

Draft Minutes of

THE STANDING COMMITTEE

9th Week, Hilary Term 2011

Monday 14th March 2011

Present: **The President** (Ashvir Sangha, *The Queen's College*), **The Librarian** (Lauren Pringle, *Wadham College*), **The Treasurer** (Cyrus Nasser, *Exeter College*), **Mr Lee** (*Hertford College*), **Ms Robertson** (*Balliol College*), **Mr Coates** (*Worcester College*), **Mr Eaton** (*Jesus College*), **Mr Leape** (*Keble College*), **The President-Elect** (Izzy Westbury, *Hertford College*), **The Librarian-Elect** (Izzy Ernst, *St Catherine's College*), **The Senior Treasurer, The Bursar, The Returning Officer** (Ms Katherine Sidders, *Trinity College*) Ex President (ChCH), Ex President (Hertford)

Attending: The DSC Treasurer (Niel Dewar)

Apologies: **The Treasurer-Elect** (James Freeland, *Brasenose College*), **The CCC** (Mr David Goldberg, *St Benet's Hall*),

Absent: **The Secretary** (Hannah Tryl, *Christ Church*), **The Senior Librarian, The Access Officer for Women, The Access Officer, The CDSC** (Hugh Burns, *St John's College*),

Committee opens at: 17.15

Ratification of minutes

Miss Robertson notes that Standing Order C6 is very funny.

The President says that he did drink his jug. He asks if he has any issue with the minutes.

Mr Coates asks whether Mr Boutall has been fined.

The Librarian says that he has not.

MOTION: This TSC ratifies the minutes from TSC in 8th Week Hilary 2011.

Proposed: The President

Motion passed *nem. con.*

Absences from Previous Meeting

No absences.

Matters Arising From Previous Minutes

No matters.

The President

Meetings missed: 0 Missed without good reason: 0

Business of the The President

The President says that as he explained to Bursar there is a vac day allowance of £7 for committee and he would like to put this through TSC.

The Librarian says that is there any way in which we can raise it to £8 as you get fined anyway £10 a day.

Mr Eaton says that last term there was an issue of it being £3.50 per meal.

The Bursar says that this was indeed the case and how it should stand.

The Ex-President (ChCh) says that this was an issue during his vac and that it was resented by committee at the time as you may want a small lunch and then a larger dinner.

The Ex-President (Hertford) suggests that we get a fridge and TSC can use this instead to keep food.

The Bursar says that it cannot be administered without dividing it up to £3.50 per meal. She says that administratively you cannot just put through £7 a day.

The Ex-President (Univ) says that there are 2 ways to solving the problem. He says that either it is up to each person to claim individually, so group dinners need to be resolved between the people. He says that otherwise it needs to be found who works half a day.

Mr Leape asks whether we can just be issued with £7.

The Bursar says that this is not possible for the auditors and that we need a trail. She asks why this is a problem that it is £3.50.

Mr Leape says that the issue is if he underspends on one meal and then overspends on another, he will not be reimbursed the full price.

Mr Coates says that if you spend £10 on dinner just let this cover the £7. He also says that he thinks that with group meals committee can just resolve it between themselves.

Ms Robertson.

Mr Eaton.

Ms Ernst.

Ms PRingel says that what happens if you plan ahead. She says that if you buy lunch beforehand and eat it a couple of days later you cannot be reimbursed.

The Bursar says that this has never been an issue before.

Ms Ernst says that £7 lets us have more freedom on what we want to eat overall through the day.

The President says that he sees that everyone on TSC are very vocal , but eh also sees that Bursar point. He says that he would like to pass a motion for £7 meal allowance, but that with group meals everyone is responsible for their own meal and that he will e-mail through who has only worked a half day.

MOTION

Proposed: the president

Passed

The Bursar says that she wants to clarify that credit card receipts are not acceptable.

Mr Leape asks the Bursar what he does if he eats his meals in college.

The Bursar asks committee to claim regularly.

The President says that he has one piece of business. He says that it is with regards to appointed officials. He says that there have been a large number of applications for these positions. He says that he is dealing with it. He says that he would like to approve Ana

Anacvalovait as the Graduate Officer. He says tthat the Oxford Brookes Officer is Octavia Salmon.

The Librarian asks whether these are appointed officials.

The President says that these are just appointed officials which he thinks would be helpful for his term.

The President says that the head of guest liaison would be William Arthur and that the Chief of Staff Somie Sidhu and that Direcot rof Strategy is Russeau Dasgupta. He says that Director of Careers will be Melvin Chen.

The President says that he thinks it would be a very good idea to have a Director of Careers to liasie with alumni of the Oxford Union.

The President says that Director of International Affairs would be Rahul Ahluwalia who would be liasiing with members of the Union who are international.

The Ex-President (Hrtford) says that she does think that these roles do bring with them a certain amount of gravitas and that.

The PReisident says that the Publicity Officer will be Barnaby Lynch.

The President says that he wants to ratify these positions subject to them writing a report.

Mr Coates says that he does not think that the title Director is perhaps suitable for this and that it may be diluted perhaps.

The President says that he thiks that he will do this roll and that last week Mr Andrew Mason used it as a joke.

The Ex-President asks whether he would feel happier being Special Advisors instead as then they could have the portfolio without the over-weighted title.

The Librarian says that she would like to pass it subject to a mandate.

Mr Eaton says that if they do the work then they sdeserve it.

The Ex-President (Hertford) says that the thing that she is worried about is that they are using the name of the Union rather flippantly.

The Librarian asks how these positions were appointed.

The Senior Treasuer says that director of is a mistake. He says that director is not appropriate.

Mr Coates says that he agrees.

The Ex-PReisident (Univ) says that he has a list of apointed officials of the Ex-President (hertford).

The Ex-President (hertfodt) says that these were all tongue-in-cheek.

Miss Robertson says that in the past as it has been used tongue in cheek and that it is inappropriate and that it is unsuitable to use the word director.

The Treasurer says that the Presindet should have some discretion.

Mr Coates says that he agrees and that it is only the name that he has a problem with.

The Librarian asks if we can pass them indivuidaly..

The Senior Treasurer says that he really thinks that Driecor is quite a big name.

ThPres elect says ana anadvalvaotie as garad ogficer.

Passed.

William Arthur head of glo.

Passed

Chief od stadd.

Passed.

Director of Startegy.

The Senior Treasuere asks if it can instead be chief strategist.

Chieft strategist

Passed.

Direcot or Carreers.

The Ex-Preseindet says Careers Liaisson.

The Senior tReasuere recommends Careers Officer.

The Libraiarna suggests Careers advisor.

The Bursar says that we have had in the past people asking for serious advice if we have this role.

The Librarian asks what careers lisasion would do.

The President says that the contact alumni.

The President says that he proposes Careers Liasion.

The Ex-President (hertfrod) says that she would like amandate for each role.

The President says that he has already explained.

The Presidentat says that the job of the Careers Liaiaison is to contact union alumni whou could help with careers events.

The ex-president says that she like that definition.

The libraiarna wants to make sure that they don't step on anyones toes.

Careers Liaision. Melvin Chen.

pPassed.

Oxford Brookes Officer.

The ex=president recommends brookes representative.

The President says brookes representative.

Passed.

Direcot of international affairs.

The President suggests international affairs liaison.

The ex-President says that international affairs is politics, not liaising.

The president responds that this person will be contacting interationali alumni.

International alumni officer.

Passed.

Publiicyt officer.

Passed.

The Ex-President (Univ) asks whether he knows how to use in design.

The President says that that was quick and asks whether the senior treasurer has to shoot.

Questions to the President

The Ex-President (Univ) says that he has got to shoot off so says good luck to the officers this term.

President-Elect

Meetings missed: 0 Missed without good reason: 0

Business

The President-elect informs TSC that she has several residential membership application from Jane Leaman and Neil Ricahrdson as well as a permanent membership application to Martha Zenfell.

Martha is a full time student at Rusking and thus has only partial membership. The RO informs TSC that this process is only available to members of Oxford Brookes.

The PResdient mandates the new secretary to interview potential applications along with the Bursar.

Prop: Pres

Passed : nem con

Questions to the President-Elect

No questions.

Librarian-Elect

Meetings missed: 0 Missed without good reason: 0

Business of the Librarian-Elect

No business.

Questions to the Librarian-Elect

No questions.

Treasurer-Elect

Meetings missed: 0 Missed without good reason: 0

Business of the Treasurer-Elect

No business.

Questions to the Treasurer-Elect

No questions

Business of the Ex-Officio

The Ex-Pres (ChCh) says that he had a meeting with OLDUT and FOTOU about putting money back into the Union. He says that it was agreed at Steering OCmmittee they would have a meeting to go over the relationship between the institutions. He says that Oxofrd Union Familuy is the name given to the relationship. OUS is independent but maintains srton informal links with FOTUS. He says that OLDUT is the charity which mandates out the Oxford Union to hold debates and function. He says that this is the official report that he brings to Stadning Committee and he would like approval of the report.

The EX Pres (Univ) asks whether this is approval for the report or a memorandum of understanding.

The Ex Pres says that this is what they need to discuss.

The Ex Pres says that there is no way this can be a memorandum of understangin, but TSC can instead ratify the report. He says that in order for it to be set up in a designated way this should be in legalistic terms an understanding written, then it is formalized.

The Senior Treasurer says that it should be noted and accepted by Standing Committee and that TSC should accept the report.

The Ex Pres sasy that this was the report that was mandated to be produced in Steering Committee, much in the way in which it has been circulated around OLDUT and FOTOU.

The President wants to note TSC's acceptance for the report.

MOTION Notes the Acceptance and the approval of the report and looks forward to drawing up a formal memorandum of understanding.

Proposed: The President

Passed *nem. con.*

Questions to the Ex-Officio

No questions.

The Senior Treasurer

Business of the Senior Treasurer

The Senior Treasurer says that he would like to touch on the fact that there is an institution called OLDUT which stands behind the Union and was given £1 millison and that this money was a loan to OLDUT. He sayst aht it is a charity whtih promotes the Union, the library, the debates and it as an educational institution. He sayst aht the only thing that OLDUT does not promote is the social events. He says that recently the charities commission has recently become very stringent in its regulation of charities. He says that OLDUT has had extensive free advice on this. He says that in due course we will have to pay this back. He says that

there is very little of it yet. He says that the Mitsubishi money is also paid In trust and that the proceeds go to oldut and then the union.

Mistubishi UFB Trust Oxford Foundaiothn.

The Senior Treasurer says that William Hague is the trustee. He says that he has resigned as a trustee of the foundaiont. He says that it was proposed that Aland Dunchn become a new trustee. He says tthat the reason he puts it heres is that half the trustees are nominated nby the Union and half by Mitsubishi. He says that the head of hthe trust id Peter Tapsell.

Mr Eaton asks what the duties are of the trustee.

The Senior Treasurer says that they look after the investment of the money and that the surplus go to OLDUT and that OLDUT disperse it to us at the Union. He says that it is not clear whether it is the trustees or standing committee that recommend the trustees. He says that he has drafted the motion.

He reads the motion for new trustee appointment of Alan Duncan. Motion will be e-mail to secretary.

The President syas that he would like to proposed the above motion.

MOTION blah

Proposed: The president
passed

The Senito r treasurer says that OLDUT is that charity and that the money goes to them as it is tax efficient. He says that when we use these buildings for non-charitable events such as social events it nominally goest to OLDUT who then pay it back. He says that on TSC you are carrying out the charitable deeds of the trust. He says that Dr Zakir Naik coming to the Oxford Union meant that there was a large threat from the Charities Commission as they didn't want Dr Naik to come to the Union considering that he was barred from the country and that this was not a charitable cause.

The Senior Treasuer says that the press in oxford takes its greatest pleasure in saying nasty things about the Union. He says that there is an absolutely cast iron copper bottom rule that nobody talks to the press as a member of standing committee. He says that the only person who can talk to the press is the President. He says that he can appoint a Press Officer. He says that even if you think you are speaking anonymously, you will be found out and loose your membership.

The president re-iterates this and says that this means that you need his writted permission.

The Treasurer says that conversations can often lead to the union so you need to be careful.

Ms Robertson asks whether we can send out a memorandum to all press notifying them that standing committee cannot comment.

The President says that he will tell the press officer to write up a document for this.

The Senior Treasurer says that they may not listen but that it would be good to do. He says that instead of saying you can't anaswer that they should be referred to the President.

The President says that we need a united PR front.

The TReasuer says that they can't actually do anything to do.

The Librarians says that we shouldn't however suffer through this.

The Ex-President (Hertford) says that something she wanted to raise is that as members of standing committee you are representing the union so hbear in ind that we are connected to some very reputable people and that you will at all times be representing the union.

The Sernior Treasurer says that he would like to touch on the in camera proceedings, He says that then all people are excluded apart from those allowed in TSC. He say stha tthis will relate to contractual or empoloyment or disciplinary issues. He says that it must remain in camera. He says that under no circumstances must it be talked about.

The Treasuer says that it is quite often that there are press sitting in the room and that they can take it out of context what you are saying.

The Senior Treasurer says that his final comment is that he is horrified that somebody gives the Union a lot of stuff and that some of it is burned. He asks how anyone would want to give anything to the Union considering these happenings. He says that it was just terrible. He says that you may not agree with these books but this doesn't mean that you should burn them. He says that with his Treasurers hat on they could also be eminently saleable. He says that we need the money, so he says that whoever did it he hopes that they take it to heart so that it never ever happens again.

The President says that he has written up a statement and that he has spoken to the church of scientology.

Mr Coates asks whether it was going to be an actual story.

The Senior Treasurer says that is in the telegraph.

The Bursasr says that it was in the Telegraph and that it stands out.

The Senior Treasurer says that he thinks that we should let the dust settle and then we should sell the books. He says that Tom Cruise or the like could be sold the books on the condition that they come and speak in a debate.

Mr Eaton leaves the room at 18:25.

The President sasy that he has no idea how many more books we are going to get.

The Librarians says that the Library was looking into what to do with the books, whether they should be sold or given to a library.

The Senior Treasuerer says that that is all.

The Bursars asks whether we can ensure that the books are looked after.

The Librarian asks what the status of these books are and asks what is going to happen to the collection. She says that she wants to know what happened to the books and who burnt them. She asks that she wants to know what happened to the books.

The Senior Treasurer says that he thinks that proceedings should be brought against those that burnt the books.

The RO says that damage of union property and bringing the society into disrepute.

The RO says that we need to be mindful of Standing Order G4.

The Librarian says that she would like to know whether some action will be taken.

The President says that some action will be taken.

Questions to the Senior Treasurer

No questions.

The Librarian

Meetings missed: 0 Missed without good reason: 0

Business of the Librarian

The Librarian says that she wishes everyone good luck in the vac. She asks whether the press stuff is going to be split between the press officer and the librarian elect or not.

The President says that he will wait and see when he talks to the press officer.

Mr Coates says that although he knows that committee can't speak to the press, this can cause quite a bit of dissent amongst the rest of Oxford.

The President says that we will interview the speakers ourselves and put them on the internet.

Mr Coates says that he understands this but that generally not speaking to the press can be quite divisive.

The Librarian asks if this will be done in the same manner as press interviews.

The Ex-President (Hertford) says that she had massive deals with the press and the key to it is just playing them off each other.

The President says that this is Union policy.

The Bursar says that it is amazing how many times we have this conversation and that we have pulled the agreement with the OxStu a number of times in the past when they have unfairly treated the Union.

Questions to the Librarian

No questions.

The Treasurer

Meetings missed: 0 Missed without good reason: 0

Business of the Treasurer

The Treasurer says that he is re-designing the sponsorship proposal and that it is very important and he appeals to those on committee to have a look at it and scrutinise it as he wants as much feedback as possible.

The Librarian asks whether it is worth e-mailing the Ex-Treasurer for his advice.

The Treasurer says that he will do that.

Questions to the Treasurer

The DSC Treasurer says that he would like to pass the debaters expenses which were supposed to be passed last week but the Senior Treasurer wasn't there. He says that he would like to pass them. He says that they were looked at in Finance but weren't ratified.

The DSC Treasurer says that he would like to add one more claim as this has now receipts. £885.65 was approved in Finance last week and he would like to pass £907.75.

The President says that he would like the debating calendar for Trinity.

The DSC Treasurer says that now is the time to chase up IV sponsorship.

The President asks whether there are any competitions internally.

The DSC Treasurer says that they won't, the only thing is the Euros trials.

The President asks the CDSC to talk to the Treasurer about these expenses.

MOTION ratify expenses £907.75

Passed: The President

Passed nem. con.

The Senior Treasurer asks where Worlds are going to be held.

The DSC Treasurer says that they will be held in Manilla.

The Senior Treasurer says that it was mooted that unless we get sponsorship for this, he doesn't think that the Union can afford to pay for everything in sending the debaters to Manilla.

The President agrees that we need to get more sponsorship as he thinks there may be a lack of communication on this front between DSC and the Treasury office.

The Librarian asks whether the Treasurer has a separate proposal for the competitive debaters.

The Ex-President (Hertford) says that we should be creating more links with overseas universities for debates.

The Librarian asks whether we can get stash that is sponsored.

The Secretary

Meetings missed: 0 Missed without good reason: 0

Business of the Secretary

No business.

Questions to the Secretary

No questions.

Mr Lee

Meetings missed: 0 Missed without good reason: 0

Business of Mr Lee

No business.

Questions to Mr Lee

No questions.

Ms Robertson

Meetings missed: 0 Missed without good reason: 0

Business of Ms Robertson

No business.

Questions to Ms Robertson

No questions.

Mr Coates

Meetings missed: 0 Missed without good reason: 0

Business of Mr Coates

Mr Coates says thank you to the Treasurer Elect and Andrew Mason for helping out with the speaker workshop.

The Librarian asks whether the accounts for the Afghan Appeal dinner has been passed.

Mr Coates says no.

Questions to Mr Coates

No questions.

Mr Eaton

Meetings missed: 0 Missed without good reason: 0

Business of Mr Eaton

No business.

Questions to Mr Eaton

No questions.

Mr Leape

Meetings missed: 0 Missed without good reason: 0

Business of Mr Leape

Mr Leape says that he thought that the people that didn't sign down after the election on Monday caused a major recount and could have changed the composition of committee, which he thinks is completely unfair.

The RO agrees that this is the case but it really affects the second preferences.

The Treasurer says that he agrees that it is really unfair, especially if someone has arranged in their holidays to work here and then find that they are no longer on. He says that even if people are disqualified they still ran an election.

The Librarian says that it is not fair that people that didn't comply with the rules should affect those that complied with the rules.

The RO says that it is concerned with rule 33.

The Bursar says that you are standing for election for a serious institution and if you cannot sign down then this is the first hurdle.

Mr Leape says that the issue is that it wasn't the ones that were elected that were disqualified.

The Librarian says that the bursar was right but it is the re-allocation problem.

The RO says that all candidates tick a box when they nominate to say that they will sign down. She also says it is problematic just disqualify the candidate and not re-distributing. The RO says that it is important that those that lose elections are still contactable.

Mr Leape says that he wants to look into a rules change.

The CWSC says that this rule is needed for someone who runs to stop someone getting on then this rule is needed.

Miss Robertson says that when you disqualify someone you have to recount the votes but she doesn't think that this is the best way. She thinks that it should be a fine.

The RO says that perhaps it should be more open to the panel in a tribunal to decide and not something that they have to do.

Mr Leape says that he still wants to discuss the rules change with the RO.

Questions to Mr Leape

No questions.

The Senior Librarian

Business of the Senior Librarian

No business.

Questions to the Senior Librarian

No questions.

The Bursar

Business of The Bursar

The Bursar would just like to welcome all new members onto TSC and that she would like to ensure that all contracts are brought to the bursar first. She says that there is a new contract file.

The president says that socials for standing the bursar has seen pretty much every social before and that she will advise standing on how it works.

The Bursar says that budgets and accounts need to go through committee. She says that committee need to call out on lines 3,4 and 5 as well. She says that otherwise any help she is very happy to give.

Questions to The Bursar

No questions.

RO

Business of the RO

The RO says that if there are any rules stuff anyone would like then approach her.

Questions to the RO

The CWSC says that he would like to give a round of applause for the RO for her work this term.

CCC

Business of the CCC

No business.

Questions to the CCC

No questions.

Access Officer for Women

Business of the AOW

No business.

Questions to the AOW

No questions.

Access Officer

Business of the AO

No business.

Questions to the AO

No questions.

CDSC

Business of the CDSC

No business.

Questions to the CDSC

No questions.

Any Other Business

Mr Coates says that the only thing is that we discussed on TSC what should be shown in the bar but nobody was told in the bar.

The President suggests that Mr coates writes up a piece of paper to the bar staff and to Brusar.

The CWSC says that he would like to know who the delegate for WSC is this term.

The Librarian says that she would like to ask the bursar about access to the kitchens during the vac.

The Bursar says that there have been problems in the past where committees have in the past trashed them and also that there are events that go on through the holidays. She says that the mess that these are left in are the reason that committee can't get into the kitchen. She says that Matthew Richardsom blew up a lightbumb in a microwave.

Miss Robertson asks whether the kitchen can just be used for personal use instead.

The Librarian says that this could bring a blame game on the state of the kitchen. She says that surely we can ensure that the kitchen is spotless.

The Bursars says that the problem is that it is always somebody else's fault.

The Librarian-Elect says that we have cooked there before.

The Librarian says that she was just wondering because it is quite a cheap option.

The bursar asks that she can consult with the other staff first. She says that the reason that it doesn't happen in the past is because it has been misused.

The Librarian asks whether it would be possible to have a calendar of events over the vac.

The President-Elect says that there is a Google calendar that she can invite the Librarian to.

The President says that he wanted to raise with Standing that everyone is assigned as delegates of various committees. He says that the elected members of standing should chat and decide between themselves as to what they want to do.

Date of the Next Meeting

Monday 25th April, The Morris Room, 17.00

Committee closes at 19:06

Signed:



Isabelle Westbury

Hertford College

President-Elect