



the DURHAM UNION

MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE Minutes – Wednesday 27th November 2019

Present: - Mr Alastair Sledge, *President*
Miss Kristen Price, *Sponsorship Secretary*
Miss Lucy Jackson, *Social Secretary*
Mr Tristan Pahl, *Custodian*
Miss Sarah Kuszynski, *President-Elect*
Mr Jack Perry, *Returning Officer*
Mr James Wroe, *Deputy Returning Officer*
Mr Eduardo Enamorado, *President-Elect*
Miss Tamara Herrington, *Rules Committee*
Mr Alexander Buxton-Carda, *Rules Committee*

Apologies: - Miss Helen Paton, *Treasurer*
Mr Freddie Hyde, *Secretary*
Miss Rosie Vorri, *Director of Debating*

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

Mr Sledge in the Chair, Mr Enamorado minuting.

Mr Sledge opened the meeting, thanking the members of Rules Committee for attending.

Mr Sledge described the situation with the Debates Committee and the need to implement reforms to change the atmosphere of the Society.

Mr Perry described the Code of Conduct that was being drafted and stated that this would help to keep Officers and members of the General Committee accountable.

Miss Price described the importance of the legitimacy of Complaints Panel decisions and discussed the possibility of mechanisms to allow the Complaints Panel to remove a member of the General Committee if they break the Code of Conduct.

The Committee discussed the various constitutional amendments that would be required to allow the Complaints Panel to remove members of General Committee.

Miss Price stated that she wanted to use legal definitions to establish the varying responsibilities and duties that Officers of the Society and members of the General Committee would have under the Code of Conduct.

Mr Perry posited adding in the Constitution the option to suspend a member of the General Committee for a limited time, as well as the option to remove them from office.

Miss Jackson queried the threshold of moving from a suspension to removal from office.

Mr Perry stated that the full Code of Conduct will be drawn up by Standing Committee and ratified by the General Committee.

Mr Buxton-Carda expressed concern that, depending on how the Code of Conduct was drawn up and applied, it may become politicised and used for partisan purposes.

Mr Sledge responded that the Union was in a critical situation and that the Code of Conduct was needed to heal the Society.

The Committee discussed the current disciplinary measures in the Constitution, including the provisions for a Vote of No Confidence, and how these could be improved.

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

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

President: ***A. Sledge***