



the DURHAM UNION

MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE Minutes – Wednesday 29th January 2020

Present: - Miss Sarah Kuszynski, *President*
Mr Fergus Barker, *Treasurer*
Mr James Wroe, *Secretary*
Miss Lucy Jackson, *Social Secretary*
Mr Eduardo Enamorado, *President-Elect*

Apologies: - Miss Kristen Price, *Sponsorship Secretary*
Mr Tristan Pahl, *Custodian*
Miss Rosie Vorri, *Director of Debating*

The meeting began in the Debating Chamber, Palace Green at a quarter to two o'clock.

Miss Kuszynski in the Chair, Mr Wroe minuting.

Miss Kuszynski opened the meeting, thanking members of the committee for their attendance.

Miss Kuszynski informed the committee of the upcoming Trustees Meeting on 4th February. She referred to the upcoming events for the remainder of the week and the plan to have an overflow room for the Bill Bryson event. Miss Kuszynski also outlined the security arrangements for the sex work debate.

Mr Enamorado discussed the possibility of introducing digital membership, similar to the Cambridge Union, given that all events are recorded and streamable.

The Committee discussed the merits of this proposal.

Miss Kuszynski explained the work that was being done to revamp the YouTube account and alter the website.

Miss Jackson noted that the gala was almost entirely sold out. A Google Form for table sign-ups will be posted later today. She noted that a number of alumni have not yet paid and have not submitted their dietary requirements. Miss Jackson noted the upcoming social next Thursday and stated that she hoped as many General Committee members as possible will come along.

Miss Jackson explained that the Easter ball was going ahead as originally planned and that she was considering either 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' or 'Grease Summer Nights' as themes for the ball. The Summer Garden Party is also being planned.

Mr Enamorado stated that around one third of the speakers in his term are confirmed. He stated that the House of Lords debate is almost entirely filled.

Miss Kuszynski notified the Committee of the new 'Free Speech and Welfare' agreement that the university had devised and the consequences that this would have for inviting speakers.

Mr Barker referred to his handover with Miss Paton and the work he was doing to become familiar with Union finances.

Mr Wroe outlined his proposed changes to the weekly email and uploading of minutes.

Mr Wroe noted the ongoing presidential election and outlined the timetable for the remainder of the election.

Mr Wroe proposed that the campaigning period could be reduced from the current seven-day norm. He asked if seven days is not too long and imposes too great a burden on campaign team members.

The Committee discussed this proposed change.

There being no further business, Miss Kuszynski closed the meeting.

Secretary: **J. Wroe**

President: **S. Kuszynski**