



# *the* DURHAM UNION

STANDING COMMITTEE: FRIDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2025

---

## **In Attendance:**

Oliver Dawson – Treasurer

Oliver Lycett – Secretary

Maddy Frank – Social Secretary

Robbie Bono – Equalities Officer

Joshua Doherty – Custodian

Reece Short – President-elect

Callum Oxley – President-elect (Michaelmas 2025)

Anna Beskhmelnitskaya – Publicity Officer

## **Apologies**

Charles Aldous – President

Haya Chaudhri – Debating Treasurer

Jerry Li – President Emeritus

## **Absent – Apologies Not Given**

Severino Bonvini – Director of Debating



The meeting began at 18:03, the Secretary is taking the minutes.

### **Item One: Membership Code of Conduct – Continued**

The Treasurer recounted a response from the Trustees, noting the formation of a sub-group to review the proposed draft Code of Conduct. The focus then turned to any edits to be made.

The Equalities Officer spoke positively of two changes made regarding a clause on vexatious complaints. The committee noted a lack of defined timeline regarding the Trustees' sub-group. It was agreed that the President-elect should ask for a timeline, to ensure that steady progress is made, and is accountable. It was also agreed that it would be desirable to have the Code of Conduct and Complaints Amendment ready for the first General Committee meeting in Easter Term.

A minor amendment of wording was made in defining the Society's facilities. The definition of harassment was then amended to reflect the legal definition under the Equality Act (2010). Clause 1a from the Cambridge Union Society was suggested as a helpful addition, adding a statement on the baseline of the law.

A discussion was held on a provision for a due expectation of privacy, with a clause added accordingly. A clause prohibiting the dissemination of confidential material from committee meetings was added. The committee then agreed on a draft of the Code of Conduct.

The following timeline was agreed as a target: the Code of Conduct and Complaints Reform will be presented in the first General Committee of the next term; a whistleblowing amendment will be presented in the second General Committee meeting.

A review will be held on the powers and options available to the Complaints Panel. This will precipitate a change to the Code of Conduct.

It was suggested that an online Standing Meeting will be held with the new Office Manager once selected.

Mr Oxley then raised the matter of a vote on the online address tabled for Tuesday. The committee agreed that this should take place on the Standing group chat. The committee agreed that in future a poll should be held to approve such events.



The Secretary confirmed that participants will not have microphone or camera permissions; questions will be asked through Menti or a similar platform. This will allow for the screening of questions.

It was agreed that select Senior Officers will undertake EDI training next term.

The meeting concluded at 18.56.