



the DURHAM UNION

MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

Minutes – Friday 5th October 2018

Present: -

- Chris Clarke**, *President* (CC)
- Sarina Rivlin-Sanders**, *Treasurer* (SRS)
- Jack Perry**, *Secretary* (JP)
- Dan Egglestone**, *Custodian* (DE)
- Martha Muir**, *Director of Debating* (MM)
- Sarah Kuszynski**, *Social Secretary* (SK)
- Alice Lassman**, *Acting Sponsorship Secretary* (AL)
- Rahul Prakash**, *President-Elect* (RP)

Meeting began in the Debating Chamber, Palace Green at 12:30 p.m.

CC in the chair, and JP minuting.

The President opened the meeting.

CC noted he will outline the events of this week, stating his expectation is for 200 members this week which is lower than previous years but higher than during the same period in Mr Cohen's term. He noted the lack of physical Freshers' brochure, pointing out how it was sent out via colleges not via a central University email, a situation which will need to be rectified next year. He noted there was some confusion with the way it was sent out, and the email itself led to many questions about our affiliation or lack thereof with the DSU.

CC noted the membership numbers of 35 before the start of Freshers' week, more than the 7 who signed up during the same period last year. He stated his confidence in reaching the 200-member mark by the end of the weekend. He outlined the issues with the Term Card delivery, with the courier missing three deadlines. He further outlined the solution of printing last-minute Term Cards for Wednesday. He also noted the temporary brochures used at the Freshers' Fair.

MM asked about how long it takes for people to join the Facebook page.

CC noted its presence in the Term Card and how he will also mention it before the debate.

MM asked if the Debate Launch will be advertised.

CC confirmed this.

SRS asked about livestreaming Monday's debate.

CC replied he is keen to modernise but he is concerned people will not come to the chamber.

DE noted the possibility of streaming it downstairs to those who don't get in.

Standing noted that the Gospel Choir will be practising on Monday downstairs.

RP asked about the Facebook event for Dr Hudson's address.

JP noted he is on top of it and will do it himself in the absence of any action from the Publicity Officer.

CC stated the Term Card company has 'cancelled' the Term Cards in Germany, noting how this could mean they never made them in the first place. He stated the need to come up with an alternative, to have placed outside the chamber. He outlined an idea to have an A4 leaflet with much more information on it from 24s, debating, socials and more. He stated he is keen to have this done over the weekend.

CC stated he knows St John's College didn't receive the email as did possibly St Chad's. He stated he is keen to send Officers to these colleges in particular for a further membership drive. He also noted that he and **JP** will be continuing to push the Facebook campaign alongside other members of Standing if possible.

CC noted 72 signups for the Ball so far, which he is very pleased with. He noted the excellent design and early advertisement of the Ball as reasons for this. He noted his hopes to have 75-80 by the end of the week, and 150 by the end of next week.

SK outlined the Freshers' Social, noting how alcohol has been sorted and she is working on getting a deal from Pizza Base for pizzas. She noted leftover drinks from last term has cut down costs for the drinks order.

CC noted the new option of beer.

RP asked what type of beer will be available.

CC replied San Miguel.

SK and **CC** discussed numbers of pizzas. It was resolved to order 20.

CC stated his desire to push this event on Facebook as much as possible. He noted the need to speak to General Committee about behaviour at the social, with some members in particular being a concern.

CC noted new disciplinary rules based on a three-strike system.

SK outlined how we are a member down on Social Committee and it was discussed who to co-opt, with various members considered. She resolved to decide later this week.

CC noted staff and drinks have been sorted at 24s.

DE stated Carlsberg were considering dropping out of the current agreement with the University but noted it has been resolved and everything will be fully stocked for opening night.

CC noted the CCTV in 24s, stating the need to be extra-vigilant and keep an eye on what people are doing to prevent people from doing anything stupid and getting caught on the CCTV.

CC stated the need to update the posters on cocktails.

DE noted they are ready for the opening night.

CC noted he is trying to improve the décor of the bar.

SRS noted Mr Jackson's idea of refreshing the posters with each President producing two from their term to put up.

CC asked about Sundays at 24s.

DE noted he may postpone this week's Sunday event to next week as an event is not up yet. He noted Mr Cooper is putting together a quiz.

Various possible events including karaoke were discussed.

CC noted a few dropouts from the debate on Monday but how he is pleased to have a few younger faces from the student debaters. He stated that Ioannis Karellis will be arguing for full legislation rather than decriminalisation, noting his belief that it will be a highly entertaining debate.

CC noted the new Hotel Indigo and outlined potential delays to the food service. He outlined the reasons for changing away from the Marriott. He urged members to come to the dinner on Thursday with Dr Hudson.

RP asked about Friday's debate.

CC noted it will be 2vs2 and should run smoothly.

CC ran through his debates and noted how the term should shape up nicely. He stated there are plenty of addresses but that the December schedule from the 3rd onwards is empty. He noted the Second Chance debate and the Farewell Debate on the Fridays. He noted the gender split is around 1/3 female for addresses and how he is pleased with equalities outlook for his term, citing the LGBT+ panel and Saudi debate.

CC noted there are no individuals with huge expenses and how costs are relatively low.

SRS predicted expenditure of £11,200 for this term.

CC noted the many students and locals involved in events which has also kept costs low. He noted Iyad el-Baghdadi who is coming from Scandinavia which could be a potentially large expense.

MM updated the Committee on debating, noting a recent meeting of Debates Committee and the importance of the launch event. She outlined upcoming competitions, with the one this weekend already involving people. She noted Rosie Vorri (Debate Training Secretary) is preparing training and Maddy Copley (Debate Competitions Secretary) is doing great work on the Durham IV (Intervarsity).

CC asked if we are bidding for the Euros in 2020/21.

MM stated Alastair Sledge (Equalities Officer) wants to but isn't sure how far he has got.

SRS clarified it would be nothing to do with the Union.

CC noted it could be difficult to run something independent of the Union using our facilities. He expressed distaste at the idea.

SRS and **MM** noted that it may not involve the use of Union facilities.

CC raised the potential for stash, noting his desire to order in the next few weeks. He asked **SRS** and **AL** to work together on it, in particular focusing on Sponsorship. He noted the potential use of Moette for stash who service St Cuthbert's Society, University College and the military societies. He noted he wants jumpers in burgundy and navy blue or black. He stated he is not keen on beanies but that scarves could potentially sell well. He also noted the possibility of personalisation. He requested an update on this next Friday. He noted he didn't want to over-order stash.

SRS noted the system at St Chad's of individuals ordering stash themselves and then organising via the JCR/Stash Officer.

CC noted hoodies don't tend to sell as well.

RP noted bowties as an option.

CC suggested cummerbunds.

CC asked **MM** if debating wanted to be involved.

MM replied in the affirmative.

AL reported on sponsorship, noting how she did not have everything made available to her immediately. She stated how she broke down the sponsorship document into three sections to help target sponsors specifically. She noted sponsorship from MyTutor on the Liberal Media debate, as well as BCLP who are opting for a second-tier sponsorship and who have also offered a speaker for the LGBT+ panel.

CC noted the Teach First sponsor who are also offering a speaker and stated he would like to try and give it to the highest bidder.

AL stated she has almost signed off with BCLP.

CC noted he would push Teach First towards **RP**'s private schools debate instead in that case.

AL noted a social media deal with WPP, with a package worth around £250. She noted Lydia as a potential sponsor, who are keen for us to help sell their app. She stated, however, that she does not believe this will pay-off, especially in the short-run. She noted she has renegotiated with them and they are keen to sponsor the Ball instead. She noted she is also working on Simmons and Simmons, who are getting back to us at the end of October about sponsoring a Friday night debate.

RP noted he will send his proposed Term Card to **AL**.

AL noted the forum this afternoon.

CC noted the need to reform all Committees along the lines of Debates Committee, with clearly defined roles for every member. He noted each role would be appointed by the respective Officer in charge of the Committee.

RP asked if President's Committee will be reformed.

CC replied in the negative and outlined how he wants to focus on Sponsorship and Social Committees in particular.

MM outlined the makeup of Debates Committee.

CC noted he will discuss with **MM** how to move forward with Debates Committee.

AL outlined publicity and the occasional lack of fulfilment of sponsorship deals.

CC noted he doesn't want to create a Publicity Committee and outlined how he wants to reform rather than expand.

RP asked if this will Constitutionally codified.

CC noted he will consider it but replied that it is unlikely.

RP noted how it could be included in handover documents.

SK asked if she could have a dedicated Social Secretary email account.

SRS noted she will create this.

AL was praised for her hard work.

AL updated **MM** on debates sponsorship and stated it could be getting too late on the stash front but that she has emailed around 40 old sponsors so far and is working on it.

CC reminded members to check when they need to deliver reports, outlining the upcoming Standing and General Committee meetings as well as the upcoming elections.

CC noted the importance of creating the Dr Hudson address.

There being no further business, CC closed the meeting.

Secretary: ***J. Perry***

President: ***C. J. Clarke***