

The Oxford Union Society Standing Committee Minutes

Standing Committee – 4th week Hilary

DRAFT

Present: President (Stuart Cullen, Christ Church), **Librarian** (James Kingston) **Treasurer** (Rishi Patel, Jesus) **Treasurer-elect** (Dharmesh Nayee, University), **Secretary** (Will Chamberlain, Lincoln), **President-elect** (Laura Winwood, Hertford) **Mr McLean** (Christ Church), **Ms McGlone** (Trinity) **Ms Lischka** (Lincoln) **Ms Simister** (Christ Church) **Mr Adams** (Brasenose), **Corey Dixon** (Ex-President, Oriel), **James Dray** (Ex-President, Mansfield), **Lou Stoppard** (Ex-Secretary, Christ Church) **Junior Steward** (Constantin Calavrezos, Somerville) **Women’s Officer** (Claire Handel, Hertford) **Bursar, Senior Treasurer** (Stephen Dixon, Downing College Cambridge), **CCC** (David Blagbrough, Somerville) **The Returning Officer** (Anne Ross, University)

In attendance: Ollie Linch (Ex-RO, Ex-CCC, Lincoln) **Ronald Collinson** (Ex-RO, Ex-CCC, Ex-Standing, Balliol) **Alex Priest** (Ex-RO, St John’s), **Ben Ruddle** (Secretary’s Committee, Jesus) **Jenny Hindley** (Exeter) **Jonathan Leader Maynard**, (Ex-CDSC, University)

Opens at 17.07pm

Apologies

The Senior Librarian

Minutes

The President proposes that we don’t discuss it now but we email around with proposed amendments for discussion. He suggests that we will get more accurate minutes at the end of this process than if we attempt to deal with it in this meeting, it’s not really the current Secretary’s job and getting him to do it now during the meeting seems unfair. He suggests that we shouldn’t pass something hap hazardly, however, these are very late, so we may want to get something passed now.

The Librarian asks how much other business we have today.

The President replies it’s not really about time, the thing is when we do this in a meeting it doesn’t work very well.

Miss Simister, The Ex-Secretary, Christ Church and **Mr Curr** Enter 17.09

The President asks what amendments the secretary has received, and if everyone has read the original set of minutes sent out.

The Secretary replies it’s just the one from The President, which have been added to the version passed around. It is the highlighted section.

The President asks if everyone who was there is happy with this amendment

The President would like to make another amendment, Mr Linch was not there.

The President asks for quiet and asks if everyone has a copy of the amended version the Secretary sent around. There is no opposition to this. The President asks who else has amendments.

The Librarian says there is an amendment that the President Elect (Mr Cullen) read out a message he had sent to him, saying he was doing something, Miss Winwood was ill and that Mr Sangha was doing a JCR thing.

The Ex-Secretary, Christ Church says that we didn't actually read out the message, just remembered it.

The President replies he definitely read it out.

The Librarian says there were a couple of other things.

The Senior Treasurer says he was almost certainly not there; he had been at the earlier normal meeting of Standing Committee, but not the extraordinary one.

The President says were going to have to look at who was there at the emergency meeting, the list on the minutes isn't correct,

The Ex-Secretary, Christ Church points out that these minutes were done mainly through her own and the Treasurer-Elect's memory as her computer broke and the file was only recently recovered.

The President asks if anyone has managed to find a minidisk.

The Librarian says he does not believe there is a recording of the meeting.

The Bursar says they're kept in a box in a safe place and she hasn't had chance before this meeting to find it.

The President says this was another reason he thought it might be worthwhile waiting till a future meeting.

TSC proposes to give Mr Thomas (Ex-Standing Committee, Exeter) speaking rights

Proposed: President

Passed: Nem con

Mr Thomas informs TSC that there wasn't a mini disk recording at that meeting.

The Ex-Secretary, Christ Church suggests that this was because Bursar wasn't here and we could not get into her office and adds that they're based on the original notes taken in the meeting.

The President says this is why we ratify minutes, so when there is uncertainty as to what was said this committee can attempt to come up with the most accurate minutes possible.

The Ex-President, Oriel suggests that they're probably fine.

The President agrees.

The President proposes speaking rights for Mr Ruddle

The Ex-President, Oriel is opposed and doesn't think we should give rights to members not elected to this committee.

TSC proposes to give Ben Ruddle (Secretary's Committee, Jesus) speaking rights

Proposed: President

In favour: 8

Opposed: 1

Motion Passed

The Senior Treasurer asks what day the emergency meeting was, it doesn't even say on the minutes.

The Ex-Secretary, Christ Church replies it was the same day as the other normal meeting on Monday 7th Week, in the evening.

The Ex-President, Oriel asks if it was accurate to call Mr Sangha the Treasurer-Elect.

The Librarian asks if we have made his proposed amendments,

The President replies that we should make the amendments 1) 2) and 3) and the bit between the blue lines in the attached document.

The CCC would like to remove the third C from CCC in the minutes, so it means something.

The President proposes we pass the normal 7th week minutes.

The President-Elect asks for extraordinary absence, she was hosting Boris Becker but popped in and out of the meeting.

The President replies that she should be in the minutes as present.

The Ex-Secretary, Christ Church asks if she was at a JCR meeting.

The President amends with the addition of The President Elects attendance.

TSC proposes to ratify the minutes from 7th week MT09 Standing Committee with amendments

Proposed: President
Passed: Nem Con

The President proposes that we pass the 7th Week emergency minutes with the amendments made.

The Librarian questions the length of the meeting.

The President replies that it was not that long.

TSC proposes to ratify the minutes from the Emergency 7th week MT09 Standing Committee with amendments

Proposed: President
Passed: Nem Con

TSC proposes to ratify the minutes from 3rd week Standing Committee

Proposed: President
Passed: Nem Con

TSC proposes to ratify the minutes from the Emergency 3rd week Standing Committee

Proposed: President
Passed: Nem Con

Matters arising

Online Voting

In the absence of the Ex-President, Mansfield the issue is differed to next week.

Absences from last week

The Secretary informs TSC that everyone who is obliged to be at the meeting was there.

Champagne and Valentines Budget

Ms McGlone presents her budget, as passed by Finance Committee, she will bring her account on Monday of 7th Week.

TSC proposes the Champagne and Valentines Budget

Proposed: Ms McGlone
Seconded: The Secretary
Passed: Nem Con

The Treasurer Elect enters 5.25

The Treasurer Elect leaves 5.25

Business of The President

Number of Meetings missed: 0 **For good reason: 0**

The President suggests that we set up a working party to think about looking at the rules on exactly what an interpretation is, clarifying for the President and RO what the purpose of interpretations are and when they can be made, and to consider if there is some way they could be tidied up. He proposes it be made up of The President, President Elect, The RO and Mr Linch

TSC proposes to set up a working party to look at the rules on exactly what an interpretation is, clarifying for the President and RO what the purpose of interpretations are and when they can be made, and to consider if there is some way this could be tidied up.

**Proposed: President
Passed: Nem Con**

The President now would like to talk about Oxgoss, he hasn't read it for a while, but he did look at it today, it's really horrible, please stop being horrible about each other. If its not you I'd like to apologies to you for people being so horrid, and if it is you posting, please stop.

The President Elect adds that Oxgoss will stay forever, by posting your damaging peoples future careers. When you're applying for a job people will search for your name.

The Ex-President, Oriel says it's just not ok. It's not acceptable. Suggests it should be shut down.

Senior Treasurer adds that some time ago when Oxgoss started it was entirely spurious and there were vile comments about members of the society. The proctors originally said there was nothing they could do with it, but eventually it did get closed down. However very soon it came back. He adds that it is despicable.

The Bursar adds that an Ex-President was actually confronted at an interview, she had almost got a job but then it was brought up in an interview and she had to answer all the online accusations.

The Ex-President, Oriel proposes that we ban it from the union.

**TSC proposes to ban the Oxford Gossip website from the Union internet system
Proposed: President
Passed: Nem Con**

The President suggests that we don't look at the site for a week, and see how that works.

Questions to the President

None

Business of The Librarian

Number of Meetings missed: 0 For good reason: 0

None

Questions to The Librarian

None

Business of The Treasurer

Number of Meetings missed: 0 For good reason: 0

The Treasurer would like to waive the standing order stating when treasury committee must be.

TSC proposes to waive the Standing Order enabling the time of Treasury Committee to be moved.

Proposed: The Treasurer

Seconded: The President

Passed: Nem Con

The Treasurer would like to discuss Eucalyptus plants, and asks Mr Ruddle to speak on the issue.

The Treasurer Elect enters in a flash at 5.26

The Treasurer Elect asks that Mr Ruddle assists him with security.

The Treasurer Elect and Mr Ruddle leave 5.26

The Treasurer states that he will bring the eucalyptus proposal himself, and outlines the proposal of Treasury Committee to spend £82 on a smaller plant or £178 on a larger eucalyptus plant for the Gardens.

The Ex-President, Oriel suggests we should pay nothing.

Mr McLean asks why we are getting eucalyptus trees and not any other kind of tree?

The Treasurer states that it was recommended by last terms Treasury Committee, they recommended a particular type of plant, but he thought this one was better.

The Bursar thinks the smaller; one meter tree is the best value and more than sufficient.

The Librarian outlines why eucalyptus plants were chosen suggesting they are the most resilient of all plants.

Mr McLean says they are likely to fall in high winds, are quite ugly and may damage buildings.

The Ex-President, Oriel asks if these trees going to add £100 to the union's value. It's silly.

Mr Adams asks if there may be a problem with subsidence.

The Senior Treasurer replies that they can't be placed closely to a wall, they suck all the water out of the ground and cause damage to buildings, Brasenose will be sucked into the ground and we will be responsible.

The Bursar informs TSC that one of the reasons why we took down the tree was there was it was used as camouflage for intruders who jumped over the wall, thus it should be a smaller bush.

The Ex-President, Oriel suggests we really think about what Treasury Committee does, there only contribution is a proposal for a plant. Why don't they do something useful?

Mr Adams as a member of Brasenose College opposes the Bursars statement and would like the largest tree possible

The Librarian says we have done other things, such as the bird feeders, the IT box. Treasury committee is made up of people who want to help the union and improve it.

The Treasurer replies that to be honest he wants this to get over and done with, and not have to answer any more questions about it in the chamber; he doesn't really care about the tree, just wants to get it done.

The President wants to ask about the mechanism by which things are purchased by Treasury Committee or Standing Committee, does Standing have to ratify Treasury's decision.

The Ex-President, Oriel proposes we bin the plant idea.

The President does not think we should be wasting members' money on this.

The Librarian has a serious point, this went through treasury twice, was spoken about in the chamber, people were excited about it, more people came to Treasury and they passed it. We can't just say the members can't have their say.

The Ex-President, Oriel suggests we should buy it and put a little sign on the gate asking if people notice

The Bursar says that as a gardener herself she finds this a very expensive quote.

The President suggests we shouldn't be spending this much money on a tree, there are many things we could better spend this money on. And asks how many people have requested new trees over snooker queues.

Mr Adams suggests that if we reject the trees, the members may launch a SAM.

The President suggests this is a very valid point, he cannot understand why people care so much.

The Ex-President, Oriel suggests that standing committee ask treasury committee to think of something of a similar value, which will benefit the members more, and suggest we buy that instead.

The President says if Treasury Committee can't find anything for £82 that you want more than the Eucalyptus trees you should bring it back to us and we'll buy it, but we should probably spend the money on something else.

The Treasurer says he will take this to the committee and supports this.

Action: The Treasurer is to investigate alternatives to Eucalyptus plants and advise Treasury Committee to spend it on something else.

The President suggests that this is serious, the purpose of Treasury committee should not be to just buy things they want for the buildings.

The Treasurer advertises his Mayer Brown Forum and drinks. Drinks are at 8.30 in the Gladstone Room.

The President asks how much sponsorship this is raising

The Treasurer responds they are paying £3000.

The President congratulates the Treasurer

Questions to The Treasurer

No Questions

Business of The Secretary

Number of Meetings missed: 0 For good reason: 0

There is no Business

Questions to The Secretary

None

Business of The Junior Steward

Number of Meetings missed: 0 For good reason: 0

There is no Business.

Questions to The Junior Steward

There are no questions

Business of Miss Simister

Number of Meetings missed: 1 For good reason: 0

There is no Business. There are no Questions

Business of Mr McLean

Number of Meetings missed: 0 For good reason: 0

There is no Business. There are no Questions

Business of Miss McGlone

Number of Meetings missed: 0 For good reason: 0

There is no Business. There are no Questions

Business of Miss Lischka

Number of Meetings missed: 0 For good reason: 0

There is no Business. There are no Questions

Business of Mr Adams

Number of Meetings missed: 0 For good reason: 0

Mr. Adams informs TSC that the PA system has arrived, there is a slight issue, Peter from CAV has told us that many of the suppliers since the quotes have raised their prices. We need to buy cases to protect it. He proposes to spend up to £100 to protect the PA system.

TSC proposes to spend £100 on the protection of the PA system.

Proposed: President

Passed: Nem con

Mr. Adams informs TSC that CAV had a look at the PA system the Bursar bought from Bookers when they shut down.

The Bursar adds that CAV has not come back to her about it. She thinks we should wait till they inform her about it

The Ex-President, Oriel asks what Chris was told.

Mr. Adams replies that they said it was an obsolete model, a speaker is missing but it can be bought on ebay for £10.

Questions to Mr Adams

There are no Questions.

Business of The President-Elect

Number of Meetings missed: 0 For good reason: 0

No Business

Questions to The President-Elect

There are no Questions

Business of The Treasurer-Elect

Number of Meetings missed: 0 For good reason: 0

There is no Business. There are no questions.

Business of Ex-officio

The Ex-President, Oriel asks about the display boards.

The Bursar replies there had been plans in the past in Treasury Committee. It was decided that the most sensible location was the board they chose, it has already been put up. She notices there has just been one poster put up. The problem with the display boards at the bottom of the stairs is that they fall over.

The Ex-President, Oriel asks who has noticed it, only three members of Committee have noticed, he suggests we need to have it right at the entrance. The location chosen by Treasury Committee is bad. We need the blue boards.

The Bursar suggests they always get knocked over. The security staff find it very inconvenient.

The President suggests we trial it and see how the security staff feel about it. Surely we could ask the security staff to ensure the signs are put up. We could make it one of their responsibilities to put it back up again if it falls over.

The Ex-President, Oriel suggests we could suggest to The House Manager that before he leaves he checks they are still upright.

The Senior Treasurer suggests that we should be careful about calling them security staff, they are just Card Checkers.

The House-manager enters

The President asks if he could possibly ask the door staff to make sure if the display boards are knocked over they're picked back up again and before they leave to make sure they're up.

The Treasurer leaves 17.52

The Ex-President, Oriel asks if the secretary was able to negotiate a discount with RAG for the Casino.

The Secretary replies that he has not yet negotiated this with them.

The President suggests he spoke to Claire Handel about it and she was fine with it.

Action: The President and Secretary to negotiate a discount with RAG for the Casino.

Business of the Senior Treasurer

There is no business and there are no questions.

Business of The Senior Librarian

There is no business and there are no questions.

TSC proposes to pass The Senior Librarian's absence as for good reason, and that we hope he's having a good time.

Proposed: President

Passed: Nem con

Business of The Bursar

The Bursar asks that anyone who knows Fran signs the card being sent to her this evening.

Business of The Returning Officer

The RO would first like to appoint extra DROs. She would like to add David Neale, Alexander Elias, David Blagbrough and TomWhitelaw.

The Ex-President, Oriel asks who sits on The CCCs scrutiny committee.

The President replies that the most senior Ex-RO replaces him.

The President asks if anyone under the rules believe that these are not physically capable of completing their duties.

TSC proposes to appoint David Neale, Alexander Elias, David Blagbrough and Tom Whitelaw as additional DROs.

Proposed: President

Passed: Nem con

The RO would now like to discuss changes to Rule 32.

The RO outlines that she would really like these changes to go through Standing Committee, but is happy to propose it as a private members bill in order to be more flexible about amendments. She's received quite a few comments; it's been very helpful to hear the feedback.

The President asks the RO to run through the amendments and explain the rationale behind them. As with any motion which is proposed corporately by TSC, regardless of how you vote, you can't speak against it under the standing orders. You can vote against it in the Chamber just can't speak against it. A 2/3rds majority is required to pass these changes.

The President-Elect asks why we need to bring this now, she'd like to hear more why its being brought now.

The RO feels it's an issue which needs to be dealt with, there is no reason to put it off, the need for changing the rules was made quite clear.

The President adds that timing is an issue with rule changes, it's better to bring things early.

The RO suggests that there has been consultation with many Ex-ROs and others.

The Ex-President, Oriel asks why it was discussed with the Ex-ROs and not Ex-officio.

The Ex-Secretary, Christ Church reminds The Ex-President, Oriel that it was sent around via email and they discussed it last night.

The Secretary suggests that perhaps it is better to bring it now, when it doesn't affect anything directly than later on, when it does directly affect something happening where motives may be at play. We should change the rules because we believe it to be an improvement, not to engineer an outcome.

Miss Simister suggests it is better to pass it because we want to change it rather than for a specific issue.

Mr Adams says we should wait to discuss this, there has only been a very limited time.

The Ex-President, Oriel suggests that if we're able to discuss it, it would be much better. It's quite a long document which affects the society in many ways. Given there is no emergency to this, why can't we have a week to digest and discuss it more.

The President says it is on the agenda, we can discuss it now, anyone who wishes to is perfectly entitled to.

The Ex-Secretary, Christ Church says that given it is on the agenda, there is no point delaying for the point of delaying. If we think something is good we should change it, not just for convenience.

The Librarian says it is a very long and detailed thing and would like more time to think about it.

The RO says it's not that long, the changes are clearly outlined, and the reasons are listed.

TSC proposes to give Mr Thomas (Ex-Standing Committee, Exeter) speaking rights

Proposed: President
Passed: Nem con

Mr Thomas says there isn't a non-urgency about it, there are things which could affect things sooner.

Senior Treasurer asks why it goes in to rule 71.

The RO replies that it's just there for reference.

The Ex-President, Oriel suggests we should go through it point by point.

The RO starts with the first change, rule 32(a)i which clarifies when DRO's are able to resign,

No one on committee raises any objections or problems.

The RO moves on to the second one, which refers the idea of consent. No one has any problems. The next is 3(i) clarifying exactly when the applicants should go through, when they're giving consent to serve, tied up with the same issue, again there are no problems from committee. In addition the change to 3(a)(v) ties up ends to do with disciplinary offences.

The Ex-President, Oriel has a question, the president, the RO and CCC draw up a list and if they feel to realise this person is on TSC or had an electoral conviction, the person on this list is in trouble.

The RO says that it's to do with things that are unknown.

Mr Linch suggests they are being punished for misleading Standing Committee, if they pretended to be an Ex-RO. If they're not, it's their fault for misleading committee.

Mr Adams asks what would happen with succession, if someone were to become a member of Standing Committee after applying but before consideration, they would have committed an offence.

The Ex-President, Oriel suggests this would be quashed by a disciplinary procedure.

The RO adds that there is a small chance that this would happen.

The RO then moves on to a further point on consent to serve. Moving to 6(v)

The President asks if this is giving scrutiny committee the extra power of being able to decide if someone is ineligible to be a DRO they can still be eligible to be an ROA. We need to decide whether if you're knifed as a DRO you're not capable of being a ROA. It is possible to not be capable to be a DRO but you could be a ROA, they are at different levels.

Ms McGlone asks what criteria scrutiny committee base their decision on.

The President they consider objections on the grounds of suitability based on objections.

Ms McGlone asks to clarify that someone who it was decided that they couldn't be a DRO, they could be a ROA.

The President suggests something like external commitments may prevent someone from becoming a DRO but not a RO.

Mr Linch suggests the possibility that someone like Dan Johnson applies to be a DRO, he can't be a DRO, there are slight problems with him carrying out his duties as he has a job so he can't be a DRO, but he will be here on Friday of 7th and can thus be an ROA.

The Ex-Secretary, Christ Church states that her impression is that we don't get a diverse range of people being involved in being a DRO or RO, and we should try to increase this.

The President says that first of all this rule is not designed to let more people get involved in the DRO system. There are clear cases where someone may not be capable to be a DRO but may be a ROA. The purpose of this rule was not to open up RO world to as many as possible

Mr Adams asks if someone applies to be a ROA isn't it just down to the ROs discretion, why should someone who has made the extra step of being a DRO why cant they then be an ROA.

The Ex-President, Oriel suggests that these were drafted with Mr Collinson, to benefit him. Mr Linch's thought experiment has a few problems; he just wouldn't have applied in the first place knowing he wouldn't get through. Scrutiny committee could have to knife someone because they're massively corrupt, but they could then decide that it is irrelevant to them being a ROA, and allowing them back in the process, we should be risk adverse.

The President adds that it is not clear in the rules currently what the purpose if scrutiny committee is, it could either be that scrutiny committee is scrutinising DROs to be an RO or just a DRO.

The RO would like to respond to The Ex-President, Oriel's suggestion that these rules have just been drawn up by Mr Collinson, it is quite insulting, the proposed changes have been drawn up by a wide group of people with lengthy discussions about this.

Mr Adams would like to respond to the substance of what The Ex-President, Oriel said, and suggests the problem is if there are people who are objected to and then are knifed but then end up being an ROA, surely the way to deal with this is to have a scrutiny committee for ROAs

The Ex-President, Oriel responds that this is not what the question we're asking, although this is possibly the proper way for it to be done. The reason there isn't scrutiny is that on the day the RO may need to urgently appoint more helpers.

The Secretary reads out an email from Ex-President, Mansfield expressing his opposition to this change, but support for the other proposed changes.

The Ex-Secretary, Christ Church says there are always going to be situations when someone will be a good ROA and not a DRO, but maybe they should have the common sense to apply to be a ROA not a DRO in the first place.

Mr Linch says this isn't really an important power. It is irrelevant and just doesn't matter, especially as any two candidates in an election can object to the appointment of an ROA. If it's that controversial then we should just get rid of it.

The RO says that if TSC do feel very strongly on this she is happy to take this bit out.

Bursar leaves 6.17

TSC grants speaking rights for Mr Collinson (Ex-RO, Ex-CCC, Ex-Standing Balliol)
Proposed: President
Passed: Nem Con

Mr Collinson would like to state that he did not support the implementation of this specific rule change, the CCC came up with the idea, Mr Linch drafted this bit. He is personally actually against it.

The Ex-President, Oriel responds that even the man it benefits is against it, and rescinds the comment that it was just drawn up by The RO and Mr Collinson.

The Ex-President, Oriel suggests we move to a vote

The Ex-Secretary, Christ Church supports moving to a vote.

The President opposes this move to a vote.

Mr McLean also opposes the move to a vote.

The President outlines that this is a serious issue, it's caused problems in the recent past, we're trying to clear things up, and there are clear scenarios where it is possible for someone to be a ROA and not a DRO. This also tidies up the role of Scrutiny Committee. It requires unanimous consent that someone can be an ROA, if someone is clearly corrupt then they're not going to get unanimous consent. This is the president, the CCC and the RO.

The RO suggests that essentially the reason this was brought up is because it was brought up by the current CCC, who had been through scrutiny committee.

The Ex-President, Oriel says that he has also gone through the process; The President's points make no attempt to block his arguments. He just says there is a possible scenario, and as The Ex-Secretary, Christ Church said they just shouldn't apply. We should be risk averse as its elections. Also it isn't always the case that the RO, the CCC and the President are misaligned.

The Ex-Secretary, Christ Church thinks it's quite silly that the president started by saying it's an important issue; they also think it's important. If people apply to be a DRO and are unsuitable they should apply to be a ROA in the first place.

The President apologises for making that assertion, and suggests that it is not good that DROs should just not apply if they may not be suitable, it shouldn't be the burden of the individual member to worry about objections and to be careful, they shouldn't have to think strategically about it, they shouldn't be prevented from doing as much work as they could. It's not the job of people applying for things to think about if they're going to be objected to.

The Ex-Secretary, Christ Church says that this is the case, but the vast majority of the time we get loads applying to be DROs knowing they live and work in London. They should have the sense to realise that they've moved on from the university and can't do it.

The Ex-President, Oriel suggests that The President still hasn't responded to the point that we should be risk adverse,

The President says we will vote on an amendment to the motion, 8 are in favour of removal, 2 in favour of keeping it, there is 1 abstention.

TSC proposes to amend the motion to remove the clause in Rule 32(a)(vi)(5) allowing scrutiny committee to unanimously agree to allow someone who has been rejected as a DRO to be a ROA .

Proposition 8

Opposition 2

Abstentions 1

Amendment made.

The RO states that the next part is about definitions, the role of scrutiny isn't actually that clear currently. In order to clarify what experience, suitability and capability actually mean should help scrutiny committee function. There have been amendments made to the original proposed changes.

The Ex-President, Oriel thinks that there are good reasons why we keep terms like suitability vague, for terms like suitability there are reasons they use words like this as in particular situations it is stronger or weaker. Defining it officially is problematic.

The RO responds by saying that is why it's been defined as it is, leaving it up to the absolute discretion of scrutiny committee. It clarifies what they're assessing, it's completely up to them.

Mr McLean says he doesn't agree that they should publish their definition.

The President agrees that it would give away an enormous amount of information as to which complaints were launched.

The RO agrees with this.

Mr Linch states that these are currently in interpretations, bringing them in to the rules makes it more democratic. Scrutiny committee should be more democratic and internally consistent. However this is Scrutiny Committee's decision, as long as they are internally consistent.

The RO insists that this ensures it is internally consistent.

The President asks if this is in the section to assess if they are being assessed in scrutiny as suitable to be a DRO or RO.

The RO says this is not and restates that it is up to the scrutiny committee whether they consider the fact that a DRO can then become an RO in their decision, it is up to them.

The President doesn't agree that it should be entirely up to scrutiny to decide what they want to decide on.

Ms Simister and **Mr Thomas** leave 6.31

The RO adds that it's up to scrutiny committee to decide if one of the duties of being a DRO, is to have the right to vote and nominate in conclave.

The President thus disagrees that this should be included.

The Ex-President, Oriel says that in the status quo a conviction of rape would prevent someone from becoming a DRO, but under this proposed change they would have good grounds to take this to a disciplinary committee. Why don't we just write in that they must be internally consistent.

The President suggests that we get rid of all of it except the first sentence on suitability.

Mr Adams says the part about the standard is just objective anyway, it could just be a test on if we don't like them or not.

The Ex-President, Oriel would like to move to vote on the amendment striking from "but" until "officer" in the last sentence so it will say "suitability is to be determined at the absolute discretion of the scrutiny committee. But the committee shall apply the same standards to every DRO"

Mr Priest asks why it has the specific experience clause with situations which are impossible.

Mr Collinson replies that this is copied and pasted from the interpretations, this is what we do at the moment.

The President asks what we are editing.

The RO replies we are editing part 1, striking "and where applicable" and moved the brackets. She continues that in part B it's just clarifying the time of conclave so it has to be before the close of rooms on Wednesday. It just makes it concrete that it has to meet on Wednesday.

The President says it is currently unclear, you have to give at least 48 hours notice but there is no upper limit.

Mr Linch suggests we should use a time, perhaps midnight. Otherwise an emergency TSC could close the rooms early to prevent conclave.

The President suggests that for consistency we should make this consistent. Most the deadlines are by a specific time.

The RO suggests that we should change it to midnight, so they have to meet by 11.59pm.

The RO then moves on to the end of part B which clarifies who has rights to vote in conclave and asks if there are any problems with this section, there are none. Part C is about the removal of DROs.

The President asks when we get to the bit about whether were discussing the ability to be an RO or DRO in scrutiny committee.

The RO replies that this is in this section, she doesn't anticipate there being problems with the DRO part but more with the RO part.

The President suggests that we need to decide what the job of scrutiny committee is. Is it assessing their ability to be the RO or just a DRO. We must be consistent.

Mr McLean enters 6.39 and the Senior Treasurer leaves

The President suggests that there are scenarios in scrutiny committee where you are unsure whether you're discussing someone's ability to be the RO or a DRO, the responsibility for which is very different. Scrutiny committee is the final or only line of scrutiny over someone's suitability to be RO. Conclave elects the new RO, but nowhere in the rules does it say what they have to take in to account when electing a new RO.

The CCC enters 6.40.

Mr Mclean asks that obviously you're judging on the grounds of them possibly being the RO, as after scrutiny anyone could go on to become the RO.

The President replies that this is currently not clear; there are scenarios where people are definitely capable of being DROs but are not capable of being the RO. The workload is massively different; it is clearly the case that someone could be suitable to be a DRO but not the RO. But theoretically any DRO could be nominated and elected in conclave.

Mr McLean asks if there is any rule now directing how conclave shall elect the RO from the selection of DROs.

The President replies that it's not in the rules. It is probably the same that in the past different standards have been applied to different people at different times.

Mr Adams cannot see how we can force conclave to vote one way or another, we can just give advice on what they perhaps would be sensible to vote for, he suggests scrutiny committee should be dealing with how they become a DRO and get a vote in conclave.

The President replies that we are looking at them becoming RO having gone through scrutiny, not methods of controlling conclave.

The Ex-President, Oriel suggests that this has gone on for too long now, we should have a working party to discuss this, agree a time with the various interested parties to meet and discuss the changes and produce a proper document outlining the arguments for the changes.

The RO replies this has been widely consulted, although ex-officio weren't until yesterday it has been discussed.

The Ex-President, Oriel says that the group decision should not be done with people who don't make the decision. A proper group discussion will come up with a different outcome to a series of one on one discussion. He proposes a special working party made up of all relevant members of Standing Committee to meet and to discuss these changes and draft a document, which can be brought to next week's standing committee to then be passed there.

The Ex-President, Oriel adds that we should vote on this now, people who care are just going to get tired and bin it.

Mr Adams suggests that when we're talking about the role of scrutiny committee and how to work it, we're now coming up with another proposal which really should be properly considered.

Mr Collinson suggests that taking into account the amendments made he will be putting this as a private member, for reasons which will become clear if anybody reads the end of the document, it is really important we get this done as quickly as possible. It is very important in the interest of the society.

The Librarian asks what is happening now which is affected by this and suggests it should be done carefully with much deliberation, not rushed, and why can't we be told why there is such urgency.

The President makes it clear that if we don't pass this now it will go to the Chamber anyway.

The RO suggests that it would be good to make these changes now rather than after a big thing has come up and we are in a real mess and need to change them.

Mr Collinson informs TSC that there is a mechanism where any member can remove the RO through making an accusation, this rule change imposes restrictions on members ability to do that and he feels this should be done as quickly as possible.

The RO informs TSC that any accusation against her means she is out of office until the case is heard by an SDC.

The Librarian asks which rules we need to change to prevent this.

Mr Linch says clearly if youre being accused of conspiracy to misuse the fire escape then you could continue as RO, but if you're being accused of misuse of office you probably shouldn't be able to. It is not clear what the solution is, this is Mr Collinsons attempt at a solution.

Mr McLean suggests that none of Standing Committee have been consulted about this.

The President asks if the Ex-CDSC has any business

Business of the CDSC

The Ex-CDSC says he has some business, but from an outsiders perspective cant we just waive the rule for a week.

The President replies that this cannot happen.

TSC proposes the purchase of new snooker cues as passed by Finance Committee
Proposed: President
Passed: Nem Con

The Ex-President, Oriel withdraws his earlier proposal.

The Ex-CDSC has a proposition, in recent weeks too many people have been pulling out of competitions they have been selected for at the last minute. We don't think social events and academic commitments are unforeseeable so we want to decrease their helpers score if people pull out as if they went to those ocmpetitions. We want it to count as if you are going to a competition if you pull out Change to Standing orders B(13)(iv)

The Ex-President, Oriel asks if the rule if they were going as a Pro-am and then pull out means they will get minus one.

The Ex-CDSC says this is correct.

TSC proposes the attached changes to Standing Order B(13)(iv)
Proposed: President
Passed: Nem Con

The Ex-CDSC has no other business.

Back to Business of the RO

The Librarian asks if we can go back to the issue in hand, are we suggesting there is a plot here.

The Ex-President, Oriel suggests that just like how a previous RO had a complaint against him go to an SDC for a reason which did not affect in any way his ability to do the job, and he had to resign as the RO, this could happen again if certain people sought to remove the RO. Why don't we just ask Mr Collinson to bring this to the chamber as a private members motion and we'll bring the rest corporately next week.

The Treasurer enters 6.55

The CDSC and **The Treasurer** leave 6.55

The President suggests we corporately propose the parts specific to the removal of the RO.

The Librarian suggests the best option is to pass the sections which prevent the RO being taken down by the dark forces.

Mr Collinson asks for opinions on the current draft, which restricts the number of rules under which accusations can be made, but it is of course possible that a frivolous accusation can be brought under these rules. It is also the case that you can't SDC the RO for anything they could be tribunalised for. There is an argument they shouldn't be removed from office for anything other than a breach of rule 33 or the poll regulations. He asks for committees thoughts.

The Ex-President, Oriel asks if we can propose that the RO only has to resign if the complaint affects their duties.

Mr McLean asks which parts of this we need to pass to prevent the RO from being removed.

The RO replies that it is its 32(c) and 32(d) and also 32(e)(iv) for consistency and 71(c)(v) and again 71(d)(iv)(9)

Mr Linch has a really obvious point to make which Mr Collinson alluded to earlier, the harm is that in this compromise someone can still frivolously bring a complaint, unfounded, under the rules where they are removed and then the RO gets removed. Now only certain types of accusations remove the RO from office, someone wishing to remove the RO from office will complain under those. If a complaint is frivolous we can't have a compromise. They'll just pick the one that removes the RO.

Mr Collinson replies that this is not quite the case. Although Mr Linch's points do have merit, being the point he just raised. However, The Senior Officers and Acting RO can unanimously dismiss a complaint as frivolous. For example if the complaint was clearly wrong, and easily proved, then there is a mechanism under these changes.

The President suggests we use Mr Collinsons suggestions and don't cover the "serious ones" but pass the changes to prevent the RO being removed.

The Junior Steward asks that isn't the idea behind a RO being removed that they would have to assemble an IDC or SDC against themselves

The President replies this is not the case and that we should pass Mr Collinson's compromise.

The RO adds that we should then pass the changes to rules on the last two pages, From 32(c) to the end.

Mr Collinson adds that the final two things about rule 71 are related to the same issue, where the largest penalty is a £50 and a terms suspension for bringing a frivolous and malicious complaint against the RO.

Mr Adams asks what Mr Linch's view is on the possibility of assassins of the RO being able to continue to get rid of an RO.

Mr Linch suggests that Mr Collinson's argument against him is that the RO and Senior Officers can dismiss the accusations as frivolous. This is only when it's clear though. The fact is however, that whenever anyone goes around their daily business there are always things which may be included, which the Senior Officers are just not going to want to get involved with. This protection is not realistic except in the most blatant cases.

Ms Lischka leaves 7.00pm

Mr Collinson suggests we pass these urgent rule changes so they go to the Chamber a week Thursday after further discussion, amendments and the working party has met. But not all of them.

The President proposes that we pass changes to 32(c), 32(d), (71)(c)(v) and (71)(d)(iv) with a view to it being discussed further at next week's Standing Committee.

TSC proposes the attached alterations to rule 32(c), 32(d), (71)(c)(v) and (71)(d)(iv).

Proposed: President

Passed: Nem Con

Mr Linch suggests that much else of these changes TSC went through and there was no opposition.

The President replies that we did not go through all of it, and some was objected to.

Mr McLean asks when the working party will be and suggests that although this may have been talked about with many people, he resents that non-members of TSC have been able to read it and discuss it whilst he has not. We need time to think about it.

The President replies that the working party should be done over email.

The RO disagrees and believes the working party should actually meet.

The RO replies that other members of Committee received it at exactly the same time, in the same email as all of TSC.

Mr McLean asks that in future slightly more time would be appreciated.

The Ex-President, Oriel suggests that the RO should be consulting the governing body members as well as Ex-ROs.

Mr Collinson suggests that Standing Committee is the place to consult members of the governing body.

The Librarian responds that Standing Committee should be the place we can bring together the discussions we have been having over a long period. Rules need to be discussed and explained for a long time.

The President adds that time is required for anyone to digest rules.

The RO responds that she has only been in office since last Wednesday, she is very grateful for TSCs input but would like to emphasise that she is still learning and has not had time.

Business of the CCC

There is no Business. There are no Questions

Business of the Women's Officer

There is no Business.

Questions to the Women's Officer

The Ex-President, Oriel asks what's going on with the women's officer stuff.

AOB

The President Thanks the RO for doing the changes, they really need to happen.

Next Meeting

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

Meeting closes at 7.03pm.