



# *the* DURHAM UNION

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## MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE Minutes – Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> 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 1:30 p.m.*

*CC in the chair, and JP minuting.*

CC opened the meeting, noting it will be relatively short.

CC noted issues this week, such as speakers dropping out. He noted the debate will still be four speakers and two students, however, and that it will be a good event. He stated all the debates are looking good but addresses are relatively thin, reliant on Alastair Carmichael and Lord Faulkner. He noted the possibility of having an academic come to speak, citing the Dean of Durham Law School, but noting that he is very busy due to his expertise on the EU.

SK suggested someone such as the Principal of St John's College in the sciences field.

CC agreed.

CC noted Alastair Carmichael has dropped out but noted he is discussing with Tim Farron's office about coming up.

CC and DE discussed DUCA speakers and James Cleverly MP who has cancelled. DE noted they are looking for a replacement. CC asked if DUCA could lend the Union a speaker.

CC suggested Guy Opperman.

DE noted that James Cowling has connections to him.

RP noted he is already coming in Epiphany Term for the Assisted Dying Debate.

CC noted membership is slightly below expectation because members of General Committee are not doing their jobs. He noted he has discussed with them in the past. He noted the highly attended events and wide social media outlook but encouraged a further push for membership.

CC noted the Durfess yesterday but stated it is not aimed at the Union and that he will comment to the press if needed. He noted DUCA can look after themselves.

SK noted the post made by the DUS page, stating it can be a sensitive topic.

AL noted the wording has gone through legal checks.

SK and AL resolved to meet afterwards and discuss it further.

MM discussed the first warning issue on debating rooms. She noted trainers and volunteers have to turn up beforehand to check the state of the room. She noted members will not be able to leave until rooms are tidy and stressed the importance of photographic evidence.

CC agreed and asked what exactly happened.

SRS noted Durham Student Film went into the room after the debaters and could have been the ones to make the mess.

CC stated there should be responsible people in the rooms to look after the situation.

SRS stated the room was tidy when she left.

AL noted BCLP are being problematic as they are unsure about the pricing scheme, stating she has a call with them later this week and intends to offer them a discount to try and keep them onboard.

CC noted the elections coming up today, stating they are likely to take time.

DE urged members to familiarise themselves with the rules.

CC noted concerns with the cost of travel, with speakers buying tickets on the day of their journey. He noted he will discuss this with SRS.

CC noted he is producing a document with advice for future Presidents.

DE noted the bar last night did very well.

CC asked if we are considering moving Friday's opening hours to Wednesday.

DE stated he does not have a big enough dataset to conclude whether this would be worthwhile.

CC noted we can compare Wednesday and Friday this week.

DE stated that Bar Committee is meeting next Wednesday, noting its members.

Standing discussed whether SRS should sit in. It was resolved that she will.

CC noted the earlier time next week of 12:30pm for the Standing Committee meeting.

RP outlined plans for a wheelchair ramp.

CC asked if we can get a grant from the University for this.

RP resolved to look into it.

CC noted the possibility of a ramp leading down into the bar at 24s as well. He also noted the possibility of 'This Bar is LGBTQ Friendly' signs.

DE discussed a possible secret word that individuals can say at the bar if they are feeling uncomfortable.

CC and DE resolved this would be advertised on the noticeboard on the way in and in both toilets.

DE noted that Debates Committee will be ratified on Friday.

**SK** urged members to share the 80s Social.

**DE** noted the DUCA James Cleverly MP event is being rearranged.

**CC** noted he does not want to go two weeks without an address and resolved to push for Tim Farron.

**CC** closed the meeting.

Secretary: ***J. Perry***

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