



the DURHAM UNION

MEETING OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE Minutes – Wednesday 20th November 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 Enamorado minuting.

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

The President congratulated the Social Secretary, Miss Jackson, on the success of the Michaelmas Ball.

The President proposed a vote of thanks for Miss Jackson and the Social Committee. This was taken on a general aye.

The President then talked about the recent Durfess posts, asking members to refrain from liking or commenting on any such posts.

The President referred to an upcoming constitutional amendment on disciplinary procedures and a new suspension procedure for Officers who engage in behaviour that would bring the Union to disrepute.

Mr Pearce stated that he did not want his opinions to be censored.

The President replied that controversial matters should be dealt with internally and that problems in the Union should not be publicly discussed.

The President then referred to plans to change the way that General Committee meetings work. He stated that an amendment was being worked on that would create one large General Committee meeting in the middle of the term, where all elections for officers who have served the full term would take place. The President stated that problems in the Society would be adequately discussed at this meeting.

The President then invited all members to participate in the event taking place tomorrow.

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

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

1. Mr Alexander Buxton-Carda, of Grey College, proposed by Yash Raju and seconded by Lydia Buckroyd.
2. Miss Anasuya Narasimhan, proposed by Steven Roy and seconded by Helen Paton

The Returning Officer invited Mr Buxton-Carda to begin his hust.

Mr Buxton-Carda began his hust by describing his experience and commitment to the Union. He then pledged impartiality and the following of the letter of the Constitution. He concluded by talking about his background in History, particularly in interpreting and analysing constitutions.

The Returning Officer then invited Miss Narasimhan to begin her hust.

Miss Narasimhan began her hust by introducing herself and highlighting her experience as Outreach Officer and in competitive debating. Miss Narasimhan then explained how debating gave her particular expertise in terms of Equity Policies and acting as a mediator. She pledged to be impartial in her role within the Rules Committee.

The candidates having husted, the Returning Officer opened the floor to questions.

Mr Roy asked how the candidates see the Constitution needs to be updated.

Mr Buxton-Carda talked about how the practices in the chamber do not coincide with the writing in the Constitution.

Miss Narasimhan agreed, further adding her belief on expanding the Constitution to meet the broader needs of the Union.

Mr Barker asked the candidates what their favourite lines from the Constitution were.

Miss Narasimhan pointed to her love for motions passed on a general aye.

Mr Buxton-Carda highlighted his favouritism to the annexes that state that mobile phones must be turned off for the General Committee meetings.

There being no further questions, a vote was duly taken, and it was announced that Mr Buxton-Carda had been elected by 26 votes to 22, with 1 spoilt ballot.

The Returning Officer ceded the Chair to the President.

The President then called upon the Committee to ratify the choice of the Standing Committee of Mr Jack Perry and Mr Yago Lleonart Mateu to form the Complaints Panel along with the Office Manager.

This was ratified on a general aye.

The President then invited the Returning Officer, Mr Perry, to give his report.

The Returning Officer began his report by highlighting the increase in voter turnout compared to last year's Easter Term Election. He further mentioned the Palatinate article and pointed to the sanctions placed upon Mr Barker for a false statement he made; a reduction of the physical manifestos he could print by 200 copies. The Returning Officer then stated that the Rules Committee had perceived the punishment to be proportionate to the fault. He concluded by thanking the Deputy Returning Officer, Mr Wroe, for his work in running the count.

The President thanked Mr Perry for his report.

Miss Narasimhan and Mr Broadbridge-Kirbitson then promoted several events, including the Durham Schools and the Mo Mowlam Memorial debate, and asked for volunteers to participate in both.

Mr Pearce encouraged members to register to vote for the general election.

Mr Buxton-Carda promoted the Family Guy and Simpsons pub quiz.

The President urged all members of the General Committee to donate to the portal set up for the Mo Mowlam Charity Debate, and the charity it was meant to support.

The President informed the committee that the Secretary, Mr Hyde, had submitted his resignation.

Mr Pahl proposed a Vote of Thanks to Mr Hyde. This was taken on a general aye.

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

Acting Secretary: ***E. Enamorado***

President: ***A. Sledge***