



# *the* DURHAM UNION

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## MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

### Minutes – Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019

*Present:* - **Dan Egglestone**, *President* (DE)  
**Freddie Hyde**, *Secretary* (FH)  
**Ben Cooper**, *Custodian* (BC)  
**Martha Muir**, *Director of Debating* (MM)  
**Sarah Kuszynski**, *Social Secretary* (SK)  
**Alastair Sledge**, *President-Elect* (AS)

*Apologies:* - **Sarina Rivlin-Sanders**, *Treasurer* (SRS)  
**Connor Forster**, *Sponsorship Secretary* (CF)

*Meeting began in the Debating Chamber, Palace Green at 1:15 p.m.*

*Mr. Egglestone in the chair, and Mr. Hyde minuting.*

DE opened the meeting, explaining to BC how a Google Drive worked.

DE recapped the events of the past week and was pleased at the turnout at the Bernard Hill address. He told the Standing Committee that Mr Hill had enjoyed his time in Durham. DE noted the EU debate was a success, especially due to the last-minute replacements, although he regretted the forthcoming NATO debate will not enjoy the same high turnout. DE was also pleased with the address by Paul Charney and hoped the General Committee would accept the latter's Honorary Life Membership. DE noted that the address by Lord Bird will take place in cooperation with Student Community Action.

FH informed the committee he is looking to find a solution to the current failure of the email system arising from the transference to Gmail. He assured AS that positions on Consultative Committee where members have been negligent will be re-elected after exams.

DE informed the members that Rhodri Sheldrake Davies (RSD), a former Treasurer, will organise a handover meeting with the new Treasurer to discuss the current state of the website. He noted that SRS has been running the website through the Treasurer's email account and AS said a password reset will likely be necessary.

BC said the bar at 24 North Bailey Club has been quiet recently.

BC pointed out that membership of the Complaints Panel needed ratifying.

DE said that the Complaints Panel are currently carrying out investigations and this ought not to be disrupted.

**DE** assured the committee that **RSD** has confirmed any holes in the website can be filled through the Treasurer and Tech Officer email accounts.

**MM** said that the team cap for the Durham Open (of thirty-two) has nearly been reached. **DE** thanked **MM** for her hard work.

**SK** stressed the importance of publicising the social events, especially with regards the Summer Ball and Garden Party.

**AS** said preparations for his term were progressing perfectly fine.

The possibility of a round table discussion for constituent committee elections was mentioned. **BC** said that General Committee elections take so long that there would realistically be very little time for such a discussion, although he admitted the constitution needed transparency and discussion ought to take place after exams.

**DE** discussed the General Committee agenda. He explained the constitutional amendment he was proposing, and that **BC** would take the chair rather than the newly elected Treasurer. He expressed a hope the Treasurer election would be run fairly and smoothly, with officers behaving appropriately and not endorsing disruptive behaviour. **DE** noted other aspects of the General Committee agenda, including additional amendments and his report. **DE** said he intended to point out the existence of faction in General Committee but make the case for the Union being a forum for discussion rather than a 'war of attrition'.

The Standing Committee agreed to put a motion for ratification of the complaints panel and the conference of Honorary Life Membership on Paul Charney before the General Committee.

**BC** said as many General Committee members as possible should be encouraged to attend socials.

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

Secretary: ***F. W. Hyde***

President: ***D. J. Egglestone***