

Draft Minutes of
THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF STANDING COMMITTEE
1st Week Trinity Term 2014
30th April 2014
President's Office, 4:00pm

Present: The President (Mr Ben Sullivan, Christ Church), The Librarian (Mr Kostas Chryssanthopoulos, St Peter's College), The Treasurer (Mr Charles Malton, Christ Church), The Secretary (Miss Lisa Wehden, Worcester College), The Elected Member (Miss NamPhuong Dinh, Corpus Christi College), The Elected Member (Mr Leo Garwood, St John's College), The Elected Member (Mr Sunny Jain, Queen's College), The Elected Member (Miss Anna Bazley, St Peter's College), The Elected Member (Mr Dominic Merchant, New College), The President-Elect (Mr Mayank Banerjee, St John's College), The Treasurer-Elect (Mr Roberto Weeden-Sanz, St Benet's Hall), The Ex-Treasurer (Mr Christopher Frost, Oriel College), The Ex-Secretary (Mr Alexander Trafford, Pembroke College), The Returning Officer (Mr Joshua Atkinson, St Benet's Hall), The Bursar (Mrs Lindsey Wame), The Senior Librarian (Mr Sean Power, Oriel College), The Senior Treasurer (Mr Stephen Dixon, Downing College, Cambridge).

Attending: 4

Max Long, Magdalen College, Editor of Cherwell
Adam Dayan, Magdalen College, Oxford Student News Editor
Zachary Spiro, Oriel College The Tab Deputy Editor
Ben Goldstein, Lincoln College
Daniel Bregman, Merton College

Apologies:

Absent: Mehrunissa Sajjad

The President opens the meeting at 4:35pm

Absences from Previous Meeting

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

None.

Ratification of Minutes

The President

Meetings missed: 0, Missed without good reason: 0

The President proposes to reverse the decision taken by the Standing Committee of Monday 1st Week to ratify the expenditure of Vacation Standing Committee.

The Librarian states that this is not allowed and that he does not want that to happen.

The President says that under rule 45(h) the goal of an SAM is to reverse the decision of a committee. The Standing Committee is well within its rights to reverse the decision of its own accord.

The President says that he personally feels, given the opposition from the members, that the decision should be reversed.

The President says he has taken into account the considerations of the members.

The Senior Treasurer says the original decision taken by Standing Committee was perfectly legitimate.

The Senior Treasurer says it was right for the Union to take legal advice on matters that concern the Union rather than just President because this is not simply a personal issue.

The article stated that the then President-Elect somehow tried to block the rules change, implying he was opposed to the new harassment policy. The President-Elect had only stated that the issue wasn't on the agenda. He stated this because it was a policy that any ex-officio could have wanted to come back for and could have wanted to come and speak about. The only way to do this was if it was on the agenda. The President-Elect at the time had known that a former-Librarian had mentioned that he wished to discuss the new policy but because it was not on the agenda he could not come back to the meeting.

The Senior Treasurer highlights that the article was taken down and it was clearly a political motivated article to attack the President.

The President states that the legal issue was not to cover-up his membership of a society. The President notes that incidentally the evidence for the article discussing his membership of the 'Banter Squadron' was from a joke yearbook page that was never published. The Tab newspaper had claimed this page was published to prove the President was in some sort of 'secret society'.

The Senior Treasurer states that the President has been attacked wrongly and that the move taken by Standing Committee originally is entirely legitimate and would get the support of the vast amount of the members if the truth was known. The Senior Treasurer would ideally like the decision on Monday to proceed as a point of principle. He also points out that the decision was taken 'in camera' and quite clearly someone has leaked in camera business to the press. The Senior Treasurer notes that someone in the room has broken camera and he has an idea of who it is, however the person is probably too embarrassed to admit it.

The President also notes that it is difficult for him to defend himself as what was discussed was in camera and he does not want to break the rules of the Society.

The Librarian states that he was copied into the email that was sent to the lawyers and that it was a personal lawsuit in regards to the President's involvement in the Banter Squadron. The Librarian states that the SAM is perfectly legitimate and can be brought by any member.

The President could not agree with the Librarian more than the SAM was perfectly legitimate and says he has listened to the concerns of the members and proposes to reverse the decision voluntarily.

The Librarian says he refuses to allow that to happen.

The Librarian whispers to Zachary Spiro (The Tab) however refuses to repeat what was said for the minutes.

The Librarian says that one is unable to reverse decisions under rule 45 (h).

The President states that this is allowed. The President states the original decision to ratify was a mistake and that he is responding to the concerns of members.

The President proposes a motion to reverse the ratification of the expenditure of Vacation Standing Committee:

Votes for: 11

Votes against: 3 (The Librarian; The Elected Member, Miss Anna Bazley, St Peter's College; The Elected Member, Sunny Jain, Queen's College)

The President states there are other methods of discussing such decisions in the House in the form of questions to officers and states that he welcomes an open discussion in the House.

The Librarian states that this is not allowed and the decision taken by Standing Committee is illegitimate.

The President states that it is legitimate and that there are means which the Librarian can take to question this at a higher level.

The Senior Treasurer states that this personal animosity should not cause the Union nor the debate on Thursday any harm.

The President says that the Librarian's claims that this will stifle discussion are just not true as there are questions to Officers at the beginning of each debate which will allow free discussion.

The Elected-Member Anna Bazley asks whether the President will now pay the legal fees.

The President states he will pay for the legal fees himself.

The Librarian

Meetings missed: 0, Missed without good reason: 0

Business of the Librarian in her absence

No business.

Questions to the Librarian in her absence

No questions.

The Treasurer

Meetings missed: 0, Missed without good reason: 0

Business of the Treasurer

No business.

Questions to the Treasurer

No questions.

The Secretary

Meetings missed: 0, Missed without good reason: 0

Business of the Secretary

No business.

Questions to the Secretary

No questions.

Miss NamPhuong Dinh

Meetings missed: 0, Missed without good reason: 0

Business of Miss NamPhuong Dinh

No business.

Questions to Miss Nampung Dinh

No questions.

Mr Leo Garwood

Meetings missed: 1, Missed without good reason: 1

Business of Mr Leo Garwood

No business.

Questions to Mr Leo Garwood

No questions

Mr Sunny Jain

Meetings missed: 0, Missed without good reason: 0

Business of Mr Sunny Jain

No business

Questions to Mr Sunny Jain

No questions

Miss Anna Bazley

Meetings missed: 0, Missed without good reason: 0

Business of Miss Anna Bazley

No business

Questions to Miss Anna Bazley

No questions

Mr Dominic Merchant

Meetings missed: 0, Missed without good reason: 0

Business of Mr Dominic Merchant

No business,

Questions to Mr Dominic Merchant

No questions.

The President-Elect

Meetings missed: 0, Missed without good reason: 0

Business of the President-Elect

No business.

Questions to the President-Elect

No questions.

The Librarian-Elect

Meetings missed: 1, Missed without good reason: 0

Business of the Librarian-Elect

No business.

Questions to the Librarian-Elect

No questions.

The Treasurer-Elect

Meetings missed: 0, Missed without good reason: 0

Business of the Treasurer-Elect

No business.

Questions to the Treasurer-Elect

No questions.

Ex-officio

Business of the ex-officio

Questions to the ex-officio

No questions.

Senior Librarian

Business of the Senior Librarian

No business.

Questions to the Senior Librarian

No questions.

Senior Treasurer

Business of the Senior Treasurer

No business

Questions to the Senior Treasurer

No questions.

Bursar

Business of the Bursar

Questions to the Bursar

No questions.

The Returning Officer

Business of the RO

Questions to the RO

No questions.

Chairman of the Consultative Committee

Business of the CCC

No business.

Questions to the CCC

No questions.

Chairman of the Debates Selection Committee

Business of the CDSC

Questions to the CDSC

No questions.

Changes to the Composition of this Committee

None.

Any Other Business

Date of the Next Meeting

Monday 2nd Week Hilary Term 2014, 4:00pm in the President's Office

The President closes the meeting at 4:54pm.

Signed,

Lisa Wehden
Worcester College
Secretary