

Minutes of

THE STANDING COMMITTEE

2nd Week, Hilary Term 2011

Monday 24th January 2010

Present: **The President** (James Langman, *University College*), **The Librarian** (Hasan Ali, *Christ Church*), **The Treasurer** (Jack Sennett, *Lincoln College*), **The Secretary** (Izzy Westbury, *Hertford College*), **Ms Ernst** (*St Catherine's College*), **Mr Ahluwalia** (*St Benet's Hall*), **Mr Bhalla** (*Keble College*), **Mr Thomas** (*Balliol College*), **Mr Freeland** (*Brasenose College*), **The President-Elect** (Ash Sangha, *The Queen's College*), **The Librarian-Elect** (Lauren Pringle, *Wadham College*), **The Treasurer-Elect** (Cyrus Nasser, *Exeter College*), **The Senior Treasurer**, **The Bursar**, **The CCC** (Mr Goldberg, *St Benet's*), **The Access Officer for Women** (Carla Thomas, *St Anne's College*), **The CDSC** (Hugh Burns, *St John's College*)

Attending:

Apologies: **The Senior Librarian**, **The Returning Officer** (Mr Whitelaw, *Christ Church*), **The Access Officer** (Miles Coates, *Worcester*)

Absent:

Committee opens at: 16.15

Ratification of minutes

MOTION: This TSC ratifies the minutes from TSC in 2nd Week Hilary 2011.

Proposed: The President

Motion passed *nem. con.*

Absences from Previous Meeting

The President mentions that **the Librarian** was not here last week as he was ill.

Matters Arising From Previous Minutes

The President says that he had a meeting with Fiona Pocock. He says that he found her very pleasing and that she thinks that the Union is fantastic. He says that he would like to propose her for residential membership of the society.

Mr Ahluwalia asks whether there is any financial benefit?

The President says that she will pay in her first year £208 and then £104 each year thereafter.

MOTION: The President proposes that Mrs Fiona Pocock become a Residential Member of the Society.

Proposed: The President

Motion passed *nem. con.*

The President offers his congratulations. He asks **the Secretary** to write to her, confirming that she is now a member.

The President says that unfortunately after a review, last week's motion for Ms Elin Sandnes to become a permanent member will for the time being not be able to pass.

He asks the secretary to please put the name on the board of the new residential member.

The Secretary also brings up that a Mr Richard Gerhardi, a porter at Pembroke College Lodge and currently a member of the society would like to apply for Residential Membership. He is retiring and will therefore no longer be eligible for staff membership.

The President asks whether he has written an application letter.

The Secretary says that he has indeed and that in fact he wrote a letter to the current **Librarian**, who was Secretary last term, but that this was ignored.

The President asks **the Librarian** to find Mr Gerhardi's application letter and to cooperate with **the Secretary** so that it can be brought to TSC for consideration next week.

The President

Meetings missed: 0 Missed without good reason: 0

Business of the The President

The President says that he has bumped aside the SDC list to next week.

The President also says that vacation reports need to be in his inbox by 10am tomorrow morning.

The President brings up vacation days and has said that not many have come to see him with regards to this matter. He says that he will read them through the chamber and reminds everyone that they will be fined otherwise. Considering the amount of work that was completed over the vacation he is however happy to waive half of everybody's fines outright. Out of courtesy he would like everyone to come and see him about vacation days. He says that afterwards he needs to put up a full vacation report on the board.

The President says that ROs are up for nomination for the forthcoming elections. He says that if we would like to object we have 48 hours in which to do so. He says that the senior 8 are appointed automatically. He reiterates that members of TSC must object within 48 hours. He says that he needs them within 48 hours as he will then do scrutiny next week.

The Bursar asks whether there is a good dose of fresh blood. She says it is good to have a good turnover.

The President says that not a single person on there will be able to count the votes. However, he says that Mr Mason will be back for the election.

The Treasurer suggests that Mr Mason teaches someone how to count the votes.

The President says that there is some experience nonetheless on this list.

Mr Freeland asks if there is a limit to the number of RO's that we can object to.

The President says that there is no limit and please do object. He urges TSC to object.

The Treasurer-Elect says that he has heard that some of the DRO's weren't even in Oxford on the day last term.

The President assures him that this will not be the case and that it is TSC's responsibility to the society to think over the list carefully and take this into consideration.

The President says that he has a final piece of business. He says that we have an outstanding invoice from 13th October from OULC amounting to £136.48. He says that they used the society's rooms last Monday very successfully. He says that they think that they may be having Gordon Brown coming to Oxford but won't necessarily use the Union. He is not happy with this and thinks that a better deal should be put in writing. He says that if the invoice is not paid then he will terminate Mr Bush's membership, as he was the guarantor for the event.

The President asks to be excused to go and put a suit on for his speaker.

The Librarian asks **the President** to stay for 5 minutes for his business..

Questions to the President

No questions.

The Librarian

Meetings missed: 1 Missed without good reason: 1

Business of the Librarian

The Librarian says that he was mandated to sort out the Terry Eagleton affair and has said that he has found a paper trail so the matter is now closed.

The Librarian says that Harriet Harman has been confirmed as well.

The Librarian says that the final piece of business is two things from Library Committee and that they asked if they could take some tables from one part of the Union to the Old Library as these get very busy during the weekend.

The Bursar says that all the tables are being used.

The President says that he will go with **the Librarian** to speak to Sue about this issue.

The Bursar asks if we can have a monitor as to how many people are working in the library and how many people are using the poetry room.

The Librarian says one final piece is that Library Committee would appreciate if dinners were not hosted in the old library.

The Bursar says that this happens every term and that the poetry room has always been used as the librarian's place of entertainment.

President leaves room at 16.34

The President gives the chair to **the President-Elect**.

The Librarian claims that there can be damage to books.

The Bursar argues that there has never been any damage and that actually it is a perfect room for entertaining speakers and that the Morris room is not very atmospheric.

The Librarian reiterates that every single member of Library Committee were adamant that entertaining should not occur in this room.

The Senior Treasurer says that it is the perfect place in terms of ambience etc. to entertain guests.

The Librarian argues that you get books that smell of food. He also states that no other library has ever let food or drink into the library. He says that they were adamant that we take this into consideration.

The Bursar says that if something is damaged it can be replaced but that nothing has ever been damaged before. She does agree that during the day people shouldn't be removed to host a lunch but she strongly believes that a dinner in this room is the perfect place.

The Librarian-Elect asks about the inconvenience to those working in the library when the room is being set up. She argues that people can hear setting up from the main library as well and that there is also the issue of security that people are concerned about if the doors are open.

The Treasurer says that the library committee is in charge of the library as a book reading space but as a benefit to the society as a whole having the dinners in this room is of much more benefit and says that we should see the benefits to the society beyond just the library.

The Librarian-Elect says that then none of this should affect the Library Committee's budget.

The Bursar says that she really thinks it should stay.

The President-Elect acknowledges passions are high.

The Senior-Treasurer argues that this is food that the Union serves, not what people are bringing in individually.

Mr Ahluwalia adds that all the other rooms are also extremely traditional, old and valuable etc. so wherever we host anything we have this problem as well.

The Librarian-Elect doesn't think this is a settled matter.

Mr Thomas says that in setting up for dinners, no matter which room we pick we will always inconvenience people working there.

Mr Bhalla agrees that the benefits outweigh the disadvantages.

The President-Elect would like to get a straw poll of TSC's views.

STRAW POLL: That TSC believes that the Old Library should continue to host dinners.

Votes in favour: 11

Votes against: 2

The President-Elect says that in the interests of time he thinks that is a rather convincing outcome.

The Bursar says that she has long had an agreement with the **Librarian-in-Charge**.

The Librarian argues that the Library committee were furious on the matter.

Questions to the Librarian

The Treasurer asks whether there can be a ball account from last term.

The Librarian says that he has given it to **the Bursar**.

The Bursar says that it is up to him to bring it to TSC.

The Librarian acknowledges this and apologises sincerely for neglecting his duties.

The Treasurer

Meetings missed: 0 Missed without good reason: 0

Business of the Treasurer

No business.

Questions to the Librarian

No Questions.

The Secretary

Meetings missed: 0 Missed without good reason: 0

Business of the Secretary

The Secretary reminds TSC that tickets for the ball go on sale tomorrow so it needs as much publicity as possible.

Mr Ahluwalia asks whether there is online ticketing.

The Bursar says not for another week at least.

Questions to the Secretary

No questions.

Ms Ernst

Meetings missed: 0 Missed without good reason: 0

Business of Ms Ernst

No business.

Questions to Ms Ernst

No questions.

Mr Ahluwalia

Meetings missed: 0 Missed without good reason: 0

Business of Mr Ahluwalia

No business.

Questions to Mr Ahluwalia

No questions.

Mr Bhalla

Meetings missed: 0 Missed without good reason: 0

Business of Mr Bhalla

Mr Bhalla would like to present his budget for his social to TSC.

The President-Elect says that it has already passed through Finance Committee and been 'Bursafied'.

MOTION: That the budget for Mr Bhalla's Standing Committee Social, Cocktails & Jazz be passed through Standing Committee

Proposed: The Mr Bhalla

Seconded: The Secretary

Motion passed *nem. con.*

Questions to Mr Bhalla

No questions.

Mr Thomas

Meetings missed: 0 Missed without good reason: 0

Business of Mr Thomas

Mr Thomas says that the membership initiative has developed a lot of interest in Balliol and that it has been in this respect a great success. He says that he would like to extend his congratulations to **the Treasurer-Elect**.

Questions to Mr Thomas

No questions.

Mr Freeland

Meetings missed: 0 Missed without good reason: 0

Business of Mr Freeland

No business.

Questions to Mr Freeland

No questions.

President-Elect

Meetings missed: 0 Missed without good reason: 0

Business of the President-Elect

No business.

Questions to the President-Elect

No questions.

Librarian-Elect

Meetings missed: 0 Missed without good reason: 0

Business of the Librarian-Elect

The Librarian-Elect says that she has been asked to bring ICYD closing of the buildings to TSC. She says that on 29th January there will be an international competition for young under-11 debaters. She says that it is something we share with Cambridge. She says that the convener has asked to close the buildings. **The Librarian-Elect** says that she would like to keep the bar open but everywhere else will remain closed.

The President-Elect asks why the bar would be open.

The Librarian-Elect says that debaters get thirsty. She stresses however, that there will be no alcoholic drinks until 5pm.

The Bursar asks whether members can buy drinks.

The Librarian-Elect says that she is not sure. She says that the bar will be open at 6 as usual.

The President-Elect asks what time they all leave.

The Librarian-Elect responds that they will leave by 5pm. She says that the library will be shut.

The Librarian says that library committee said that when such matters are given on short notice, there are often over 100 members who will have fines on that day, so they have asked for a lot more notice.

The President-Elect asks whether the bar will be open throughout the day?

The Librarian-Elect asks whether young children can still buy things.

The Bursar says that yes, as long as there is no alcohol. She also says that this is an area where she supports the library and asks whether there will be any security on the day?

The Librarian-Elect responds that yes, there will be.

The Senior Treasurer asks what we get out of it as a society?

The Librarian-Elect says that we get a large sum of money and that we do get a profit.

The President-Elect asks that Librarian-Elect to talk to CDSC to tell them that we need more notice and that this is not normally acceptable and also that they communicate with the TSC about the ICYD.

The Librarian-Elect says that the women's open will be on the 11th and 12th of February. She says that they would also like the buildings to be closed.

The Bursar says that by shutting the bar like this we are deterring many customers and that we do need to look at this from the ordinary members point of view.

The Senior-Treasurer asks whether we need to close the bar?

The President-Elect says that the CDSC needs to be here to inform TSC at the next meeting what is going on as there is a lot of ambiguity.

MOTION: That the buildings of the society will close for the ICYD but that the bar will remain open to sell soft drinks and after 5pm shall open properly to sell alcohol.

Proposed: The President-Elect

Seconded: The Librarian-Elect

Motion passed *nem. con.*

Questions to the Librarian-Elect

No questions.

Treasurer-Elect

Meetings missed: 0 Missed without good reason: 0

Business of the Treasurer-Elect

The Treasurer-Elect says that Mr Thomas was speaking of schemes to increase membership.

The Bursar shows figures showing that 4 new members came last week from 3 colleges targeted in the membership drive and only 7 from all the rest of the colleges so it shows that so far this is working.

The Treasurer-Elect asks whether there should be a rule change to make the **Treasurer-Elect** each term focus on membership drive on all the terms, not just in Michaelmas. He argues that many people feel they have missed the boat if they have not joined in Michaelmas and that we need to push the membership.

MOTION: TSC congratulates the Treasurer-Elect for a good start to the membership drive initiative

Proposed: The President-Elect

Seconded: Mr Thomas

Motion passed *nem. con.*

The Treasurer-Elect says that he would also like to meet with **the President-Elect** to discuss some other initiatives for next term.

Questions to the Treasurer-Elect

The Librarian-Elect says that she would like to discuss with **the Treasurer-Elect** about a rules change.

Senior Treasurer

Business of the Senior Treasurer

No business.

Questions to the Senior Treasurer

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

No business.

Questions to The Bursar

The Treasurer asks how the website is going and whether we are launching soon?

The Bursar says that it should be any day now.

RO

Business of the RO

No business.

Questions to the RO

No questions.

CCC

Business of the CCC

No business.

Questions to the CCC

Mr Ahluwalia asks what the role of Elected Members of Standing Committee is at speaker events.

The CCC says that they should be present representing the society, even if they have not been designated to work. He also says that if there is an event where not many people have turned up to work, he may need help so Staning Committee would be really useful if they turned up.

Access Officer for Women

Business of the AOW

AOW says that she wants to get an initiative around JCRs to make more people aware of the roles of different positions and get more women involved.

The Secretary asks if she has receive which she sent her of what each role does.

AOW says that she has indeed.

The President-Elect asks this to go through **the President** and **the RO**.

AOW says that she has already spoken to **the President**.

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

No other business.

Date of the Next Meeting

Monday 31st January, The Gladstone Room, 17.00.

Committee closes at 17.06

Signed:



Isabelle Westbury

Hertford College

Secretary