

Summary of Amendments to the Constitution

Trinity Term 2025

On 8 May 2025 (1:30-2:30 PM, C2 Mathematical Institute), MURC convened a quorate meeting to conduct a comprehensive constitutional review. Following discussion and revision of several proposed amendments, all changes were unanimously approved.

Alongside substantive updates to roles and responsibilities, terminology, and governance (detailed below), the Constitution has also undergone general restructuring to align more closely with common constitutional formatting. This includes reorganising sections for logical flow, standardising headings, and clarifying wording to ensure consistency and accessibility throughout the document.

Present: Grace Yu (President) (Chair), Yizhi Li (Secretary), Alessandro Danovaro (Questionnaire Representative & First Year Representative), Ashley Leung (IT Officer), Ben Gould (Fourth Year Representative), Tommy Zou (Second Year Representative & Maths and Philosophy Representative)

I. Aims and Terminology

- a. **Rewritten Aims:** The previous aim to ‘support, develop and improve undergraduate mathematicians’ has been revised to avoid problematic language (‘improvement of people’). The aims now focus on supporting, representing, and advocating for the undergraduate mathematics student body.
- b. **Terminology Changes:**
 - i. ‘MURC committee’ is now simply ‘MURC’, as the ‘C’ already stands for committee.
 - ii. ‘MURC members’ refers specifically to committee members, not the wider student body.
 - iii. References to ‘female undergraduates’ were revised to a more inclusive formulation of underrepresented groups, including women, gender minorities, ethnic minorities, queer and disabled students.
 - iv. Most ‘representatives’ have been renamed as ‘officers’, with some exceptions (e.g., year group and joint schools positions).

II. Structural and Role-Based Changes

- a. **Secretary Rebranded as Vice President**
 - i. Duties of the Secretary and Treasurer have been consolidated into a Vice President role, reflecting the actual workload and importance of each.
- b. **Questionnaire Officer Elevated to Executive**
 - i. Recognised for central responsibilities and intense workload, this role is now part of the Executive Committee.
- c. **Year Group Representatives:** Now explicitly responsible for maintaining year group chats and gathering feedback.
- d. **Diversity and Inclusion Officer:** Role description updated to promote inclusivity and reflect a broader scope of advocacy for underrepresented groups.
- e. **Observers:** Invariants and Mirzakhani societies may appoint one observer each to attend MURC and JCCU meetings; these individuals are not official MURC members for the purposes of elections, constitutional changes, or quorum and do not have voting rights.

III. Governance, Conduct, and Confidentiality

- a. **Conduct Clause:** Now includes explicit reference to the University of Oxford's Code of Discipline (Statute XI), with provisions for managing discriminatory or disruptive conduct.
- b. **Confidentiality Clause:** All members are now expected to handle sensitive documents and internal communications with discretion.
- c. **Voting and Amendments:** Clarification of $\frac{2}{3}$ majority for constitutional amendments and significant decisions at quorate meetings.

IV. Elections and Appointments

- a. **Presidential Endorsement:** Candidates for President must now be endorsed by a member of the outgoing Executive Committee.
- b. **Vacancy Handling:** If RON (Re-Open Nominations) is selected or no candidate stands, the Committee may choose to appoint a new member by a simple majority vote or leave the position vacant, rather than automatically re-running the election.

V. Meeting Procedures

- a. **Chairing Order Updated:** The line of succession for chairing meetings has been clarified. In the President's absence, the Vice President will chair; if neither is available, the Questionnaire Officer may do so.
- b. **Quorum Definition:** Clarified for standard and Executive Committee removal meetings. Executive Committee removal discussions may proceed without any Executive members if six or more members are present.
- c. **Minutes and Agendas:** The Vice President is responsible for timely distribution of MURC and JCCU meeting documentation.

[YGY, 08.05.2025]