



the DURHAM UNION

MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE Minutes – Wednesday 6th March 2019

Present: - **Rahul Prakash**, *President* (RP)
Sarina Rivlin-Sanders, *Treasurer* (SRS)
Freddie Hyde, *Acting Secretary* (FH)
Ben Cooper, *Custodian* (BC)
Martha Muir, *Director of Debating* (MM)
Sarah Kuszynski, *Social Secretary* (SK)
Connor Forster, *Sponsorship Secretary* (CF)
Dan Egglestone, *President-Elect* (DE)

Meeting began in The Debating Chamber at 1:10p.m

Mr. Prakash in the Chair and Mr. Hyde minuting.

RP discussed the previous week's events. He noted the debate on private schools was one of the best events in the term in terms of attendance. He was also pleased with the address by Michael Gidney and looked forward to Sir Graham Brady's address, which a number of dinner tickets had been sold for.

The Standing Committee discussed the need for a constitutional amendment concerning the requirements of candidates running for Technologies Officer, when to bring such an amendment before the General Committee and when to enforce it.

BC said this should take effect with at the first General Committee meeting of Michaelmas 2019, when the position of Technologies Officer is re-elected.

The wording of the amendment was discussed. It was proposed the Technologies Officer be elected from amongst members of the society in statu pupillari and will not have to first be elected onto the General Committee.

The Standing Committee discussed the duties of the Technologies Officer. **SRS** said the Technologies Officer should manage the Society's website, Youtube account and any other online account in conjuncture with the Publicity Officer, as well as office hardware and technology at events. This was agreed upon. The criteria the Technologies Officer should meet was also discussed, including HTML and PHP coding, manipulation of and maintenance of an SQL database and having previous experience of website maintenance.

BC asked how prescriptive the constitution need be.

SRS agreed that certain technological requirements might become irrelevant and might potentially require regular constitutional changes to update the remit of Technologies Officer.

It was agreed candidates for the position must meet a minimum set of technological criteria published by the Standing Committee on an annual basis.

Updating the constitution on the website and in physical form was discussed. It was agreed to raise this with the Returning Officer at the next meeting of the General Committee.

SRS discussed the new email accounts. She said the new accounts came with the ability to share more easily and allow for collaboration. She asked members to create their own signatures and personalise emails.

SRS said the new website would come in at the end of July at the absolute latest. She said new content was needed, such as a guide on 'how to debate' and information about the Union Society. She asked the members to start making content over the Easter holidays.

SRS discussed stash, several potential designs and their accompanying prices. She showed the committee several designs for sweatshirts, T shirts, phone cases, hats, teddy bears and mugs. She said the company Banana Moon was being consulted and that, speculatively, items of jewellery including lapel pins were an option. She also discussed the potential for leather bound notebooks with old motions in and said a Google Form which members can use to order stash will go live in the next week. The Standing Committee approved this.

SRS said she has written a debate travel funding policy and a panel will be convened to discuss how much money will be allocated to debating.

SRS discussed the need for a Union mission statement, which she asked Standing Committee to draft and put before the trustees.

BC said he has eleven spaces left on door duty of North Bailey and that a General Committee social will be organised once these have been filled.

MM said the Durham Open is confirmed for 15th-16th June (although Event Durham has attempted to charge £500). The risk of this clashing with the garden party was noted.

SK said she hoped tonight's social would have good turnout.

CF talked about a comedy raffle and accompanying prizes to be held immediately before the Farewell Debate.

DE recalled a visit to Durham School. He said the Union events will be advertised to the Sixth Form students and the latter will be invited to attend. In return, Durham School's list of speakers will be shared.

FH said he has written to the Society for Army Historical Research to inquire into the possibility of sponsorship.

It was agreed to put the Technologies Officer amendment to the General Committee at the first meeting of Easter term.

There being no further business, **RP** closed the meeting.

Acting Secretary: **F. Hyde**

President: **R. Prakash**