



# *the* DURHAM UNION

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## MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE Minutes – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019

*Present:* - Mr Alastair Sledge, *President*  
Miss Helen Paton, *Treasurer*  
Mr Freddie Hyde *Secretary*  
Miss Lucy Jackson, *Social Secretary*  
Mr Tristan Pahl, *Custodian*  
Miss Rosie Vorri, *Director of Debating*  
Miss Sarah Kuszynski, *President-Elect*

*Apologies:* - Miss Kristen Price, *Sponsorship Secretary*

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

*Mr Sledge in the Chair, Mr Hyde minuting.*

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

The Committee considered the candidates for the Complaints Panel.

It was agreed unanimously that Mr Jack Perry should be accepted onto the panel.

With regards to the second position on the panel, Miss Jackson and Miss Kuszynski referred to their notes from the interviews and stated their preference for Mr Yago Lleonart Mateu.

The Committee discussed the other candidates for the second position and by a vote of 5 to 3, it was decided that Mr Yago Lleonart Mateu should be accepted onto the panel.

Mr Sledge noted that one of the speakers booked for Miss Kuszynski's term had refused to share a panel with another speaker and so had withdrawn from the event, as well as tweeting about it.

Mr Pahl informed the Committee of the fire-safety inspection in the bar. He noted that 6 taps are now up and running and that following a recent altercation, two students have been barred.

Miss Vorri updated the Committee with regards to Durham Schools and Outreach.

The Committee congratulated Miss Jackson on the success of the recent Michaelmas Ball.

Miss Jackson stated that the ball had made a profit of around £2800 and that a full transparency report would soon be published to members – she noted that midweek socials could not be run without this profit from the ball. Miss Jackson stated that the photos from the ball would soon be published on the Facebook page and that 204 tickets were sold at the final count.

Miss Paton noted a number of emails from members regarding Random House.

Mr Sledge stated that there are three debates and one address left in the term. He noted his regret at the lack of interest from local political groups regarding the general election.

Mr Pahl suggested that Mr Sledge consider hosting a husting for general election candidates in the City of Durham constituency.

Mr Sledge talked about a potential event in the form of a Union live event from a whistle-blower.

Miss Jackson suggested an emergency debate.

Mr Sledge suggested he was considering having such a debate on the issue of the environment. He further stated that the 24-hour debate now had 40 signups.

The Committee discussed various disciplinary measures relating to online platforms.

Miss Vorri proposed the notion of a suspension from office for those who bring the Society into disrepute. It was agreed that such an amendment should be drafted at the next meeting.

Mr Sledge stated that he had discussed with Miss Paton the possibility of moving all General Committee elections to one large meeting in the middle of the term.

The Committee agreed with the idea in principle but stated that it needed more discussion.

Miss Jackson referred to elections in General Committee and stated that members should be able to address direct questions to one candidate or another.

There being no further business, Mr Sledge closed the meeting.

Secretary: ***F. Hyde***

President: ***A. Sledge***