



Durham University Laidlaw Society

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

On
Monday 10th June 2019

With
Emma Franck-Gwinnell, President, in the Chair

And
Edgar Roberts, Secretary, and
James Harrison, recording

Executive Committee members present:

Emma Franck-Gwinnell, President

Edgar Roberts, Secretary

Evan Griffiths, Events Manager

Gréta Grossman, Social Secretary

1. Agenda
 - a. Emma opened the meeting.
 - b. Emma proposed the agenda for the Annual General Meeting of the Society.
 - c. The agenda for the meeting was approved on a general nod by the floor.
2. Annual review / President's Report
 - a. Emma noted as objects of the President's Report the Cohort 1 celebration recently completed by members of the Society, along with the recent Laidlaw Conference in St Andrews which was attended by Society members.
 - b. Emma also noted in her report events connected with the recent intake of Cohort 3 members, namely the application workshop, refresher's fair stall, recent socials and the Cohort 3 welcome event at the School of Business.
3. Committee Officers' Reports
 - a. Evan Griffiths, Events Manager, asked the floor whether contact had been made between the Society and potential Cohort 3 scholars previously in the year.
 - i. Emily Chen responded that she had experienced some contact with members of the Society prior to her application.
 - ii. Eduardo Enamorado noted that he had also experienced some contact with Society members.
 - iii. Lauren Powdrell noted that the information evening offered by the Society had been the decisive factor in her decision whether or not to apply to the Laidlaw Scholarship Programme.
 - iv. Emily noted that her contact with Society members had been, in part, specific to her membership of Hatfield College.
4. Constitutional amendments
 - a. Emma proposed a number of amendments to the Constitution of the Society, noting that these were specifically in response to the requirements for student groups set by Durham Students' Union.
 - i. Eduardo enquired as to the funding received by the Society in order to conduct its business.
 - ii. Emma responded that funding received by the Society consists of a standing agreement with the University Careers office to the amount of £500 placed annually into the Society account on request, for use in events and recruitment.
 - iii. Emma also qualified that recruitment events may be either funded directly by the careers office or through the Society.
 - iv. Emma also noted that the outstanding balance of the Society's accounts totals a surplus of approximately £380, representing overall spending of approximately £120 during this academic year to date.
 - b. Emma reiterated that the constitutional changes were largely mandated by changes in the operating policy of Durham Students' Union with regard to student groups.
 - c. Emma also pointed out that the constitutional changes restate that the executive committee of the Society are answerable to the Students' Union for the business of the Society.

- iii. Emma asked Emily how she would distribute the annual funding of £500 offered to the Society.
 - iv. Emily responded that this was dependent upon knowledge of the Society's previous spending and general financial priorities.
 - v. Emma enquired what kind of stash Emily would choose to acquire for the Society.
 - vi. Emily responded that she would generally seek to offer a single item of stash which could be bought in bulk and therefore would be affordable to members of the Society.
 - vii. Eduardo expressed his belief that some form of professional attire, rather than casual clothing, would be preferable as a form of stash. Evan expressed his agreement with this point.
 - viii. Emily responded that professional attire is generally more expensive to purchase than casual attire, and stated that any such decision would be dependent upon the willingness of members to commit to purchasing and wearing such attire.
 - ix. Emily was duly elected Treasurer of the Society by unanimous vote of the floor.
- d. Events Manager
- i. Emma noted the nomination of Péter Vojnits for the position of Events Manager, and invited Péter to hust for the position.
 - ii. Péter expressed a desire to become more closely involved in his Scholarship and the Society, and noted that he did not attend any Society events prior to his application.
 - iii. Péter stated his desire to focus on recruitment events and promote the scholarship in all faculties, so that each applicant should feel welcome to develop their own research projects.
 - iv. Péter noted his own previous involvement in organising events at school and in college.
 - v. Evan noted that the role of Events Manager is rigid in its time demands, and enquired whether Péter had other commitments to detract from his event attendance.
 - vi. Péter responded that there were no such significant commitments.
 - vii. Emma noted that there had been a significantly higher number of applicants to Cohort 3 from the Sciences and Social Sciences faculties despite the equal amount of promotion given to each faculty, and enquired with regard to the ideas of Péter for promoting the scholarship across the university.
 - viii. Péter proposed in response contacting lecturers teaching first-year modules in order to reach potential applicants during academic time.
 - ix. Emma noted that attempts had been previously made to encourage contact between current and potential scholars, but that many current scholars were reticent about helping publicise the programme.
 - x. Péter responded that it was necessary to make current scholars understand that the future of the Laidlaw programme depends upon its ability to attract new applicants.

- c. Emily asked whether the outdoor event during the leadership training residential was likely to require specific clothing.
 - i. Emma responded that it was a better idea just to dress flexibly.
- d. Emma closed the meeting.