



the DURHAM UNION

MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE Minutes – Wednesday 4th December 2019

Present: - Mr Alastair Sledge, *President*
Miss Helen Paton, *Treasurer*
Mr James Wroe, *Secretary*
Miss Lucy Jackson, *Social Secretary*
Mr Tristan Pahl, *Custodian*
Miss Sarah Kuszynski, *President-Elect*

Apologies: - Miss Kristen Price, *Sponsorship Secretary*
Miss Rosie Vorri, *Director of Debating*

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

Mr Sledge in the Chair, Mr Wroe minuting.

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

Mr Sledge stated that he had decided to cancel the Monarchy Debate due to the inability to pay for Peter Tatchell to come to Durham. There were only two other speakers and so it would be difficult for it to go ahead and was probably not worth it for the great cost. He estimated that the total cost for the term would be around £8500.

Miss Paton noted that late cancellations had been a problem throughout the term. She noted that she was considering a new policy to attempt to deal with this.

Mr Sledge referred to Guy Mowbray and his decision not to charge the Society.

Miss Jackson stated that she wished to do her Social Secretary report in the next General Committee meeting.

Mr Pahl showed the Committee his proposed amendments for the 24 North Bailey Club annex in the Constitution. He noted particularly that the date for the closing for the ballot for accommodation in 24 North Bailey Club should close on the Sunday of the second week of term.

Mr Sledge asked if this was not too early and referred to the ballot for accommodation in University College.

Mr Wroe stated that the proposed date of the 24s ballot was similar in timescale of the ballot for accommodation in St Chad's College.

Miss Kuszynski referred to her upcoming report in the General Committee meeting next week and that information regarding the Alumni Weekend goes out next week.

Miss Paton referred to the amendment to move all elections to one large General Committee meeting in the middle of the term.

Possible amendments relating to changing the makeup of General Committee were discussed by the Committee.

Mr Wroe proposed that for all elections, except those to Full Officers of the Society, proposers should not hust.

Mr Sledge referred to problems with the recent President's Committee by-election falling so soon before the beginning of Epiphany term.

Miss Kuszynski proposed that only the President's Committee for the President-Elect should be on the General Committee, and not the President's Committee for the President.

Mr Wroe proposed bringing back the amendment abolishing proxy votes in the General Committee.

The Committee discussed how feasible it would be to reduce the size of various committees and to merge certain officer ships.

Mr Sledge discussed the possibility of merging Speakers Secretary and Equalities Officer.

Mr Wroe noted that constitutionally the Speakers Secretary is in charge of President's Committee and not the President-Elect, although this is rarely the case in reality.

Miss Kuszynski proposed that President's Committee could be reduced from 4 to 2.

Miss Jackson proposed that Social Committee could be reduced from 5 to 4 or 3.

Mr Wroe proposed that House Committee could be reduced from 10 in Michaelmas and Epiphany terms and 8 in Easter term to 8 in Michaelmas and Epiphany term and 6 in Easter term. He also queried if Sponsorship Committee could be reduced in size.

The Committee discussed what reforms could be made to Consultative Committee.

Mr Sledge stated that Consultative Committee should be elected on a termly and not yearly basis.

The Committee agreed on this.

Mr Sledge outlined the technical problems with the Complaints Panel Google Form and how this could be fixed.

Mr Wroe outlined the problems with the Secretary Facebook account and how he was attempting to solve these. He referred to the backlog of minutes and the technical problems with the website and weekly email and his plans to fix these.

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

Secretary: **J. Wroe**

President: **A. Sledge**