

THE RULES, STANDING ORDERS, AND SPECIAL SCHEDULES OF THE OXFORD UNION SOCIETY

NOTE TO RETURNING OFFICERS AND SECRETARIES	7
CHAPTER ONE: Name and Objects	9
Rule 1: Name	9
Rule 2: Objects.....	9
CHAPTER TWO: Membership and Subscriptions	9
Rule 3: Membership of the Society	9
Rule 4: Facility Fee.....	10
Rule 5: Membership Records and Cards	11
Rule 6: Fines and Debts to the Society	12
Rule 7: Cessation of Membership.....	12
Rule 8: Re-Election of Ex-Members	13
Rule 9: Kindred Societies	13
Rule 10: Honorary Members	13
Rule 11: Privileges, Status, and Liability	13
CHAPTER THREE: Officers.....	14
Rule 12: Trustees	14
Rule 13: Officers – General	14
Rule 14: The President.....	14
Rule 15: The President-Elect	15
Rule 16: The Senior Librarian	15
Rule 17: The Librarian.....	15
Rule 18: The Senior Treasurer.....	15
Rule 19: The Treasurer	15
Rule 20: The Chairman of Consultative Committee, Web Officer, and Archivist.....	16
Rule 21: The Librarian-Elect and The Treasurer-Elect.....	18
Rule 22: The Secretary	18
CHAPTER FOUR: Committees.....	19
Rule 23: Committees – General.....	19
Rule 24: Standing Committee.....	22
Rule 25: Library Committees	24
Rule 26: Consultative Committee.....	25
Rule 27: Finance Committee	26
Rule 28: Debate Selection Committee.....	26
Rule 29: Charitable Endowments Committee	27
Rule 30: Special Committees and other committees	27
Rule 31: Secretary's Committee.....	29

CHAPTER FIVE: Elections of Officers and Committees	30
Rule 32: The Returning Officer and his Deputies	30
Rule 33: Electoral Malpractice	34
Rule 34: Election of Junior Officers and Committees.....	41
Rule 35: Conduct of the Poll.....	43
Rule 36: Election of the Chairman of Consultative Committee.....	50
Rule 37: Senior Officers and Senior Members of the Library Committee...	51
Rule 38: Vacancies	51
CHAPTER SIX: Meetings and Motions.....	55
Rule 39: Meetings – General	55
Rule 40: Public Business Meetings	56
Rule 41: Private Business Meetings	56
Rule 42: Extraordinary Meetings.....	57
Rule 43: Motions – General.....	57
Rule 44: Amendments and Riders	58
Rule 45: Adjournment Motions	58
Rule 46: Public Business Motions	59
Rule 47: Private Business Motions.....	60
CHAPTER SEVEN: The Society’s Rooms	62
Rule 48: Opening and Closing.....	62
Rule 49: Unused.....	62
Rule 50: Unused.....	62
Rule 51: Dogs	62
Rule 52: Guests, Visitors and Non-Members	62
Rule 53: Admission to Educational Facilities	64
Rule 54: The Press	64
CHAPTER EIGHT: The Library	66
Rule 55: General and Governance	66
Rule 56: Library Finance	66
Rule 57: Acquisitions and Disposals	67
Rule 58: Library Management.....	67
CHAPTER NINE: Staff	68
Rule 59: Supervision.....	68
Rule 60: Appointment, Dismissal, and Salaries	68
Rule 61: Gratuities	68
CHAPTER TEN: Finance.....	69
Rule 62: Finance - General	69
Rule 63: Reporting.....	70
Rule 64: Recurring and Discretionary Expenditure	71
Rule 65: Liability	71

Rule 66: Audit Committee	72
CHAPTER ELEVEN: Rules, Standing Orders, and Regulations	74
Rule 67: Rules	74
Rule 68: Standing Orders	77
Rule 69: Special Schedules	77
Rule 70: Structural Changes	78
Rule 71: Disciplinary Procedure	78
Rule 72: Independence	88
Rule 73: Table of Executive Seniority	88
STANDING ORDERS	90
CHAPTER A: Finance	90
A1: Officer Reports	90
A2: Termly Budgets	90
A3: Financial Monitoring	90
A4: Monies Owed	90
A6: Collection of Debts	91
A7: Interest on Accounts	91
A8: Pensions	91
A9: Cheques	91
A10: Cheque Signing Powers	92
A11: Payment of Costs	92
A12: Travel Costs	92
A13: Insurance	92
A14: Accommodation and Food	92
A15: Claims Procedure	93
A16: Expenses on Society Business	93
A18: Membership Drive	94
A19: Schedule of Recognised Policy Documents	94
A20: Ticket Sales	94
CHAPTER B: Committees	95
B1: Reporting	95
B2: Committee Proceedings	95
B3: Minutes	95
B5: Standing Committee and Private Business Motions	95
B6: Standing Committee Agenda	96
B7: Emergency Debates	96
B8: Time of Ordinary Meetings	96
B9: Ex-Officers Not Serving on the Standing Committee	96
B10: Limitations of Vacation Standing Committee	97
B11: Elections Taking Place on the Standing Committee	97

B12: Composition of the Debates Selection Committee	97
B13: Operation of the Debates Selection Committee.....	99
B14: Vacation Days	103
B15: Committee Procedure.....	103
CHAPTER C: The President.....	104
C1: Presidential Dinners	104
C2: Informal Receptions After Debates	104
C3: Binding of Reports	104
C4: Presidential Appointments	104
C5: Mailing List and Website.....	104
CHAPTER D: Elections	105
D1: Reports	105
D2: Nomination	105
D3: currently unused.....	106
D4: Publicity for the Poll.....	106
D5: The Count.....	106
D6: Counting Regulations	109
D7: Interpretation of Ballot Papers.....	109
D8: Election Tribunal	110
D9: Fines for Non-Attendance at an Election Tribunal or Disciplinary Committee.....	110
D10: Mechanism for the Election of the Chairman of Consultative Committee.....	111
D11: Table of Seniority	111
D12: Seniority Among the Deputy Returning Officers.....	112
D13: Telling	112
D14: Election Expenditure.....	112
D15: currently unused.....	112
D16: Responsibilities during the Period when the Returning Officer is devolved powers under Rule 13(b)(ii).....	112
CHAPTER E: Miscellaneous	113
E1: Office Security	113
E2: The Public Address System	113
E4: Hiring of Rooms.....	113
E6: Distribution of Leaflets	114
E7: The Archivist.....	114
E8: The Archives	114
E10: Staff	115
E11: Inspection of Baggage.....	115
E12: Faxing and Photocopying.....	115
E13: Useful Numbers.....	115

E16: Copies of the Rules	115
E17: Access to Keys, Passwords, and Documentation.....	115
E18: Committee Food and Drink in the Bar.....	115
E19: Television in the Bar.....	112
CHAPTER F: Subscription and Memberships	117
F1: Subscription Rates – General	117
F2: Subscription Rates – Life Members	117
F3: Subscription Rates – Long Term and Course-length Members	117
F4: Subscription Rates – Residential Members.....	117
F5: Institutions Admitted to the Benefits of Rule 3(A)(a)(ii).....	117
F6: Institutions Admitted to the Benefits of Rule 3(A)(a)(iii)	117
F7: Institutions Admitted to the Benefits of Rule 3(C)	118
F8: The Termcard	119
F9: Facility Fee	119
F10: Members Records.....	119
F11: Upgrade from Long-term to Life Membership	119
F12: Reciprocal Members.....	119
CHAPTER G: Disciplinary Offences and Fines.....	120
G1: Order in the Society's Rooms	120
G3: Disciplinary Preparations.....	120
G4: Closed Circuit Television	121
APPENDICES	122
Library Regulations.....	122
Forms of Debate	124
Disciplinary Committee.....	125
SCHEDULES	126
Schedule of Staff Responsibilities	126
Schedule of Unacceptable Contractors	126
Schedule of Non-Creditworthy Organisations.....	126
Schedule of Those Not Allowed Cheque Facilities.....	126
Schedule of Room Charges.....	126
Schedule of Unacceptable Room Hirers.....	126
Schedule of Suggested Tribunal Procedure	126
Schedule of Reasonable Costs	128
Schedule of Formal Policy Decisions.....	128

SCHEDULE OF FORMAL INTERPRETATIONS OF THE RULES

AND STANDING ORDERS	130
A. Interpretations of the Returning Officer	130
B: Interpretations of the President or Chair.....	140
C: Interpretations of Senior Disciplinary Committees	143
D: Interpretations of Disciplinary Appeals Committees	148
E: Interpretations of Election Tribunals	149
F: Interpretations of Appellate Boards.....	151
Oxford Union Society Trust Deed	153
Oxford Literary Debating Union Trust - Trust Deed	158

Note: The footnotes to these Rules were originally written by Ronald Walter David Collinson, Coll. de Balliolo, in Michaelmas 2009. They are intended to aid readers of the Rules in cross-referencing the Standing Orders and the Schedule of Interpretations. They do not themselves form any part of these Rules, Standing Orders and Special Schedules, and should have no impact on the interpretation or application of any rule.

NOTE TO RETURNING OFFICERS AND SECRETARIES

A) Excerpt from Licensing Act 2003

(s. 82. *Notification of change of name or alteration of rules of club*)

‘(1) Where a club—

(a) holds a club premises certificate, or

(b) has made an application for a club premises certificate which has not been determined by the relevant licensing authority,

the secretary of the club must give the relevant licensing authority notice of any change in the name, or alteration made to the rules, of the club.

(2) Subsection (1) is subject to regulations under section 92(1) (power to prescribe fee to accompany application).

(3) A notice under subsection (1) by a club which holds a club premises certificate must be accompanied by the certificate or, if that is not practicable, by a statement of the reasons for the failure to produce the certificate.

(6) If a notice required by this section is not given within the 28 days following the day on which the change of name or alteration to the rules is made, the secretary of the club commits an offence.

(7) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (6) is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 2 on the standard scale.’

Clerk to the Local Authority,

C/o City Secretary & Solicitor’s Department, the secretary of the club shall give written notice of the alteration to the chief officer of police and to the clerk of the local authority.

Oxford City Council,

St Aldate’s Chambers,

St Aldate’s,

Oxford.

Tel: 01865-249811

Chief Police Officer,

C/o Licensing Department,

Oxford Police Station,

St Aldate’s,

Oxford.

Tel: 01865-266000

(B) For changes of licensing hours, changes of the Club Secretary, or changes to the rules concerning licensing, the Local Magistrates must also be informed.

Clerk to the Licensing Justices,

Licensing Department,

Berkshire & Oxfordshire Magistrates Court,

The Court House,

PO Box 37,

Speedwell Street,

Oxford,

OX1 1RZ.

Tel: 01865-815086

Fax: 01865-243730

(C) After significant changes to the rules, full copies of the new publication of the rules should be sent to the copyright libraries (as per Legal Deposit Libraries Act 2003 s.1 Deposit of publication)

Five copies should be sent to:

The Agent,

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Rules of the Oxford Union Society, Michaelmas Term 2011. Updated 1st December 2011.

Yotam Levy, *St Cross College*, Returning Officer.

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EH9 1PH

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LS23 7BY

CHAPTER ONE: NAME AND OBJECTS

RULE 1: NAME

The Society shall be called “The Oxford Union Society”.

RULE 2: OBJECTS

(a) The object of the Society shall be the advancement of education amongst the members of the University of Oxford by organising debates and addresses by distinguished persons and the provision of a library and reading and writing rooms.

(b) The Society shall also provide bar and catering facilities for its Members, facilities for the showing of films, a billiard-room, and such other recreational facilities as the Standing Committee shall from time to time decide, always provided that the provision and maintenance of these facilities do not interfere with the educational objects of the Society.

(c) The Trustees of the Oxford Literary and Debating Union shall have the power of interpretation of this Rule, notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 67(e).

CHAPTER TWO: MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS¹

RULE 3: MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY²

A: Life Members

(a) *Members of the University and affiliates*

(i) Any matriculated member of the University of Oxford or the spouse of any such person shall be eligible for election as a Life Member.

(ii) Any member of any Institution, whose members are permitted to supplicate for University degrees or diplomas and has been recognised by Standing Order, or the spouse of any such person, shall be eligible for election as a Life Member.³

(iii) Any member of any other educational institution in Oxford whose members Standing Committee considers it desirable to permit to be Life Members and which has been recognized as such by Standing Order, or the spouse of any such person, shall be eligible for election as a Life Member⁴.

(iv) Any person qualified to be a Life Member of the Society shall be deemed to be elected if, having paid such Membership fee or completed a Bankers’ Order promising to pay such Membership fee as shall be laid down by Standing Order⁵, his name shall have been entered into the Society’s membership records, and three full days shall since have elapsed.

(v) Any person eligible for election as a Life Member may choose instead to apply for Long term Membership for no less than the full duration of their course, as detailed in the appropriate Standing Orders.

(vi) Long-term Members shall be considered as Temporary Members under the Rules of the Society. Long-term membership shall expire at the end of the term in which the Long-term Member’s course terminates.

(vii) Any Long-term Member eligible for election to Life Membership may, at any stage, choose to apply for Life Membership at the appropriate rate, except that the amount previously paid for Long-term Membership will be deducted from that rate⁶.

(b) *Members of Kindred Societies*

A Member of a Kindred Society entitled to Membership of the Society by virtue of Standing Order shall become a Life Member of the Society three clear days after his name having been entered into the membership records of the Society, and having paid the fee set by Standing Order.

¹ All Subscription Rates are inclusive of VAT under Standing Order F1.

² Information required of members for the Society’s records is listed under Standing Order F10.

³ This is Standing Order F5.

⁴ This is Standing Order F6.

⁵ This is Standing Order F2.

⁶ Further provisions for this process are outlined under Standing Order F11.

B: Residential Members

(a) Any person resident in or near Oxford whose admission would, in the opinion of the Standing Committee, benefit the Society shall be eligible for election as a Residential Member.

(b) Any person who wishes to be elected a Residential Member shall apply in writing to the Secretary who shall arrange for the candidate to be interviewed by a member of the Standing Committee. The names of those applicants whom after interview the Standing Committee deem to be duly qualified for election shall be posted on the notice board. Any candidate shall be considered elected three clear days thereafter, if the President has not received a notice of objection and the candidate has paid such Membership fees as shall have been laid down by Standing Order⁷. If any Member gives notice of objection, the proposal shall be reconsidered by the Standing Committee and its decision shall then be final.

(c) No more than 100 Residential Members may be elected per year.

(d) At the first meeting of the Standing Committee of Full Term each Michaelmas the Secretary shall bring the names of all Residential Members of the Society to the Standing Committee for the review of their membership.

C: Temporary Members

(a) Any member of any institution in Oxford recognised by Standing Order⁸ for this purpose shall be entitled to Temporary Membership of the Society. Temporary membership shall be in three categories: *Course-length Membership*, *Termly Membership*, and *Visiting Membership*.

(b) Any person wishing to be elected a Temporary Member shall be deemed elected if, having paid such Membership fee as shall be laid down by Standing Order, his name shall have been entered into the Society's membership records and three clear days shall have elapsed.

(c) *Expiration*

Temporary Membership shall expire at the end of the term in which the Temporary Member's course terminates, unless otherwise specified by Standing Order.

(d) *Extension to Permanent Membership*

(i) Any member of any institution in Oxford recognised for this purpose by Standing Order F7 shall at the end of his course of study be entitled to apply to extend his Temporary Membership to Permanent Membership. Such an application may be made in writing to any member of the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee will then vote on whether to grant Permanent Membership to the applicant at its next ordinary meeting.

(ii) Permanent Members shall be considered as Temporary Members under the Rules of the Society, save that their membership shall not expire.

D: Unacceptable Conduct

The Standing Committee shall have the right to refuse any membership application by any person eligible to become a Member who as a non-member has engaged in unacceptable behaviour (including, but not limited to, such conduct as would be an offence under Rule 71 or Standing Order Chapter G) on the Society's premises. If the said person has become a Member of the Society in the intervening period, the Standing Committee may, within two weeks of that Member's joining, refund any monies paid by the Member and terminate his membership. In such cases, the Society shall have no other or any further liability. For the purposes of these Rules, such persons shall be deemed to be ex-Members, and may only be re-elected as per Rule 8.

RULE 4: FACILITY FEE

(a)(i) Standing Committee shall set by Standing Order⁹ an annual facility fee which shall be paid by all Residential Members and Life Members who are resident in Oxford.

(ii) Failure to pay the facility fee unless specifically exempt under (b) below shall result in a Member's entitlement to the privileges under Rule 11 being suspended until the facility fee is paid.

(b)(i) Life Members no longer resident in or near Oxford shall not be required to pay an annual facility fee to maintain full privileges under Rule 11.

(ii) Any Life Member who is exempt by (b)(i) from paying such fees but who have chosen to do so shall be sent, each term a copy of the Society's Term Card¹⁰ and from time to time any notices of meetings, motions or

⁷ This is Standing Order F4.

⁸ This is Standing Order F7.

⁹ This is Standing Order F9.

¹⁰ Additional details on the provision of the Term Card to Members are listed under Standing Order F8.

benefits of Membership as the Standing Committee shall decide.

(c) Any person wishing to be elected a Life or Residential Member of the Society shall be given notice of the relevant clauses of this Rule and Standing Orders.

RULE 5: MEMBERSHIP RECORDS AND CARDS

(a) Access to Membership Records

No person other than the Society's staff, the Chairman of Consultative Committee, the Returning Officer and members of an Election Tribunal or Appellate Board in the course of their official duties shall be permitted to examine or copy the Subscription and Membership records except with the Standing Committee's consent.

(b) Membership Cards

(i) All Members shall carry the Society's membership card on their person whilst on the Society's premises.

(ii) Members of Staff, the Returning Officer, and members of the Standing Committee shall be entitled, on request, to see the membership card of any person on the premises, and to eject any person not showing a valid membership card or unable to otherwise prove their membership of the Society or unable otherwise to prove good reason for their being on the premises.

(iii) Membership cards shall remain the property of the Society. By either accepting the membership card or by virtue of their membership, members agree to abide by the Rules, Standing Orders, and Special Schedules of the Society. Members' guests and visitors also agree to abide by the Rules, Standing Orders, and Special Schedules of the Society.

(iv) Any Member who loses their membership card shall report the loss to the General Office. The fee for replacement cards shall be set by the Standing Committee.

(v) The rules for membership cards shall also apply to termly admission cards issued under Rule 53.

(vi) If a Member is not legally old enough to purchase intoxicating liquor or tobacco, his membership card shall be so marked by the Bursar. Once the Member is legally old enough to purchase such products, the mark shall be removed by the Bursar.

(c) Data Protection

(i) The Society shall meet the requirements of the Data Protection Act¹¹.

(ii) Any Member may, on request and for nothing, receive a printout of any personal information that the Union computer database holds about that Member. Non-Members requesting what information the Union computer database holds about them may be charged not more than £10 at the discretion of the Bursar.

(iii) Members shall inform the Society in writing if they do not wish to receive information about the Society's events and other matters that the Society deems may be of interest to Members

(iv) By virtue of their membership, Members allow their personal information to be used in accordance with the Oxford Union Society's Data Protection Policy, as passed from time to time by the Standing Committee and appended to these Rules.

¹¹ Provisions for the use of CCTV footage are laid out in Standing Order G4.

RULE 6: FINES AND DEBTS TO THE SOCIETY

(a) *Power to inflict fines:*

Where no special penalty is prescribed, the President or the Chair may inflict a fine of not more than £50 for any violation of these Rules, Standing Orders or Special Schedules or for any breach of order at a Meeting.

(b) *Escalation:*

- (i) Any debt or fine shall be paid within one week of despatch of written notice¹².
- (ii) Any debt or fine not paid within this period shall be increased by 10% and the defaulting member's name shall be posted on the Notice board.
- (iii) If the debt or fine is not settled within a further week the responsible Officer as per 6(c) shall strike the defaulting Member's name from the list of the Society's Members, shall give the said person notice that he is no longer a Member, shall post a notice to this effect on the notice board.

(c) *Responsible Officer:*

- (i) The Junior Librarian shall be responsible for the publication, notification and collection in the case of fines imposed under Library regulations.
- (ii) The Returning Officer shall be responsible for the publication, notification and collection in the case of all other fines.

(d) *Appeals against fines:*

- (i) A member who desires to appeal against a fine shall pay it provisionally and within three days of so paying shall submit a written appeal to the Returning Officer, who will pass it to the Senior Officers. However, provisional payment shall only be required if the total sum of fines incurred by that member be less than £100.¹³
- (ii) The Senior Officers shall consider the written appeal, and make a written ruling within 21 days: they shall have the power to uphold, reduce or overturn the fine.
- (iii) Fines levied under Rule 33, 35 or 71 shall not be subject to appeal under this Rule.
- (iv) If the Senior Officers do not make a ruling within 21 days, the Returning Officer shall be empowered to make a ruling on their behalf. If he does not make a ruling within 24 hours past the 21-day deadline, the fine shall be automatically overturned.

RULE 7: CESSATION OF MEMBERSHIP

(a) *Resignation*

A Member may withdraw his name from the list of the Members of the Society by notifying the Returning Officer in writing, who shall ensure that the Member's name is removed from the list of Members, in consultation with the staff. No refunds shall be made to those paying by installments.

(b) *Suspension and Expulsion*

- (i) *In the event of criminal charges:* If a Member should be charged with a criminal offence of violence, indecency or dishonesty or charged in respect of any other act or omission that is liable to bring the Society into disrepute, the Standing Committee shall have the power at a meeting at which at least one Senior Officer shall be present to suspend him at its discretion until the outcome of the full trial of the charges brought. There shall be no appeal against such suspension. If the Member should be found guilty of the charge or charges, the Standing Committee shall have the power at a meeting at which at least one Senior Officer is present to expel the member summarily.
- (ii) Election tribunals, Appellate boards, and Disciplinary Committees may suspend or expel members as detailed in Rules 33 and 71. Election tribunals shall be empowered to refer complaints to a Senior Disciplinary Committee, and may make such recommendations of sentence and verdict as they see fit, as per Rule 71.
- (iii) *Suspended Membership:* A suspended Member shall not be entitled to any of the privileges of Membership for the duration of his period of suspension, but shall remain bound by Rules concerning Electoral and Disciplinary Offences.¹⁴

¹² *Written notice is defined by Interpretation A27.*

¹³ *Not including later escalation: see Interpretation B2.*

¹⁴ *On the applicability of this rule to the right to complain of electoral malpractice, see Interpretation E8. On the meaning of the word 'bound', see Interpretation E9.*

(c) Notification

In the event of a Member being suspended or expelled by the Standing Committee, the Returning Officer shall post a notice to that effect on the Notice board at the conclusion of the proceedings, and send a letter to the member's last known address.

(d) Financial Liability

Cessation of Membership for any reason shall not, unless with the consent of the Standing Committee, terminate any financial liability incurred before the date of resignation or expulsion.

(e) Membership Card

When a Member is expelled, the Returning Officer shall ensure the Society regains any property of the Society which the expelled Member possesses, including but not exclusively, the Member's Membership Card.

RULE 8: RE-ELECTION OF EX-MEMBERS

Applications for re-election from Ex-Members shall be considered by the Standing Committee, provided that no Ex-Member shall be considered for re-election unless he has paid all monies due to the Society. Any Member expelled under Rule 7(c) on the recommendation of an Election Tribunal as under Rule 33(c)(iv) shall not be considered for re-election.

RULE 9: KINDRED SOCIETIES

The Standing Committee shall have the power to make reciprocal arrangements with any other Society and to alter them when necessary¹⁵.

RULE 10: HONORARY MEMBERS

The Standing Committee may recommend for election as an Honorary Member any person on the ground of eminent distinction or notable service to the Society, and if any three of the Trustees shall express in writing their assent to such recommendations, the person recommended shall be deemed to be duly elected. Honorary Members shall not be required to pay any subscriptions.

RULE 11: PRIVILEGES, STATUS, AND LIABILITY

(a) All Members shall be entitled to use the Society's rooms, to take part in all Meetings of the Society and elections of Officers and committees, and to enjoy all such facilities as the Society may provide¹⁶; but only Life Members may be candidates in the Society's elections. Long-term, Residential, and Temporary members may speak, but not vote, in Private Business and any Poll arising from Private Business.

(b) Any event organised by the Society may be subject to change or cancellation, and the Society shall accept no liability for any loss or inconvenience caused thereby. The Society shall accept no liability for property lost or stolen on the Society's premises.

¹⁵ *These arrangements, and the Societies eligible, are listed under Standing Order F12.*

¹⁶ *Including access to cashback, photocopying and faxing, under limitations set by Standing Orders A9 and E12.*

CHAPTER THREE: OFFICERS

RULE 12: TRUSTEES

The duties of the Trustees shall be as laid down in the Trust Deed. When there are fewer than four Trustees, the Standing Committee shall nominate as many Members as there are vacancies by way of a Private Business Motion at a Public Business Meeting, which shall accept or reject them¹⁷. In the event of rejection the Standing Committee shall submit further names. A Trustee may be dismissed by a two-thirds majority of an Ordinary Standing Committee at which at least one Senior Officer is present.

RULE 13: OFFICERS - GENERAL

(a) *Officers of the Society*

The Junior Officers of the Society shall be the President, the President-Elect, the Librarian, the Librarian-Elect, the Treasurer, the Treasurer-Elect and the Secretary. The Senior Officers shall be the Senior Librarian and the Senior Treasurer.

(b) *Term of Office*

(i) *General*: The Junior Officers shall hold office for one term, and the Senior Officers for nine terms. They shall enter office at the beginning of the vacation after their election, except as under Rules 33 and 38. Officers (other than the President) shall hold office until the entry of their successors, except as provided in (iii) and (iv) below.

(ii) *Presidential Term*: At the end of the term, the President shall vacate his office, and the President-Elect shall succeed, unless there be no President-Elect by reason of Rule 38(b)(vi), in which case the incoming Librarian shall succeed. Notwithstanding the above provisions, if at the end of term the time limits specified in Rule 33(d)(x) with regard to the elections of that term have not expired, until the said time limits expire, the Tribunal Panel may delegate, all Presidential powers and duties, but not the office itself, to the Returning Officer subject to Standing Order D16. This shall normally only happen when the President-Elect is directly implicated in an ongoing allegation.

(iii) *Librarian*: At the end of the term, or at the end of the time limits specified in Rule 33(d)(x) if the Librarian-Elect is implicated in an ongoing allegation, the Librarian shall vacate his office and the Librarian-Elect shall succeed. If there be no Librarian-Elect by reason of Rule 38(b)(vi), the Librarian shall vacate his office on the entry to office of the incoming Treasurer, who shall then succeed him in the office of Librarian and vacate the office of Treasurer.

(iv) *Treasurer*: At the end of the term, or at the end of the time limits specified in Rule 33(d)(x) if the Treasurer-Elect is implicated in an ongoing allegation, the Treasurer shall vacate his office and the Treasurer-Elect shall succeed. If there be no Treasurer-Elect by reason of Rule 38(b)(vi), the Treasurer shall vacate his office on the entry to office of the incoming Secretary, who shall then succeed him in the office of Treasurer and vacate the office of Secretary.

(c) All Junior Officers shall write letters of thanks to any sponsor, speaker, or guest of the Society from his term of office before 0th week of the following term.

(d) All Junior Officers shall be required to work in the Society's buildings during the vacation to prepare for the forthcoming term for the amount of time specified by the President-elect under Rule 34(b)(vi)(1), and do such other duties as required under the Rules.

(e) The President may release individual committee members from a proportion of their days in exceptional and unforeseen circumstances.

(f) Any member wishing to raise money for the Society must do so in consultation with the Treasurer. Any member wishing to invite a speaker to the Society must do so in consultation with the President and the Librarian.

RULE 14: THE PRESIDENT¹⁸

(a) The President shall be responsible for the general administration of the Society¹⁹, subject to any direction of Standing Committee or the House.

(b) *Presiding Officer*: The President shall take the Chair at all Business Meetings of the Society and of the Standing and Finance Committees. He shall have speaking rights on every Committee of the Society.

¹⁷ *The method by which these Members are chosen is set out in Rule 37(d).*

¹⁸ *For powers and duties of the President, see Standing Orders E1, E6, E11, E17 and G1, and all of Chapter C.*

¹⁹ *And must therefore respond to his post and emails: see Interpretation C17.*

(c) The President shall decide the motions for debate, allocate the paper-speeches, and be responsible for inviting guest speakers for his term of office. He shall post on the Society's notice board a notice announcing every Public Business Meeting.

(d) The President shall ensure that all members of staff, as far as is possible under employment law of England and Wales, conform to the Rules, Standing Orders, and Special Schedules of the Society²⁰.

(e) When the powers and duties of any post in the Society are not held by any other individual, they shall devolve on the President. Exceptions to this Rule shall be the posts of Senior Treasurer, Senior Librarian and Deputy Returning Officer (including the Returning Officer).

RULE 15: THE PRESIDENT-ELECT

The President-Elect shall provisionally arrange the Meetings of the Society for the following term.

RULE 16: THE SENIOR LIBRARIAN

(a) The Senior Librarian shall have general charge of the Society's Libraries.

(b) He shall cause the accounts of the Library to be entered in a ledger, which shall be open to the inspection of Members.

(c) He shall prepare termly accounts, which shall be presented for audit annually together with the Senior Treasurer's.

RULE 17: THE LIBRARIAN

(a) *General Duties:* The Librarian shall assist the Senior Librarian in the administration of the Libraries and take general charge of them in his absence.

(b) *Accounts:* At the Ordinary Private Business Meeting in each term the Librarian shall read the Senior Librarian's account for the preceding term and at the Ordinary Private Business Meeting of each Michaelmas Term submit the Senior Librarian's audited accounts for the preceding year for the approval of the Society.

(c) *Suggestion-Books:* The Librarian shall provide Suggestion-Books to be kept in the Library, in which Members may propose books for purchase or make any suggestion for the consideration of the Library Committee.

(d) *Speaker meetings:* It shall be the duty of the Librarian to invite distinguished guests to give individual addresses to the Society subject to the provisions of Rule 42(a)(i)(3).

(e) *Correspondence:* The Librarian shall provide all relevant correspondence and contact details as defined by 23(h)(i) to the Librarian-Elect by Monday of 2nd week.

RULE 18: THE SENIOR TREASURER

(a) *General:* The Senior Treasurer shall superintend the financial affairs and staffing of the Society.

(b) *Accounts and audit:* The Senior Treasurer shall enter the receipts and expenditure of the Society in a ledger, which shall be open to the inspection of Members. He shall ensure that the accounts be audited during the Long Vacation by a firm of professional auditors. The audited accounts shall be drawn up so as to adequately distinguish outgoings mentioned in Rule 2(a) and other outgoings and revenue. The Society's financial year shall commence on 1st July and end on 30th June. The report of the audit shall be printed and any Member shall be entitled to a copy of it.

(c) *Distribution of Audited Accounts:* At the end of every financial year, the President must publish the approved audited accounts for the year that has passed, in or enclosed with the next term card.

(d) *OLDUT Accounts:* The Senior Treasurer shall obtain a copy of the official public OLDUT audited accounts each year, if necessary from the Charity Commission. These accounts shall be available for inspection by any member of the Society.

RULE 19: THE TREASURER

(a) *General Duties:* The Treasurer shall be responsible for the upkeep of the Society's rooms and amenities.

²⁰ *Relevant complaints should go to the President or, where appropriate, the Bursar: see Interpretation C23.*

(b) *Suggestion-Books*: The Treasurer shall provide a book in which Members may enter any suggestion or complaint they may desire to make. Every entry shall be signed by the writer in person.

(c) The Treasurer shall be responsible for all aspects of the Society's finances.

(d) The Treasurer shall be responsible for raising money for the Society as outlined in the annual budget, by raising sponsorship for Union activities, and such other commercial opportunities as the President may authorise.

RULE 20: THE CHAIRMAN OF CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE, WEB OFFICER, AND ARCHIVIST

(a) The Chairman of the Consultative Committee shall be elected by the Standing Committee and the Consultative Committee in accordance with the provisions of Rule 36. He shall be a member of the Standing Committee, but shall not be entitled to vote at its meetings.

(b) The Chairman of the Consultative Committee shall at all times be responsible to the Standing Committee and Consultative Committee and shall organise the Consultative Committee in accordance with its purposes under Rule 26 and the requests of the Standing Committee and Consultative Committee.

(c) The Chairman of the Consultative Committee shall not be eligible to stand for election to any Office or elected position on the Standing or the Secretary's Committee during the same full term in which he holds, or has held, office.

(d) *Duties*

(i) He shall arrange the distribution of the term card at the start of the Term to resident and non-resident members who are still paying their facility fee.

(ii) He shall produce publicity for events, to be distributed via Consultative Committee and College Secretaries. He shall maintain a list of College Secretaries.

(iii) He shall be the member of Standing Committee with responsibility for the Society's website, and shall appoint a Web Officer with the agreement of the President.

(iv) He shall be the member of Standing Committee with responsibility for the Society's Archives, and shall appoint an Archivist²¹ with the agreement of the President²².

(v) He shall be the member of Standing Committee with responsibility for ensuring that the Society's rooms are set up by Secretary's Committee members prior to debates and speaker meetings. He shall ensure that any rooms so used are returned to their normal state after the event is concluded.

(vi) He shall chair Consultative Committee, and bring any matters of concern amongst members of Consultative Committee to the attention of Standing Committee. He shall post the title of any Emergency Debate Motion on the Notice board by noon on the day following the meeting of Standing Committee at which it was approved.

(vii) He shall produce the Order Paper for debates on the President's instructions, select Tellers²³ for Debates, and post the results of any Emergency Debate and the debate held in Public Business on the Society's notice board by noon on the day after the Debate.

(viii) The Chairman of the Consultative Committee shall ensure that Public Business Meetings, Private Business Meetings, Informal Debates and Speaker Meetings are recorded on audio or video tape and further ensure that these recordings are properly preserved²⁴.

(ix) The duties of the Chairman of the Consultative Committee outlined in (i) to (viii) of this Rule and elsewhere in the Rules (excluding the duties in Rule 5 (a), Rule 26 (d) (i), Rule 30 (d) (iii) and Rule 32) shall be performed primarily by the Chairman of the Consultative Committee with the assistance of the Treasurer-Elect in weeks 1, 2, and 3 of Full Term, with the assistance of the Librarian-Elect in weeks 4, 5, and 6 of Full Term and with the assistance of the Secretary's Committee and the five elected members of Standing Committee throughout Full Term.

(x) In 8th week, the outgoing Chairman of the Consultative Committee, the President-Elect and the Bursar

²¹ *The role of the archivist is defined by Standing Order E7.*

²² *The manner in which these duties should be conducted is set by Standing Order E8.*

²³ *Subject to the restrictions laid out by Standing Order D13.*

²⁴ *The manner in which these duties should be conducted is also set by Standing Order E8.*

shall meet together with the incoming Chairman of the Consultative Committee to brief him on his duties. If the outgoing CCC has been re-elected and is thus also the incoming CCC, he shall meet with the President-Elect and the Bursar in 8th week to discuss his duties.

(e) The Web Officer shall ensure that the website contains the following on its open pages²⁵:

- (1) A list of all members of all committees, to be provided by the Chairs of each committee
- (2) An up-to-date program of the events of the term, to be provided by the President
- (3) Results of each Public Business debate, to be provided by the Secretary
- (4) Motions passed by any Private Business Meeting, to be provided by the Secretary
- (5) Motions passed by the Standing Committee, to be provided by the Secretary
- (6) The Emergency Debate motion for the current week, to be provided by the Secretary to Consultative Committee
- (7) An up-to-date copy of the Society's rules, to be provided by the Returning Officer.

²⁵ *For responsibilities of other individuals relating to placing material on the website, see Interpretation A26.*

RULE 21: THE LIBRARIAN-ELECT AND THE TREASURER-ELECT

(a) The Librarian-Elect will not be eligible to stand for any committee or Office until he has succeeded to the Office of Librarian, or the time at which he would have so succeeded, were it not for his resignation.

(b) The Librarian-Elect shall work in the Society's Buildings for the vacation for at least the same duration as required for an Elected Member of Standing Committee and shall:

- (1) Assist the Librarian with his duties under Rule 17;
- (2) In co-operation with the Librarian, invite distinguished guests to address the Society in the following term;
- (3) Liaise with distinguished guests who have expressed an interest in addressing the Society, but have so far been unable to find a mutually convenient time to do so.
- (4) Attend all speaker meetings of the Society for which the Librarian is responsible;
- (5) Assist the Chairman of the Consultative Committee with the performance of his duties and in the creation of the weekly rota for weeks 4, 5 and 6 of Full Term.

(c) The Treasurer-Elect will not be eligible to stand for any committee or Office until he has succeeded to the Office of Treasurer, or the time at which he would have so succeeded, were it not for his resignation.

(d) The Treasurer-Elect shall work in the Society's Buildings for the vacation for at least the same duration as required for an Elected Member of Standing Committee and:

- (1) In Michaelmas shall organise the Membership drive;
- (2) In Hilary and Trinity shall assist the Treasurer with his duties under Rule 19(d);
- (3) Shall organise sponsorship of social events, in coordination with the Secretary and Treasurer.
- (4) Shall assist the Chairman of the Consultative Committee with the performance of his duties and in the creation of the weekly rota for weeks 1, 2 and 3 of Full Term.

RULE 22: THE SECRETARY²⁶

(a) *Minutes*

(i) *Business Minute Book*: The Secretary shall keep and supervise a Minute Book which shall be available to Members for inspection, which shall contain:

- (1) The proceedings of Public Business in Public Business Meetings (including, but not exclusively, the debate motion, speakers in the main debate, speakers in the after debate, the result)
- (2) The proceedings of Private Business in Public Business Meetings (including, but not exclusively, questions to officers, the motions speakers and results of any adjournment motions or private business motions)
- (3) The proceedings of Private Business in Private Business Meeting (including, but not exclusively, the motions, speakers, procedural motions and results)
- (4) The proceedings of any Emergency Debates (including, but not exclusively, the motions, speakers and results).
- (5) The proceedings of any Informal Debates (including, but not exclusively, the motions, speakers and results).

Such information must be entered within seven days of the Meeting in question or before the next Public Business Meeting, whichever shall be the less. The minutes for sub-sections (1) to (3) shall be read to and submitted for approval at the next Public Business Meeting. No correction shall be made, except by the Secretary, and only then with the assent of Standing Committee or the House.

(ii) *Standing Committee Minute Book*: The Secretary shall keep minutes of Standing Committee. He shall maintain a Standing Committee Minute Book that shall contain the full Minutes of Standing Committee, as well as an *in camera* minute book. Such minutes shall be affixed to the minute book; they shall not be kept in a loose-leaf file. At the end of every term, he shall send an electronic copy of all ratified minutes from his tenure to the Office Secretary to be bound.

(b) The Secretary shall be responsible for chairing Secretary's Committee

(c) The Secretary shall be responsible for organising the Term's social events.

(d) The Secretary shall within 24 hours of any meeting of Standing Committee, e-mail the motions passed to every member of the Standing Committee and publish them on the Society's notice board.

²⁶ *The Secretary is also required by Standing Order E13 to produce a list of 'useful numbers'.*

CHAPTER FOUR: COMMITTEES

RULE 23: COMMITTEES – GENERAL

(a) *Committees of the Society*

Committees of the Society shall be the Standing Committee, the Secretary's Committee, the Finance Committee, the Library Committee, the Consultative Committee, the Debate Selection Committee, the Wines and Spirits Committee, the Charitable Endowments Committee, the Treasury Committee and such other Committees as may be appointed from time to time under Rule 30.

(b) *Term of Office*

Always except as under Rules 33 and 35; members of the Standing Committee and the Secretary's Committee shall enter office on the first day of the vacation next following the election and shall hold office until the entry to office of their successors.

(c) *Ordinary Meetings*

(i) *Notice of Ordinary Meetings*²⁷

(1) *In full term:* Notice of an Ordinary Meeting of any Committee, except the Consultative Committee, shall be given by e-mail to every member of that Committee and placed on the Society's notice-board at least three days in advance of the meeting.

(2) *In the vacation:* Notice of any Ordinary Meeting of any Committee, except the Consultative Committee, shall be given by e-mail to every member of that Committee and placed on the Society's notice-board at least five days in advance of the meeting.

(ii) *Absence from Ordinary Meetings: Fines and Resignations*

(1) Any member of any Committee, with the exception of the Consultative Committee (save as under (4) below), not being a Trustee, ex-Officer, Senior Officer or Senior Member of the Library Committee shall be fined £10 for absence without good reason from an Ordinary Meeting of that Committee.

(2) Any member of any Committee excluding the Charitable Endowments Committee and the Consultative Committee (save as under (3) below) having missed three ordinary meetings of that Committee without good reason in the same term, shall be deemed to have submitted his resignation from that Committee.

(3) In the case of all members of the Standing Committee (with the exception of *ex-officio*) and members of the Secretary's Committee, any member being absent without good reason from three ordinary meetings of their respective Committees in the same term or three meetings of the Consultative Committee, in the same term, shall be deemed to have resigned from their respective Committees and if he be a Junior Officer, from his office. In the event of any Junior Officer or member of Standing Committee being absent without good reason from three meetings of any Committee of which he is a member by virtue of holding his office, he shall be deemed to have resigned from his office.

(4) In the case of the Consultative Committee, the Junior Officers, elected members of the Standing Committee, members of the Secretary's Committee and the Chairman of the Consultative Committee, may be fined up to £20 by the Returning Officer for absence without good reason. No other member shall be fined for absence from the Consultative Committee. Any fine incurred under Rule(23)(c)(ii)(4), or any previous version of it, for any absence between Third Week of Trinity Term 2010 and Third Week of Trinity Term 2011 inclusive shall be deemed not to have been incurred, and no complaint under Rule 71 may be brought relating to any such fine. Both this sentence and the immediately previous sentence shall cease to be part of the Rules at midnight on 1st July 2012, and the then Returning Officer shall remove them both as if a valid motion removing them had been passed.

(5) Whether good reason has been provided for an absence will be determined by the committee at its first meeting held at least 168 hours after the absence. No member of any committee shall be fined nor be deemed to have resigned from any office or committee under this section until the end of this meeting. Such determination will be in accordance with the criteria established by Rules 23(c)(iii) below and through the mechanism established by Rule 23(c)(iv) below.

(6) Deemed resignations shall be dated from the time at which the committee determined that the third absence had occurred without good reason. In the case of resignations being deemed to have taken place from the Secretary's Committee, the Standing Committee, or Office, the Chair of the committee at which

²⁷ *On the conduct of committees generally, and on the need to give notice, see Interpretation F5.*

the resignation took place shall be required to inform the President and the person in line to succeed simultaneously by email within an hour of the end of the meeting.

(7) This section shall not apply to any ordinary meeting of any Committee that takes place outside full term.

(iii) *Good Reason*

Incidence of any of the following circumstances, on the day on which the Committee meets, shall be the only cause to constitute 'good reason' for absence from a meeting of a Committee of the Society, if that Committee through the Chairman is notified in writing within 168 hours of the beginning of the meeting at which the absence occurred:

- (1) Attendance at a Public Examination;
- (2) Disabling or infectious illness;
- (3) Attendance at a pressing and extraordinary engagement agreed to be unavoidable by two-thirds of those present at the first meeting held at least 168 hours after the absence.
- (4) Pursuit of service to the Society agreed to be of paramount importance by two-thirds of those present at the first meeting held at least 168 hours after the absence.

(iv) Absent members shall be entitled to adduce evidence and arguments at the first meeting held 168 hours after the absence occurred, either in person or by proxy. The committee shall then decide by majority vote on the motion that, 'the reason supplied by the absent member constitutes a good reason under Rule 23(c)(iii)'. This motion shall always be deemed to have been put for the purposes of Rule 45(h), but absences shall be considered to have been without good reason unless it is passed.

(d) *Emergency Meetings*

(i) An Emergency Meeting of any Committee, except the Consultative or Debate Selection, shall be called by delivering a Requisition to the President. Such a requisition may be made by the Chairman of the Committee, or any three of its members, or, in the case of the Standing Committee, the Returning Officer.

(ii) The minimum limit for the time elapsing between the delivery of the Requisition and the time set for the said meeting shall be twenty-four hours and the maximum shall be forty-eight hours when part of that time falls in Full Term, and otherwise the minimum shall be four days and the maximum shall be seven days. Subject to these provisions, the meeting shall take place on a day and at a time specified on the Requisition, unless the Chairman decides otherwise when it shall take place on a day and at a time determined by him.

(iii) It shall be out of order to raise any matter not specified on the Requisition.

(e) *Secretary*

Except as otherwise provided in these Rules, the Committee shall itself appoint its Secretary, whose duties shall be defined under Standing Order B3. The Secretary to any Committee shall additionally monitor attendance at meetings of the Committee, recording how many meetings have been missed by each member of the committee, and whether or not good reason was provided for such absence.

(f) *Chairman*

Except as otherwise provided in these Rules, the Chairman of any Committee shall be appointed by that Committee and shall have both a deliberative and a casting vote. The Chairman shall conduct meetings in accordance with Standing Order B15.

(g) *Observers*

(i) All Committees shall be open to ordinary Members as observers, except as otherwise provided in this Rule²⁸.

(ii) Speaking rights may be granted to these observers by permission of the meeting.

(iii) All Committees, excluding Consultative Committee, may only exclude observers, whilst they are directly discussing the following:

- (1) Disciplinary matters concerning Members of the Society.
- (2) The actual negotiation of sensitive financial contracts with an external organisation, but not other financial matters²⁹.
- (3) Disciplinary matters concerning staff or the financial provisions of staff contracts.
- (4) The discussion of which Members to select to represent the Union at external debates.

This sub-section may not be changed except by a Private Business Motion at a Public Business Meeting.

²⁸ *And the proceedings of these committees otherwise described under Standing Order B2.*

²⁹ *Whether the other party is present or not: see Interpretation B1.*

(iv) All Committees, excluding Consultative Committee, may only be held *in camera*, whilst they are directly discussing the following:

- (1) Disciplinary matters concerning Members of the Society.
- (2) The actual negotiation of sensitive financial contracts with an external organisation, but not other financial matters.
- (3) Matters directly relating to Union Staff, but not other aspects of management of the facilities.
- (4) The discussion of which Members to select to represent the Union at external debates.

In this event, observers for that meeting or part of the meeting shall be bound to follow the relevant *in camera* regulations. This clause may not be changed except by a Private Business Motion at a Public Business Meeting.

(v) *Observers*

It shall be deemed an abuse of Office, a disciplinary offence as per Rule 71, for any Chairman of a Committee to allow the exclusion of observers during a Committee meeting or any part of a Committee meeting where Rule 23(g)(iii) does not apply, or to hold a Committee meeting or any part of a Committee meeting *in camera* where Rule 23(g)(iv) does not apply.

(h) *Termly Files*³⁰

(i) All files, documents and computer disks produced by any members of any committee relating to their work in the Society, and any such materials produced by appointed officials, shall be the property of the Society. All candidates in the main election who hold any Office or position of trust in the Society shall hand in the following to Returning Officer before Thursday of 7th Week:

- (1) A copy of any files, computer disks or documents relating to their work in the Society
- (2) A list of on-going issues and negotiations with which that candidate is involved
- (3) Contact details of, and any useful or ongoing correspondence with, any external person or organization that has been contacted on behalf of the society by that candidate.

(ii) All other members of any committee and appointed officials shall hand these materials to the Returning Officer by the end of term. After examining these materials, the Returning Officer will hand them to the Bursar. All outgoing Officers shall arrange to meet their successors and brief them on their responsibilities.

(i) *Status*

No body in the Society shall call itself a Committee, or claim any executive powers of a Committee, unless duly constituted as a Committee under Rule 23 or Rule 30. No working party or group of elected or other officials may claim any authority over any issue if that executive authority is currently held by a duly constituted Committee under the Rules.³¹

(j) *Minutes*: The Secretary of each Committee shall ensure that a Committee Minute Book is kept detailing the full Private Minutes. Such minutes shall be affixed to the minute book; they shall not be kept in a loose-leaf file.

(k) *Openness of Minutes*:

- (1) In camera minutes shall cease to have in camera status after the passing of sixty months from the date of the meeting; Members may view such minutes on request.
- (2) The proceedings of any Committee of the Society shall not be confidential unless Rule 23 states otherwise. Decisions or discussions which are not in camera shall be noted in the public minutes.
- (3) If a Committee goes in camera, or excludes observers, the public minutes shall state what time the meeting did so and stopped doing so and shall state the reason for going in camera or for excluding observers.
- (4) All motions must be publicly recorded.

(l) *One Member, One Vote*

No one member shall under any circumstances exercise more than one vote on any one committee.

RULE 24: STANDING COMMITTEE³²³³

(a) *Composition*

(i) The Standing Committee shall consist of the Junior Officers, Ex-Officers as specified in (ii) below, the Chairman of the Consultative Committee, and five Elected Members.

(ii) Ex-Presidents during the first six terms, ex-Presidents-Elect, ex-Librarians, ex-Librarians-Elect, ex-Treasurers, ex-Treasurers-Elect, and ex-Secretaries (and the ex-Junior Steward) during the first three terms, succeeding that in which they last held Junior Office shall be eligible for membership of the Committee.

(iii) Except in the term in which he vacates Office, no ex-officer shall serve on the Committee by virtue of (ii)

³⁰ *This is an electoral rule, and its breach is electoral malpractice: see Interpretation A36.*

³¹ *For elucidation on this Rule, see Interpretation B11.*

³² *Food and drink privileges of members of Standing Committee are prescribed by Standing Order E18.*

³³ *Standing Committee have the right to request documentation from members of staff under Standing Order E17.*

above unless he signify his consent in writing ten days before the first Public Business Meeting in term³⁴.

(iv) The Chairman of the Consultative Committee shall not be entitled to vote at meetings of the Standing Committee. The Returning Officer shall not be entitled to vote at meetings of the Standing Committee unless otherwise qualified.

(v) The Bursar, the Returning Officer, the Chairman of the Debates Selections Committee and the Access Officers³⁵ shall attend meetings of the Standing Committee in an advisory capacity, without vote. During in camera proceedings relating to disciplinary matters, the Chairman of the Debates Selection Committee, the Access Officers and the Bursar shall not be present. The Chairman of the Debates Selection Committee and the Access Officers shall only have speaking rights during their business.

(vi) The Senior Officers and Trustees shall not be members of the Committee, but shall attend in an advisory capacity, without vote.

(b) *Meetings and quorum*

The President shall summon an ordinary meeting of the Standing Committee at least once a week in term³⁶. Three shall be a *quorum*, of whom the President, the Librarian, or the Treasurer shall be one.³⁷

(c) *Legal position*

The Standing Committee shall be the Committee of Management mentioned in the Society's Trust Deed, and shall have the general conduct of the Society's affairs subject to the Rules. The Licensee (or Licensees) of the Bar shall be appointed by the Standing Committee, and shall be an appropriate member of Staff and/or an appropriate member of the Standing Committee.

(d) *Vacation Powers*

During the vacation the powers of the Standing Committee may be exercised by a Vacation Standing Committee³⁸ consisting of the President, Senior Treasurer and Treasurer, or any of them. Any decision taken by these Officers that would ordinarily be decisions of the Standing Committee shall require the ratification of that Committee at its first ordinary meeting held in the following term.

(e) *Duties of Elected Standing Committee*³⁹

(i) *During the vacation:* The five elected members of the Standing Committee shall be given a portfolio of work by the President to assist the Junior Officers in their preparations for the Term. They shall be required to work in the Society's buildings for the amount of time specified by the President-elect under Rule 34(b)(vi)(1)⁴⁰. Should the President designate a member of Standing Committee to be a Junior Officer's assistant, his portfolio shall be to help that Junior Officer carry out his duties as outlined in Chapter Three of these Rules.

(ii) *During Term:* They shall assist at social events as determined by the Secretary⁴¹.

(iii) A member of Standing Committee shall be appointed by the President as delegate to each of the Library Committee, the Debate Selection Committee, Wines & Spirits Committee and the Treasury Committee. The following shall apply to the delegate:

- (1) He shall bring proposals of financial importance excluding those already covered by existing budgetary arrangements from the Committee to be ratified at the next meeting of Standing Committee.
- (2) He shall inform Standing Committee of all new policy decisions.
- (3) He shall have no vote on the Committee to which he is delegate.

(f) *Binding Contracts*

(i) Only members of the Standing Committee, the Bursar or the Senior Officers may sign contracts on behalf of the Society.

(ii) No member of the Standing Committee may sign a contract on behalf of the Society without the permission of the Junior Officer under whose remit that contract falls, or by permission of a motion of the Standing Committee.

(iii) Any member of the Standing Committee who signs a contract on behalf of the Society must give a copy to the Bursar.

³⁴ For the privileges of those who do not signify their consent, see Standing Order B9.

³⁵ Whose appointments are dealt with by Standing Order C4.

³⁶ At a time set by Standing Order B8.

³⁷ Standing Order B6 imposes rules on the distribution of the Standing Committee agenda, limits expenditure on items not on the agenda, and gives members of Standing Committee the right to block discussion on such items.

³⁸ Limitations on the Vacation Standing Committee are imposed by Standing Order B10.

³⁹ Standing Committee are required to make reports under Standing Orders A1 and D1

⁴⁰ And subject to the provisions of Standing Order B14.

⁴¹ And to chair Emergency Debates as prescribed by Standing Order B7.

RULE 25: LIBRARY COMMITTEES

(a) *Role*

The library Committee shall, under the general supervision of the Senior Librarian, and in conjunction with the day-to-day management of the Library by the Librarian-in-Charge, and the advice of the Library Strategy Committee, act in accordance with Rule 55 (d).

(b) *Membership*

- (i) The Library Committee shall be presided over by the Librarian
- (ii) It shall consist of:
 - (1) The Senior Librarian, Librarian, Librarian-Elect, and the Librarian-in-Charge.
 - (2) Not more than six Senior Members. These shall be nominated at the seventh Public Business Meeting in each term. A Senior Member of the Library Committee wishing to resign shall do so by writing to the Librarian. If such a member die or resign, the Library Committee may appoint his successor, if any, for the remainder of his term of office. A Senior Member must have completed an undergraduate degree.
 - (3) Twelve junior members who shall be appointed as and when necessary by the Librarian with the approval of Standing Committee, on the basis of their course of study, to provide a balanced representation of interests in the selection and disposal of books and the general development of the Library. Candidates for membership as a junior member should apply in writing via the Librarian-in-Charge, who shall inform the Librarian and place their names on the agenda for the next meeting of the Committee; the Librarian shall present the name of any candidate they wish to appoint to Standing Committee for approval at its next scheduled meeting.
- (iii) Any Officer may attend Library Committee at his own request and have speaking rights but not voting rights.

(c) *Terms of Office*

- (i) Senior Members shall serve for three years and be eligible for re-appointment.
- (ii) Junior Members ratified by Standing Committee shall serve for twelve months following their appointment and may be re-appointed.

(d) *Meetings and Quorum*

- (i) Library Committee shall meet not less than once every two weeks in Term and, normally, weekly.
- (ii) There shall be a quorum of four of whom the Senior Librarian, Librarian or Librarian-in-Charge shall be one.
- (iii) Notice of each ordinary meeting shall be given to each member of the Committee not less than three days in advance.

(e) *Emergency Meetings*

- (i) An emergency meeting may be called by the Senior Librarian or the Librarian, so informing the President and the other members.
- (ii) At least twenty-four hours' notice must be given.
- (iii) Matters not specified when the meeting is called shall be out of order.

(f) *Vacations*

In vacations, the Senior Librarian or Librarian-in-Charge, acting in consultation with the President, may act for the Library Committee, provided that such actions are reported to the Library Committee at the first opportunity and, where appropriate, ratified by it.

(g) *Library Strategy Committee*

- (i) Library Strategy Committee shall normally meet once a term under the chairmanship of the Senior Librarian and shall be entrusted with providing advice to the Society and to Library Committee on long-term strategic development, fundraising, and professional library matters, including liaison with appropriate donors and fundraising bodies. The Senior Librarian will be responsible for reporting to Library Committee the views of the Library Strategy Committee.

(ii) Its membership shall consist of:

- (1) The President, Senior Librarian, Librarian-in-Charge, Librarian, and Librarian-Elect.
- (2) two members, who need not be members of the Society, with professional library experience to be nominated; one by the director of the University's library services and Bodley's librarian, and the other by the Chairman of the Board of Curators of the University's Libraries, both of whom are to be confirmed by Standing Committee.
- (3) any ex-Librarian within two terms of his own period of office, who so signifies to the Librarian in writing by the beginning of full term and is nominated by Library Committee.
- (4) three additional members of Library Committee, nominated by Library Committee no later than its second meeting in Michaelmas Term.

Vacancies may be filled as they arise at any meeting of the Library Committee.

(iii) Terms of Office:

- (1) Officers and the Librarian-in-Charge shall serve for the duration of their terms of office.
- (2) Nominated members shall serve for three years and shall be eligible for re-nomination.
- (3) Library Committee members shall remain members as long as they remain members of Library Committee for the duration of the academic year, with the possibility of re-nomination.

RULE 26: CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

(a) Membership

The Committee shall consist of all members of the society.

(b) Purpose

(i) The Committee shall consider any suggestions made with a view to promoting the interests of the Society and the better administration of the Society's affairs. Any recommendation shall be laid before the Standing Committee at the next ordinary meeting. Questions may be put to the Chairman of Consultative Committee, any junior member of Standing Committee, the members of any other Committee of the Society (apart from Consultative Committee), the Returning Officer or his Deputies, or to any official appointed by the President. No question may be asked concerning the matters mentioned in Rule 39(e)(iii).

(ii) The Committee shall suggest the topic of any Emergency Debate that week.

(c) College Secretaries

(i) College Secretaries shall be members for each College, appointed for that term by the Chairman of Consultative Committee and the President, both being in agreement.

(ii) The College Secretaries shall be appointed for the purposes of representing their colleges⁴² in Consultative Committee, and distributing publicity for the Society's events and Membership Drive.

(d) The Secretary to Consultative Committee

(i) He shall be appointed by the Chairman of Consultative Committee and the President, both being in agreement.

(ii) He shall be the Secretary to Consultative Committee, as defined under the Rules.

(iii) He shall act as the assistant to the Chairman of Consultative Committee, and do such duties as the Chairman of Consultative Committee may require, assisting him in the discharge of his duties as provided under the Rules.

(e) Meeting

The Committee shall meet at least once a week in full term. The Committee shall be called by the Chairman of the Consultative Committee who shall give at least forty-eight hours notice of the date and time of the meeting on the Society's notice-board and by e-mail to every member of every committee of the Society.

⁴² *That is, the Colleges they represent; see Interpretation B12*

RULE 27: FINANCE COMMITTEE

(a) Composition

- (i) The Chairman of the Finance Committee shall be the President.
- (ii) The Committee shall consist of all the Senior and Junior Officers of the Society and any Ex-Officers Standing Committee may appoint.
- (iii) The Bursar shall attend meetings of the Finance Committee in an advisory capacity without vote.
- (iv) Three members elected by Consultative Committee:
 - (1) They shall be members of at least three terms' standing⁴³ and may not be members of Secretary's or Standing Committee. They shall serve for one year from their election. The members shall be elected separately in 2nd Week of Michaelmas, Hilary and Trinity Terms respectively.
 - (2) The Returning Officer shall inform Members of the Society of the provisions of this sub-section and of the fact of the election by noon on Friday of First Week. Members must submit their applications to the Returning Officer by noon on Monday of Second Week.
 - (3) Any vacancies arising in the membership of the Committee from time to time shall be filled using the procedure as for their original selection, *mutatis mutandis*, at the soonest possible ordinary meeting of the relevant Committee, the Member filling the vacancy to serve until the expiration of the term of membership (if any) of the Member causing the vacancy, as the case may be.

(b) Meeting

There shall be an Ordinary Meeting of the Committee once a week in Full Term.

(c) Purposes and powers

The Finance Committee shall concern itself with all areas of the Society's finances, and shall oversee termly and annual budgets. It shall also undertake such investigations and prepare such reports for the consideration of the Standing Committee as it shall see fit and as Standing Committee shall require. It shall have no power to authorize expenditure by itself.

RULE 28: DEBATE SELECTION COMMITTEE

(a) Purposes and Powers

The Selection Committee shall meet to select Members to represent the Society in external debating competitions. It shall have no power to authorise expenditure by itself⁴⁴.

(b) Composition

The Committee shall consist of an elected member of Standing Committee, appointed by the President, who shall act as Secretary to the committee, and not less than four and no more than eight members who have previously represented the Society in external debating competitions or who have been in the final of an internal debating competition. The Committee shall elect its own chairman.⁴⁵

(c) Meetings

The Committee shall meet at least three days before the closing date for entry to external competitions to discuss applications from Members. The Chairman shall post a notice on the notice board inviting applications at least one week before each meeting.

⁴³ On the definition of 'terms' standing', see Interpretation E7.

⁴⁴ Rules for the operation of DSC are set by Standing Order B13.

⁴⁵ Further details are set by Standing Order B12.

RULE 29: UNUSED

RULE 30: SPECIAL COMMITTEES AND OTHER COMMITTEES

(a) Special Committees

(i) Composition and Term of Office

The Standing Committee may elect, and the House by way of Private Business Motion may appoint, a Special Committee to conduct or to report upon any matter affecting the interests of the Society. The lists of members elected shall be read at the next Public Business Meeting following their election. Members of Special committees shall enter office at the time of their election or appointment and shall hold office until they resign or are discharged.

(ii) Report

The report of a Special Committee shall be presented to the Standing Committee and shall be available for inspection by any member. At this meeting the committee will also discuss planning for the forthcoming term and the year as a whole. Subsequent meetings will include progress reports from the Bursar.

(b) Wines and Spirits Committee

(i) Purpose

(1) The Committee shall be the Wines and Spirits Committee of the Society for the purposes of the licensing laws.

(2) The Committee shall manage the purchase on behalf of the Society and the supply by the Society of intoxicating liquor in accordance with the provisions of the Licensing Act 1964 and any amendments, other relevant statutes or regulations as may be enacted or laid down from time to time by competent statutory or regulatory bodies;

(3) The Committee shall determine the general pricing strategy for the Society's Main Bar in consultation with the House Manager⁴⁶;

(4) The Committee shall determine what stock is bought and sold in the Society's Main Bar;

(5) The Committee shall oversee the services, furniture, fixtures and facilities in the Society's Main Bar, always provided that its decisions shall not conflict with any decisions of the Treasury Committee for the purposes of that Committee's duties under Rule 30 (b)(iii) above;

(ii) Voting Members

Voting Members of the Committee shall be:

(1) The licensee(s) of the Main Bar, as appointed by Standing Committee from time to time under Rule 24(c);

(2) 5 other voting members will be selected by the Committee to serve for a year, and replaced as and when vacancies arise. Such appointments shall be advertised by the Secretary and ratified by Standing Committee

(3) The Secretary, who shall be the Chairman of the Committee

(iii) Non-Voting Members

The following shall be Members of the Committee without vote:

(1) The Bursar;

(2) The House Manager.

(iv) Meetings

The Committee shall meet at least twice during Full Term.

(c) Cellars Management Committee

(i) The Cellars Management Committee shall supervise the running of the Cellars, in compliance with the lease and management agreement between the Union and Purple Turtle, with the aim of ensuring that the Cellars offer a good service for Union members as a central student venue for drinking, dancing and entertainment, and provides a safe and trouble-free environment.

⁴⁶ Where there is no House Manager, see Interpretation B7.

(ii) *Voting Members*

Voting members of the Committee shall be:

- (1) two representatives chosen by the Purple Turtle;
- (2) the President and the President-Elect.

(iii) *Non-Voting Members*

Non-Voting members of the Committee shall be:

- (1) up to three representatives chosen by the Purple Turtle;
- (2) the Secretary, the Chairman of Consultative Committee and the Bursar.

(iv) *Meetings*

The Committee shall determine the times of its meetings. It shall meet at least six times a year. Unless otherwise agreed by the Committee, it shall meet on each Monday which is three weeks before the start of each term, and again in 9th Week of each term. An emergency meeting of the Committee shall require five days notice.

(v) *Chairman and Secretary*

The Committee shall appoint a Chairman and Secretary. The Secretary shall keep written minutes of each meeting. The time and date of each meeting must be published on the Society's notice board at least five days in advance. Minutes of the meeting shall be published on the Society's notice board.

(vi) *Decisions*

In the event of a motion being voted on in the Committee, and the motion is tied, then the motion will fall.

(d) *Access Committee*

(i) *Purpose and remit*

The Committee shall supervise and discuss all access related matters concerning the Society. The general aim of the Committee shall be to promote access and wider participation within the Society and its committees.

- (1) To aid the access officers in the running of access related events within the Society (this shall include visits by secondary schools to the society);
- (2) To encourage progressive change within the Union with the purpose of increasing participation in committees and membership of the Society from those who are currently underrepresented,
- (3) To aid in the development of a long-term strategic plan to increase access to the Society.
- (4) To foster links with OUSU and other student bodies with the aim of furthering access to the Society.

(ii) *Regular members*

- (1) The Committee shall be jointly chaired by the Access Officer and the Access Officer for Women (both appointed termly by the President as per the rules) who shall both report back to Standing Committee regularly on the business of the committee,
- (2) The Standing Committee Delegate, who shall have a vote,
- (3) 5 other voting members shall be selected by the Committee to serve for a year, and replaced as and when vacancies arise. Such appointments shall be advertised by the joint chairs and shall be ratified by Standing Committee.
- (4) The Committee shall appoint its own Secretary from within its regular members who hold a vote.
- (5) The Senior Treasurer, the Senior Librarian and the Bursar shall be entitled to attend every meeting without vote.

(iii) *Members by virtue of giving notice*

The President, Librarian, Treasurer, Secretary, President-elect, Librarian-elect and Treasurer-elect shall have the right to serve as voting members only at meetings where they have notified the Access Officer of their intention to attend the meeting at least 24 hours in advance.

(iv) *Power*

The Committee shall have no power to authorise expenditure or policy, except in that it may recommend to Standing Committee how the Society's funds and policies may be used and adapted in accordance with this

Rules of the Oxford Union Society, Michaelmas Term 2011. Updated 1st December 2011.

Yotam Levy, *St Cross College*, Returning Officer.

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committee's aims, subject to Standing Committee's agreement.

(v) *Decisions*

- (1) In the event of a motion being voted on by the Committee, and the motion being tied, then President shall have the casting vote.
- (2) If the President is not present then the issue shall be decided when it is brought to Standing Committee for approval.

RULE 31: SECRETARY'S COMMITTEE⁴⁷

(a) The Secretary's Committee shall consist of the Secretary and eleven Members elected termly. The Committee shall meet at least once a week in Full Term.

(b) The Committee shall be responsible for helping the Secretary promote and run the Society's events under the auspices of the Standing Committee. The eleven elected members of the Committee shall also be responsible for assisting the Chairman of the Consultative Committee with his duties. In the event of any elected member of the Committee refusing or failing (without good reason) to provide the Secretary or the Chairman of the Consultative Committee with requested assistance in relation to their duties, then the member may be fined by either of the said officials, a sum not exceeding £20. This fine may be repealed by a motion passed by a simple majority in the next meeting of Standing Committee.

(c) No Member of the Society shall be elected to this Committee for more than two terms.

(d) The eleven elected members of the Secretary's Committee shall be required to work in the Society's buildings during the vacation for the amount of time specified by the President-elect under Rule 34(b)(vi)(1), to assist the members of the Standing Committee in preparing for the Term.

(e) The Secretary, or a resolution of the Secretary's Committee, may call Ordinary meetings of the Secretary's Committee.

⁴⁷ *Food and drink privileges of members of Secretary's Committee are prescribed by Standing Order E18.*

CHAPTER FIVE: ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

RULE 32: THE RETURNING OFFICER AND HIS DEPUTIES

(a) *Appointment of Deputy Returning Officers (DROs)*

(i) *Advertisement and Applications.* The President shall advertise on the Society's notice boards for Members to apply for the posts of Deputy Returning Officers for the term's Main Elections; such advertisement shall be posted one week before the deadline for application. The President shall further advertise these posts at the meeting of Consultative Committee immediately preceding the deadline for application. Applications should include details of relevant experience, and must be submitted to the President before 3p.m. on the day of the Ordinary Meeting of Standing Committee in Second Week. Applications may not be withdrawn, although those who become DROs shall have the right to resign.

(ii) *Shortlist.* Before the Ordinary Meeting of Standing Committee in Second Week, the President, the Returning Officer and the Chairman of Consultative Committee shall compile a list, prioritised⁴⁸ on the basis of their experience and capability⁴⁹, of members from those who applied under (i) above. This list shall be presented to the Ordinary Meeting of Standing Committee in Second Week. Regarding this list:

- (1) Precisely eight shall be applicants who have not served as Returning Officer of the Society in any previous term. If there are fewer than eight such applicants they shall all appear on the list.
- (2) The Returning Officer shall be added to the list;
- (3) Any Ex-Returning Officer who applies shall be added to the list;
- (4) No Member shall be placed on the list if he is a voting member of the Standing Committee, nor if he has not been convicted of Electoral Malpractice or any Disciplinary Offence under Rule 71, except where such conviction has been quashed on appeal. This clause may not be altered except by passage of a Private Business Motion at a Public Business Meeting.

(iii) *Initial Appointments.* At the Ordinary Meeting of Standing Committee in Second Week:

- (1) The shortlist and the full list of original applicants shall be presented. The Returning Officer shall present this shortlist to the Standing Committee and state each applicant's name, college and details of their relevant experience. The Returning Officer should also outline within this presentation the procedure for objecting to applicants. Standing Committee shall have the power to replace names on the shortlist, using names from the full list of original applicants, solely according to the criteria in (ii) above.⁵⁰ These criteria shall be applied with reference to circumstances at the time when the list is presented to Standing Committee, irrespective of the circumstances when the list was initially drawn up.
- (2) Should there be fewer than six names remaining on the shortlist after such amendments, Standing Committee may augment the shortlist with Members who did not apply under (ii) above⁵¹, provided that all criteria under (ii) above remain satisfied⁵² and those Members consent to serve.
- (3) The Standing Committee shall then ratify the shortlist by passage of a motion, at which point Members on the shortlist shall become DROs.
- (4) The Secretary shall post on the Society's notice boards a list of DROs appointed, within fifteen minutes of the closure of the Meeting at which they were appointed. The time of the posting of the notice shall be included, as shall details of the objections procedure under (v) below.
- (5) Any person who remains on this shortlist after the Standing Committee, despite being rendered ineligible by Rule 32(a)(ii)(5), shall have committed a disciplinary offence under Rule 71 if he has not notified the President in writing of his ineligibility prior to the ratification of the shortlist.

(iv) *Further Appointments.* In the event of the number of DROs who have not served as Returning Officer of the Society in any previous term falling below six, the Returning Officer shall nominate further DROs⁵³ to the Standing Committee for appointment to bring the number to a maximum of eight⁵⁴. In this eventuality the Standing Committee may reject nominations solely on grounds of capability, in which case the Returning Officer may suggest alternatives. Capable nominations shall be appointed as per (iii)(1), (3) and (4) above, provided that nominees consent to serve.

(v) *Objections to Appointments*

- (1) The Standing Committee may record in its motion of appointment under (iii)(3) above a corporate objection to any of those appointed.
- (2) Any individual Member may object to any DRO appointment.

⁴⁸ Where DROs are equally qualified under these criteria, see Interpretation A38.

⁴⁹ 'Experience' and 'Capability' as defined in Interpretation A5.

⁵⁰ That is, experience and capability: see Interpretation A3.

⁵¹ For clarification on this process, see Interpretation A12. This also provides a definition of 'suitability'.

⁵² This procedure is clarified under Interpretation A33.

⁵³ Considering first those who applied for, but did not make, the initial shortlist: see Interpretation A34.

⁵⁴ On the extent of this power, see Interpretation A2.

- (3) Objections under (1)-(2) above must concern the DRO's suitability, not his experience or capability.
- (4) Individual Members wishing to object must do so in writing to the President within 48 hours of the posting of the notice of appointment under (iii)(4) above; objections shall only be considered if signed by the Member making the objection.
- (5) The President shall notify those DROs against whom objections have been made of the substance of all such objections, without revealing the identity of the objector, within 96 hours of the posting of the notice of appointment.⁵⁵
- (6) Within 144 hours of the posting of the notice of his appointment, the DRO objected to shall have the right to submit to the President a written response to such objections for consideration under (7) below. This response shall be confidential and only made available to those reviewing the appointment under (vi) below.

(vi) *Scrutiny of Appointments*

- (1) Within 168 hours of the posting of the notice of appointment, a scrutiny committee of three Members shall meet *in camera* to consider objections and rebuttals made under (v) above⁵⁶.
- (2) Ordinarily this committee shall be composed of the President, the Returning Officer, and the Chairman of the Consultative Committee, except that convictions of Electoral Malpractice or any Disciplinary Offence under Rule 71 not quashed on appeal shall render these individuals ineligible to sit, and they shall be replaced as under (3) below. If any member of Scrutiny Committee receives an objection to his appointment as a DRO, or has himself lodged an objection against the appointment of another DRO, he shall be ineligible to be present when this objection is considered, and a replacement for that member must be made to consider that objection only.
- (3) In the event of replacements to the President, the Returning Officer or the CCC being required, vacancies shall be filled by ex-Returning Officers still enrolled at institutions specified under Rule 3. Invitations to fill such vacancies shall be made, beginning with the most senior such ex-Returning Officer, by the President. If an ex-Returning Officer receives an objection to his reappointment as a DRO in the term in question, he shall not act as a replacement; nor shall he if he has a conviction for offences under Rule 33 or Rule 71 which has not been quashed on appeal.
- (4) If, after the list of eligible ex-Returning Officers has been exhausted, three eligible people cannot be found to constitute the scrutiny committee, the Senior Officers shall be empowered to appoint as many Members of good character as may be required to bring the total to three.
- (5) The scrutiny committee shall decide whether to uphold any objection by majority vote. If an objection is upheld, the appointment of the Member in question shall be revoked. Any Member whose appointment has been revoked on the grounds of an objection having been upheld shall not be eligible to become a Returning Officer's Assistant in that term. The decision of the scrutiny committee shall be final, but this shall not protect the committee from disciplinary action if these rules are breached.

(vii) *Definitions*

- (1) 'Experience' in this Rule refers first to experience in the administration of the Society's Elections (and shall follow the order of seniority of Deputy Returning Officers of the Society as defined in Standing Order D12, until these criteria are exhausted), and then to experience in the administration of other Elections and to other general experience of the governance of the Society. Terms as a DRO in which an objection was upheld against the applicant will not be counted⁵⁷.
- (2) 'Capability' in this Rule refers to the competence of applicants to assist in the administration of the Society's Election that term, based on any known factors that may affect any applicant's general ability to perform his duties were he appointed. No Member shall be considered incapable unless he is unable to perform any of the duties of a Deputy Returning Officer.
- (3) 'Suitability' is to be determined at the absolute discretion of the scrutiny committee. Each scrutiny committee shall apply the same standard to every Deputy Returning Officer.

(b) *Election of the Returning Officer*

The Returning Officer shall summon a conclave of the new DROs to meet before 11 pm on Wednesday of Third Week to elect a new Returning Officer, to serve until a successor be elected or appointed under this clause or under (d) below.⁵⁸ He shall give two days' notice of the meeting on the notice boards. The election shall take place according to a system of preferential voting. Only the current Returning Officer or one of the new DROs may be elected. The Returning Officer may not be the CCC. The Returning Officer may not have resigned or been removed under Rule 32(d) within the previous term. No Member may become Returning Officer unless he shall have attended at least one previous Count for the Poll for the Election of Officers and Committees of the Society. Voting rights shall be held exclusively by the Returning Officer and the new DROs⁵⁹. No Member shall have voting rights in Conclave nor be eligible to be elected as Returning Officer until their appointment that term has

⁵⁵ Otherwise, the DROs will have 48 hours to respond from the time of notification: see Interpretation A39.

⁵⁶ And only objections and rebuttals: introduction of new material is a disciplinary offence: see Interpretation A40.

⁵⁷ Nor will terms where the DRO resigned before Scrutiny Committee: see Interpretation A54.

⁵⁸ This must take place in curia when the buildings are normally open: see Interpretations A14 and A23.

⁵⁹ In the event of a tie, see Interpretation A21.

passed through the objections procedure under Rule 32(a)(v) and the Scrutiny Committee has met.

(c) *Resignation or Removal of DROs*

(i) If a DRO be elected or appointed Returning Officer, or resign, he shall immediately cease to be a DRO.

(ii) *Electoral Allegations and Disciplinary Complaints*

- (1) If a DRO becomes subject to an allegation under Rule 33, or he brings an allegation under Rule 33 or Rule 71, he shall immediately cease to be a DRO until the conclusion of the judicial process, at which point he shall resume being a DRO if he has not been convicted.
- (2) If a DRO becomes subject to a complaint under Rule 71, the Returning Officer must immediately requisition an Emergency Meeting of Standing Committee. If a third of those present at that meeting vote that the nature of the complaint relates to the performance of the duties of the DRO, or the exercise of his powers, he shall immediately cease to be a DRO until the conclusion of the judicial process, at which point he shall resume being a DRO if he has not been convicted.
- (3) A DRO convicted of any other offence under Rule 71 shall immediately cease to be a DRO, but shall resume being a DRO if that conviction is quashed on appeal.
- (4) For the purposes of Rule 32(a)(v) and Rule 32(a)(vi) only, anybody who ceases to become a DRO under this Rule shall still be considered to be a DRO.

(iii) The Returning Officer may convene the scrutiny committee under (a)(vi) above to meet, subsequent to its initial meeting, to consider revoking the appointment of any DRO. In this eventuality the DRO in question shall be informed of the objection to him and given a reasonable time (determined by the scrutiny committee) to respond before the committee meets. The committee shall then proceed according to (a)(vi)(2)-(5) above.

(d) *Resignation or Removal of Returning Officer.*

(i) If the Returning Officer should resign, or if, in the opinion of two-thirds of the Standing Committee present and voting, he should become unwilling or unable to perform his duties, he shall immediately cease to be Returning Officer, and become a DRO. Unwilling or unable is to be determined at the absolute discretion of the Standing Committee. In his capacity as a DRO he shall be unable to run in Conclave for the position of Returning Officer for one term after his removal or resignation under this provision (d).

(ii) *Electoral Allegations and Disciplinary Complaints*

- (1) If the Returning Officer becomes subject to an allegation under Rule 33 or if he becomes subject to an allegation under Rule 71 and at its next meeting two-thirds of those present at Standing Committee vote that the complaint relates to the performance of his duties or the exercise of his powers, or if he himself brings an allegation under Rule 33 or Rule 71, he shall immediately cease to be Returning Officer, and shall not become a DRO. At the conclusion of the judicial process, if he has not been convicted, he shall resume being a DRO.
- (2) If he becomes subject to a complaint under Rule 71, the Returning Officer must immediately requisition an Emergency Meeting of Standing Committee. If a third of those present at that meeting vote that the nature of the complaint relates to the performance of the duties of the Returning Officer, or the exercise of his powers, he shall immediately cease to be Returning Officer and shall not become a DRO. At the conclusion of the judicial process, if he has not been convicted, he shall resume being a DRO.
- (3) If convicted of any other offence under Rule 71, the Returning Officer shall immediately cease to be Returning Officer and shall not become a DRO, but shall resume being a DRO if that conviction is quashed on appeal..
- (4) For the purposes of Rule 32(a)(v) and Rule 32(a)(vi) only, anybody who ceases to become Returning Officer under this Rule shall still be considered to be a DRO.

(iii) In the event of (i) or (ii) above, the DROs shall elect a successor as soon as possible, subject to (b) above, and the most senior of them shall become Acting Returning Officer *ad interim*. Two days' notice of the meeting of conclave may be waived if all the DROs agree. If it be impracticable for at least four DROs to elect a new Returning Officer within four days, the Senior Librarian, or, failing that, the Senior Treasurer, shall appoint the Returning Officer.

(e) *Duties of the Returning Officer*

(i) The Returning Officer shall conduct the Elections of Officers and Committees of the Society as provided in Rules 32-38 and Chapter D of the Standing Orders. The Deputy Returning Officers shall assist the Returning Officer in the conduct of the Elections. The Returning Officers and his Deputies shall attempt to ensure that no breach of Rule 33 occurs.

(ii) The Returning Officer shall maintain the six interleaved copies of the Rules, Standing Orders and Special Schedules referred to in Rule 67(f). He shall be responsible for entering therein such amendments and cancellations in Rules, Standing Orders, Special Schedules and Appendices to the Rules as may be made.

Within 28 days of any alteration or cancellation to these, he shall give written notice to the Secretary to the Trustees of the Oxford Literary and Debating Union Trust and, if the Rule change is relevant, written notice to the Chief Executive of Oxford City Council and/or the Chief Constable of the Thames Valley Police. He shall also send a fully amended edition of the new rules to the Bodleian Library (Room 132) and to the other copyright Libraries. He shall also maintain a rules archive in the Society's Archive Room.⁶⁰

(iii) The Returning Officer shall enter the results of the Society's main elections in the Business Minute Book.

(iv) *Disciplinary Duties*

(1) The Returning Officer shall oversee the disciplinary and membership processes of the Society, as laid down in Rule 3(d), Rules 5-8, Rule 53, Rules 63-66, Rule 71 and Standing Order Chapter G.

(2) If the Returning Officer is not willing or able to conduct his disciplinary duties, or if he is subject to a complaint himself, his powers and duties (but not the office itself) for the purpose of the disciplinary matter shall be devolved upon the next most senior Deputy Returning Officer who is willing and able to perform these duties and not himself party to a disciplinary complaint under Rule 71. In the event of no DRO being available, the Senior Officers shall appoint a member, who shall not be a voting member of Standing Committee nor himself party to a disciplinary complaint under Rule 71, to exercise the powers and duties (but not the office) of the Returning Officer for the purposes of the disciplinary matter.

(3) In the absence of any Senior Officer holding the position of Senior Officer, for the purposes of the rules concerning fines and disciplinary offences, the Returning Officer shall be empowered to act in their place.

(f) The Returning Officer shall be familiar with the Rules and Standing Orders of the Society, and shall advise the Standing Committee upon their content and interpretation, although such advice shall have no binding effect under Rule 67(e)(i).

(g) *Interpretation of the Rules*

The Returning Officer may on request at any time issue to any Member in writing an interpretation of any of these Rules and Standing Orders over which he is accorded power of interpretation by Rule 67(e)(i). A copy of such an interpretation shall be posted upon the Society's Notice-board as soon as practicable and entered into the six official copies of the Rules, and shall have binding effect as provided by Rule 67(e)(i).

(h) *Tribunal Short List*

The Returning Officer shall draw up a list of names of at least fifteen and not more than twenty-five Members to serve as the Short List for membership of any Election Tribunal called under Rule 33. He shall propose this list for the approval of Standing Committee at its Ordinary Meeting in Fifth Week. The Standing Committee may accept the list either as proposed or without any particular name or names. Should Standing Committee not accept any name on the original list, it shall require the Returning Officer to propose a further name in its place. Only Ex-Officers, former members of the Standing Committee and Ex-Returning Officers, of at least eighteen terms' standing⁶¹ in the Society, who have not been convicted of Electoral Malpractice, shall be eligible to serve on the Election Tribunal Short List. The Returning Officer shall as soon as may be write to the Members whose names are on the Short List asking whether they are likely to be available for service on an Election Tribunal should one be called.

(j) The Returning Officer shall supervise the receiving of nominations for the Society's Elections. He shall be present on the Society's premises for the last two hours during which nominations are open.

(k) The Returning Officer may appoint Members who have not been convicted of Electoral Malpractice as Returning Officer's Assistants to aid him in the performance of his duties⁶². He shall post on the Society's Notice board not later than 4:00pm on the day of the Poll the names of any Members he intends to appoint as such⁶³. If two or more candidates object in writing before the start of the Count to the appointment of any Returning Officer's Assistant, that appointment shall immediately be revoked.

(l) The Returning Officer shall inform the Oxford Licensing Authority of any change in the Licensee or Licensees of the Society's Bars.

(m) For the purposes of deadlines for notifying the Senior Officers of a matter, in relation to their duties under Rule 33 or Rule 71, receipt by the Returning Officer of a communication shall be deemed sufficient for meeting that deadline; the Returning Officer shall then ensure that the communication is passed onto the Senior Officers as soon as possible.

⁶⁰ *On the right to correct errors in the rules, see Interpretation D2; for a limitation, see Interpretation D7.*

⁶¹ *On the definition of 'terms' standing', see Interpretation E7.*

⁶² *The ROA's term of office expires with that of the Returning Officer: see Interpretation A35.*

⁶³ *This shall be read in accordance with Interpretation A51.*

RULE 33: ELECTORAL MALPRACTICE

(a) *Definition of Malpractice*

- (i) A person shall have committed an Electoral Malpractice if he performs any of the following actions:
- (1) actual or attempted soliciting of votes for or against any candidate, save as under (ii) below;
 - (2) drawing the fact of the Election or of one's own or another's candidature to the attention of Members in a systematic⁶⁴ or persistent way⁶⁵, save where specifically permitted in these Rules;
 - (3) representing or attempting to represent himself or any other Member or Members to be the candidate(s) of, or endorsed, supported or opposed by, any political party, group or faction or any University Society, or any national, racial, or religious party, group or faction, or persuading or attempting to persuade any other person to do so; or engaging in any electoral pact between Candidates in the Election and Candidates in any different election inside or outside the Society - although this shall not affect any internal agreements amongst candidates for the various posts in the main Election itself.
 - (4) procuring or attempting to procure any vehicle or conveyance for the purpose of systematically conveying Members to the poll, unless authorized to do so by the Returning Officer, in the case of distant locations or unusually inclement weather, where the Returning Officer is satisfied that neither the intention nor the effect of such conveyance would be unduly to benefit or to hinder any specific candidate or candidates;
 - (5) bribery or buying Memberships in order to influence the result of the Election; or paying, or promising to pay, another Member's nomination fee; or making, or undertaking to make, some payment or financial inducement, either directly or indirectly, to any person (whether a Member or not) in order to encourage, discourage, facilitate or hinder another Member's candidature in any way, either directly or indirectly;
 - (6) extortion, blackmail or intimidation in connection with the Election;
 - (7) organised treating by or on behalf of any candidate either between the Opening of Nominations and the Close of Poll, or so as to draw attention to the candidature of a Member;
 - (8) interfering with, obscuring, defacing or removing, any photograph, manifesto, notice, poster, mailing or other material issued or distributed by the Returning Officer, unless specifically authorised to do so by the Returning Officer;
 - (9) the malicious dissemination of defamatory statements about a candidate designed to influence the course of the Election either in writing or systematically or persistently;
 - (10) misusing or abusing one's official position in the Society so as unfairly to promote one's own candidature or to promote or hinder the candidature of another Member;
 - (11) any deliberate breach of the Rules or Standing Orders regarding the conduct of the Election⁶⁶;
 - (12) making Allegations of Electoral Malpractice that are either frivolous or are unfounded and brought out of malice;
 - (13) deliberately giving false evidence to an Election Tribunal;⁶⁷
 - (14) making an unreasonable Appeal against the findings of an Election Tribunal⁶⁸;
 - (15) breaching Rule 5, or otherwise using the Society's records of Membership, with the intention of promoting or hindering the candidature of any Member or otherwise influencing the result of the election;
 - (16) deliberately hindering or attempting to hinder the Returning Officer, or his Deputies in the discharge of their duties;
 - (17) persistently loitering outside the Poll Room during the Poll for an Election in which one is a candidate;
 - (18) providing a Member with a list of selected candidates either verbally⁶⁹ or in writing;
 - (19) impersonating another Member in order to hinder or promote a candidature; pretending to be from a college or institution not one's own when soliciting votes; or trying to impersonate another voter when voting in the Poll Room;
 - (20) deliberately making a false or misleading statement in a manifesto for Office, manifesto booklet, a hustings speech or in any report made under Standing Order D1 designed to affect the outcome of one of the Society's Elections;
 - (21) abusing or misusing the rules or forms of the House or persistently seeking to obstruct debate in the House, in order to promote or hinder the candidature of a Member (including, but not exclusively: the Chair

⁶⁴ Including sending emails to multiple recipients; see Interpretation E2.

⁶⁵ Including loitering near election publicity: see Interpretation A11.

⁶⁶ Including Rule 23(h): see Interpretation A36.

⁶⁷ On the submission of documentary evidence that has been tampered with, see Interpretation E3.

⁶⁸ Including those with the right to appeal; see Interpretation F1

⁶⁹ For the scope of this restriction, see Interpretation A8.

systematically and persistently showing bias in the selection of Members being called to speak; the Chair persistently and systematically ignoring the time restrictions for speakers; forging signatures on the list for Members to speak in the after-debate; the misuse or abuse of procedural motions; but excluding the legitimate usage of Rule 46 (e));⁷⁰

(22) maliciously or recklessly causing the Returning Officer to exercise his power to suspend the Count under Rule 35 (i) (iv), with the intention of breaching the secrecy of the Count. Any allegation brought or action taken as a consequence of this clause may be in addition to any normal and legitimate action against any Member who has set off an alarm or otherwise prejudiced the good order of the Society's rooms, whether with intent to breach the secrecy of the Count or not;

(23) breaching the secrecy of the Count by disclosing any result, or pretended result, either directly or indirectly, before the Count is finished⁷¹, whether or not the Count has been suspended for any reason, without the sanction of the Rules or Standing Orders;

(24) taking part in a conspiracy to perform any of the above.

(ii) Members may solicit votes for or against candidates in private, and may draw the fact of the election or of their own or another's candidature to the attention of Members who are their own close personal friends provided that they commit none of the electoral malpractice enumerated in (i) above and provided that such campaigning contravenes none of the following restrictions:

(1) No such campaigning shall be permitted in writing or other permanent form. The distribution by any person (whether a Member or not) of any written list of selected candidates shall be an electoral malpractice, as shall the distribution by any person (whether a Member or not) of any materials to any other person (whether a Member or not) in order for any person (whether a Member or not) to write down or otherwise cause to be written or created a written list of selected candidates, in public or private. Physical or verbal indication of selected candidates on official election material or other lists of candidates (including but not exclusively election posters and manifesto booklets) shall likewise be electoral malpractice.

(2) No such campaigning shall be permitted on the Society's premises.

(3) No Member shall campaign in public places or systematically campaign in the private lodgings of Members or attempt to contact Members there for that purpose.

(4) No person not a Member shall so campaign for any candidate or against any candidate, nor shall any Member induce or attempt to induce any person not a Member to do so.

(5) No such campaigning shall be permitted if it is calculated or liable to draw the fact of the election to the attention of significant numbers of non-members of the Society. This clause shall not be interpreted as prohibiting in itself any Member from speaking to any other Member in a conversational tone of voice in a private conversation merely by reason of the possibility of being seen or overheard by non-members of the Society.

(6) No Member shall persuade or attempt to persuade any other Member to so campaign or refrain from campaigning by payment or promise of payment of any consideration whether material or otherwise or promise of benefit by virtue of holding current or future Office in the Society, or likewise the threat of withholding such benefit.

(7) No such campaigning shall be permitted by telephone, radio, television, the Internet or email, or by other analogous communication devices.

(8) No Member shall address any public meeting, or meeting of any political party or organisation, of any religious grouping, University-registered club, other student-constituted club, of any Union, common room or student union (whether or not designated by such title) within the University or any of the institutions admitted to the benefits of Rule 3A, or of any society registered with the Proctors or similarly recognised by the appropriate authorities at Oxford Brookes University or other educational institution in Oxford, with the intention of promoting or hindering the candidature of himself or of any other Member or Members, nor persuade or attempt to persuade any other person to do so.

(9) From the opening of nominations to the close of Poll, no Member shall loiter in any public place in order to attempt to solicit votes for or against any candidate. No Member shall systematically solicit votes in any public place, nor move from public place to public place to solicit votes (whether such movement is occasioned in order to solicit votes, or otherwise).

(10) No Staff member, Senior Officer, OUS Trustee, nor any member who is an OLDUT Trustee, may solicit votes for against any candidate in an election.

(iii) This Rule shall be interpreted in accordance with the following⁷²:

(1) The intention of this Rule is to ensure that the criteria upon which the Officers and Committees of the Society are chosen are founded upon the merits of the candidates themselves as displayed in debating ability,

⁷⁰ Full elucidation on this point is provided by Interpretation A30.

⁷¹ The Count shall be deemed to have finished once the results are announced in the Bar; see Interpretation A52.

⁷² The importance of this rule is underlined in Interpretation F2

past or potential contributions to the administration of the Society and general sociability, and that Members do not gain advantages by virtue of being richer than other candidates, or in a position to offer deals involving other elections inside or outside the Society, or by employing an election agent, that Members are not persistently harassed into voting for particular candidates, and that candidates do not behave in a manner liable to bring the Society into disrepute.

(2) It is not the intention of this Rule to stifle legitimate discussion of the merits or demerits of candidates, to prevent candidates from leading normal social lives involving as it may the sort of private discussion of their interests and pursuits that is common between close personal friends, nor to prevent candidates from standing in other elections, nor to stop Members from asking or advising candidates to stand or not to stand whether in general or for any particular Office or Committee, nor is it the intention to alter traditional practices the legitimacy of which has been generally agreed, in particular with regard to speakers in the Presidential Debate.

(3) A 'public place' shall include (but shall not be defined exclusively as) for the purposes of the Rules - any public highway or right of way; premises of the Oxford Union Society; public transport, car parks, any Church or religious building of any religious organisation; and the dining rooms, libraries, computer rooms, lecture rooms, corridors, kitchens, bathrooms, lodges and common rooms of the University, colleges and any educational institution whose members may become members of the Society.

(b) *Complaints and Allegations*⁷³

(i) If the Returning Officer receives, not later than the Close of the Poll, a written complaint concerning the circumstances of the election, he shall investigate the complaint and advise and warn those concerned.

(ii) After the Close of Poll, but within 48 hours thereof, any Member may bring before the Returning Officer or any of his Deputies a Written Allegation⁷⁴, signed by the Member concerned, that:

(1) A Member or Members, including the Returning Officer or any of his Deputies, have committed an Electoral Malpractice; or

(2) An Electoral Malpractice has been committed by a person or person unknown or by a person who is not a Member; or

(3) A fine levied by the Returning Officer or one of his Deputies under Rule 35(j)(iii) was unjustified.

The Returning Officer may not call a tribunal without a written allegation, save as under (ix) below, or as under Standing Order D5 (e).

(iii) The Returning Officer and his Deputies shall meet in the Room in which the Poll was held not later than 47 1/2 hours after the Close of Poll, and shall remain there until 48 hours after the Close of Poll, for the express purpose of receiving Allegations.

(iv) Within ten minutes after the time limit for the receipt of Allegations has expired, the Returning Officer shall post on the Notice board a list of Allegations received or a notice to the effect that no allegations have been made, as appropriate. The infringement of this provision by the Returning Officer shall be deemed to be an Electoral Malpractice under (a)(i)(11) above, and notwithstanding the time limit imposed in (ii) above, allegations brought under this sub-section may be made within 49 hours of the Close of Poll to any Deputy Returning Officer.

(v) On receipt of any allegation the Returning Officer shall call an Election Tribunal as under (c) below.

(vi) The Returning Officer shall only be deemed to have received a Written Allegation if it is signed by a Member and complies in form or substance with the following format, namely: "I, (insert name of allegor), hereby allege that (insert name of accused, if known) did commit an Electoral Malpractice (or levied an unjustified fine) by breaching (insert Rule/Standing Order Number) I herewith attach or enclose details of the evidence which I shall submit to the tribunal namely:

(1) A description of the facts and circumstances of the Alleged Malpractice;

(2) Details of any documentary or other recorded evidence which corroborates the description in (1); and/or

(3) Details of witnesses or circumstances which corroborates the description in (1) or the evidence in (2).

The details under (1), (2), (3) shall be attached or enclosed. The Returning Officer shall inform the Allegor if the Written Allegation is not valid because of a defect in the above requirements.

(vii) (1) The Returning Officer may order a recount if a Member brings to his attention within 48 hours of the Close of Poll an error in the results published on the Notice board.

(2) If a recount is ordered under (1) above or the Count or part of it has been postponed the time limit for the receipt of Allegations shall be extended to 1 hour after the result of the recount or postponed Count has

⁷³ On withdrawal of allegations, see Interpretation E4.

⁷⁴ Which may be an email sent to ro@oxford-union.org: see Interpretation A43.

been announced, if it takes place after the normal 48 hours limit has expired. There shall also be a further hour in which allegations against the Returning Officer for failure to post on the Notice board a list of Allegations received or a notice to the effect that no allegations have been made, as appropriate, at the end of the end of the time limit for the receipt of Allegations under this subsection.

(viii)(1) Every candidate in the election shall report to the General Office in person between 10.00am and 10.00pm on the third day after the Poll to determine whether his attendance is required by an Election Tribunal. If a Tribunal is set up, any candidate failing to so report shall be disqualified from the Election forthwith and fined a sum of £50. The Returning Officer and all Deputy Returning Officers serving at any time after two weeks prior to the close of nominations shall report likewise. Any Returning Officer or Deputy Returning Officer failing to so report shall be fined a sum not exceeding £100 and disqualified forthwith from serving as an electoral official in the Society's elections for the remainder of the term and the following two terms.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of (1) above, any person under the jurisdiction of (1) above prevented by genuinely pressing reasons from being in Oxford on the third day after the Poll shall notify the Returning Officer in writing at the time of nomination or at the earliest possible moment thereafter, and shall report to the General Office in person or by telephone at a time agreed with the Returning Officer; such a report shall be deemed as fulfilling the requirements of (1) above. In the case of any person reporting by telephone under this clause, notice is given by telephone in the presence of a witness that his attendance is required by the Election Tribunal or that he is a defendant at the Tribunal shall be deemed sufficient for all purposes of these Rules. Should the Returning Officer be the individual affected by this rule, his authority for the purposes of this rule shall be automatically delegated to the most senior Deputy Returning Officer currently in office.

(3) In the case of candidates who have failed to report under (1) above, the Tribunal Panel may choose to rescind either or both of the fine and the disqualification if it is satisfied that the candidate's failure to report was the result of unforeseeable or unavoidable circumstances or would otherwise be manifestly unjust. In the case of any Returning Officer or Deputy Returning Officer who has failed to sign down under (1) above, the Tribunal Panel may choose to rescind either or both of the fine and the disqualification from serving as an electoral official if it is satisfied that the Returning Officer's or Deputy Returning Officer's failure to report was the result of unforeseeable or unavoidable circumstances or would otherwise be manifestly unjust.

(4) Every candidate shall at the time of nomination sign a declaration that he is aware of the provisions of this clause, and that he expects to be able to report as under (1) above or that he requires a dispensation as under (2) above.

(ix) If the Returning Officer receives, after the close of polling but within 48 hours thereof, a written objection to the result of the election on the grounds of Innocent Interference⁷⁵, that is:

(1) that the outcome of the Election has been perverted by the dissemination of defamatory statements about a candidate or candidates, even though such dissemination was not malicious; or

(2) that the Returning Officer has in good faith (through negligence or otherwise) misinterpreted the Rules concerning that conduct of the Election in such a way as to affect its outcome, or otherwise affected it through negligence, he shall summon a tribunal as if an Allegation of Electoral Malpractice has been made. In such circumstances the Tribunal shall investigate the circumstances of the election as if the objection were an allegation of Electoral Malpractice against the person or persons named in it, except that no penalties shall be imposed upon such persons unless in the course of investigation the Tribunal become satisfied that the actions objected to were in fact deliberate electoral malpractice. Any frivolous or unfounded and malicious objection made under this clause shall be an electoral malpractice subject to the same penalties as a frivolous or malicious and unfounded Allegation.

(c) *The Election Tribunal*

(i)

(1) The Election Tribunal shall be set up by the Returning Officer if necessary, as soon as possible, and shall consist of any three of the Members whose names were on the Short List made under Rule 32(h), save that should fewer than three of the said Members be available, the Tribunal shall consist of any Members chosen with the Standing Committee's approval that satisfy the requirements of the said Rule. The Returning Officer and the Standing Committee shall use their best efforts to ensure that at least one Member of the Tribunal is a qualified lawyer. No person shall serve on an Election Tribunal more than once in the space of three terms.⁷⁶

(2) As an exception to Rule 23(d), SO B6 and SO B10, if an election complaint has been validly submitted such that a tribunal is necessary, but the Returning Officer is unable to organise a sustained, quorate tribunal that is sufficiently able, within the required time period and deadlines, to hear all the complaints and evidence

⁷⁵ For further elucidation on 'innocent interference', see *Interpretation F8*.

⁷⁶ On discussion of the validity of Election Tribunals, see *Interpretation E1 and F6*.

and then deliberate fully, then the Returning Officer shall be able to summon an Emergency Meeting of Standing Committee for the purpose of appointing an additional tribunal shortlist only, without any minimum notice period for the meeting or for the agenda.

(3) In the case of sub-section (2), then for the purposes of SO B11, four days written notice shall not be required. However, the Returning Officer shall be required to ensure that a valid Requisition is published on notice board and that he or his Deputies have attempted to contact verbally or by phone each member of Standing Committee as far as possible in order to inform them of the meeting in advance.

(ii) The Election Tribunal shall have the complete power⁷⁷ to investigate all the Allegations and circumstances dependent upon those Allegations only. No Allegations brought after the time limits laid down in (b)(ii) and (b)(iv) above shall be considered by the Tribunal⁷⁸. The Tribunal shall have discretion in the determination of penalties, save that:

(1) Any candidate convicted of Malpractice shall be disqualified from the Election concerned unless (provided that the relevant candidate has not previously been convicted of electoral malpractice) the Election Tribunal, in its absolute discretion acting reasonably, unanimously determines that in the circumstances such a disqualification would be disproportionate to the Malpractice committed due to such Malpractice being of a minor nature and any other exceptional circumstances duly considered by the Election Tribunal.

(2) Any Member bringing frivolous or malicious allegations shall be suspended for at least one term, and, if such allegations be made against the Returning Officer or any of his Deputies the Member shall in addition be fined at least £50;

(3) If the Returning Officer or one of his Deputies be found guilty of an Electoral Malpractice, he shall be automatically disqualified from taking any part in the count in future, dismissed from any Office he currently holds in the Society, and suspended for at least one term;

(4) Any Member making an unreasonable appeal against the findings of an Election Tribunal under (d) below shall be suspended for one term, forbidden to serve on any Committee or nominate himself for any Committee or Office for a further three terms, and fined £50, these penalties in all cases being added to any penalties otherwise imposed under (c)(ii) or (iv);

(5) Notwithstanding anything else in this Rule, no penalty shall be inflicted upon a Member if the allegations against him are found to be frivolous;

(6) The Election Tribunal shall always consider whether or not any allegations brought before it are frivolous, or, if unfounded, malicious.

(iii) The standard of proof required for a conviction shall be that the Tribunal is satisfied beyond all reasonable doubt of the defendant's guilt. No person shall be found guilty save by unanimous vote. The standard of proof required to settle all other questions of fact shall be a simple balance of probability, and a majority verdict shall be sufficient.

(iv) The Election Tribunal may inflict any or all of the following penalties on a Member found guilty of Electoral Malpractice, even in addition to the provisions of (c)(ii) above:

- (1) a fine;
- (2) disqualification from holding Office or sitting on any Committee in any following term;
- (3) disqualification from nominating himself in any subsequent election;
- (4) suspension;
- (5) expulsion;
- (6) in the cases of the President-Elect, Librarian-Elect, and Treasurer-Elect only, immediate dismissal from Office, which shall for the purposes of Rule 38 be deemed to be a resignation.

(v) The Election Tribunal may, under the conditions laid down by Standing Order, inflict a fine on any Member who fails to appear before it.⁷⁹

(vi) The Election Tribunal shall not inflict any penalty upon nor recommend any proceedings against any person other than one whom it convicts of Electoral Malpractice, save as under (v) above. The annulment of the Poll or part of the election and the ordering of a re-poll or new election shall not be considered a penalty.

(vii) The Election Tribunal may annul the whole Election or the Election for any particular Office or Committee or for any particular place on any Committee, if it is satisfied that Malpractice or Innocent Interference, as defined in

⁷⁷ *Paying due regard to Standing Order D8.*

⁷⁸ *Written allegations: see Interpretation E11.*

⁷⁹ *This is Standing Order D9. Interpretations C9 and C10, regarding subpoenas, should also be consulted.*

(b)(ix) above, has substantially affected the result, or otherwise in accordance with the provisions of (b)(viii)(1) or (c)(ii)(1). In the event of an annulment, it shall be the Returning Officer's duty to arrange a new Election at the most convenient time during Full Term. The Election Tribunal may make such provisions as it think fair concerning the procedure and arrangements of the new Election. Notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 67(e)(i), such orders shall not generally act as Authoritative Precedents. The Tribunal may make any provisions it thinks fair with regards to the conduct of this new election, including but not limited to:

- (1) Ordering a re-poll⁸⁰;
- (2) Restricting those eligible to stand and/or nominate in the new election or re-poll;
- (3) Allowing previously-nominated candidates to withdraw from the election;
- (4) Re-opening nominations

Notwithstanding the provisions of this paragraph (c)(vii) in respect of any disqualification of any candidate pursuant to the provisions of (b)(viii)(1) or (c)(ii)(1) above, if the Election Tribunal is satisfied that no such re-election is necessary, the result of the original election shall be determined by recounting the ballot papers while ignoring all preferences for the disqualified candidate(s), save that the Tribunal may order that no such recount is necessary if satisfied that it could not affect the existing results. Furthermore, if, in respect of any disqualification of any candidate pursuant to the provisions of (b)(viii)(1) above only, no candidates disqualified under (b)(viii)(1) above in respect of any Election were elected in that Election then the Tribunal, at its absolute discretion, may order that no such recount is necessary in respect of such Election.

(viii) The Election Tribunal, or failing it, the Appellate Board shall have the power and the duty to make any order necessary to remedy any failure of the Rules otherwise to determine how to fill vacancies left by its action.

(ix) The Election Tribunal shall complete its investigations and shall present a declaration to the Returning Officer within 216 hours of the Close of Poll. The declaration shall state the allegations made, the verdicts returned, and any penalties inflicted, and shall be read by the Returning Officer to the next Public Business Meeting. Within 261 hours of the Close of Poll, the Election Tribunal shall report in full to the Returning Officer and thereupon cease to exist except as regards (d) below. A copy of the report shall be posted on the Notice board as soon as practicable for at least five days; this report shall be read by the Returning Officer to the next Public Business meeting, if he thinks it is necessary, or if he is so directed by the Election Tribunal, unless it have been quashed by an Appellate Board.

(x) Once the Election Tribunal is set up, no question whatsoever shall be asked, no motion whatsoever moved, nor discussion whatsoever initiated, in the House or in the Standing Committee, that in any way relates to the action of the Returning Officer under Rule 33, or to the setting-up, composition, action or report or any other circumstances whatsoever of the Election Tribunal, save as may be necessary for proceedings against convicted parties under Rule 7(c), or to enable the Standing Committee to ensure that any punishments inflicted are carried out, to determine the Society's response to any judicial or quasi-judicial proceedings, or to carry out actions directed or recommended by the Appellate Board in its Report made under (d) below.

(xi) Any Member who has a direct interest in the outcome of a Tribunal shall be entitled to be represented at said Tribunal. The Tribunal shall have the power to determine whether any interest be direct.

(d) *The Appellate Board*

- (i) The sole grounds of appeal to the Appellate Board from the decision of the Election Tribunal shall be either
- (1) that a breach of the procedures laid down in (b) or (c) above or of Standing Orders D7 or D8 has occurred, or
 - (2) that the decision of the Tribunal was founded on an error of law, or
 - (3) that there has been a breach of any of the Principles of Natural Justice⁸¹.
 - (4) an election tribunal failed to reach any verdict and publish a preliminary report within the set deadlines.

Except that an appeal on (2) or (3) shall not be allowed if the Tribunal were following or interpreting the Rules and Standing Orders unless it concerns the rationality of the Tribunal's interpretation.

(ii) The following shall have the right of appeal:

- (1) any Member who has brought an allegation under (b)(ii) above with regard to the Election concerned;
- (2) any Member who has had an allegation brought against him during the election concerned;
- (3) any other Member to whom a Senior Officer gives leave.

(iii) Notice of Appeal or request for Leave to Appeal, as appropriate, may be lodged with either of the Senior Officers within 48 hours of the Reports being posted on the Notice board as under (c)(ix) above.⁸²

(iv) If application for Leave to Appeal has been made under (ii)(3) above, either Senior Officer may grant

⁸⁰ *In the event that no nominations are received, see Interpretation A41.*

⁸¹ *On breaches of the principles of natural justice with respect to bias, see Interpretation F10.*

⁸² *Even if the report is late: see Interpretation A32.*

Leave, in which case the notice of application for Leave shall be treated as Notice of Appeal. If the Senior Officers refuse leave they shall publish the fact of, and the reasons for, refusal on the notice board within seven days of their receipt of the application. It shall be a legitimate ground for refusal of Leave that the interests of the Membership would, on balance, be adversely affected.

(v) The Returning Officer, acting under the instructions of the Senior Officers, shall set up the Appellate Board, which shall consist of three Members who are members of any Convocation⁸³ and which may include either or both of the Senior Officers.

(vi) The Appellate Board shall adopt whatever fair way of proceeding it think fit, save that it shall not alter nor quash a Tribunal's Report in whole or in part without informing the members of the Tribunal and giving them an opportunity to defend or explain their actions. Any party who had the right to be represented before the Election Tribunal shall have the right to be informed of the fact that the Appellate Board has been constituted and to be represented before it.

(vii) The Appellate Board shall:

- (1) ensure that explicit verdicts are returned on every defendant on every count, that it is explicitly stated in the case of every unsuccessful allegation whether or not it was frivolous, and that any ambiguous verdicts are clarified for this purpose. Any member of the Tribunal who did not explicitly dissent from the Tribunal's Report nor reply within a reasonable time to the Appellate Board's request for clarification shall be deemed to have voted with those who have made or do make their position clear, and if clarification be altogether impossible, ambiguous verdicts shall be treated as acquittals;
- (2) ensure that (c)(ii) above is obeyed;
- (3) have the power to order that a member or members of the Tribunal whose proceedings they are considering shall never sit on a Tribunal again;
- (4) have the power to quash the findings or purported findings of a Tribunal or purported Tribunal in whole or in part, save that if it do so it shall order a new Tribunal to be set up, unless the ground for quashing be that the act purporting to set up the original Tribunal was a nullity;
- (5) have the power to declare the appeal unreasonable in whole or in part whereupon the appellant shall be subject to the penalties laid down in (c)(ii)(4) above.⁸⁴

(viii) The Appellate Board shall report to the Returning Officer as soon as it shall have completed its investigations, which shall be within 28 days of Notice of Appeal, or Leave to Appeal being granted, and shall thereupon cease to exist. The Returning Officer shall read the report to a meeting of Standing Committee as soon as possible, and at the conclusion of the said meeting shall post the report on the Notice board. If the Board have exercised its powers under (vii)(4) above, the Returning Officer shall set up a new Tribunal from a Short List, the names upon which have been approved by the Standing Committee. Every member of the Committee shall be entitled to be informed of and be present at the said meeting, even if it be held in the vacation. The *quorum* for such a meeting shall be six, including at least two Officers or elected Members.

(ix) If a new Tribunal is to be set up:

- (1) The time limits laid down in (c)(ix) above shall apply from the opening of the said meeting of the Standing Committee instead of from the Close of Poll, save that if either of the Senior Officers certify in writing that gross injustice might thus be done, the time limits shall apply from the midnight of the Thursday before the Full Term next following;
- (2) No person who served as a member of the quashed Tribunal shall serve on the new Tribunal;
- (3) The new Tribunal shall consider those and only those charges and findings which the Appellate Board has quashed, and any other charges laid before the former Tribunal that the Appellate Board has directed the new Tribunal to hear;
- (4) If the new Tribunal annul any Election not annulled by the previous Tribunal, it shall itself determine upon whom the powers and duties of any Office in question shall devolve until the result of the new Election shall have been declared; such devolution shall not comport the Office itself. Any Committee places so affected shall remain vacant ad interim.

(x) Except as under Rule 33(d)(xii) below, no Member shall enter upon Office or an elected place on Committee until:

- (1) Forty-nine hours have elapsed since the close of poll in the Election concerned;
- (2) Forty-eight hours have elapsed since the publication of the Report of any Tribunal directly concerned with the Election to that Office or Committee;
- (3) the Senior Officers have refused Leave to Appeal, if such an appeal might have quashed that part of a Tribunal Report concerning the Election to that particular Office or place on Committee;
- (4) the Report have been published of any Appellate Board that might have quashed that part of a Tribunal Report concerning the Election to that particular Office or place on Committee.

⁸³ For definition of 'members of any convocation', see Interpretation A19.

⁸⁴ Including those with the right to appeal; see Interpretation F1.

(xi) A Tribunal may additionally prevent any Member who is directly implicated in an ongoing allegation from entering any Office or elected place on Committee until the deadlines outlined in Rule 33(d)(x) above have expired.

(xii) In the event that an Appellate Board rejects in its entirety all appeals before it, and if it is satisfied that the interests of justice and the interests of the Society are best served by a speedy succession of the new Officers and Committees, it may permit Members who would otherwise be prevented from doing so by the provisions of Rule 33(d)(x)(4) to enter their posts immediately upon making its determination, prior to issuing its Report. In doing so, the Board binds itself not to make any binding interpretations or directions which affect the succession in question.

RULE 34: ELECTION OF JUNIOR OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

(a) Elections

An Election shall be held every term to choose the Junior Officers (other than the President, Librarian, and Treasurer) and the Elected Members of the Standing Committee and the Secretary's Committee for the following term. A Poll, if necessary, shall be held on Friday of Seventh Week, and shall be open between 9.30a.m. and 8.30p.m. If no Poll is necessary then the Close of Poll shall be deemed to be 8.30p.m. on Friday of Seventh Week for the purpose of these Rules.

(b) Nominations⁸⁵

(i) Nominations shall open at 9.30a.m. on Friday of Fifth Week and close at 3.00p.m. on Friday of Sixth Week. Nominations may only be submitted in the said period, during hours when the General Office is open. For the last two hours of the nomination period, nominations envelopes may only be received in the Morris Room. The Returning Officer and his deputies shall be present in the Morris Room during that period for the purpose of receiving nominations. Only electoral officials and those members wishing to submit their nomination shall be permitted to enter the Morris Room during this period. No other member or Officer shall be permitted to enter without the express permission of the Returning Officer. Any member deemed by the Returning Officer to be loitering in the Morris Room during this period shall be liable to a fine of not more than £50, to be imposed by the Returning Officer.

(ii) Nomination packs shall be available from the General Office from 9.30a.m. on Wednesday of Fifth Week. A nomination pack shall contain:

- (1) A nomination form;
- (2) A checklist of relevant items to be included, pertaining to the nomination;
- (3) A "Letter to Candidates" and a "Candidates Information Booklet"; and

(iii) Any eligible member may nominate himself by submitting to the Returning Officer (either directly or through one of his deputies or any other agent appointed by him) a sealed envelope containing the following:

- (1) A completed nomination form;
- (2) Correct payment of the nomination fee for the office for which the member wishes to nominate (as established by Standing Order⁸⁶) by cash or cheque only;
- (3) A photocopy of the member's Union membership card.
- (4) Any photograph or manifesto the member wishes to submit.

On submission of the sealed envelope, the Returning Officer (or his agent, as appropriate) shall countersign the seal of the envelope, write down the member's membership card number on the outside and issue the member with a receipt. He will also enter the member's name and the time of submission on a list, which will be available for inspection by any member, on demand. Once a nomination envelope has been received, it will be deposited in a secure location.

(iv) The Returning Officer shall ensure that all completed nomination forms received by him shall be available for inspection, on demand, by any member, after the close of nominations⁸⁷.

(v) No member shall be permitted to alter or to withdraw any nomination, or materials pertaining thereto, for any Office or Committee. If a member wishes to nominate for two separate positions, permitted under Rule 34(c)(i), he must submit two separate nominations in separate envelopes. If a member submits two nominations which are incompatible under Rule 34(c)(i), the nomination for the more junior position shall be accepted.

(vi) (1) For the information of candidates, the Returning Officer shall post on the notice board and state on the nomination forms, the total amount of time⁸⁸ during the vacation in which the candidates for election as Junior Officers (excluding candidates for the office of President-elect) or Committee members would

⁸⁵ *On the burden of proof in ascertaining whether a nomination has been made on time, see Interpretation F9.*

⁸⁶ *Specifically, Standing Order D2.*

⁸⁷ *But only for the purposes of confirming that nominations were valid: see Interpretation A25.*

⁸⁸ *As defined by Standing Order B14.*

be required to work in the Society's buildings if elected. This amount of time shall be decided by the President-elect and shall be subject to a maximum as outlined below:

Number of Days	Junior Officers (excluding the Officers-Elect)	Standing Committee, the Librarian-Elect, and the Treasurer-Elect	Secretary's Committee and the President-Elect
Michaelmas Term	40	30	15
Hilary Term	30	20	10
Trinity Term	30	20	10

(2) On the nomination form, candidates shall sign a declaration that they understand the Rules of the Society, that they agree to abide by the Rules of the Society during the Election and during any term of Office; and that they are prepared and able to assist during the vacation, as required under the Rules (and detailed on the nomination form), if they are elected or if they succeed under the provisions of the Rules to an elected Office or Committee.

(3) Nomination forms which are not so signed shall be declared invalid.

(4) Candidates must also include a valid email address on the nomination form. Nomination forms on which such an email address is not included shall be invalidated, unless the Returning Officer acting at his absolute discretion decides to make an exemption. These email addresses must be compiled into a candidates' mailing list by the Returning Officer: this list shall be used to assist him in the discharge of his duties, and will be sent to the President-Elect by the Returning Officer no later than midnight on Friday of Seventh Week.

(vii) After the closure of nominations, the Returning Officer, in the presence of at least two Deputy Returning Officers, shall open the nomination envelopes, and verify that they contain valid nominations. A list of validly nominated candidates will be posted on the Society's notice board not later than 9.00p.m. on Friday of 6th Week.

(viii) It shall always be the obligation of the member wishing to nominate to ensure that his nomination is correctly completed. The Returning Officer shall, at the opening of nominations, give notice on the notice board and in the "Letter to Candidates" of at least two designated times at which he or his deputies shall be in the Society's buildings to advise members wishing to nominate on the proper completion of the nominations procedure.

(c) *Eligibility*

(i)

(A) Any Life Member of the Society may offer himself for election during his first eleven terms of Membership.

(B) Any Member who has been a Member of the Society for more than eleven terms may offer himself for election, always provided that:

- (1) he is neither a Fellow nor a Junior Fellow of a College, nor employed by the University in a full-time teaching capacity;
- (2) he has not offered himself for election on more than seven occasions during his first eleven terms of Membership;
- (3) he is, at the time of election, and has been for the previous six months, resident within twenty-five miles of Carfax; and
- (4) he has not offered himself for election on more than eight occasions after his first eleven terms Membership of the Society;
- (5) he is neither a Senior Officer or Trustee.

(ii) No Member shall nominate himself for the Office of President-Elect unless an Officer, Ex-Officer (excluding Ex-Chairman of Consultative Committee), or an Elected Member of the Standing Committee.

(iii) No Member shall nominate himself for any Office he holds, any Office he has held, or to any Office junior to one he holds or has held. No Member shall nominate himself for the Secretary's Committee if he has served on the Standing Committee, nor for Elected Membership of the Standing Committee if he holds or has held Office.⁸⁹

(iv) No Member shall nominate himself at the same election for more than one Office, for more than one Committee, or for an Office and the Secretary's Committee.

(v) No Member already serving or having served on the Secretary's Committee for a second term may be a candidate for that Committee. If any Member serves on any Committee in his first term as a Subscribing Member, such service shall not count for the purpose of this Rule.

⁸⁹ Where a person wishes to nominate for both Office and the Standing Committee, see Interpretation A6.

Rules of the Oxford Union Society, Michaelmas Term 2011. Updated 1st December 2011.

Yotam Levy, *St Cross College*, Returning Officer.

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(vi) No Member shall nominate himself for the Standing Committee or for any Junior Office during his first term of Membership.

(vii) No Member shall nominate himself for any Junior Office or the Standing or Secretary's Committees if he has been elected or appointed Returning Officer or a Deputy Returning Officer for the Election concerned, nor if ineligible due to service on the Charitable Endowments Committee.

(viii) No Member shall nominate himself for the Secretary's Committee without having made at least two, nor for the Standing Committee or an Office without having made at least four speeches. In the case of the Standing Committee or an Office at least two of the said four speeches and in the case of the Secretary's Committee one speech shall have been made in the term in which he nominates himself⁹⁰. For the purpose of this Rule only, the following shall count as speeches⁹¹:

(1) Speeches made in Public Business provided that no more than one speech is counted from any one Public Business Meeting.

(2) Speeches made in an informal debate under Rule 42(a)(2) provided that no more than one speech is counted from any such debate;

(3) Speeches made in an emergency debate under Rule 42(a)(1) provided that no more than one speech is counted from any one such debate in Hilary Term 1990 or any subsequent term and that no speech has been counted from the Public Business immediately following the said emergency debate.⁹²

(ix) If a Member standing in the Society's main elections owes monies to the Society, he shall be informed in writing and in person by the RO or a DRO before 4 hours after the close of nominations. Should he not have submitted full payment for the monies before 28 hours after the close on nominations, his nomination shall be deemed invalid and he shall be struck from the list of those standing for election. The Returning Officer shall immediately inform any Member if he intends not to accept his nomination under this clause.

(d) *Notification*

The names of the candidates shall be placed on the notice board by 9.30 a.m. on Saturday of Sixth Week. The President shall read out the list of candidates at the next Public Business Meeting held after the close of nominations, and shall announce the date and times of the Poll if one is needed.

(e) *Election Expenditure*

Expenditure on the Society's elections shall be determined termly, before the opening of nominations, by the Returning Officer and the Senior Treasurer, in accordance with the electoral Rules and Standing Orders⁹³, and, notwithstanding anything elsewhere in the Rules, shall neither be subject to amendment nor to ratification nor to scrutiny by the Standing Committee or the Finance Committee or by any other Officer or Committee of the Society (excepting any Election Tribunal, Appellate Board or Disciplinary proceedings) although it shall be included in any accounts and financial reports presented to these Committees in subsequent Terms. The Returning Officer shall not exceed his budget, except in exceptional circumstances and with good reason; should these circumstances occur, he shall inform the Senior Treasurer as soon as is practicable. Expenditure on any Election Tribunal and Appellate Board as may be convened shall not be covered by this sub-section.

(f) *Accountability of Elected Officials*

(i) The Officer manifestos (as per Rule 35(b)) of each elected Officer must be displayed on a notice board on the ground floor in the corridor of the Society's rooms for the duration of their actual term of office (for the position of Treasurer-Elect, Librarian-Elect, and President-Elect, their manifestos shall not be displayed until they succeed to the position of Treasurer, Librarian, and President respectively).

(ii) Photographs of elected candidates (meeting the same requirements and regulations as for photographs of candidates for the main election) shall be placed on the notice board with their name & title (but not college) for the duration of their term of office. Each elected candidate shall be obliged to provide the photograph.

RULE 35: CONDUCT OF THE POLL

(a) *Order of the Ballot*

As soon as possible after the close of nominations, the Returning Officer, in the presence of at least two of his Deputies and any other members of the Society, shall draw lots to determine the order in which the names of the candidates for each office or committee shall appear on the ballot-paper. The name of each candidate shall appear

⁹⁰ Where there is doubt regarding the verification of these speeches, see Interpretations A1 and A9.

⁹¹ Speeches that do not count for qualification are listed under Interpretation A29.

⁹² For clarification, see Interpretation A4.

⁹³ The relevant Standing Order is D14.

as chosen by the candidate.⁹⁴ Where a candidate holds any position on the Table of Seniority, equal in status or senior to Ex-Elected Members of the Secretary's Committee, the most senior position he holds shall also be indicated. Should any candidate subsequently be declared ineligible, his name shall be removed from the order of ballot.

(b) Manifestos

(i) All candidates for Office shall be entitled to submit with their nomination form two manifestos, of the following word lengths:

	President	Other Office	Standing Committee	Secretary's Committee
Long	500 (max 3 pages)	350 (max 3 pages)	80 (max 1 page)	40 (max 1 page)
Short	140	80	40	20

(ii) The long manifesto will be displayed in the poll room on Election Day. Short manifestos will be included in the manifesto booklet (below).

(iii) No candidate may list on his manifesto:

- (1) Any specific speakers, by name or title, whom he intends to invite during his potential term of Office, nor any specific speakers, by name or title, whom he has invited or confirmed unless a written confirmation has been received which includes a confirmed date of attendance.
- (2) Any sponsorship or other monies raised for the Society, unless a contract or other form of written confirmation, has been received by the candidate (acting on behalf of the Society) from the claimed sponsor(s) or benefactor(s). All monetary values contained in manifestos shall exclude VAT.

(iv) All long manifestos shall be typed in 12-point Times or Times New Roman type, save for the heading, which may be in 14-point type. Boldface, italic type, bullet points and underlining shall be permitted in both long and short manifestos, but no other visual embellishments.

(v) *Manifesto Content*

- (1) Seventy per-cent and fifty per-cent of the total number of words in each short manifesto and long manifesto respectively for Office or the Standing Committee shall refer to the candidate's demonstrated experience within the Society and his capability regarding the office or Committee for which he stands.
- (2) Both long and short manifestos for candidates for the Secretary's Committee shall contain fifty per-cent demonstrated experience.
- (3) The remaining number of words in manifestos for Office and the Standing Committee may refer to the candidate's experience outside the Society providing that this does not refer specifically to any other society (University society or otherwise), political party, group or faction or anything else which may be contrary to Rule 33(a)(i)(3).
- (4) The Returning Officer shall ensure that all manifestos contain sufficient demonstration of experience and capability.

(vi) Short manifestos will be displayed on the notice board from 9.30am on Saturday of Sixth Week until 5pm. Long Manifestos will be displayed, alongside any photograph of the candidate concerned from 9.30am, Monday of Seventh Week until midday of Tuesday of Seventh Week.

(vii) If any Member considers any manifesto not to comply with the Rules or Standing Orders, he may bring this to the attention of the Returning Officer, who may arrange for it to be altered if he be satisfied that the complaint is justified. Objections must be given to the Returning Officer in writing by 5pm of Saturday Sixth Week for short manifestos and midday of Tuesday Seventh Week for long manifestos. Objections shall be made either as objections on the grounds that a claim is false or on the grounds that a claim is misleading⁹⁵, or that a claim is both. The Returning Officer when arranging alterations should pay special attention to the glossary of terms for the manifesto booklet and ensure that manifestos comply with it both in letter and as far as possible in spirit.

(viii) The Returning Officer shall keep a copy of all objections made. He shall rule on objections made to allegedly false claims as per the above clause, and shall try to amend claims objected to on the grounds that they mislead, appropriately. He shall post his final amended versions of the short manifestos for a period of four hours at some stage after he has amended them. All candidates must be notified by means of telephone or answer phone message at least two hours before the period begins. Candidates⁹⁶ may then re-register objections to manifesto claims they still believe to be misleading⁹⁷ by 5pm on Tuesday of Seventh Week, and before polls open all candidates to whom objections still stand must produce a written statement in response to each objection to explain explicitly why they believe the claim not to be misleading. The Returning Officer shall

⁹⁴ Within the limitations described in Interpretation A16.

⁹⁵ No candidate may use the term 'Vice-President' to refer to the Office of Librarian: see Interpretation A15.

⁹⁶ And only candidates: see Interpretation A31.

⁹⁷ Or false: see Interpretation A31.

ensure all objections and attached statements are collated and shall post notice in the poll room stating that the Returning Officer has received objections for those particular manifestos and such objections are available for viewing by any member on request, as well as to a Tribunal should one be called.

(ix) The manifestos of all Junior Officers shall be displayed on the Notice board and the Society's website during their term of Office.

(x) The Returning Officer shall publish and distribute a mailing to resident Life Members containing short manifestos of the candidates, any status they might hold in the table of precedence (SO D11), and details of the elections. This manifesto booklet shall also publicize the Poll, the Presidential Debate and the Officer Hustings. The Returning Officer shall distribute the manifesto booklets at least to resident Life Members. The Returning Officer shall have no obligation to provide Members with more than one copy, nor to deliver the booklet to non-Life Members or to Life Members not on University pigeon-post; however, he may make copies of the booklet available in the Society's General Office to any Member who is not eligible to receive a copy by pigeon-post. No person may photocopy or reproduce or store the contents of the booklet in any form (including electronically) without the Returning Officer's express permission. The booklet shall contain a copyright notice, forbidding any unauthorised reproduction or copying.

(xi) The Returning Officer shall not be held liable for any failures of the pigeon-post system, nor shall any non-malicious failings of the pigeon-post system be deemed as innocent interference.

(xii) No manifesto may suggest any joint or coordinated campaign between candidates.⁹⁸

(xiii) No manifesto shall make, either explicitly or implicitly, any false or misleading, libellous, racist, in camera or confidential, blasphemous, or unlawful statements, nor statements that (in the rational opinion of the Returning Officer) are liable or calculated to bring the Society into disrepute⁹⁹, nor shall they mention any other Member of the Society save the candidate by name or implication save those who have been guest speakers of the Society and are no longer studying for a degree of the University. The Returning Officer shall strike out from the manifesto text any comments which he deems to breach these guidelines.

(xiv) The Returning Officer shall not deem any comments under (xiii) above to be 'liable or calculated to bring the Society into disrepute' and strike them unless he is satisfied that the intent of the candidate is either frivolous or malicious. Candidates shall be allowed to express concerns about the activities or the running of the Society on the condition that they also outline the changes that they would implement were they to be elected.

(xv) As far as is practical, the Returning Officer shall provide a file of past manifestos, selected at his discretion, for members' consultation in the Old Library Reception. Any member may photocopy these manifestos at their own cost using the Library photocopier. No member shall take this file from the Old Library without the express permission of the Returning Officer.

(xvi) The Returning Officer shall draw the attention of Members to these requirements on the notice board by 9.30am on Friday of Fifth Week, and also on the nomination paper.

(xvii) Between midday and the time at which the Society's buildings close on Sunday of 7th Week of full term, the Returning Officer shall conduct interviews with every candidate for a Junior Officership, in order to verify claims made in their manifesto and discuss any alterations made thereto. These interviews must take place in accordance with the following:

(1) The interviews must be held in a room in the Society's buildings; no other member except the representative chosen by the candidate (the representative shall not be an electoral official) and members of staff, shall be permitted to enter the room in which the interviews are taking place, without the express permission of the Returning Officer.

(2) Candidates shall be informed on Saturday of 6th Week of any changes that the Returning Officer has made to their manifestos and of any claims contained therein for which he may require proof.

(3) These interviews shall be recorded on minidisk and the Returning Officer shall have the responsibility of safeguarding it.

(xviii) A small number of unmarked booklets shall be made available for consultation in the Polling Room on the day of the Poll; they shall not be removed from the Polling Room except with the permission of the Returning Officer; if they are defaced in any way they shall be replaced.

(xix) Should any member not have access to a computer, they may hand write their manifesto, which shall be later typed up by the Returning Officer.¹⁰⁰

⁹⁸ *This rule shall not prevent a person from claiming to be independent: see Interpretation A46.*

⁹⁹ *Including use of any slang or swear words of a sexual or scatological nature: see Interpretation A22.*

¹⁰⁰ *For limitations of prohibitions on computer use, see Interpretation A20.*

(xx) No candidate may mark, alter, tear, highlight or deface a manifesto booklet, nor shall he conspire to do so, or encourage others to do so. (Members who are not candidates may mark the booklet that they receive howsoever they wish, but candidates shall not encourage other members to do so, nor may any person (whether a Member or not) engage in any systematic or persistent campaign to mark the manifesto booklets of other persons). No person, unless authorised by the Returning Officer, may systematically distribute booklets, or parts of booklets, to other persons (whether Members or not).

(xx) The Returning Officer shall ensure that when laying out the manifesto booklet he includes:

(1) In the title bar for each Office and Committee, descriptions of the Office or Committee as below:
President: with overall responsibility for the Society and for arranging its debates
Librarian: with responsibility for the Library and for arranging individual speaker addresses
Treasurer: with responsibility for the raising of sponsorship and for buildings maintenance
Secretary: with responsibility for the term's social events and for minuting Standing Committee meetings
Standing Committee: members of the Society's governing body, to assist the Officers and plan social events
Secretary's Committee: to assist with running social events and distributing publicity

(2) On the front page, a prominent direction to a glossary of terms in the manifesto booklet alerting members to the fact that the glossary may help the judge "the relative merits of manifestos" (a phrase which should be included).

(3) Somewhere in the manifesto, typeset at a minimum size of 10-point Times New Roman or Arial, a glossary of terms in the manifesto booklet as follows:

"The Returning Officer has ensured to the best of his ability that all claims made in manifestos are true; he advises, however, that Members acquaint themselves with the commonly used terms below in order that they are not misled. The list begins with five standardised terms for the most substantial claims and ends with seven for the least substantial. Members may wish to consider other similar words used as holding the same meanings and draw inferences from the fact that a candidate has been unable to make the most substantial kinds of claims:

Stronger claims:

Raised – the candidate must have produced a contract on which they have been the primary signatory, to claim to have raised a sum of money.

Brought – the candidate must have produced an acceptance email or letter addressed to them, to claim brought the Society a speaker.

Confirmed – the candidate must have produced written evidence either that a contract is being drawn up for a confirmed sum of money or that a speaker has accepted an invitation and provided a date.

Organised/run – the candidate must have produced substantial evidence, such as contracts, correspondence and testimony, that they were in control of an event, its inception and its development.

Responsible for – the above, or the candidate must have proven primary responsibility for the content of a claim.

Weaker Claims:

Assisted/helped – to raise/bring etc. The Returning Officer deems there to be sufficient proof that a candidate has contributed substantively, but insufficient to prove that they have had primary responsibility.

Likewise such terms as: facilitated, coordinated, supervised, oversaw [and any others inserted by the Returning Officer before nominations open].

Invited/contacted – proof has been provided.

Weaker claims will be used often in manifestos even by good candidates: usually only candidates for Office will be able regularly to make "stronger claims". The distinction is nonetheless worth making."

(xxi) No candidate may use the word "deputised" or any cognate thereof in any manifesto, hustings speech or other publicity connected with the election in reference to any Officer of the Society.

(xxii) All candidates must take into account the contents and spirit of Rule 35 when writing manifestos. It shall be an offence to deliberately make either a false or misleading statement in a manifesto. In order to consider what might constitute misleading statements, candidates are expected to have acquainted themselves with the relevant paragraphs of the Hilary Term 2005 Tribunal Report and be held accountable for their claims with this in mind. The Returning Officer shall ensure that the relevant paragraphs are available to all candidates.

(c) *Hustings*

(i) All candidates for office shall be entitled to make a hustings speech which shall not exceed three minutes, save in the case of candidates for the office of President-Elect, where it shall not exceed five minutes.

(ii) Hustings shall be held immediately prior to the Presidential Debate, unless there be no Presidential Debate, in which case hustings shall take place on the evening prior to the poll. Hustings shall be chaired by the Returning Officer, with the most senior Deputy Returning Officer acting as Secretary, ensuring that a tape-recording is made of all speeches and that this tape-recording is securely stored. The time at which Hustings shall take place shall be determined by the President, who shall give at least two days notice of it.

(iii) The President shall give the candidates for President the opportunity to make paper speeches during one of the Public Business Meetings between the close of nominations and the opening of the Poll; this debate shall be termed the 'Presidential Debate'.

(iv) *Questions to Candidates*

(1) Following the hustings speeches of the candidates for each Office, questions may be asked of the candidates' for that Office position.

(2) The Returning Officer shall decide how much time is allocated to questions for the various Officer positions, and how long candidates' answers to questions may be, before the hustings commence. The order in which candidates answer shall be rotated with each question.

(3) Candidates may take points of information at their discretion during their answers. Questions must be addressed to all the candidates of that Office. Questions and points of information must directly relate to the candidates' experience, capability or views concerning the administration of the Society. This subsection shall be brought to the attention of members at the start of hustings.

(4) The Returning Officer shall rule questions out of order if they suspect it may break these guidelines, and may fine any member up to £25 who engages in disorderly or disruptive behaviour during hustings.

(d) The Returning Officer shall be responsible for adequate publicity for the Poll in accordance with the Standing Orders¹⁰¹.

(e) *Photographs*

(i) Each candidate shall be entitled to submit one current, non-frivolous, full-facial photograph of himself, which is in black and white, has a plain background and is between 3cm x 4cm and 4.5cm x 5.5cm in size, to the Returning Officer for display on a board set aside for that purpose in the Poll Room during the Poll and for use on the manifestos booklets.

(ii) The candidate's photograph shall be submitted at the time of the candidate's nomination. No candidate shall be obliged to submit a photograph.

(iii) If the Returning Officer believes a submitted photograph does not conform to the above provisions, he shall inform the candidate at the close of nominations, and allow the candidate to provide a suitable photograph by no later than 10.30am of Saturday Sixth Week; candidates not providing a suitable photograph by this time shall not have a photograph displayed.

(iv) Candidates may, by the Monday of Fifth Week, enquire of the Returning Officer as to whether the Society holds an electronic copy of the candidate's photograph. If the Society holds such a copy, it may count for the purposes of the manifesto booklet, though the candidate must still provide a hard copy (if necessary of a different legitimate photograph) if they wish for a photo to be displayed in the Poll Room.

(f) *Order in the Poll Room*

(i) The ballot shall be secret. Any member infringing the secrecy of the ballot shall be liable to a fine of not more than £30, to be inflicted by the Returning Officer or any of his deputies.

(ii) The Returning Officer shall be responsible for preserving good order in the room in which the Poll is being held. Any member who continues to loiter in the poll room after he has cast his ballot shall be fined not more than £50 by the Returning Officer or any of his Deputies.

(iii) Nothing in (i) and (ii) above shall be held to prevent any Member from informing others of the way he has voted after he has left the Poll Room.

(g) *Procedure for voting*

(i) The Returning Officer shall appoint suitable persons to act as Poll-Clerks. Any Member of the Society may vote in the Poll by submitting, in person, his name and college, together with some form of identification bearing his signature or photograph, to one of the Poll-Clerks. The Poll-Clerk shall check that the person's name is recorded in the list of the Members of the Society provided for the purpose and that he has not already voted in the Poll, and if satisfied as to his identity, shall require him to sign a numbered list of those voting and shall

¹⁰¹ Specifically, *Standing Order D4*.

then deliver a ballot paper to him. The poll-clerk shall write the number by the voter's signature next to his name on the list of Members. The voter shall complete the ballot paper in accordance with Standing Order D7, and deposit it in one of the ballot boxes.

(ii) A voter may only be issued with another ballot paper if he inadvertently spoils his ballot paper. In this case, he shall return it to the Poll-Clerk who shall issue him with another, and shall deposit the spoiled paper separately in a box provided for the purpose.

(h) *System of Voting*

The Single Transferable Vote is to be used in all Elections of Officers and Committees of the Society, according to a system to be prescribed by Standing Order. If in any Election two or more candidates, one of whom must be excluded, have received an equal number of votes, he shall be excluded whose vote was lowest at the earliest distribution to show a difference. Should this criterion fail, the most junior of them under Standing Order D11 shall be excluded; should this too fail, the Returning Officer shall draw lots to determine who shall be excluded.

(i) *The Count*

(i) The Returning Officer shall be responsible for the counting of the votes, which shall be done as soon as is practicable and in accordance with Standing Orders, Chapter D¹⁰². The Returning Officer, the Deputy Returning Officers, the President and the Returning Officers' Assistants shall have the right to be present throughout the count for the Society's elections. No other person shall have this right, save any candidates' representatives appointed under (ii) below.

(ii) Any candidate in the Society's elections shall be entitled to send a member to represent him at the counting of the votes. No person shall act as a representative for more than one candidate. No person currently a candidate, or member of the Short List for membership of the Election Tribunal under Rule 32(h), or the President, or the Returning Officer, or any of his Deputies or Assistants, or any person convicted of Electoral Malpractice, shall be the representative of any candidate.

(iii) For the duration of the count, the Returning Officer and all of his Deputies shall be empowered to inflict fines of up to £25 on any other person present at the count if such a person is acting in breach of Standing Order D5 or is otherwise disrupting the count.

(iv) In the case of a genuine emergency (such as the fire alarm sounding), the Returning Officer shall have the right to suspend the Count and evacuate the Counting Room. As far as is practical and safe, the ballot papers shall be stored in a secured ballot box, and guarded by at least three Deputy Returning Officers, until the Count can resume. If Any person breaking the secrecy of the Count during its suspension under this subsection may be fined up to £200 by the Returning Officer for each offence, subject to a maximum of £1000 per person; this shall not prejudice any further action by the Returning Officer or any other Member under Rule 33.

(v) In the case of a suspension of the count under Rule 35(i)(iv), the Returning Officer, if he believes that it will not be possible to recommence until 9 hours after the beginning of the count, may adjourn the count to a time stated at the time of adjournment. In the case of such an adjournment the Returning Officer shall, and shall only, announce such results as have been definitely decided at the time of adjournment. If there be an adjournment under this section, the ballot papers shall, when the count is adjourned, be sealed up as prescribed in Standing Order D5(g).

(v) The Returning Officer shall announce the results of the Poll in the Bar, immediately after the count has been completed, and shall then post the results on the Notice board.

(j) *Publishing information on the Internet*

(i) The Returning Officer shall publish the following on the Union's web site:

- (1) A list of validated candidates within 24 hours of the validation of the candidates after the close of poll. This list shall remain at least until the announcement of the results for that election.
- (2) A list of elected candidates within 12 hours of the announcement of the election results in the Society's bar. This list shall remain at least until the next election.
- (3) The manifestos of the Officers as per Rule 35. These shall remain at least until the announcement of the results; the losing candidates' manifestos shall be removed; the elected candidates' manifestos shall remain until the end of their term of office.
- (4) A brief summary of the instances of electoral malpractice.
- (5) A brief summary of how members may nominate and run for election.

(ii) The Returning Officer shall mention the Union's web site address, and briefly the electoral information available on it, both on any election poster and in the manifesto mailing.

¹⁰² Specifically, *Standing Orders D5, D6 and D7*.

(k) *Committee Induction*

There shall be a training and induction day during full-term for Standing Committee and Secretary's Committee after they are elected. The induction shall be supervised by the President-Elect. Attendance shall be compulsory, on pain of a £20 fine, unless an individual has an acceptable reason as per SO B4 (with Standing Committee as the adjudicating body). The Returning Officer shall inform all candidates on their nomination form of the day that the induction day would take place if they were elected.

RULE 36: ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

- (a) *Principle:* The Chairman of the Consultative Committee shall be elected by both the Consultative Committee and the Standing Committee in two separate secret ballots according to the mechanism given in Standing Order D10.
- (b) *Returning Officer:* The election shall be conducted by the Returning Officer, unless she has herself nominated to run in that election. In this case, the election will be conducted by the most senior Deputy Returning Officer who has not nominated for Chairman of Consultative Committee.
- (c) *Nominations:* The President shall post a notice on the Notice Board inviting nominations by the Saturday of Sixth Week and shall draw attention to this notice at the next Public Business Meeting. Nominations may be received by the Returning Officer from the posting of this notice until 48 hours after the Close of Poll for the Election of Officers and Committees held in that term. As soon as possible after the close of nominations, the Returning Officer shall post a notice declaring the nominations he has received.¹⁰³

(d) *Eligibility to stand and to vote:*

- (i) Any member¹⁰⁴, who has attended four of the last eight meetings of the Consultative Committee may stand for election to the post of Chairman of Consultative Committee. The provisions of this clause shall not prevent the Chairman of the Consultative Committee standing for re-election in a term in which he holds office.
- (ii) Members of the Standing Committee with voting rights shall be eligible to vote in the Standing Committee ballot.
- (iii) Members who have attended four of the last eight meetings of the Consultative Committee, other than members of the Standing Committee with voting rights, shall be eligible to vote in the Consultative Committee ballot.
- (iv) For the purposes of this Rule, attendance at a meeting of Consultative Committee may be demonstrated by in the following ways only:
- (1) by having signed the official list of those present at the meeting kept by the Secretary of the Committee, to which the Chairman shall draw attention during the course of each meeting; or
 - (2) by being mentioned in the approved public minutes of the meeting.

The Returning Officer shall place a list of those members he considers to be eligible to vote in the Consultative Committee ballot on the notice board by Thursday of Seventh Week.

(e) *Conduct of the Ballots*

Both ballots shall take place at the Ordinary Meetings of the respective Committees in Eighth Week. Each Committee shall determine whether it wish the candidates to hust. If so, each candidate shall be entitled to make a hustings speech of no more than three minutes. The count shall take place after the later of the two ballots, and the Returning Officer shall post the result on the Notice-board as soon as may be after the completion of the count.

(f) In the event of the death or resignation of the Chairman of Consultative Committee, the President shall post a notice inviting nominations as soon as possible and the closing date shall be decided by Standing Committee, but at least seven days of Full Term after the posting. The Librarian-Elect (and in his absence, the Treasurer-Elect) shall take over the duties of the Chairman of Consultative Committee until such time as a new election can take place, which may be no longer than two weeks (in full term) of the position falling vacant. If the CCC be absent the Librarian-Elect shall take over his duties until his return, if the Librarian-Elect be absent also then the Treasurer-Elect shall take over his duties, if the Treasurer-Elect be absent also then immediate juniors of the Treasurer-Elect shall take over the duties of the CCC.

(g) If the Chairman of the Consultative Committee should become, in the opinion of a majority of the Consultative Committee (with the exception of members of the Standing Committee) and two-thirds of the Standing Committee, unwilling or unable to perform his duties under the Rules, he shall cease to be the Chairman of the Consultative Committee. In this event the procedures under (f) above shall be followed for the election of the new CCC.

¹⁰³ Candidates may withdraw prior to the commencement of the ballot: see Interpretation A24.

¹⁰⁴ Any member, not just life members: see Interpretation A28.

RULE 37: SENIOR OFFICERS AND SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE

(a) Senior Officers

(i) At the sixth Public Business Meeting in the Trinity Term 1982 and of every third year thereafter the Standing Committee shall nominate, by way of Private Business Motion, two Members, one to be Senior Librarian and the other to be Senior Treasurer; in the event of the rejection of either or both, the Standing Committee shall, as soon as maybe, submit further names.

(ii) Such motion shall include their appointment as Trustee, as per Rule 12.

(iii) If a Senior Officer die or resign, the Standing Committee shall appoint his successor for the remainder of his term of office. A Senior Officer wishing to resign shall give notice in writing to the President which shall take effect from the moment that it is accepted by the Standing Committee.

(b) Eligibility

All Members nominated under this Rule shall be members of any Convocation. They shall not be bound by the requirements for eligibility for candidates in the Election of Junior Officers and Committees laid down in Rule 34.

(c) No Senior Officer may be the Hon. Secretary, the Hon. Treasurer or a Trustee of OLDUT during their term of office.

(d) Advertising Senior Vacancies

(i) Standing Committee shall invite applications for Senior Officer and OUS Trustee appointments. The Returning Officer shall ensure that the position is advertised on the notice board at least two weeks in advance of the consideration by Standing Committee; the post, the membership and residency requirements for holding the position, the duties and the procedure for applying shall be detailed. In addition, the post shall also be advertised on the Society's website for a period of not less than 2 weeks.

(ii) A meeting of Standing Committee shall openly consider all applications that are received; it shall only consider written applications made by the applicants to fill any position. Standing Committee may request that the candidates attend a meeting of that Committee prior to the selection. Standing Committee's nominated candidates shall be selected by secret ballot, using a system of transferable voting if there are more than two applications.

(iii) Applicants must have been members of the Union for at least two years unless Standing Committee votes by a three-quarters majority to waive this requirement.

RULE 38: VACANCIES

(a) Resignation

(i) Any member of any Committee wishing to resign from that committee shall do so by writing to the Chairman of that Committee¹⁰⁵, except as provided for below.

(ii) Resignations from Office or from the Standing Committee must be sent simultaneously by email to the President and to any person next in line to succeed.

(iii) Resignations from the Secretary's Committee must be sent simultaneously by email to the Secretary, to the Chairman of Consultative Committee and to any person next in line to succeed.

(b) In case of a vacancy arising:

(i) a Senior Officer or Senior Member of the Library Committee shall be succeeded as under Rule 37;

(ii) the Chairman of the Consultative Committee shall be succeeded as under Rule 36;

(iii) an Ex-Officer shall not be succeeded on the Standing Committee;

(iv) a Junior Officer or Elected Member (except the most junior) of the Standing or Secretary's Committee shall be succeeded by his immediate junior, except as under (v) and (vi) below; this provision shall apply progressively to all vacancies thereunder created, the most junior elected member being succeeded under subsection (vii);

(v) In the event of a vacancy arising in the office of President:

(1) The President-elect shall become Acting President and shall exercise all the powers and fulfil all the

¹⁰⁵ *This resignation cannot be withdrawn: see Interpretation A10.*

duties of the President, and he shall continue to hold the office of President-elect, for the remainder of the term.

(2) If the President-elect is unwilling or unable to serve as Acting President, he shall offer the position to voting members of Standing Committee, in order of precedence but excluding ex-Presidents, until one of them consents to serve. The President-Elect shall in the interim continue to serve as Acting President.

(vi) The President-Elect shall be succeeded by the Librarian, the Librarian-Elect shall be succeeded by the Treasurer and the Treasurer-Elect shall be succeeded by the Secretary, unless the vacancy in the Office of President-Elect, Librarian-Elect or Treasurer-Elect occurs after the opening of nominations for Office or Committee for the following term, in which case the vacancy shall not be filled under this Rule, but shall instead be left vacant and filled in accordance with the provisions of Rules 13(b)(ii), (iii) and (iv) respectfully.

(vii) The most junior member of the Standing or the Secretary's Committee shall be succeeded by the member that at the previous election for that Committee received most votes without being elected at the latest round of the election in which at least one such candidate participated, or, if there were no other candidates for that election, by whomsoever the Committee in question shall think fit.

(viii) If the succession to any Office is delayed under the provisions of Rule 33(d)(x) beyond the start of the vacation following the Election and a vacancy occur in that Office by death or resignation, the provisions of (b)(iv) above shall not apply, and the Office shall remain vacant until the completion of the election proceedings and entry to office of the duly elected Officer, the duties of the Office in the mean time, though not the Office itself, devolving upon the elected members of Standing Committee in order of seniority so that no one elected member of Standing Committee carries out the duties of more than one Office.

(ix) If a vacancy occurs in any Office or on the Standing or the Secretary's Committee after the opening of nominations, the provisions of Rule 38(b)(iv) shall not apply, and the post shall remain vacant until filled by those elected in the main election. The powers and duties of the vacant post, but not the post itself, shall in the mean time devolve upon the individual who would have succeeded to the post had the vacancy arisen before the close of nominations, unless the vacancy is in the Office of Librarian, in which case the powers and duties of the post shall devolve on the Librarian-Elect, or the vacancy is in the Office of Treasurer, in which case the powers and duties of the post shall devolve on the Treasurer-Elect.

(x) Whenever a person holds the powers and duties of a post under this Rule 38(b), but not the post itself, he shall be able to foreswear them, whereupon they shall devolve upon the individual who would be next in line to succeed were the post vacated. Such foreswearing must be sent simultaneously by email to the President and to the person on whom the powers and duties will devolve.

(c) Succession to Office of Librarian in a Special Case

If the Office of Librarian be vacant because the incoming Librarian has succeeded to the Office of President as a result of the operation of Rule 13(b)(ii), it shall be filled as if the incoming Librarian had died. If the Office of Treasurer be vacant because the incoming Treasurer has succeeded to the Office of Librarian as a result of the operation of Rule 13(b)(iii), it shall be filled as if the incoming Treasurer had died. If the Office of Secretary be vacant because the incoming Secretary has succeeded to the Office of Treasurer through the operation of Rule 13(b)(iv), it shall be filled as though the incoming Secretary had died.

(d) Co-option

If there are fewer candidates for any elected Committee than places to be filled, the vacant places shall be filled as the Chairman of the Committee in question, with the Standing Committee's approval, shall think fit. The Chairman must call an emergency meeting of the Committee within twenty-four hours of being informed that this situation has arisen, and must have discovered at least one member willing to be co-opted before said Emergency Meeting occurs. No person may be co-opted without having given prior written consent.

(e) Status

All successors under this Rule shall count for all purposes as elected members under Rule 34, except as provided in (c)(x) of that Rule.

(f) Officers-designate

Should an Officer-designate or a Member-designate of the Standing or Secretary's Committee die or resign then his death or resignation shall be deemed, for the purposes of this Rule only, to have taken place immediately after his succession to Office. The Member who holds the Office of President-Elect is not an Officer-designate under this Rule, nor is the Librarian-Elect or the Treasurer-Elect; however, the President-Elect-designate, who has yet to succeed to the Office of President-Elect, shall be an Officer-designate under this Rule, as shall the Librarian-Elect-designate and the Treasurer-Elect-designate.

(g) Seniority

All Seniority in this Rule shall be according to Standing Order D11 as if there were no mention therein of Trustees, Charitable Trustees, Senior Officers, President-Elect, Librarian-Elect, Treasurer-Elect, Ex-Officers, Ex-Trustees, Ex-Charitable Trustees, Ex-Senior Officers, Chairman of Consultative Committee Ex-Elected Members of Standing Committee, Ex-Chairmen of Consultative Committee, Senior Members of Library Committee, Ex-Senior Members of Library Committee and Ex-Elected Members of Secretary's Committee.

(h) *Simultaneous or Coincidental Vacancies*

(i) In the event that two or more posts become simultaneously vacant, or that it cannot be determined which became vacant first, the vacancy in the more junior office shall be deemed to occur first; a vacancy in the office of Treasurer-Elect shall be considered to occur after all other vacancies, a vacancy in the office of Librarian-Elect after all vacancies except one in the office of Treasurer-Elect, and a vacancy in the office of President-Elect after all other vacancies except one in the office of Librarian-Elect or Treasurer-Elect.

(ii) *Powers and Responsibilities*

(1) Assumption of the powers and duties of a vacant post under Rule 38(j) below shall not prejudice a person's eligibility to succeed to any other post. No person shall hold the powers and duties of more than one vacant post under this Rule.

(2) If a person is simultaneously eligible to succeed to multiple vacant posts, that person shall assume the powers and duties of the senior vacant post, and the powers and duties of each junior post shall devolve in order of seniority to those next in line to succeed.

(3) Coincidence of vacancies shall not prejudice the discretion of the person in line to succeed to accept or reject any of the posts in question. However, any of those assuming the powers and duties of junior posts under (2) above shall be entitled to waive their right to succeed to any post utilising the mechanism described under Rule 38(j) below, as though they were refusing succession.

(j) *Timing and Refusal of Succession*

(i) *Right:* If an Office or place on any Committee of the Society becomes vacant, the individual who is eligible to succeed by virtue of seniority may choose to pass-over his right of succession. That individual shall remain in any current post and retain his current status, and shall have none of the rights, status, privileges or duties of the vacant post. The right of succession shall pass the next most senior individual under the appropriate Rule, who shall have the option of succeeding to the post, as if they were originally in line for succession.

(ii) *Mechanism*

(1) Upon discovering a vacancy in an Office, or a place on the Secretary's or Standing Committee, the President shall within twenty-four hours inform by email the individual eligible to succeed and every person who could, in the event that senior individuals refuse succession to the post, become eligible to succeed to the post without being co-opted.

(2) Every recipient of this email shall be entitled to waive their right to succeed to any post to which, as a result of the vacancy in question arising, they could become eligible to succeed. Such waiving must be sent simultaneously by email to the President to every person who could become eligible to succeed as under (1) above. Such waiving may not be made conditional on any circumstance other than becoming eligible to succeed to the post, is of immediate effect and cannot be withdrawn.

(3) Such refusal must take place within 24 hours of the President's email being sent in Full Term, or within 72 hours during the Vacation. The vacancy shall then be filled by the most senior individual who has not waived his right to succeed to that post. Further vacancies resulting from such succession shall be filled successively by the most senior remaining individuals who have not waived their right to succession to the post in question, or have not already succeeded to a senior post.

(4) Refusal of succession to any one post will not affect any individual's right to succeed either to a senior or a junior post on this occasion, nor will it affect their right to succeed to any post on a future occasion,

(iii) *Interim Powers and Duties:* upon being informed of the relevant death, resignation or refusal of succession, the individual immediately in line to succeed shall assume the powers and duties of the vacant post (except as under (h) above), but not the post itself, which shall remain vacant until filled under (ii) above. No person who has waived their right to succeed to a post shall hold the powers and duties of that post.

(iv) If a resignation takes place in the course of a meeting of a committee at the end of which the person in line to succeed was present, this person shall be deemed to have been informed at the time of resignation. Otherwise, a person in line to succeed shall be deemed to have been informed of a death, resignation or refusal of succession at such time as that person's immediate senior, or the President, has successfully sent that person an email to this effect.

(k) Any person who succeeds to a post under this Rule shall vacate any junior Office or any junior place on the Rules of the Oxford Union Society, Michaelmas Term 2011. Updated 1st December 2011.

Yotam Levy, *St Cross College*, Returning Officer.

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Standing or Secretary's Committee.

CHAPTER SIX: MEETINGS AND MOTIONS

RULE 39: MEETINGS – GENERAL

(a) *The Chair*

- (i) At all Business Meetings of the Society the President shall take the Chair unless:
- (1) his decision is being challenged as under Rule 67(e) or a Motion standing in his name is under discussion, in which case the Chair shall be taken by an ex-President of less than twenty-one term's standing, or failing that any ex-Officer, or
 - (2) he ask the Returning Officer to take the Chair for a set period of time, or
 - (3) he be absent from the Chamber, or speaking in debate, in which case the Chair shall, except as under (i)(1) or (2) above, be taken by any Junior Officer, excluding the Secretary, or, in their absence, by any elected member of the Standing Committee; in the absence of the above, the Chair shall be taken by other Members of the Society in order of Seniority¹⁰⁶. Any occupant of the Chair other than the President shall be known as the Chairman.
- (ii) The Chair shall have no power to put the questions at its own discretion.
- (iii) The Chair shall have no deliberative, but only a casting, vote.
- (iv) The Chair shall have the power to adjourn the House without debate or notice for a token period if it receives news of the death of any Ex-Officer or distinguished public figure.
- (v) In the advent of a genuine emergency, the Chair may adjourn any meeting until the emergency has passed.

(b) *General Rules of Order*

- (i) No expressions of a personal or offensive nature may be used at any meeting of the Society. The Chair may call on any Member to explain any expression he has used; such explanation shall be received without question as to the speaker's intention, but if unsatisfied the Chair may call on the Member concerned to withdraw and/or apologize, and the Member concerned shall immediately and without question submit to the authority of the Chair.
- (ii) No Member while present at any Public Business Meeting, Private Business at Public Business, or Speaker Meeting shall smoke, eat, or bring intoxicating liquor into the place where the meeting is being held. Disorderly conduct shall likewise be forbidden.
- (iii) Members shall observe the Forms of Debate. It shall be incumbent on the Chair to discourage Members from reading their speeches in Public Business, save in the case of maiden speakers.

(c) *Strangers*

- (i) *Floor of House*: Except as under subsections (ii) and (iii) below, Rule 52 and Rule 53(a), no-one not a Member of the Society shall sit on the floor of the House, nor take part in debate, unless specifically invited by the President. Non-Members may not speak or vote in Private Business, save that they may speak if specifically invited by the President.
- (ii) *Freshers*: Freshers may attend and sit on the floor of the House during any debate which takes place on or before the Saturday of the Second Week of the Full Term in which they matriculate.
- (iii) *Press Bench*: Any correspondent of any journal may, unless the Standing Committee shall otherwise determine, sit on the Press Bench if he hold a Press Ticket supplied by the President.
- (iv) *Removal*: The Chair may at any time order all or any strangers to withdraw, whether they are on the floor or in the gallery, if it deems this necessary for the preservation of order.

(d) *Order of Business*

At all Meetings of the Society the order of Private Business shall be:

- (1) the Report of an Election Tribunal or Appellate Board, as appropriate;
- (2) appeals under Rule 67(e)(iv);
- (3) Minutes, including those of the previous Public Business Meeting;
- (4) Presidential Announcements;
- (5) the Librarian's Report;
- (6) the Treasurer's Report;
- (7) any other official announcements;

¹⁰⁶ *As laid out in Standing Order D11.*

- (8) Private Business Motions;
- (9) Adjournment Motions;
- (10) Questions to Officers.

(e) *Questions to Officers*

(i) Subject to the provisions of Rule 40(d)(ii), questions may be put to any member of any Committee of the Society (excluding Consultative Committee). If a Member so questioned is not present, he shall be informed of the question by the Secretary as soon as is practicable and in any case within 24 hours of the question being put, and shall provide a written reply to be posted on the notice board within 72 hours of the question being put. Such a written reply shall remain on the notice board until the next Public Business Meeting, or, if the question has been put at the final Public Business Meeting of a Term, for fourteen days from the time of posting.

(ii) Questions placed on the notice board before noon of the day of a Meeting shall have precedence of other questions.

(iii) No question may be asked about the circumstances, action, or Report, of an Election Tribunal or an Appellate Board, nor the Returning Officer's action under Rule 33, nor the actions of a Junior or Senior Disciplinary Committee, the Intermediate Disciplinary Committee or the Disciplinary Appeals Committee under Rule 71.

RULE 40: PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETINGS

(a) *Day and Time*

Each Term, between 0th Week and 8th Week, there shall be at least seven meetings for Public Business, at least one of which must be between the close of nominations and the opening of Poll for the Society's main elections. The President must give at least three days notice on the notice board of a meeting or variation of time of a meeting. For the purposes of Rule 34, a speech made by a member in a 0th Week Public Business Meeting shall count as a speech made during term.¹⁰⁷

(b) *Full Evening Dress*

At all Public Business Meetings due to begin at or after 7pm Junior Officers except the President-Elect, the Librarian-Elect, and the Treasurer-Elect shall wear full evening dress¹⁰⁸.

(c) *Strangers - Gallery Tickets*

A Member may introduce any guest to a Public Business Meeting as determined by Rule 52, but no individual eligible to join the Society under Rule 3(A) or Rule 3(C) shall be so introduced without the President's permission.

(d) *Private Business*

(i) *Precedence and Postponement:* Private Business shall take precedence of the public debate. But when Private Business is under discussion any Member may move "That those parts of private business that may be postponed be postponed". Unless the Chair deems that the motion for postponement is an abuse of the forms of the House, it shall put the Question forthwith, to be decided without amendment or debate. However, the Chair shall have the power to accept and pass such a motion without vote, or he may put the motion to the House for it to vote upon. If such a motion be defeated, it shall not be repeated within twenty minutes. If the motion be passed, Private Business, except for Adjournment Motions (excluding Special Adjournment Motions), motions approving expenditure in excess of £10,000, thanks to the Sponsors of the week's meeting, if any, by or on behalf of the Treasurer, exceptional announcements by or on behalf of the President, at their discretion, and questions to Officers of which notice has been given shall be postponed until after the conclusion of Public Business, when the mover of any Motion or the Member asking any question previously under discussion shall resume the floor.

(ii) *Questions to Officers - Time Limited:* At a Public Business Meeting questions to Officers of which notice has not been given shall not occupy more than fifteen minutes.

RULE 41: PRIVATE BUSINESS MEETINGS

(a) *Time When*

There shall be an Ordinary Private Business Meeting¹⁰⁹ in each term, not later than Thursday of Sixth Week. In

¹⁰⁷ For dinners and receptions after Public Business Meetings, see Standing Orders C1 and C2 respectively.

¹⁰⁸ Defined under Interpretation B6.

¹⁰⁹ Whereat members of Standing Committee and appointed officials deliver reports according to Standing Order D1.

addition the President shall call a Special Private Business Meeting at any time if he so desire or be required to by these Rules, or if he be so directed by the Standing Committee, or if he receive a request signed by 75 Members, in which case it shall be called to meet at least eight, but not more than fourteen, days from his receiving the said request.

(b) *Notice*

(i) Notice shall be given on the notice-board of the Ordinary Private Business Meeting ten days and a Special Private Business Meeting five days before it is held, and also at the last Public Business Meeting before it.

(ii) If the House have been adjourned to another day under section (d) below, notice of the adjourned meeting shall be placed on the notice board, and no further notice shall be necessary.

(c) *Order of Business*

(i) *Notice of Motions*: At the beginning of the Meeting the Chair shall give notice of all motions to be brought forward.

(ii) *Precedence of Motions*: Motions recommended by any Committee of the Society shall have precedence of other motions.

(d) *Time Limit*

Two and a half hours after the commencement of a Private Business Meeting, and at half-hourly intervals thereafter, the Chair shall put the Motion that the Meeting be adjourned to a specified day. Any Member may move an Amendment to change the day proposed. If the Motion be carried, the House shall adjourn; if it be lost, the meeting shall continue.

RULE 42: EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS

(a) *Purpose*

The President may call an Extraordinary Meeting:

- (1) prior to a Public Business Meeting for the purpose of an Emergency Debate;
- (2) for the purpose of holding a debate that shall not be a Public Business Meeting;
- (3) either the President or the Librarian (with the permission of the President) may hold an informal 'Speaker Meeting', to hear an address by a distinguished visitor. No Public or Private Business, nor motion of any sort, nor any formal questions to Officers shall be allowed at such a meeting.
- (4) for the purpose of holding a Parliamentary Debate.

(b) *Notice*: Not less than two days' notice of such a Meeting under (1) or (2) shall be given.

(c) *Private Business*: At any Extraordinary Meeting no Private Business shall be allowed except official notices.

RULE 43: MOTIONS - GENERAL

(a) *Moving*: Every member shall in person, or by proxy, bring forward any Motion, Amendment or Rider of which he has given notice, and shall resume any debate which has been adjourned while he was in possession of the House.

(b) *Lack of Opposition*: If no opposition be made to a Motion it shall be considered carried. Formal opposition shall not be recognized as opposition, except where it be solely to allow an Amendment to be moved.

(c) *Notice*: All notice of Motions, Amendments, and Riders shall be given on the notice board.

(d) *Withdrawal*

(i) A Member may withdraw any motion of which he has given notice before it is due to be brought forward.

(ii) Once a motion has been brought forward it may be withdrawn only by leave of the House.

(e) *Procedural Motions*

(i) Any member may move: "That the question be now put", or "That the question be not put". Any such Procedural Motion may be refused by the Chair if it considers it an abuse of the forms of the House, otherwise it shall be put immediately without amendment or debate.

(ii) If a Procedural Motion be passed it shall be implemented at once; save that if the motion that the question be now put be passed with regard to a Public Business Motion, the Chair shall call upon the Tellers to sum up the debate; if it be rejected, the debate shall continue.

(iii) Other Procedural Motions shall be:

- (1) 'That those parts of Private Business which may be postponed be postponed' as under Rule 40(d)(i);
- (2) 'That the Meeting be adjourned to (a specific day)' as in Rule 41(d);¹¹⁰
- (3) 'That the House be counted' as in Rules 46(e) and 47(e);
- (4) 'That the Motion shall be moved before the Public Business Meeting on (a specific day)' as in Rule 47(a)(i)(2);
- (5) 'That the Motion be taken in parts' as under Rule 47(c);
- (6) 'That I demand a Poll' as under Rule 47(f)(i);
- (7) 'That the Ruling be reversed' as in Rule 67(e)(iii).

(f) *Divisions*

(i) *Tellers*: When the House proceeds to a Division, the Chair¹¹¹ shall appoint two or more Members to tell the numbers. In taking the numbers no Member not so appointed shall interfere.

(ii) *Double voting*: The Chair, the Returning Officer, or the President shall have powers to fine any Member voting more than once on a Motion the sum of £3.

(g) *Repetition and Rescission*

No Motion except Procedural Motions that has been voted upon shall be brought forward again in the same or any other form, nor shall any Motion that has been passed be rescinded in the same term, save that an Adjournment Motion may be repeated as a Public or Private Business Motion. A Motion that has been withdrawn shall not be deemed to have been voted upon.

(h) *Results*: Every motion shall be deemed carried if passed by simple majority.

RULE 44: AMENDMENTS AND RIDERS

(a) *Notice*: No Amendment or Rider shall be moved unless at least twenty-four hours' notice thereof has been given on the Society's notice board.

(b) *Alteration or withdrawal*: No Member may alter or withdraw an Amendment or Rider after notice has been given save by leave of the House.

(c) *Amendment or Rider*. The chair shall:

- (i) decide what is an Amendment, what a Rider;
- (ii) forbid the bringing forward of any Amendment or Rider it considers an abuse of the forms of the House.

(d) *Moving*

(i) The mover of the Substantive Motion may accept an Amendment, subject to (a) and (b) above in which case the Amendment shall be incorporated in the Motion.

(ii) Amendments not accepted under (i) above shall be moved immediately after the second speech on the Substantive Motion.

(iii) No Rider shall be moved unless the Substantive Motion has been passed.

(iv) No Amendment or Rider shall be moved if the Quorum for Public Business is not achieved at the time it is due to be moved.

(e) When an Amendment or Rider is moved, neither its proposer nor its opposer shall speak for more than five minutes, nor any other speaker to it for more than three.

(f) Before any Motion is moved the Chair shall announce to the House the terms of any Amendment or Rider proposed thereto.

RULE 45: ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS

(a) *Moving*: A Member may move the adjournment of the House for a token period.

(b) *Grounds*: Any Adjournment Motion must specify the grounds of its moving: these shall not include the circumstances, action or Report, of an Election Tribunal nor the Returning Officer's action under Rule 33.

¹¹⁰ To be used with exclusive reference to Rule 41(d): see Interpretation B3.

¹¹¹ Or the Chair of Consultative Committee. Tellers have the right to dine under Standing Order C1.

(c) *Notice*: No Adjournment Motion may be moved of which notice has not been given by noon on the day of the meeting save that in very exceptional circumstances this provision may be waived at the President's discretion, provided that notice of the Motion has been given him.

(d) *Precedence*: An Adjournment Motion shall be moved only during Private Business as under Rule 39(d).

(e) *Discussion*: When the adjournment of the House is moved, the Chair shall call on those Members who wish to see it discussed to rise in their places. The motion shall not be discussed or put unless fifty Members or half those present, whichever is the less be upstanding. If, however, fifty Members or half those present whichever is the less do rise, the Chair shall ask whether the Motion be opposed. If fewer than five Members rise to oppose the Motion the Chair shall declare it carried.

(f) *Extraneous Matters*: No matter not bearing directly on the grounds specified as under section (b) above shall be introduced into the discussion.

(g) *Length of Speeches*: Neither the proposer nor the opposer of an Adjournment Motion shall speak for more than five minutes, nor any other speaker for more than three.

(h) *Special Adjournment Motions*

Any decision by any Committee except under Rules 4, 7, 32, 63 and 67(b), where alternative methods of appeal are applicable¹¹² or under Rules 32(h) or 53, may be reversed by the House by means of a Special Adjournment Motion, signed by at least 30 Members, notice of which must be given to the President in writing at least 50 hours before the time of moving. Such moving shall in no case be later than ten days after the publication of the decision in question, except in the case of Standing Orders covered by Rule 68(c), which shall be moved in the First Private Business Meeting of the following term. Any decision by any Committee which is challenged by means of an Adjournment Motion under this Rule of which notice is given within 24 hours (excluding Sundays) of such publication shall be suspended from operation until such time as the Motion has been discussed by the House. No Member may withdraw a Special Adjournment Motion moved under this section after notice has been given. This clause may not be changed except by a Private Business Motion at a Public Business Meeting.

RULE 46: PUBLIC BUSINESS MOTIONS

(a) *Selection*: Motions for debate in Public Business shall be chosen by the President.

(b) *Notice*: Five days' notice shall be given of every Public Business Motion.

(c) *Speeches*

(i) *One per member*: In Public Business no Member shall make more than one speech on the substantive motion, unless for the purpose of explanation, save for the proposer of the motion, who shall have the right of reply to the debate. In making an explanation no fresh matter shall be introduced.

(ii) *Time*: In Public business no paper-speaker shall speak for more than twelve minutes; he may, however, appeal to the Chair for extra time, which it shall grant or refuse at its discretion. This Rule shall not apply to strangers who speak on the invitation of the President, who shall speak for not more than thirty minutes, nor to the candidates at a Presidential debate, who may speak for a period not more than thirty minutes. Speakers from the floor shall not (save at the Chair's discretion) speak for more than five minutes, or such less period as the Chair may determine.

(iii) *Lack*: If, at any time, there be no Members wishing to speak on one side of the Motion, the Chair shall call for a speech on the other side of the Motion. If, at any time, there be no Members on the floor of the House wishing to speak, the Chair shall at once call upon the Tellers to sum up the Debate and the House shall proceed to a division.

(d) *Amendments and Riders*

The total time spent in discussing an Amendment or Rider to a Public Business Motion shall in no circumstances exceed half an hour; at the end of that time the Chair, should it not already have done so, shall immediately put it to the vote.

(e) *Counting Out*

If during Public Business a Member move that the House be counted, and there be fewer than ten members present, the Chair shall at once call on the Tellers to sum up the Debate, and the House shall proceed to a division¹¹³.

(f) *Hour of Division*

¹¹² So where these rules do not provide alternative means of appeal, a SAM may be invoked: see Interpretation B4.

¹¹³ Not including the Chair, Secretary and Tellers: see Interpretation B13.

The hour of division shall never be later than 0100 hours and for each rider of which due notice has been given, the House shall divide on the substantive motion not less than ten or more than thirty minutes earlier than it would otherwise have done.

(g) *Division*

(i) During Public Business, except as provided in paragraph (ii) below, members leaving the House after the second speech shall be counted by the tellers as voting in favour of the motion if they pass to the right of the barrier, and against it if they pass to the left, unless they signify to the tellers their wish not to vote.

(ii) Where an Amendment to the Public Business Motion is to be proposed, voting on the motion shall not be allowed until the Amendment has been voted on, and, if the Amendment be passed, voting on the Amended motion shall not be allowed until two further speeches have been given.

RULE 47: PRIVATE BUSINESS MOTIONS

(a) *Notice*

(i) **At a Public Business Meeting:**

(1) A Private Business Motion moved by recommendation of the Standing Committee¹¹⁴ shall be posted on the notice-board not less than three days or, if it be a motion to which Rule 67(b)(ii) apply, eight days before it is to be discussed. No Private Business Motion not recommended by the Standing Committee shall be introduced at a Public Business Meeting unless notice of it has been posted on the notice-board not less than eight days before the meeting and before the Rooms have closed on the day next after the posting of the notice at least thirty Members have signed the notice in the Society's Rooms in support.

(2) The provisions of (1) above notwithstanding, any Private Business Motion may be moved at a Public Business Meeting following a Procedural Motion to that effect, passed at the Private Business Meeting before which the motion is due to be brought before or immediately after the vote. Such a Procedural Motion may be moved only by the proposer of the Private Business Motion to which it refers, in person or by proxy, and must specify the Public Business Meeting before which the motion shall be brought; the said Public Business Meeting being not less than three days and not more than one calendar month after the Private Business Meeting, save that if the Private Business Meeting is held within three weeks of the end of Full Term, the motion may be brought before the first Public Business Meeting of the following term.

(ii) **At a Private Business Meeting:**

Any Member may, provided that he have given at least three or, if it be a motion to which Rule 67(b)(ii) applies, eight days notice on the notice-board, bring forward a motion at a Private Business Meeting. This provision shall extend to motions for Private Business Meetings adjourned under Rule 41(d).

(b) *Speeches*

In Private Business a Member may not speak more than once on the same substantive motion unless in the opinion of the Chair the course of the debate makes it desirable. In a debate on a Private Business Motion, the speeches of the mover and opposer shall be limited to five minutes each; those of other speakers to three minutes each; save that the Chair may allow extra time at its discretion.

(c) *Dividing the Motion*

If a Private Business Motion deals with two or more distinct Questions, the Chair, on request, shall divide it, and shall put the Questions separately to the vote.

(d) *Divisions*

No Private Business Motion shall be regarded as having been decided by acclamation if fifteen or more Members call for a division.

(e) *Counting Out*

(i) If during or immediately following a vote on a Private Business Motion other than an Appeal, a Member move that the House be counted, and the number of members qualified to vote present is beneath that specified under (iii) below, the House or the mover of the motion may agree to a postponement of the discussion to a specified future Public Business Meeting.

(ii) If no such postponement is agreed, the House shall continue to debate the motion and proceed to a division, and the numbers voting on either side shall be recorded. The motion shall be put in Private Business at the next Public Business Meeting if within 144 hours a petition to that effect be posted on the notice-board and be signed by more Members than voted in favour of the motion if it passed, or more Members than voted against the motion if it fell. From the time of the said decision or petition to the division at the said meeting it shall be as if the said motion had not been put.

¹¹⁴ As defined by Standing Order B5, which also limits the rights of members of TSC to speak on such motions.

(iii) In the case of a Private Business Motion to which Rule 67(b)(ii) applies, the requisite number of members qualified to vote shall be 150. In the case of a Private Business Motion which Rules 67(b)(ii) does not apply, the requisite number of members shall be 40.

(iv) No part of Rule 47(e) shall be amended or deleted except in Private Business at a Public Business Meeting.

(f) *Polls*

(i) *Demand For:* Any Member may demand a Poll on a Private Business Motion or an Adjournment Motion moved under Rule 45(h) immediately after a division on it has been taken. A poll shall not be taken unless within 48 hours (excluding Sundays) after such demand a Requisition to the same effect, signed by one hundred and fifty members in the Society's rooms, be deposited in the Office. The Member demanding a Poll shall not be permitted to withdraw the demand. No Poll shall be demanded on an Appeal from a decision of the President or from a fine or a suspension, nor on a matter of expulsion.

(ii) *Time When:* If a Poll be requisitioned, it shall be held not less than five nor more than twelve days after the Requisition is presented.

(iii) *Repetition of Motion:* No Private Business Motion that has been rejected on a Poll shall be brought forward again in form or substance within two terms of being moved.

(iv) *Arrangements For:* In the event of a Poll being requisitioned, the Standing Committee shall lay down the arrangements for the Poll and the Count. The Extraordinary Returning Officer, who shall ordinarily be the Returning Officer, shall conduct the Poll, and shall have power to decide all questions not specifically covered by the Rules, the Standing Orders, or the motion laying down the said arrangements. He shall also have the power to inflict fines of up to £25 for disruption of the Count or interference with the secrecy of the poll. The Extraordinary Returning Officer shall not be the proposer or seconder of the motion, or named in the motion, nor shall he have spoken on either side or have taken the chair in any earlier debate on the motion. If the Returning Officer be hereby disqualified from being Extraordinary Returning Officer, the Standing Committee shall appoint a Deputy Returning Officer or an Ex-Returning Officer qualified to be a Deputy Returning Officer not so disqualified as Extraordinary Returning Officer.

(v) Any breach of the arrangements laid down for the Poll by Standing Committee or the ERO shall be an offence. Any such offence may be complained about as below:

(1) In the event of a poll being held on the same day as the Election of Officers and Committee, an allegation of Poll Malpractice may be made in the same manner, and with the same time limits as would be required of an allegation of Electoral Malpractice. An Election Tribunal shall then deal with the allegation in the same way as if it were an allegation of Electoral Malpractice. For the purposes of Rule 33(b)(ii) an allegation should state that a breach of Rule 47(f)(v) has occurred.

(2) In the event of a Poll being held at any other time of term, a breach of Rule 47(f)(v) shall be an offence under Rule 71(a)(i).

(vi) In addition, should notice be given of a Rule change such that a poll be required under Rule 72 for the change to have effect, Standing Committee shall lay down the motion required by Rule 47(f)(iv) at its next meeting. The same shall apply if Rule 67(b)(iv) or (v) is employed regarding a Rule change. If either of these should occur, 47(f)(v)(1) and (2) shall only apply to arrangements, as decided in Standing Committee's motion or by decision of the ERO promulgated in writing on the notice board, that are made before close of business on the sixth day prior to the date set for the Poll.

(g) *Rules*

Any Motion, Amendment, or Rider, affecting any Rule of the Society shall be subject to the provisions of Rule 67(b).

(h) *Expenditure*

No Private Business motion with financial implications shall be put¹¹⁵ without the prior written consent¹¹⁶ of a Senior Officer or the Standing Committee, with the exception of any motion tabled under Rule 58. Motions tabled under Rule 58 shall not entail spending more money than is available in the Library budget for that year.

(i) *Non-Members*

Non-members may not attend Private Business Meetings.

¹¹⁵ *On the scope of this restriction, see Interpretation A47.*

¹¹⁶ *On the definition of prior written consent, see Interpretation A48.*

CHAPTER SEVEN: THE SOCIETY'S ROOMS¹¹⁷

RULE 48: OPENING AND CLOSING¹¹⁸

(a) *Full Term:*

- (i) The Society's Rooms shall be open every day during Full Term, except as otherwise determined by Standing Committee, supported by three-quarters of members of the Standing Committee present and voting¹¹⁹.
- (ii) The hours of opening shall be at least from 9.30am until 11:30pm on Monday to Saturday and midday until 11.00pm on Sundays, except when functions sanctioned by standing Committee require otherwise.

(b) *Vacation:*

- (i) During Vacation the Society's Rooms shall be open from 10.00 to 17.00 Monday to Friday except when Standing Committee decides otherwise.
- (ii) The Society's Rooms shall be closed for a minimum period of seven consecutive days in each vacation.

(c) *Bars:*

- (i) In Full Term, when the Society's Rooms are open, the main bar shall be open and serve intoxicating liquors from at least 11.00 am to 11.00 pm on Mondays to Saturdays and at least from 12.00am to 10.30pm on Sundays.
- (ii) In Vacation, when the Society's Rooms are open, the main bar shall be open and serve intoxicating liquors as the Standing Committee so orders, to a maximum of the same hours as in full term.

(d) *Currently unused*

(e) *Times of Meetings*

No Public Business Meeting, Private Business Meeting, Election, Poll, informal debate, Parliamentary debate, emergency debate, Election Tribunal hearing, Disciplinary Hearing, or meeting of any duly constituted Committee shall commence during hours when the Buildings are closed under Rule 48. If the event of a Poll being requisitioned under Rule 47(f), and the five to twelve day period mentioned in Rule 47(f)(ii) coincides with the day of the main Elections, the Poll shall take place at the same time, in the same room and open for the same hours as the main Elections

RULE 49: UNUSED

RULE 50: UNUSED

RULE 51: DOGS

Any Member introducing or causing to be introduced a dog into the Society's premises shall be liable to a fine of £5 inflicted by the Treasurer. Any animal leading a blind person shall be deemed to be a cat. Any animal entering on Police business shall be deemed to be a wombat. Any animal that the President wishes to exempt from the Rule shall be deemed to be a mongoose.

RULE 52: GUESTS, VISITORS AND NON-MEMBERS

(a) *Exclusion of Disciplined Members*

Members of the Society who have been expelled or who are under suspension shall not be allowed onto the Society's premises, except for the purposes (solely) of any Appeal.

(b) *Room Hire*

- (i) Rooms may be hired as per Standing Orders, Chapter E.
- (ii) When a room is hired, the Society must be informed who will be using the room, and particularly told if any distinguished, high-security or controversial individual will be attending. The Society reserves the right to cancel room bookings without notice or liability, returning any monies paid.
- (iii) When a room is booked, the hirer must sign down on the booking form that he agrees to abide by the Rules of the Society as part of the room-hire contract.

¹¹⁷ Provision of keys and codes to the Rooms is governed by Standing Order E17.

¹¹⁸ Powers to assist the maintenance of order in the Rooms are listed under Standing Order G1.

¹¹⁹ Restrictions on access, room hire and distribution of leaflets defined by Standing Orders E1, E4 and E6 respectively.

(c) *Guests of Members*

- (i) Any Member introducing a guest or guests into the Society's buildings shall write his name and college and his guest's name and address in a Guest Book on entering the buildings.
- (ii) Between the hours of 5.30pm and 2am, the President or Staff shall have the right to charge members a levy for each guest admitted onto the premises. This levy shall be determined by the Standing Committee from time to time.
- (iii) After signing in, guests shall be given a "Visiting Membership Card", which shall be valid for that day. By accepting such a card, guests agree to be bound by the Rules of the Society. Guests shall carry this card at all times whilst on the premises, and shall show it on demand to any member of Staff or Standing Committee. Cards issued before 5.30pm shall not necessarily exempt any guest from the evening charge set out in (c)(ii) above.
- (iv) Guests may use the main Bar provided they are accompanied by the Member who signed them in. They may not themselves be served at the Bar. They may attend a Debate or Speaker Meeting if accompanied by the Member who signed them in. Such guests shall have no voting rights in any Private Business or election.
- (v) No Member shall introduce more than three such guests onto the Society's premises at one time, nor introduce a particular guest more than four times a term, unless the President permits otherwise. No individual eligible to join the Society under Rule 3(A) or Rule 3(C) shall be introduced under this section without the President's written permission except that they may be allowed in the bar upon payment of fee of £3 as if they were eligible to join the society.
- (vi) Any Member who fraudulently introduces an individual eligible to join the Society under Rule 3(A) or Rule 3(C) shall be fined £60 for each offence.
- (vii) It shall be a disciplinary offence under Rule 71 for a Member to purchase alcohol for, or allow alcohol to be purchased by, a guest who is under-age.
- (viii) The President or his agent may exclude any guest from the premises at any point for any period of time.

(d) *Tourists*

- (i) The President is empowered to make arrangements to admit non-members to the Society's premises as tourists, and to charge such non-members a fee
- (ii) Members may not introduce guests onto the Society's premises for profit or commercial gain, nor sell tickets to debates or speaker meetings, without the express permission of the President.

(e) *Members' Only Events*

The President may choose to mark an event "Members only". Such events may only be attended by Members of the Oxford Union Society (as defined in Rule 3), and other individuals only as the President allows.

(f) *Trespassers*

The President may, at his discretion and notwithstanding Rule 72, submit to the Proctors the name of any member of the University found upon the Society's premises who is neither a Member nor an employee of the Society, and who has not been admitted legitimately under this Rule.

(g) *Ticketed Events*¹²⁰

- (i) All tickets to events, whether for Members or non-Members, shall be non-transferable, except when done through the General Office.
- (ii) During a ticketed event, the Society may restrict access to any or all of the Society's rooms or buildings to those who hold a ticket. A notice informing Members of the restricted access to the buildings must have been placed on the Society's notice board at least 7 days in advance. The Society may not arbitrarily restrict access to the main generality of the buildings to particular types or groups of Members during normal opening hours in Full Term, save for reasons of security or safety. At ticketed events, the Standing Committee may specify that formal dress (daytime or evening as appropriate) is required; any individual not conforming to the specified dress code may be excluded from the event without compensation.
- (iii) The Society may not discriminate between different types of Member in the distribution of such tickets, save that in the interests of decorum, and notwithstanding anything else in the Rules, Standing Committee may choose to make any *bona fide* 'women-only' event open to female members only. It may also make events during Michaelmas Term open to freshers only.

¹²⁰ For rules on the sale of tickets off the premises, see Standing Order A20.

(h) *The Open Period*

(i) Between Monday 0th Week and 7pm on Thursday 2nd Week of each Michaelmas Term, the Buildings shall be open to non-members of the Society who are eligible to join under Rule 3(A) or Rule 3(C). Such non-members may attend debates and meetings (unless the meeting is a 'members only' event). They may speak and vote in Public Business, but may not speak or vote in Private Business. They may purchase intoxicating liquor if licensing laws allow. They may use the Library but may not borrow books.

(ii) *Reciprocal Members*

Reciprocal Members entitled to full Life Membership under Rule 9 shall be treated exactly as normal full Members for the purposes of this Rule. Individuals from Kindred Societies who are entitled to limited reciprocal access shall be covered by the appropriate rules on reciprocal membership and not this Rule; however, they shall not be entitled to admit guests themselves. They may buy tickets to the Society's ticketed events at the discretion of the President.

(j) *Cellars*

The guest and non-member admission policy of the Cellars shall be determined by motion of the Cellars Management Committee, and regulated by the lease and management agreement between the Oxford Union and Purple Turtle. Admission of guests and non-members into the Cellars shall not necessarily grant such individuals access to the other parts of the Society's premises, and instead shall be regulated according to the other parts of this Rule.

RULE 53: ADMISSION TO EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

(a) Subject to (c) below and to Rule 58(a) any member of the University of Oxford shall be entitled to be admitted to the Society's debates, addresses by distinguished persons, the reading- and writing-rooms, and to the Old and New Libraries for the purpose of using therein any of the books, upon payment to the Society of a termly sum to be determined under (d) below. Non-Members so admitted shall be subject to Rule 39(c)(i) and (iv) except that if it be necessary to close the Gallery for security or other reasons an area of seating shall be reserved on the floor of the House for the use of non-Members admitted under this Rule, the area being computed so as to bear the same proportion to the total seating space as the number of persons who have bought Termly Admission Cards in the term in question bears to the number of Subscribing Members.

(b) Any such person shall, upon payment of the said sum, be given a Term Card, the form of which shall be agreed between the Standing Committee and the Trustees of the Oxford Literary and Debating Union. When on the premises he may be required to give sight of his card to any Officer or member of the Society's staff. Any person who permits his card to be used by any other person shall be in breach of this Rule and liable to have his right revoked as under (c) below.

(c) If any Non-Member admitted to the premises under (a) above be guilty of misbehaviour or do or attempt to do any act on the Society's premises which he is not entitled to do under (a) above he may be removed there from by the House Manager or any Officer; and if such behaviour by a Non-Member be sufficiently serious, the Standing Committee may revoke the non-member's rights under (a) above, in which case the Society shall reimburse the Non-Member with an appropriate proportion of the termly sum already paid by him.

(d) The termly sum referred to in (a) above shall be agreed from time to time between the Standing Committee and the Trustees of the Oxford Literary and Debating Union, or if they disagree, by the Trustees of the Oxford Literary and Debating Union alone. The said termly sum shall bear a reasonable relationship to the monthly subscription which is due from a Life Member paying his Membership fee by Banker's Order who joins in the terms in which the termly sum is to be paid, having regard to the cost to the Society of providing those facilities which, being non-educational, non-members admitted to the premises under (a) above are not entitled to use. For the purpose of determining what is a reasonable relationship the Trustees of the Oxford Literary and Debating Union may require the Standing Committee to procure a report on the question from the Society's auditors.

RULE 54: THE PRESS

(a) The President may permit representatives of the Press to enter the premises at any event. The President may exclude the Press from the premises, or part of the premises, at any time, as he sees fit.

(b) No photography, video recording or audio recording shall take place on the Society's premises without the President's prior permission.

(c) *Permissions*

(i) Members shall not communicate information to the Press about any event on the Society's premises which

is closed to the Press, or is under Chatham House Rules¹²¹.

(ii) No candidate in any of the Society's Elections, appointed official or member of any Committee of the Society shall speak to the press concerning the Society's Elections, any Election Tribunal or any Appellate Board unless in receipt of specific written authorization from the President and the Returning Officer.¹²²

(d) The President may exclude any Member from any event which is closed to the Press, or is under Chatham House Rules, if he reasonably suspects that that Member would communicate information about the event to the Press.

(e) Any meeting of the Society may be covered by local, national or international media and Members may be filmed, taped or photographed. In consideration of their attendance, and without compensation, Members, guests or visitors consent to be filmed, taped, recorded or photographed, and they further consent that their image may be distributed, by any media, in connection with any event.

(f) Breaches of Rules 54 (b) or (c) shall be disciplinary offences as per Rule 71 or 33, as appropriate.

¹²¹ Further restrictions on members of committee are laid out by Standing Order B1.

¹²² This shall not prevent the Returning Officer from publicising the poll: see Interpretation A18.

CHAPTER EIGHT: THE LIBRARY

RULE 55: GENERAL AND GOVERNANCE

- (a) The Library shall have multiple roles as an historic collection and as a working library for study and research and general reading.
- (b) The Senior Librarian and Junior Librarian shall be responsible for the general supervision of the Library. The Librarian-in-Charge shall be responsible for the day-to-day management of the library and shall work together with the Library Committee.
- (c) The Senior Librarian shall, together with the Librarian-in-Charge, Library Committee and the Library Strategy Committee, and subject to any general direction of the Standing Committee, set strategic and policy goals for the Library in accordance with paragraph (a) above.
- (d) The Librarian-in-Charge shall, through the Senior Librarian, assisted by the Junior Librarian, be ultimately responsible to Standing Committee for the performance of their duties.
- (e) The Librarian-in-Charge shall, through the Bursar, be ultimately responsible to the Standing Committee on contractual, personnel and health and safety matters.
- (f) Library Committee shall:
- (i) In accordance with Rule 57, establish and implement its policies for the acquisition and disposal of books and other library materials
 - (ii) Take into account the views of members of the Society on Library policy and management
 - (iii) Respond to the advice of the Library Strategy Committee on the long-term, strategic issues of fundraising and Library development.
- (g) The Library Strategy Committee will normally meet once a term, under the Chairmanship of the Senior Librarian and with the attendance of the Librarian-in-Charge, and the Junior Librarian, and will be entrusted with providing advice on long-term strategic development, fundraising and professional library matters.
- (h) After each meeting of the Library Strategy Committee, the Librarian or Senior Librarian shall report back to Library Committee.
- (i) All Library matters (other than its fabric) shall fall within the exclusive responsibility of those persons and bodies named in (b), subject to the budget in Rule 56 and the ultimate responsibility exercised by the Standing Committee in paragraphs (d) and (e) above.

RULE 56: LIBRARY FINANCE

- (a) Standing Committee shall, no later than the second week of Michaelmas Term establish an annual income and expenditure budget for the library; this shall be reported to the Library by the Standing Committee.
- (b) This shall be based on a report by the Senior Librarian and the Junior Librarian which, taking account of the overall financial outlook for the Society and after discussion by the Library Committee, shall:-
- (i) set out the committee's strategy as in Rule 25(j) (Library Strategy)
 - (ii) review progress of that strategy in the last year, including library accounts for that year
 - (iii) report on available external finance and
 - (iv) set out the capital and current requirements of the library accordingly.
- (c) Management of the Library shall include generating revenue, including sponsorship, although not to the exclusion of such by members of Standing Committee or Junior Officers.
- (d) The President may, on the suggestion of the Senior Librarian, invite the Librarian-in-Charge and other appropriate members of the Library Committee to attend Standing Committee, without vote, when the library budget is to be established.
- (e) *Accounts*
- (i) The Bursar, on behalf of the Senior Librarian, shall cause the accounts of the Library to be entered in a ledger, which shall, when they have been audited, be open to inspection by members.
 - (ii) The Bursar shall prepare termly accounts with the assistance of the Librarian-in-Charge, on behalf of the Senior Librarian, which shall be presented for audit annual together with the Senior Treasurer's accounts.

(iii) In each term the Junior Librarian shall present the Librarian-in-Charge's account for the preceding term to a Public Business Meeting:

(iv) At the first Ordinary Private Business Meeting of each Michaelmas Term the Junior Librarian shall present the Librarian-in-Charge's audited accounts for the preceding year for the approval of the Society.

RULE 57: ACQUISITIONS AND DISPOSALS

(a) The Library Committee shall establish policies for the acquisition and disposal of books and other library materials.

(b) The Junior Librarian's weekly list of acquisitions shall be proposed to the House for approval.

(c) A book or other library item presented to the Society shall be laid before the Library Committee. If the Committee think that the item is of permanent value, it shall place it on the list proposed under (b) above.

(d) The Library Committee may authorise the Junior Librarian to purchase pamphlets without reference to the House.

(e) Lists of titles suitable for disposal shall be prepared by the Librarian-in-Charge and approved by the Library Committee for submission by the Junior Librarian to the House for approval. Such lists shall be:-

(i) notified in writing to the Senior Librarian one month in advance of approval;

(ii) posted on the Society's notice boards two weeks before approval and;

(iii) amended by the Junior Librarian, on the advice of the Senior Librarian and Librarian-in-Charge, to omit any items for whose retention a compelling case has, in his opinion, been made.

(f) The Senior Librarian may, over and above his stated general charge of the Society's libraries, prohibit any disposal.

(g) After any item has been approved for disposal it shall be listed for two weeks on the Society's notice boards together with a market value set by the Librarian-in-Charge, unless Library Committee shall have rules that a bulk sale including such item will be in the Society's best interest. Any member of the Society may purchase that item on a first come, first served basis at the market value set by the Librarian-in-Charge.

(h) Any items not sold shall be disposed of by the Library Committee. Any income from such sales shall be applied only for library purposes.

(i) Any income from such sales shall be applied only for library purposes.

RULE 58: LIBRARY MANAGEMENT

(a) *External Relations*: The Librarian-in-Charge, subject to the Rules on financial control and to any general direction by the Standing Committee, may:-

(i) negotiate with suppliers of library services, including online information resources and staff training and;

(ii) approach sponsors, provided that the President and Treasurer shall be advised in advance.

(b) *Library Regulations*: Library Committee may make regulations for the safe handling and borrowing of library materials and for other routine library matters.

(c) Library staff

(i) Staff shall be answerable on all matters of operational management (other than personnel, contractual and health and safety matters) to the Senior Librarian and to the Library Committee, who may assign appropriate powers and duties to the Librarian-in-Charge.

(ii) Paragraph (i) above shall be without prejudice to the Bursar's role in overseeing staff matters. To the extent that matters in respect of paragraph (i) do affect such responsibilities, the Senior Librarian shall normally invite the Bursar to attend, without vote, Library Committee.

CHAPTER NINE: STAFF

RULE 59: SUPERVISION

(a) The Bursar shall have general oversight of the rooms and the Society's staff, subject to the direction of the appropriate Officers and Committees of the Society¹²³.

(b) Notwithstanding anything else in these Rules or the Standing Orders, no member of Staff who is also a Member of the Society shall, whilst employed as a member of Staff, hold any other elected or appointed Office or position under these Rules or the Standing Orders. Nor shall a member of Staff who is also a Member of the Society be eligible for membership of any Committee of the Society, excluding Consultative Committee (unless a member by virtue of their duties and/or responsibilities as a member of Staff). This sub-section shall not apply to staff who are employed on a casual basis, or who work sixteen hours or fewer per week and are not on a fixed term contract.

RULE 60: APPOINTMENT, DISMISSAL, AND SALARIES

(a) *Division of Responsibility*

(i) The power to appoint and dismiss members of the staff and to fix their salaries shall be vested in the Standing Committee¹²⁴¹²⁵.

(ii) All staff appointments must be approved by Standing Committee before a potential staff member is made a formal offer of permanent employment.

(iii) Any staff dispute or matter of contention which cannot be resolved informally shall be considered by Standing Committee, and not by any other Committee or working party of the Society¹²⁶. As an exception to this Rule, the Standing Committee may appoint a Special Committee with the specific purpose of reviewing such a dispute or matter of contention, and bringing authoritative recommendations to the Standing Committee, whenever and in such manner as this appointment will be necessary to conform with the Employment Law of England and Wales.

(iv) The Bursar shall have day-to-day control over staff, excluding those employed within the Library. The Bursar shall be responsible directly to Standing Committee.

(b) The Society shall not employ or appoint any Bursar who is the Hon. Secretary, the Hon. Treasurer or a Trustee of OLDUT.

(c) The staff in the Cellars shall be appointed, dismissed and governed by the Purple Turtle, subject to the general oversight of the Cellars Management Committee. They shall not otherwise be deemed to be Union staff for the purpose of these Rules.

(d) Any discussion relating to changing existing responsibilities of members of staff, or otherwise changing the structure of permanent staffing shall be handled by an *ad hoc in camera* Committee consisting of the Junior Officers, Officers-Elect, ex-Presidents with a vote on Standing Committee, and the Senior Officers. They may invite the Bursar to advise them of relevant issues concerning the proposed change. This Committee shall present its recommendations to Standing Committee for ratification before any action is taken.

RULE 61: GRATUITIES

Any Member giving a gratuity to a member of the Staff shall be liable to a fine not exceeding ten pounds, at the discretion of the Standing Committee.

¹²³ *Complaints against staff are submitted to the Bursar or the President: see Interpretation C23.*

¹²⁴ *For rules regarding the payment of pensions, see Standing Order A8.*

¹²⁵ *On the authority of the Standing Committee and others over staff, see Interpretation C23.*

¹²⁶ *Which should not prevent disciplinary committees from hearing evidence: see Interpretation C13.*

CHAPTER TEN: FINANCE¹²⁷

RULE 62: FINANCE - GENERAL¹²⁸

The Members entrust their assets to the Standing Committee and, through Standing Committee, to the Society's Staff. This rule is designed to ensure that members can have confidence that their money is being spent wisely and all expenditure is adequately scrutinised by their elected representatives. However, it is also sometimes necessary for decisions to be made quickly: in such cases, it is important that there is adequate flexibility combined with proper reporting afterwards.

(a) All budgets and expenditure must be scrutinised by the Finance Committee before being presented to Standing Committee. In exceptional and unforeseen circumstances, this may be waived by the Senior Treasurer.

(b) In these finance rules, "permission" must be given in writing or by email and stored for a period of two years.

(c) The Society's financial year shall run from July 1st to June 30th.

(d) An annual budget, or business plan, must be scrutinised and proposed by Finance Committee and passed by Standing Committee. It will detail the following:

(i) **Expected Income**, divided into:

- (1) Subscriptions (less Membership Drive expenses);
- (2) Sponsorship;
- (3) Net Members' Bar Contribution (including Bar Staff)
- (4) Net Private Events/Private Hire Contribution (including Events Staff);
- (5) Net Standing Committee Events Contribution;
- (6) Rental Income;
- (7) Other Income.

(ii) **Expected Expenditure**, divided into:

- (1) Debates and associated hospitality;
- (2) Speaker meetings;
- (3) Library (including Library Staff);
- (4) Elections, Polls and Discipline;
- (5) Termcard Costs;
- (6) Maintenance and Repairs;
- (7) Taxation and Utilities;
- (8) Wages;
- (9) Office Costs;
- (10) Any other costs the Standing Committee deems necessary.

iii. **Overall Contribution/Expense:** There must also be a projection for the overall contribution or expense of the year's social events, competitive debating activities of the Union, and other similar major events.

iv. **Requests:** Any requests made for specific purposes must be accounted separately.

(e) The Annual Budget will differentiate in each heading between Recurring Costs, Establishment Costs and Discretionary costs, as defined in these Rules.

(f) Recurring costs may be paid without any other form of authorisation. All other costs incurred under 62(d)(ii)(10) above may only be spent by the Member or Member of Staff to whom that Expected Expenditure budget was allocated in the Annual Budget.

(g) Establishment and Discretionary items must require further committee authorisation, except when they count as "emergency unforeseen expenditure", according to Rule 64.

(h) **Termly Budgets:** Each term, the 0th Week Standing Committee must be informed by the President of a termly budget for the ensuing term, covering the same areas as the Annual Budget. This shall comply with the Annual Budget, unless authorised by a two-thirds majority of Standing Committee. It will detail further costs under each heading. The Standing Committee will also be informed of any Vacation Expenditure.

(i) The Bursar shall be responsible for the payment of all Recurring Costs.

¹²⁷ For rules regarding claims for reimbursement, see Standing Orders A11 – A16.

¹²⁸ For the collection of debts, see Standing Order A4. For interest on accounts, see Standing Order A7.

- (j) The President shall be authorised to spend the Expected Expenditure budgets under 62(d)(ii)(1), (2) and (5) above, delegating as appropriate to the Librarian, in the pursuit of his duties, as he sees fit.
- (k) The Librarian-in-Charge, subject to the Library Committee, shall be authorised to spend the Expected Expenditure budget under 62(d)(ii)(3) above.
- (l) The Returning Officer shall be authorised to spend the Expected Expenditure Budget under 62(d)(ii)(4) above, in the pursuit of his duties, as he sees fit. This budget must be approved by the Senior Treasurer.
- (m) The Maintenance and Repairs budget shall be controlled by the Bursar (subject to Rule 64) and monitored by Treasury Committee.
- (n) In the event of any unforeseen emergency, the Bursar may authorise expenditure under the relevant budget to deal with the situation. Any such expenditure must be reported immediately to Standing Committee and the President by email.
- (o) No element of the Society's assets may be disposed of, temporarily or permanently, without the permission of the Standing Committee, except for Library items. No asset valued at more than £5,000, nor total assets of more than £5,000 within 2 terms, may be disposed of without a Private Business motion being passed to that effect. This clause shall not apply to transfers of property to the Oxford Literary and Debating Union Trust, where OLDUT has agreed in writing to hold the property in trust on behalf of the Society and make the assets or property available for the Society's continued use.
- (p) All Social Events shall have individual budgets, which must be passed by Standing Committee before any expense is incurred. All such budgets must include at least a 20% contingency fund and also take account of any costs which may be incurred by other areas of the Union (for example, damage to any items of Union property or buildings, or the estimated loss to the bar). The Standing Committee may choose to alter this contingency.
- (q) No Society funds shall be donated to any other institution or charity.
- (r) The Bursar shall present to Finance Committee a report on the performance of the Members' Bar and Private Events and Hire every fortnight in Full Term.
- (s) Maintenance of bar equipment shall require no authorisation, but the costs shall be reported to Finance Committee on a termly basis.
- (t) Costs associated with day-to-day running of the bar shall be authorised by the House Manager.
- (u) Costs associated with private events shall be authorised by the Events Manager.

RULE 63: REPORTING

- (a) All termly and annual budgets and accounts, and all previous years' Audited Accounts shall be kept in a file in the General Office for the inspection of Members during office hours with no prior appointment. Members may not remove the file or its contents from the General Office.
- (b) All income and expenditure records will be available for inspection by any member by appointment with the President within ten working days. With the permission of the Returning Officer, in the case of a potential complaint under Rule 33 or 71, a copy may be made by the Member at the Society's expense. This does not apply to items that would be subject to *in camera* regulations, which may only be consulted by members of Standing Committee or the Returning Officer.
- (c) By First Week of each term, the Bursar must present an account to Finance and Standing Committee detailing the Society's performance in the previous term compared to its annual and termly budgets. This will also include recommendations for future actions, as well as indicating any necessary modifications to the annual budget, which must be passed by a two-thirds majority.
- (d) The Bursar will maintain a file of all budgets passed by Standing Committee, with their corresponding accounts. This file shall be available for the inspection of all members in the General Office without prior appointment. All financial reports presented to any committee, including budgets and accounts, must be appended to the minutes of that committee, placed on the notice board, and entered into the minute book.
- (e) The Audited Accounts, together with any recommendations of the Auditors, shall be presented to the Finance and Standing Committees as soon as they are available. Standing Committee must vote to accept the Audited Accounts as a true record, by a two-thirds majority, at which point the President shall sign them. A summary of the Audited Accounts will be published in the next termcard, with an indication of any discrepancies between them and that year's annual budget. All written instructions or letters to the Society's Auditors must be signed by the President.

(f) Every budget passed by Standing Committee must be accompanied by an account. The deadline for the account shall be included in the budget, and no budget will be validly passed without such a deadline. In any case all accounts must be presented to Finance Committee by the end of the following term or the financial year end, whichever is sooner. Provisional social event accounts shall be presented one week after the event.

(g) If applicable, the account shall detail all expenditure and income associated with the event(s) concerned. It will also detail any future commitments which have arisen because of any related item, whether future predicted income, recurring costs, or other liabilities.

(h) If the deadline passes with no account presented, then the member shall be liable to disciplinary proceedings. In any event, any member who fails to present an account within one week of the deadline shall be fined £50. There shall be no appeal to this fine, except in the case of debilitating illness.

(i) If no account is presented by the responsible member of committee, the Bursar shall compile one to the best of his ability and present it to Finance and Standing Committee.

RULE 64: RECURRING AND DISCRETIONARY EXPENDITURE

(a) Establishment Expenditure is spending that must be made for the long-term interests of the Union, but may be postponed from the current period(s). This includes (but is not limited to) equipment replacement, equipment upkeep, repairs and maintenance, building work, structural installations, and staff training. All such expenditure over £700 must be specifically and individually authorised in the budget passed by Standing Committee. In the case of items falling under the Repairs and Maintenance Budget, any item of £700 must be specifically and individually authorised by Treasury Committee and be in accordance with their termly budget. Establishment expenditure on items of less than £700 may be authorised by the Bursar from the relevant budget. Repairs and Maintenance Budget expenditure by the Bursar must be reported to the next meeting of Treasury Committee.

(b) Outside of term time, if the President is reasonably satisfied of the emergency need for Repairs and Maintenance expenditure which could not have been foreseen during term time, then he may grant authorisation for discretionary spending of the Repairs and Maintenance Budget. Such spending must be reported to Treasury Committee at its next meeting. If he is not so satisfied, permission will not be granted.

(c) Recurring expenditure includes regular and unavoidable bills incurred by the Society, such as wages (where the employment of a member of staff has been sanctioned by Standing Committee), rates, insurance, audit costs, taxation, utilities and office supplies. It will also include any spending which has been specifically and individually sanctioned by the Standing and Treasury Committee on a long-term basis and is specifically and individually listed in the relevant annual or termly budget. The payment of Recurring expenditure may be authorised by the Bursar.

(d) The Returning Officer shall be authorised to spend any additional sums required to fulfil the requirements of Rule 33 and Rule 71 as he deems necessary, so long as he informs the Senior Treasurer immediately and the Standing Committee at the end of his term of office.

RULE 65: LIABILITY

(a) Only permanent members of staff, members of the Standing Committee, and the Returning Officer may sign contracts on behalf of the Society or otherwise incur any financial liability or commitment on its behalf. Ex-Officers serving on the Standing Committee may only sign contracts with the knowledge and permission of the relevant officer under whose responsibility the contract would fall.

(b) Any member who commits the Society to any cost which is not properly authorised as detailed in these Rules shall be personally liable for that amount. The Senior Officers, acting unanimously, may waive up to 90% of this liability. If the final amount is less than £300 then it shall be considered a fine under Rule 6. If the final amount is more than £300, then on non-payment within one month, the Standing Committee shall pursue the matter through the Courts.

RULE 66: AUDIT COMMITTEE

(a) *Composition:* The Audit Committee shall be composed of the Members of Finance Committee, and shall be chaired by the President. The Returning Officer shall have speaking rights.

(b) *Not currently used.*

(c) *Not currently used.*

(d) *Remit:* The Committee shall have a general duty to scrutinise all matters relating to:

(i) the financial affairs of the Society including, but not limited to, the Business Plan, budgets, financial control and controls, financial management and reporting, and the Society's treasury policy.

(ii) the Society's corporate governance.

(iii) statements of the professional Auditors appointed under Rule 63.

(e) *Meetings and Powers*

(i) The Committee shall meet not less than once each Term in Oxford. The Committee shall have the explicit power to regulate its own proceedings.

(ii) The Committee shall have the power to require the timely production to it of all minutes, ledgers, books, papers, vouchers, reports, statements and accounts it may require for the purpose of conducting its business.

(iii) The Committee shall have the power to summon:

(1) any Member to appear before it to answer any questions which it may put to him on matters within its remit. The procedure for notifying a Member of a requirement for him to attend shall be the same as that for the summoning of a Member to appear before an Election Tribunal under Rule 33 and Standing Order D9.

(2) any member of Staff to appear before it to answer any questions which it may put to him which may fairly relate to his employment by the Society and which are within its remit, in which case the Committee shall determine a fair means by which that summons should be sent.

(iv) Any person summoned to appear before the Committee under Rule 66(e)(iii) shall have the right to be represented, and shall not be required to answer any questions which might implicate him in a breach of his contract of employment with the Society, nor which might implicate him in a criminal offence.

(v) Any Member who fails to comply with a requirement imposed under this paragraph shall be guilty of Disciplinary Misconduct under Rule 71.

(vi) In cases where a member of Staff is required to comply with a direction of the Committee made under Rule 66(b)(ii) or Rule 66(b)(iii)(2) above, and fails to do so without good cause, the President shall be guilty of Disciplinary Misconduct under Rule 71 if it can be shown that he failed to exercise all reasonable endeavours within his power to secure the member of Staff's compliance with that requirement. No action under this paragraph shall be taken until any proceedings to be taken under the Society's employee disciplinary procedure have been completed or, the right to take them waived, or they be out-of-time.

(vii) The Committee may delegate to any member any and all powers granted to it by paragraph (ii) of this section for such purposes within its remit as it may in its absolute discretion determine.

(f) *Reports:* The Committee, at minimum, shall produce a report (the 'statutory report') to the Members which shall be tabled in Private Business at the Ordinary Public Business Meeting in Fourth Week each term and posted on the Society's notice board.

(i) The statutory report shall, at minimum, advise the Members of the extent to which, since its last statutory report, the Committee is satisfied with the:

- (1) overall adherence to the and budgets and accounts agreed;
- (2) financial control exercised;
- (3) financial control enacted;
- (4) financial controls in place and the extent to which they have been adhered to.

(ii) Nothing in this paragraph shall prevent the Committee from producing and tabling additional reports to the Members on subjects within its remit.

(iii) All reports shall be agreed by a majority of the members of the Committee present and voting at a meeting of the Committee of which at least seven days notice shall have been given, the report having been circulated to the Committee in full with that notice. In the event that the Committee is unable to agree its report, the Chairman shall transmit notice of that fact to the President who shall cause it to be read out in Private Business at the next Public Business Meeting.

(iv) The Committee shall have the power, on its own motion, to make such directions as it sees fit regarding the extent to and means by which its reports shall be published or disseminated. Any breach of a direction given under this section shall be Disciplinary Misconduct under Rule 71.

(g) *Whistleblowing*: A copy of a list of the members of the Committee, shall be maintained by the Returning Officer, which shall be available for inspection by any Member or member of Staff.

(i) No Member shall be guilty of an offence under Rule 33 or Rule 71 by communicating information to a member of the Committee relating to a matter which he may reasonably believe is within the Committee's remit.

(ii) The President shall cause every member of Staff to be made aware of the existence of the Committee and its remit, and the procedure by which members of the Committee may be contacted:

- (1) within seven days of the enactment of this Rule for existing employees;
- (2) upon their entering into employment with the Society (for new employees); and
- (3) annually thereafter.

(iii) A Member of the Society who attempts to prevent another Member or a member of Staff from contacting or communicating with the Audit Committee, or who interferes with that communication, or who attempts to induce or coerce that person not to communicate, shall be guilty of Disciplinary Misconduct under Rule 71.

(iv) For the avoidance of doubt, a Disciplinary Committee called to rule on an allegation made under Rule 66(g)(iii) may conclude that such an allegation was made frivolously or that it was unfounded and malicious.

(h) *Interaction with the Disciplinary Procedure*:

(i) No member of the Audit Committee may be a member of a Disciplinary Committee called to hear an allegation under this Rule.

(ii) Where an allegation of Disciplinary Misconduct is brought arising from an offence specifically defined in this Rule (as opposed to a generic offence defined in Rule 71), the Committee shall nominate one of its members to prosecute the complaint before the Disciplinary Committee. If the Committee nominates the Chairman then the provisions of Rule 66(c)(iii) shall be suspended until the Disciplinary Procedure is complete.

(i) *Limitations of Power and Responsibility*:

(i) Except as expressly provided for in paragraphs (c)(i)(B) and (e)(v) the powers of the Committee shall belong to it as a body, and no member of the Committee shall derive any status, standing or power by virtue of his membership.

(ii) The opinions and reports shall be given by the Committee as a body, and shall be given to the Members alone.

(iii) The Committee shall not have the power to commit or bind the Society in any way.

CHAPTER ELEVEN: RULES, STANDING ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS

RULE 67: RULES

(a) *Binding Effect*: The Rules shall be binding on all Members of the Society and non-members entering the Buildings. Such non-members, by virtue of their entry to the buildings, shall be subject to all Rules concerning disciplinary matters and electoral offences, as if they were a Member. In the case of any conflict or ambiguity, the Rules shall take precedence over any Standing Order or Schedule; and in the case of any conflict, Rules shall take precedence over any Interpretation made under Rule 67(e)(i)(7) through (11).

(b) *Amendment*

(i) No Rules may be amended or repealed, nor may a new Rule be enacted, except by way of Private Business Motion in respect of which the provisions of Rule 47(a) shall apply.

(ii) A Motion, Amendment or Rider which affects any Rule of the Society shall specify the Rule affected. The President shall decide whether a Motion, Amendment, or Rider does affect any Rule of the Society. If the President decides that a Motion, Amendment or Rider affects a Rule to which it does not refer, then he shall suppress the Motion, Amendment, or Rider, and place on the notice-board a statement of the action taken.

(iii)

(1) A Member proposing to alter the Rules shall state in the Motion the words he proposes to delete or insert, and the place or places where they are to be deleted or inserted. He shall also post as a Schedule to the Motion the section or sections of the Rule or Rules affected as it stands or they stand at the time of posting. All such Alterations shall come into effect immediately after the end of the Meeting whereat they are proposed and passed, unless otherwise provided for in the Motion or unless the provision of Rules 47(e) or (f) be applied in which case the Alteration shall come into effect either after the allotted time for the collection of signatures has elapsed, if the requisite number of Members' signatures be not forthcoming, or not unless the subsequent Vote or Poll approves the motion, whereupon it shall take effect immediately after the Public Business Meeting at which the Motion is represented, or the result of the Poll announced.

(2) Alternatively, a Member may propose a Motion, that in principle be accepted, in which case, where such introduction would affect the Rules, he shall post as the First Schedule to the Motion a statement of all Rules affected, together with any words to be deleted or inserted, which changes are consistent with and directly consequent on the principle of the Motion.

(iv) The Standing Committee may decide that a particular proposed Rule-change is of such importance that it should be brought to the special attention of Members. In such a case, consideration of the Rule-change in question shall be postponed to such Public Business Meeting, at least six and not more than fourteen days after the day specified in the original notice¹²⁹; notice of that Meeting, with an indication of the nature of the business, shall be sent to every College or Hall 5 days at least before the Meeting; and a notice of the Meeting shall be inserted in two newspapers, whereof one shall be a paper circulating in the Oxford area¹³⁰ and one a national newspaper¹³¹, to appear at least two days before the said meeting.

(v) The provisions of (iv) above shall apply automatically if a Requisition to that effect, signed by 50 Members, be posted on the notice-board four days before the day specified in the original notice of motion.

(vi) Neither the Rules relating to the conduct of Elections, Election Tribunals, and Appeals against Election Tribunals, nor this subsection shall be altered after the opening of nominations in the Society's main elections in any Full Term unless the motion in question provide that the alteration shall not come into effect until the first day of the following term.

(vii) No motion affecting any of Rules 1, 2, 18(b), 25(d)(v), 29, 53, 62(c), or 67(b)(vii) nor any motion to introduce any new Rule which contradicts any of these, may be introduced except with the consent of the Trustees of the Oxford Literary and Debating Union.

(viii) Notice of any change made upon the Rules, Standing Orders or Special Schedules, or waiving of Standing Orders by the Standing Committee shall be posted on the Society's notice-board within 24 hours of the end of the meeting at which it was made.

(d) *Effect of Vacation*

Where any period of days or weeks is specified in these Rules, days outside Full Term shall not be counted towards the total specified, except in Rules 23(c) and (d), 33, 36(f), 38(j), 42(b), 46(b), 48(a)(ii) and 57.

¹²⁹ *On the ramifications of 'not more than fourteen days', see Interpretation A49.*

¹³⁰ *On the definition of 'newspaper circulating in the Oxford area', see Interpretation D4.*

¹³¹ *On the definition of 'national newspaper', see Interpretation D3.*

(e) *Interpretations and Rulings*

(i) The following shall have the power to issue Rulings¹³² and Interpretations of the Rules in the following order of seniority:

- (1) The Trustees of the Oxford Literary and Debating Union Trust with regard to Rule 2;
- (2) The Appellate Board, for the purposes of its duty only;
- (3) The Disciplinary Appeals Committee¹³³;
- (4) The Election Tribunal, for the purposes of its duty only;
- (5) The Disciplinary Committee, for the purposes of its duty only;
- (6) The Returning Officer, for the purposes of his duty as defined in Rule 32(e) only;¹³⁴
- (7) Business Meetings under (vi) below;
- (8) Business Meetings under (v) below;
- (9) The Chairman at a Business Meeting, if the President be present;
- (10) The President;
- (11) The Chairman at a Business Meeting

(ii) *Rulings*

- (1) A Ruling shall relate to a specific factual scenario. The subject matter of Rulings shall include, but shall not be limited to: determinations as to whether and how a Rule, Standing Order or Special Schedule (including the Schedule of Interpretations) applies to a given factual scenario, and the determination of questions of fact.
- (2) Rulings shall be binding in the instant case and shall not be challenged save by appeal to a Member, or body, senior in respect of the powers of issuing Rulings. They shall apply only to the case at hand, and shall not create binding precedent for the future.

(iii) *Interpretations*

- (1) An interpretation shall clarify, define or elucidate a Rule, Standing Order or Special Schedule (excluding the Schedule of Interpretations). It shall be issued without reference to a specific factual scenario.
- (2) Interpretations shall be binding in the instant case and shall not be challenged save by appeal to a Member, or body, senior in respect of the powers of interpretation; they shall act as authoritative precedents for Members, or bodies, with powers of interpretation of junior or of equal status to the Member, or body in question.

(iv) The decision of the Chair may be reversed by the President on his return to the Chair, unless he was present when the decision was made.

(v) Any Ruling or Interpretation of the Chair or of the President made in Private Business and concerning the course of Private Business may be immediately challenged by the motion "That the ruling be reversed". On any Member so moving, the Chair shall call for members who wish to see that motion debated to be upstanding; if 50 Members or half those present, whichever is the less, rise, the Member who made the Ruling or Interpretation in question shall vacate the Chair and the incoming Chairman shall call on the mover of the Procedural Motion and the President or outgoing Chairman, as appropriate, to speak for not more than three minutes each on the motion, and shall then put the question without further debate. The Chair shall then be resumed by the President or outgoing Chairman, as appropriate. As soon as the Member rise to speak to the appeal, the Chair shall cause the doors to be closed; no Member shall then be permitted to enter until the vote shall have been taken.

(vi) Any Member may appeal against any decision of the Chair, the President, or the House acting under (v) above by posting a Notice of Appeal on the notice-board within three days of the promulgation of the decision in question, provided that before the Rooms have closed on the day next after the posting of the notice at least ten Members have signed the notice in the Society's Rooms in support. No Member who has given such notice shall be permitted to withdraw it. Unless the Standing Committee decide, with the consent of the Appellant or of the House, that it shall be postponed, the motion shall be brought forward at the next Public Business Meeting, provided that such meeting, except in the Eighth Week of any term, be held not less than three days after such notice has been given. No Amendment or Rider to any such motion shall be moved. No Member shall take the Chair while any Ruling reversing such a decision of his is the subject of an Appeal. While an Appeal against the decision of the President or a ruling reversing such a decision is under discussion, the Chair shall be occupied by an ex-President of less than twenty-one terms' standing¹³⁵ or failing that an ex-Officer. As soon as the Member rises to move his Appeal, the Chair shall cause the doors to be closed; no Member shall then be permitted to enter until the vote shall have been taken.

¹³² On the purposes of interpretation generally, see *Interpretation F7*.

¹³³ On the extent of the DAC's power of interpretation, see *Interpretation D5*.

¹³⁴ On the interpretation of the electoral rules, see *Interpretation F2*

¹³⁵ On the definition of 'terms' standing', see *Interpretation E7*.

(vii) The following definitions shall be observed in interpreting the Rules, Standing Orders and Special Schedules of the Society, unless the context otherwise require:

- “Day”: Continuous period of 24 hours;
- “Month”: Calendar Month;
- “Term”: As defined by the University of Oxford;
- “Full Term”: Sunday of First Week to Saturday of Eighth Week inclusive;
- “Term's Standing”: Period of Membership calculated in Terms including that in which the Member was admitted to Membership¹³⁶;
- “Year”: Academic Year;
- “Vacation”: Outside Full Term;
- “Member”: Member of the Society;
- “He”: This shall be interpreted as meaning he/she throughout the Rules;
- “Office”: As defined by Rule 13, unless preceded by 'General' etc.;
- “Trustees”: Trustees of the Oxford Union Society, as defined by the Oxford Union Society Trust Deed and Rule 12; unless followed by “of the Oxford Literary & Debating Union Trust” - who shall have no executive control over the Society except as expressly specified in the Oxford Union Society Rules;
- “Election”: The whole Election on one day, plus any period before or after as specified or implied by the Rules;
- “House”: The collective name for Members present and voting at a Public or Private Business Meeting;
- “Floor of the House”: Debating Chamber ignoring the Gallery;
- “Guest speakers”: Speakers in Public Business, Extraordinary Meetings or a Speaker Meeting invited by the Society who are not reading for a degree at the University of Oxford;
- “Notice-board”: Any Board on which Notices may be placed outside the entrance to the Bar;
- “Staff”: Employees of the Society;
- “House Manager”: The member of staff appointed as House Manager;
- “Events Manager”: The member of staff appointed as Events Manager;
- “Bursar”: The member of staff appointed as Bursar;
- “Chairman”: Any Chairman may use the title ‘Chair’ should they so wish;
- “Subscribing Member”: Any individual who is a Member of the Society under Rule 3.
- “Elected members of Standing Committee”: the five members of the Standing Committee elected by direct ballot, as per Rule 34.
- “The Cellars” or “Cellar Bar”: The Purple Turtle Union Bar in the Cellars of the Society, run by Purple Turtle and the Cellars Management Committee.
- “Spouse”: Husband, Wife or Civil Partner as defined under the Civil Partnership Act 2004.
- “By Email”: to perform an action by sending by an email to the person in question – where applicable, this shall be to the email address provided by candidates under Rule 34(b)(vi)(4), or any email address provided to the President for this purpose

(f) *Official copies*

Six official interleaved copies of the Rules, Standing Orders and Special Schedules shall be kept. Any new Rule, Amendment or Repeal of a Rule, Standing Order or Special Schedule shall be entered in the six copies by the Returning Officer. The Returning Officer shall enter any official interpretation issued by him under Rule 32(g). Three of the said copies shall be kept in the Office for the use of Members¹³⁷ and those seeking election as Members, and the others shall be for the use of the President, provided that at least four copies be always on the premises of the Society. The Returning Officer shall ensure that there is an up-to-date copy of the Rules in the Library, for reference use. Old copies of the Rules shall also be deposited with the Library for storage.

(g) *Members' Copies*

Any member may request that the Returning Officer email him a copy of the Rules.

(h) *Statutory Provisions*

Nothing in these Rules or Standing Orders or Schedules, shall conflict with the laws of England and Wales, including local bylaws applying to Oxford: in the case of any conflict, any relevant statutory obligations on the Society shall take precedence.

(i) *Confidentiality*

No Rule shall allow the meeting of any Committee to be in camera or to exclude observers unless Rule 23 permits otherwise. This clause may not be changed except by a Private Business Motion at a Public Business Meeting.

¹³⁶ *And the present term, even if incomplete: see Interpretation E7.*

¹³⁷ *A fine set by Standing Order E16 shall be inflicted on those who remove any these copies from the Office*

(j) *Notification*

For the purpose of these Rules (including, but not exclusively, for the purposes of fines, summons, and meeting notification), written notification for a Member that is not delivered in person and is not required to be delivered in person, shall be done by letter to the member's last known address. In addition,

(i) E-mail notification may also be made, and shall be deemed legitimate and sufficient notification. However, attempts to engage in e-mail notification shall not remove the requirement to send notification by letter as well, unless the recipient gives his consent otherwise.

(ii) During term-time, notification to the Member's last known term-time address shall be deemed sufficient, unless that member has given a different forwarding address. During vacation, notification should be made to both the member's last known term-time address, and last known home address if different, unless the Member gives his consent otherwise.

(iii) Complaints and applications for positions shall also be valid in writing sent to the Union. A Member shall be entitled to a delivery receipt upon request if delivering in person to the General Office.

RULE 68: STANDING ORDERS

(a) *Binding Effect*: The Standing Orders shall be binding on all Members of the Society and non-members entering the Buildings under Rule 9, Rule 52 or Rule 53. Such non-members, by virtue of their entry to the buildings, shall be subject to any fines levied for unacceptable conduct, as if they were a Member.

(b) *Enactment, Repeal and Amendment*: No Standing Order may be enacted, repealed, or amended save by way of Private Business Motion or by Resolution of the Standing Committee to which two-thirds of those present and voting¹³⁸ signify their consent.

(c) *Entrenched Standing Orders*: The Standing Orders relating to the conduct of elections, Election Tribunals and appeals against Election Tribunals shall not be altered by the Standing Committee or waived save in Full Term before Tuesday of Sixth Week, nor altered by the House save in Full Term either on or before Thursday of Sixth Week or by way of Special Adjournment Motion.

(d) *Waiving*: The Standing Committee¹³⁹ shall have the power to waive any Standing Order for named persons during stated times or any other condition it think fit, provided that two-thirds of those present and voting on the Standing Committee signify their consent. Such waiving must apply to a specified future or immediate event: Standing Orders cannot be waived retrospectively.

(e) *Confidentiality*: No Standing Order shall allow the meeting of any Committee to be in camera or to exclude observers unless Rule 23 permits otherwise. This clause may not be changed except by a Private Business Motion at a Public Business Meeting.

RULE 69: SPECIAL SCHEDULES

(a) *Special Schedules*: The Special Schedules shall be the Library Regulations, the Forms of Debate, the Schedule of Staff Responsibilities and the Schedule of Kindred Societies.¹⁴⁰

(b) *Status*: The Special Schedules shall for all purposes have the status of the Rules, except as defined by this Rule.

(c) *Purpose*

(i) The sole purpose of the Library Regulations shall be to regulate the affairs of the Library.

(ii) The Schedule of Staff Responsibilities shall list the duties and obligations of the House Manager¹⁴¹, the Events Manager, the Bursar and the Librarian-in-Charge, and those of any other member of Staff that the Standing Committee deems pertinent. Sensitive financial details shall not be listed. This Schedule shall not release the Standing Committee nor any Officer from any responsibility laid down upon them by the Rules even in respect of decisions delegated to the Staff by this Schedule.

(iii) The Schedule of Kindred Societies shall detail the reciprocal arrangements between the Oxford Union Society and other institutions.

(d) *Enactment, Repeal and Amendment*

(i) Special Schedules may be enacted, repealed or amended by Private Business, and as below.

¹³⁸ *Not including abstentions: see Interpretation B16.*

¹³⁹ *And only the Standing Committee: see Interpretation C19.*

¹⁴⁰ *Standing Order A19 also creates a 'Schedule of Recognised Policy Documents'*

¹⁴¹ *The extent of the House Manager's ability to delegate power is set by Standing Order E10.*

(ii) The Library regulations may also be amended by resolution of the Library Committee to which two-thirds of those present and voting signify their consent.

(iii) The Schedule of Staff Responsibilities shall not be amended, save by resolution of the Standing Committee to which three quarters of those present and voting signify their consent, provided also that not fewer than six favourable votes are cast.

(iv) The Schedule of Kindred Societies may be amended by a simple majority resolution of the Standing Committee.

RULE 70: STRUCTURAL CHANGES

(a) No structural change of a permanent nature shall be made to the Society's Chamber without the express approval of the membership by way of a Private Business Motion at a Public Business Meeting. Eight days notice shall be given of such a motion.

(b) Given the Oxford Literary and Debating Union Trust must inform the Society of any changes to the structure or fabric of the Buildings, any such information shall be displayed by the Secretary on the Society's notice board as soon as the work is recommended, and shall remain there until such work is completed.

RULE 71: DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

(a) *Complaints*¹⁴²

(i) Any member¹⁴³ may make in writing a complaint of misconduct against any other member, or a non-member whom has been admitted onto the premises for whatever reason. The complaint shall be made to the Returning Officer.¹⁴⁴ If the complaint is made against the Returning Officer, the complaint should be made to a Senior Officer, who shall then inform the most senior DRO.

The following shall constitute misconduct:

(1) Violent conduct or other behaviour on the Society's premises¹⁴⁵ liable to distress, offend or intimidate other members¹⁴⁶, conduct intended to disrupt debates or other meetings in the Society, the possession or sale of illegal substances. No such behaviour in a meeting of the Society shall be misconduct if it remains within the Rules of order as judged by the Chair in accordance with Rule 39. No actions within the context of campaigning in an election or poll shall be misconduct if it is deemed fair and acceptable campaigning by the Returning Officer or Extraordinary Returning Officer;

(2) Abuse of office or any position of trust conferred by the provisions of these rules or by any body constituted under these rules with the intention of financially or materially benefiting the offender or any other person, or of interfering with or preventing proceedings under this Rule. For any individual holding a position of trust within the Society, willful default from following obligations listed in the Rules and Standing Orders¹⁴⁷, providing penalties for infringement of such rules are not explicitly listed by other rules within the main body of the Rules and Standing Orders¹⁴⁸;

(3) Exercising any powers of office in a manner known or believed by the offender to be detrimental to the interests or reputation of the Society;

(4) Theft of or deliberate damage to the Society's property, except offences for which remedies are provided in the Library regulations;

(5) Other action liable or calculated to bring the Society into disrepute¹⁴⁹;

(6) Willful breach by the Chair of Rule 71(h)(iv), or of Rule 33 (c)(x) once the time limits for bringing such a breach before an Election Tribunal have expired;

(7) Knowingly co-operating with any attempt to publish any account of, or comment upon, the Society's affairs liable or calculated to damage the interests of the Society as a whole;

(8) In the case of a member of any Committee of the Society, writing for publication any account of any meeting of the Society or any Committee of the Society, or otherwise causing any comment on the Society's

¹⁴² In addition to these procedures, various disciplinary powers are laid out in Standing Order G1.

¹⁴³ Or members of staff, as agents of the President: see Interpretation C2.

¹⁴⁴ No guidance on the submission of evidence is here given; for assistance, see Interpretation C3.

¹⁴⁵ For offences by email, see Interpretation C1.

¹⁴⁶ Or indeed non-members, or members of staff: see Interpretation C14.

¹⁴⁷ For examples, see Interpretation A40 and Interpretation C16.

¹⁴⁸ This second sentence defines misconduct independently of the first sentence: see Interpretation C4.

¹⁴⁹ Including the dissemination of certain confidential information: see Interpretation C22.

affairs to be published, without the prior written permission of the President¹⁵⁰;

(9) Making a complaint under this Rule that is frivolous or is unfounded and malicious;¹⁵¹

(10) Deliberately giving false evidence to any Committee during proceedings under this Rule;

(11) Abusing or misusing the rules or forms of the House or persistently seeking to obstruct genuine debate in the House (excluding the legitimate usage of Rule 46 (e));

(12) Dereliction of duty: serious failure by an Officer or member of any Committee to carry out the duties required of him under the Rules, by virtue of holding his post¹⁵²;

(13) Misuse or abuse of the Society's membership card (including, but not limited to, permitting a membership card to be used by any person other than that to whom it was issued), or failing to show a membership card to an authorised Union official on request.

(14) Committing any type of misconduct designated as a disciplinary offence under Rule 71 elsewhere in the Rules or Standing Orders;

(15) For the Chairman of any Committee to allow the removal of observers or to enter in camera during a Committee meeting where Rule 23(g)(iii) or Rule 23(g)(iv) respectively applies.

(16) Purchasing alcohol for, or allowing alcohol to be purchased by, a guest or member who is under age.

(17) Breaking Chatham House Rules, speaking to the press concerning the Society's elections illegally, or illegal photography or recording, as detailed in Rule 54.

(18) Communicating *in camera* committee proceedings that the member was personally subject to that are not in the public domain to individuals who are not authorised to receive such information (although this shall not prevent the discussion of such information if that information exists separately in the public domain).

(19) Any breach of the Regulations laid down in Rule 47(f)(v).

(20) Misuse or abuse of fire exits, fire alarm or safety equipment.

(21) Conspiracy to commit any of the above.

(22) Seriously damaging the interests of the society.

(23) Breach of the I.T Regulations.

(24) Any Officer, Committee member or appointed official failing to fully and comprehensively update the database with the details of those they have contacted in relation to their duties, by the Ordinary Private Business Meeting.

(25) Any members submitting a report under Standing Order D1 who deliberately omits from his report, information about persons he has contacted.

(26) Using the Union's premises, name, intellectual property, logo, or similar for commercial purposes without prior permission.

(27) Knowingly to tell a falsehood to any committee of the Society, or in Private Business at a Business Meeting.

(ii) No complaint which amounts to an allegation of a criminal offence punishable by imprisonment committed on the Society's premises or against the Society's property shall be dealt with under this Rule, except in the case of misconduct alleged under (a) (i) (1) above. This shall not apply if Standing Committee decides that it would be inappropriate to pursue a prosecution.¹⁵³

(iii) No complaint that amounts to an Allegation of Electoral Malpractice as defined in Rule 33(a) shall be dealt with under this Rule. However, if in the unanimous opinion of the Senior Officers, a complaint alleges misconduct some of which would amount to electoral malpractice and some of which would not, proceedings under this Rule shall be permitted insofar as they relate to matters which an Election Tribunal would not be able to consider. Complaints forwarded by an Election Tribunal under this rule are subject to the Senior Disciplinary Procedure.

¹⁵⁰ See also *Standing Order B1*.

¹⁵¹ For further elucidation, see *Interpretation C9, Interpretation C15, and Interpretation D6*.

¹⁵² Including failure by the President to respond to mail; see *Interpretation C17*.

¹⁵³ For details on the procedure to be followed in case of such an allegation, see *Interpretation C18*.

(iv) No complaint of a breach of the Society's Rules or Standing Orders for which penalties are otherwise provided in these Rules shall be dealt with under this Rule.

(v) No complaint shall be considered under this Rule if the effect would be that proceedings would be taken more than once against the same Member in respect of the same act of misconduct or alleged misconduct,

(vi) The following shall not under any circumstances be subject to disciplinary proceedings under this Rule¹⁵⁴:

- (1) The Returning Officer, Deputy Returning Officers or Returning Officer's Assistants in respect of allegations concerning the performance of the duties attached to those offices, except where such allegations could not be submitted to an Election Tribunal;
- (2) The Society's staff, in respect of allegations related to their employment by the Society;
- (3) Any member of the Charitable Endowments Committee in respect of allegations concerning the performance of the duties attached to membership of that committee;
- (4) The Senior Officers, Trustees or the Trustees of the Oxford Literary and Debating Union Trust relating to the course of their duties.

(vii) *Non-Members*: Standing Committee shall consider Complaints against non-members who have been admitted onto the premises. The Standing Committee shall have the power, by simple majority vote, to ban that non-member from the premises for a temporary or permanent period, and to decline any membership application from that individual. Such decisions may not be referred to the Disciplinary Committee. Non-members shall have a right of appeal to the Senior Officers, who shall overturn or uphold the decision of Standing Committee.

(b) *Junior Disciplinary Procedure*

(i) In the event of a complaint being made under Rule 71,

- (1) The defendant may ask the Senior Officers and Returning Officer to dismiss the complaint on the grounds that it is frivolous or unfounded. A complaint shall only be dismissed by unanimous vote. If the Senior Officers and Returning Officer dismiss a complaint, they shall attempt to reach an informal resolution between the involved parties.
- (2) Junior Disciplinary Committee: A preliminary Hearing shall be held at a meeting of the Standing Committee not less than 72 hours nor more than two weeks after the complaint was received by the Returning Officer, at which at least one Senior Officer and the Returning Officer shall be present.
- (3) The Returning Officer may delegate his role for the purpose of the hearing to an uninvolved DRO. A Senior Officer may delegate their role for the purpose of the hearing to an uninvolved OUS Trustee.
- (4) The Returning Officer shall as soon as possible deposit a copy of any complaint he has received with the Bursar, and shall date when he received it. This copy shall be stored in a safe and secure place by the Bursar until the end of the disciplinary process.
- (5) Once a Junior Disciplinary Committee has been called, but before the evidence is heard, a defendant or complainant may apply that the case be referred automatically to an Intermediate Disciplinary Committee on the grounds of natural justice¹⁵⁵. In this instance, the Junior Disciplinary Committee shall deliberate and then vote; if two-thirds of those present and voting support the request, the complaint shall be subject to the Intermediate Disciplinary procedure
- (6) Where the Junior Disciplinary Committee is required to consider a complaint brought by a member who would ordinarily be eligible to sit as a member of the Junior Disciplinary Committee, that Member shall not be permitted to sit as a member of the JDC or be present for any of its proceedings except as to exercise the ordinary rights of a complainant under the Rules.

(ii) Standing Committee may decide at the conclusion of the Junior Hearing to do any one of the following:

- (1) To fine the Member against whom the complaint was made a sum not exceeding £100.
- (2) To suspend the Member against whom the complaint was made for a period not exceeding one term¹⁵⁶;
- (3) To refer the case to a Senior Disciplinary Committee. The Committee may recommend (with an additional two-thirds vote) but is not obliged to, that the Senior Disciplinary Committee considers expulsion of the Member concerned.
- (4) To exclude the Member on a permanent basis, or for a set period of time, from using the Cellars, provided that the misconduct was one of violent or disruptive behaviour, possession of illegal substances, theft or deliberate damage to the Society's property.
- (5) To fine a Member the cost of loss or damage to the Society's property in the case of theft or damage

¹⁵⁴ This imposes a burden on the complainant to justify the complaint: see Interpretation A52

¹⁵⁵ On breaches of the principles of natural justice with respect to bias, see Interpretation F10.

¹⁵⁶ That is, eight weeks of full term: see Interpretation C12.

(iii) Such a decision shall be taken only if two-thirds of those present and voting consider it justified. Such voting shall be by secret ballot. The debate preceding such a vote shall be *in camera*, and no person except members of Standing Committee and the Returning Officer shall be present. The Senior Officers and Returning Officer shall not vote, nor shall they intervene in debate except to prevent any illegal, improper or unjust remarks being made or decisions being reached. If the Standing Committee reaches no positive decision under this clause, the complaint shall be deemed to have been dismissed, in which case no further action shall be taken, except in the case of an appeal being lodged under (b)(vi)(2) below.

(iv) The Returning Officer shall notify in writing both the complainant and the defendant of the result of such a meeting within 24 hours of the close of the meeting, and shall include in such notification details of the procedure laid down in (v) below.

(v) The Member against whom the complaint is made and the Member making the complaint shall be sent at least 72 hours notice of any meeting held under (i) above, and the accused member shall be furnished with a copy of the written complaint together with any other information the Returning Officer considers appropriate. Both the complainant and the accused member shall be entitled to attend the meeting, and to address the Committee or to appoint a representative to do so on their behalf.

(vi) *Referral to a Senior Disciplinary Committee*

(1) In the event of the Standing Committee having voted to refer a complaint to a Senior Disciplinary Committee, the accused Member shall within five days be notified of this result

(2) Within five days of being notified of the result of the Junior Disciplinary Committee, either the defendant or complainant shall give notice in writing to the Returning Officer that he wishes to appeal. The Returning Officer shall summon a Senior Disciplinary Committee to hear the appeal. In such circumstances the Disciplinary Committee shall proceed as if the Standing Committee had referred the case to them.

(c) *Intermediate Disciplinary Committee*

(i) The Returning Officer shall produce a list (the “IDC List”) to be passed by Standing Committee in 0th Week.

(1) The list shall be divided into categories, each of which shall be constituted according to the following criteria:

Category A: All ex-Officers enrolled at institutions specified under Rule 3(A) except the previous term’s Officers

Category B: All ex-Returning Officers enrolled at institutions specified under Rule 3(A)¹⁵⁷

Category C: All ex-Officers, no longer enrolled at institutions specified under Rule 3(A), but that do not fulfil the eligibility criteria to serve on an SDC panel

Category D: All ex-Returning Officers, no longer enrolled at institutions specified under Rule 3(A), but that do not fulfil the eligibility criteria to serve on an SDC panel

If any individual qualifies to be included in more than one category, that individual may, prior to the passing of the IDC list, inform the Returning Officer which of these categories he or she wishes to be considered a member of. If no preference is expressed, that individual shall be considered only to be a member of the category listed first under this rule. No individual shall ever be considered to be a member of more than one category. Members who have been found guilty of an offence by an Election Tribunal or Senior Disciplinary Committee, which has not been overturned on appeal, shall not be eligible to sit on an IDC Panel and shall not be included on the IDC list. The Returning Officer shall make clear, on presenting the list to Standing Committee, the names of any Members excluded under this Rule.

(2) These lists are to be written in order of seniority. For the purposes of Rule 71(c) only, seniority is determined by the number of terms that have elapsed since an individual has become a member of the Union. Standing Orders D11 and D12 will only be used to break ties.

(3) Standing Committee shall only amend the list to ensure the accuracy of the list

(4) Once the list has been passed by Standing Committee, it shall be binding: no subsequent resignation from Standing Committee shall affect the IDC List for that term, nor shall the IDC List be altered to reflect an erroneous inclusion or omission noticed after the passing of the IDC List. Any name appearing on the passed List shall be eligible to serve on the IDC. Any name not appearing on the passed List shall not to be eligible to serve.

(ii) The intermediate Committee shall be composed of between three and five Members of the Society, according to the following criterion: the panel shall be as large as possible, according to the permitted permutations.

¹⁵⁷ *Except for ex-Returning Officers who are also the Returning Officer: see Interpretation A45.*

(1) If the Panel has three members:

- (i) One shall be the most senior member of Category “A” on the IDC list willing to serve
- (ii) One shall be the most senior member of Category “B” on the IDC list willing to serve.
- (iii) One shall be any other member of Category “A” or “B” on the IDC list willing to serve (iv)

If it not possible to fulfill these criteria, a member of Category “C” and “D” shall substitute for Category “A” and “B” respectively. If it is still not possible to form a quorate panel, the complaint shall immediately be subject to the SDC procedure.

(2) If the Panel has four members:

- (i) Two shall be the most senior members of Category “A” on the IDC list willing to serve.
- (ii) Two shall be the most senior members of Category “B” on the IDC list willing to serve.

(3) If the Panel has five members:

- (i) Two shall be the most senior members of Category “A” on the IDC list (below) willing to serve.
- (ii) Two shall be the most senior members of Category “B” on the IDC list (below) willing to serve.
- (iii) One shall be either the next most senior Ex-Officer if only two ex-Returning Officers have replied, or the next most senior Ex-Returning Officer if only two ex-Officers have applied. If more than two ex-Officers and more than two ex-Returning Officers are willing to serve, the category (either ex-Officer or ex-Returning Officer) of the fifth member of the panel shall be decided by the toss of a coin, and the most senior member willing to serve from that category shall serve.

(iii) Where the Intermediate Disciplinary Committee is required to consider a complaint brought by or against a member who would ordinarily be eligible to sit as a member of the Intermediate Disciplinary Committee, that Member shall not be permitted to sit as a member of the IDC or be present for any of its proceedings except as to exercise the ordinary rights of a complainant or Defendant under the Rules.

(iv) Senior Officers may observe all proceedings but shall not vote, nor shall they intervene in debate except to prevent any illegal, improper or unjust remarks being made

(d) *Intermediate Disciplinary Procedure*

(i) Complaints against any of the following shall be subject either to the Intermediate Disciplinary Procedure or to the Senior Disciplinary Procedure. No Junior Disciplinary Hearing shall be held.

(1) Any member of the Standing Committee;

(2) Any member of the Secretary's Committee;

(3) Any Committee member (excluding Consultative Committee) or any appointed official, or any individual whose appointment had to be ratified or was subject to veto by Standing Committee under the provisions of the Rules or Standing Orders;

(4) Any Member selected for an External Debating Competition under Rule 28, or otherwise selected to be the Society's representative in any public context, provided that the misconduct alleged relates to his conduct while representing the Society or the exercise of any powers relating to his selection.

(ii) The Senior Officers and the Returning Officer shall decide in respect of all complaints of misconduct whether or not the complaint falls into a category listed above. In the event of their disagreeing, the complaint shall be considered to fall into such a category. Ordinarily, the Returning Officer shall then summon an Intermediate Disciplinary Committee to hear the complaint. However, if the complainant and defendant agree that it would be inappropriate for the Intermediate Disciplinary Procedure to be pursued, the Senior Disciplinary Procedure will instead be activated.

(iii) In the event of the Returning Officer being required to summon an Intermediate Disciplinary Committee, he shall within 24 hours, send an email to all members of Category “A” and “B” on the IDC list, to their University email address detailing the time, date and place of the IDC, and a copy of the initial complaint. The members of that list shall have two days to indicate their willingness to serve. If necessary, the Returning Officer shall then contact all members of Category “C” or “D” as appropriate, who shall have two days to indicate their willingness to serve. It shall be for the Returning Officer to decide at what time it shall meet, which shall be no fewer than 3 and no more than 15 days after the initial receipt of the Complaint.

(iv) The IDC shall adopt whatever fair way of proceeding as it shall decide, save as provided for below:¹⁵⁸

(1) Once an Intermediate Disciplinary Committee has been called, but before the evidence is heard, a defendant or complainant may apply that the case be referred automatically to a Senior Disciplinary

¹⁵⁸ *And that its Chairman be the most senior ex-RO under Category B: see Interpretation A44.*

Rules of the Oxford Union Society, Michaelmas Term 2011. Updated 1st December 2011.

Yotam Levy, *St Cross College*, Returning Officer.

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Committee on the grounds of natural justice for reasons of bias in their absolute discretion. In this instance, the Intermediate Disciplinary Committee shall deliberate and then vote; if a majority of those present and voting support the request, the complaint shall be subject to the Senior Disciplinary procedure¹⁵⁹

(2) The complainant and accused Member, and any representative that either of them may appoint, shall be given the opportunity to address the Disciplinary Committee, and to put forward any relevant evidence.

(3) The deliberations and votes of the IDC and any other business that it deem necessary shall be *in camera*.

(4) All votes shall be by secret ballot.

(5) No person shall be found guilty unless a majority of those present and voting are in favour.

(v) The Intermediate Disciplinary Committee may inflict any or all of the following penalties on a member found guilty of misconduct:

(1) To fine the Member against whom the complaint was made a sum not exceeding £175.

(2) To suspend the Member against whom the complaint was made for a period not exceeding one year; except where such a suspension would result in a deemed resignation from Office or Standing Committee under Rule 23(c)(ii)(3).

(3) To exclude the Member on a permanent basis, or for a set period of time, from using the Cellars or the bar, provided that the misconduct was one of violent or disruptive behaviour, possession of illegal substances, theft or deliberate damage to the Society's property.

(4) To ban the Member for a period not exceeding one year from representing the Society at external debating competitions or tours.

(5) To fine a Member the cost of loss or damage to the Society's property in the case of theft or damage.

(6) To immediately dismiss the Member from any committee of the Society, except Standing Committee. This punishment shall not entitle the IDC to remove a sitting Officer from Office.

(8) To refer the matter to a Senior Disciplinary Committee. The IDC can, with an additional majority vote, recommend that the SDC:

(i) Expel the Member from the Society¹⁶⁰

(ii) Remove from Office or Standing Committee any Officer or Member of Standing Committee

(vi) Any person convicted of a charge under Rule 71(a)(i)(9) against the Returning Officer or any of his Deputies shall be suspended for at least one term and in addition be fined at least £50.

(vii) Any Member dismissed from a Committee under this Rule shall lose all seniority conferred by having served on that committee, and shall be deemed not to have held it except for the purposes of Rule 34(c)(iii).

(viii) The Disciplinary Committee may, subject to any restrictions laid down by Standing Order, inflict a fine on any Member who fails to appear before it.

(ix) At the conclusion of their proceedings, the Chairman of the Intermediate Disciplinary Committee shall within 72 hours notify the complainant and defendant in writing of their decisions and of the reasons for them. They shall subsequently post on the notice-board notification of all penalties inflicted or that no penalty was inflicted or that the complaint has not been upheld, as appropriate. Their report shall also include any recommendations for the running of the Society and interpretations made under 67(e)(i) as they decide.

(x) *Appeals procedure*

There shall be an appeal from the Intermediate Disciplinary Committee to a Senior Disciplinary Committee. Within three days of being notified of the result of the Intermediate Disciplinary Committee, either the defendant or complainant shall give notice in writing to the Returning Officer that he wishes to appeal. The Returning Officer shall summon a Senior Disciplinary Committee to hear the appeal.

¹⁵⁹ For clarification, see *Interpretation A55*.

¹⁶⁰ On the date that any expulsion shall take effect, see *Interpretation D1*.

(e) *The Senior Disciplinary Committee*

(i) In the event of the Returning Officer being required to summon a Senior Disciplinary Committee, he shall within seven days summon three Members from the shortlist drawn up under (h) below to form the Senior Disciplinary Committee. He shall as soon as practicable notify the complainant and the defendant. It shall be for the Committee to determine at what time it shall meet, which shall be within twenty-eight days of the summons being issued. The Returning Officer shall try to ensure that at least one of these three members is a qualified lawyer, and shall ensure that none of them were present at any Junior Hearing of the complaint held under (b) above.¹⁶¹

(ii) The Disciplinary Committee shall adopt whatever fair way of proceeding as it shall decide, save as provided for below:

(1) The complainant and accused Member, and any representative that either of them may appoint, shall be given the opportunity to address the Disciplinary Committee, and to put forward any relevant evidence.

(2) Any member of the Standing Committee shall be given the opportunity to address the Disciplinary Committee, and to put forward any relevant evidence.

(3) The standard of proof required for a conviction shall be that the Committee is satisfied beyond all reasonable doubt of the defendant's guilt. No person shall be found guilty save by unanimous vote. The standard of proof required to settle all other questions of fact shall be a simple balance of probability, and a majority verdict shall be sufficient.

(4) No person shall be required to give any evidence that might incriminate himself.

(iii) If in the course of their investigations the Committee discovers evidence of misconduct by any member against whom no complaint has been made, they shall be entitled to take proceedings against that member. In this event, it shall be as if a complaint had been made and referred to them. Any member shall be informed immediately in writing if proceedings are to be taken against him under this clause.

(iv) The Senior Disciplinary Committee may inflict any or all of the following penalties on a member found guilty of misconduct:

(1) a fine, the size of which may reflect any cost involved in the disciplinary proceedings if the Committee see fit, but which shall not exceed £500.

(2) suspension;

(3) expulsion;

(4) immediate dismissal from any office or committee of the Society;

(5) disqualification from nominating himself in any subsequent Election or Elections;

(6) in the case of an officer or ex-officer, disqualification from serving on Standing Committee.

(7) exclusion on a permanent basis, or for a set period of time, from using the Cellars, provided that the misconduct was one of violent or disruptive behaviour, possession of illegal substances, theft or deliberate damage to the Society's property.

(8) a fine, reflecting the cost of loss or damage to the Society's property in the case of theft or damage, or reflecting the misuse of the Society's funds in the case of abuse of office.

(9) a ban, temporary or permanent, from representing the Society at external debating competitions or tours.

(v) Any person convicted of a charge under Rule 71(a)(i)(9) against the Returning Officer or any of his Deputies shall be suspended for at least one term and in addition be fined at least £50.

(vi) Any Member dismissed from an Office or Committee under this Rule shall lose all seniority conferred by having held that office or served on that committee, and shall be deemed not to have held it except for the purposes of Rule 34(c)(iii). If the Disciplinary Committee dismisses a member from office, they shall also be empowered to order that he should lose any seniority held by virtue of any Office or Offices he may previously have held or Committees on which he may previously have served. The Committee shall explicitly state whether or not they impose such a penalty.

(vii) The Disciplinary Committee may, subject to any restrictions laid down by Standing Order, inflict a fine on any Member who fails to appear before it.¹⁶²

(viii) At the conclusion of their proceedings, the Disciplinary Committee shall within 72 hours notify the complainant and defendant in writing of their decisions and of the reasons for them. They shall subsequently post on the notice-board notification of all penalties inflicted or that no penalty was inflicted or that the complaint has not been upheld, as appropriate. Their report shall also include any recommendations for the running of the Society and interpretations made under 67(e)(i) as they decide.¹⁶³

¹⁶¹ Other requirements on the RO are listed under Standing Order G3.

¹⁶² This is Standing Order D9; regarding subpoenas, Interpretations C10 and C11 should also be consulted.

¹⁶³ For clarification on deadlines, see Interpretation C8.

(f) *Disciplinary Appeals Committee*

(i) The following shall be the sole grounds of appeal to the Disciplinary Appeals Committee:

- (1) That there has been a breach of any of the principles of natural justice¹⁶⁴;
- (2) That the decision of the Disciplinary Committee was founded on an error of law; or
- (3) That a breach of sections (a) to (d) above has occurred.¹⁶⁵

An appeal shall not be allowed if the Disciplinary Committee or Standing Committee were following or interpreting the Rules and Standing Orders unless it concerns the rationality of the Committee's interpretation.

(ii) The following shall have the right of appeal:

- (1) Any Member on whom the Disciplinary Committee has inflicted any penalty;
- (2) Any Member who brought a complaint which was the subject of a decision by the Disciplinary Committee; or
- (3) Any other member to whom a Senior Officer gives leave.

(iii) Notice of Appeal or request for Leave to Appeal, as appropriate, shall be lodged with the Returning Officer within 48 hours of the report of the Disciplinary Committee being posted on the notice board.

(iv) The Returning Officer shall pass the request for leave to appeal to the Senior Officers, who shall consider the application. If the Senior Officers refuse leave to appeal, they shall within seven days of their receipt of the application notify in writing to the Member concerned their reasons for refusing him leave. In the absence of the Senior Officers coming to a decision within 7 days and notifying the relevant Members, the Returning Officer shall be empowered to reach a decision himself, and ensure that the relevant Members are notified within 24 hours.

(v) The Returning Officer shall, as soon as a Disciplinary Appeals Committee is requisitioned, set up the committee, which shall consist of three members whose names appear on the Disciplinary Committee shortlist. He shall attempt to ensure that one of the three is a qualified lawyer, and shall ensure that none of the three served on the Senior Disciplinary Committee against whose decision appeal is being made or was present at any meeting of Standing Committee at which the complaint was discussed. If the Returning Officer is unable to summon three members from the shortlist, he shall add names to the list as per (h) below.

(vi) The Disciplinary Appeals Committee shall adopt whatever fair means of proceeding it sees fit, and shall reach decisions by a simple majority.

(vii) The Disciplinary Appeals Committee shall in its report record for each ground of appeal one of the following verdicts:

- (1) That the appeal is justified, in which case they shall consider whether they should exercise any of the powers enumerated in (viii) below, and shall record their reasons for the way in which they exercise them or for deciding not to exercise them;
- (2) That the appeal is unjustified, in which case they shall confirm the decision of the Senior Disciplinary Committee;
- (3) That the appeal is unreasonable, in which case they shall confirm the decision of the Senior Disciplinary Committee and in which case the appellant shall be subject to the penalties laid down in (ix) below.

(viii) The Disciplinary Appeals Committee shall have the power to confirm or overturn any decision of the Senior Disciplinary Committee, to remit or vary any penalty inflicted or recommendation made by the Senior Disciplinary Committee, or to impose any penalty upon the member against whom complaint was made which could have been imposed by the Disciplinary Committee.

(ix) Any Member making an unreasonable appeal to the Disciplinary Appeals Committee shall be suspended for one term, forbidden to serve on any committee or nominate himself for any office or committee for a further three terms, and fined a sum to be determined by the Committee. These penalties are in addition to any penalties otherwise imposed under this Rule.

(x) The Disciplinary Appeals Committee shall report in writing to the Returning Officer as soon as possible as it has completed its investigations. The Returning Officer shall publish its report on the notice board and distribute it to the involved Members. The report shall also contain any recommendations or interpretations, which the committee see fit to make.

(xi) In the event of an unsuccessful appeal under the above procedure, the costs of the appeal shall be borne by the Member making the appeal, unless the Disciplinary Appeals Committee directs otherwise. In no circumstances shall the Society be required to pay for the costs of a Member's representative or his other legal expenses.

¹⁶⁴ *On breaches of the principles of natural justice with respect to bias, see Interpretation F10.*

¹⁶⁵ *Where this is a failure to meet reporting deadlines, see Interpretation F11.*

(g) *Exclusion from the Premises*

By a unanimous decision, the Senior Officers and the President may exclude any Member against whom proceedings are being taken under this Rule from the Society's premises until the completion of such proceedings. This shall only apply to cases concerning violent or disruptive behaviour, possession of illegal substances or theft or deliberate damage to the Society's property. Nothing in this paragraph shall be allowed to prevent the attendance of the Member (or his representative) at any proceedings, or to prevent access to the buildings to obtain copies of the Rules or other material evidence for the hearing.

(h) *Shortlists*

(i) The shortlist for the Senior Disciplinary Committee shall consist of at least eleven and up to twenty-five members of at least 18 term's standing. The Standing Committee shall nominate the members of this shortlist by way of a Private Business Motion at a Public Business Meeting; any objections to the shortlist shall be dealt with separately. No Member shall serve on the shortlist for more than three years without being successfully re-nominated. Members who have been found guilty of an offence by an election tribunal or disciplinary committee which has not been overturned on appeal shall not be eligible to serve.

(ii) In the event of the Returning Officer being unable to find sufficient members of the shortlist who are willing and able to serve, he shall present a new Shortlist to Standing Committee, which may approve Members on that Shortlist to serve on the Disciplinary Committee for that occasion only. The criteria for eligibility shall be the same as for the original list.¹⁶⁶

(i) *Confidentiality and Records*

(i) All proceedings, but not the private deliberations, of Standing Committee or the Disciplinary Committee under this Rule shall be recorded and shall be retained for one year after the conclusion of proceedings.

(ii) It shall be up to each Disciplinary Committee to decide whether to hold its proceedings in private or to allow observers.

(iii) No Union Rule shall prevent:

- (1) The complainant and defendant discussing the case with friends or advisors
- (2) Any Member rebutting any potentially defamatory claim made before the end of the disciplinary process
- (3) The submission of evidence in a court of law or in proceedings under this Rule or Rule 33.
- (4) The publication of any notice or other official notification required by the disciplinary Rules.

(iv) After the commencement of proceedings under this Rule, no question whatsoever shall be asked, no motion whatsoever moved, nor any discussion whatsoever initiated in the House or in any Committee, that in any way relates to those proceedings, except as otherwise provided by these Rules or in response to a recommendation of the Senior Disciplinary Committee or Disciplinary Appeals Committee.

(j) *Disorderly Behaviour*

In the event of a staff member or agent of the President (or in the cellars, an agent of the Purple Turtle) catching an individual on the premises engaging in disorderly behaviour, fraudulent behaviour, attempted or actual theft, vomiting, possession or sale of illegal substances, or being in an unacceptable level of intoxication, then that staff member or agent may confiscate the membership card of that individual. The Society shall then have five days to initiate disciplinary proceedings or levy the appropriate fine, otherwise the Society must return the membership card to the Member, if necessary by Royal Mail to the Member's last known address¹⁶⁷. If disciplinary proceedings are initiated, the card shall also be returned to the Member (unless the member is excluded from the premises under the provisions of Rule 71(g)).

(k) *Time Limits*

A complaint shall not be considered¹⁶⁸ if the disciplinary process would commence¹⁶⁹ more than one year after the offending incident or behaviour occurred (or in the case of abuse of office, or theft, was discovered¹⁷⁰). A disciplinary committee shall consider if significant delay in bringing a complaint after the incident occurred constitutes evidence of malicious behaviour.

¹⁶⁶ Where members of a validly-constituted SDC are no longer able to serve, see Interpretation A37.

¹⁶⁷ Failure to return the card is a disciplinary offence: see Interpretation C16.

¹⁶⁸ Whether the complaint was brought in time is therefore the first matter of business: see Interpretation C5.

¹⁶⁹ The disciplinary process commences once a complaint has been submitted: see Interpretation C7.

¹⁷⁰ For definition of 'discovered', see Interpretation C6.

(l) *Withdrawal of Complaints*

(i) Once a complaint has been submitted to the Returning Officer, it may be withdrawn at any time by the complainant in writing. The Returning Officer shall acknowledge the withdrawal in writing to the involved parties. A complainant that has been withdrawn may not be considered or brought again in any substance. The Returning Officer may rule that a complaint can be considered again if he believes that this procedure has been abused purely to prevent the fair consideration of a complaint.

(ii) A Member can still be charged with making frivolous or unfounded and malicious complaint even after it has been withdrawn.

(iii) The withdrawal of a complaint shall not prevent a Disciplinary Committee that has formally commenced from considering or ruling on the complaint or related offences under (d)(iii) above.

(m) *Vacation Disciplinaries*

Any Member, who is subject to a complaint, may ask in writing that any relevant Disciplinary Hearing which is scheduled for a point during the vacation be delayed until term-time. If either the Senior Officers or the Returning Officer take the view that this would not damage the interests of the Society, either of them may so consent. The disciplinary process shall be frozen until term-time, and any days in the vacation shall not count as *dies non* for the purpose of time deadlines.¹⁷¹

RULE 72: INDEPENDENCE

(a) *The Proctors*

(i) The Society shall not be registered with the Proctors as a University Club.

(ii) The permission of the Proctors shall not be sought for any Union activity, except after consultation with the Senior Officers and after Standing Committee has given its consent.

(iii) No negotiations on behalf of the Society shall be entered into with the Proctors or with any other University Body without the knowledge and consent of the Standing Committee; save that the Officers and Senior Officers are authorised to consult with the Proctors and to give them any information about the Union's affairs which is of legitimate interest to the University; and that this provision shall not apply to action under Rule 52(f).

(iv) No member shall complain to the Proctors about any action of the Society or of the Standing Committee or of any Officer acting in his official capacity, or about any interpretation of the Rules made by the President or by the House on appeal, or any disciplinary proceedings of the Society.

(v) It shall be a disciplinary offence to break this rule, under Rule 71.

RULE 73: TABLE OF EXECUTIVE SENIORITY

(a) In the event of a conflict over a decision concerning a particular policy or the implementation of a particular policy, or concerning amendments to the Rules or Standing Orders, and the Rules and Standing Orders are otherwise silent, the following shall take precedence in the following order of seniority:

- (1) A Poll of Members as under Rule 47(f);
- (2) A Private Business Motion at a Public Business Meeting to which Rule 67(b)(iv) or Rule 67(b)(v) applies;
- (3) Other Private Business Motions at a Public Business Meeting or any Special Adjournment Motion, as under Rule 45;
- (4) A Private Business Motion at a Private Business Meeting;
- (5) The Returning Officer, for the purposes of his duty only, as defined in Rule 32(e) only;
- (6) A motion of an Ordinary or Emergency Standing Committee;
- (7) A motion of a Vacation Standing Committee.

All conflicts between any other bodies, Officers, committees, committee members, officials or staff members shall be resolved by Standing Committee.

(b) This Rule shall not prevent a particular body from changing its own stance over a particular policy, provided such a change is within the other Rules and Standing Orders of the Society, and always provided that such a change does not conflict with a body senior under the Table above.

¹⁷¹ This should read 'shall count as *dies non*': see *Interpretation C7*.

(c) Should the circumstances concerning a policy change, and that policy was set by a Poll, then the policy may be over-ridden by a Private Business Motion at a Public Business Meeting to which Rule 67(b)(iv) or Rule 67(b)(v) applies, as well as by another Poll.

(e) This Rule in no way implies that any body listed on this table may overturn the verdict of any Election Tribunal, Appellate Board, Disciplinary Committee, Disciplinary Appeals Committee or other disciplinary hearing.

(f) The Returning Officer shall keep a record of policy decisions, which he deems relevant, that are passed by a Poll or in a Public Business Meeting. These policy decisions shall be published in an appendix to the Rules, until they are otherwise overridden or become void or irrelevant.¹⁷²

(g) Interpretation concerning what constitutes a conflict or a change of circumstances under this Rule shall fall to the bodies specified in Rule 67(e)(i), and such interpretations may be challenged only in accordance with the mechanisms given in Rules 67(e)(ii) - (iv). All such interpretations shall be rational.

(h) Notwithstanding anything else in this Rule, Rule 73, Rule 47(f), Rule 67(b)(iv), Rule 67(b)(v) may not be amended except by a Poll or by a Private Business Motion at a Public Business Meeting to which Rule 67(b)(v) has been applied.

¹⁷² This appendix is the 'Schedule of Formal Policy Decisions' attached.

STANDING ORDERS

CHAPTER A: FINANCE

A1: OFFICER REPORTS

The President, the President-Elect, the Librarian, the Librarian-Elect, the Treasurer, the Treasurer-Elect, the Secretary and the elected members of Standing Committee shall submit interim reports to the Standing Committee, to be followed by full reports to the Ordinary Private Business Meeting. The reports shall contain full and explicit details of the events which they have organised, the sponsorship they have raised, and any financial expenditure (or financial liability) they have undertaken. The reports shall be submitted in writing to the President by Wednesday of 0th week, to be ratified, and amended if necessary, by resolution of the Standing Committee in the ordinary meeting in 1st week.¹⁷³

A2: TERMLY BUDGETS

In a meeting of Standing Committee in 1st Week of each term, the President, Librarian, Treasurer, and Secretary shall submit budgets for estimated expenditure for the ensuing term¹⁷⁴. The budgets shall have been previously considered by the Finance Committee, and amended and ratified by the Standing Committee, as specified in Rule 62(e).

(a) The President's budget shall include his expenditure on debates and his speaker meetings, the term card and publicity for the Term's events.

(b) The Librarian's budget shall include his expenditure on his speaker meetings or addresses, as well as expenditure on the Libraries and Library Staff.

(c) The Secretary's budget shall include his expenditure on any social events; expenditure related to the Bar and Cellar Bar, and Bar staff wages.

(d) The Treasurer shall include expenditure on other staff, repairs and renewals, other maintenance of buildings and gardens, office expenditure, membership drive expenditure and other miscellaneous expenditure in accordance with his or her duties.

These budgets may not be exceeded except as specified in Rule 62(e).

A3: FINANCIAL MONITORING

(a) The Bursar shall present to the Standing Committee a termly account¹⁷⁵ and rough breakdown of the Society's expenditure on the following items:

- Telephones, postage and stationery;
- Social events;
- Debates (including accommodation, travel, dinners and receptions);
- The Society's elections;
- Speaker meetings and addresses (including equipment hire);
- The membership drive;
- Printing, advertising and photocopying (where such costs are not already covered in a previous section).

(b) In Michaelmas Full Term, the Bursar shall present to the Standing Committee accounts for income and expenditure for the previous financial year.

(c) During Full Term, the income and expenditure of the Society shall be monitored by Finance Committee.

A4: MONIES OWED

(a) The Bursar at the start of each Full Term shall present to the Standing Committee a list of any sponsors and advertisers from the previous Term who have not yet paid their promised sponsorship. If necessary, the Treasurer shall pursue any monies owed to the Society, and report back every week to Standing Committee until the matter has been settled. The relevant Ex-Treasurers must provide all necessary assistance to the Bursar and the Treasurer for the purposes of their duties under this sub-section.

¹⁷³ And will then be submitted by the President to the Librarian-in-Charge in accordance with Standing Order C3.

¹⁷⁴ Which shall be submitted by the President to the Librarian-in-Charge in accordance with Standing Order C3.

¹⁷⁵ Which shall be presented by the President to the Librarian-in-Charge in accordance with Standing Order C3.

(b) The Librarian-in-Charge at the start of each Full Term shall present to Library Committee a list of those persons who have defaulted on Library fines or not returned books within the specified time. If necessary, the Librarian and Librarian-in-Charge shall pursue any books and monies owed to the Society.

A6: COLLECTION OF DEBTS

(a) Approved Organisations

(i) There shall be a schedule to the Standing Orders containing the names of organisations which the Standing Committee by a simple majority considers not to be credit worthy¹⁷⁶.

(ii) No organisation shall be removed from the schedule without the approval of two-thirds of the Standing Committee present and voting.

(iii) No organisation which appears in the schedule shall be permitted to obtain goods or services from the Society.

(b) Schedule of Unacceptable Contractors

(i) There shall be appended to the Standing Orders a Schedule¹⁷⁷ which shall list the firms, individuals and contractors who have in the past been found to be unsuitable for the Society's requirements. The Society (including the Society's Staff and members of any Committee of the Society) shall in no circumstances purchase from, or undertake business with, those listed in any manner, directly or indirectly.

(ii) This Schedule may be added to by a simple majority resolution of Standing Committee or in Private Business; no contractor shall be removed except by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting in either Standing Committee or Private Business.

A7: INTEREST ON ACCOUNTS

Interest shall be charged at the rate of two percent compounded monthly on all accounts held with the Society on which interest is charged.

A8: PENSIONS

(a) When a member of staff of the Society retires, the Standing Committee will decide whether or not to augment the superannuation benefit. Such augmentation will be the normal rule.

(b) If, in recognition of good service, the Standing Committee decides to grant a pension after retirement, this pension shall amount to two-thirds of his average yearly income from the Society during his last three years with the Society as a guaranteed income to include state pension and the calculated annuity from any lump sum.

(c) When a member of staff dies before or after retirement the Standing Committee decides to grant a pension after retirement the Standing Committee will not feel bound in principle to grant a pension to the widow, but may do so if special circumstances warrant a pension.

A9: CHEQUES

(a) Members may cash cheques at the bar for a fee of £3. In the event of any loss arising the staff shall not be held responsible, and the matter shall be referred to the Standing Committee. No member of the Society shall be permitted to cash a cheque in excess of £25 and only then on presentation of a valid guarantee card.

(b) Unpaid cheques

(i) Individuals whose cheques are subsequently returned unpaid may be fined not more than £10. In addition, they shall refund any bank charges incurred by the Society as well as the amount of the unpaid cheque. The Returning Officer shall liaise with the Bursar to oversee the levying of these fines.

(ii) There shall be appended to the Standing Orders a Schedule entitled "Schedule of those not allowed Cheque Facilities". Members, non-members and organisations whose cheques are returned unpaid more than once shall have their names inserted in this Schedule by the Bursar or Returning Officer and shall not be allowed to remit the Society by cheque. No name shall be removed from this Schedule except with the approval of two-thirds of those present and voting at an Ordinary Meeting of the Standing Committee.

¹⁷⁶ This is the 'Schedule of Non-Creditworthy Organisations' attached to these rules.

¹⁷⁷ This is the 'Schedule of Unacceptable Contractors' attached to these rules.

(c) The Society shall permit debit card cash back in the Bar. The limit shall be by set the Wines & Spirits Committee.

A10: CHEQUE SIGNING POWERS

(a) The Bursar shall have cheque-signing powers.

(b) Any cheque for more than £1000 sterling shall be counter-signed by a Senior Officer. This shall not apply in the case of recurring expenditure.

A11: PAYMENT OF COSTS

The Society will pay for essential travel and accommodation costs for any member, authorized by the Standing Committee, attending an activity away from Oxford on behalf of the Society.

A12: TRAVEL COSTS¹⁷⁸

(a) Travel will be by the cheapest reasonable form of Public Transport. Rail travel will be at the cost applicable to those holding a Young Person's Rail Card, unless the member is ineligible to hold such a card.

(b) Air travel shall only be authorised for trips out of mainland Britain, or when it can be clearly demonstrated that it is cheaper, or when essential additional accommodation costs would make the total cost greater. Whatever possible flights should be booked through the cheapest agency taking advantage of all early booking discounts and should be paid in advance by the Society. Three quotations should be obtained for all non-UK air travel.

(c) The cost of any changes in travel arrangements will fall on the member causing the change to be required. Members will therefore be required to pay a deposit to the Society of an appropriate amount, at the discretion of the President, of not more than £30 (£50 for travel by air). This deposit will be used to cover additional expenditure should the member selected subsequently withdraw from the event, unless such a withdrawal is due to circumstances beyond their control.

(d) The cost of Taxis will not be reclaimable if there is any alternative public transport available.

(e) Car hire will only be paid for if it can be demonstrated that it is the cheapest alternative for a group of members travelling together.

A13: INSURANCE

For travel out of the European Union, the Society will pay for medical insurance cover, which should normally be arranged by the person authorised to purchase the tickets. Members travelling within the European Union will be expected to have completed the necessary forms to obtain reciprocal cover under the National Health Service. Those not eligible for reciprocal cover should arrange medical insurance to be paid for by the Society.

A14: ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

(a) For official tours and competitions, accommodation and the cost of some meals may be included in the pre-paid cost. The cost of any additional accommodation will be paid by the Society only if it can be shown to be essential as a result of the flight timing or other nights away from Oxford which have been agreed prior to departure and which do not form part of the pre-paid trip. In the event of accommodation costs being claimed from the Society the onus is on the member to obtain the cheapest reasonable accommodation available.

(b) The maximum charge that the Society will pay per room must be agreed by the Standing Committee prior to departure. Room costs must be the minimum possible to allow for one bed per person. Males and females are not expected to have to share a room unless both parties agree.

(c) Every effort should be made to obtain free accommodation. In the event that free accommodation is provided and it is considered necessary to reciprocate by entertaining one's host then the reasonable cost of one meal will be reimbursed by the Society up to a maximum of two thirds of the agreed room cost which is being saved. The cost of the meal of the Society's representative shall not be claimed, except in the instance of reciprocation for hospitality extended during the American Tour (the validity and reasonable costs of which shall be determined by the Standing Committee). Where accommodation is provided by the host institution on contractual basis as part of the rearranged programme, no cost of entertaining shall be reclaimed from the Society.

(d) No food costs will be paid by the Society, save that the Standing Committee may authorise for trips over one week, abroad and during the vacation, a contribution towards the cost of food.

¹⁷⁸ For guidance on reasonable travel expenses outside of term time, see *Interpretation B8*.

A15: CLAIMS PROCEDURE

- (a) No claim for reimbursement will be considered unless supported by an official receipt.
- (b) All claims for reimbursement by the Society must be submitted on the correct Oxford Union Expense Claim Form within seven days of full term after returning from the event. Prior to payment the claims must be authorised by the Treasurer as having been passed by Standing Committee.
- (c) Claims for foreign currency expenditure should be converted to sterling at the prevailing tourist rate on the day of return.
- (d) In the event that an advance against expenses is made by the Society the full amount must be repaid within 14 days of returning from the event except for that amount which has been submitted and authorised in accordance with the procedure set out above.

A16: EXPENSES ON SOCIETY BUSINESS

The procedures detailed in this standing order shall govern all reimbursement of expenditure incurred on behalf of the Society or whilst acting as the Society's representative, except as provided for by other Standing Orders in this chapter.

(a) *Normal Procedure*

Except as provided for elsewhere in this Standing Order, the Society shall not advance money to members in anticipation of their spending it on the Society's business.

(i) *Reimbursement of Expenditure*

Members shall submit claims for reimbursement of money spent on the Society's business in writing to the Treasurer, together with a written account of how such money was spent and all relevant receipts, within a period of seven days of Full Term of the expenditure being made. Reimbursement shall be authorized by a motion of the Standing Committee, such a motion shall only be considered valid if Standing Committee is presented with a full break down of the expense claim submitted, distinguishing travel, registration, food and other costs. The Standing Committee shall be empowered to refuse reimbursement in part or in whole if in their opinion the expenditure was unreasonable, or if the claim was late.

(ii) *Reasonable Expenditure*

(1) The Standing Committee shall, from time to time, draw up guidelines as to what forms of expenditure, what sums and for what purpose it would normally consider reasonable in various circumstances; the guidelines shall form a schedule to this Standing Order¹⁷⁹ and a copy shall be provided upon request to any member who anticipates incurring expenditure on the Society's behalf. The Standing Committee may, in addition, by motion, set out expenditure guidelines and restrictions governing expenditure for a particular purpose or by a particular member. In considering whether expenditure is reasonable, the Standing Committee shall have regard for any guidelines in force, although they need not be bound by them. No guidelines under this section shall have any retrospective effect.

(2) In the event of claims to reimburse expenditure being other than the least expensive option for a particular purpose, the member shall submit in writing his reasons for believing the extra expenditure to be necessary or in the interests of the Society. The President shall judge all submissions and shall, unless in his opinion the reason submitted is valid, be empowered to direct that only a motion for reimbursement for a lesser sum than that claimed be put before Standing Committee. This clause shall cover claims for travel expenses, accommodation and all other similar expenditure necessary for but incidental to the purpose for which a member incurred expenditure.

(iii) *Emergency Expenditure*

No member shall incur expenditure of more than one hundred pounds on the Society's behalf for any one purpose unless previously authorized by a motion in Standing Committee or unless such expenditure could not have been reasonably foreseen in time to put such a motion before the Standing Committee.

(b) *Payment in advance*

(i) The Society shall not advance monies to members in anticipation of expenditure on the Society's behalf except under (1) and (2) below.

(1) *Exceptional circumstances:* In exceptional circumstances, the Standing Committee may authorize payment in advance to a member for the purposes covered by this Standing Order. Applications for circumstances to be considered exceptional should be made in writing to the President who shall judge each case on its merits and shall be empowered to decline to submit a case to the Standing Committee.

¹⁷⁹ This is the 'Schedule of Reasonable Costs'.

(2) *Expenditure in excess of £100*: If the sum of money that any one member may need to spend on behalf of the Society for any one purpose or in total for several purposes before it be practicable for him to claim reimbursement, will exceed £100, the Standing Committee may pass a motion authorizing the advance of a sum equal to the anticipated expenditure to the member concerned. Such a motion shall specify in detail precisely how the money is to be spent and, as far as possible, the sum to be spent for each specific purpose.

(ii) Any member being advanced money shall as soon as practicable after the event for which the expenditure was authorized submit detailed accounts of how all the money was spent, together with all relevant receipts, and shall return any excess money. In the event of his failing to do so within fourteen days of Full Term or of the accounts submitted being in the opinion of the President and the FAA inadequate or of the expenditure being in the opinion of the Standing Committee not in conformity with the provisions of the motion by which the money was advanced, the member concerned shall be liable for the return to the Society within seven days of the whole sum advanced such lesser sum as the Standing Committee deems appropriate. Failure to do so shall be considered a disciplinary offence within the ambit of Rule 71.

(iii) *Liability forms*

Any member being advanced money by the Society under this Standing Order shall sign a form to indicate that they are aware of the provisions of this Standing Order and that they accept personal liability for the proper use or return of the sum advanced.

(iv) *Additional expenditure*

Any member who, having been advanced money under these provisions, incurs further expenditure over and above the sum advanced, may be reimbursed in the normal manner as laid out in (a) above, for any expenditure adjudged reasonable, always provided that the provisions of (i) above have first been fully met.

A18: MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Standing Committee member(s) responsible for the Membership Drive shall prepare a report for Standing Committee every fortnight during Michaelmas Full Term, listing the current join-up rates by college or institution. By Monday 7th Week, he shall also present a comprehensive report to Standing Committee detailing all expenditures on the Membership Drive and recommendations for the future.

A19: SCHEDULE OF RECOGNISED POLICY DOCUMENTS

(a) *Purpose*: The Schedule of Recognized Policy Documents shall list only documents describing policy relating to management and development of the society and its interests. Standing Committee shall not be bound by any Recognized Policy Documents.

(b) *Enactment and Repeal*: No document may be added to or removed from the Schedule of Recognised Policy Documents without a resolution of Standing Committee to which two-thirds of those present and voting signify their consent.

(c) *Maintenance*: Up to date copies of the Schedule of Recognised Policy Documents shall be maintained by the Returning Officer. At least one copy shall be held in the Library, and made available to all members.

A20: TICKET SALES

Up to ten tickets may be removed from the General Office by the events organiser to be sold off the premises. If the events organiser does not return with the proceeds or the unsold tickets, he shall be liable for the full cost.

CHAPTER B: COMMITTEES

B1: REPORTING

(a) No member of any Committee of the Society shall write for publication in any journal an account of a meeting of the Society or any comment on the Society's affairs except with the prior permission of the President. No member of the Standing Committee shall speak as an individual at any public or private meeting other than of the Society on matters concerning the Society's affairs without the prior permission of the Standing Committee.

(b) *Confidential business of the Standing Committee*

(i) No member of the Standing Committee shall, save with the specific permission of the Standing Committee, under any circumstances communicate to any person not a member of the committee information regarding any proceedings of the committee which have been declared confidential under the provisions of Standing Order B2 (a).

(ii) No member of the Society shall communicate to any other person any material that he knows, or reasonably believes to be an account of confidential proceedings as defined in (i) above, regardless of how that material came into his possession, save with the specific permission of Standing Committee.

(iii) Nothing in this Standing Order shall be held to restrict the Officers, Senior Officers or Returning Officer acting in the discharge of their official duties, nor shall it place any restriction on the evidence which may be given to a Board of Appeal, Appellate Board, Electoral Tribunal or in a court of law nor shall it be interpreted in any circumstances as overriding any of the Society's Rules.

(iv) The Standing Committee shall be empowered to inflict fines of up to £50 on any member found guilty of a breach of this Standing Order.

(v) Notwithstanding (iv) above, it shall be in order for proceedings for suspension or expulsion under Rule 70 to be instituted for a breach of this Standing Order if the circumstances so warrant.

B2: COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

(a) The proceedings of any Committee of the Society shall not be confidential unless Rule 23 states otherwise. Decisions or discussions which are not confidential shall be noted in the public minutes¹⁸⁰.

B3: MINUTES

(a) *Motions*: The Secretary to any Committee of the Society shall within 24 hours of any meeting of that Committee publish on the Society's Notice Board all decisions made at that meeting, and any other details or announcements that the committee shall think fit.

(b) *Minutes*: The Secretary to any Committee of the Society shall within 72 hours of any meeting of that Committee enter into the appropriate minute-book the meeting's minutes in such form and detail as the Committee shall decide. These minutes must at least include an accurate list of those persons present during any part of Meeting and an accurate list of those Members of the Committee who were absent throughout. The minute-book shall be at all times available to the Committee concerned and the Standing Committee, but not to other members of the Society save at the Standing Committee's discretion.

(c) *Extended Public Minutes*: The Secretary shall, within 24 hours of any meeting of the Standing Committee in which Private Minutes are approved, publish them as amended and subject to B2 above for the inspection of members in the office.

(d) *Past Minutes*: Applications to examine minutes of Committee meetings held more than 50 years before the date of application shall normally be granted, on payment of a fee of at least £1 to be determined by the Librarian-in-Charge taking into account the amount of work this imposes on the staff.

B5: STANDING COMMITTEE AND PRIVATE BUSINESS MOTIONS

(a) No motion shall go before the House as a Standing Committee motion, unless supported by two-thirds of those members of the Standing Committee present and voting.

(b) When Standing Committee has decided that a motion shall go before the House as a Standing Committee motion, members of the Standing Committee may not speak against that motion, but they may vote either for or against it.

(c) When Standing Committee opposes a motion in Private Business, members of Standing Committee may not speak in favour of that motion, but they may vote either for or against it.

¹⁸⁰ Including any non confidential documents: see Interpretation B14.

(d) 'Motion' in this Standing Order shall include any motion, amendment or rider.

B6: STANDING COMMITTEE AGENDA

(a) *For Ordinary Meetings:* At least 48 hours before any ordinary meeting of the Standing Committee, the Secretary shall cause to be sent by e-mail to each member notice of all items notified for that purpose to him together with any unratified minutes of that committee not less than 48 hours before the commencement of that meeting, provided that they are explicitly marked as unratified.

(b) *For Emergency Meetings:* One of such persons as have requisitioned an Emergency Meeting of the Standing Committee shall, as soon as possible after the delivery of the requisition and in any case not less than 24 hours before the time specified thereon, post on the notice board the date, time and place of the meeting specified on the requisition, and place in the Office details of the business to be transacted thereat. In the event of the President changing the date, time or place of the meeting, he shall post a notice to that effect as soon as possible. If the above provision be not obeyed, the meeting shall be deemed inquorate unless two-thirds of the Committee be present.

(c) *For All Meetings*

(i) No motion involving the expenditure of any sum in excess of £100 shall be passed by the Standing Committee unless the amount and purpose have been specified on the agenda and either the Senior Treasurer be present or have been notified of the business in question at least seven days in advance. This subsection may be waived by the agreement of a Senior Officer.

(ii) No matter not specified on the agenda other than one legitimately arising under the item 'Business arising from the Minutes' shall be discussed if two members of the Committee, being present at the time, object.¹⁸¹

B7: EMERGENCY DEBATES

(a) The Emergency Debates that occur before Public Business Meetings shall ordinarily be chaired by a member of Standing Committee, and minutes taken by a member of Secretary's Committee.

(b) The elected member of Standing Committee elected first shall chair the first Emergency Debate of term, and the member of Secretary's Committee elected first shall minute that debate. At each successive emergency debate, the next most senior elected member of Standing and Secretary's Committee shall chair / minute respectively. If there are more debates than members of the particular Committee, the rota shall start again.

(c) In the absence of the appropriate Committee member, the President shall choose a replacement, yet this shall in no way infringe or prejudice the right of the appropriate Committee member under this Standing Order to chair or minute subsequent Emergency Debates.

B8: TIME OF ORDINARY MEETINGS

- (1) An ordinary meeting of the Standing Committee shall take place every Monday in Full Term at 5 p.m. An ordinary meeting of the Standing Committee shall take place on Monday of 0th Week and Monday of 9th Week at 5 p.m. in the President's Office, unless that be a Bank Holiday.
- (2) An ordinary meeting of the Consultative Committee shall take place every Monday in Full Term at 1.15 p.m.
- (3) An ordinary meeting of the Finance Committee shall take place every Monday in Full Term at 4.00 p.m.
- (4) An ordinary meeting of the Secretary's Committee shall take place every Monday in Full Term at 1.00 p.m.
- (5) An ordinary meeting of the Library Committee shall take place every Monday in Full Term at 2.15 p.m.
- (6) An ordinary meeting of the Treasury Committee shall take place on Mondays of even-numbered weeks in Full Term at 3.00 p.m.
- (7) An ordinary meeting of the Wine and Spirits Committee shall take place at least twice a term.

Failure by the Chair of any of these committees to call meetings for these times shall be a disciplinary offence under Rule 71(a)(i)(12).

B9: EX-OFFICERS NOT SERVING ON THE STANDING COMMITTEE

Any ex-Officer qualified to serve on the Standing Committee under Rule 24(a)(ii) who is not a member of the Standing Committee by virtue of resignation (whether voluntary or enforced under Rule 23(c)) or of failure to give notice of intention to serve, shall nevertheless have speaking rights at meetings of Standing Committee.

¹⁸¹ *But only if they object before discussion commences: see Interpretation B5.*

B10: LIMITATIONS OF VACATION STANDING COMMITTEE

(a) The Vacation Standing Committee shall neither alter nor waive any of the Standing Orders¹⁸²; nor set up a Selection Committee nor an Election Tribunal; nor exercise Standing Committee's powers under Rule 7(b)&(c); nor appoint an acting Senior Officer to act as Senior Treasurer except the Senior Librarian or a person approved in writing by either Senior Officer.

(b) None of the things the Vacation Standing Committee is forbidden to do by (a) shall be done in the vacation save by an Ordinary or Emergency Meeting of the full Standing Committee of which at least 4 days notice shall have been given to every member posted first class to such address as he may have left for this purpose, or (in the absence of such instructions) to his college.

(c) Vacation Standing Committee shall give full details of its proceedings and the decisions to any member of the Standing Committee who requests them.

B11: ELECTIONS TAKING PLACE ON THE STANDING COMMITTEE

(a) *System of Voting:* All elections held by the Standing or Selection Committee shall be by Single Transferable Vote. An election for more than two places shall be divided into a number of consecutive elections, each for two places, unless and until one place remains to be filled.

(b) *Counting of Vote:* The count shall be performed by at least two people. If at any stage of the count two or more candidates, one of whom has to be eliminated, have an equal number of votes, the candidate shall be eliminated who under SO E3 is the junior.

B12: COMPOSITION OF THE DEBATES SELECTION COMMITTEE

The following order priority shall be used to determine the composition of the Selection Committee as defined in Rule 28(b):

(a) *Elected member of Standing Committee*

(i) The elected member of Standing Committee shall be the elected member of Standing Committee who first qualifies under the criteria defined in section (c) below, unless that member is already a member of the Debates Selection Committee, in which case the elected member of Standing Committee shall be the member who next qualifies under the criteria defined in section (c) below.

(ii) If no elected member of Standing Committee qualifies under the criteria defined in section (c) below the President shall appoint an elected member of Standing Committee to serve on the Committee.

(b) The President, should he or she wish to sit on the Selection Committee, for all or any part of his or her term as President, until the end of his or her term as President.

(c) Other members to a total of eight, regardless of whether the President is on the committee, dependent on the following criteria in order of preference:

- (1) Winning the World Universities' Debating Championships for the Oxford Union
- (2) Reaching the Grand Final of the World Universities' Debating Championships for the Oxford Union
- (3) Reaching the semi-finals of the World Universities' Debating Championships for the Oxford Union or winning the European Universities' Debating Championships for the Oxford Union
- (4) Reaching the finals of the European Universities' Debating Championships for the Oxford Union
- (5) Reaching the quarter-finals of the World Universities' Debating Championships for the Oxford Union or the semi-finals of the European Universities' Debating Championships for the Oxford Union
- (6) Winning a Class A IV for the Oxford Union or winning the World Universities' Debating Championships for another institution
- (7) Breaking at the World Universities' Debating Championships for the Oxford Union or reaching the Grand Final of the World Universities' Debating Championships for another institution
- (8) Breaking at the European Universities' Debating Championships for the Oxford Union, reaching the final of a Class A IV for the Oxford Union, reaching the semi-finals of the World Universities' Debating Championships for another institution or winning the European Universities' Debating Championships for another institution
- (9) Winning a Class B IV for the Oxford Union, reaching the semi-finals of a Class A IV for the Oxford Union or reaching the finals of the European Universities' Debating Championships for another institution
- (10) Reaching the final of a Class B IV for the Oxford Union, reaching the quarter-finals of a Class A IV for the Oxford Union, reaching the quarter-finals of the World Universities' Debating Championships for another institution or the semi-finals of the European Universities' Debating Championships for another institution
- (11) Reaching the semi-final of a Class B IV for the Oxford Union or winning a Class A IV for another institution
- (12) Winning a Class C IV for the Oxford Union or breaking at the World Universities' Debating Championships for another institution
- (13) Reaching the final of a Class C IV for the Oxford Union, breaking at the European Universities' Debating Championships for another institution, or reaching the final of a Class A IV for another institution

¹⁸² *Nor create new Standing Orders: see Interpretation B15.*

- (14) Competing or Judging for the Oxford Union at the World Universities' Debating Championships, winning a Class B IV for another institution or reaching the semi-finals of a Class A IV for another institution
- (15) Competing or Judging for the Oxford Union at the European Universities' Debating Championships, reaching the final of a Class B IV for another institution or reaching the quarter-finals of a Class A IV for another institution
- (16) Winning an Internal debating competition at the Oxford Union or reaching the semi-final of a Class B IV for another institution
- (17) Reaching the final of an Internal debating competition at the Oxford Union or winning a Class C IV for another institution
- (18) Reaching the semi-final of a Class C IV for the Oxford Union or reaching the final of a Class C IV for another institution
- (19) Reaching the semi-final of an Internal debating competition at the Oxford Union or competing or judging for another institution at the World Universities' Debating Championships
- (20) Competing or Judging for another institution at the European Universities' Debating Championships

(d) Class A, B and C IVs are defined as follows:

(i) An IV is a university-level debating tournament, be it purely Inter-Varsity or 'Open' in composition, within the British Isles or abroad. As such, the Australasian Debating Championships, NorthAms, South African Nationals or any other regional competitions will be assessed as IVs.

(ii) The system for classifying IVs will use speakers who have been a member of the top 32 teams at Worlds or finished in the top 64 speaker positions at Worlds or who have been a member of the top 16 teams at Euros or finished in the top 32 speaker positions at Euros, over the course of the last four World and last four European Championships. These speakers will be denoted as 'Break Speakers'.

(iii) Each competition shall receive a numerical value using the following formula: Number of 'Break Speakers' on the tab + (0.5 x number of non-dummy teams on the tab) = Preliminary Value. For competitions where the CA is a 'Break Speaker', this preliminary value will be their 'Formula Value'. For competitions where the CA is not a 'Break Speaker', the competition's 'Formula Value' will be (0.75 x preliminary value)

(iv) Only 'Break Speakers' attaining their qualification prior to a competition taking place count in the classification formula.

(v) DSC will maintain a database able to calculate the 'Formula Value' of any competition, but any union member may challenge the status of an IV and if they can provide evidence that the calculation has been performed incorrectly then the IV's status will be corrected accordingly.

(vi) A class A IV is an IV as defined in (d.i) that scores a 'Formula Value' of 41.0 or more. A class B IV is an IV as defined in (d)(i) that scores a 'Formula Value' of less than 41.0 but more than 20.0. A class C IV is an IV as defined in (d)(i) that scores a 'Formula Value' of 20.0 or less.

(vii) If insufficient data is available to rank an IV using the procedure outlined above, DSC shall use the last available ranking for that competition. Should there be no previous ranking for that competition, DSC shall follow the formula outlined above using as much information as is available to them.

(e) If applicants are tied based on the criteria laid out in section (c) they shall be differentiated according to the following criteria with all three factors taken into consideration but in order priority:

- 1) The number of times they have achieved the highest of the above criteria
- 2) The ranking of their next highest achievement based on the criteria above
- 3) Their relative positions on the speaker tab at the competition at which they fulfilled their highest criteria on rankings above

(f) No competitions or tournaments attended on an individual basis – i.e.. not representing a debating society – nor any tournaments attended for another institution whilst a student at Oxford University shall count in section

(g) For the purpose of section (c), an institution is defined as an educational institution where the member is enrolled on a full-time basis as a student.

(h) Notwithstanding any of the above, no member may sit on the Debates Selection Committee unless they have accumulated, during their time in Oxford, eight points where:

- (i) Helping at or adjudicating an individual round of any Oxford Union tournament, including the Oxford IV, the Oxford Schools Competition regional rounds and Finals Day, the ICYD regional round and Finals Day, and all internal competitions and tournaments shall be worth one point.
- (ii) Accepting crash accommodation during the IV shall be worth one point
- (iii) Coaching a workshop for the Oxford Union shall be worth one point
- (iv) Travelling more than six miles from Carfax to help or adjudicate at any Oxford Union tournament shall be worth one point

(j) Regardless of whether a member meets the above criteria, DSC may decide not to appoint a member to the committee if it deems that member to be unsuitable to take a place on the committee. DSC may register such a corporate objection if three-quarters of the committee vote to do so. Such a decision may only be upheld once Standing Committee passes a motion in support of the corporate objection. Such a vote shall take place using a secret ballot, and if such a corporate objection is registered, a written justification of the decision shall be delivered

to the President and posted on the notice-board. This clause shall not apply to the President's appointment under B12(b).

B13: OPERATION OF THE DEBATES SELECTION COMMITTEE

(1) Applicability

- (a) The following rules apply to tournaments in which the participants are wholly or partially funded by the Oxford Union.
- (b) These guidelines do not apply to the World Championships or European Championships, except and only where they are explicitly cited in S.O.B13.4.c.

(2) Novice and Intermediate Speakers

- (a) A speaker is deemed to be a "novice speaker" if and only if:
 - (i) Their highest achievement, as specified by Standing Order B12(c), ranks at point 16 or lower, with the following exceptions:
 - (1) Achievements for other institutions are ranked as though they were achievements for the Oxford Union
 - (2) The Australasian Universities' Debating Championships and equivalent regional tournaments shall be ranked equal to the European Universities' Debating Championships
 - (ii) They have competed at fewer than five IVs for the Oxford Union OR they have not competed at an IV with an intermediate or experienced speaker for the Oxford Union
- b) A speaker is deemed to be an "intermediate speaker" if and only if:
 - (i) They are not a novice speaker (as specified above)
 - (ii) Their highest achievement, as specified by Standing Order B12(c), ranks between points 9 and 15 inclusive, with the following exceptions:
 - (1) Achievements for other institutions are ranked as though they were achievements for the Oxford Union
 - (2) The Australasian Universities' Debating Championships and equivalent regional tournaments shall be ranked equal to the European Universities' Debating Championships
- c) Other speakers are deemed to be "experienced speakers".

(3) Duties of the Selection Committee

- (a) All tournaments in a term are to be advertised, where possible, to Union Debaters during 0th week.
- (b) DSC should call for nominations and, if practicable, advertise the number of funded novice, intermediate and experienced places at least ten days before the IV. The closing date for applications should be clearly stated.
- (c) It shall be the role of the DSC Chairman, or whoever he nominates, to keep an up to date record of all applications and selections as well as whether members are designated as 'novice', 'intermediate' or 'experienced' debaters. This shall be known as the 'DSC record.'
 - (i) This record shall be placed on the DSC notice board and kept up to date for members to view.
 - (ii) Members shall be able to challenge the DSC record by writing to the Chair of DSC, who should notify the entire committee of any such request by the next meeting.
 - (iii) DSC shall decide by majority vote whether to uphold challenges and amend the DSC record.
- (d) DSC shall conduct selections at least 5 days in advance of any IV, unless this is impracticable. After the close of nominations DSC shall use the process detailed below to select speakers in the following order:
 - (i) All applicants shall be checked against the 'DSC Record' and classified as 'novice', 'intermediate' or 'experienced'
 - (ii) All applicants shall be checked against the 'DSC Record' to ascertain whether they have fulfilled their 'helper quota' as laid down in rule 4c. Any speakers that have not fulfilled their obligations under this rule may only be considered for a position as a 'helper'
 - 1. Rule 3.d.ii may be suspended in exceptional circumstances with the majority support of DSC but only if the fact that 3.d.ii has been suspended is publicised to all those who applied for the IV concerned.
 - (iii) All applicants shall be checked against the 'DSC Record' to ascertain whether they comply with rule 4b concerning the maximum number of tournaments to be attended in any academic year.
 - (iv) DSC shall calculate the minimum number of novice and intermediate speakers it should select using the novice and intermediate quota as laid out in rule 4f.
 - (v) Experienced and intermediate speakers shall be selected based on the following criteria with all three taken into consideration, but in the following order priority:
 - (1) merit (as evidenced by debating achievements)
 - (2) involvement in union debating activities
 - (3) spreading opportunities to as many people as possible
 - (vi) Novice speakers shall be selected on the following criteria with all three taken into consideration, but in the following order priority:
 - (1) involvement in union debating activities
 - (2) spreading opportunities to as many people as possible

(3) merit (as evidenced debating achievements)

(vii) Judges shall be selected on the following criteria, which should be considered with equal weighting:

(1) spreading opportunities to as many people as possible

(2) involvement in union debating activities

(3) merit (as evidenced debating achievements)

(e) DSC should inform applicants of selections within twenty-four hours of the selections being made.

(f) Any applicant may request a written explanation of a selection decision by writing to the Chair of DSC. The entire committee should be notified of any such request by the next meeting. The Chair of DSC, or whomever they nominate, shall reply to any such request before the competition concerned occurs, or within two weeks of the receipt of the request by the Chair, whichever is the sooner.

4) Selection rules

(a) For the purpose of the rules below, attendance at a tournament refers to being formally registered as either an adjudicator or debater for the Oxford Union. A tournament does not count towards a person's total number of tournaments attended if the person was neither receiving any funding or contribution from the Oxford Union for the tournament, nor using the words 'Oxford Union' as part of their team name.

(b) Any member can be selected for up to six tournaments in an academic year. Once six tournaments have been attended, a member may only be selected for another tournament if there are insufficient applications to fill the advertised positions.¹⁸³

(i) For the purpose of rule (4)(b), multiple tournaments which take place on one trip (for example to Durham and Newcastle on successive days) shall be counted as one tournament.

(ii) If there is confusion over whether multiple tournaments count as one trip, a majority vote by DSC shall decide the matter.

(c) All members selected to represent the Union at an intervarsity should have a 'helper score' attached to them, which should be kept as part of the DSC Record. Two points are to be added to a speaker's score after they attend a tournament as a helper (as defined below). Points are to be deducted for each tournament attended as a non-helper (i.e. not as a helper, as defined below). Novices should have half a point deducted for attending a tournament as a non-helper; intermediate and experienced speakers should have one point deducted for attending a tournament as a non-helper. No member is permitted to have a helper score below -1.5 points, and DSC should not select a member to attend a tournament if it would cause his or her helper score to fall beneath this level.

(i) For experienced speakers, helper is defined as attending a tournament as either:

(1) The partner of a novice speaker if DSC deems that doing so would benefit the novice speaker

(2) The partner of an intermediate speaker if DSC deems that doing so would benefit the intermediate speaker

(3) An adjudicator

(i) For intermediate speakers, helper is defined as attending a tournament as either:

(1) The partner of a novice speaker if DSC deems that doing so would benefit the novice speaker

(2) An adjudicator

(ii) For novice speakers, helper is defined as attending a tournament as a judge.

In the case that a speaker is unable to attend a tournament as a helper because doing so would prevent them from attending two tournaments in preparation for the World or European Championships, DSC may decide, upon request, to defer attending a competition as a helper (and thus allow the speaker to have a helper score below -1.5 points) until the next available opportunity. However, DSC must not select a speaker to trial for subsequent World or European Championships if his or her helper score is below -1.5 points at the time of the trial.

(ii) *Modifications to helper score*

(1) Any member selected as a speaker or a judge for an IV who declines to attend that IV after selections have been announced will have 1 point deducted from their helper score. That IV shall also count towards the six-tournament limit for selections in an academic year.

(2) Any member who cancels their attendance less than 48 hours before an IV is due to begin, or is absent without notice from an IV, shall have an additional point deducted from their helper score

(3) Any member who misses a preliminary round as a judge or speaker for an IV, but is otherwise in attendance, shall have one point deducted from their helper score. (Helper points are otherwise still accrued as normal).

(4) DSC may waive the deductions in part (i), (ii), and (iii) if and only if it deems, with a two-thirds majority vote, that the member's reasons for non-attendance were both serious and entirely unforeseeable.

(5) For the purposes of part (iv), serious and unforeseeable reasons shall include (but not limited to) medically certified personal illness, bereavement, and involvement with disciplinary committees in

¹⁸³ On the scope and applicability of this Standing Order, see Interpretation B9.

the Oxford Union. Ordinary academic and social commitments shall not constitute serious and unforeseeable reasons.

- (d) Tournaments attended as 'helpers' count towards a person's total subject to 4b.
- (e) For experienced speakers only, attending a tournament as an adjudicator shall only define a member as being a Helper once in any academic year.
- (f) At tournaments where four or more Union members are sent, at least one quarter of debaters and one quarter of the total number of members sent to the tournament (debaters and adjudicators) are to be novices. The quota is rounded up such that 1-2=0, 3-4=1, 5-8=2, 9-12=3.
 - (i) Rule 4e shall not apply to tournaments outside the British Isles.
 - (ii) In the event that insufficient novices apply to fill the quota, DSC may fill the vacant places with intermediate speakers.
 - (iii) In the event that insufficient novices or intermediates apply to fill the quota, DSC may fill the vacant places with experienced speakers.
- (g) No member can attend more than two Irish IVs in one academic year.
- (h) DSC may decline to select any member if that member has failed to fulfil their obligations to the committee in terms of contributing to Union debating in return for their place on a Worlds, Euros or Development Squad or by virtue of being a member of DSC.
- (j) Debaters who are selected to judge or speak at worlds must apply to be the pro in a pro-am at some point after the time of their selection. When applying to be the pro in such a pro-am, they may not specify that they only wish to be selected to speak with a chosen partner. Until debaters with this obligation have made such an application, they shall not be eligible to trial to represent Oxford at Worlds or Euros.

5) Membership

- a) DSC shall consist of eight members and a non-voting delegate from the Standing Committee. Vacancies should be filled within two full weeks of academic term unless no suitably qualified candidates emerge.
- b) If DSC decides to fill a vacancy the Chair shall advertise the vacancy to Members of the Oxford Union Society using the Debate Announce Mail-list and invite applications at least five days before the meeting to determine how the vacancy is filled. Applicants should be selected based on the criteria detailed in Schedule B13.
- c) On accepting an invitation to join the committee, members must agree to contribute whatever time the committee deems to be reasonably sufficient to support debating with the Oxford Union.
- d) Members may resign from the committee at any time either by writing to the Chair (e-mail correspondence shall be considered sufficient) or in person at a meeting of DSC.

6) Roles of DSC members

- a) DSC shall consist of a Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary as well as five other members. The responsibilities of the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary are detailed below, and the remaining five members will be allocated portfolios by the Chairman as he deems necessary.
- b) It is the role of the Chairman to:
 - (i) ensure that a meeting of DSC is called every week, that the meeting is advertised on the main Union noticeboard and that all DSC members, including the Standing Committee Delegate are emailed at least 48 hours before the meeting to notify them of the time and place where it is to be held
 - (ii) chair all such meetings of DSC and ensure that orderly conduct is maintained
 - (iii) liaise with the Oxford Union staff, Standing Committee and President on behalf of DSC
 - (iv) oversee all the DSC portfolios to ensure that the duties assigned to other DSC members are being discharged appropriately
 - (v) fully brief his or her successor as to the current state of debating at the Oxford Union and to provide information on all ongoing projects or activities in order to allow his or her successor to assume the role successfully
- c) It is the role of the Treasurer to:
 - (i) ensure that a budget is presented to Standing Committee each year in Trinity term for the coming academic year and that adequate accounts are kept to ensure that spending remains reasonable
 - (ii) monitor spending and advise DSC as to whether planned expenditure, including for entry to Intervarsity competitions, is affordable
 - (iii) ensure that cheques are raised to pay registration fees to all competitions entered by the Oxford Union
 - (iv) oversee the accounts maintained by individual departments, such as the Oxford Schools' Competition, ICYD and the Oxford IV, highlighting any concerns to DSC
- d) It is the role of the Secretary to ensure that:
 - (i) minutes are taken of all DSC meetings
 - (ii) such minutes are distributed via email to all DSC members within 48 hours of the meeting closing

- (iii) such minutes are posted on the DSC internet group within 48 hours of the meeting closing
- (iv) ordinary members are informed of the opportunities available to them using the Debate Announce mailing list
- (v) an archive of all material DSC deems to be useful is maintained and made available to other DSC members upon request

7) *Appointment of the chairman*

- (a) The Standing Committee Delegate shall organise the electoral process.
- (b) The outgoing Chairman will not be considered to have formally resigned from his position until the moment of the election of his or her successor. The outgoing Chairman should indicate his or her intention to resign from the position of Chairman in writing (e-mail correspondence shall be considered sufficient) to all committee members as well as to the President of the Oxford Union.
- (c) At the next available opportunity in a meeting of DSC, the Standing Committee Delegate shall call for nominations for the position of Chairman. If there is only one candidate he or she shall be elected automatically. If there are two or more candidates, the Standing Committee Delegate shall call for a brief hustings.
- (d) Hustings shall comprise of each candidate giving a brief speech of no more than two minutes outlining why they feel they would be suited to the position. The order of speaking shall be decided by lots. All committee members (including the outgoing Chairman) may ask questions of the candidates. Each question must be posed to all the candidates. The order in which the candidates answer shall be rotated for each question with the starting order being one clockwise rotation from the order decided for the opening speeches. Once there are no more questions or after 20 minutes, whichever is the sooner, the Standing Committee Delegate shall call a vote. Each committee member (including the candidates) shall write their preferred candidate on a piece of paper and hand it to the Standing Committee Delegate who shall count the ballots in a corner of the room. The Standing Committee Delegate shall announce the elected candidate and the number of votes they received.
- (e) The outgoing chairman shall only have a vote if they are continuing to sit as an Ordinary Member of DSC.
- (f) In the case of a tied result, the following procedure shall be employed, with each progression only occurring if the previous stage was incapable of determining a winner:
 - (i) Hustings should be opened for an additional ten minutes and a second closed vote taken
 - (ii) The candidate with the least votes (if there are more than two) should be eliminated and all members should recast their votes
 - (iii) The candidate who is at that point ranked highest on the DSC appointment criteria detailed in schedule B13 should be selected
- (g) The candidates are entitled to a recount of the ballots. Only one recount shall be allowed and all the candidates are to observe the Standing Committee Delegate recounting if one is called.
- (h) The Chairman must resign from his position within one year of being elected. However he may then offer himself as a candidate for election to the position of Chair at that point.

(8) *Meetings of DSC*

- (a) DSC shall meet at least six times every term.
- (b) A minimum of five committee members must be present for quorum.
- (c) If the Chair is not present, the most senior member by time served on the committee shall take the chair for that meeting.
- (d) An extraordinary meeting of DSC may be called with 24 hours notice by the Chairman, or by three other DSC members.
- (e) Decisions of DSC shall be made by a majority vote of the committee members, excluding the Standing Committee representative. In the case of a tied result, the Chair shall have the casting vote.
- (f) Full agendas must be distributed by email to all DSC members at least twelve hours in advance of every meeting. No matters may be discussed or raised unless they are on the published agenda or are raised under 'Any other business.'
- (g) Any proposed change to the Standing Orders must be made in writing and circulated to all members of DSC at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting where it is raised.
- (h) Full internal minutes must be taken at every meeting of DSC.
 - (i) These internal minutes are in addition to the official minutes taken by the Standing Committee delegate for the Union's records.
 - (ii) These minutes must include:
 - (1) The location, opening and closing times of the meeting
 - (2) Those present
 - (3) Main points of discussion at the meeting

- (4) The motions, their proposers, and the results of votes, if any; including who voted for and against.
- (5) A note of any motions to be voted on at future meetings.
- (iii) All in camera discussions are to be fully minuted.
- (iv) These minutes must be then circulated to the members of DSC within 48 hours and should be approved as the first order of business at the following meeting.
- (v) Minutes should be archived formally on approval and these archives should be maintained by the Secretary as a permanent record for all current members of DSC.

(9) Censuring

- (a) DSC may pass a motion of censure against a committee member with a two thirds majority of the entire committee. If a motion of censure is passed, the chairman of DSC should write to the President to inform him or her of the reasons for the censure.
- (b) All meetings should be conducted in an orderly manner. No member may speak unless invited to do so by the Chairman, and any member found to be out of order may be asked to leave the meeting by the Chairman. Members may be found out of order if they:
 - (i) are verbally abusive or insulting to any other member
 - (ii) repeatedly interrupt other members
 - (iii) repeatedly speak when not invited to do so by the Chairman
- (c) Any member who misses three non-emergency committee meetings in any one term shall be deemed to have resigned from the committee

B14: VACATION DAYS

- (a) A vacation day shall count as a period of at least eight hours work within a 24 hour period, or two periods of four hours.
- (b) During the vacation the President shall keep a sign down sheet to record committee member's vacation days in the general office.
- (c) It shall be the responsibility of individual committee members to make sure that they sign down on the sheet upon entering and leaving the building.
- (d) The number of vacation days signed down by each committee member shall be passed in 0th week standing committee.
- (e) Should any officer or committee member fail to complete their vacation day requirement, they shall automatically be fined £10 for every day they have failed to complete without good reason as considered by the President.
- (f) The President shall present a list of committee vacation days in the Presidential Debate and on the notice board for the first two weeks of term, as well as include them in his OPBM Report, in the following format –

“Following the passing of vacation reports, I am required to inform you of vacation day totals of committee members. You may wish to use this as a guide to the work carried out by committee members on your behalf, but should also consider the term card and specific events committee members are responsible for in making this judgement.

Committee member A carried out X Vacation days, out of a required Y; etc”

B15: COMMITTEE PROCEDURE

- (a) This Standing Order shall govern the proceedings of the Consultative Committee, the Finance Committee, the Standing Committee, the Wine and Spirits Committee, the Treasury Committee and the Debate Selection Committee.
- (b) The Chair of the Committee may govern the meeting as he or she sees fit, save that:
 - (1) In the absence of the Chairman or Secretary, another member of the Committee must be appointed to take on their responsibilities for the purposes of that meeting
 - (2) The time at which the meeting starts and ends shall be announced
 - (3) The first item of business shall be discussion, amendment and approval of the minutes of the previous meeting
 - (4) The second item of business shall be the determination of whether good reason had been provided for absences the previous week, beginning in each case with any votes required under Rule 23(c)(iii) and being followed by the vote required under Rule 23(c)(iv).
 - (5) The third item of business shall be a report on changes and prospective changes in the membership of the committee by the Secretary.
 - (6) The fourth item of business will be matters arising from the previous week
 - (7) In the case of the Consultative Committee, the Finance Committee and the Standing Committee, every person who is required to attend the meeting will be individually called upon by name to state his business. Any absences will be noted.

CHAPTER C: THE PRESIDENT

C1: PRESIDENTIAL DINNERS

- (a)
- (i) Speakers on the paper, tellers, Senior Officers, and, at the discretion of the President, any guest of the Society, or guest of a speaker shall be entitled to dine free of charge. The President may also invite members of the Society to dine free of charge in recognition of their work for the Society, specifically including benefactors and trustees of OLDUT. No more than 5 members who are not, or have not been, members of a Union committee or an appointed official shall dine for nothing at any one dinner.
 - (ii) Sitting Junior Officers shall not be required to pay for dinner.
 - (iii) A member of the Society who is officially entertaining a guest or a sponsor of the Society shall be entitled to dine free of charge.
- (b) Sitting Junior Officers should attend dinner before each Public Business Meeting unless prevented from doing so for a reason which would constitute a 'good reason' under Standing Order B4.

C2: INFORMAL RECEPTIONS AFTER DEBATES

The President may at his discretion hold an informal reception after the conclusion of speeches on the paper, provided that any expenses thereby incurred that have not been covered by payment from those attending shall fall on the allowance made to him.

C3: BINDING OF REPORTS

The President shall, before the end of his term of office, present copies of any reports or submissions made to the Standing Committee during his term to the Librarian-in-Charge for binding. The matter to be bound shall include, but shall not be confined to, reports submitted under Standing Order A1, Standing Order A2, Standing Order A3 and the Officers' reports to the Ordinary Private Business Meeting. The bound copies of these reports shall be stored in the Archives and shall be available to future Standing Committees on request.

C4: PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS

- (a) The President shall be empowered to create appointed positions, and to select members to fill these positions during his or term of office. The President shall be required to appoint one Press Officer and two Access Officers (one male and one female).
- (b) *Ratification*
- (i) Notwithstanding anything else in these rules, Standing Committee shall vote on whether to ratify each appointment at the first meeting following the appointment.
 - (ii) If any individual's appointment is not ratified, that individual shall be deemed not to have been appointed. The President may, if he or she wishes, to appoint another member to fill the position. This replacement appointment shall also be contingent on ratification under this Standing Order.
- (c) *Terminology*
- (i) Any individual who has been selected by the President to fill any appointed position, including the Press Officer and the Access Officers, and whose appointment has been ratified by Standing Committee, shall be considered to be an 'appointed official' for the purposes of these rules for the duration of that term.
 - (ii) No individual may claim to hold any position in the Society if that position is not described in these Rules and Standing Orders, unless his appointment to that position has been approved by Standing Committee under Section (b) above.
- (d) *The Access Officers and the Press Officer*
- (i) The President-Elect shall be required, if at all possible, to select the individuals to fill the positions of Press Officer and Access Officers before the end of full term.
 - (ii) All applicants for the positions of Press Officer and Access Officers shall be interviewed by a panel of at least three members, which may include the President-Elect if he or she so wishes, before the end of full term. All interviews must take place during Eighth Week.
 - (iii) The President-Elect shall ensure that these positions, and the application process, are advertised in both the *Cherwell* and the *Oxford Student* newspapers before the end of full term.
 - (iv) If Standing Committee refuses to ratify the appointment of either of the Access Officers or the Press Officer, then the President may select another individual from the original pool of applicants.
 - (v) If Standing Committee refuses to ratify any of the applicants for either position, that position must lie vacant until further interviews, to be held before Monday of 2nd Week, may be advertised.

C5: MAILING LIST AND WEBSITE

The President, if he so wishes, will be enabled to edit the online termcard. He shall also be enabled to send emails on the Society's mailing list. When sending out such emails, he shall not use emotive language, nor shall he express preference towards any candidate in any of the Society's elections, nor shall he show any bias if advertising a vote in Public or in Private Business.

Rules of the Oxford Union Society, Michaelmas Term 2011. Updated 1st December 2011.

Yotam Levy, *St Cross College*, Returning Officer.

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CHAPTER D: ELECTIONS

D1: REPORTS

(a) All Junior Officers (except the President-Elect), elected Members of Standing Committee, appointed officials and the Chairman of Consultative Committee must deliver a concise report upon all activities they have undertaken and intend to undertake concerning their official duties, to the Returning Officer, at least five days before the Ordinary Private Business Meeting during their term of office¹⁸⁴. Any of these who do not deliver their report on time shall be fined £10 by the Returning Officer. The report of the President must include details of the activities of all his appointed officials. A full list of any external person or organisation that has been contacted on behalf of the Society by a member submitting a report, irrelevant of outcome, must be detailed in their report, unless they are subject to *in-camera* regulations.

(b) All reports must be typed out in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Rule 35 (b) (iii) for manifestos. The reports shall not contain photographs or visual graphics. They shall not be printed on official Union stationery. The Returning Officer may amend the reports if they break these guidelines.

(c) The Returning Officer shall place these reports on the notice board four days before the Ordinary Private Business Meeting. Such reports shall remain on one of the Society's notice boards until after the close of Poll for the Society's main elections.¹⁸⁵ A copy of each report shall also be kept by the Returning Officer to assist in the verification of any claim made by candidates in the Society's elections, during their hustings speeches or in their manifesto. The fact that any statement made in any of the reports has not been questioned at the time of its delivery shall not in itself mean that it may not subsequently become the subject of later investigation.

(d) Junior Officers shall read out their report at the Ordinary Private Business Meeting. Questions may be put to any individual who has or could have submitted a report.

(e) The Returning Officer shall inform all those who must produce a report of this Standing Order, at least 10 days before the Ordinary Private Business Meeting.

(f) The Returning Officer shall present a short report on the conduct of his duties to Standing Committee at some point after the end of the electoral process but before the end of his term of office. The report shall include a full breakdown of all items of expenditure incurred during the electoral process. The report shall also be published on the Society's notice board. Members shall be able to obtain past reports from Returning Officers on request.

(g) Any member of the Standing Committee undergoing negotiations of an *in-camera* nature at the time of the Ordinary Private Business Meeting, must give a full report of such negotiations to an *in-camera* Standing Committee at the next full meeting of the Standing Committee.

D2: NOMINATION

(a) *Nomination fee*: The following sums shall be paid to the Society by any candidate in the Society's Elections when handing in his nomination form:

- For the Secretary's Committee: £20;
- For the Standing Committee: £30;
- For any Office save that of President-Elect: £40;
- For the Office of President-Elect: £50.

However:

(ii) Any candidate in receipt of a full Maintenance Grant as proved on submission of a document from their Local Education Authority, the NHS, or the Church of England, or a Hardship Fund shall have the nomination fee subsidized so that they shall instead pay the following sums to the Society when handing in his nomination form:

- For the Secretary's Committee: £5;
- For the Standing Committee: £10;
- For any Office save that of President-Elect: £15;
- For the Office of President-Elect: £20.

(b) *Nomination deadlines*:

- (i) Candidates must present themselves to nominate before 3.00p.m. and zero seconds exactly on Friday of 6th Week, with a sealed envelope containing the materials set out in Rule 34(b)(iii)(1)-(4). At 2.30p.m. the Returning Officer shall order at least two Deputy Returning Officers to seal the entrance to the Morris Room in

¹⁸⁴ *The President must submit these reports to the Librarian-in-charge under Standing Order C3.*

¹⁸⁵ *Removing or defacing these reports is therefore Electoral Malpractice: see Interpretation A13.*

order to ensure that no person may enter without a sealed nomination envelope and that no member is admitted after the close of nominations.

(ii) Candidates who have presented themselves to nominate by this point, but have not had their nomination envelope countersigned and their membership card number recorded, as per Rule 34(b)(iii) by the Returning Officer or his Deputies shall be allowed to nominate.

(iii) If the deadline has passed, and the candidate does not have sufficient or authorized means of payment on their person, their nomination shall not be accepted. Candidates shall not be allowed to go elsewhere to find other means of payment, or receive assistance from any other individual, if they do not have sufficient means of payment on their person once the deadline has passed.

(iv) Candidates who pay their nomination fee by a cheque which subsequently bounces shall not be invalidated, but shall be treated in accordance with SO A9(b).

(v) Candidates may provide their manifestos on disk in a format that the Returning Officer can read, without hard copy - however, the Returning Officer shall take no responsibility if he cannot read the disk. Any such disk shall be included in the nomination envelope.

(c) *Candidates' Meeting*

(i) All members who have nominated themselves in the Society's Elections shall attend one of two meetings with the RO where he will explain election procedure and rules to them. These meetings shall take place after the close of nominations on the Friday of Sixth week, and on Saturday of 6th week, at a time and place to be advertised by the RO on the Society's notice board by the open of nominations. It shall also be included in the "Information for Candidates" booklet.

(ii) If the RO is unable to take either meeting, then he may appoint one of the Deputy Returning Officers to take the meeting.

(iii) If a candidate cannot attend either meeting because of debilitating illness or compulsory university academic commitments, he shall inform the RO and obtain his leave to miss the meeting.

(iv) Failure to attend one of these meetings without having satisfied the RO of a reasonable excuse shall incur a fine of £10. This shall not constitute any form of electoral malpractice.

D3: currently unused

D4: PUBLICITY FOR THE POLL

The Returning Officer shall secure adequate publicity for the Poll by distributing posters containing similar details and the names of the candidates on the Society's premises and in all the colleges of the University and institutions admitted to the benefits of Rule 3(A) and ensuring that these be prominently displayed and neither defaced nor altered in any way. Rule 33 shall be brought to the notice of members in all publicity concerning the Society's Elections, and by the President at the Public Business Meeting immediately prior to the Elections.

D5: THE COUNT

(a) The Count shall be performed by the Returning Officer, the Deputy Returning Officers and, if necessary, any Returning Officer's Assistants appointed by the Returning Officer. It shall take place in the presence of such candidates' representatives as appear before the commencement of the Count. The Returning Officer shall publish on the Notice board by 4.00p.m. on the day of the Poll, the place and time at which the Count will commence. Candidates' representatives may be appointed, at the discretion of the Returning Officer, to assist in the counting of votes under this section, but not so as to count for any office or committee for which the candidate they are representing is standing.

(b) At the commencement of the Count, the ballot boxes shall be opened in the room in which the count is to be held. The ballot papers shall then be counted and the total number received shall be ascertained. Meanwhile, the number of signatures of those Members who have voted shall be counted. The ballot papers shall then be severed and sorted into piles according to the Office or Committee concerned.

(c) One counter shall be placed in charge of the Count for each Office, and at least one other counter shall assist in each officer count. One counter shall be placed in charge of the count for each Committee, and any counters remaining shall assist in one of the committee counts. The counters shall then sort the ballot papers into groups according to the first preferences indicated, segregating blank, spoiled and void ballot paper into separate groups and ascertaining the total number of blank, spoiled and void papers, which shall be recorded. The papers in each group of valid votes shall then be counted and the total numbers of first preferences for each candidate shall be recorded. The count shall then proceed by the mechanism prescribed by the Counting Regulations and the total number of

ballot papers received for each candidate at each stage shall be recorded.

(d) *Recounts*

Any candidate's representative present may demand a recount of the votes for the office or committee in which the person he represents is standing, but not for any other office or committee. Such recounts shall be granted subject to the following provisions:

(i) The first recount demanded for any office or committee shall always be granted.

(ii) Further recounts for any office shall be granted subject to the following provisions:

(A) If two candidates for any office or committee differ, as to their total votes at any stage in the count at which one of them must be elected or eliminated, by ten votes or less on the last count held, then one further recount shall be conceded, provided that not more than three counts in all (original together with recounts) shall be obligatory on the Returning Officer or Deputy Returning Officers in respect of any office by virtue of the provisions of (i) above and this sub-clause.

(B) If on two successive counts the votes obtained by a candidate shall, at any stage in the respective counts, differ by five or more votes, or shall differ in such a way as to alter the order of the candidates at that stage, whether by causing candidates to exchange places, at that stage, as between counts, or to tie and fail to tie as between the counts, then the Returning Officer shall, upon demand by a representative of one of the candidates concerned (but not otherwise), be bound to grant a recount or recounts of the election, until such time as: either

(1) two successive counts shall agree as to the person elected, the order of elimination of other persons, the presence or absence of a tie and (within five or a lesser number of votes) as to the total of each candidate in the election; or

(2) such agreement not having been obtained, six successive counts for the same office have taken place, in which case he shall automatically adjourn the count for that office, which shall be restarted in the presence of a Senior Officer as soon as may be. Nothing in this section shall impair the right of the Returning Officer (or Deputy Returning Officer in charge of a particular count) to grant recounts at his discretion, above the obligatory number.

(e) If it shall appear to the Returning Officer at any stage that further proceedings under this Standing Order would be unlikely to produce a true election result, whether by reason of a disagreement in successive counts or for any other reason, he shall so declare and post a notice to that effect on the Notice-board. An Election Tribunal shall then be constituted under the Rules and Standing Orders of the Society, to which the proceedings of the election shall stand referred. This power shall only be exercised before the official publication of the results of the election and its exercise shall suspend such publication. All further dealings with the ballot papers and other records of the count shall be sealed up as if the count had been completed until the Tribunal is able to inspect them.

(f) Any time after nine hours from the commencement of the count, the Returning Officer may adjourn the count to a time stated at the time of the adjournment. In the case of such an adjournment the Returning Officer shall, and shall only, announce such results as have been definitely decided at the time of the adjournment. If there is an adjournment under this section, the ballot papers shall, when the count is adjourned, be sealed up as prescribed in the next section.

(g) At the conclusion of all the counts the Returning Officer and his Deputies shall ascertain that the original total of ballot papers, as determined under (b) above, tallies with the totals for the various officers and committees, account being taken of spoilt, void and blank papers, and shall make suitable enquiries if a discrepancy appears. They shall then seal up the ballot papers (including spoilt, void and blank papers) in the presence of at least four representatives of candidates if they are available.

(h) The ballot papers so sealed up shall be preserved until the end of the second week of the next Full Term following that in which the election took place, at which time the Returning Officer shall see that they are destroyed. They shall not be unsealed during that period save by order of the courts, or on the order of an Election Tribunal or an Appellate Board. They shall only be unsealed in the presence of the Tribunal or a person appointed by it, or of the Appellate Board or a person appointed by it, or by the Returning Officer in the presence of a Senior Officer and at least three Deputy Returning Officers.

(j) Throughout any count the doors of the room in which it takes place shall be locked, and entrance and exit, after the start, shall only be with the knowledge of the Returning Officer or his senior Deputy present in the room. Persons other than the Returning Officer, his Deputies, Assistants, and representatives of candidates shall not, save in special circumstances with the permission of the Returning Officer or his Deputy, be present in the room. No representative of a candidate may leave, unless accompanied, between the beginning of the count and the conclusion or adjournment of the count.

(k) The Returning Officer shall make the announcement of the result at the conclusion of the count. In the event of a postponement of the count, the Returning Officer shall announce the results of the postponed count to the Society

as soon as may be.

(1) The Returning Officer and his Deputies shall have complete control over the count in accordance with the Rules and Standing Orders.

D6: COUNTING REGULATIONS

In accordance with Rule 35, the Count will be performed according to a system of Single Transferable Vote. The system used shall be as follows:¹⁸⁶

(a) Count valid papers. Calculate the Quota, as being $\{(v/s+1)+0.01\}$, where v = the number of valid papers received, and s = the number of places to be filled. The Quota shall be rounded down to 2 decimal places. Set initial value of all papers to 1. Go to (b).

(b) Allocate and count first preferences. Go to (c).

(c) If all places to be filled have been filled, stop. If not:

(i) If one or more candidates are over quota, a candidate must be elected and his surplus distributed. Go to (d).

(ii) If no candidates are over quota, and the number of continuing candidates plus the number of candidates already elected is equal to $(s+1)$, eliminate the candidate with least votes as Runner-Up and declare all the other continuing candidates elected, in order of votes held.

(iii) If no candidates are over quota, and the number of continuing candidates plus the number of candidates already elected is more than $(s+1)$, a candidate must be eliminated. Go to (e).

(d) *Distributing a Surplus*

(i) Declare the candidate with most votes elected. Only one candidate may be elected at each stage. Calculate the surplus of (votes received - quota). Calculate current total value of papers transferable to another candidate, and sort by the next valid preference.

(ii) Calculate the transfer value of each paper.

(1) If the total current value of transferable papers is less than the surplus, the transfer value = current value.

(2) Otherwise, transfer value = $[\text{surplus} \times \text{current value (rounded down to 3 decimal places)}] / [\text{total value of transferable papers}]$

(3) Transfer all transferable papers at their transfer value. Go to (c).

(e) *Eliminating a Candidate*: Declare the candidate with least votes to be excluded. Sort all papers by next valid preference and transfer at their current value. Go to (c).

(f) When all positions on a committee have been filled by the above process, the order of seniority shall be determined by first preferences. In the event of a tie, the result of the next redistribution of votes shall be taken into account. [Passed Standing Committee 04/11/02]

D7: INTERPRETATION OF BALLOT PAPERS

(a) Voters shall enter their order of preference for each office or committee by placing the numerals 1, 2 and so on opposite candidates' names. A paper shall be void, so far as a particular office or committee is concerned, on which a first preference for that office is not indicated; it shall also be void if any single numeral be entered more than once, except insofar as it indicates the voter's order of preference up to and including the immediate predecessor of the numeral so entered more than once. If a voter enters his preferences in a broken sequence, the paper shall be void insofar as it expresses preferences after the break. A sequence including a preference for a candidate deemed excluded for any reason or disqualified from the election shall not by virtue of that constitute a broken sequence. Voters need not indicate any preference beyond their first. A single tick or cross shall be deemed to indicate a first preference, but such symbols against two or more names for the same office shall render the ballot paper void as regards that office or committee. The appearance of such symbols in addition to the numeral 1 shall render the ballot paper void as regards that Office or Committee.

(b) If at any stage of the count for either an office or a committee any paper is proposed to be set aside as spoilt or void, it shall be examined by the Returning Officer who shall initial those papers which he decides are spoilt or void. The decisions of the Returning Officer on the interpretation of ballot papers shall be final, unless the matter be submitted to an Election Tribunal. The Election Tribunal shall adopt the interpretation of any ballot paper given by the Returning Officer in accordance with this section, unless it is satisfied that the interpretation cannot reasonably be sustained.

¹⁸⁶ The value of ballot papers should always be expressed to three decimal places: see Interpretation A17.

D8: ELECTION TRIBUNAL

In carrying out its functions, the Election Tribunal shall observe the following regulations at all times:

- (a) During the hearing of evidence that concerns them directly, all complainants and defendants shall have the right to be present, in addition to any person they appoint to represent them.¹⁸⁷
- (b) Defendants, complainants and members of the Election Tribunal shall have the opportunity to call, examine and, where possible, cross-examine witnesses. Witnesses may only be asked questions of fact except where they are expert witnesses. If a witness deliberately says something that is untrue as under Rule 33(a)(i)(13), on a matter of substance related to the charges which the Tribunal is considering when he is being examined, he shall be liable to the same penalties as if he had committed the offence of making a frivolous or malicious allegation, and the Tribunal shall have the power to inflict the penalties on him under the same conditions as if an allegation of that offence were laid against him during the Tribunal.
- (c) All formal allegations shall be read out at the start of the investigation. If, during the investigation, the Tribunal should have reason to suppose that a Member who is not a defendant has committed an electoral offence, they shall inform him immediately, and he shall have the rights of a defendant thereafter¹⁸⁸. If the ground the Tribunal has for supposing a Member has committed an offence is evidence that he has not been present to hear, it shall ensure that the evidence is repeated in his presence or, failing that, that the tape-recording made of it under (g) below is played over to him. Any person given the rights of a defendant under this section shall be deemed to have had an allegation brought against him.
- (d) Adjournments may be requested by any party to the investigation and shall be granted at the discretion of the Tribunal.
- (e) After all the witnesses have been called, defendants and complainants shall have the right to sum up.
- (f) After the summing up, the Tribunal shall retire to make its decisions and consider its report. The report shall contain a record of the decisions of the Tribunal and a statement of the reasoning that led to the decisions; if different routes were followed (whether or not to the same conclusion) by different members of the Tribunal, the reasoning of each of them shall be stated.
- (g) The proceedings of an Election Tribunal shall be recorded on magnetic tape, save only those parts of the proceedings at which only members of the Tribunal are present. The tapes shall be available, except as under (c) above, only to an Appellate Board set up under Rule 33(d). They shall be stored *in camera* in the archives for one year and then be destroyed.
- (h) This Standing Order shall be brought to the attention of defendants, complainants and every other person appearing before the Tribunal in any capacity whatsoever.¹⁸⁹
- (i) The Tribunal shall make an explicit finding of 'guilty' or 'not guilty' on every charge.
- (j) The Returning Officer shall attach a Schedule to the Standing Orders detailing further suggested guidelines on the procedures for election tribunal hearings. Such guidelines shall in no way be binding on tribunals.¹⁹⁰

D9: FINES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE AT AN ELECTION TRIBUNAL OR DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE¹⁹¹

- (a) No Member shall be fined under Rule 33(c)(v) or Rule 71(e)(vii) unless a letter, which specifies a time (which shall be between the hours of 10.00 am and midnight inclusive) at which he is required to attend by the Election Tribunal or the Disciplinary Committee and which states the conditions under which he may be fined if he fails to attend, has been handed to him in person, at least 20 hours before the said time, by the Returning Officer, a Deputy Returning Officer, or by a Returning Officer's Assistant.
- (b) No member shall be fined under Rule 33(c)(v) or Rule 71(e)(vii) if:
- (i) (A) He has given the Tribunal or the Disciplinary Committee good reason for non-attendance as under Standing Order B4, where "two-thirds of those present and voting" be deemed to mean "two-thirds of the Election Tribunal" or "two-thirds of the Disciplinary Committee" as appropriate, and
- (B) Either
- (i) he is unable to give evidence in writing, or he has made a written statement, which shall be subject to Rule 33(a)(i)(13) or Rule 71(a)(i)(8) as appropriate, which he has signed in the presence of the Returning Officer or one of his Deputies or Assistants who has signed the statement as a witness; or,
- (ii) He has attended at the time specified in the letter under (a) above and has placed himself at the disposal of the Tribunal or the Disciplinary Committee for the ensuing two hours; or,
- (iii) The allegation or complaint in connection with which his presence was required was one brought against himself.

¹⁸⁷ *On the presence of observers, see Interpretation E5.*

¹⁸⁸ *For clarification, see Interpretation E11.*

¹⁸⁹ *On whether failure to observe this rule is grounds for a tribunal to be quashed, see Interpretation F3.*

¹⁹⁰ *This 'Schedule of Suggested Tribunal Procedure' is attached. On non-binding effect, see Interpretation F4.*

¹⁹¹ *For more details, see Interpretations C10 and C11.*

D10: MECHANISM FOR THE ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

(a) The first preferences for each candidate in each ballot shall be calculated as the percentage of the total number of valid votes cast in that ballot. The two percentages for each candidate shall be combined as under (f) below to make the 'score'.

(b) If, at any point, any candidate has a higher score than the sum of the scores of all the other candidates, then that candidate shall be elected.

(c) If there are more than two candidates, then the candidate with the lowest score shall be eliminated and his votes shall be redistributed according to the next preference indicated. The percentages for each candidate in each ballot shall be recalculated. The new 'score' shall then be calculated from the new percentages.

(d) The process of redistribution in (c) above shall be continued, until one candidate is elected under (b) above.

(e) If, at any stage, two or more candidates, one of whom is to be eliminated, tie, then the tie shall be resolved by Rule 35(h).

(f) The 'score' for a candidate shall be the sum of the percentages of the two ballots, unless less than 20 votes are cast in the Consultative Committee ballot, in which case the 'score' shall be calculated according to the following formula:

'score' = [Standing Committee percentage + (Consultative Committee percentage x N x 0.05)] where N is the number of votes cast in the Consultative Committee ballot.

D11: TABLE OF SENIORITY

President
Charitable Trustees, in order of election
President-Elect
Librarian
Librarian-Elect
Treasurer
Treasurer-Elect
Secretary
Ex-Presidents, in order of election
Ex-Charitable Trustees, in order of election
Ex-Presidents-Elect, in order of election
Ex-Librarians, in order of election
Ex-Librarians-Elect, in order of election
Ex-Treasurers, in order of election
Ex-Treasurers-Elect, in order of election
Ex-Secretaries, in order of election
The ex-Junior Steward
Elected Members of Standing Committee, in order of election
Chairman of Consultative Committee
Ex-Elected Members of Standing Committee, in order of election
Ex-Chairmen of Consultative Committee, in order of election
Senior Members of Library Committee, in order of election
Ex-Senior Members of Library Committee, in order of election
Elected Members of Secretary's Committee
Ex-Elected Members of Secretary's Committee, in order of election
Other Members of the Society in order of election

The order of election to the Society shall be determined by the order of the vacations-and-terms in which the relevant members were elected, a vacation-and-term beginning with the first day of the vacation and ending with the last day of the subsequent term.

For the purpose of this Table, any Junior Elected Committees as were constituted from time to time shall be deemed to be the Secretary's Committee. For the purpose of this Table, Ex-Bursars shall be deemed to be Ex-Chairmen of Consultative Committee. For the purpose of this Table, ex-Senior Officers and ex-Trustees who were appointed to their position before March 1999, shall be deemed to be ex-Charitable Trustees, ranked equally by order of election.

D12: SENIORITY AMONG THE DEPUTY RETURNING OFFICERS

The following criteria shall determine seniority among the Deputy Returning Officers in descending order:

- (1) earliest date of election or appointment as Returning Officer;
- (2) most terms service as a Deputy Returning Officer;
- (3) most terms service as a Returning Officer's Assistant;
- (4) earliest date of appointment as a Deputy Returning Officer;
- (5) longest period of uninterrupted service as a Deputy Returning Officer including the current time.

D13: TELLING

No candidate in the Society's main elections shall be a Teller at a debate between the opening of nominations and the close of Poll.

D14: ELECTION EXPENDITURE

Expenditure on the Society's Elections as per Rule 34 (e) shall include, but shall not be limited to, the costs of the following:

- (i) Any publicity for the Election (including, but not confined to, such posters, manifestos and any manifesto booklets, and adverts, as may be produced by the Returning Officer);
- (ii) Severable ballot papers;
- (iii) Extraordinary communication costs during the electoral period (including, but not confined to, the costs of such communication equipment as may be provided for the use of the Returning Officer from time to time);
- (iv) Transport costs (including, but not confined to, the costs of such public and private transport as may legitimately be required by the Returning Officer, and any other person authorized by the Returning Officer, in order to ensure the smooth running and good conduct of the Election during the hours of Polling. However, the costs incurred by persons authorized by the Returning Officer under Rule 33 (a)(i)(4) shall not be covered under any circumstances);
- (v) Refreshments to be provided free of charge to persons attending the Count (including, but not confined to, sandwiches, biscuits, crisps, fruit, other snack foods, non-alcoholic drinks and coffee).

D15: currently unused

D16: RESPONSIBILITIES DURING THE PERIOD WHEN THE RETURNING OFFICER IS DEVOLVED POWERS UNDER RULE 13(b)(ii)

In the event of the Returning Officer assuming the powers and duties of the President under Rule 13(b)(ii) the following arrangements shall apply:

- (a) The President-elect shall speak for the Society and Chair all meetings of the Standing Committee (with the exception of those items on the Standing Committee agenda which concern the election any election tribunal or appellate board).
- (b) Those members of the new Standing Committee who would normally have assumed their positions shall be authorized to begin the preparations for their term of office unless they are implicated in any Election Tribunal or Appeal, save that this clause shall not be interpreted as allowing them to assume their positions on the Standing Committee.
- (c) The President-elect shall inform those designated Elected Members of the Standing Committee who are not implicated in any Election Tribunal or Appeal of their portfolios for the coming term unless the President-elect is implicated in any Election Tribunal or Appeal.
- (d) Any expenditure authorized by the Returning Officer, save that which is directly connected with the Election Tribunal and/or Appeal (or outstanding monies directly connected with the Election) shall be budgeted, accounted for and authorized by the Standing Committee as if it were Presidential Expenditure.
- (e) The Returning Officer shall never be referred to, nor refer to himself as the "Acting President".
- (f) The Election Tribunal and/or Appellate Board may alter this Standing Order for the term in question (if it deems it necessary) via a formal Ruling in its Declaration and Report.

CHAPTER E: MISCELLANEOUS

E1: OFFICE SECURITY

Any non-member of Standing Committee who without the permission of the President or the staff crosses the barrier in the General Office or the Officers' Offices may be fined a sum not exceeding £20 by the President, any officer, or the Office staff.

E2: THE PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM

(a) The Public Address System (which includes all apparatus, microphones, leads, and speakers) will, at all times when not in use, be stored in a public area of the building under lock and key.

(b) Any Officer, or any Member whom the President appoints in writing, may take responsibility for the use of the equipment, by signing the key out from a Member of Staff.

(c) The Member, who has taken responsibility in such a way, shall have an obligation to take reasonable care of the equipment and shall be liable for the cost of replacement or repair should the Public Address System become damaged or stolen due to their negligence between the time that the key was signed out and when it is signed back in by a Member of Staff, the System having been once again secured in its storage.

(d) This liability shall be considered a debt to the Society under Rule 6. Damage shall be presumed to be through the negligence of the Member who has signed out the key except that an Intermediate Disciplinary Committee, which shall be convened in order to determine the issue on request of the relevant Member, finds as a matter of law and fact that the damage was not caused by the negligence of that Member.

(e) It is also the duty of the Member, who has taken responsibility in this way, to ensure that the system is complete and in full working order before he secures it in its storage, and for him to report any missing or malfunctioning apparatus to the Bursar and the Standing Committee immediately.

(f) When left unattended, but not properly secured in its storage, the Public Address System must be all times closed in its cases, which should be locked together to a secure point by use of a bicycle lock or similar.

E4: HIRING OF ROOMS

Conditions of Hire for Debating Chamber, Macmillan Room, Morris Room, Cellar Bar, Gladstone Room and Television Room, in Term time.

(a) No room shall be available for any meeting or function of any kind on the day of the Society's Elections or at such other time as the Standing Committee shall determine.

(b) The Standing Committee shall draw up a list of Clubs, Societies and persons to which rooms may not be let, and shall instruct the House Manager and Events Manager not to let rooms to these bodies or persons. This list may be revised at any time by a majority of those present and voting on the Standing Committee.¹⁹²

(c) The Returning Officer, any Member of Standing Committee or Member of the Staff of the Society shall have the right of entry to any function in a hired room.

(d) No public rooms may be occupied after 23:20 hours, except by prior arrangement with the House Manager, the Events Manager or the Standing Committee.

(e) No photographs may be taken in any room without the prior permission of the President; no alterations may be made or decorations introduced into any room.

(g) A form of application must be signed by a person responsible for making the booking, and must include a promise to pay for any damage caused during the letting. The Debating Hall shall be covered by extra, special provisions, outlined below. Any breach of these conditions of hire shall render the applicants liable to a penalty fine of up to £50 for each offence. The letting of the room shall not be deemed to have come to an end until the room in question has been cleared of all persons.

(h) Charges for private and non-commercial room hire shall be set by the House Manager, subject to the approval of the Standing Committee. The rates shall be listed in an Appendix to the Rules. The House Manager, Events Manager or Bursar may alter the rates for commercial organisations as he sees fit.¹⁹³

(j) Special conditions for the hire of the Debating Chamber are as follows:

- (1) If an application is successful the applicants must arrange admission to the Chamber, arrange the seating plan (but not re-arrange the seating without prior permission from the House Manager or Events Manager).
- (2) The chairs usually occupied by the President, Librarian and Treasurer shall not be used.

(k) Any room hiring shall be subject to the above conditions, a copy of which shall be sent to the applicant, and any breach of these conditions shall cancel existing bookings by the same applicant. The applicant shall be

¹⁹² This is the 'Schedule of Unacceptable Room Hirers' attached to these rules

¹⁹³ For the distinction between commercial and non-commercial room hire, see Interpretation C20

considered added to the list of unacceptable applicants, and if he wishes to be removed from said list he must apply in writing to the Standing Committee.

(m) Standing Committee shall reserve the right to cancel any booking at any time before the meeting or function takes place. When permission is withdrawn the hiring fee and deposit shall be returned.

(n) Any club or society using any of the Society's rooms for the purposes of an election, or any meeting which pertains to elections, shall not allow any campaigning to be permitted.

E6: DISTRIBUTION OF LEAFLETS

(a) No leaflet, handbill, newspaper or other publication may be sold and/or distributed on the Society's premises unless the President grants prior permission.

(b) Any such sale or distribution shall be conducted by a member of the Society who shall be responsible for any litter or disturbance caused.

(c) No leaflet, handbill or other publication shall be distributed on the day of the Society's Elections or any of the five days preceding, except issues of the newspapers which are on regular sale.

(d) The Society shall take no responsibility for the conduct of such sale and/or distribution, the safety of the publications or posters or of any money therefore paid, nor for any other risk whatsoever in any way arising from such sale and distribution.

(f) No poster or notice which is not an official Union publication shall be affixed to any wall, window, door or similar structure on the Society's premises, without with express permission of the President. Otherwise, posters or notices not relating to official Union event shall only be posted on the clip notice board in the ground floor corridor. The Standing Order shall not affect the legitimate publishing of notices on notice boards allowed or required by the Rules.

E7: THE ARCHIVIST

(a) He shall assist the Chairman of Consultative Committee in his duties in relation to the Society's Archives.

(b) The Archivist shall ensure that the Society maintains recording equipment suitable for the recording of the Societies meetings, and that this equipment is kept in good order.

E8: THE ARCHIVES

(a) Responsibility for the Archives

Neither the Chairman of Consultative Committee nor the Archivist shall be subject to the provisions of Rule 71(a)(i)(12) as a result of the failure of another officer or official of the Society to fulfil duties delegated to the said officer or official under this Standing Order.

(b) Recordings

(i) The Chairman of Consultative Committee shall ensure that a recording of each of the Society's meetings held under Rules 40 and 42 is made by the Secretary or the organiser of the meeting.

(ii) No recording may be borrowed by any member, save on a payment of a deposit of £20 and surrender of his membership card. It may not be kept for more than six hours nor under any circumstances removed from the society's Rooms.

(iii) The Society's recording apparatus may not be borrowed by any member, save on a payment of a deposit of £20 and surrender of his membership card

(iv) In addition to those persons entitled under Rule 63(a), the Chairman of Consultative Committee shall have power to inflict a fine of up to £50 for the breach of this Standing Order.

(c) Literature

(i) The Chairman of Consultative Committee shall ensure that the Society sends a copy of the term card to the Bodleian Library (Room 132) every term; that copies of all Union Literature (publicity, posters, Committee minutes, photographs, ballot papers, et al) produced over the course of each Term are placed in the Society's Archive Room;

(ii) The Press Officer(s)¹⁹⁴ shall ensure that press cuttings are placed in the Press Cuttings Book or File, and that this is placed in the Archives Room at the end of each term. If the Society receives a particularly large number of cuttings from one event, the unused cuttings may be disposed of by the Press Officer. He shall exercise appropriate discretion whilst doing.

(iii) The Library Committee shall have no jurisdiction over the Archives for the purposes of Rule 25(d).

(d) Rules:

The Returning Officer shall ensure that a current copy of the Rules is deposited in the Society's Archive Room. In the event of the rules being amended he shall ensure that all versions of the Rules from that term are stored in the Archive.

¹⁹⁴ Whose appointment is described by Standing Order C4.

E10: STAFF

Whilst on duty, the Bar Manager and Doormen (who must be members of Staff) may act with the powers of the House Manager under the Rules and Standing Orders in relation to keeping order on the premises and admitting Members, guests and visitors. Notwithstanding this, they may under no circumstances inflict any fines which the House Manager would be empowered to inflict were he on the premises.

E11: INSPECTION OF BAGGAGE

Any member or other person present in the Society's rooms shall be obliged to open any baggage that he bears for inspection by the President or his agents if they so request.

E12: FAXING AND PHOTOCOPYING

The Society shall provide to Members a service for the sending and receiving of faxes and for photocopying. Tariffs for such use shall be set by the Bursar, subject to the approval of Standing Committee. Use of such machines for the Society's business shall take priority.

E13: USEFUL NUMBERS

The Secretary shall by the end of the first week after the succession produce a list of useful phone numbers containing the numbers of all members of Secretary's Committee, Standing Committee, the RO, appointed Officers and any other numbers that may prove useful. This shall be submitted to the Bursar for distribution. The Secretary should consult with the Bursar to decide what other numbers are deemed useful

E16: COPIES OF THE RULES

Any member taking a copy of the Rules, Standing Orders, and Special Schedules of the Society from the General Office which are designated not to be removed from the General Office shall be fined a sum not exceeding £10.

E17: ACCESS TO KEYS, PASSWORDS, AND DOCUMENTATION

(a) The President will be provided with keys to:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| (i) The Front Door | (x) The Macmillan Room |
| (ii) The Back Door | (xi) The Snooker Room |
| (iii) The Gates | (xii) The Bar |
| (iv) The President's Office | (xiii) The General Office |
| (v) The President's Cupboard | (xiv) The Goodman Library |
| (vi) The TV Room | (xv) The Library Lobby |
| (vii) The Morris Room | (xvi) The Main Library |
| (viii) The Poetry Room | (xvii) The House |
| (ix) The Gladstone Room | (xviii) The Chamber |

(b) The President will be provided with all codes and passwords to:

- (i) The Officers' Offices
- (ii) The Society's website
- (iii) The committee database

(c) Requests for documentation

The President or the Standing Committee may request any documentation which any staff member has access to unless this contravenes the Data Protection Act or other relevant legislation. Any staff member, from which this documentation has been requested, will provide a copy to the President by the end of the next working day, or provide an explanation of why he unable to do so.

E18: COMMITTEE FOOD AND DRINK IN THE BAR

During bar opening hours, the Junior Officers, the Returning Officer and the Chair of Consultative Committee shall be granted free of charge: snacks (not including meals and soup) and soft drinks (not including bottled drinks with the exception of water). This benefit shall be extended to the elected members of Standing Committee and *ex-officio* on Mondays and Thursdays only, and to Secretary's Committee during the vacation only.

E19: TELEVISION IN THE BAR

The use of the Television in the Members' Bar shall be regulated by the Schedule of Use of the Television in the Members' Bar. No amendment to this Schedule shall be made without a simple majority of Standing Committee members present and voting.

CHAPTER F: SUBSCRIPTION AND MEMBERSHIPS

F1: SUBSCRIPTION RATES – GENERAL

The rates laid down in this chapter of the Standing Orders are inclusive of VAT. Any subsequent alteration of the VAT rate shall be applied directly to these subscription rates.

F2: SUBSCRIPTION RATES – LIFE MEMBERS

Life Members shall pay subscriptions either by lump sum or in instalments by banker's standing order, as follows:

(a) *Payment by lump sum*

- (i) Those joining before 7pm on the Thursday of Second Week of Michaelmas term in their first year of eligibility shall pay £178 except as in (c) and (d).
- (ii) All others shall pay £198 except as in (c) and (d).

(b) *Payment in instalments*

All shall pay 15 monthly instalments of £14, the first instalment to be paid in advance, except as in (c) and (d).

(c) *Payment by lump sum by those in receipt of a full Maintenance Grant as proved on submission of a document from their Local Education Authority, the NHS, or the Church of England.*

- (i) Those joining before 7pm on the Thursday of Second Week of Michaelmas Term in their first year of eligibility shall pay £99.
- (ii) All others shall pay £145.

(d) *Payment by instalments by those in receipt of a full Maintenance as proved on submission of a document from their Local Education Authority, the NHS, or the Church of England.*

11 monthly instalments of £13 shall be paid, the first instalment to be paid in advance.

F3: SUBSCRIPTION RATES – LONG TERM AND COURSE-LENGTH MEMBERS

(a) Long-term and Course-Length Members shall pay subscriptions either by lump sum or in instalments by standing order, as follows:

(i) *Payment by lump sum*

- (1) Those taking courses lasting three years or more shall pay £198.
- (2) Those taking courses lasting two years, or with two years remaining, shall pay £148.
- (3) Those taking courses lasting one year or less, or with one year or less remaining, shall pay £99.

F4: SUBSCRIPTION RATES – RESIDENTIAL MEMBERS

Residential Members shall pay an entrance fee of £198 on joining, and an annual subscription of £99. The annual subscription shall be payable on 1st October of each calendar year. If any member fails to pay this fee within 14 days, they shall cease to be a member of the Society. If such a member wishes to join, he shall have to submit to the same application procedure as any new Residential Member.

F5: INSTITUTIONS ADMITTED TO THE BENEFITS OF RULE 3(A)(a)(ii)

The following shall be entitled to Life Membership under the provisions of Rule 3 (A)(a)(ii):

- (a) Members of the Oxford Institute of Legal Practice (OILP), undertaking a full-time course of one year or more
- (b) Members of the Department of Educational Studies, University of Oxford, undertaking a full-time course of one year or more
- (c) Members of the Department of Continuing Education, University of Oxford, who are studying for a full-time course of one year or more.
- (d) Those with MA Status within the University of Oxford or members of the congregation of University of Oxford in full-time academic positions.

F6: INSTITUTIONS ADMITTED TO THE BENEFITS OF RULE 3(A)(a)(iii)

The following shall be entitled to Life Membership under the provisions of Rule 3 (A)(a)(iii):

F7: INSTITUTIONS ADMITTED TO THE BENEFITS OF RULE 3(C)

Members of the following institutions shall be eligible shall be eligible for Temporary Membership under the provisions of Rule 3(C).

(a) *Course-length Membership*: Members of the institutions listed below shall be eligible for Course-length Membership at the rates detailed in Standing Order F3.

- (i) Magna Carta College
Oxford Brookes University
Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies
Oxford Centre for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies
Oxford University Department for Continuing Education
Ripon College, Cuddesdon
Ruskin College
Sarah Lawrence Programme
Westminster College

(ii) *University Staff Members*

- (1) Full-time staff members of the University of Oxford or of any of its colleges or Permanent Private Halls shall be eligible for long-term membership.
- (2) The membership rate shall be equal to the one-year long-term membership rate, and shall give the member of staff membership for three academic terms.
- (3) Such membership must be renewed every three terms; staff members who are no longer so employed shall not be eligible to rejoin.

(b) *Termly Membership*: Members of the institutions listed below shall be entitled to Membership on a termly basis. They shall pay a subscription fee of £99 per term. If ten members or more join as a group from any of these institutions, they shall each be entitled to pay a discounted fee of £89. If the duration of their course is at least two terms long, they shall have the option of joining for two terms at the discounted rate of £143 for the two terms (or £133 if joining in a group of ten or more from that institution). If the duration of their course is at least one year long, they shall have the option of joining for that whole year, and shall receive a discounted membership rate of £190 per year (or £180 per year, if joining in a group of ten or more from that institution). The Standing Committee shall have the right to offer further bulk discounts to institutions, as it sees fit.

Abacus College
Associate members of St Catherine's College, Mansfield College and Lady Margaret Hall (previously part of the WISC programme)
Boston University Graduate's Association at St Catherine's, Oxford
Boston University Programme in Oxford
Buckland University
Butler Programme at St Catherine's, Oxford
Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies (CMRS)
Cherwell College
Collingham College
d'Overbroeck's College
Greene's Tutorial Establishment
Ephraim Williams
European School of Management (EAP)
Georgia University Programme in Oxford
Oxford Academy
Oxford Associate Student Programme (OASP)
Oxford Business College
Oxford Centre for Yiddish Studies
Oxford International Study Centre
Oxford Media & Business School
Oxford Tutorial College
Oxford Programme for Undergraduate Studies (OPUS)
Reuters Foundation Programme at Green College
St Bede's Hall
St Clare's, Oxford
Stanford University
Washington International Studies Centre (WISC).

(c) *Permanent Membership*: Members of the institutions listed below shall be eligible to extend their Temporary Membership to Permanent Membership:

Oxford Brookes University

(d) *Visiting Members*: Guests at the Oxford Union Society/Landmark Trust flat in the Old Steward's House shall be 'visiting members' of the Society for the duration of their stay in the flat, at a rate determined by the Standing Committee. They may attend debates and speaker meetings, use the Libraries (but not borrow books), use the main Bar, but may not speak or vote in Private Business.

F8: THE TERMCARD

(i) Any Member who has already received a term card shall be charged £3.00 for each additional term card they take from the General Office.

(ii) Non-resident Life Members who do not pay the facility fee shall be charged £3.00 if they wish to collect a term card from the General Office.

(iii) Resident Life Members who do not pay the facilities levy or have debts to the Society outstanding shall not be issued with a term card until they pay their facilities levy and any debts.

F9: FACILITY FEE

(a) The Facility Fee mentioned in Rule 4(a)(i) shall be £9 p.a.,

(b) Resident Life Members who have not paid their facilities levy as they should have, shall be barred from the premises and have their membership card confiscated, until they settle all their unpaid facilities levies and any other debts outstanding to the Society.

F10: MEMBERS RECORDS

Members shall supply the Society with their home address, home telephone number, college, email, date of birth and joining date on the Society's request. Such information shall be used in accordance with Rule 5.

F11: UPGRADE FROM LONG-TERM TO LIFE MEMBERSHIP

(a) For the purposes of Rule 3(A)(a)(vii), members of the Society who once joined as termly subscribing members and who were eligible for election to Life Membership but did not make sufficient payments to obtain Life Membership shall be deemed long-term members whose membership has expired ('expired Members'). Their actual termly payments shall be deducted from any subscription payment if they later choose to upgrade to Life Membership.

(b) Long-term members who are eligible for election to Life Membership may upgrade to Life Membership in accordance with Rule 3(A)(a)(vii) after the expiry of their long-term membership. Such 'expired Members' shall not necessarily be deemed 'ex-Members' as per Rule 8.

(c) For the purposes of Rule 3(D), a Member upgrading from long-term to life shall be deemed to making a new membership application, and Standing Committee may correspondingly decline the application in accordance with Rule 3(D) for unacceptable behaviour committed prior or during their long-term membership. In accordance with Rule 3(D), 'expired Members' who have been refused an upgrade shall be deemed 'ex-Members'.

F12: RECIPROCAL MEMBERS

(a) Members of the societies listed in (c) below shall be allowed 14 days per term reciprocal membership of the society. During these 14 days they shall have the same rights as a guest of the Society.

(b) At any time members of any society in (c) below may purchase life membership at the set rate.

(c) Eligible reciprocal societies:

Cambridge Union
Durham Union
Conference Olivant
TCD PHIL
Yale Political Union
Harvard Political Union

CHAPTER G: DISCIPLINARY OFFENCES AND FINES

G1: ORDER IN THE SOCIETY'S ROOMS

(a) The President or any agent thereof shall have the power to refuse entry into the Society's rooms or to enforce the removal therefrom any person, if he or his agent be reasonably satisfied that such measures are necessary, or if the person cannot satisfactorily establish that he is a Member.

(b) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing the President or his agent shall have the power to expel any person from the Society's rooms whose conduct is contrary to good order, who heckles or otherwise seeks to disrupt the debates or other meetings of the Society, or who throws or who attempts to throw any item or substance on the Society's premises with the intent of generating a disturbance or of disrupting the Society's business or of exhibiting discourtesy to Members of the Society or its guests. In addition any person found so to have behaved by the Standing Committee may be fined a sum not exceeding £100 (one hundred), and further the Standing Committee or any Disciplinary Committee shall legitimately be able to consider such conduct as grounds for suspension or expulsion from the Society under Rule 71.

(c) Any member who vomits on the Society's premises as a result of intoxication may be fined a sum of not more than £25 by the President or any agent thereof.

(e) The imposition of any penalty or sanction under this Standing Order shall in no way prejudice the Society's freedom to seek to proceed against any person or group through the disciplinary powers of the University, or the civil or criminal law if the Standing Committee deems that the Society's interests so demand.

(f) Any individual maliciously or recklessly setting off the fire alarm when there is no emergency shall be fined not more than £500, and further the Standing Committee or any Disciplinary Committee shall legitimately be able to consider such conduct as grounds for suspension or expulsion from the Society as a disciplinary offence under the remit of Rule 71.

(g) Misusing or abusing the Society's membership card (including, but not limited to, permitting a membership card to be used by any person other than that to whom it was issued) shall be punishable by a fine of up to £100. This sub-section shall not restrict the Standing Committee or any Disciplinary Committee from considering such conduct as grounds for suspension or expulsion under Rule 71.

(h) The Staff or President may refuse to serve any individual who is intoxicated; the House Manager or President may exclude any individual from the premises who is intoxicated.

(i) Any Member who refuses to show his membership card on request, as per Rule 5, shall be fined a sum of up to £100, and further the Standing Committee or any Disciplinary Committee shall legitimately be able to consider such conduct as grounds for suspension or expulsion from the Society under Rule 71.

(j) Any member who misuses or abuses the fire exits or fire safety equipment on the premises (including but not exclusively, letting another unauthorized individual into a room via a fire exit, or entering an area which is no entry except in case of emergency, or leaving without paying through a fire exit), may be fined a sum of up to £100, and further Standing Committee or any Disciplinary Committee shall legitimately be able to consider such conduct as grounds for suspension or expulsion from the Society under Rule 71.

(k) The agents of the Purple Turtle, subject to the review of the Cellar Management Committee, shall have the power, in the Cellars, to refuse entry or to eject any person, on a temporary or permanent basis for: disruptive behaviour, vomiting, excessive levels of intoxication, for not possessing a membership card or for possessing any illegal substance. This shall not affect the rights of a Member to use other parts of the Society's premises (subject to any disciplinary proceedings under normal disciplinary channels).

(l) The House Manager shall have the power in the bar to refuse entry or eject any person from the bar on a temporary or permanent basis for: disruptive behaviour, vomiting, excessive levels of intoxication, or for possessing any illegal substance. This shall not affect the rights of a member to use other parts of the Society's premises (subject to any disciplinary proceedings under normal disciplinary channels). Such a member shall have the right to appeal to a Senior Disciplinary Committee.

G3: DISCIPLINARY PREPARATIONS

The Returning Officer shall, as far as possible, attempt to send copies of the rules, complaint, and written evidence to the selected members of a Disciplinary Committee in advance of the day of proceedings, as well as to the complainant and defendant as soon as possible after the complaint has been submitted¹⁹⁵.

¹⁹⁵ *On the presentation of complaints, see Interpretation C24.*

G4: CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION

Closed Circuit Television (CCTV)

- (a) No member or member of staff shall view the recorded CCTV footage without the written permission of both the President and the Bursar. Such permission shall only be given for the investigation of criminal activity under the laws of England and Wales. Permission shall normally be given to members of the Police, as well as any member or guest who has reported an incident to the police and has a Crime Incident Number for the alleged offence.
- (b) The system may not be used for real-time surveillance, except if a member of staff has reasonable suspicion that a criminal offence is being committed, in which case he will record the circumstances and report them to the Bursar and the President.
- (c) Unless requested by the Police or for the active detection of a crime, CCTV footage shall only be kept for 30 days from the time of recording.
- (d) CCTV shall not be used as evidence in any internal investigation under Rules 33 or 71, unless a criminal act under the Laws of England and Wales is alleged to have occurred.

APPENDICES

LIBRARY REGULATIONS

1) Opening and Closing

a) General

(i) In full term the old and new libraries shall be open every day except Sunday at such hours as the Library Committee with Standing Committee's consent shall determine, save that Standing Committee may order the temporary closing of the libraries to the extent necessary for special events on the Society's premises or for staffing reasons.

(ii) In vacation the old and new libraries shall be open on such days and at such hours as the Library Committee shall determine, subject to the provisions of Schedule 5 – Premises.

b) President's Office

Such books as are normally kept in the President's Office may be obtained on application to the Librarian-in-Charge.

2) Borrowing

(a) General

(i) A member may register with the Library to borrow books and other library materials. College, permanent home and email (where applicable) contact details must be given and kept up-to-date.

(ii) A member who borrows any library material shall be responsible for its safe return.

(b) Borrowing from the Library

(i) In Full Term

1. A member may have in his possession at any one time up to 8 books and 5 audiovisual items on loan from the Library.

2. Each book may be borrowed for 2 weeks. After that time it may be renewed, as long as no other member has reserved it. Up to 2 consecutive renewals may be done remotely; for a further renewal the book must be brought into the Library. Each audiovisual item may be borrowed for 3 days. It may not be renewed.

3. If an item has been reserved by another member it cannot be renewed and must be returned to the Library.

(ii) In Vacation

A member may, from the last Monday of Full Term, borrow up to 10 books for the Vacation. These will be due for return on the first Tuesday of the following Full Term. The loan period for an audiovisual item is always 3 days, whether in term or vacation time.

(c) Return of loaned items

(i) Notification

A courtesy notice will be sent to the borrower immediately before an item is due for return. If the item is not returned, overdue notices will be sent on the 1st, 7th, 14th and 16th days after the due date for a book or the 1st, 5th and 10th days after the due date for an audiovisual items. The final notice warns the borrower that if the item is not returned he will be invoiced for it.

(ii) Overdue items

A member returning or renewing an item after the Library closes on the date the item is due will be fined 20p per day overdue for a book or £1 per day for an audiovisual or reference item, up to a limit of £10 per item (subject to periodic review by the Library Committee).

(d) Failure to Return Library Materials or to Pay Library Fines

(i) If a member sent notice to return an item has not complied and has accumulated a fine of £10 (see 2(c)(ii)) on it, the Librarian-in-Charge will contact the member by post and email (where applicable) requesting the items return and informing of the fine to be paid. A 2-week deadline will be set for compliance.

(ii) If an item is not returned or the fine remains unpaid by the deadline set, the Librarian-in-Charge will contact the member again by post and email (where applicable) requesting payment of both the fine and the replacement cost of the item. A 2-week deadline will be set for compliance.

(iii) The names of all members who are retaining overdue items or who have not paid library fines once the second deadline has been passed shall be brought before the Library Committee by the Librarian-in-Charge. The Librarian shall:

- (1) forbid such members to borrow from the Library until they have paid their fines and returned the items which they have outstanding.
- (2) shall notify them by post and email that he has done so.
- (3) shall order their names to be posted on the Library notice board.
- (4) shall read the list to the house at the next Public Business Meeting and recommend to Standing Committee that their membership be suspended until the fine is paid.

(e) Dies Non

Where any period is specified in the Rules or Library regulations for the retention or return of library materials, days on which the Society's rooms are closed shall not be counted.

(f) Sub-lending

No member may lend to another person, whether or not a member of the Society, an item obtained from the library

(g) Marking and Mutilation of Library Materials

(i) For marking or mutilation of library materials the Librarian may:

- (1) inflict a fine in proportion to the damage done or equivalent to the cost of replacing the item, and in addition
- (2) with the permission of the Library Committee, deprive the member responsible of his borrowing rights in the library for a period not exceeding one term.

(ii) If such conduct be repeated the member may, with the approval of the Library Committee, be excluded permanently from access to the library.

3) Confined Library Materials

a) General

(i) The Librarian-in-Charge may confine any item to the old or the new library or to any other room of the Society.

(ii) The Library Committee shall consider representations that items should be confined or freed.

b) Borrowing

A member may consult a confined item in the room(s) to which it has been confined.

c) Fines

A member removing a confined book shall, at the discretion of the Librarian-in-Charge, incur a fine of up to £10 (subject to periodic review by the Library Committee) and shall, with the approval of the Library Committee, be suspended from the library until the fine is paid.

4) Newspapers, Periodicals and Reference Books

a) The Librarian shall be responsible for the purchase of all newspapers, periodicals and reference books taken by the Society.

b) He shall present his list at the first Public Business Meeting of term.

c) A member of the Society may challenge the Librarian's choice of newspapers etc. by writing to the Library Committee.

d) No member shall take a newspaper or periodical from the library, except to take a newspaper into the garden in June, with the permission of the Librarian-in-Charge.

5) Lost Items

At the beginning of each term, the Librarian-in-Charge shall cause to be prepared a list of library materials lost during the preceding term. Purchase of replacements will be considered by the Library Committee.

6) *Suggestion Books*

The Librarian shall provide a suggestion book to be kept in the library, in which members may propose books or other library materials for purchase or make a suggestion for the consideration of the Library Committee. Every entry shall be signed by the writer in person. An electronic suggestion form will also be available on the Society's web pages.

7) *Miscellaneous*

a) No food, drinks or stereo equipment shall be taken into the libraries.

b) Disorderly behaviour in the library shall be governed by Standing Order G1.

FORMS OF DEBATE

(1) All remarks should be addressed to the Chair in the form of "Mr/Madam Chairman/Chairperson (depending on which the Chair prefers) if he is someone other than the President.

(2) No Member should refer to another Member by his name, but as "The Honourable Member" or "The Honourable Member from — College"; or, in the case of Officers or ex-Officers, as "The Hon. —".

(3) If the President interrupts proceedings with his bell, all members, except the one speaking at the despatch box should resume their seats.

(4) There are two legitimate forms of interruption - points of order and points of information.

Points of order must refer to the order of the debate, and should be introduced to draw the President's attention to an abuse of the forms of the House (e.g. interjections from the gallery, a slanderous remark from the speaker, which the Member wishes to be withdrawn, etc.) Such points take automatic precedence in the proceedings.

Points of information must be literally points of information, and not just expressions of opinion. A Member wishing to raise such a point should rise in his seat, and wait until the speaker at the despatch box gives way. If the speaker does not wish to give way, the Member must resume his seat. Theoretically no two members of the Society may be on their feet at once. Shouted interruptions are not allowed, although cries of "order" are permitted to draw speaker's attention to a Member wishing to raise a point of information, whom he may not have seen. The speaker is never under any obligation to give way to interruptions.

(These points are introduced with the phrase "On a point of order" or "On a point of information" respectively.)

(5) Booing or hissing a speaker is both a grave and a pointless discourtesy, and an abuse of the forms of the house.

(6) Speakers on the paper will be told in advance the time that will be allowed them, and should observe this with the aid of warning cards, passed up by the Secretary.

(7) Members should always appreciate that visiting speakers are entitled to a quiet hearing, but in the interests of the debate guest speakers are always open to challenge on points of information. Members are reminded that speakers who come down are usually very busy people who come as a favour to the Society and are hence entitled to the courtesy which one would normally extend to a guest in one's home.

(8) Members are reminded that they should not bring mobile phones, food, drink or cigarettes into the Chamber at any time.

DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

The following Disciplinary Committee shortlist (as per Rule 71) was passed without objection as a Private Business Motion at a Public Business Meeting in Hilary Term 2011, proposed by the President on the behalf of the Standing Committee:

Toby Boutle, Ex-Standing, Magdalen
Charlotte Keenan, Ex-President, Trinity
Daniel Hayward, Ex-RO, Oriel
Justin Brett, Ex-RO, Exeter
Ingrid Egerton, Ex-RO, Somerville
Robert Palmer, Ex-President, St. John's
Amy Harland, Ex-President, Trinity
Roger Mortimore, Ex-RO, University
Christos Karaolis, Ex-Secretary, Trinity
Timothy Ayles, Ex-Standing, Trinity
Robert Dougans, Ex-RO, Oriel and OILP
Richard Coates, Ex-CCC, Exeter
Jo Joyce, Ex-Standing, Ex-RO, St. Hilda's
Sarah Reardon, Ex-RO, Keble
Dr. Leofranc Holford-Strevans, Ex-Standing, Christ Church
James Sanders, Ex-RO, Exeter
Laura Poots, Ex-President, St. John's
Alicia Collinson, Ex-Librarian, St. Hugh's
Victoria Schofield, Ex-President, LMH
John McDonnell, Ex-President, Balliol
Richard Silcock, Ex-President, St. Peter's
Neil Mahapatra, Ex-President, Pembroke
Karen Price, Ex-President, Magdalen
Chris Farmer, Ex-President, St. Hugh's
Michael Dowling, Ex-Treasurer, Mansfield

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE OF STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

- (a) All staff must dress smartly and appropriately for their particular employment, in particular:
- (1) Bar staff should wear Union-branded polo shirts;
 - (2) With the exception of door-staff on 'keg-changing' duty, door staff should normally wear their own white shirt, black trousers and black shoes, with Union-branded tie and Union body-warmer/jacket as required. Staff responsible for changing kegs should wear Union-branded polo shirts, with Union body-warmer/jacket as required;
 - (3) Waitress staff should wear white blouses and black shirt/trousers.
- (b) It is expected that members, guests and visitors are addressed politely and with courtesy at all times.

SCHEDULE OF UNACCEPTABLE CONTRACTORS

The following contractors have been found to be unsuitable for the Society's requirements, in accordance with Standing Order A6:

Ardington House
001 Cars, Oxford.
Clinkards Caterers.
Stepping Out
Imran Abrams

SCHEDULE OF NON-CREDITWORTHY ORGANISATIONS

In accordance with Standing Order A6, any organisation which appears in this schedule shall not be permitted to obtain goods or services from the Oxford Union:

SCHEDULE OF THOSE NOT ALLOWED CHEQUE FACILITIES

In accordance with Standing Order A14, the following persons and organisations shall not be permitted to remit the Society by cheque:

Nicholas Caunter, ex-House Manager;
Dr Andrew Charles Spencer Peacock, Coll. S. Johannis Baptiste, ex-Standing Committee, ex-CCC
Ashley Paver, Coll S. Hugonis, ex-Returning Officer
Reverend David Johnson, Selwyn College, ex-Standing Committee

SCHEDULE OF ROOM CHARGES

In accordance with Standing Order E4 (h) the following shall be the charges for room hire (all charges are for a half day hire):

	<u>Members</u>
Television Room	£50
Morris Room	£60
Gladstone Room	£80
Macmillan Room	£100
Snooker Room	£100
Chamber	£500
Lawn	£250
Entire Buildings	£1000

SCHEDULE OF UNACCEPTABLE ROOM HIRERS

In Accordance with Standing Order E4 (b) the following Clubs, Societies and Persons shall not be eligible to hire the Society's rooms:

Oxford University Ski and Snowboard Club
The Oxford University Conservative Association *for the purposes of hustings and in-camera meetings only*

SCHEDULE OF SUGGESTED TRIBUNAL PROCEDURE

1. In accordance with Standing Order D8(j), the Returning Officer shall publish suggested guidelines on the procedures for election tribunal hearings. Such guidelines shall in no way be binding on tribunals.

Rules of the Oxford Union Society, Michaelmas Term 2011. Updated 1st December 2011.
Yotam Levy, *St Cross College*, Returning Officer.
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- a. The parties (starting with the complainant) introduce themselves. In each case, any representative introduces his clients.
 - b. The Panel introduce themselves to the parties, and satisfy themselves that they are eligible to sit, and have no actual or apparent conflict of interest. Further, they assure themselves that they are meeting in time and subject to any other provisions in the Rules.
 - c. The Panel examine the Allegations count by count. Where there are any Allegations that were brought in time but in some other manner not according to the form or containing in an obvious form all of the content contemplated in the Rules. Where these Allegations have, since initially being brought, been corrected on form or substance, or where the Tribunal can so correct them, it should do so where relevant, and then consider the Allegations as corrected. The Tribunal may not use its powers of investigation to correct said Allegations.
2. Where the Complaint cannot be so corrected, the Complaint must be dismissed as having no case to answer, and the Tribunal should proceed to consider a case of Electoral Malpractice against the Complainant for bringing a frivolous or unfounded and malicious complaint, using its full investigative powers.
 3. Where the Complaint has been withdrawn under the power afforded to Complainants within the 72 hour deadline, the Tribunal shall follow the direction of the Returning Officer on how best to proceed.
 4. Where the Allegations have been well-made out (by the initial Allegation, through the help of the Returning Officer since the initial Allegation was submitted, or through the help of the Tribunal), the Returning Officer should read out the Allegation (s). He should take each count of electoral malpractice and read it out.
 5. The Chair of the Tribunal asks if the Defendants wish to enter a plea to any or all of the allegations. They do not have to do so if they do not wish to; if they do not do so the Tribunal considers the allegations as if they had entered not guilty pleas.

Where pleas of guilty to all charges by each defendant are made

6. The Complainant will outline the facts of the offence.
7. The Defendant may agree the facts. If they do not, the Tribunal proceeds to hold a trial on those facts to determine the basis for sentencing. This will proceed as if (as below) the Defendants had entered no guilty pleas.
8. The Defendant may make a plea in mitigation to argue for what they consider to be the appropriate sentence. The sentence itself is a matter for the Tribunal and thus the Complainant does not have the right to address the Tribunal on this point, unless the Tribunal subsequently pass a sentence which was not open to them under the rules.

Where not guilty pleas have been made

9. The Complainant calls his witnesses. For each witness:
 - a. The Complainant examines the witness in chief
 - b. The Defendant cross-examines the witness
 - c. The Complainant may re-examine the witness
 - d. The Tribunal may ask the witness questions
 - e. If the Tribunal have asked questions which go into new matters then both Complainant and Defendant shall have a right of re-examination
10. When the Complainant has called all of his witnesses, he formally closes his case (this is often a good point for an adjournment).
11. Before the Defendant opens his case, it may make a submission of 'No Case to Answer'. The Tribunal should then rule on this submission - this may involve their retiring for consideration. The Tribunal should give their ruling. If the submission is accepted on all or some of the counts, the Tribunal must enter formal not guilty verdicts on those charges at that time. If so, the Tribunal should consider whether any of the allegations that were ruled as No Case to Answer were either frivolous, or unfounded and brought out of malice. The Tribunal shall then continue - to consider any remaining charges.
12. The Defendant opens his case, calling his witnesses using a similar process to paragraph 9 above.
13. The Defendant formally closes his case.
14. The Complainant may make a closing speech.

15. The Defendant may make a closing speech.
16. The Tribunal retires to consider its verdict.
17. The Tribunal announces its verdict.
18. In the case of a Not Guilty verdict, the Tribunal shall consider whether the allegations were either frivolous, or unfounded and brought out of malice. If so, anyone accused of making such allegations shall become a Defendant, and a case shall ensue on those grounds (the Defendant may wish to call an adjournment to prepare his case).
19. In the case of a Guilty verdict, the Tribunal shall consider whether the allegations are frivolous. If they find they are, the Tribunal shall pass no penalty on the Defendant on that count, and shall consider a case against the Complainant for making a frivolous complaint.
20. If a verdict of guilty has been made on any count, the Defendant may make a plea in mitigation on those charges.
21. The Tribunal retires to consider its sentence.
22. The sentence is announced.
23. The Tribunal recommends any recommendations or rulings arising from its actions, including whether the President-Elect should succeed to Office immediately.

SCHEDULE OF REASONABLE COSTS

As per Standing Order A16(a)(ii)(1), the following is a list of costs deemed reasonable by Standing Committee.

(a) Accommodation

Members incurring accommodation costs, while on Society business, shall be reimbursed at the current, average rate of British Youth Hostels (c. £20 in 2002.) This does not in any way override the provisions of Standing Order A15(c)

(b) Food

- (i) In the event of a Member being on society business, as per Standing Order A15 (d), a reasonable contribution towards the total cost of food shall be considered to be no more than £5 *per diem*.
- (ii) In the event of a member reciprocating with entertainment for free accommodation, the reasonable cost of a meal, as per Standing Order A15 (c), shall be considered to be no more than £15.
- (iii) In the event of a member reciprocating with entertainment for hospitality extended by US universities on the American Tour, the reasonable cost of a meal for each of the US representatives shall be considered to be no more than £20. The reasonable cost of a meal for the Society's own representatives shall be considered to be no more than £20.

SCHEDULE OF USE OF THE TELEVISION IN THE MEMBERS' BAR

- 1) In accordance with Standing Order E19, the Television in the Members' Bar shall only be used to show the following programmes:
 - a. BBC News at 1 o'clock;
 - b. BBC News at 6 o'clock;
 - c. Major Sporting Fixtures;
 - d. Major Public Broadcasts.
 - e. Any programmes being displayed in conjunction with a promotion in the Members' Bar
- 2) Such programmes shall be shown at the request of any member and at the discretion of the bar staff on duty.
- 3) Whether a sporting fixture or public broadcast is "major" shall be at the discretion of the bar staff on duty.
- 4) The Television shall not be switched on except to show programmes in accordance with this Schedule.

SCHEDULE OF FORMAL POLICY DECISIONS

As per Rule 73(f), the following are policy decisions which have been decided by a Poll or in Private Business at a Public Business Meeting and have not been overridden or become otherwise void or irrelevant.

A: THE JUKEBOX DEBATE

“This House resolves to prohibit the use of the jukebox in the Bar”; passed at the Special Private Business Meeting on 6th April 1998, subsequently taken under Rule 47(e) to the Public Business Meeting held on the 12th April 1998 and passed in Private Business at that meeting.

B: THE POLLS OF 12TH JUNE 1998

Two motions were passed at the above debate, the full text of which are given here for the purposes of Rule 72.

Motion 1: “This House finds the practice of candidates publicly harassing members to vote in Union elections both offensive and detrimental to the quality of candidates elected; therefore this House amends the Rules to ban the canvassing of votes in Public places.”

Accordingly Rules 33(a)(ii) and 33(a)(iii) were amended.

Motion 2: “This House believes

- (1) The Oxford Union is a Members’ Society to be run for the benefit of all Members.
- (2) Members have a right to know how their money is spent and what decisions their elected representatives make; decisions must not be made behind closed doors.
- (3) The Union has nothing to fear from openness, accountability and transparency.

Therefore this House amends the Rules to make the Union more accountable, open and responsive.”

Accordingly Rules 14(a), 23(g), 27(a), 27(c), 40(d), 45(h), 60(a) were amended and Rules 18(c), 18(d), 18(e), 21(c), 23(i), 23(j), 33(a)(ii)(9), 34(f) 35(k), 35(l), 37(d), 60(b), 62(e), 67(i), 68(e), and 73(h) were inserted. Standing Orders A1, A2, A3 and B2 were amended.

C: SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARATIONS OF TRUST

“This House approves the supplemental trust to the Oxford Union Society Trust Deed, as attached,” passed as a Private Business in a Public Business Meeting on 4th March 1999 (see the Supplemental Redclaration of Trust for the schedule to the motion).

D: TRUST DEED REDECLARATION CHANGES

“This House amends the Rules to reflect the recent changes to the Oxford Union Society Trust Deed – namely removing the Senior Officers and Trustees as members of the Standing Committee,” passed as a Private Business Motion in the Public Business Meeting on 11th March 1999.

Accordingly Rule 24(a), 34(c) 62(a), 71(c) and Standing Order B7(b) were altered.

SCHEDULE OF FORMAL INTERPRETATIONS OF THE RULES AND STANDING ORDERS

This is the schedule of interpretations of the Rules and Standing Orders issued by the Returning Officer and other bodies correct as of 8th December 2010.

A. Interpretations of the Returning Officer

The following interpretations of the Rules and Standing Orders have been issued by Returning Officers in furtherance of Rule 32(g) and in accordance with Rule 67(e)(i)(6). They shall act as binding authoritative precedents to the extent set out in the Rules.

1: Qualifying Speeches

In the absence of adequate record of a debate, any speeches claimed in that debate must be allowed. In the event of it being discovered that a candidate has deliberately misled the Returning Officer into validating his nomination when he has not in fact made the appropriate number of qualifying speeches, action should be taken under Rule 33... as being a deliberate breach of the Rules regarding the conduct of the election.

Roger Mortimore, University College, Michaelmas 1991.

2: Appointment of Additional Deputy Returning Officers

In Rule 32(c), the power of the Returning Officer to appoint (with the approval of the Standing Committee) further Deputy Returning Officers to bring the total number to at least eight does not imply that the number may not be so brought to more than eight. Nor is the appointment of DROs under Rule 32(e) governed by the upper limit of twelve DROs who may be appointed under Rule 32(a)(i); the maximum number of DROs that can be appointed under Rule 32(c) is governed by the discretion of the Returning Officer and the Standing Committee.

Justin Brett, Exeter College, 27th October 1992.

3: Deputy Returning Officer Selection

The power of the Standing Committee under Rule 32(a)(iii) to amend the list of Deputy Returning Officers whose appointment is to be ratified, may be exercised only in accordance with the criteria of experience and capability laid down for the composition of the original list.

Marcus Mollan, Corpus Christi, 2nd March 1997.

4: Emergency Debates and Election Qualification

For the purposes of eligibility for nominations for the Society's elections, the following is the validity of speeches made in emergency debates: All speeches made in emergency debates before Hilary Term 1990 shall count. For any emergency debate in any term including and since Hilary Term 1990, no more than one speech may be counted from this debate. Speeches may count from any number of emergency debates. A speech will not be counted under this Rule if a speech is counted under Rule 34(c)(viii)(1) from the Public Business immediately following the emergency debate in which the speech was made.

Marcus Mollan, Corpus Christi, 2nd March 1997.

5: Deputy Returning Officer Selection

In Rule 32(a)(i), the criterion of experience is to be interpreted as referring first to experience in the administration of the Society's Elections (and where applicable, ought to follow the order of seniority of Deputy Returning Officers of the Society as defined in Standing Order D12 and then to experience in the administration of other Elections and to other general experience of the governance of the Society.

The criterion of capability represents the view of the President, Returning Officer and Chairman of Consultative Committee in the first instance, and that of the Standing Committee, concerning the competence of the applicants to assist in the administration of the Society's Elections in that Term. This is to be based initially on the criterion of experience and then on any other known factors that may affect any applicant's general ability to perform his duties were he appointed. This may include the definite absence of an applicant from Oxford during the period of the Election but not mere possibility that this may occur. It may not involve the taking of a view on the basis of the potential level of expenditure governed by Rule 34(e) and Standing Order D14 concerning the Election of that Term, nor of the future allocation of duties by the new Returning Officer between his Deputies.

Ashley Paver, Collegium Sancti Hugonis, 24th February 1998.

6: Nomination for an Office and the Standing Committee

There is no requirement under Rule 34(b) for a Member wishing to nominate for an Office and the Standing Committee to submit both his nominations at the same time. However, this shall not be taken as releasing such a Member from his obligation to submit all the relevant monies, photographs and documentation relating to each single nomination at the time of that nomination.

Matthew Gullick, Wadham, 27th February 1998.

7: Re-Election to the Post of Chairman of Consultative Committee

In Rule 36(d)(i), the provision preventing the Chairman of Consultative Committee from serving for more than three terms applies only to a Chairman of Consultative Committee standing for re-election in a term in which he holds office.

Matthew Gullick, Wadham, 27th February 1998.

8: Provision of Verbal Lists by non-Verbal Means

The verbal provision of a list of selected candidates within the meaning of Rule 33(a)(i)(18) includes any verbal identification of more than one candidate, including identification by means of indicating the photographs, names, mannerisms or persons of candidates accompanied by the soliciting of votes for or against those candidates.

James Griffith, Collegium Sancti Petri le Bailey, 21st May 1998.

9: Verification of Qualifying Speeches

The means by which the Returning Officer shall determine that a speech has been made, when deciding the eligibility with regard to the provisions of Rule 34(b)(viii) of a candidate to stand for election, shall ordinarily be the presence of that candidate's name in the list of speakers in the approved Minutes of a Meeting, or the presence of an official audio or video recording of the speech.

If in the rational opinion of the Returning Officer, there is serious and sufficient doubt as to whether both of these means of verification reflect the entirety of the proceedings as regards the making of a claimed speech (notwithstanding any ratification or approval of such means of verification), or one of these means of verification is unavailable to the Returning Officer and in his rational opinion there is serious and sufficient doubt as to whether the remaining means of verification reflects the entirety of the proceedings as regards the making of a claimed speech (notwithstanding any ratification or approval of such means of verification), he may allow, for the purposes of eligibility under Rule 38(b)(viii) only, a speech claimed by a candidate.

James Griffith, Collegium Sancti Petri le Bailey, 7th June 1998.

10: Resignation of Office

When a letter of resignation signed by an Officer is given to the President, the resignation of that Officer from Office is valid and cannot be withdrawn (Rule 38(a)).

Ashley Paver, Collegium Sancti Hugonis, 31st October 1998.

11: Loitering Near Election Publicity

If any Member loiters in close proximity to any official publicity for the Society's Elections displayed in a public place outside the Society's premises, he will be guilty of drawing the fact of the Election to the attention of Members in a persistent way, and thus of breaching Rule 33(a)(i)(2).

Ashley Paver, Collegium Sancti Hugonis, 4th November 1998.

12: Deputy Returning Officer Selection

If there are more applicants than are permitted under the Rules to serve as DROs, the President, Returning Officer and Chairman of Consultative Committee are obliged to present to Standing Committee a list of the 12 applicants they consider most experienced and capable, for Standing Committee to ratify. The Committee may amend the proposed list, before ratifying it, if it considers the criteria of experience and capability to have been misapplied in drawing up the list, and may then prefer Members who applied but were not included on the proposed list over some of those who were on the proposed list... Standing Committee is obliged to appoint the 12 most experienced and capable members of those who applied validly, unless it considers fewer than 12 of them to be suitable under Rule 32(a)(iii). Suitability in this Rule is to be construed to mean capability to perform any of the duties of a DRO. That is, provided that a Member is capable of fulfilling any one such duty, he is not to be considered an unsuitable applicant under this Rule. Only if an applicant is totally incapable of fulfilling any duty at all, may Standing Committee consider his application not suitable. Absence from Oxford during part of the election period may be considered in assessing competence, but only complete absence during that period could render an applicant unsuitable, since the Returning Officer is entitled to allocate duties between his Deputies in accordance with their respective availability. Therefore, only if there are fewer than 12 valid applicants who are at all capable, may Standing Committee decline to appoint some of those who applied and suggest further names *ad numerum supplendum*.

Ashley Paver, Collegium Sancti Hugonis 26th January 1999.

13: Ordinary Private Business Meeting Reports

It shall be electoral malpractice under Rule 33(a)(i)(8), (11) and (16) to interfere with, deface, or remove an Ordinary Private Business Meeting report that is posted on the notice board, without the express permission of the Returning Officer.

Sheridan Westlake, Brasenose and St Cross, 19th February 1999.

14: The Conclave

Rule 32(b) (“The Conclave”) does not preclude or prohibit the admission of observers into the meeting of Deputy Returning Officers to elect the Returning Officer. Correspondingly, observers shall be allowed. Notwithstanding, in line with other elections in the Society, the election of the Returning Officer shall be by secret ballot.

Sheridan Westlake, Brasenose and St Cross, 18th April 1999.

15: Use of the Phrase “Vice President”

No candidate in the Society’s elections may use the term “Vice-President” when actually referring to the Office of Librarian in any manifesto, manifesto booklet entry, hustings speech, or any other publicity connected with the election; nor may it be used in reports issued for Private Business Meetings.

John Everett, Collegium Sancti Ioannis Baptistae, 25th October 1999.

16: Candidates’ Names

With respect to Rule 35(a), the candidate must include at least his surname and one of his first names in the name supplied. The Returning Officer may refuse to accept any name given by a candidate which he believes may confuse other members, whether or not this is deliberate.

John Everett, Collegium Sancti Ioannis Baptistae, 25th October 1999.

17: Counting Regulations

With regard to Standing Order D6 (“Counting Regulations”), the value of ballot papers will at all times be expressed to three decimal places.

John Everett, Collegium Sancti Ioannis Baptistae, 25th October 1999.

18: Election Publicity

Rule 54(c)(ii) clearly prevents discussion of the Election by Members in the Press unless approved by the President and Returning Officer. However, Rule 32(e)(i) states that “the Returning Officer shall conduct the Elections of Officers and Committees of the Society as provided in Rules 33-38 and Chapter D of the Standing Orders”. Rule 34(d) further states that “the Returning Officer shall be responsible for adequate publicity for the Poll in accordance with the Standing Orders”, and this is further clarified in Standing Order D4. Nothing in Rule 54(c)(ii) can therefore be construed as requiring the President to approve publicity for the Poll in the form of manifesto booklets, posters, newspaper advertisements, and other appropriate publicity material.

Robert Dougans, Oriol and Brookes, 20th November 1999.

19: Appellate Board Composition

For the purposes of Rule 33(d)(v) (Composition of the Appellate Board), “members of any convocation” shall include those with MAs, MA status, or who are entitled to supplicate for an MA.

Daniel Johnson, Corpus Christi, 7th December 2000.

20: E-mailing of Manifestos

Rule 35(b)(viii) shall not include the use of the Society’s network provision when it is accessed using a computer that is not the property of the Society. Similarly, the use of a Union e-mail address shall not constitute use of the Society’s computers, unless the mail is altered or printed using a computer belonging to the Society.

Daniel Johnson, Corpus Christi, 19th November 2001.

21: Election of the Returning Officer

In the event of a tie for the election of a new Returning Officer, the election shall be determined by lot, and organised by the out-going Returning Officer.

Daniel Johnson, Corpus Christi, 29th January 2002.

22: Use of Inappropriate Language in a Manifesto

Rule 35(b)(xiii) implicitly prohibits the use of any swear word or slang of a sexual or scatological nature. This prohibition extends to and encompasses the documentation of actual events within manifestos. A candidate wishing to document an event which entails the use of such language – and only in the report of an event when such language was used in or on an official publication – may use an “*” in place of every letter, saving the first and the last.

Alexandra da Costa, St Hilda's, 22nd February 2002.

23: Conclave Attendance

Conclave must occur during the hours when the Society's buildings are usually open. Should the buildings be closed during those hours for social reasons, observers shall be admitted to the buildings, provided they alert the Returning Officer and Secretary to their desire to attend and providing they leave after Conclave business is concluded, and not attempt to use said Conclave as mean of entry to a social event.

Alexandra da Costa, St Hilda's, 4th May 2002.

24: Withdrawal from the Election for Chairman of Consultative Committee

A candidate for the post of Chairman of Consultative Committee may withdraw his nomination at any stage prior to the commencement of the Consultative Committee ballot. This shall not be taken to release any other candidate from his traditional obligation to hust, but shall not require any ballot if only one candidate remains.

Matthew Taylor, St Benet's Hall, 2nd December 2002.

25: Nomination Folder

The Nomination folder is available to members for the purposes of confirming that a nomination is valid, and for no other purpose. On no account shall any member be permitted to extract personal information from that file, including, but not limited to, telephone numbers and addresses.

Matthew Taylor, St Benet's Hall, 2nd December 2002.

26: Publishing to the Websites

Where the Rules state that any individual must publish material to the Society's website, he shall be taken to have discharged his responsibilities when he passes to the Webmaster either electronic or hard copy of the material with a request that it be placed on the Society's website.

Matthew Taylor, St Benet's Hall, 7th December 2002.

27: Notification of Fines

For the purposes of Rule 6(b)(i), “written notice” shall constitute any notice delivered to the member in question in accordance with Rule 67(j)(ii) which brings the fact of the fine to the attention of the member.

Peter Orlov, New College, 28th January 2003.

28: Eligibility to Stand as Chairman of the Consultative Committee

Rule 11(a) states that, “only Life Members may be candidates in the Society's elections.” However, Rule 36(d)(i) states that “Any member, who has attended four of the last eight meetings of the Consultative Committee... may stand for the post of Chairman of Consultative Committee...”, and Rule 26(a) states that, “The [Consultative] Committee shall consist of all members of the Society”. Hence: all members, including temporary and long-term members, are members of the Consultative Committee, and all members of the Consultative Committee (except members of Standing Committee and Secretary's Committee) are eligible to stand for the post of Chairman of Consultative Committee. Rule 11(a) refers to the Society's main elections, i.e. non-Life Members are ineligible to stand for any Office, or to serve on Standing or Secretary's Committee. However, nothing in Rule 11(a) can be used to prevent a non-Life Member from nominating for Chairman of Consultative Committee.

Alexander Young, Oriel, 16th March 2004.

29: Speeches that may not Count as Electoral Qualification Speeches

Neither speeches on Private Business matters made at Public Business Meetings, nor points of order nor points of information, nor speeches made debating any procedural motion brought, during an informal debate, emergency debate or Public Business Meeting, may count towards electoral qualification under Rule 34(c)(viii).

Alexander Young, Oriel, 16th March 2004.

30: Regarding Rule 33(a)(i)(21)

1. Rule 34(c)(viii) requires that any member wishing to be a candidate in the society's elections has made, by the time of nomination, **two** speeches in the case of nomination the Secretary's Committee, or **four** speeches in the case of nomination for the Standing Committee or an Officership. Hence, the theoretical maximum number of speeches that a member could be expected to make in any one term, in order to nominate himself in the Society's elections, is four.

2. Under the requirements of 34(c)(viii)(3), the final window of opportunity for any member to make sufficient speeches to nominate themselves for election, is therefore EITHER the last four Public Business Meetings prior to Close of Nominations, OR the last four Emergency Debates prior to Close of Nominations, OR the last four Informal Debates prior to Close of Nominations, OR a combination of the above.

3. With specific regard to Rule 33(a)(i)(21), the phrase "hindering the candidature of a Member" may be taken to refer:

(1) EITHER to preventing any Member, by any means prohibited under 33(a)(i)(21), from *becoming* a candidate;

(2) OR to hindering any Member, by any means prohibited under 33(a)(i)(21), from promoting his candidature (within the parameters permitted by these Rules) once it is declared.

4. Hence: obstructing fair and proper debate in the House by any means specified within 33(a)(i)(21), and as such obstructing opportunities to make speeches for the purposes of 34(c)(viii), is Electoral Malpractice if such obstruction occurs within any of:

EITHER the last four Emergency Debates before Close of Nominations, OR the last four Public Business Meetings prior to the Close of Nominations, OR the last four Informal Debates prior to the Close of Nominations.

Any change to the number of speeches required shall not affect the principle of this interpretation: if the Rules are changed to require 5 speeches, for example, then 33(a)(i)(21) shall apply to the last five sequences of opportunities to speak before Close of Nominations, and so on.

5. Under Rule 33(a)(i)(21), what constitutes "misuse or abuse" of the rules or forms of the house or of procedural motions, or other behaviour described therein such as biases, shall be at the interpretation of the rational opinion of the Returning Officer whether he be in the Chair or not, as per Rule 67(e)(i)(6) and Rule 32(e), specifically Rule 32(e)(i), pursuant to his duty to "attempt to ensure that no breach of Rule 33 occurs".

6. Behaviour constituting "misuse or abuse" shall be decided on a case-by-case basis, but the following principles and definitions shall be universally applied.

(1) 33(a)(i)(21) clearly implies a distinction between "misuse" and "abuse".

(2) 33(a)(i)(21) clearly implies that the only procedural motion whose legitimacy is beyond question, is 46(e); therefore it is also implied that the employment of all other procedural motions may be regarded with suspicion.

(3) "Misuse" should therefore be taken to mean employing a procedure in a technically *correct* sense, but for an ulterior purpose. For example, any Member may move "that the question be now put," but if there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that his action is electorally motivated, in that termination of the debate would deny a Member or Members the chance to qualify, this constitutes "misuse".

(4) "Abuse" should be taken to mean employing a procedure in a technically *incorrect* sense. For example, attempting to bring forward an adjournment motion under 41(d), ten minutes after a previous adjournment motion brought under 41(d), would be an abuse because 41(d) requires half-hourly intervals.

(5) Grounds for 'reasonable suspicion' about procedure brought before the house, (particularly in after-debates) may include, but is not limited to: an unusually high number of Members in the chamber, or Members being ushered into the chamber / marshalled by agitators; facetious or unconvincing reasons being given by the Member moving a procedural motion for the reason of its moving.

(6) The purpose of this interpretation is to check what has sadly become an increasingly common practice, of a faction or factions 'packing' the chamber with their supporters and using their majority to railroad through suspensions or terminations of debates, with the purpose of preventing Members making sufficient speeches to nominate themselves for election.

7. Per 67(e)(i), any ruling of the Returning Officer, on a case by case basis, of what constitutes breaches of 33(a)(i)(21) "shall be binding in the instant case" and act as "authoritative precedents for Members, or Bodies, with powers of interpretation of junior or of equal status".

8. If a ruling of the Returning Officer in this regard alters the outcome of the Society's Main Elections it may be challenged by 33(b)(ix)(2).

Alexander Young, Oriel, 19th May 2005.

31: Regarding Rule 35(b)(viii)

Rule 35(b)(vii) states “Candidates may then re-register objections to manifesto claims they still believe to be misleading by 5pm...”

1. This clearly implies a distinction from Rule 35(b)(vi), which declares “any Member” shall be able to object to manifestos in the first instance. The second round of objections specified by Rule 35(b)(vii) shall not be available to “any Member”, but only to “Candidates”. In order to verify that objections submitted under this clause are submitted by Candidates, no objection made under this rule shall be valid if it is anonymously submitted.

2. Rule 35(b)(vii) states that objections may be made to claims that are “misleading” and omits to mention objections to claims that are “false”. The Returning Officer has a short period of time in which to produce the manifesto booklet, and whilst he has ensured “to the best of his ability that all claims made in manifestos are true” [Rule 35(b)(xix)(4)], this is not a failsafe. It may be reasonably supposed, given that Rule 33(a)(i)(20) allows complaints against deliberate falsehoods to be submitted to Election Tribunals, that the manifestos amended per Rule 35(b)(vi) may still contain false statements. Therefore, objections that such manifestos contain false statements, as well as misleading statements, may be submitted according to the fifth sentence of Rule 35(b)(vii).

Alexander Young, Oriel, 7th June 2005.

32: Regarding Rule 33(d)(iii)

Where the Election Tribunal has failed to report in full to the Returning Officer within one hundred and eighty eight hours of the Close of Poll as required under Rule 33(c)(ix), the period in which leave to appeal may be requested from the Senior Officers under Rule 33(d)(iii) shall begin at one hundred and eighty eight hours after the Close of Poll in the Society’s main elections for that term, and shall end forty eight hours after the eventual publication of such a report.

Andrew Grey, Collegium Sancti Petri le Bailey, 18th June 2005.

33: Appointment of Deputy Returning Officers Ad Numerum Supplendum

Rule 32(a)(iii) states that Standing Committee may amend the shortlist of Deputy Returning Officers in accordance with the criteria laid out in Rule 32(a)(i), if in doing so, they decide to remove any applicant from the shortlist, then they shall look in the first instance to any original applicant who did not make it onto the first shortlist due to their having had insufficient experience in the original pool of applicants. These applicants shall be considered in their order of precedence, subject to the criteria laid out in Standing Order D12. Only if an applicant is objected to by a vote of Standing Committee shall the next most junior applicant be considered.

Standing Committee is only obliged to replace any applicant if the number on the shortlist should fall below eight, although they may replace as many applicants as they should wish, subject to the number on the final shortlist not exceeding twelve. As such, the reference to appointments of Deputy Returning Officers as numerum supplendum shall only apply when the original pool of applicants has been entirely exhausted and there are still fewer than twelve suitable applicants.

Joanna Lee Morrison, Christ Church, 31st January 2006.

34: Appointment of Deputy Returning Officers under Rule 32(c)

In the event of the number of Deputy Returning Officers falling below eight at any time other than during the original meeting of Standing Committee in which they are appointed, as laid out in Rule 32(a)(i), then the Returning Officer shall look in the first instance to any original applicants who were not appointed, in their order of precedence, as laid out in Standing Order D12. Only after all these applicants have been given first refusal shall any other members be considered. Original applicants who were removed from the shortlist by the Standing Committee, or who were removed from the shortlist after the in camera meeting of the President, Returning Officer and Chairman of the Consultative Committee, shall not be eligible for appointment under this Rule. No member shall be appointed as a Deputy Returning Officer in this way unless all original applicants not otherwise exempted have refused to serve.

Joanna Lee Morrison, Christ Church, 31st January 2006.

35: Regarding Rule 32(k), Returning Officer’s Assistants

A Returning officer’s Assistant has a term of office equivalent to that of a Deputy Returning Officer, as laid out in Rule 32, extending from their appointment by the Returning Officer, until the appointment of new Deputy Returning Officers as per Rule 32(a)(i), unless the ROA should be objected to according to the provisions of Rule 32(k).

Jo Joyce, St Hilda’s College, 24th February 2006.

36: Regarding Rule 33(a)(i)(11) and Rule 23(h)

The first sentence of Rule 23(h) is a “Rule... regarding the conduct of the election”. As such, any failure to fulfil the requirements of this first sentence on the part of any candidate in the Society’s main elections will be a breach of a rule regarding the conduct of the election and could, therefore, constitute electoral malpractice under Rule 33(a)(i)(11).

Jo Joyce, St Hilda’s College, 25th February 2006.

37: Changes in Senior Disciplinary Committee composition

The clause of Rule 71(h) referring to situations in which the Returning Officer is “unable to find sufficient members of the Shortlist who are willing and able to serve” shall also be considered to apply to those situations in which the Returning Officer is informed by members of a validly-constituted Senior Disciplinary Committee that they are no longer able to serve. So long as all members of the committee as originally constituted approve the measure, the places of those no longer able to serve shall be taken by persons on the new shortlist. The committee shall in all respects – save its membership – be considered the same as that originally summoned in accordance with Rule 71(e)(i).

Francis Murphy, Trinity College, 19th June 2006.

38. The System of “Random Selection” of Rule 32

The system of “random selection” of applications for Deputy Returning Officer positions shall consist in the following, to take place in the presence of the Returning Officer and at least one of his Deputies at a meeting of Consultative Committee: after having been publicly written on separate pieces of paper of similar size, the names of those eligible shall be placed into a hat or similar receptacle (to be determined by the Returning Officer), shaken, and then removed – by the Returning Officer or one of his Deputies – until all available positions have been filled.

Francis Murphy, Trinity College, 11th October 2006.

39. Regarding Rule 32(a)(v)-

The Rule requires the President pass on objections to Deputy Returning Officers within 96 hours of the notification of their ratification by standing committee, and then allows Deputy Returning Officers to respond to the objections within 144 hours of said notification. The primary principle involved is thus that each stage is given 48 hours, and this is especially important in the case of responses to objections. Thus, in the event of the President failing to meet the initial deadline, Deputy Returning Officers should be given 48 hours from the time of receipt of objections to present their response, in order that they are not penalised by the President’s error.

Adam Marsh, Trinity College, 29th January 2007.

40. Regarding Rule 32(a)(vi)(1)-

The Rule requires that the scrutiny committee consider objections and rebuttals made against and by Deputy Returning Officers. Thus, the only material eligible for discussion shall be the objections, as they are provided to the Deputy Returning Officer in question, and the rebuttals made to these objections. The introduction of any new material which has not been provided as an objection, within time limits, and then passed on to a Deputy Returning Officer to allow right of reply, should thus be considered a breach of Rule 71(a)(i)(2).

Adam Marsh, Trinity College, 29th January 2007.

41. An Interpretation of the Returning Officer regarding Rule 33(c)(vii):

In the event of no nominations being received for a junior officership, no election shall be deemed to have taken place. The Returning Officer shall consider such a state of affairs in the same way as if an annulment of the election had taken place and shall organise a repoll as per the provisions of Rule 33(c)(vii). The Returning Officer shall carry out the function of a Tribunal Panel in laying down the conditions for such a repoll.

Alexander Priest, Coll. San. Ioannis Baptistae, 18th January 2008

42. Regarding Rule 32(a)(v)(1), rebuttal of Corporate Objections to Deputy Returning Officers

If an objection is made under 32(a)(v)(1), then a record of the substance of that objection shall be sent to the individual objected against, by the President, as per 32(a)(v)(5), so that the individual might have a right of reply.

Daniel Johnson, Corpus Christi, 29th April 2008

43. Regarding the Admissibility of Complaints of Electoral Malpractice

For the purposes of Rule 33(b)(ii) the submission of a complaint by email to ro@oxford-union.org shall constitute “bringing an allegation before the Returning Officer”.

Oliver Linch, Coll. Lincolnense, 30th November 2008

44. Regarding Rule 71(c), Chairman of the IDC

The Chairman of an Intermediate Disciplinary Committee shall always be the most senior ex-Returning Officer sitting under category B, by earliest date of election.

Niall Gallagher, Coll. Vigornense, 13th May 2009

45. Regarding Rule 71(c), Composition of Category B

An ex-Returning Officer who is also serving as Returning Officer shall not be eligible to sit on an Intermediate Disciplinary Committee as an ex-Returning Officer.

Niall Gallagher, Coll. Vigornense, 13th May 2009

46. Regarding Rule 35(b)(xii), usage of the word 'Independent'

Rule 35(b)(xii) shall not be taken as preventing any candidate from describing himself as 'independent' on his manifesto. Such a description shall only be struck if it is in breach of Rule 35(b)(xiii) taken in conjunction with Rule 35(b)(xiv).

Ronald Collinson, Balliol College, 1st June 2009

47. Regarding Rule 47(h), Scope of Requirement

The requirement under Rule 47(h) to seek the 'prior written consent' of a Senior Officer or the Standing Committee before a motion with 'financial implications' may be 'put' shall not prevent any member from giving notice of any proposed motion, nor shall it prevent any motion being discussed in the House; it shall only prevent the House from voting upon such a motion until the Chair has been made aware that written consent has been attained.

Ronald Collinson, Balliol College, 1st June 2009 (counter-signed Corey Dixon, Oriel, President)

48. Regarding Rule 47(h), Definition of 'Written Consent'

For the purposes of Rule 47(h), the appearance in the Public Minutes of any Motion of Standing Committee that expresses approval of the Private Business Motion, or will otherwise lead to its being put, shall amount to the 'written consent' of Standing Committee.

Ronald Collinson, Balliol College, 1st June 2009 (counter-signed Corey Dixon, Oriel, President)

49. Regarding Rule 67(b)(iv), Scope of 'Not More Than Fourteen Days'

The words 'postponed to such a Public Business Meeting... not more than fourteen days after the day specified in the original notice' in Rule 67(b)(iv) shall not be taken as preventing discussion of the motion at Public Business Meetings taking place outside this period, provided:

1. That the motion is in fact introduced at the Public Business Meeting specified in the notice to the colleges, halls and the press;
2. That the Meeting so advertised does fall within the prescribed time-limit; and
3. That all other requirements of this rule are met.

Ronald Collinson, Balliol College, 1st June 2009 (counter-signed Corey Dixon, Oriel, President)

50. Regarding Rule 38(a)(i): Resignation of the Returning Officer and his Deputies

There being no mechanism in the Rules for the resignation of the Returning Officer or his Deputies, for the purposes of Rule 38(a)(i) the following procedure shall act as the authoritative precedent:

"A Deputy Returning Officer may resign by writing to the Returning Officer; the Returning Officer may resign by writing to the President. Additionally, the Returning Officer may state in his letter of resignation that he does not wish to become a Deputy Returning Officer on his resignation, in which case the relevant section of Rule 32(d)(i) shall not apply."

Andrew Mason, Coll. Magnae Aulae Universitatis, 26th October 2009

51. Regarding Rule 32(k): Appointment of Returning Officer's Assistants

For the sake of clarity, the relevant section of Rule 32(k) shall be read in accordance with the following:

"The Returning Officer must post on the notice board the names of any Members he has appointed as Returning Officer's Assistants immediately after they are appointed, with 4:00pm on the day of the Poll being the last deadline for appointing Members as such."

Andrew Mason, Coll. Magnae Aulae Universitatis, 27th November 2009

52. Regarding Rules 33(a)(i)(23) and 35(i)(v): Announcing the Results of the Poll

For the purpose of Rule 33(a)(i)(23), 'the Count' shall be deemed to have concluded once the Returning Officer has announced the results of the Poll in the Bar, as per Rule 35(i)(v). Consequently, Rule 33(a)(i)(23) prevents any individual (including the Returning Officer) from disclosing any or all of the results of the Poll before the end of the aforementioned announcement, unless they be otherwise permitted by the Rules or Standing Orders.

Andrew Mason, Coll. Magnae Aulae Universitatis, 5th February 2010

53. Regarding Rule 71(a)(vi): Allegations Against Officeholders

Any allegation made against any officeholder listed under Rule 71(a)(vi) must be declared invalid by the Returning Officer if it fails to detail its own compatibility with this Rule in full.

Anne Ross, Coll. Magnae Aulae Universitatis, 14th February 2010

54. Interpretation regarding Rule 35 and the striking of phrases.

With reference to 35 (b) (v) (4), interpretations of whether part of a candidate's submitted manifesto qualify as experience or capability (under 35 (b) (v) (1)) shall be at the absolute discretion of the sitting Returning Officer. If he is not so convinced, he shall offer such amendments as he deems appropriate, and if still no resolution can be found, it is his duty to strike the offending clause or clauses, phrase or phrases. If such a striking causes the candidate to fall below the required balance of capability and experience to other contents (affectionately known as 'waffle'), then the Returning officer shall be obliged to strike further parts of the candidate's manifesto until he reach such a point that he is satisfied of both the truth and balance of its composition.

David Blagbrough, Collegium de Somerville, 5th June

55. Regarding Rule 32(a)(vii)(1): Seniority of Deputy Returning Officers

Any term in which a DRO resigns before the Scrutiny Committee meets shall not be counted under Rule 32(a)(vii)(1).

Katherine Sidders, Trinity College, 15th May 2011

56. Regarding Rules 71(d)(iv)(1) and 71(d)(ii): Referral of an IDC to SDC

The process described in Rule 71(d)(iv)(1) by which an Intermediate Disciplinary Committee can be referred to a Senior Disciplinary Committee applies only when the process described in Rule 71(d)(ii), specifically the referral of the complaint by the mutual agreement of the complainant and defendant, has not taken place. Referral by mutual agreement under Rule 71(d)(ii) may happen without the need to convene an IDC panel.

Katherine Sidders, Trinity College, 18th May 2011

57. Regarding Rule 71(i)(iii)(2): Potentially defamatory claims

(a) A "claim" can be made verbally or in writing. It bears the meaning "an assertion of something as a fact". A statement of opinion is not a claim, although a statement that someone else holds an opinion is, as that is a matter of fact.

(b) The phrase "potentially defamatory" refers to claims that, if false, a reasonable person would consider to wrongfully damage the reputation of someone.

(c) The phrase "before the end of the disciplinary process" means "while there is still any opportunity for any member to appeal the result of the disciplinary process". It is included to clarify that the right of rebuttal applies not only once the disciplinary process is ended but also before then, and to clarify that the right of rebuttal applies to claims made within the disciplinary process. It shall not be read to restrict the right of rebuttal in any way.

(d) The term "rebutting" refers to any activity that responds directly to a potentially defamatory claim. Note that this requires the response to address only the truth of what is claimed to be fact. The response may not refer to the motivations behind the claim or anything else other than the factual truth of the claim. A response that goes beyond addressing the factual truth of a claim is not a "rebuttal" and so is not protected under this Rule.

Jonathan Edwards, Balliol College, 7th June 2011

58. Regarding Rule 28(b) and Standing Order B13: Secretary of Debate Selection Committee

Rule 28(b) defines who shall be the "Secretary to the Debate Selection Committee" for the purposes of Rule 23, and accordingly for the purposes of Standing Order B3. However, paragraph 6(a) of Standing Order B13 creates a separate office within the DSC, also called "Secretary", the duties of which are defined later in that Standing Order.

The first of these two offices is, in accordance with Rule 28(b), always held by the Standing Committee's nonvoting delegate to the DSC; by contrast, the second of these two offices is, in accordance with paragraph 6(a) of Standing Order B13, always held by one of the eight members of DSC. As such, logically, these two different offices of "Secretary" cannot be held by the same person at any one time.

Jonathan Edwards, Balliol College, 13th June 2011

59. Regarding Rule 71(d)(i): Intermediate Disciplinary Committee

It is possible for such an agreement to be effective only if it is reached before the Intermediate Disciplinary Committee has actually begun the hearing. The precise moment that a hearing begins for the purpose of this Rule shall be when the panel determine that the Disciplinary Committee has been validly constituted, which may be no earlier than the time that the Returning Officer has decided under 71(d)(iii) that the Committee shall meet.

Jonathan Edwards, Balliol College, 22nd June 2011

60. Regarding Rule 71(m): Vacation Disciplinaries

Where either the Senior Officers or the Returning Officer have consented to a request under Rule 71(m) to delay the relevant disciplinary proceedings until term-time such consent may not be withdrawn unless with the consent of the member(s) subject to the material complaint. For the purposes of Rule 71(m) the member(s), “who is subject to a complaint”, shall be taken to mean the member(s) against whom the *material complaint has been brought*.

David Blagbrough, Collegium de Somerville, 30th June 2011 (as Acting Returning Officer)

B: Interpretations of the President or Chair

The following interpretations of the Rules and Standing Orders have been issued by Presidents, or those with the same powers, in accordance with Rule 67(e)(i)(10). They shall act as binding authoritative precedents to the extent set out in the Rules.

1: Regarding Rule 23(g)(iii)(2), Negotiation of Sensitive Financial Contracts

This rule permits Committees, excluding Consultative Committee, to go *in camera* whilst directly discussing ‘the actual negotiation of sensitive financial contracts with an external organization but not other financial matters’.

This rule may refer to both:

- 1) The negotiation of a sensitive financial contract with an external organization which is present in the committee meeting, *and*
- 2) The ongoing negotiation of a sensitive financial contract, whether it be the initial agreement or a subsequent amendment, which concerns an external organization that may not necessarily be present in the committee meeting.

Tim Buckley, CCC, Lady Margaret Hall, 25th February 2002 [Interpretation requested when chairing Consultative Committee, with the President present, under Rule 67(e)(i)(9)]

2: Regarding Rule 6(d)(i), Provisional Payment of Fines

When the rule states “provisional payment shall only be required if the total sum of fines incurred by that member be less than £100”, the £100 refers to the initial fine or fines and not any subsequently escalated fine.

Charlotte Keenan, President, Trinity College, 25th February 2002

3: Regarding Rule 43(e)(ii)(2), Procedural Motion

This procedural motion is to be used with exclusive reference to Rule 41(d). It does not allow for adjournment of Private Business meetings unless they break the time limits specified under Rule 41(d). This procedural motion cannot be used to adjourn Public Business, an Informal Debate or any other meeting of the Society not specified under Rule 41(d).

Georgina Costa, President, Christ Church, 12th June 2004.

4: Regarding Rule 45(h), Special Adjournment Motions

Where the Rule 45(h) states “Any decision made by any Committee except under Rules 4, 7, 32, 62 and 67(b), where alternative methods of appeal are applicable or under Rules 32(h) or 52, may be reversed by the House by means of a Special Adjournment Motion”, it shall be taken to mean that:

Any decision made by any Committee except those in situations where alternative methods of appeal are applicable under Rules 4, 7, 32, 62 and 66(b) and except in Rules 32(h) or 52, may be reversed by means of a Special Adjournment Motion.

That is, there is no appeal via Special Adjournment Motion in any case under Rules 32(h) or 52; and there is appeal via Special Adjournment Motion under Rules 4, 7, 32, 62 and 67(b) unless an alternative method of appeal is outlined in the rule. Obviously, a Special Adjournment Motion is a valid method of appeal in all other Committee decisions.

Richard Tydeman, President, Christ Church, 2nd May 2005.

5: Regarding Standing Order B6(c)(ii), Standing Committee Agenda

Where the clause reads “No matter not specified... shall be discussed if two members of the Committee, being present at the time, object”, it shall be taken to mean that members of the Committee may object at the time that the matter is raised but not during or after the discussion nor once a motion has been passed on it. Committee members not present at the time the matter is raised may not object with retrospective effect.

Richard Tydeman, President, Christ Church, 9th May 2005.

6: Regarding Rule 40(b), Full Evening Dress

For the purposes of Rule 40(b) “full evening dress” shall constitute the following:

Gentlemen: A black tail coat, black-tie or white-tie trousers, highly-polished black shoes, a white cotton Marcella shirt with wing collar, a white bow-tie (self-tied), and a white low-cut cotton Marcella waistcoat. Shirt studs, which must be worn, should be silver or white. White gloves are optional.

Scottish Officers may wear Scottish Highland Dress, consisting of a black jacket (Prince Charlie, Montrose, Sheriffmuir, or Argyll), a black waistcoat, a kilt, a white shirt, a black bow-tie (self-tied), black brogues, a kilt hose, flashes and a sporran. Gloves should not be worn in this case.

Ladies: Ladies shall wear a long evening gown reaching to the ankles. If the gown does not cover the shoulders, a wrap or shawl should also be worn. Long gloves should be worn at Public Business.

Generally: Irrespective of gender, Officers who are members of the Armed Forces shall be entitled to wear full mess dress, and Officers in Holy Orders shall be entitled to wear full Clerical dress.

Officers who are citizens or subjects of nations with a distinctive national formal dress may wear it, providing that it would be acceptable as a white-tie equivalent at a national British formal occasion.

Officers who fail to comply with Rule 40(b) and binding interpretations made under Rule 67(e)(i) shall be considered in dereliction of duty.

Alexander Priest, Acting as President, Coll. San. Ioannis Baptistae, 26th December 2007 (having been devolved the powers of the President under Rule 13(b)(ii))

7: Regarding Rule 30(c)(i)(3), The House Manager

If, for whatever reason, there is no staff member with the formal title “House Manager”, the President shall designate a Member, or member of staff (including temporary staff) the “House Manager for the purposes of Rule 30(c)(i)(3)”. The designated person shall have the powers, duties, responsibilities and capacity of the House Manager for the purposes of this Rule.

James Dray, President, Mansfield College, 2nd November 2009

8: Regarding Standing Order A12

Whenever IVs occur outside of term time, members may claim travel expenses to and from their place of abode, provided that such place of abode is in the United Kingdom and is registered as their place of abode with the Union.

James Dray, President, Mansfield College, 3rd December 2009

9: Regarding Standing Order B14(4)(b)

Standing Order B13(4)(b) only applies in the case that there are more applicants than places at a given competition, and it applies both to judging and speaking. In a situation where a speaker or judge is selected before they have attended six IVs purely because there were insufficient applicants this will still count towards their limit of six competitions. As such a speaker or judge may attend more than 6 competitions, but only if there are insufficient applicants in the IV that they are applying for once they have already attended six IVs.

James Dray, President, Mansfield College, 3rd December 2009

10: Regarding Rule 29(c)

The requirement that the Charitable Endowments Committee be summoned once every quarter shall necessitate one such meeting to be called and thereafter to meet by the sitting President each term, and an additional meeting to be called by the Sitting President during the long vacation.

Oliver Linch, Ex-CCC, Ex-RO, Lincoln College, 25th February 2010 (chairing Public Business)

12: Regarding Rule 26 (c)

There is no requirement that a College Secretary represents a College of which he is a Member. The word ‘their’ in Rule 26(c)(ii) refers to the College which the Member represents, not the College to which he or she belongs.

Ronald Collinson, Ex-Standing, Ex-CCC, Ex-RO, Balliol College, 4th March 2010 (chairing Public Business)

13: Regarding Rule 46(e), Counting Out

The Chair, Secretary and Tellers shall not count towards the number of Members present.

James Langman, President, University College, 8th March 2011

14. Regarding Standing Order B2, Committee Proceedings

All non confidential documents presented to any committee must be included in the minutes of that meeting in order for the minutes to be deemed in good order and the Secretary of that committee to have fulfilled their duty.

James Langman, President, University College, 8th March 2011

15. Regarding Standing Order B10(a), Limitations of the Vacation Standing Committee

The prohibition on altering or waiving any of the Standing Orders includes a prohibition on creating new Standing Orders as well.

James Langman, President, University College, 8th March 2011

16. Regarding Rule 68(b), Enactment, Repeal and Amendment of Standing Orders

“Present and voting” explicitly refers to only those expressing preference by voting either in favour or opposition of the motion. Members wishing to abstain do not count towards those voting.

James Langman, President, University College, 8th March 2011

C: Interpretations of Senior Disciplinary Committees

The following interpretations of the Rules and Standing Orders have been issued by Special Disciplinary Committees in accordance with Rule 67(e)(i)(5). They shall act as binding authoritative precedents to the extent set out in the Rules.

1: Offences on the Society's Premises

Specifically with regards to Rule 70(a)(i), but also generally in relation to Society's rules, where a rule specifies that the acts of an offence must take place on the Society's premises, and that acts (such as causing offence or intimidation under Rule 70(a)(I) is caused through the use of electronic communication such as e-mail) then the acts of the offence occurs not at the place of sending but at the place of receipt, therefore, if, for example, an e-mail designed to intimidate an Officer is sent to their official Union e-mail address, it constitutes on receipt the occurrence of that action on the Society's premises. Furthermore, with regards to the general application of this rule campaigning via e-mail (regardless of whether this is covered by a specific rule) would constitute the offence of "campaigning in a public place" by virtue of the same principal if sent from a "private place" to an official college e-mail address under Rule 33(a)(ii)(3).

Senior Disciplinary Committee, 17th June 2001.

2: Offences Against Staff

Offences, which would fall under Rule 70 if committed against a member, shall be considered an offence when committed against a member of staff. This is because they are directed at an agent of the President and as such are an offence against the President.

Senior Disciplinary Committee 17th June 2001.

3: Evidence Submitted under Rule 71

Unfortunately, there is no prescribed form for complaints under Rule 71, and no requirement for somebody complaining under Rule 71 to specify all of the evidence backing up the complaint. We accept that, during the course of the procedures of the more informal Standing Committee hearing, new points can be adduced by the prosecution, however, when before a Special Disciplinary Committee, no evidence not previously adduced in the complaint or in the Standing Committee hearing may be adduced by the prosecution in the course of that hearing.

Senior Disciplinary Committee 17th June 2001.

4: Regarding Rule 71(a)(i)(2), Positions of Trust

The second sentence: "For any individual holding a position of trust within the Society... within the main body of the Rules and Standing Orders (excluding Rule 62(a))" can be considered as a stand-alone form of misconduct in its own right and is not dependant on the concept of "abuse" of office in the first sentence.

Senior Disciplinary Committee, 21st October 2001.

5: Regarding Rule 71(k)

Rule 71(k) states that a complaint shall not be considered if it is not brought within the relevant time limit. Accordingly, before a disciplinary complaint brought under Rule 71 can be heard on the merits, the body hearing it must be satisfied that the complaint has been brought in time. If the complaint has not been brought in time then there is no jurisdiction under Rule 71 and the disciplinary body may not go on to hear and determine the substantive complaint.

Senior Disciplinary Committee, 18th March 2006

6: Regarding Rule 71(k)

The time at which an alleged abuse of office is 'discovered' is the time at which sufficient facts giving rise to the allegation of abuse of office are accessible to Members of the Society exercising the rights of a Member under the Rules.

Senior Disciplinary Committee, 18th March 2006

7: Regarding Rule 71(k)

The disciplinary process commences at the moment when the complaint is submitted to the Returning Officer or a Senior Officer (as the case may be) under Rule 71(a)(i).

Senior Disciplinary Committee, 18th March 2006

8: Regarding Rule 71(l)

Rule 71(l) should be interpreted as reading that any days in the vacation "shall count as *dies non*" rather than the literal wording of "shall not count as *dies non*".

Senior Disciplinary Committee, 9th October 2006

9: Regarding Rule 71(e)(vii), Initial Declarations and SDC Reports

A Disciplinary Committee shall publish its initial declaration within 72 hours of the close of proceedings. A more detailed report may subsequently be posted on the notice board, after the 72 hour period; the deadline for Notice of Appeal or Leave for Appeal shall commence when the final report is posted on the notice board.

Senior Disciplinary Committee, 9th October 2006

10: Regarding Rule 71(a)(9)

Introducing, during disciplinary proceedings and with the intention that the necessity of making a formal complaint under Rule 71 may therefore be avoided, matters of no or questionable relevance to the substantive complaint(s) being considered, amounts to misusing Rule 71 to procure objectives more properly attained by other means, and so to misconduct under Rule 71 (a)(i)(9).

Senior Disciplinary Committee, 27th November 2006

11: Regarding Subpoena (1)

Where a party to disciplinary proceedings requests that a Senior Disciplinary Committee exercise its powers to require the attendance of a Member, that request must include (i) the name(s) of the witness(es) to be subpoenaed; (ii) postal address details for each witness; and (iii) such other contact details for the witness(es) as are known to that party.

Senior Disciplinary Committee, 27th November 2006

12. Regarding Subpoena (2)

A Member may be required to appear before a Senior Disciplinary Committee by the service upon him of a notice requiring his attendance (“a Subpoena”).

A Subpoena must specify the time, date, and place at which the Committee will sit, and must be served on the member not less than 72 hours prior to the time specified in the notice.

A Subpoena may be served upon a Member:

- (i) in person; or
- (ii) by post to his last known address (including, where relevant, a college lodge); or
- (iii) by e-mail or fax transmission, provided that where a notice is served by email or fax transmission a further copy must be sent by post.

Service of a Subpoena shall be deemed to have occurred:

- (a) immediately, where a notice is served upon a member in person; or
- (b) twenty four hours after posting, where a notice is sent by first class post or deposited in the relevant college lodge; or
- (c) immediately upon completion of successful transmission by e-mail or fax, where a notice is sent by e-mail or fax transmission, transmission is successful and no failure notice is subsequently received, and a copy of the Subpoena is sent by first class post or deposited in the relevant college lodge at the time of transmission.

Subpoenas are issued by (or on behalf of a Senior Disciplinary Committee) and they can only be withdrawn by that Committee; notwithstanding the fact that a Subpoena was issued in response to a request from a party to the disciplinary proceedings, it is not open to that party to “withdraw” it.

A Member is liable to be fined by a Senior Disciplinary Committee for non-attendance where -

- (I) he has been served with a Subpoena (as set out above); and
- (II) he has failed to attend the hearing as required; and
- (III) he has provided no reason for his absence or his reason is not one of the reasons set out in Standing Order B4 (a) and the Committee does not accept that it is otherwise a valid reason for non-attendance; or
- (IV) the Committee has directed him to provide written evidence in lieu of his attendance, and he has failed to either provide such evidence or to provide it in the form directed .

Senior Disciplinary Committee, 27th November 2006

13: Regarding Rule 71(b)(ii)(2)

The reference in Rule 71 (b) (ii) (2) to “...one term...” is to a period of eight sequential weeks each of which falls during Full Term. Accordingly, where a member is sentenced during a given week in a Term to serve a suspension of one Term, his suspension shall expire during the corresponding week in the succeeding Term.

Senior Disciplinary Committee, 9th November 2006

14: Regarding Rule 60

Where a disciplinary complaint under Rule 71 substantively involves a “...staff dispute or matter of contention...” as set out in Rule 60, Rule 60 shall not prevent a Disciplinary Committee from hearing evidence or considering submissions in connection with such dispute or matter.

Senior Disciplinary Committee, 27th November 2006

15: Regarding Rule 71 (a) (i)

Behaviour classified as misconduct under Rule 71(a)(i) is misconduct notwithstanding the fact that it may be directed at non-Members or members of the Society's staff.

Senior Disciplinary Committee, 27th November 2006

16: Regarding the definition of "frivolous"

What approach should this Committee take in determining whether the Complaint is frivolous? Having considered the matter closely we are of the view that the correct question is whether no reasonable member of the Society would have considered the conduct which is the subject matter of the Complaint, on the basis of the facts as alleged in the Complaint, to be sufficiently serious to bring a Complaint under rule 71.

Senior Disciplinary Committee, 27th June 2006

17: Regarding Membership Cards

Membership cards confiscated under Rule 71(i) must be returned within 5 working days. [...] If it is found in future that Membership cards are being retained by members of staff without proper disciplinary processes being observed, we would consider that, once the President has been notified, failure to return or replace that card would be an abuse of office by the President under Rule 71(a)(i)(2).

Senior Disciplinary Committee, 1st December, 2007

18: Regarding Presidential Accountability

We direct that a failure on the part of the President to reply to communication addressed to him by mail to the Society's address or to his official email address may constitute dereliction of duty under Rule 71(a)(i)(12).

Senior Disciplinary Committee, 1st December, 2007

19: Regarding allegations amounting to criminal conduct

1. Where the Senior Disciplinary Procedure is invoked by virtue of the defendant falling in to one of the categories set out in Rule 71(d)(i), or by virtue of the Senior Officers and Returning Officer being unable to form an unanimous decision under Rule 71(d)(ii), and where either

(a) After it has been convened, but before it has conducted its first substantive hearing, the Senior Disciplinary Committee forms the unanimous view that all or part of the conduct alleged in the complaint is capable of making out a criminal offence, or

(b) Further information emerges during the course of the Senior Disciplinary Committee's investigations or hearings which leads it to form an unanimous view that all or part of the conduct which it is investigating is capable of making out a criminal offence, the Senior Disciplinary Committee shall act as follows:

(i) It shall immediately, *in camera*, make a finding setting out which conduct it considers may be capable of making out a criminal offence and inform the defendant and complainant of that finding.

(ii) It shall instruct the Returning Officer immediately to exercise his/her power to requisition an Emergency Meeting of the Standing Committee under Rule 23(d), directing that (s)he shall specify on the requisition only the matters set out in the finding under paragraph (i) above.

(iii) It shall forthwith adjourn its proceedings in respect of the matters set out in the finding under paragraph (i) until the Standing Committee shall have met and resolved whether it thinks that a prosecution in respect of them is appropriate.

2. The Senior Disciplinary Committee may proceed with its investigations in to matters referred to it in the complaint which do not form part of the conduct set out in the finding under paragraph 1(i) above before the Standing Committee has met if it determines that it is practical and in the interests of justice so to do.

3. The Standing Committee shall forthwith resolve whether or not a prosecution in respect of the matters remitted to it is appropriate, in which case the Senior Disciplinary Committee shall not proceed with the parts of the complaint which allege conduct specified in the finding under paragraph 1(i) above.

4. No action taken by the Senior Disciplinary Committee under this procedure shall be taken to imply the guilt or otherwise of any party to offences under the criminal law or the Rules of the Society.

Senior Disciplinary Committee, 13th November, 2008

20: Regarding the Waiving of Standing Orders

The Standing Orders are applied equally to all members of the Society, as provided for in Rule 68(a), unless the content of a specific Standing Order explicitly provides otherwise. It is therefore clear that they can only be applied unequally if that inequality of application is explicitly permitted by the Rules.

Rule 68(d) provides a means by which any provision of a Standing Order may be waived by the Standing Committee for “named persons” under “any condition[s] it think fit” (the words “during stated times” being exemplary of one of the conditions which it might think fit).

There is no other power to apply the Standing Orders to a different extent in respect of one Member or a subset of Members, and it therefore follows that no Member or Officer of the Society has the power to waive or partially to apply the Standing Orders without explicit authority from the Standing Committee given in accordance with the requirements of Rule 68(d). That power can only be granted in explicit terms, and must be specific to the individual circumstances, Members or times to or during which the waiver is to apply.

Senior Disciplinary Committee, 13th November, 2008

21: Regarding Standing Order E4

The Rules and Standing Orders of the Society envisage two classes of room hire: “commercial” and “non-commercial”. They are defined as follows.

(1) Any hiring in which the contract is formed between the hirer and the Society without the formation of the contract being solicited on behalf of the hirer by a Member of the Society shall be considered to be a commercial hiring. An Officer of the Society or an Elected Member of Standing Committee acting purely in the discharge of their office shall not, for the purpose of this clause, be considered to have solicited the formation of the contract.

(2) Where a Member facilitates the hiring on behalf of a third party or an organisation (“the hiring organisation”) it shall be regarded as a commercial hiring if any of the following conditions is met in respect of the meeting, party or gathering to be held as a result of the hiring:

- (a) A fee is charged for admission, whether or not that fee is paid or charged at the point of entry, whether or not that fee is paid in monies or in kind, and whether that fee is paid to the hirer or to another;
- (b) Admission would be open to the public, or to all Members of the Society who would otherwise be entitled to enter the room hired at the time of the hiring had it not been so hired;
- (c) Admission is substantially to be determined either
 - (i) By membership of the hiring organisation, or
 - (ii) By the issue of invitations to attend by a member of the hiring organisation unless it can be demonstrated that attendance is to be restricted to the *close personal friends* of the Member of the Society facilitating the hiring, and that they are attending as such.

(3) In all other cases the hiring shall be considered to be “non-commercial” unless to do so would be perverse, which shall be determined by a resolution of the Standing Committee.

Senior Disciplinary Committee, 13th November, 2008

22: Regarding Rule 71(a)(i)(5)

The dissemination whether orally or otherwise and by whatever means of information that is confidential to a Senior Disciplinary Committee and which that Committee has deemed to be confidential is action that is liable to bring the Society into disrepute.

Senior Disciplinary Committee, Xth June 2010

23. Regarding Staff of the Society (Rules 14, 59 and 60)

(a) The employment of staff, their conduct and any grievances they may have are matters for the Standing Committee to deal with;

(b) Members of the Society with a complaint to make about any member of staff should make that complaint to the President or to the Bursar where the complaint relates to a member of staff who is supervised by her under Rule 59;

(c) The President is responsible, where any such complaint cannot be resolved informally, for bringing the complaint to the attention of the Standing Committee which will consider the matter *in camera*. The President should consult with both the Bursar and one or other of the Senior Officers before referring any such complaint to ensure that all proper avenues for dealing with the matter informally have been pursued;

(d) The President is elected to be the executive head of the Society subject to the Rules. Only the President, the elected Officers and Senior Officers (in the course of their duties) and the Standing Committee acting as a body rather than as individuals may give directions to the staff. Others may do so but only when specifically authorised to act as agents of the President. Other members of the Society, whatever position they hold or may have held, have no power to direct the staff.

Senior Disciplinary Committee, Xth June 2010

24. Regarding the presentation of complaints

In future the following should be done as a minimum in the presentation of any complaint that is likely to reach a Senior Disciplinary Committee:

(a) Where the complaint is not “urgent” a full file of evidence to be relied upon should be prepared by or on behalf of the complainant before the making of complaint. This should be provided at the time that the complaint is made;

(b) Where the complaint is “urgent” it should be provided in as much detail as possible;

(c) The complaint itself should contain sufficient detail so that the Committee can determine which issues are likely to be relevant and to enable the Defendant(s) to understand the case being made against them;

(d) In either event not less than 7 clear days before the date set for the hearing the Defendant(s) and the Committee must have a full file of all the evidence to be relied upon. This must include full witness statements from any person whose evidence is to be relied upon and any documents exhibited by that witness;

(e) The panel once summoned will issue directions in relation to the following:

(i) The date by which a notice should be served by the Defendant(s) setting out which of the witness statements provided by the Complainant are not accepted and therefore which witnesses are required to give evidence “live”.

(ii) The date by which any skeleton argument on issues relating to “legal” issues must be provided by either side.

(iii) The date by which a document must be served by the Defendant(s) setting out which factual aspects of the complaint are agreed (if any).

In our view the Complainant will have to show good reason for evidence that has not been served as set out above to be admitted, but this will be a matter for individual committees to determine on the facts.

Senior Disciplinary Committee, Xth June 2010

24. Regarding Rule 71(a)(i)

Disciplinary procedure may only be brought by individuals against individuals. No committee may mandate an individual member to bring a complaint. This does not mean that a group of complainants may not nominate one person among them to speak for all of them, nor does it mean that specimen complaints – in the manner of a class action – are inadmissible

D: Interpretations of Disciplinary Appeals Committees

The following interpretations of the Rules and Standing Orders have been issued by Disciplinary Appeals Committee in accordance with Rule 67(e)(i)(3). They shall act as binding authoritative precedents to the extent set out in the Rules.

1: Regarding Rule 71, Expulsion

The Committee interprets Rule 71, as per Rule 67(e), to infer:

In the event of an appeal to the Disciplinary Appeals Committee against expulsion being ruled unjustified, the date of expulsion for the purpose of Rule 7(e) shall be taken to be immediately after the Report of the Committee on that matter being posted on the Society's notice board.

Disciplinary Appeals Committee, 21st October 2001.

2: Regarding Correction of Errors in the Rules

The Committee rules that minor spelling mistakes may be corrected by the Returning Officer without recourse to the House provided there is no ambiguity or change of meaning. UK not US spelling should be maintained throughout. For the reassurance of members, the Returning Officer must publish a list of minor errors he has corrected on the Society's noticeboard and place a copy of that list in the Public Minute Book.

Disciplinary Appeals Committee, 21st October 2001.

3: Regarding Rule 67(b)(iv), Notice in Newspapers

Ordinary notice under Rule 66(b)(iv) should be inserted in one or more of the following: *The Times*, the *Daily Telegraph*, the *Guardian* or the *Independent*. Where a proposed motion might cause the House to divide on party political lines, notices should be placed in newspapers which reflect that spread of opinion. Placing a notice in the *Guardian* without a balancing notice in the *Daily Telegraph* might, lay the Standing Committee open to allegations of manipulation. It should be noticed that the interpretation we have adopted refers to newspapers in the United Kingdom: care should therefore be taken to ensure that notice also appears in the Scottish, Welsh and Ulster editions of the applicable newspaper(s).

Disciplinary Appeals Committee, 26th May 2002.

4: Regarding Rule 67(b)(iv), Notice in Newspapers

A "Newspaper circulating in the Oxford area" must refer to a local paper, not being primarily a student newspaper. Obvious examples are the *Oxford Mail* and *Oxford Times*.

Disciplinary Appeals Committee 26th May 2002.

5: Regarding Rule 67(e), Disciplinary Appeals Committee, Powers of Interpretation

A Disciplinary Appeals Committee is an appellate body; it can decide only matters which arise from the Special Disciplinary Committees adjudication. The SDC is confined to rules interpretations, which touch on its function: Rule 67(e)(i)(5). Since we can consider only matters which an SDC has addressed (or should have addressed) we are subject to the same restrictions on rule interpretation as it is.

Disciplinary Appeals Committee, 26th May 2002.

6: Bringing Complaints under Rule 71

Bringing complaints under Rule 71, or otherwise misusing Rule 71 to procure objectives more properly attained by other means, will amount to misconduct under Rule 71(a)(i)(9).

Disciplinary Appeals Committee 26th May 2002.

7: Correcting Errors in the Rules

We recognise that anomalies occur with the Rules from time to time. By far the best approach to such errors is self-restraint: in other words, where there is an obvious typing error which leads to absurdity, members should have the discipline to take no point on it until it can be corrected in Private Business. In such circumstances, taking the point will amount to misconduct. If the point does arise we believe it to be open to any institution with powers of interpretation under Rule 67(e) to 'correct' the error though the process of construction. We stress, however, that these remarks are confined to situations where there is an obvious error on the face of a rule, and no real doubt as to what was actually intended. Interpretation under Rule 67(e) is not to be used as a means of informal rulemaking.

Disciplinary Appeals Committee, 26th May 2002.

E: Interpretations of Election Tribunals

The following interpretations of the Rules and Standing Orders have been issued by Election Tribunals in accordance with Rule 67(e)(i)(4). They shall act as binding authoritative precedents to the extent set out in the Rules.

1: Regarding Rule 33(c)(i), Tribunal Panel Composition

The phrase “the Tribunal shall consist of any members chosen with the Standing Committee’s approval” does not derogate from the necessity of there being three Members to constitute any Election Tribunal, but rather merely requires the Returning Officer to have recourse to Standing Committee to approve other Members to serve should fewer than three of the Members originally approved be able to serve when a Tribunal is summoned. The Standing Committee may approve as many names as it sees fit in the circumstances, but the Returning Officer may only constitute a tribunal of neither more nor less than three Members, all of whom have been approved to serve by Standing Committee in that Term.

Election Tribunal, 10th March 2000.

2: Regarding Rule 33(a)(i)(2)

The sending of an email to multiple recipients, whether via a mailing list or otherwise, is “systematic” conduct for the purposes of Rule 33(a)(i)(2).

Election Tribunal, 2nd December 2002.

3: Regarding Rule 33(a)(i)(13), Tampered Evidence

Documentary evidence from which words have been deleted or words added or which has been otherwise altered, yet nevertheless purported to be or was presented as an original document with no such deletions, additions or alterations, constituted false evidence, and that knowingly to submit such evidence constitutes malpractice as defined by Rule 33(a)(i)(13), whether or not the individual submitting the evidence was responsible for alteration.

Election Tribunal, 4th March 2002.

4: Withdrawal of Electoral Malpractice Allegations

Any member submitting a written allegation of electoral malpractice to the Returning Officer may withdraw in writing such an allegation within a period of up to 72 hours after the Close of Poll. The Returning Officer shall have the power to disallow such a withdrawal in the event that he is satisfied that the allegation was made frivolously or maliciously or in the event that he is satisfied that the withdrawal of the allegation has been made under duress. If the Returning Officer disallows the withdrawal then the allegation and any evidence provided in support of the allegation shall be considered by the Election Tribunal together with the results of such investigations as the Returning Officer shall have made. If as a result of the withdrawal of an allegation there remain no live allegations of electoral malpractice then the Returning Officer shall no longer be bound by Rule 33(b)(v) and may cancel any arrangements made for the holding of an Election Tribunal.

Election Tribunal, 11th March 2003.

5: Admission of Observers to Election Tribunal Proceedings

The Rules do not preclude or prohibit the admission of observers to election tribunal proceedings. The general provisions relating to allowing observers to attend Committee meetings of the Society (Rule 23(g)) do not apply to tribunals, although it is perhaps worth noting that those provisions do not apply to “disciplinary matters” so the Rules do contemplate that in certain disciplinary issues at least even a Committee which would normally have to allow observers to attend could prevent them from so attending. Accordingly it is for each tribunal to decide whether or not, and if so, on what basis, observers should be allowed to attend any part of or all of the proceedings of a tribunal. The deliberations of the tribunal panel shall be private.

Election Tribunal, 9th March 2005.

6: Discussion of the Validity of Election Tribunals

The convening of a tribunal by itself creates a rebuttable presumption that the tribunal is constituted lawfully in accordance with the Rules. The Rules provide that this presumption can be rebutted either during the course of the tribunal or via the appeal procedures as provided for by Rule 33. If by the close of the appeal period, or the appeal procedure if an appeal is called, the presumption of legality has not been successfully challenged then the tribunal and its decisions (to the extent it has not been overturned by an appeal) must stand as and remain valid under the Rules, which provide no other method for the presumption of legality to be subsequently challenged. Accordingly, no other person or body may, after the appeal process has finished, challenge the legality of the tribunal or the decisions it made in respect of any specific complaint heard by it.

Election Tribunal, 9th March 2005.

7. Concerning Rule 27(a)(iv)(1), (Rule 32(h) and Rule 67(e)(v)

A person in his eighteenth term as a member of the Society shall be considered to be a member of eighteen terms' standing. Such a person is therefore eligible to sit on an Election Tribunal or SDC.
Election Tribunal, 10th June 2005.

8. Concerning the Status of Complaints of Electoral Malpractice

For the purposes of Rule 7(b)(iii) (suspended members), the right to complain of electoral malpractice is not a "privilege" which suspended members are prevented from exercising by virtue of that Rule.
Election Tribunal, 30th November 2008.

9. Concerning the Rights and Duties of Suspended Members

Rule 7(b)(iii) (suspended members) states that a suspended member is "bound" by the "Rule concerning electoral offences". This means that a suspended member has both the responsibilities and the rights created by those Rules, including the right to complain of electoral malpractice
Election Tribunal, 30th November 2008

10. Concerning the Time in which the Returning Officer Holds the Powers of the President

The Presidential powers and duties delegated to a Returning Officer pursuant to Rule 13(b)(ii) are clearly expressed and intended to be used by the Returning Officer for the smooth running of the Society only, pending the handover of such powers to the democratically elected President-Elect. The Returning Officer to whom powers and duties are delegated shall not style himself as a replacement (in any sense) to the President, nor use such powers and duties without the maximum consultation with the incoming Junior Officers that circumstances permit.
Election Tribunal, 4th December 2009

11. Concerning Rule 33(c)(ii) and Standing Order D8(c)

In the case of a member who is already a defendant in election tribunal proceedings, the second sentence of standing Order D8(c) means as follows: *'If, during the investigation, the Tribunal should have reason to suppose that a Member has committed an electoral offence, who is not already a defendant in respect of that offence, they shall inform him immediately, and he shall have the rights of a defendant in respect of that offence thereafter.'*
This is in accordance with the Tribunal's "complete power to investigate all the Allegations and circumstances dependent upon those Allegations" under Rule 33(c)(ii). The word "Allegations" in Rule 33(c)(ii) refers to written allegations submitted to the Returning Officer under Rule 33(b).
Election Tribunal, 10th March 2011

F: Interpretations of Appellate Boards

1: Unreasonable Appeals

A person who has a right of appeal can still be found guilty by an appellate body of bringing an unreasonable appeal as set out in Rule 33 (d) (vii) (5).

Appellate Board, Trinity Term 2005

2: Interpretations of Rule 33

The purpose of the Society's elections is not to enable some abstract exercise in statutory construction, rather it is to enable the membership as a whole to determine who they want to run their Society. Rule 33 has been written to ensure this takes place in a fair and just way. The paragraph above gives guidance to Returning Officers, Election Tribunals and Appellate Bodies in the construction and effect of the Rules. When any of these bodies is interpreting the Rules they must have Rule 33 (a) (iii) (1) in mind. Any interpretation of the Rules that contradicts the above guidance is wrong and subject to reversal by a superior body under Rule 67(e). In terms of Rule 33 the Appellate Board is empowered by that Rule to issue interpretations of Rule 33 (as arose in the course our duties in this appeal) which are "authoritative precedents for Members or bodies, with powers of interpretation which are junior or of equal status to the Member or body in question. For the sake of clarity we interpret "authoritative precedent" in the context of this rule to mean binding on all bodies of junior status to ourselves.

Appellate Board, Trinity Term 2005

3: Regarding Standing Order D8(a)

We are of the view that Standing Order D8 (a) (h) could properly be seen as directory not mandatory. Where all parties are aware of, or ought to be aware of, this Standing Order the fact that the Tribunal has not formally read it to them is not a reason to quash the decision of that Tribunal unless some real prejudice that goes directly to the fairness of the proceedings can be shown. We note also that even if we had found the breach of this Standing Order to have the significance which the Appellant sought to attach to it, we would not have been obliged to quash the findings of the Tribunal. In our view the use of the word "power" in Rule 33 (d) (vii) (4) provides us with a discretion as to whether the Tribunal should be quashed or allowed to stand. We cannot imagine any Appellate Body quashing the Tribunal in the circumstances of this case on the basis of this one ground of appeal.

Appellate Board, Trinity Term 2005

4: Regarding Election Tribunal Procedure

The "Schedule of Suggested Procedure" appended to the Rules is not binding. We see no difficulty with the Tribunal panel asking questions of a witness before either of the parties, provided that the parties are given an opportunity to adduce any further relevant material that they wish following this questioning. The Schedule was written (largely by a member of this Board) with the purpose of providing a guide to procedure. It is best practice, but does not have the status of a binding rule.

Appellate Board, Trinity Term 2005

5: Proceedings of a Committee

Previous Disciplinary Committees have indicated that the proceedings of a committee are generally a matter for that Committee and its Chair. There are set procedures for challenging a decision of the Chair. Such decisions could include a decision to hold a meeting when proper notice had not been given to members of the committee. We endorse the view of those Disciplinary Committees that the conduct of meetings of the Society, whether public or private, are principally a matter for the Chair and the members of that committee. Only in rare occasions would it be appropriate to review those decisions in a Disciplinary Committee or Election Tribunal.

Appellate Board, Trinity Term 2005

6: Discussion of the Validity of Election Tribunals

Once a tribunal has reached a decision, the only way to challenge the eligibility of a member of the panel or the composition of the panel is to appeal. If no appeal is made (or the point is not taken on appeal), the decision of that tribunal stands even if it subsequently comes to light that one or members of the panel were not qualified under the Rules to sit. Decisions of tribunals (for example a conviction for electoral malpractice) remain valid unless successfully appealed, whatever issues may subsequently come to light.

Appellate Board, Trinity Term 2005

7: Regarding Interpretations of the Rules

We take the view that the Returning Officer and Election Tribunals are bound to bear in mind that the purposes of the Rules is to allow the members of the Society to choose the leadership and management of the Society according to the criteria set out in the Rules. The Society is in essence a democracy where each term the membership as a whole has an opportunity to determine the direction that they wish the Society to take.

It is not the function of the Returning Officer or Election Tribunals when considering breaches of the Rules to interpret those Rules in such a way as manifestly subverts the objective that those Rules seek to promote.
Appellate Board, Trinity Term 2005

8: Regarding Complaints of Innocent Interference

The purpose in our view of the “innocent interference” rule was to ensure that mistakes in the conduct of the election did not prejudice the free choice of members of the Society as to who they chose to vote for. Examples would include the failure to name a candidate on the ballot paper, a failure to include a candidate in the manifesto booklet or a failure to allow a class of members to vote in the election in the mistaken belief that they were not allowed to vote (or vice versa). This rule was not intended to be a lesser version of malpractice with a lower standard of proof.

Appellate Board, Trinity Term 2005

9: Burdens of Proof

For a tribunal to be satisfied that a candidate who claims to have nominated within the prescribed time has not done so in circumstances where the Returning Officer has accepted the nomination, it must be satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that the candidate deliberately misled the Returning Officer and has deliberately misled the Tribunal in evidence. A Returning Officer when deciding not to allow a candidate to appear on a ballot paper must be satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that the nomination was not made within the time period allowed in circumstances where the candidate asserts that it was so made.

Appellate Board, Trinity Term 2005

10: Allegations of Bias

The framework for considering bias was set out in the Report of the *Mackerras v Keenan, Walsh v Mackerras* Disciplinary Appeal Committee. We are not, as a superior body, bound by that Report. However having considered its contents we consider them to be an authoritative interpretation of the rules in relation to bias. As such we adopt them as our own formal interpretation of one of the principles of natural justice which applies in the course of Tribunal proceedings, the breach of which gives rise to an appeal under Rule 33 (d) (i) (3).

Any objection to the Tribunal panel must in our view be made to that panel. The exception to this is clearly when the facts relating to that bias were not known to the complaining party at the time of the tribunal. What cannot happen is that a party waits to see if their case succeeds, and only when it does not does he take the point on appeal.

Appellate Board, Trinity Term 2005

11: Failure to Report by the Deadline

When circumstances conspire to make a report late, some discretion should be used by interested parties in deciding whether it is really in anyone’s interests to appeal solely on this point. We cannot foresee many circumstances where such an appeal (on its own) would not be deemed unreasonable, unless real prejudice or substantial inconvenience to the management of the Society had been caused.

Appellate Board, Trinity Term 2005

12: The Status to be used in connection with Elections

Where a candidate is entitled to have his position in the Table of Seniority indicated on the ballot paper under Rule 35(a) or in a manifesto under Rule 35(b) or on the Election Publicity under Standing Order D4, the position which shall be shown is the most senior position (s)he held at the time of opening of nominations.

Appellate Board, Michaelmas Term 2009

OXFORD UNION SOCIETY TRUST DEED

1st July 1847

“This deed made the first day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty seven

BETWEEN The several persons whose names and seals are hereto subscribed and affixed (other than the several persons next hereinafter named and described) of the one part and The Reverend Philip Bliss Doctor in Civil Law Principal of Saint Mary Hall in the University of Oxford, James Adey Ogle Esquire Doctor in Medicine Aldrichien and Clinical Professor of Medicine in the same University, Manuel John Johnson Esquire of the said University Master of Arts and Radcliffe Observer in the same University and Henry Wentworth Acland Esquire Doctor in Medicine and Lees Anatomical Lecturer at Christ Church in the said University of the other

WHEREAS a Literary institution was formed in Oxford many years since and still continues under the name or style of “the Oxford Union Society” having for its object the promotion of Debates and the maintenance of a Library and Reading Room of which Society the said several persons parties hereto of the first and second parts are now respectively Members

AND WHEREAS the affairs and business of the said Society have hitherto been carried on and conducted under and subject to diverse Rules and Regulations made and resolved on at various Meetings of the Members of the said Society and under the direction of a Committee of Management and by the aid of certain Officers respectively appointed or elected from amongst the Members from time to time pursuant to such Rules

AND WHEREAS the aforesaid Rules and Regulations have been printed or published for the information of all the Members for the time being of such society and a printed copy of such rules and regulations is kept by the Secretary of the said Society for production at all Meetings and the inspection of all Members applying for that purpose

AND WHEREAS the Members of the said Society for the time being by means of Subscriptions or Contributions amongst themselves from time to time and the surplus of receipts above the ordinary costs and expenses of carrying out the object and purposes of the said society have accumulated a Fund in sterling money to the amount of Five hundred and eighty seven pounds or thereabouts which sum has been deposited and now remains in the hands of Messrs Robinson, Parsons & Co Bankers in Oxford to an account there with “the Oxford Union Society” and the Members collectively of the said society are also possessed of a large and valuable Library of Books and diverse Maps, Printed and Manuscripts and certain Furniture and Other Chattels and Effects now remaining on being in Rooms rented and occupied by the society in the dwelling house of Mr Joseph Vincent in the High Street in Oxford

WHEREAS at the Special General Meeting of the Members of the said society held on the 12th day of June now last (in the notice for calling which Meeting the special object and purposes thereof were expressed) it was resolved to the effect following namely

- “that it is expedient to appoint four of the Members of the said Society as Trustees thereof in whom (subject as after mentioned) should be vested not only all the present property, state and effects of and belonging to the said Society but also all other the property and effects of every description both real and personal which might thereafter be purchased or acquired by the said Society and that such Trustees (subject as after mentioned) should be authorised by the order and direction of the said Committee of Management to invest the surplus monies of savings of the said Society from time to time in or upon such securities as the said Committee should think fit with power by the right order or direction to vary such investments. Also to make purchases or mortgages to execute deeds and enter into other contracts on behalf of the said Society to collect and receive all interest, dividends, rents and other monies arising from or in relation to the estate and effects which from time to time might become vested in them or belong to the said Society and to give receipts and discharges for the same and for all monies which should come to their hands in character of such Trustees. ”

- “that the said Philip Bliss, James Adey Ogle, Manuel John Johnson and Henry Wentworth Acland should be appointed the first Trustees of the said Society each of whom as also every Trustee to be appointed in his stead as hereinafter is mentioned should continue in office until he should die or become unwilling or unable to act or seize to have his usual place of resident in Oxford or be removed from office by virtue and in exercise of any power in that behalf given by the Rules for the time being of the said Society or by the vote of a Special General Meeting of the Society duly convened for that purpose according to the then existing Rules and Regulations”

- “that when and so often as by the means aforesaid there should be less than 3 acting Trustees the vacancies in the number of Trustees should be supplied by the appointment of so many additional persons (then being Members of the said Society) as would make up the number of four Trustees and as the Committee of Management for the time being (subject to the approbation of any General Meeting of the Members of the said Society) should think fit and that all such assurances should be made and executed as should be necessary or deemed expedient for vesting the trust estates and property in the then acting Trustees and such newly appointed Trustees and that the expenses attending the appointment of such new Trustees and all other expenses (if any) of the Trustees for the time being relating to the trust premises should be defrayed with or out of the funds of the said Society”

- “That all the Trust Estate and effects invested in the said Trustees of Trustee for the time being or under the control of the said Committee of Management should be a fund to indemnify at all times the said Trustees or Trustee and their respective representatives from all loss which might be incurred by them or him by reason of any responsibility or liability arising out of their or his office of trustee or by reason of any matter or thing connected therewith” and at the aforesaid Special General Meeting of the said Society so convened as aforesaid it was further resolved

- “that the trustees for the time being of the said Society should on their appointment to office become and continue members of the said Committee of Management jointly and together with the members constituting such committee under the then existing Rules and Regulations of the said Society and That the trustees for the time being in the execution of the trusts reposed in them in all matters relating thereto should be subject to the Orders, Directions and Control of the majority in number of the members present and voting at any meeting of the said Committee of Management and in all cases should be subject to all Rules and Regulations which should have been made and established at any General Meeting of the said Society duly convened according to the Rules thereof for the time being and whether such Rules and Regulations should or should not have been made before or after the appointment of the said Trustees so nevertheless that the particular Rule or Regulation in question (if any) be not at variance with or repugnant to any of the resolutions herein aforementioned but in such last mentioned event the resolution to prevail and be held to set aside the rule in question”

AND WHEREAS the said four persons parties hereto of the second part have consented to take upon themselves respectively the office of Trustees upon the terms and conditions aforesaid and it has been agreed that the several persons parties hereto of the first part should enter into the declaration and covenant hereinafter contained and also assign and make over to the said Philip Bliss, James Adey Ogle, Manuel John Johnson and Henry Wentworth Acland the funds, property and effects of the said Society upon the trusts and subject to the powers, provisions, declarations and agreements hereinafter expressed and contained concerning the same

NOR THESE PRESENTS WITNESS that each of them the said several persons parties hereto of the first part BOTH hereby approve of and confirm the several resolutions hereinbefore mentioned and specified as resolutions made at the said General Special Meeting of the said Society on the 12th day of June last and every of them and doth hereby or himself his heirs executors and administrators and so far as relates to his own acts only covenant and agree with the said several other persons parties hereto of the second part, the executors, administrators and assigns That the said several persons parties hereto of the first part will so long as they faithfully conform to and abide by the hereinbefore resisted resolutions and the several Rules and Regulations hereinbefore refer to or such of them respectively as for the time being shall be existing and all other the Rules and Regulations which shall be made and established for the management and conduct of the said Society and the affairs and business of the same until such Rules and Regulations respectively shall be altered or set aside at or by some General Meeting of members of the said Society duly convened

AND THESE PRESENTS ALSO WITNESS That the said several persons parties hereto of the first part in consideration of the premises and according to their respective estates, rights and interests as members of the aforesaid Society and so far as they respectively can or may either in equity or at law DO and each and every of them BOTH hereby assign and act over unto the said Philip Bliss, James Adey Ogle, Manuel John Johnson and Henry Wentworth Acland there executors, administrators assigns ALL the said some of £587 or thereabouts so now deposited and remaining with the said Messrs Robinson, Parsons and Co. Bankers in Oxford as aforesaid with full power and authority to ask, demand or receive the same sum and all books, maps, prints and manuscripts, furniture, goods, chattels and effects of every description of the said Society which now are or at any time during the continuance or existence of the same Society shall be in, upon or about the Rooms of the Dwelling House of the said Joseph Vincent in the High Street in Oxford or in or about any other rooms, buildings or place which now is or may thereafter be used or occupied for the purposes of the said Society and all the estate right and interest of the same several persons or assignors respectively in and to the said hereby assigned premises

TO HOLD the said several hereby assigned premises to the said Philip Bliss, James Adey Ogle, Manuel John Johnson and Henry Wentworth Acland their executors, administrators and assigns upon the trusts and for the intents and purposes and under and subject to the powers conditions and agreements following that is to say as to and concerning the said sum of £587 upon trust with all convenient speed after the same sum shall be paid to them to lay out and invest the same sum in or upon such government or real or other security or securities as the said Committee of Management of the said Society or the majority in number of the members for the time being of such Committee being present at any meeting of the said Committee to be held pursuant to the Rules of such Society shall order or direct AND UPON FURTHER TRUST to stand possessed of the said Trust monies so to be paid out and invested as aforesaid and the funds and securities in or upon which the same shall for the time being be invested and the interest, dividends and annual produce thereof as and when the same shall from time to time become payable and be received under and subject to such powers and to dispose of pay or apply the same to such person or persons and in such manner and at such time or times and for such purposes as the said Committee of Management for the time being or the majority in number of the Members for the time being of such Committee present at any meeting of the said Committee to be held pursuant to the then existing Rules and Regulations of the said society shall deem expedient AND by their Order in Writing made at such meeting require

PROVIDED ALWAYS that the purposes for which such trust monies shall be so paid and applied shall not be inconsistently with or repugnant to the original objects for which the said Society established or with the Rules and Regulations for the time being of the said Society AND as to all and singular other the property Effects and premises hereby assigned or expressed and intended so to be Upon trust from time to time during the continuance of the said Society to permit and suffer the same to be used occupied and enjoyed by the Members for the time being of the said Society in such or like manner or the goods Chattels Effects of like nature of and belonging to the said Society have heretofore been used and enjoyed by the Members of the same Society yet so nevertheless that such use and enjoyment thereof shall at all times be subject to the control and direction of the said Committee of Management for the time being and the existing Rules and Regulations of the said Society for the time being relating to the same premises respectively

PROVIDED ALWAYS that in case the said Society shall be broken up or put an end to Then all and singular the goods chattels property effects monies and premises for the time being subject to the trusts of these presents shall become and be subject to the order direction and disposition of a General Meeting of the Members of the said Society for the time being and shall be disposed of so and in such manner as any such General Meeting shall by a resolution passed by the major part in number of the persons present thereat order and direct AND in default of any such order or direction or so far as any such shall not extend then such goods chattels property effects monies premises shall be subject to the order and disposition of the said Committee of Management for the time being and go and be applied or disposed of in such manner as the said Committee for the time being or the major part of number of Members of such Committee shall by writing under their respective hands order and direct and it is hereby mutually and reciprocally declared and agreed between and by the several persons parties to these presents That the several hereinbefore recited resolutions made and entered into at the said Special General Meeting of the said Society on the said 12th day of June last relating to the appointment of Trustees of the Society and for providing therein for the appointment of new Trustees from time to time and for their indemnity and for empowering such Trustees to give receipts and discharges for the trust monies to be received by them shall confer and be held taken and considered as conferring upon the said Philip Bliss, James Adey Ogle, Manuel John Johnson and Henry Wentworth Acland and other the Trustees or Trustee for the time being of the said Society and of these presents the same powers authorities rights and remedies at law and in such equity and such provisions would could or might have conferred on them respectively in the same respectively were or had been herein repeated and set forth as or in the same way of separate and distinct clauses or provisions instead of being incorporated in these presents by reference

PROVIDED ALWAYS And it is hereby declared that the Trustees or Trustee for the time being acting in the execution of the trusts of these presents and each and every of them and the heirs executors and administrators of them and each and every of them shall be charged respectively only for such monies as they shall respectively actually receive by virtue of the trusts hereby in them reposed notwithstanding his or their or any of their giving or signing any receipt or receipts for the sake of conformity AND that anyone or more of them shall not be answerable for the acts receipts neglects or defaults of the other or others of them but each and every of them only for his and their own acts receipts neglects or defaults respectively AND that they and each and every of the shall not be answerable or accountable or banker or other person with whom or in whose hands any part of the money or other property for the time being (subject to the trusts of these presents) shall or may be left or deposited in the execution of the trusts of these presents nor for the deficiency or insufficiency of any Security in or upon which the monies subject to the trusts of these presents or any part thereof may be invested nor for any misfortune loss or damage which may by any means happen in the execution of the aforesaid trusts or in relation thereto except the same shall happen by or through their own wilful default

PROVIDED ALSO And it is hereby further agreed and declared that the Trustees or Trustee for the time being acting in execution of the Trusts of these presents shall not be obliged to see or enquire whether any person purporting to act in any Office in the said Society has been duly appointed or elected to or duly or regularly holds the Office in which he purports to act or whether any General Meeting of the Members of the said Society or any meeting of the Committee of Management for the time being was duly held or convened or that such Trustees or Trustee as aforesaid shall not be at any time accountable or liable by reason or on account of any irregularity in any such meeting appointment or election as aforesaid And that any person or persons for the time being acting or purporting to act in discharge of the duties in any office in the said Society shall for the purposes of these presents and so far as relates to the liability of such Trustees or Trustee as aforesaid be held to have been duly and regularly appointed or elected to and duly and regularly to hold such office

PROVIDED ALWAYS and its hereby further agreed and declared that the acknowledgement in writing of the person for the time being acting as the Treasurer or President of the said Society shall be an effectual discharge to the Trustees or Trustee for the time being acting in the execution of the Trusts of these presents and the heirs executors and administrators of them and each of them for any monies by him or them paid or applied pursuant to any such order or orders of the Committee of Management for the time being as hereinbefore in that behalf mentioned or for so much of such monies as in such acknowledgement shall be expressed to have been so paid or applied as aforesaid

IN WITNESS whereof the said parties to these present have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first before written:

Philip Bliss, James Adey Ogle, M.J. Johnson, Henry W. Acland

Names of persons executing this deed as parties thereto of the first part:

George Raymond Portel, Christ Church, President
William Henry Hillman, Librarian
Frederick Meyrick, Trinity, Treasurer
Henry Temple, Brasenose
Edward H. Knatchhile
Robert G. Cecil, Secretary
George William Latham, Brasenose
Ralph Augustus Bruton, Christ Church
Wiltshire Stanton Austin, Exeter
George David Bogh, Exeter
John D.K. Ralph, Rus. College
P. Cowley Bowles, Exeter
R. Edmund Walters, Wadham
Edward Sridger Lomer, Oriel
Frederick Lygon, Christ Church
Frederic Richard Johnstone, Exeter
Charles Henry Pearson, Exeter
John Fitzgerald, University College”

OUS Supplemental Declaration of Trust

*Supplemental Declaration to the OUS Trust Deed
4th March 1999*

“THIS SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARATION OF TRUST is made the 4th day of March, 1999 by

WHEREAS:-

A. By a Declaration of Trust dated the 1st day of July 1847 and made by the Reverend Bliss DCL and others (hereinafter called the “1847 Deed”) various property was conveyed to the trustees named therein to be held by them and their successors subject to the trusts therein declared for the benefit of a members club called the Oxford Union Society (hereinafter called “the Society”)

B. By diverse appointments the parties to this document have been appointed and are the present trustees under the 1847 Deed (hereinafter called as such “the Trustees”) and hold the property book and other assets of the Society in trust for the Society

C. Under the 1847 Deed the Trustees are obliged to follow the instructions of the Committee of Management of the Society (now constituted as and known as the Standing Committee (and as such hereinafter called the same)

D. The Society in general meetings as required by the 1847 Deed and the Standing Committee pursuant to its powers under the rules of the Society have directed the Trustees to declare these trusts to the effect that this document should replace the 1847 Deed as a re-declaration of the trusts applicable to the property of the Society

NOW THIS DEED WITNESSETH:-

1. In pursuance of the direction of Standing Committee and of the Society in general meeting the Trustees hereby declare that they hold the property books and other assets of the Society and subject to the rules and Constitution of the Society from time to time

2. For the avoidance of doubt it is hereby declared that the Trustees as trustees shall not be members of Standing Committee

3. The Trustees shall act upon the instruction of Standing Committee and in following such instruction shall incur no personal liability for their lawful acts to the end that the Society shall indemnify the Trustees from all liability following such instruction

4. Pursuant to the foregoing the Society shall effect suitable insurance cover for the protection of the Trustees

5. All property books and other assets requiring to be vested in Trust shall pursuant to this Deed be vested in the Trustees of the Society from time to time

6. Provided always that in the event the Society shall be dissolved the Trustees shall hold all the property books and other assets of the Society in trust to apply the same as directed by a general meeting of the Society”

OXFORD LITERARY DEBATING UNION TRUST - TRUST DEED

21st July 1975

"THIS DEED is made the twenty first day of July one thousand nine hundred and seventy five BETWEEN JEREMY FREDERICK LEVER (hereinafter called 'The Founder' of the one part and THE RT. HON. MAURICE HAROLD MACMILLAN F.R.S. THE RT. HON. THE LORD HAILSHAM OF ST. MARYLEBONE C.H. F.R.S. P.C. THE RT. HON. ROY HARRIS JENKINS M.P. ROBIN DAY AND THE RT. HON. THE LORD REDCLIFFE-MAUD G.C.B. C.B.E. (hereinafter called 'The Charitable Trustees' which expression shall where the context to admits include other the trustee or trustees for the time being hereof) of the other part

WHEREAS

(A) The Founder being desirous of constituting a charitable trust for the advancement of education amongst the members of the University of Oxford by the provision of debates and the maintenance of a Library and Reading room has paid to the Charitable Trustees the sum of one hundred pounds to be held by them upon the trusts and with and subject to the powers and provisions hereinafter declared and contained

(B) Further funds and property may from time to time be paid or transferred to the Charitable Trustees from the trusts thereof

NOW THIS DEED WITNESSETH and IT IS HEREBY DECLARED as follows:-

1.

The Trust hereby constituted shall be known as "Oxford Literary and Debating Union Charitable Trust" (hereinafter called 'the Charity')

2.

In this Deed the following expressions shall have the meanings hereinafter assigned to them:-

(1) 'the Trust Fund' means the said sum of one hundred Pounds and the investments and property from time to time representing the same and all other property or moneys for the time being held on the trusts of this Deed

(2) 'the Union' means the Oxford Union Society

(3) 'the Union Building' means such part or parts (up to the whole) of the buildings and lands at present occupied by the Union and situate at St. Michael's Street Oxford as may be conveyed or otherwise transferred to the Charitable Trustees upon the trusts of this Deed

3.

(1) The Trust Fund shall be held upon trust that the income thereof shall be paid or applied for or towards the advancement of education amongst the members of the University of Oxford by the provision of debates and in the maintenance of a library and reading-room and in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by the provision of debates at and the maintenance of a library and reading-room in the Union buildings.

(2) The Charitable Trustees may if they shall think fit pay or apply any part or parts or the whole of the capital of the Trust Fund in any manner in which they are authorised to pay or apply the income thereof

4.

Without prejudice to the generality of any other power vested in them the Charitable Trustees shall have the following powers and in furtherance of the objects set out in Clause 3 hereof:-

(A) Power to engage on such terms as to salary wages pensions and otherwise as may be proper and to dismiss staff provided that such staff shall not include a Charitable Trustee

(B) Power to make vary and revoke such regulations as they think fit concerning the admission of members of the University to debates and to the said library and reading-room and to the organisation and maintenance of the same respectively and the making of reasonable charges for the provision of the said debates and the facilities of the said library and reading-room and generally for the management of the Charity

(C) Power to delegate all or any of the powers and duties of the Trustees in relation to the organisation of debates and the provision and administration of the said library and reading-room in particular power to delegate their said powers and duties to the Union PROVIDED ALWAYS that the Charitable Trustees shall not delegate their said powers and duties to the Union as foresaid unless the Union shall first have satisfied the Charitable Trustees that attendance at the said debates and the use and enjoyment of the said library and reading-room shall be open to all members of the University and PROVIDED FURTHER that it shall be a term of such delegation that the Union shall so often as the Charitable Trustees may require and in any event not less often than once in each year furnish the Charitable Trustees with a written report setting out the manner in which the Union has exercised such said delegated powers and performed such said delegated duties during the period since such delegation or since the last such report (as the case may be).

5.

Without prejudice to the generality of any other powers vested in them the Charitable Trustees shall have the following powers in relation to the Union Building

(A) Power to permit the same or some part or parts thereof to be occupied for any of the charitable educational purposes of the Charity for such period and on such terms as to rent (if any) as the Charitable Trustees shall think fit

(B) Power to repair decorate alter extend furnish or equip the same or any part or parts thereof as the Charitable Trustees shall think fit

(C) Power in relation to any part or parts thereof not for the time being required for the purposes of the Charity (with such contents as are by law required) to sell exchange lease or licence the use of the same for such price value rent of sum (as the case may be) as the Charitable Trustees shall deem to be the best reasonably obtainable in the open market

6.

The Charitable Trustees shall have power

(A) to retain any investment or property from time to time comprised in the Trust Fund in its existing state so long as the Charitable Trustees think fit with power at any time or times at their direction to sell the same or any part thereof

(B) to invest or lay out the net proceeds of any such sale or any other capital moneys comprised in the Trust Fund at their discretion in or upon any of the investments or property hereby authorised with power at the like discretion to vary or transpose any such investments or property for or into others of any nature hereby authorised

(C) to accumulate any income not immediately required for the purposes of the Charity by investing the same and resulting income thereof in such manner as the Charitable Trustees think fit and so that any such accumulations may at any time be applied as if the same were income of the Trust Fund arising in the then current year

7.

The Charitable Trustees may from time to time for the purpose of carrying into effect the trusts declared by this Deed:-

(A) Purchase take on lease accept by gift devise or bequest sell exchange lease or otherwise acquire dispose of or deal with interests in property of any kind whatsoever and wheresoever situate in such manner as the Charitable Trustees shall in their discretion think fit

(B) Accept and hold gifts devises and bequests of money and property upon special trusts for charitable purposes within the limits of the purposes of the Charity as hereinbefore expressed

(C) Borrow money on the security of the whole or any part of the Trust Fund and pay and apply the money on raised in any manner in which money forming part of the capital of the Trust Fund may be paid or applied

8.

The Charitable Trustees shall have the power

(A) to advertise or otherwise appeal for contributions of money or other property for the purpose of the Charity in such manner as they think fit and to engage any person firm or corporation to organise and such appeal on such terms as to remuneration and otherwise as the Charitable Trustees consider proper

(B) To engage any person or persons not being a Charitable Trustee to act as Secretary Treasurer or other officer of the Charity and to engage such other staff as the circumstances may require them in the administration of the Charity and to contract to pay to the Secretary Treasurer and other officer and staff such (if any) salary wages emoluments and pensions as the Charitable Trustees shall consider proper

9.

(1) Any money available for investment may be invested or laid out in the purchase of or at interest upon the security of such stocks funds shares securities or other investments or property of whatsoever nature and wheresoever situate as the Charitable Trustees think fit whether or not the same may be authorised by law for the investment of trust money

(2) Money may be left un-invested on deposit at a Bank on such terms in such amount and for such period as the Charitable Trustees may think fit

(3) The Charitable Trustees may permit any investments to be held by any trust corporation or bank nominee company as nominee for the Charitable Trustees and may also permit any securities transferable by delivery to be held on the account of the Charitable Trustees by any Bank and the Charitable Trustees may make such arrangements as they think fit for the collection of the income of such investments or securities

10.

All costs and expenses incurred by the Charitable Trustees in the exercise of the trusts power and provisions herein declared and contained may be paid out of the income or the capital of the Trust Fund as the Charitable Trustees think fit

11.

(1) The Charitable Trustees may from time to time by writing under their hands authorise any two or more of their number or any one or more of their number and the Secretary or other officer of the Charity to sign or endorse on their behalf any cheques bills negotiable instruments receipts or contracts and every such authority shall continue in force until some one or more of the Charitable Trustees shall by writing under their hands revoke the same and communicate such revocation to the person or persons holding the authority and every purchaser or other person dealing with the Charitable Trustees or any of them shall be entitled to assume such authority shall still be in force until such time as he or she shall have received express notice of the revocation thereof

(2) The Charitable Trustees may from time to time authorise the whole or any part of the Trust Fund to be held by or vested in any two or more of their number

12.

(1) The Charitable Trustees shall hold as many meetings as they think fit in each year

(2) The Charitable Trustees may elect a Chairman of their meetings and determine the period for which he is to hold office but if no Chairman is elected or if at any meeting the Chairman is not present within five minutes for the time appointed for the holding of the same the Charitable Trustees present may choose one of their number to be the Chairman of the meeting

(3) Any resolution duly passed at a meeting of the Charitable Trustees to exercise any power or discretion hereby or by law vested in them shall be binding on all the Charitable Trustees including those who voted against such resolution or were not present at such meeting and the last-mentioned Charitable Trustees shall (if and so far as required) concur with the others of the Charitable Trustees in the exercise of the power or discretion so resolved upon

(4) The Charitable Trustees shall have power to make vary and revoke regulations governing the time place and method of calling and conducting the meetings of the Charitable Trustees and determining the quorum necessary for the transaction of business

(5) Unless and until otherwise determined by Charitable Trustees:-

(a) Two Charitable Trustees shall form a quorum and a meeting of Charitable Trustees at which a quorum is present shall be competent to exercise a majority all or any of the powers and discretions vested in the Charitable Trustees

(b) Any one of the Charitable Trustees may at any time convene a meeting of the Charitable Trustees

(c) Questions arising at any meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes and in case of an equality of votes the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote

(d) Notice of every meeting shall be delivered or sent by post to each of the Charitable Trustees (other than a Trustee for the time being not in the United Kingdom) so that the same is delivered seven clear days before the date of the meeting

(e) Every notice of a meeting shall state the place day and hour of the meeting and the business to be transacted thereat

13. The Charitable Trustees shall:

(A) Cause proper Minutes to be kept and entered in a book (hereafter called 'the Minute Book') provided for the purpose of all their resolutions and proceedings and any such Minutes of any such meeting of the Charitable Trustees purporting to be signed by the Chairman of such meeting or by the Chairman of the next succeeding meeting shall be conclusive evidence of the matters stated in such Minutes

(B) Cause full and punctual accounts to be kept of the Trust Fund and all income arising therefrom and all dealings therewith and all payment made thereout and at least one in each year causes to be prepared a statement of account and balance sheet for the preceding year

(C) Cause the said statement of accounts and balance sheet to be audited each year by a professional auditor appointed by the Charitable Trustees

14.

(1) A new Trustee of the Charity may be appointed by a resolution of the Charitable Trustees recorded in the Minute Book and signed by the new Trustee and such record shall be conclusive evidence of his appointment

(2) The Charitable Trustees shall be not less than three nor more than eight persons and in the event of their number falling below five such additional Trustee or Trustees shall forthwith be appointed as shall be necessary to make their number up to five but so that the Charitable Trustees may from time to time exercise all or any of the trusts powers and provisions herein declared and contained notwithstanding any vacancy or vacancies in their number

(3) Any of the Charitable Trustees who is absent from all meeting of the Charitable Trustees during a continuous period of twenty four months or who is adjudicated a bankrupt or who is incapacitated from acting shall thereupon cease to be a Trustee and if the continuing Charitable Trustees or any two of them shall sign a statement to the effect that a trustee has ceased to be a trustee by virtue of the provisions of this sub-clause and such statement be recorded in the Minute Book such record shall be conclusive evidence of his ceasing to be a trustee

(4) A Charitable Trustee may retire by writing under his hand and such retirement shall be recorded in the Minute Book and such record shall be conclusive evidence of his retirement

15.

(1) There shall be repaid to the Charitable Trustees their travelling expenses and other disbursements necessarily incurred by them in connection with the administration of the trusts hereof

(2) Any of the Charitable Trustees being a Solicitor or Chartered Accountant or Stockbroker or other person engaged in any profession or business shall be entitled to charge and be paid all proper professional and other charges for business transacted time spent and acts done by him or his firm in connection with the trusts hereof including acts which a trustee not being in any profession or business could have done personally

(3) Save as hereinbefore expressly provided the Trust Fund and the income thereof shall be applicable solely towards the objects of the Charity

16.

In the professed execution of the trusts and powers hereof no Charitable Trustee hereof shall be liable for a breach of trust arising from a mistake or omission made by him in good faith or for any other loss to or misapplication of the Trust Fund except in the case of his own conscious wrongdoing Provided Always that no trust or power shall be exercised in such manner that the capital or income of the Trust Fund or any part thereof shall be held paid or applied otherwise than for purposes which are exclusively charitable according to the law of England and Wales

17.

Any statement in writing signed by the Charitable Trustees or any two of them to the effect that any contract deed act thing or transaction signed executed done or entered into by the Charitable Trustees is signed executed done or entered into in accordance with and is authorised the trusts powers and provisions herein declared and contained shall in favour of any purchaser or other person dealing with the Charitable Trustees be conclusive evidence of the fact

IN WITNESS whereof the parties hereto have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first before written

Signed Sealed and Delivered by

Jeremy Frederick Leaver
The Rt Hon Maurice Harold Macmillan
The Rt Hon The Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone
The Rt Hon Roy Harris Jenkins
Robin Day
The Rt Hon The Lord Redcliffe-Maud

in the presence of

Terence Wilkinson
Rosemary Annette
M. Heyward
Haydon Phillips
Sara Richards
Elizabeth Bowles"

ENDS