OPEN UNIVERSITY LAW SOCIETY

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Society Committee

Friday 12th December 2025 at 18:00 (Via Zoom)

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Patricia Thomson	Chair
Mark Lindley-Highfield of Ballumbie Castle	Treasurer
Jack Tomlinson	Careers Coordinator
Cordelia Wright	Secretary

Apologies:

Samuel Reese	Master of Moots

Not Present:

Sabastian Weir	Vice-Chair

Agenda:

Welcomes.

Thank you gifts.

Resignation of Editor

Consideration of the removal of the Vice-Chair from his post.

Sponsorship update

Advocacy Competition Prizes

Welcome:

Patricia Thomson welcomed everyone to the committee meeting.

Thank you, gifts, for guest speakers:

It was approved by the committee to organise thank you gifts for guest speakers and judges of moots. The amount approved was for 8 people at £30 each.

> **Action:** Patricia to coordinate the ordering of the gifts with Mark.

Resignation of Editor (Naomi Wood)

Naomi Wood resigned from the committee and role as Editor due to the vice chairs conduct that resulted in his suspension and removal from the committee. The committee expressed their disappointment that conduct led to this however understood given the circumstances and wish Naomi well.

Consideration of the removal of the Vice-Chair:

Patricia briefed the committee of the situation with the Vice Chair. The Vice-chair was invited to attend via email with the reasons for the consideration he declined to attend and instead resigned.

The following was alleged:

- Conduct against the society's aim.
- Intention against the society's aims

Namely:

- Concerns raised about his intentions on the committee being for personal promotion.
- Risk of reputational harm.
- Breaching position / overstepping boundaries.
- Lack of understanding
- Failing to properly carry out committee duties
- Inappropriate contact
- Inappropriate conduct
- Confrontational tone & further risk of reputational harm
- Lack of integrity

The committee had the opportunity to request evidence via email prior to the meeting.

It was unanimously agreed that if the vice-chair had not resigned then the vote would have been in Favor for removal.

Sponsorship Update

Patricia updated the committee on the Sponsorship agreement between the OULS and BPP £600 up front payment with the potential to receive a further £900 for achieving milestones, £1000 sponsorship from the university of law and £225 sponsorship from

Brick Courts Chambers. All the agreements were approved by the committee via email prior to the committee meeting.

Advocacy Competition Prizes

It was unanimously approved for the winners of the Autumn and Winter Advocacy competitions to get the following prizes. £100 to the winner of each and £50 to each runner up. This is in line with previous prizes.

Items not covered by the agenda:

Acting Vice-Chair:

Both Jack and Samuel volunteered to be temporary Vice-Chair. Due to Samuel not in attendance at the meeting, it was agreed to take the vote to email to allow Samuel to participate.

> **Action:** Organise committee vote on acting Vice-Chair. (**Patricia**)

Vice-Chair Election:

It was unanimously agreed to hold the election for a new vice-chair after the Christmas period. After the Interim vice-chair has been selected and the minutes have become available.

> **Action:** Organise vote for new Vice-Chair (**Patricia**)

Careers event update:

Jack Provided an update on upcoming careers events; He informed the committee that he has contacted all the Inns of court and is waiting for updates from them to arrange tours. The Gray's inn has so far been the only one to respond other than the Inner Temple that has already happened. He is in the process of agreeing a date. The Committee unanimously approved his travel expenses to be reimbursed.

> **Action:** To finalise tour date and follow up with the 2 remaining inns. (**Jack**)

Actions since the meeting:

A vote was held between Jack and Samuel for the role of acting vice-chair. This vote was won by Samuel, so he was made acting vice-chair. There was a delay in the making of the minutes due to the unavailability of the secretary to the committee.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held when needed.