

The Oxford Union Society Standing Committee Minutes

Standing Committee – 5th 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), **Junior Steward** (Constantin Calavrezos, Somerville) **Bursar, Senior Treasurer CCC** (David Blagbrough, Somerville) **CDSC** (Jo Farmer, Christ Church), **The Returning Officer** (Anne Ross, University)

In attendance: Alex Priest (Ex-RO, St John's), **Ollie Linch** (Ex-RO, Ex-CCC, Lincoln) **Ronald Collinson** (Ex-RO, Ex-CCC, Ex-Standing, Balliol) **Mr Ruddle** (Secretary's Committee, Jesus)

Opens at 17.07pm

Apologies

Business of The CDSC

The CDSC informs the committee that they have discussed Pro-Ams, as there had been complaints about the way in which they were allocated. We decided that we are happy for there to be some kind of rules change around the idea of forcing skilled debaters to do them, we accept that those who have been selected for worlds should do more Pro-Ams.

Ex-President, Oriel suggests that although there is no instrumental ability to do this could we lean on those selected for worlds to encourage them to do one, on the basis that we pay for them thousands and thousands of pounds.

The President says this is a good idea and welcomes Jo as CDSC.

Minutes

The President suggests we add Mr Curr to last week's minutes as he was there.

TSC proposes to ratify the minutes from 4th week Standing Committee.

Proposed: President

Passed: Nem Con

Matters arising

Online Voting

This issue is differed till next week.

Absences from last week.

There were no absences.

Changes to rule 32

The RO informs committee that this is in two sections, the first bit is the bit we discussed last week with a slight amendment, the second bit is a bit we agreed not to pass.

The bit in C and D is a better way of clarifying when an RO or a DRO is removed from office if an allegation is made against them under Rule 71, it solves the problem as the complaint comes to an emergency standing committee. Solving the problem we were discussing last week.

Ex-President, Oriel asks if Mr Collinson can sit down

Mr Collinson indicates he does not have a chair

The President after long and full arguments of last week these are the compromises we arrived at.

The RO says she feels C and D must pass; the rest can wait if necessary.

The Ex-President, Oriel suggests we just do it.

The President states that he believes it should be a 2/3rds majority to save the RO.

The RO replies that this does seem sensible.

TSC proposes the attached changes to Rule 32 with the amendment that a two thirds majority of those voting in Standing is required for a complaint to be ruled as not relating to his duties or exercise of his powers.

Proposed: President

Passed: Nem Con

Business of The President

Number of Meetings missed:0 For good reason:0

The President would like to propose a change to rule 67 and would like corporate approval of this.

TSC proposes speaking rights for Mr Linch (Ex-RO, Ex-CCC, CWSC, Lincoln)

Proposed: President

Passed: Nem Con

Mr Linch reminds TSC that a working committee was set up, these are his thoughts of what should be changed at the most basic level, and these are all principles which TSC has agreed

with in the past. First change under E9 and E11, currently says the chair and the chair, it is unclear what this means, it could be the chair of any committee, such as the SWSC or CDSC could issue interpretations. The more substantive point is that he has been prattling on for a while about the difference between rulings and interpretations, at the moment many positions issue rulings and it is very unclear why and how they do this, we end up with interpretations which are binding, which are actually rulings, as this is the only available mechanism. This is bad as interpretations shouldn't relate to individuals. This formalizes what we have at the moment. Rulings can determine a matter of fact. But aren't binding, although they could be used for guidance in the future, whereas interpretations are issued without reference to a specific factual scenario. It is likely that interpretations will be followed by rulings as to how they affect specific cases. The other couple of bits are re-numbering and formalities.

The President adds that effectively it implements the status quo and does not impinge on the working party which is yet to meet.

The Librarian asks about what they were talking about earlier, where the floor could overrule a president's interpretation.

Mr Linch replies this has not been changed, currently, the president or anyone else sitting in the chair at a Public Business Meeting this can be overturned by the chamber. This happened recently when The Ex-librarian, St Peters College attempted to rule that the chair is the chairman, not chair or chair person, and this was objected to and overturned. This is just the status quo.

TSC proposes the attached changes to Rule 67.

Proposed: President

Passed: Nem Con

The President would like to encourage us to help with the school kids on Thursday, several people who said they could then pulled out, the kids like to have people to talk to.

Zara McGlone volunteers

The Treasurer volunteers

The Ex-President, Oriel volunteers

Mr Adams volunteers as his school is coming.

The President proposes that we move in camera to discuss staffing.

TSC proposes to write up a rule change to be presented to Standing Committee at a future meeting clarifying the basis on which appointments of permanent staff are made, this will include a new process by which the president shall place on the agenda of the earliest opportunity notification of a vacancy arising. TSC will then discuss the possible processes and decide on the process by which an appointment will be made. It shall be in TSC absolute discretion to decide this process.

Proposed: President
Passed: Nem Con

Questions to the President

TSC proposes speaking rights for Mr Harvey (Christ Church)

Proposed: President
Passed: Nem Con

Mr Harvey would like to ask who is in charge of publicity for joint events with other societies, the use of rooms, and advertising internally in the union, and determining the times speakers will be hosted and whether a member of the Oxford Union Committee co-hosts a speaker.

The Ex-President, Oriel responds, that publicity is usually done by the CCC, the society is willing to advertise as we can, it should probably be co-hosted by the highest ranking member of committee available.

Mr Adams states that there is a problem that the President has signed a contract saying we will co-host, but there has been no discussion and decision made that we will co-host. It needs to be clear who is in charge. The problem is that the CCC is responsible but he wasn't informed of these events. They weren't even in the calendar.

The Ex-President, Oriel says we should just tell The President to do it.

Mr Harvey says there was a massive amount of effort made just to get a facebook event set up by the Union, and on Thursday a speaker that was going to be co-hosted was extremely badly treated, they were shoved into a room not originally planned, had to be out by within an hour and then have drinks elsewhere, with lots of press teams from another speaker. He hopes that a system can be arranged which will prevent this from happening in the future.

The Bursar asks if this was on Friday, and states that there were lots of problems.

Mr Adams states that it was a result of a lack of communication

The Bursar says that all day people were coming to the desk and asking questions they knew nothing about.

The Secretary suggests we get a board which we can write the details of all events on

Mr McLean suggests we have a responsibility to co-host, it's very important.

The Librarian says there are a number of problems which went on, with confusion as to who was hosting what. Obviously as Librarian he hosts speakers, but it is the president who signs contracts, he would like OCA to note that the Union itself were having many problems that evening, with events which committee only just found out about.

Mr Harvey asks to whom he addresses correspondence about speakers to, there is one in the next couple of days, and he needs to know whether the union will provide dinner, there is no advertisement yet other than in the papers.

The Ex-President, Oriel suggests that the adverts in the papers are a very significant contribution.

Business of The Returning Officer

The RO distributes the tribunal shortlist.

The Librarian asks if there is anyone who we're not happy with.

The Ex-President, Oriel says he would like to get rid of anyone who is an RO.

The Bursar would like to check availability of those on the list.

TSC proposes the attached Tribunal Shortlist

Proposes: The RO

Seconded: Mr McLean

Passed: Nem con

The RO also informs TSC that there is an OPBM on Thursday of 6th week, everyone needs a report by Saturday, there is a £10 fine if you fail to present one.

Business of Miss Lischka,

There is No Business, There are no questions.

TSC proposes the Budget for the Medieval Mayhem Event as passed by Finance Committee.

Proposes: Ms Lischka

Seconded: The Secretary

Passed: Nem con

Miss Lischka leaves 18.49

Business of The Librarian

Number of Meetings missed: 0 For good reason: 0

The Librarian informs TSC that he wished to speak to The President about EAS who approached him, and would like to ask for the precise procedure of discussions with external societies, given last week's troubles.

Questions to The Librarian

The CCC asks if the Librarian has invited people to facebookk events

The Librarian replies that he has not yet, but he will.

The Bursar adds that there is no cohesion between facebook and the website, it really is important we keep the website updated.

Business of The Treasurer

Number of Meetings missed: 0 For good reason: 0

TSC proposes the debate expenses as recommended by finance committee to he value of
£2326

Proposes: The Treasurer

Seconded: Mr McLean

Passed: Nem con

The Treasurer also would like to express that we should have CCTV inside the OOs, not in the separate offices but on the central landing..

The Bursar states that there is capability on system to do that.

Mr Adams also suggests that it is a general security problem, and asks if the codes could be changed.

Action: The Bursar to change the codes, and notify relevant officers of the new codes.

The Treasurer asks if we could cover the blind spots.

Action: The Treasurer is to investigate where is best to put them and at what price.

Questions to The Treasurer

There are no Questions

Business of The Secretary

Number of Meetings missed: 0 For good reason: 0

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

Proposes: The President

Passed: Nem con

Mr Thomas describes his account to TSC.

TSC proposes to pass the accounts for The Champagne and Jazz event from MT09 as passed by finance committee.

Proposes: The Secretary
Seconded: The Treasurer-Elect
Passed: Nem con

TSC proposes Ms Sulzhan Bali as suitable to become a residential member of the Society.

Proposes: The Secretary
Seconded: The Treasurer
Passed: Nem con

The Secretary asks the committee to close the buildings for his Ball, on Friday 5th Week. He has spoken to the Library staff who have agreed to close early at 5pm.

TSC proposes to close the Union Buildings from 5pm on Friday 5th Week for the Union.

Proposes: The Secretary
Seconded: The Treasurer
Passed: Nem con

The Secretary discusses the closure of the Chamber, Gardens and Goodman Library for the Cardinals Cocktail event on Saturday, which he believes we are contractually obliged to do. The contract specifies that this must be done from midday on Saturday till midday on Sunday.

Mr McLean asks what the precedent is for this, do we always close it for such a lengthy time. He adds that this contract is rubbish.

TSC proposes speaking rights for Mr Lynch (Ex-RO, Ex-CCC, Lincoln) for this matter only.

Proposed: The Librarian
Seconded: The Treasurer-Elect
Passed: Nem con

The Secretary suggests that we shouldn't break the contract, it sends out the wrong message.

The Treasurer agrees

Mr McLean adds that the Cardinals aren't at fault here; it's whoever has signed it on behalf of The Union.

The Ex-President, Oriel rings Mr Roche (Ex-President, Christ Church) and says "hi mate"

The Ex-President, Oriel relays that the Ex-President, Christ Church says they don't actually require it all to be closed for that time, they will not shut the St Michael's street gate till 5pm.

TSC proposes to close the Chamber, Goodman Library and Marquee with the proviso that the gate from St Michaels Street is not closed till 5pm.

Proposes: The Secretary
Seconded: The Treasurer

Passed: Nem con

The Secretary asks about internet access and computer facilities available to committee, and details his difficult printing experience of the day.

The Bursar says that I should have told her and she could have sorted it out for me.

Mr Linch says that he's meeting the IT Officer to discuss this.

Questions to The Secretary

None

Business of The Junior Steward

Number of Meetings missed: 0 For good reason: 0

There is no Business. There are no Questions.

Business of Miss Simister

Number of Meetings missed: 1 For good reason: 0

TSC proposes to pass the accounts for the Burns Night Social as passed by Finance Committee.

Proposes: Miss Simister

Seconded: The Secretary

Passed: Nem con

Business of Mr McLean

Number of Meetings missed: 0 For good reason: 0

Mr McLean asks what is happening about what happened last Monday.

The Ex-President, Oriel replies it's not a matter we can do anything about till a complaint is brought internally or it is dealt with externally

Business of Miss McGlone

Number of Meetings missed: 0 For good reason: 0

Miss McGlone thanks The Secretary for going above and beyond the call of duty, Hannah Tryl, Jack Sennett and Josh Brocklesby and Ash Thomas. The President Elect, The CCC, Mr Adams and everyone who came along.

Business of Miss Lischka

Number of Meetings missed: 0 For good reason: 0

There is no business and there are no questions

Business of Mr Adams

Number of Meetings missed: 0 For good reason: 0

There is no business and there are no questions.

Business of The President-Elect

Number of Meetings missed: 1 For good reason: ?

There is no business and there are no questions.

The Librarian suggests that her absence is for good reason as she doesn't have anywhere to live.

Questions to The President-Elect

There are no Questions in her absence.

Business of The Treasurer-Elect

Number of Meetings missed: 0 For good reason: 0

There is no business and there are no questions.

Business of Ex-officio

There is no business and there are no questions.

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.

Business of The Bursar

The Bursar suggests that her business has already been covered, and comments that the computer in the corner of the GO will now get nexus.

Business of the CCC

The CCC reiterates his thanks, wishes that we had working computers, and expresses his unhappiness, was the only reason he found out that a speaker was not coming today was due to the Bursar checking through a spam folder a few minutes before they were due to speak. This is in no way an attack on the Bursar.

Questions to the CCC

There are no Questions

Business of the Women's Officer

There is no Business. There are no Questions in her absence.

AOB

None

Next Meeting

Wednesday 5th Week 16.00 in President's Office.

Meeting closes at 7.23pm.