms Olivia Leigh, *Keble College*), **The Access Officer** (Mx Brian Wong, *Wolfson College*)

*The President opens the meeting at 16:05*

**Apologies**

**The Elected Member** (Ms Olivia Leigh, *Keble College*)

**Requests to Pass Absences from Previous Meetings**

There are no requests to pass absences from previous meetings.

**Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

There are no matters arising from previous minutes.

**Ratification of Minutes**

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify the minutes from the 9th Week MT18 Ordinary Meeting of TSC

*The motion passes nem. con.*

### **The President**

**The President** states there have been a large number of press requests this week. They note that La Repubblica wanted to interview the President about why Beppe Grillo was invited. **The President** states that they responded by emphasising the education of the Union's members over the education of the Italian people.

**The President** notes that there have been requests from OxStu and Cherwell about the release of the termcard and app. The President responded to them by stating that there had been some delay in the release due to an issue with the app store.

**The President** notes that Il Foglilo, Rai Television Network, and RTA Media Set have also got in touch about the Beppe Grillo.

**The President** notes that OxStu and the Telegraph have got in touch about Bill Donohue and their supposed rescinded invitation. **The President** states that they responded by stating that there had been scheduling issue and Bill Donohue could not have been disinvited as he had never formal accepted.

**The President** notes that Nieuwsuur have got in touch about filming the upcoming Palestine debate, as well as the Brexit debate at the end of term in order to interview students about their opinions on Brexit. **The President** responded that they would get in touch with them in eighth week. **The Bursar** asks if they are same people who want some information about the Beppe Grillo event taking place. **The President** states that they are different.

**The President** notes that Jewish Society have got in touch about Lowkey's invitation to speak in the Palestine debate.

**The President** notes that Sky News have got in touch about wanting to film students regarding the Beppe Grillo event.

This concludes all of the President's press requests for the week.

**The President** suggests that the Standing Committee look to ratify the vacation day totals.

*The Chair of the Consultative Committee leaves the room at 16:13*

**The Returning Officer** asks the President about the committee members who completed their vacation days remotely, noting that this falls under Standing Order B15. **The President** maintains that this has been discussed at length and that Standing Order B15 states that either 8 hours of work or the satisfaction of relevant officer would constitute a vacation day. **The Returning Officer** notes it is the jurisdiction of the President to make a decision about whether they are satisfied with the work that has been completed. **The President** adds that they have been satisfied with work that has been completed over the vacation.

*The Chair of Consultative Committee enters the room 16:15*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the President Mr Daniel Wilkinson completed a total of 37 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Librarian Mr Brendan McGrath completed a total of 33.5 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Treasurer Ms Amy Gregg completed a total of 32 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Secretary Mr Nicholas Leah completed a total of 25 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the President-Elect Ms Genevieve Athis completed a total of 11 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Librarian-Elect Ms Sara Dube completed a total of 21.5 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Treasurer-Elect Mr Charlie Coverman completed a total of 17 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Chair of the Consultative Committee Mr James Dix completed a total of 21.5 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Elected Member Mr Chaitanya Kediya completed a total of 16.5 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Elected Member Mr Shining Zhao completed a total of 16.5 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Elected Member Ms Mahi Joshi completed a total of 21.5 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Elected Member Mr Jim Brennan completed a total of 11.5 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Elected Member Mr Elliot Bromley completed a total of 26 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Elected Member Ms Olivia Leigh completed a total of 7 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Elected Member Mr Rai Saad Khan completed a total of 16 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Director of Digital Operations Mr Hugh Bellamy completed a total of 14.5 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Director of Operations Ms Amber Seaward completed a total of 21.5 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Director of Press and Ms Adithi Shenava completed a total of 14.5 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Director of Sponsorship Mr John Glance completed a total of 10 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Director of Digital Operations Mr Hugh Bellamy completed a total of 14.5 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Elected Member of Secretary's Committee Mr Sundeep Singh completed a total of 1 vacation day over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Elected Member of Secretary's Committee Mr Spencer Cohen completed a total of 10 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Elected Member of Secretary's Committee Ms Jess Curry completed a total of 11.5 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Elected Member of Secretary's Committee Mr Adam Wilkinson-Hill completed a total of 10.5 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Elected Member of Secretary's Committee Mr Ayman D'Souza completed a total of 6 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Elected Member of Secretary's Committee Mr George Hargrave completed a total of 5 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Elected Member of Secretary's Committee Ms Noorie Abbas completed a total of 11 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Elected Member of Secretary's Committee Ms Beth Molyneux completed a total of 11 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Elected Member of Secretary's Committee Ms Varuna Mitra completed a total of 6 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Elected Member of Secretary's Committee Ms Beatrice Barr completed a total of 13 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Elected Member of Secretary's Committee Ms Beth Chamberlain completed a total of 16 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Deputy Chair of the Consultative Committee Mr Jack Blowers completed a total of 6.5 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Deputy Chair of the Consultative Committee Mr Hugh Nicholl completed a total of 8.5 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Secretary of the Consultative Committee Mr Samuel Burns completed a total of 10 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Logistics Officer Mr James Johnson completed a total of 9.5 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Logistics Officer Mr Nils Lovegren completed a total of 6 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

**The Treasurer** objects on the grounds that Mr Nils Lovegren actually completed a total of 9 vacation days but three days were not logged into the system correctly.

**The President** states that they will move to ratify Mr Nils Lovegren's vacation days during the ordinary meeting of standing committee next week.

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Logistics Officer Mr Oliver Tushingham completed a total of 10.5 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Press Officer Ms Aastha Tyagi Johnson completed a total of 6 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Press Officer Ms Miriam Anne Feldman completed a total of 7 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

**The Treasurer** objects on the grounds that Ms Miriam Anne Feldman actually completed a total of 8 vacation days but one day was not logged into the system correctly.

**The President** states that they will move to ratify Ms Miriam Ann Feldman's vacation days during the ordinary meeting of standing committee next week.

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Sponsorship Officer Mr Benedict Altier completed a total of 9 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Sponsorship Officer Mr Jeremy Mbararia completed a total of 10 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Sponsorship Officer Mr Marcel Satria completed a total of 9 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Sponsorship Officer Ms Natasha Naidoo completed a total of 2 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Access Officer Mx Brian Wong completed a total of 0 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Access Officer Ms Amelia Harvey completed a total of 16 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Disabilities Officer Ms Elisa Gomez Alimain completed a total of 9 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Ethnic Minorities Officer Mr Jay Priyesh Patel completed a total of 5 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Graduate Officer Mr Garang Dut completed a total of 1 vacation day over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the International Officer Ms Alice Zhang completed a total of 7.5 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the LGBTQIA+ Mr Mohamed Hussein Iman completed a total of 9.5 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Socioeconomic Officer Ms Amelia Bircham completed a total of 6 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Temporary Membership Officer Ms Olly Woodhouse completed a total of 1 vacation day over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Women's Officer Ms Priscilla Guo completed a total of 1 vacation day over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Invitations Officer Mr Patrick Gwillim-Thomas Zhang completed a total of 8 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

The President moves that the Standing Committee ratify that the Invitations Officer Mr Cameron Bovell completed a total of 13.5 vacation days over the Hilary Term vacation period

*The motion passes nem. con.*

**The President** notes that under the new rules they must revisit those who did not meet a total of half of the vacation days. **The President** adds that this would apply to Ms Natasha Naidoo, Mx Brian Wong, Mr Garang Dut, Ms Olly Woodhouse, Mr Priyesh Patel, and Ms Priscilla Guo.

**The Returning Officer** notes that under the rules these committee members have now all resigned and they would need to resubmit an application to the President to be reappointed.

**The President** suggests that the best thing would be to leave this until next week as some committee members do have valid reasons for not completing their vacation day requirement.

**The President** adds that they were very happy with the work of the committee over the vacation.

**The President** introduces the various committee roles for standing delegates to sit on.

**The President** asks The Elected Member (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) for their preference, to which they choose Debate Select Committee.

**The President** asks The Elected Member (Mr Shining Zhao, *University College*) for their preference, to which they choose Finance Committee.

**The President** asks The Elected Member (Ms Mahi Joshi, *Trinity College*) for their preference, to which they choose Access Committee.

**The President** asks The Elected Member (Mr Jim Brennan, *St Peter's College*) for their preference, to which they choose Finance Committee.

**The President** asks The Elected Member (Mr Elliott Bromley, *St Edmund Hall*) for their preference, to which they choose Wine and Spirits Committee.



**The President** asks The Elected Member (Mr Rai Saad Khan, *Christ Church*) for their preference, to which they choose Access Committee.

**The President** states that by default The Elected Member (Ms Olivia Leigh, *Keble College*) will sit on Library Committee.

*Mr Adam Watson enters the room at 16:26*

**The President** proceeds to move that the Standing Committee waive Standing Order A1

**The President-Elect** suggests that the President explain what Standing Order A1 is about. **The President** explains it requires that the officers and the officers-elect to report on the work that they completed over the vacation.

**The Returning Officer** asks who has currently submitted the report. **The President** replies that the President-Elect and Librarian-Elect have submitted their reports, but suggests that they send an email to the other necessary officers and officers-elect for completion next week.

**The President** proceeds to outline their proposed rules changes. They state that it comes out of an intention to facilitate the activities and efforts of OUS in preparation for the society's bicentenary celebrations.

**The President** states that they have three suggestions. Firstly, the establishment of a new committee entitled the bicentenary preparations committee to assist with fundraising efforts and engaging the society's alumni network in the style of college alumni engagement.

**The President** adds that fundamental to this change would be the creation of a new year-long position. They note that Presidents are unable to perform this function as they are focused on their own termcard. **The President** suggests that it would have been appropriate to appoint a year-long position for the development of the new app. They add that the position needs to be of sufficient integrity and importance for it to be taken seriously. **The President** suggests that this new year-long position be given the title of Vice President, though they recognise this might not be a popular choice of name.

**The President** adds that it is their intention to ensure that this position is not a political role. As such, they would not have voting rights on the Standing Committee. **The President** states that they will bring a printed copy of this proposed change to the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

**The President** adds that it would be useful in the standing orders to have a new chapter dedicated to reporting and reports that need to be completed.

*The Chair of the Debate Select Committee enters the room at 16:33*

**The Elected Member** (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) asks the President to confirm which officials would make up the bicentenary committee. The President suggests that it would comprise of six officials, including the President, the newly created Vice President, the President-Elect, the Bursar, the Senior Treasurer, and the Senior Librarian. **The President** adds that they would like to offer six additional places on the committee for ordinary members. **The Elected Member** (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) further asks the President if the Vice President would exclusively be open to an appointed official. **The President** answers that they

would need to set up a mechanism by which to elect the Vice President, but imagines it would be similar to how the Chair of the Consultative Committee if elected.

**The Ex-President** asks the President what the requirements are to be eligible for the role. They ask if it would require attendance at a certain number of meetings of Consultative Committee. **The President** suggests that it would be similar to the required attendance to be eligible for the role of Chair of the Consultative Committee.

**The Bursar** asks for clarification over this newly proposed role. **The President** states that they will be ready to send out papers relating to the role by the ordinary meeting of the Standing Committee next week.

**The Bursar** asks whether the President is aware of the Junior Steward role. **The President** answers that the Junior Steward principally deals with speaker invitations, but the Vice President would not be responsible for any speaker invitations. They add that the Vice President would be responsible for the steering of long-term projects and work as they do in colleges to establish an alumni network and engage in fundraising efforts.

**The Bursar** adds that the title of Vice President might cause confusion.

**The Senior Treasurer** further adds that the society is good at creating jobs but does not seem to let any jobs go. They also note that there is a real job to be done with the fundraising efforts ahead of the bicentenary preparations. **The Senior Treasurer** asks whether this would be a permanent role and what happens after the bicentenary preparations.

**The President** responds that this role especially relevant now with the bicentenary preparations, but there are also certain long-term projects that presidents would not have time to do. They add that in the application for the role it will ask applicants to suggest two or three long-term projects for the Union.

**The Senior Treasurer** thinks that in principle this would be a good idea.

**The Ex-President** raises two points of substantive objection. Before proceeding, the Ex-President wishes to note the way the rules change is being brought about. They suggest that the length of rules change makes it inappropriate to raise as a single private business motion. They add that discussion of a bicentenary committee ought to be done slowly over several weeks to avoid some of the mistakes of the previous term where changes were brought out very quickly. They further add that it would be wise to return to the previous system where changes are printed out so that members can engage with them.

**The Ex-President** proceeds with their two objections: the first to do with remit instruction, and the second to do with naming. On the first point, **the Ex-President** states that is unclear why a whole committee would need to be created to produce a mailing list, particularly given that the society already has a mailing list. They suggest it would be more sensible to spend a week or two creating the mailing list, but then it should only require one dedicated official overseeing it rather than an officer with the title of Vice President. **The Ex-President** adds that this raises a serious issue of where the buck stops within the scope of a presidency. They maintain the presidents ought to be responsible for steering long-term projects, and it would be confusing for a non-voting member of the Standing Committee with a grandiose title to perform this function. **The Ex-President** suggests that such a system could result in a president encouraging someone to stand and blame them for every long-term problem, even though this official would have no power on the Standing Committee. **The Ex-President** adds that this official would actually have a lot of power in the long term, especially given that it would be a year-long appointment and would not be bound by the same regulations as those that bind the officers and members of

the Standing Committee. **The Ex-President** further adds that, as suggested by the Senior Treasurer, that there is a risk that the role might be inappropriately used after the bicentenary celebrations are over. They maintain that important special projects can still be achieved through the oversight of a president, as proven with the fire door project and the development of the Oxford Union's app. **The Ex-President** suggests that it would be more appropriate for the Standing Committee to mandate individuals to take on long-term projects.

**The Ex-President** raises a second issue about the naming of the role. They state if this official would not be a voting member of the Standing Committee, and have as limited or expansive functions as the President has outlined, then they still do not constitute a Vice President as with other societies as they would not be dealing with substantial projects of a presidency. **The Ex-President** suggests that the President is putting forward a position for the role of a Special Projects Officer, and whilst the name Vice President might empower this official to assume a great deal of responsibility, it would create a serious political problem where a lot of power and credibility is given to someone who might not be the choice of the members. **The Ex-President** adds that the President is effectively proposing the creation of a role that has already existed in the form of the Junior Steward but giving it a grander title and changing the methods by which they are elected. They further add that this could endanger the functioning of that role and the wider functioning of the Standing Committee.

**The Ex-President** notes that the President is right to recognise that there has been a deficiency of support for long-term projects from the Standing Committee, but they do not believe the way to resolve this issue is the creation of a new position in which people can be placed due to nepotistic measures, with unclear reporting requirements, unclear structure, and an unclear remit.

**The President** agrees with some of the issues raised by the Ex-President. They add they are neither set on the name of this position, nor how they would be appointed. **The Ex-President** adds that the role would not just be dedicated to fundraising efforts for the bicentenary committee, but for the society's fundraising efforts more broadly. They further add that this would extend beyond the mailing list.

**The President** notes that this role would be different to the Junior Steward role and it would not be political as the role would not entail a vote on the Standing Committee. They add that they have thought a great deal about whether they should have a vote on Standing Committee to make them more accountable. However, they have arrived at a decision that denying the role voting rights like the Chair of the Consultative Committee is the best way to ensure the role is non-political.

*Mr Ray Williams leaves the room at 16:48*

**The Treasurer** asks the President whether they have discussed the position with OUS. **The President** responds that they did not discuss position of a one-year role with them.

*Mr Joe Sisson leaves the room at 16:49*

**The President-Elect** states that they think it is a good idea to mandate someone to carry out long-term projects. They add though that a role already exists in the form of the Development Officer whose role has an exclusive focus on the Union's alumni relations. They further add that it might be more fitting if this committee position is responsible for looking after to the long-term development of the Union.

**The President** responds by expressing concern that they are unsure whether someone would wish to give up a year of their life in the absence of a seemingly important title.

**The Ex-President** explains that there are numerous titles in the Union like Librarian and Chair of the Consultative Committee where people are able to explain the remit of the role and the importance they carry.

**The President** responds that they are concerned that the role will not be taken seriously enough if dealing with long-term matters but the name lacks credibility.

*Mr Ray Williams enters the room at 16:52*

**The Bursar** notes that the committee should review why the role of Junior Steward was abandoned as it could have some potential conflict with this proposed role.

**The Senior Treasurer** notes that the Union has failed to raise sponsorship money in the last five years and there is a real job for someone to secure sponsorship.

**The Bursar** responds that this is also part of the role of the Development Officer.

**The President** notes that the last Development Officer was the Ex-Chair of the Consultative Committee (Mr Julian Kirk, *Magdalen College*) and they only held the role for three days.

**The Ex-President** adds that whilst the role could certainly add something to the Union, it would need to be filled by someone who is familiar with the Union and how it operates.

**The President** states that this proposal came out of moving the structure of Standing Order A5 and the Development Officer stuck in this Standing Order. They add that there are enough good people in and around the committee to fill this role.

**The President-Elect** mentions that the role of Chief of Staff is now seen as a role to aspire to, and that change has largely been due to the President appointing them and giving them more responsibility. They suggest that this could be a similar way to progress with the newly proposed role.

**The Elected Member** (Mr Rai Saad Khan, *Christ Church*) asks for clarification over what ordinary members of the bicentenary committee would be doing. **The President** responds that they are not firm in their view yet about the election of ordinary members.

**The Elected Member** (Mr Chaitanya Kediya, *Exeter College*) suggests that the new role be named differently but be focused on developing a strategy of long-term goals. They add that this makes more sense to them than the creation of an ad hoc committee when the Union already has an Access Committee.

**The Treasurer** notes that the Union has a once in a lifetime opportunity with the bicentenary celebrations to organise special debates with alumni, as well as potential socials and events in London.

**The Ex-President** suggests that whilst setting up a bicentenary strategy framework might be a good thing, it might also be more appropriate to establish an access officer responsible for the role that sits on the Access Committee.

**The Treasurer** responds that the establishment of a committee is sensible because Ex-Officers can return to the Union in an advisory capacity to facilitate the committee's work.

**The Bursar** suggests that it would be more sensible to activate the Development Officer role and wait and see if they need committee assistance.

**The President** responds that the establishment of a committee would formalise the role.

*Mr Ray Williams leaves the room at 17:03*

**The President** adds that a formal structure whereby a committee meets each week is a good thing as it can set in stone the purpose of long-term projects.

**The Bursar** suggests that the President sets up a meeting with Nick Mason and checks what would be required for the establishment of such a committee. **The President** responds that they would be happy to meet Nick mason. They add that the society is rapidly approaching bicentenary and do not wish to make any errors at this important juncture. **The Bursar** agrees but maintains that such a committee would need time to set up.

**The Treasurer** adds that the newly proposed bicentenary committee could incorporate others like the Trustees and Ex-Officers. **The President** thinks this is a good idea as the current committee do a lot of work and this would bridge the gap between old and new committees.

**The Elected Member** (Ms Mahi Joshi, *Trinity College*) thinks that more thought should be given to how this role would be appointed or elected. They agree that is important to depoliticise this proposed role, but express concern for the strategy of the role.

**The Ex-President** suggests that people would apply for this newly proposed role in writing and they would be nominated by unanimous consent and selected based on merit. **The President** agrees with such a process. **The Ex-President** states this is the current status quo with the role of the Development Officer so either the President is required to tweak the Standing Order or create an expansive new office with a different remit, accountability, and structure. **The President** states their intention to create a role that has the essence of a Development Officer but something new. They add that they acknowledge there are problems with it, but those problems can be solved rather than the idea being completely thrown away.

**The Elected Member** (Mr Shining Zhao, *Exeter College*) expresses concern that one Standing Committee term would be deciding on this appointment for the whole year. **The President-Elect** adds that a way to resolve this issue would be to give the Standing Committee the powers to remove them.

*Mr Joe Sisson enters the room at 17:15*

**The Ex-President** adds that while it is the intention to create a role that is apolitical, any creation of Standing Committee is in itself very political. They add that it could confuse structure and culture such as who gets to go to a debate dinner.

**The Treasurer** states that someone could perhaps be removed from the role in a manner similar to a disciplinary panel if they did a bad job. **The Ex-President** adds that there is difference between not doing job and a disciplinary offence.

*The Librarian-Elect leaves the room at 17:17*

**The Treasurer** questions whether a three-quarters majority is required to remove someone from their role. **The Ex-President** confirms it is actually a two-thirds majority.

**The President** thanks everyone for their remarks and notes that it has been a productive exercise. They ask whether anyone has any additional points. **The President-Elect** asks if the role would come into effect if the Standing Committee passes it. **The President** responds that it would come into effect upon such action being taken.

**The Treasurer-Elect** adds the proposed rules changes are very bulky. The President states that Standing Committee will revisit the issue when they have returned with a paper on it.

### **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:

The Treasurer moves that the Standing Committee recommend that the Finance Committee pass DSC expenses to the value of £320.61

*Seconded by the Librarian.*

*The motion passes nem. con.*

#### 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 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:

Mr Jim Brennan has no business

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** states the issue of the President-Elect inbox has now been resolved.

**The President-Elect** updates the committee on the interview training that the Standing Committee commissioned before the vacation. They add that, in consultation with the Bursar, they have been able to find someone who works locally.

**The Treasurer** asks the President-Elect for the name of the provider. **The President-Elect** states that they will send the name of the provider to them.

**The President-Elect** raises an issue about speaker costs. They add it is their intention to find a method to pay for female speaker childcare costs. **The Treasurer** suggests that it would be helpful if before committing to this, they were able to see the budget.

*The Ex-Treasurer enters the room at 17:24*

**The Ex-President** adds that there are always unknown costs at events.

**The Treasurer** adds that it might be a good idea to have something similar to the contingency fee that applies to socials.

**The President-Elect** agrees and asks the President if there has been any update on the survey. **The President** responds that they are still waiting to hear back from the solicitors.

#### Questions to the President-Elect:

There are no questions to the President-Elect

#### 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**



**The Ex-President** raises their concern about the absence of an authoritative edition of the rules. They state it is difficult to talk about details when there are inconsistencies within the rules and a plan of action is needed to resolve this issue. They further state that this poses a serious issue of governance for the society.

**The President** agrees that there is uncertainty around the rules.

**The Returning Officer** adds there have been more rules changes than in recent terms. **The President** asks the Returning Officer whether they can issue a new set of rules.

**The Ex-President** adds that a detailed line-by-line reading of the rules is required. They further add that there has been a proliferation of new issues such as the page ordering, indexing, and consistency of the rules.

**The Returning Officer** recognises this point, as she is the only one who has a copy of the rules.

**The Bursar** asks whether an electronic trail could be established so that the changes in the rules could be traced through. They add that there should be a file with a copy of every committee meeting that has changed a rule.

**The Ex-President** suggests that a good method to compare and contrast the rules would be to use track changes on word with commentary throughout. They add that this would assist the Returning Officer in their duties. They further add that the practice of bad faith amendments has led to multiple changes. **The Returning Officer** agrees that there have been a large number of amendments in recent terms.

**The President** suggests that the Returning Officer notes this issue and the committee returns to it next week.

### **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 Ex-President leaves the room at 17:33*

## **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:**

**The Returning Officer** draws everyone's attention to the printed copies of the IDC list for Hilary Term 2019 and notes the additions of the Ex-Officers.

**The Bursar** points out that the list still says Michaelmas Term 2018. **The Returning Officer** states that they will change this without delay.

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

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

*The motion passes nem. con.*

### **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

### **Questions to the Chair of the Consultative Committee:**

There are no questions to the Chair of the Consultative Committee

## **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** states that they have various proposed changes to the DSC Standing Orders.

Before proceeding, **The Chair of the Debate Selection Committee** updates the committee about the results of the society's debating teams over the vacation. They state that three teams and two judges were sent to the World Championships in Cape Town. They inform everyone that the Oxford Union remains the best debating society in Europe, but unfortunately the team from the Sydney Debating Union won overall.

**The Treasurer** asks if the Oxford Union had any involvement in the final. **The Chair of the Debate Selection Committee** states the society had a judge in the final and that Mx Brian Wong served as the Equity Officer.

**The Chair of the Debate Selection Committee** asks if the Senior Treasurer has any concerns about the proposed changes. **The Senior Treasurer** says that they have none but questions whether it would be better to hold a meeting that is open to any member. **The Chair of the Debate Selection Committee** responds that they would be happy to send out an update in the mailing list and put some information up on the noticeboard. **The Bursar** agrees that the noticeboard should be used for this purpose.

**The Senior Treasurer** says that they have tried for a long time to get a performance update of our debaters regularly reported to the Standing Committee.

**The Chair of the Debate Selection Committee** suggests that under Standing Order 2 they can make it the responsibility of the chair to do this.

**The Senior Treasurer** asks about rule C1 and its obligation to ensure a budget is presented to the Standing Committee. They add that they think it should be requirement that the budget is presented to the Standing Committee and the Finance Committee should have say.

**The Chair of the Debate Selection Committee** states that this is not part of the proposed change, but rather the rules as they currently stand.

**The Senior Treasurer** stresses that the Standing Committee must have some say on the total picture of the budget. **The Bursar** states that the committee needs to let them know what they need at the end of Trinity as they work out the budget for the whole of the Union over the summer.

*The Librarian leaves the room at 17:41*

**The Chair of the Debate Selection Committee** says that the Senior Treasurer expresses very valid concerns, but maintains that the intent of the second proposed change to the DSC Standing Orders is to ensure the Debate Selection Committee has an equal amount of work. They add that they have received feedback that some members work harder than others.

**The Senior Treasurer** asks what is meant by responsible in the context of the notion that spending be kept reasonable.

**The Chair of the Debate Selection Committee** asks the Senior Treasurer if they would be comfortable for them to take a further look and propose some amendments.

**The Chair of the Debate Selection Committee** outlines the first proposed change to the DSC Standing Orders. They add that this change relates to Standing Order B13 and they would like to change the helpers point scheme. **The Chair of the Debate Selection Committee** describes

what they means by helper points. It is defined as contributions made to the Union in terms of debating in return for assistance with going overseas. They add that the proposal would mean that every convenor would get a baseline number of points, which is slightly below the current amount people automatically get. They further add that by doing a great job this is adjusted two up, whereas a reasonable job would only entitle people to the regular amount.

**The Treasurer** asks for clarification over who constitutes 'we' in the giving of points. **The Chair of the Debate Selection Committee** clarifies that it would be the Debate Selection Committee because they look after the point system.

The Chair of the Debate Selection Committee moves that the Standing Committee pass a change to the Debate Selection Committee Standing Order B13(6)

Seconded by The Elected Member Mr Chaitanya Kediya.

*The motion passes nem. con.*

**The Bursar** states that there is a never a term that passes without alteration to the points scheme. They suggest whether or not the scheme is actually working.

**The Chair of the Debate Selection Committee** states that it is important to tweak the helper point scheme, as it is the mechanism used by the Debate Selection Committee to raise funds.

*The Chair of the Consultative Committee leaves the room at 17:45*

Librarian enters the room at 17:45

**The Chair of the Debate Selection Committee** proposes a second change taking on board the Senior Treasurer's comments. This concerns an amendment to the Standing Order B13(2)(e). They add that the change they wish to merge the role of access equity officer with communications officer. They further add that the slot now created by this change would allow them to create a deputy secretary to assist with the helper points records and that the web archives are functional.

The Chair of the Debate Selection Committee moves that the Standing Committee pass a change to the Debate Selection Committee Standing Order B13(2)(e)

Seconded by The Librarian-Elect Ms Sara Dube.

*The motion passes nem. con.*

**The Senior Treasurer** expresses concern about the proliferation of new jobs.

**The Chair of the Debate Selection Committee** proposes a third change to B12(f). They add that the change is to reflect that the Debate Selection Committee has expanded in size. They further add that before 2010 it is their understanding that Debate Selection Committee comprised of five members, whereas now it is typical for the Debate Selection Committee to comprise of eight members.

**The Elected Member** (Mr Jim Brennan, *St Peter's College*) asks why there is an issue here and the rationale for the change.

*The Chair of Consultative Committee enters the room at 17:49*

**The Chair of the Debate Selection Committee** maintains that the change is to reflect the expansion in size of the Debate Selection Committee. They add that they require six people now to command a two-thirds majority for any important decisions.

The Chair of the Debate Selection Committee moves that the Standing Committee pass a change to the Debate Selection Committee Standing Order B12(f)

Seconded by The Elected Member Mr Chaitanya Kediya.

*The motion passes nem. con.*

Questions to the Chair of the Debate Select Committee:

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

**Changes to the Composition of this Committee**

**The President** declares that the tribunal report has now been published, but there are otherwise no changes to how the committee was composed in ninth week of Michaelmas Term.

*The Chair of the Debate Selection Committee leaves the room at 17:50*

**Any Other Business**

**Date of Next Meeting**

**The President** will call the next meeting for Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January at 16:00.

*The President closes the meeting at 17:51*

Signed,

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

**Nicholas Leah**  
Lincoln College  
Secretary