



# *the* DURHAM UNION

---

## MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE Minutes – Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January

*Present:* - **Rahul Prakash**, *President* (RP)  
**Jack Perry**, *Secretary* (JP)  
**Ben Cooper**, *Custodian* (BC)  
**Sarah Kuszynski**, *Social Secretary* (SK)  
**Connor Forster**, *Sponsorship Secretary* (CF)  
**Dan Egglestone**, *President-Elect* (DE)

*Apologies:* - **Sarina Rivlin-Sanders**, *Treasurer*  
**Martha Muir**, *Director of Debating*

*Meeting began in The Debating Chamber at 1:30p.m*

*RP in the Chair and JP minuting.*

**RP** opened the meeting, noting the Durfess situation has been resolved following his meeting with the Durfess team yesterday. He noted more serious allegations were made about individuals in some Durfesses and that they have submitted these to the University.

**RP** stated talking through issues and working in a collective fashion rather than making knee-jerk reactions is important.

**BC** clarified the procedure for dealing with posts about the election.

**CF** asked what would happen to the election if the issue arose again.

**RP** stated it would be up to Rules.

**RP** discussed handover documents, noting he has done a Secretary one and **JP** has updated it.

**JP** noted he has also created Assistant Secretary and Publicity Officer documents.

**DE** stated he has done an Assistant Custodian one.

**RP** stated they should ideally be done before the end of term.

**RP** noted the Trustees meeting on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February at 6:00p.m.

**RP** discussed the Complaints Panel. He noted he will replace the former member of Standing with the Office Manager, serving as a Representative of the Trustees.

**BC** argued it should be Miss Turnbull and a former elected Officer in statu pupullari.

**RP** suggested having an ordinary member on the panel.

**BC** objected to this, arguing Officers have more experience.

**JP** suggested a member of Rules could be involved.

**RP** suggested a former member of Rules.

It was resolved, following discussion, that the third position should be open to applicants from a current or former member of Rules Committee.

**RP** stated if a member resigns from the panel Standing could appoint a new member in accordance with the established criteria.

**BC** noted the Union Premises clause should be expanded to include members misbehaving at a Union event, but not anywhere in the University.

It was suggested to include a caveat that free speech principles must be upheld in accordance with the University's Free Speech Policy. The Committee agreed to include a Clause to this effect.

**RP** and **BC** further discussed where the complaints panel should be enforceable on Officers and General Committee.

**JP** suggested the phrase 'that could bring the society into disrepute' is sufficient.

The Committee agreed.

**RP** resolved to discuss the inclusion of the University Freedom of Expression Policy with the Trustees next week.

**BC** suggested allowing anonymity but noting this makes an investigation more difficult and less likely to succeed.

**RP** agreed and adjusted the Amendment accordingly.

**BC** stated immediately prior to reaching a conclusion the defendant should be consulted and offered the opportunity to defend themselves.

**RP** agreed and adjusted the Amendment accordingly. He stated the panel must reach a unanimous verdict to conclude an investigation.

**BC** asked if the two-week timeframe should be able to be cut short by the panel if they feel it is a waste of time.

It was discussed as to whether the Panel should have to go through Standing in order to move a Vote of No-Confidence. **RP** resolved to adjust the Amendment accordingly.

**BC** clarified that the panel would recommend action to the President and Standing who would then take the issue further.

**BC** asked if this panel could supersede the powers of the Joint Bar Committee-Standing Complaints Panel introduced last Term.

**RP** agreed, and also noted members will only be barred from 24s if the incident took place in 24s.

**RP** resolved to discuss this issue further with the Trustees.

**BC** raised the issue of friends of the defendant being on the panel.

**JP** suggested there should be a procedure for removal of members from the panel.

**BC** suggested a Termly appointment of the panel rather than annual.

It was debated as to whether Standing should have the power to stand down members of the panel.

It was agreed that ordinary members of the panel (not the Chair) can be removed by the standard procedure of a Vote of No Confidence as with any member of the General Committee.

**RP** adjusted the Amendment accordingly. He asked if Standing Committee would unanimously second the Amendment.

The Committee members present agreed to this.

**RP** noted the hustings on Monday at 6:30p.m, and the debate on Monday at 8:30p.m.

**BC** outlined the campus card collection procedure.

**DE** suggested placing them under the desk to prevent them being stolen.

**BC** noted there will be a General Committee social when the spreadsheet is complete.

**SK** stated we only make a profit on the last 10 tickets for the Gala dinner and encouraged members to purchase theirs.

**BC** and **SK** discussed logistics for the drinks' reception and entertainment at 24s.

**CF** stated he wants to introduce an element of fundraising for Sponsorship as they don't have much to do at the moment. He noted to do fundraising with a bucket collection in town you need a permit from the council. He dismissed the possibility of a raffle, which it was established could be held at a different event since it is too late notice for the DASH debate.

**RP** agreed and stated DASH are our main charity partner this Term, noting **DE** can choose a different charity for his Term if he chooses.

**CF** noted the possibility of a clothes drive, outlining how this could work logistically.

**RP** agreed and suggested putting this in the Sponsorship Secretary Handover Document.

**RP** closed the meeting.

Secretary: ***J. Perry***

President: ***R. Prakash***