



# *the* DURHAM UNION

STANDING COMMITTEE: WEDNESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2025

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## **In Attendance:**

Charles Aldous – President

Oliver Lycett – Secretary

Maddy Frank – Social Secretary

Robbie Bono – Equalities Officer

Anna Beskhmelnitskaya – Publicity Officer

Callum Oxley – President-elect (Michaelmas 2025)

Joshua Doherty – Custodian

## **Apologies**

Oliver Dawson – Treasurer

## **Absent – No Apologies Given**

Haya Chaudhri – Debating Treasurer

Severino Bonvini – Director of Debating

Reece Short – President-elect

The meeting began at 14:40; the Secretary is taking the minutes.



### **Item One: Welfare Officer Reform**

The Publicity Officer suggested bringing the Trustees into the appointments process in an advisory role. The Secretary suggested providing a more formal role for the trustees in the appointments process. The committee discussed the prospect of holding a minimum termly Welfare Review, involving a meeting between the Welfare Officer and Standing Meeting. This would ensure that welfare is consistently the heart of decision making. The implementation of this termly review was taken as consensus.

The committee concluded that the appointments process itself is sound, but that there is room for reform within the role. It was suggested that the current Welfare Officer should attend the selection interviews in an advisory role – but without a vote as this would require a constitutional amendment and would delay the process.

It was agreed that nominations will open on Friday, lasting for one week.

### **Item Two: Membership Reform**

The Trustees have suggested that we implement a Membership Code of Conduct. This was supported by the committee, following a discussion. This would provide a concrete framework for terms of engagement which all members would consent to upon joining the Society. The committee agreed that this will complement further reforms to the complaints process, and will be actioned swiftly.

### **Item Three: Complaints Panel Reform**

The committee identified the need to remove clause xviii from under the complaints section of the constitution, in order to remove the role of the Standing Committee from the process.

It was agreed that the focus must be on making the process more efficient. It was agreed that upon the formation of the Complaints Panel, the panel may vote unanimously to suspend a member pending investigation. It was suggested that this decision would have to be taken within a timeframe – for example 72 hours.

The committee discussed the parameters of the Complaints Panel, and what incidents the panel should and shouldn't deal with. It was agreed that a General



Committee Code of Conduct should be introduced, which would hold them to clearly enforceable standards as representatives of the Society. It was agreed that the Standing Committee would second the amendment.

#### **Item Four: Any Other Business**

The Publicity Officer instructed the committee to attend the next meeting in business attire for standardised photos.

The meeting concluded at 15:26.