

The Oxford Union Society Standing Committee Minutes

Emergency Standing Committee – 3rd week Hilary

DRAFT

Present: President (Stuart Cullen, Christ Church), **President-Elect** (Laura Winwood, Hertford), **Librarian** (James Kingston) **Treasurer** (Rishi Patel, Jesus) **Treasurer-elect** (Dharmesh Nayee, University), **Secretary** (Will Chamberlain, Lincoln), **The Junior Steward**, **The Ex-President, Mansfield** (James Dray) **The Ex-President, Oriel** (Corey Dixon) **The Ex-Secretary, Christ Church** (Louisa Stoppard) **Mr McLean** (Christ Church), **Ms McGlone** (Trinity) **Ms Lischka** (Lincoln) **Mr Adams** (Brasenose), **RO** (Andrew Mason, University) **Bursar**

In attendance: Ronald Collinson (Ex-RO, Ex-CCC, Ex-Standing, Balioll) **Anne Ross** (DRO, University) **James Gibson** (Lincoln), **Natalie Shina** (St Peters) **Nikhil Mukherjee** (Christ Church)

Opens at 16.40pm

The President states that the only matter for discussion in this meeting is that of the appointment of additional DROs. He would like to note his displeasure at this meeting being called just prior to Conclave, any new DROs appointed would be able to vote without being scrutinised in any way. He also notes that the rules do not set a time limit on the emergency appointment of Deputy Returning Officers. We don't have to appoint DROs now. He received some questions from Mr Collinson last night and in response he has issued an interpretation of rule 67. Over which the Returning Officer does not have authority. The effect of this interpretation is that the ROs previous interpretation was improperly issued and his subsequent ruling therefore baseless. It is therefore unclear as to whether Mr Neale is or is not a DRO. This means the number of DROs has not fallen below the critical number which is required in order to appoint new DROs. It would be inappropriate to continue to discuss this matter now, given that it is meant to be discussed by the Chamber tomorrow. He has received a Special Adjournment Motion which would postpone it to the next week, but this was only received at 3.20 today which is not fifty hours prior to it coming to the Chamber.

The Returning Officer responds that the SAM was called within 24 hours of the notice going up on the board, this means that the motion passed by Standing Committee on Monday cannot take effect until it is discussed by the chamber. It has to be discussed at least 50 hours after the SAM was given to the President, which means it cannot be discussed at Thursday's debate. It has to be somewhere between 50 hours and 10 days. The question of the power of interpretation came up in the tribunal last term and the election tribunal stood firmly on the side of the Returning Officer and his powers of interpretation.

The President Elect and The Librarian enter 16.41

The President responds that this was not over Rule 67.

The Returning Officer would like to draw the president's attention to the fact that many of the ROs interpretations are indeed based on rule 32.

The Ex-President, Mansfield responds that the earlier decision made last week by TSC has not been subject to a special adjournment motion. The ROs power of interpretation does not cover the entire set of rules of the society, including over this issue. This matter is closed and he thinks we should close this meeting.

Mr McLean and Mr Adams Enter 16.43.

The Ex-Secretary, Christ Church Agrees

The Ex-President, Oriel Agrees

The Treasurer Agrees

The Treasurer- Elect Agrees

Miss Lischka Agrees.

The President Agrees

The President closes the meeting at 16.44

Next Meeting

Monday 4th week 5pm in the President's Office.

Meeting closes at 16.44