



the DURHAM UNION

MEETING OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE Minutes – Wednesday 16th October 2019

Please note: - Details relating to attendance may be found in the General Committee register, housed at the Union Office on Palace Green. Permission to access the register may be granted upon request by the Secretary, Returning Officer or the Union Society Office Manager.

The meeting began in the Debating Chamber, Palace Green at half past two o'clock

Mr Sledge in the Chair, Mr Hyde minuting.

The President, Mr Sledge, opened the meeting, thanking members of the committee for their attendance.

The President ceded the chair to the Returning Officer, Mr Perry, who read out the valid proxy votes for the meeting.

The Returning Officer opened nominations for the position of Publicity Officer, with the following candidates being nominated:

1. Miss Tamara Herrington, of St Chad's College, proposed by Samrat Pasriccha and seconded by Sarah Peart
2. Re-open Nominations, of no such fixed abode

The Returning Officer invited Miss Herrington to begin her hust.

Miss Herrington began her hust, outlining her pledges to create video publicity for the Union and a termly highlight reel. She further talked of making more use of Overheard at Durham and pledged to continue the tradition of drafting out the term card. Miss Herrington then referred to her experience with doing publicity work for the United Nations Society, and further referred to the extensive amount of time she had spent on Consultative Committee.

The candidate having husted, the Returning Officer opened the floor for questions.

Miss Paton asked how Miss Herrington proposed to reach greater audiences.

Miss Herrington answered by talking about using more eye-catching designs in publicity, to reduce the image of a Union focused on parties.

Miss Price inquired about Miss Herrington's experience on publicity work, noting the skillset required.

Miss Herrington said she was a fast learner.

Mr Creswell asked about employing targeted advertising to the various departments across Durham, and Miss Herrington's opinion on this.

Miss Herrington agreed, saying she thought this was a good idea.

Miss Jackson asked about selling tickets for social events.

Miss Herrington said she had experience regarding that, particularly noting the St Cuthbert's Society Ball.

Miss Jackson further asked if Miss Herrington had video editing skills.

Miss Herrington said she was a happy to learn.

Miss Price asked if Miss Herrington was experienced in using a camera and inquired on whether she currently possessed a camera.

Miss Herrington replied, saying she did not, and that she was not currently subscribed to Photoshop.

Mr Enamorado noted that the Publicity Officer was part of the Secretariat and asked whether Miss Herrington would be available to minute.

Miss Herrington replied by stating she was a fast writer.

There being no further questions, the Returning Officer asked the candidate to leave the room, before inviting Mr Pasriccha to propose Miss Herrington.

Mr Passricha began by noting how the Union had evolved a lot in terms of its publicity, and promised an effective, efficient and ever-ready Publicity Officer in the form of Miss Herrington. He noted her commitment to various societies, and that the Union was dependent on the work of people like Miss Herrington. He concluded by noting that the leadership of people like Miss Herrington was vital, and that she was dedicated and diligent.

The proposer having hustled, the Returning Officer opened the floor to questions.

Miss Paton asked how Miss Herrington would be able to overcome the technical difficulties, with Miss Price noting Miss Herrington's lack of experience in using Photoshop. Miss Paton also touched on video-editing on her question.

Mr Passricha, in response, referred to Miss Herrington's experience in the Society, and assured the General Committee that Miss Herrington would be willing to learn.

There being no further questions, a vote was duly taken, and it was announced that Miss Herrington had been elected by 30 votes, with 22 R.O.N. votes and 1 spoiled ballot.

The Returning Officer then opened the nominations for the position of Technologies Officer, for which no candidates were nominated. The Returning Officer stated that he would re-open nominations for the position at the next General Committee meeting in accordance with the Standing Orders.

The Returning Officer then opened nominations for the position of the Speakers Secretary, with the following candidates being nominated:

1. Miss Lydia Buckroyd, of University College, proposed by Yash Raju, and seconded by a member of the Committee.
2. Re-open Nominations, of no such fixed abode.

The Returning Officer invited Miss Buckroyd to begin her hust.

Miss Buckroyd introduced herself, highlighting her influence in both debating as well as events management. Miss Buckroyd further mentioned her experience on the President's Committee of the President-Elect, Miss Kuszynski, before continuing on explaining how she felt a compassion for making great events that are not only entertaining but fulfilling. The candidate then referred to several potential ideas for guest speakers. She claimed to be able to employ her personal contacts in different societies outside the Union. Miss Buckroyd then went on to assure the General Committee that she could get as

many speakers as possible, to make the Union flourish, before concluding by thanking the Committee for their time.

The candidate having hustled, the Returning Officer opened the floor for questions.

Miss Paton inquired on the methodology the candidate would employ in the position.

Miss Buckroyd replied by expressing her knowledge in making connections through LinkedIn, alongside phone conversations.

Miss Price asked about the candidate's favourite things which could motivate speakers to attend.

Miss Buckroyd noted her passion for politics and poetry.

Mr Filipopoulos asked which speaker the candidate would bring if she could have anyone.

Miss Buckroyd responded by naming a female author.

Miss Jackson asked about a potential speaker database.

Miss Buckroyd responded by stating her desire to employ more student speakers within the Union.

There being no further questions, the Returning Officer asked the candidate to leave the room, before inviting Mr Raju to propose Miss Buckroyd.

Mr Raju began his hust by highlighting the hard work Miss Buckroyd had done in getting great speakers in the President's Committee. Mr Raju then went on to say that the sort of hard-working was essential to the job. Mr Raju further highlighted the position of Miss Buckroyd as a debater, and the ways in which the said position could contribute in discerning what constituted a good debate. He then concluded by praising Miss Buckroyd, saying that her participation in many student societies made her well suited to bring value to any debate.

The proposer having hustled, the Returning Officer opened the floor for questions, of which there were none.

There being no questions, a vote was duly taken, and it was announced that Miss Buckroyd was elected unanimously by 54 votes to 0.

The Returning Officer then opened nominations for a position on Rules Committee, with the following candidates being nominated.

1. Mr Eduardo Enamorado, of St Cuthbert's Society, proposed by Alexander Buxton-Carda.

There being no other candidates, Mr Enamorado was elected on a General Aye.

The President ceded the chair to Miss Paton.

The President was then invited to give his report.

The President, beginning his report, introduced himself to the Committee and highlighted the hole on the ceiling. Explaining the cause of the hole, he further stated that measures would be taken to fix it, and that he did not think it would cause an inconvenience with the event that would be happening on the night of the meeting. The President then explained his reasons for entertaining the Venezuelan ambassador, before urging the House Committee to be prepared for any protests that may occur. He stated that the Union had purchased two new microphones to improve audience experience within the chamber. The president then explained why the event on Monday had to be cancelled, justifying the change in schedule by stating that it would benefit another upcoming event. The President then went on to highlight the difficulties in getting speakers to come to Durham. He described the success of the Union's stall in the Fresher's Fair, attributing it to the success of the new e-mail system.

Mr Filipopoulos, at this point, raised a question regarding the weekly e-mails.

The President explained that the current system was different from the system that was being developed for the Union. He justified the development of a new system by stating the costs and implications of keeping the current website, before stating that the new website domain and the process at works would result in a new, invigorated website.

Mr Passricha mentioned the idea of getting more Indian speakers in, before inquiring about the current status of access membership.

The President responded by explaining that the University was not willing to collaborate with the programme. He then went on to elaborate on our current relationship with the University, mentioning an incident in particular wherein the Wellbeing Team flagged one of the speakers to the Union, regarding the specific way in which the speaker conducted a naked protest.

Some of the members expressed concerns on asking questions to the speakers.

Miss Price asked a question relating to the speaker that the Wellbeing Team had flagged.

The President responded to this question.

Mr Wroe enquired on the possibility of tensions with the Chinese Embassy, given one of the speakers scheduled to speak was a Chinese dissident and citing the Union's stony relationship with them in the past.

The President rejected the notion that tensions would escalate between the Chinese Embassy and the Union again.

Mr Creswell asked a question regarding accessibility to events.

The President responded, noting the issue of single-event tickets as particularly damaging to the numbers of Union memberships.

Mr Creswell further asked a question regarding the right to bring guests into Union Events.

The President responded by stating that the right to bring guests would be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Another question was directed on the subject of guests entering the Reading Room.

Mr Barker responded, stating that he would talk to officers.

The President then invited the Social Secretary, Miss Jackson, to give her report.

Miss Jackson commenced her report by urging the members of the General Committee to buy tickets for the upcoming Michaelmas Ball. She noted the various entertainment options the Union was bringing to the event, particularly highlighting Egor the Magician and the band. Miss Jackson then went on to describe the entertainment and the prices for the Oktoberfest social, noting it to be £5 for 2 drinks and hot food.

The President then opened the floor for questions.

A member inquired on the price of the Ball.

Miss Jackson responded stating the member and non-member prices for the Ball tickets.

The President then invited the Sponsorship Secretary, Miss Price, to give her report.

Miss Price commenced her report by reminding the General Committee of her pledge to change the way the Union approached businesses. She then thanked Mr Sheldrake-Davies for his contributions in helping put together a sponsorship package, and Mr Pahl, for helping to visit law firms in London, which has helped bring in £3,200 over the summer. Miss Price then went on to note the upcoming sponsorship events for Slaughter and May and for Teach First. In concluding the report, Miss Price particularly noted how well the Sponsorship Committee was doing compared to the previous year,

thanked the members for their hard work and noted the upcoming election for the position of Assistant Sponsorship Secretary.

The President then opened the floor for questions.

Several members inquired on the results of the meal draw.

The President informed them that the draw would be made imminently.

Mr Broadbridge-Kirbitson asked a question.

Miss Price answered, with reference to Pride and Competitive Debating.

Mr Hyde reminded the members of Consultative Committee to stay for a meeting following the General Committee meeting.

Mr Hyde then went on to propose a Vote of Thanks for Miss Louise Pickenhan, the outgoing Technologies Officer.

Mr Buxton-Carda then reminded the General Committee members of their obligation to complete door duty at 24s.

Mr Filippopoulos asked Mr Hyde where the Committee minutes could be read.

Mr Hyde responded by saying he was in the process of digitising the said minutes

Mr Broadbridge-Kirbitson reminded members that registration was open for the Durham IV.

Mr Filippopoulos proposed a Vote of Thanks for Miss Price in her capacity as Publicity Officer.

There being no further business, The President closed the meeting.

Secretary: ***F. Hyde***

President: ***A. Sledge***