

Ratified Minutes of

THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE DEBATE SELECTION COMMITTEE

4th Week Trinity Term 2019

Sunday 19th May

Morris Room, 17:30

Present: The Chair of the Debate Selection Committee (Lee Chin Wee, *Trinity College*), The Externals Officer (Jason Xiao, *Wadham College*), The Access, Communications and Equity Officer (Dominic Brind, *Magdalen College*), The DSC Deputy Secretary (Xavier Redmond, *Magdalen College*), The DSC Secretary cum Librarian-elect (Sara Singh Dube, *St. Hugh's College*), The Standing Committee Delegate (Beatrice Barr, *St Peter's College*)

Attending:

Apologies: The Director of Training (Rachel O’Nunain, *Trinity College*), The Internals Officer (Brian Wong, *Wolfson College*), The DSC Treasurer (Bryan Yan, *Keble College*)

Absent:

Late: The President (Genevieve Athis, *Christ Church*)

DSC opens at 17:37

The CDSC welcomes the new DSC Secretary (Xavier Redmond, *Magdalen College*).

Business of the CDSC

Ratification of Minutes

The CDSC moves the ratification of the following minutes:

Hilary Term Week 8, Emergency Meeting

Trinity Term Week 1

Trinity Term Week 2

Trinity Term Week 2 Extraordinary Meeting

Trinity Term Week 3

The Access, Communications and Equity Officer asks if the table of helper points has been added from the previous week's minutes.

The Standing Committee Delegate says she believes she did.

The Access, Communications and Equity Officer suggests that the minutes are ratified pending this confirmation.

The CDSC moves that DSC ratify the minutes as listed above.

The Access, Communications and Equity Officer seconds.

The motion passes nem. Con.

Changes to the Composition of DSC

The CDSC moves to formally ratify Mr Xavier Redmond as DSC Deputy Secretary.

Seconded by the DSC Secretary.

The motion passes nem. con.

Paris Open Reimbursement

The CDSC states that he has thought about the Paris Open reimbursement situation. He pauses to explain to The DSC Deputy Secretary that the conversation relates to Ms Olivia Railton's email in justification of her having missed the Paris Open.

The CDSC summarises the situation as the recognition by the member that she is at fault, but that she has noted that the malfunction of the Trainline website was in part to blame.

The President enters the room at 17:39

The CDSC argues that it was the member's fault for leaving her passport at home, and that ultimately the both the member and Trainline were at fault. He accepts this, but argues that it is not a justification.

The CDSC argues that the deduction of six helper points from the member should be non-negotiable. He asks DSC for further thoughts on the issue.

The Director of Training notes that it might be excessive to impose a financial penalty of the registration cost of the tournament.

The Access, Communications and Equity Officer agrees, particularly given that DSC cannot know what the impact of a €50 euro fine might be for an individual member.

The Director of Training leaves the room at 17:39

The President suggests that the member concerned has imposed a financial burden on the Union.

The Access, Communications and Equity Officer suggests that the important question is that of magnitude.

The DSC Deputy Secretary notes that the Paris registration fee is particularly large, so in this case would be particularly unfair.

The CDSC claims that he is agnostic on this issue: he proposes that since DSC has no power to levy fines, DSC suggest to the member that she pays the registration fee in order to avoid being deprioritised in future selections.

The Standing Committee Delegate suggests that this sounds like blackmail.

The Access, Communications and Equity Officer suggests that there is an avenue in the standing orders for DSC to do this, if the individual concerned is deemed to have made a negative contribution to Oxford debating.

The CDSC suggests that there are two options: to force the member to pay the registration fee, or to deprioritise her in future selections for popular tournaments.

The President asks whether a provision should be inserted into the rules to allow the CDSC the same power to impose fines as the President or CCC.

The Access, Communications and Equity Officer explains that fines already exist in the form of automatic helper point deductions. The DSC Deputy Secretary notes that helper points essentially act as a licence to use Union money.

The Access, Communications and Equity Officer adds that if there were a serious disciplinary issue, a complaint could be submitted.

The DSC Deputy Secretary notes his worry that a precedent would be created for individuals buying their way into tournaments.

The Access, Communications and Equity Officer adds that DSC must remember that Oxford Debaters come from a variety of financial circumstances.

The CDSC notes that DSC is agreed that the CDSC should not have the power to fine, nor should they be able to levy the threat of a fine.

The Access, Communications and Equity Officer and DSC Secretary suggest that significant reputational harm has already been conferred by this issue, and that the member involved is particularly concerned about this.

The CDSC asks whether DSC should deduct six helper points and no more, or six plus more for the registration fee cost.

The Access, Communications and Equity Officer notes that he is unsure how this is reflected in the Standing Orders.

The CDSC agrees that monetary fines might be a bad idea. He asks whether the Standing Orders should be changed, or if the member should be deducted 6 helper points and prioritised for a certain number of tournament selections.

The Access, Communications and Equity Officer says that he is happy with the status quo, especially as the member has already been financially penalised in this case.

The DSC Deputy Secretary adds that six helper points is a very large deduction.

The Externals Officer argues that DSC's response to this issue should be circumstantial, based on the high possible cost of international tournaments. He notes that flexibility is important for extensive tournaments.

The DSC Deputy Secretary adds that the impact on the speaker's partner should be accounted for.

The Access, Communications and Equity Officer suggests that DSC has the discretion to further penalise members in circumstances in which their partner is particularly strongly disadvantaged.

The CDSC will email the member concerned to let her know.

CA appointment for the Oxford IV

The CDSC notes that the Oxford IV now has a full CA team: Ms Ameera More, Mr Archie Hall, Ms Emma Lucas, the Director of Training and the Internals Officer. He notes that this is a particularly strong team.

The CDSC requests that members of DSC encourage their friends to apply for convening positions.

The DSC Secretary adds that she will explain at the convening event on Tuesday.

The Access, Communications and Equity Officer notes that there are some interesting new debaters interested in the event.

The DSC Secretary adds that the social is only for those who are interested in convening. There were 6 attendees last year. She proposes asking those who are clearly not interested in convening to leave the event.

The President suggests that it would be problematic to ask people to leave the event.

The CDSC suggests that one solution is to talk to anyone who comes about convening for many hours.

DSC laughs.

The President supports this.

The CDSC says that he will prepare a booklet, and take them through it point by point.

The President supports this.

The CDSC asks that DSC ask their fresher debater friends to apply to convene.

The President asks if it is worth getting committee to share the event to their JCRs.

The Access, Communications and Equity Officer notes that this is probably not worth sharing outside the debating community.

The Standing Committee Delegate adds that a very small group of people is eligible for convening.

The DSC Secretary adds that the event is already on Oxford debaters.

The External Officer notes that last year Cambridge Women's was organised by a non-debater.

The CDSC says that this should not be posted on JCR pages, but should be advertised.

The External Officer suggests that Ms Geneva Roy will apply.

The DSC Deputy Secretary adds that Mr Jack Solomon will apply.

Updating Helper Points

The CDSC notes that helper points should be updated every week, with a table inserted in the minutes to help accountability.

The DSC Deputy Secretary notes the following changes to helper points.

One point was added for Mr Jack Solomon for judging a third Oxford regional round.

The CDSC confirms that Rotterdam is being counted as a regional round.

One point was added for Ms Louisa Broeg for judging ICYD Oxford.

Four points were added for Ms Hannah Taylor for running Beginner's Squads in MT.

Two points were added for Mr Jamie Johnson for helping with Beginner's Squads.

The record was altered to demonstrate that Ms Olivia Railton has 6 helper points.

The DSC Deputy Secretary asks whether people should be informed when their points are not granted.

The DSC Secretary notes that she tells people when they ask.

Two points were added for Mr Dhruva Bhat for Oxford Schools workshops.

The Access, Communications and Equity Officer asks if this was last year.

The DSC Deputy Secretary says they were.

The DSC Deputy Secretary asks if Mr Bhat attended Queen Mary with the Externals Officer as a Pro Am.

The Externals Officer responds that it was not.

The DSC Deputy Secretary notes that Mr Bhat asked for points for acting as ACA for the IV.

The CDSC says this is not in the rules.

DSC Sponsorship Officer

The CDSC asks if he should recuse himself.

The President asks if this is in the Standing Orders.

The Access, Communications and Equity Officer says it is not.

The minutes previously noted the suggestion by the CDSC that the position had been created in order for the Ex-President (Stephen Horvath, New College) to run for Treasurer. The CDSC has since retracted and apologised for the inaccuracy of this comment.

The CDSC adds that there is no formal mechanism for his participation, but that he will abstain in the vote.

The Access, Communications and Equity Officer asks if DSC should discuss the appointment without the CDSC or Standing Committee Delegate.

The President suggests that, under the rules, there is no reason why the Standing Committee Delegate, the CDSC, and the DSC Secretary would be unable to vote on this.

The Standing Committee Delegate leaves the room at 18:16

The Externals Officer takes over minuting

The CDSC asks for The DSC Deputy Secretary's experience with working with the other sponsorship officer

The DSC Deputy Secretary notes that the other sponsorship officer didn't do much; appointing two people would thus be good to balance the workload. He says that Stephen notes it's quite a commitment. Furthermore, the job has two strands; maintaining relations and building new connections.

The Access, Communications and Equity Officer notes that many of these people want to convene the IV so it may not be good to give them too much work.

The President asks if the Treasurer and Sponsorship Officer have work together.

The DSC Deputy Secretary notes that Mr James Lamming would draw up contracts, but there was no real coordination.

The President says it might be good to work together so there is no overlap.

The DSC Deputy Secretary notes that this is an unique pitch to sponsors.

The President asks if the Union is mentioned when pitching because it'd look weird to double ask. The DSC Deputy Secretary says it is noted.

The CDSC notes that building new connections might require significant liaison. It should be a formalized but light-touch relationship and that's what should be reflected.

The President asks if there should (a) be one or two sponsorship officers and (b) what criteria we want to use to evaluate. The CDSC answers on the 2nd is the professional CV for raising money.

The President asks for a brief overview of what the job entails.

The DSC Deputy Secretary says you contact 60-70 companies over the summer, and if someone gets on the hook, you become a point of connection between the convenor and the sponsors.

The President thinks one person should do it because multiple people prevents ownership of the role and people get complacent.

The Access, Communications and Equity Officer notes that almost all of these people will apply to convene for things and that they may have other commitments during the summer.

The President notes that people shouldn't apply if they convene too.

The Access, Communications and Equity Officer notes we have a very small pool of people.

The DSC Secretary notes we should take this into account later at convening.

The DSC Deputy Secretary says that we don't know who will be convening yet. The Access, Communications and Equity Officer reiterates this.

The DSC Deputy Secretary would observe that there should be two and that it also opens up space for the convenors.

The CDSC thinks diffusion of responsibility comes from poor leadership of the CDSC, but he will manage these people well with a helper point incentive.

DSC Secretary thinks this is true, and the easy way to divide it is reaching out vs maintaining the relations. Also, one person can do the summer work and have free time to convene if they are appointed as a convenor.

The Access, Communications and Equity Officer proposes a motion for DSC to appoint two sponsorship officers.

Seconded by the DSC Deputy Secretary.

The motion passes nem con.

The Access, Communications and Equity Officer asks if the criteria of professional experience is good.

The President notes that some of this is based on our knowledge of these people.

The Access, Communications and Equity Officer asks how we should consider the officers.

The DSC Deputy Secretary says that we should discuss each person in turn, with the specific roles that we have in mind.

The President wants the formalization of the division of roles. The DSC Deputy Secretary says there should be flexibility. The DSC Deputy Secretary notes sometimes there will be a need for a new division of labour.

The Access, Communications and Equity Officer notes that Mr Jack Solomon has the most relevant experience. The President also notes he has entrepreneurial spirit and wants to start a scooter company.

The President also notes that Ms Geneva Roy is good. The DSC Deputy Secretary also notes she would be a good communicator. The Access, Communications and Equity Officer notes that Mr Jamie Johnson is very organizationally powerful, but that his CV doesn't show a lot of commercial experience. The DSC Deputy Secretary says Mr Johnson would be a good convenor for schools.

The Access, Communications and Equity Officer notes that Ms Beatrice Barr's application is not very commercially-focused.

The External Officer notes that Ms Barr is unlikely to apply to convene this year. Therefore it is an efficient use of people to appoint her as a sponsorship officer.

The DSC Deputy Secretary notes that she has the ability to cold-call people, but would be worse than Mr Solomon or Ms Roy at liaising with convenors.

The President notes that Mr Solomon and Ms Roy did the same role as Ms Barr over the vacation at the Union.

The Access, Communications and Equity Officer thinks Mr Solomon was weaker with respect to convening.

Mr Johnson is taken off the list of candidates to consider.

The Access, Communications and Equity Officer notes that there is a huge benefit to getting Ms Barr involved into the organizational aspect and her ability to reach out would mean that he wants her to cold-call, and Mr Solomon for relationships.

The DSC Deputy Secretary seconds that.

The Externals Officer agrees. Given his professional experience, it means that in the professional context Mr Solomon probably is good.

The President wants to point out that Ms Barr will have significant commitments if Treasurer-Elect and that Ms Roy has better professional experience.

There are then votes on the three different combinations of individuals for the two roles.

The votes will be between Jack (maintaining)/Bea, Geneva(maintaining)/Bea, Jack(maintaining)/Geneva.

3 votes for Jack/Bea.

The DSC Secretary expresses her desire to abstain.

1 vote for Jack/Geneva, 0 votes for Geneva/Bea.

The Access, Communications and Equity Officer proposes the motion that this is the correct way to choose who to appoint as sponsorship officer.

Seconded by the DSC Deputy Secretary.

The motion passes nem con

The Access, Communications and Equity Officer proposes a motion to appoint Mr Solomon and Ms Barr.

Seconded by the Externals Officer.

The motion passes nem con.

The DSC Deputy Secretary says he will brief the two sponsorship officers and do handover with documents.

The Standing Committee Delegate re-enters the room at 18:26.

Minuting is taken over by the Standing Committee Delegate.

Business of the DSC Treasurer in his Absence

The CDSC explains that this week's claimants are the last Paris Open claimants.

The Externals Officer attempts to find the total expenses.

The CDSC announces the overall expenses as £924.90

Business of The DSC Secretary

No business, except to reiterate that the Convenor social will take place on Tuesday and that the final Women's workshop will take place on Monday.

Business of the Externals Officer

There are no new tournaments

The Externals Officer proposes that Bristol Open applications are reopened.

Business of the President

No business.

Business of The DSC Deputy Secretary

The DSC Deputy Secretary suggests that DSC Sponsorship should be brought into DSC more often, perhaps twice per term.

He adds that he and the Access, Communications and Equity Officer will draft a Standing Orders change to normalise the role of the DSC Sponsorship Officer.

The CDSC suggests that he will work on that too.

The CDSC closes the meeting at 18:32