

Minutes of

THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF STANDING COMMITTEE

7th Week, Hilary Term 2011

Wednesday 2nd March 2011

Present: **The President** (James Langman, *University 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 Treasurer-Elect** (Cyrus Nasser, *Exeter College*), **The Bursar**, **The CCC** (Mr Goldberg, *St Benet's*), **The Access Officer for Women** (Carla Thomas, *St Anne's College*), **The Access Officer** (Miles Coates, *Worcester*), **The Ex-President** (Ms Laura Winwood, *Hertford College*), **The Ex-Treasurer** (Ms Poppy Simister, *Christ Church*)

Attending: **The Director of Strategies** (Mr Andrew Mason, *University College*), **Emma Kinnaird** (Member of the Student Press, Oxford Student)

Apologies: **The Senior Treasurer**

Absent: **The Senior Librarian, The President-Elect, The Librarian, The Treasurer**

Committee opens at: 10:26

Ratification of minutes

The President says that the business is a motion of censure against Librarian.

The Ex-President says that she was actually unaware of the situation until Monday. She says that having been a president herself, she was shocked that he kept a speaker such as Tony Benn waiting for 25 minutes. She says that Bursar had to keep him waiting in the bar. She asks whether there was a response in the last Standing Committee meeting when questioned.

The Secretary says that he did not.

The Ex-President says that she thinks this is unacceptable and says that she has also heard that he has also walked out of a speaker meeting.

Mr Bhalla says that when the Librarian hosted Ted Baker, he stepped out in the middle of hosting him and went to the loo, leaving Rajiv, a member of Secretary's Committee to host him.

The President asks the Treasurer-Elect elect on his views.

The Treasurer-Elect says that it is not just a one off thing. He says that the society does not want to put personal politics into play, but this has been an ongoing thing.

The President asks that all members signing the requisition why they think this the best way of doing it as opposed to under the rules.

The Ex-President says that they do think that this is the best thing. She says that the meeting was closed on Monday before they could follow through with motion.

The President asks again whether they think that this is the best way of bringing this case forward under the rules.

The Ex-President and **Treasurer-Elect** respond that it is.

The President says that he knows that some of the claims against him are true but not sure about all of them.

The Ex-Treasurer recommends that we go through the list for each item.

The President proceeds to go through each reason individually. He agrees with the first but asks what happened in the 2nd point.

The Ex-President commented that it was odd that his explanations were contradictory and seemed to change depending on who he was speaking to.

The President asks which speakers were left waiting or unattended.

Mr Bhalla says that Mr Hamish Bowles was one that was left as well as Tony Benn.

The Returning Officer enters the room at 10:32

The President asks the RO if Sir Jackie Stewart was on the original manifesto that the Librarian submitted.

The RO asks if she can run down to the office to get the file.

The President moves to complaints from library committee.

The Returning Officer leaves the room at 10:34

The Ex-President says that it is all in the Library Committee minutes.

The President asks Mr Thomas his thoughts.

Mr Thomas says that it seems to be a persistent problem on behalf of Mr Thomas.

The President says that he has asked the other two signees in the room whether this is the best process of bringing the case forward.

Mr Ahluwalia asks to clarify who the signatories are.

The President says that they were the Ex-President, Mr Thomas, The Ex-Treasurer, Mr Bhalla and Mr Freeland.

The President says that rule 71 a) i) 12 is the rule to bring a motion of censure and asks whether this is the best way to bring such a motion.

The President asks that those on committee who have turned up meaning to vote, whether they have any more questions.

Ms Ernst asks what the consequences are.

The President says that it will be just put in the minutes and who knows who else in Oxford it will circulate around. He says that his hesitance to do it on Monday was that the committee would then mandate himself to bring a formalized complaint and therefore the reason for bringing it in the first place. He asks Mr Freeland for a point of view.

Mr Freeland responds that he thinks everything has been covered.

Mr Bhalla says that the only thing he wants to say is that the Librarian's behaviour put him in a difficult position with the speaker Ted Baker.

The Ex-Treasurer says she can understand making a mistake once or twice, but that it seems to be a general recurrence.

The Returning Officer re-enters the room.

The RO says that she would like to inform committee that the Librarian never mentioned Jackie Steart in his original manifesto.

The Ex-President says she is corrected.

The President asks who would like to propose the motion.

Mr Thomas says that he would like to propose.

The Ex-President says that she will second.

Mr Freeland and **Mr Thomas** ask for a secret ballot

The RO asked if he has any method of voting and whether he has any scraps of paper.

The President says that he has the balls.

The CCC asks Mr Thomas whether he approached the Librarian before hand.

The President responds that he may have been surprised on Monday, however there have been in minutes, they have been circulated and that it is on the board.

Mr Thomas says that it originally started with a simple question about the Librarian's failure to host Jackie Stewart but that during the meeting, more facts came to light.

The Ex-President says that she has talked to him privately to get his act together.

Mr Freeland says that although everything has been brought today, certain aspects have been flagged up throughout the term.

The Treasurer-Elect says surely a lot of what the Librarian has done are common sense. He says that his job is to host speakers.

The Ex-Treasurer agrees that what he has done is not a one off occurrence, but persistent.

Mr Ahluwalia asks what James' views are.

The President says that he is aware of several complaints. He says that he wishes that these had come to a head earlier. He says that he fears that things are politically motivated this week. He wonders what the realistic benefits of purely passing a motion are, when there is quite a formal set up under the rules that if we deem it be so serious, if under the rules it should be. He thinks that this is instead a half-way house.

The Ex-President says that surely we should discuss it first before bringing it to a formalised complaint, which is what we have decided to do here. She says that surely we this is the best route to take, whereby the issue is flagged first before formal proceedings. Taking a direct route to such severe proceedings is surely quite a sinister course.

The President says that he agrees with this and just disagrees with timing.

Mr Freeland says that the most recent Standing Committee is actually the first opportunity since the visit of Jackie Stewart to bring these things to the fore.

Mr Thomas says that the motion he would like to bring forward is that standing committee would like to condemn the Junior Librarian's actions.

The President says that TSC wishes to condemn the actions of the Junior Librarian

MOTION That this TSC condemns the actions of the Junior Librarian

Proposed: Mr Thomas

Seconded: The Ex-President

The President says that we should go around the room starting from the Ex-Treasurer first.

The President then asks Mr Thomas to cast his vote.

The President looks for Ms Ernst.

The President looks to the Treasurer-Elect.

The President looks to Mr Freeland.

The President looks to Mr Bhalla.

The President looks to the Ex-President to vote.

The President looks to Mr Ahluwalia

The President votes himself.

The President looks to the Secretary to vote.

Votes in favour: 7

Votes against: 3

No abstentions

Motion passed.

The President says that he would guess that under the rules that we should not discuss anything not put out other than requisition. He says however that as it concerns the disciplinary motion, he asks whether it is TSC's view to think of further disciplinary procedures.

The Ex-President thinks that there should be disciplinary procedures, and that it shouldn't be brought to something extremely severe straight away. She says that the Librarian has also chosen not to attend and that she thinks this speaks volumes.

The President says that he can see this point.

Committee closes at 10:47

Signed:



Isabelle Westbury

Hertford College

Secretary