

- **Language** of the draft is unhelpful – too broad – ‘patronising’ and ‘belittling remarks’, for example.
- Issue of **subjectivity** – what is unacceptable to one person might be totally acceptable to another.
- **Too legalistic** a response to the Women’s Officers’ concerns, for example.
- If this were to go ahead it would be voted in by the **Voting Members** only – issue with this is that the whole committee should have a say, perhaps, as it affects them all, and those voting would probably only be in power for a term. To combat this, Appointees should ensure to communicate their concerns to the Elected Officers.
- Possible solution is to separate issues like ‘belittling remarks’ off from issues such as ‘sexual harassment’ – the former could be put into a simple **Code of Conduct** for SC, making the entire process proposed by the policy unnecessary.
- A **new policy of some sort** is certainly needed – currently the President/Officers can do little but refer matters to the police, and this isn’t appropriate in all situations. However, in the current draft, the smaller issues are exacerbated and the bigger issues involve giving the President/Officers too much power.
- **In conclusion:** a Code of Conduct is a very good idea. If this is breached, there would need to be some form of response, but at least a formal warning wouldn’t be necessary for a small issue. The current constitution needs to be reviewed, too, so that the President no longer has to deal with written complaints of sexual harassment, for example, that should really be referred to the police immediately.

Meeting closed at 09.08am

- **Bicentenary Ball** very successful – positive reviews in the student press. An expected profit of over £1000 has also been made (the standby money for the night itself left over, and many paid a name change fee).

7) **Debating Officers' Report**

- Ashish and Michael won the **Manchester IV** at the weekend.
- **Cambridge Schools final** on Saturday – if any of SC would like to get more involved with the debating side of the Union, they can help with judging.
- **Debating-related notices** should be put into all weekly emails.

8) **Heads of Events Management's Report**

- **Stewarding** currently okay – enough people have signed up.

9) **Bursar's Report**

- **Skip** is to be removed imminently.
- **Barriers** will be lifted when the grass is less vulnerable to damage.

10) **Equity Policy proposal**

- AG has drafted an **Equity Policy** in response to comments from the former Women's Officers, in particular. Open to alterations but basically sets out unacceptable behaviour among committee members. Current policy only allows for action regarding physical or verbal abuse, but complaints have been made even this term of a different nature, hence the proposed replacement policy.
- Need to be careful as even the President cannot deal with **legal issues** that need to be referred to the police instead.
- Another potential issue is that the new policy would give a huge amount of **power and responsibility** to the President that isn't necessarily in his or her job description – could be too big a step too quickly. Big decision even for 2 or 3 young students, who aren't experienced like the police, to make, so even using additional officers doesn't solve the problem.
- **Review Committee** need to approve this – would mean involving them to a large extent in the day-to-day running of the society – problematic if their power to respond to serious issues is compromised by having to deal with smaller issues.
- NW has spoken to **Review Committee** – sympathetic to the idea but have serious reservations about the new policy as it is currently drafted.
- New policy **too broad** – very small things being formalised – could exacerbate them.
- If **Officers** have the power to make these decision, it's 1) necessarily political – working relationship damaged; 2) everybody makes mistakes, and formal warnings for small mistakes could be very counterproductive.
- People would feel less ready to come to the President with concerns if this would lead to political issues, lots of paperwork and so on – **complaints** would either not happen when they should or be blown out of proportion.
- **Diversity issues** – what if three white males are President, President-Elect and Vice-President in a given term?

- **Grammar Schools Debate** – turnout wasn't too bad and feedback has been positive. **Cross-Party Drinks** went well afterwards, too – many stayed behind for this.
- **Bicentenary Ball** highly successful – great reviews from the student press expected.

WEEK AHEAD

- **Dwain Chambers** tonight (Tuesday) at 6.00pm – big publicity push important – hoping for big turnout.
- **The Hub sleep-out** taking place overnight (Tuesday) – takes place outside the building.
- **Sir Quentin Blake** tomorrow (Wednesday) – fantastic turnout expected.
- **Debating Workshop, Yoga, Speakers' Committee** and **Law Society mooting** will also be taking place that night.
- **Sex Industry Debate** – should attract good turnout. Looking for 1 more proposition speaker. 4 Deloitte workers are planning to attend. **Blues Night with RAG** afterwards, although the Cambridge Impronauts are now performing rather than a blues band.
- **Dr. Jung Chang** on Friday – again, big publicity push needed.
- **Cambridge Schools final** on Saturday – all-day event. AV, stewarding and so on are all sorted externally. The event will be discussed in more detail at ExComm.

2) Vice-President's Report

- **Elections** on 6th March - all those intending to run need to fill in the nomination form and complete their manifestoes.
- Those planning to apply to be **Vice-President** or a **Debating Officer** should keep the 7th and 8th March free as interviews will take place then.

3) Executive Officer's Report

- **Library out of action** currently – presentations need to be made in the Chamber instead. The Mendeley Workshop will still take place in the Library, as they have a HDMI-enabled laptop.
- **Green files** in the office are being disposed of – important documents must be scanned in and archived.

4) Speakers' Officer's Report

- Thanks extended to **Online Publicity team** – fantastic job with John Cooper Clarke turnout.

5) Treasurer's Report

- **Mendeley Workshop** this afternoon (Tuesday) from 3.00pm (or a bit earlier if helping to set up) – all of SC expected to be there unless a valid reason for absence has been given. A register will be taken.
- **NB: Room booking calendar** issue raised – who should have access to this? There is currently no way of preventing a dual booking. Confusion could arise, especially regarding CUSEL events, if all of the Elect team are given access, and yet the other side of the coin is giving the President, or somebody else, a lot of work to do in filling in the entire calendar.

6) Social Events Officer's Report



Deloitte.

**Cambridge Union Society Standing Committee Minutes
Dining Room, Cambridge Union Society
08.15am, 24th February 2015**

In the Chair

Amy Gregg: PRESIDENT (AGi)

Present

Nick Wright: VICE-PRESIDENT (NW)

Oliver Mosley: EXECUTIVE OFFICER (OM)

James Hutt: SPEAKERS' OFFICER (JH)

Róisín Hannon: TREASURER (RH*i*)

Sachin Parathalingam: SOCIAL EVENTS OFFICER (SP)

Thomas Simpson: DEBATING OFFICER (TS*i*)

Christof Epaminondas: PRESIDENT-ELECT (CE)

William Fitzalan Howard: EXECUTIVE OFFICER-ELECT (WFH)

Katherine Reggler: SPEAKERS' OFFICER-ELECT (KR)

Jack Lewy: TREASURER-ELECT (JL*i*)

Helen Lam: SOCIAL EVENTS OFFICER-ELECT (HL)

In Attendance

Bill Bailey: BURSAR (BB)

Sarah McCullagh: SECRETARY (*taking minutes*) (SM)

Fred Vincent: HEAD OF EVENTS MANAGEMENT (FV)

Till Schoefer: HEAD OF EVENTS MANAGEMENT (TS*ii*)

Chloe Coleman: SGL - SPEAKERS (CC)

Asia Lambert: SGL - SPEAKERS (AL)

Daniel Huf: HEAD OF AUDIO-VISUAL (DH)

Rosie Cross: HEAD OF ONLINE PUBLICITY (RC)

Joe Landman: HEAD OF CAMPUS PUBLICITY (JL*ii*)

Discussions

1) President's Report

- Congratulations to SP and his Ball committee for the very successful **Bicentenary Ball**.
- **Minutes** from last meeting approved.

WEEK BEHIND

- **Stephen Sondheim** – our first live-streamed event – a few technical hitches but quickly sorted out. Very poor turnout, but those who came enjoyed the event.
- **John Cooper Clarke** – remarkably well attended, and attendees really enjoyed it