

DURSA - Durham University Retired Staff Association

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 23rd June 2021

Owing to the 2020-21 Covid-19 pandemic the business was conducted by Zoom, with twelve members present.

Minutes

60. Introduction

In the absence of a Chairman it was agreed that Dr Orford, who has previously held the office, would take the chair for the duration of the meeting. Dr Orford reported that the DURSA Committee would be meeting in person once Covid restrictions were finally lifted with a view to creating a programme for 2021-22.

61. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Miss McCollum and Ms Mavin.

62. Minutes

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 24th June 2020 were approved.

63. Matters arising from the Minutes

There were none.

64. Annual Report

Received: the following Annual Report

a. The Suspension of DURSA's Activities

Last year's AGM endorsed the decision to suspend DURSA's activities for twelve months. The Committee has met again recently and has decided to continue the suspension at least until September of this year, by which time more information on arranging events safely might be available.

b. Acknowledgements

The Committee again wishes to record its gratitude for all the help received from the staff of DARO especially Steph Osborne for distributing circulars to members while she is working from home.

c. The Committee

The composition of the Committee has been as elected at the Annual General Meeting in 2020. The Committee has met several times online during the year with the Secretary convening the meetings as we are currently without a Chairman.

d. Membership

The current number of members is 515 (507 last year). There is one Honorary Member, Bill Bryson.

e. Accounts

At the last AGM it was reported that the accounts showed a satisfactory picture. There has been no income or expenditure in the past twelve months.

f. The 2021-22 Programme and beyond

Members might remember that last year the Committee had been actively developing a programme of visits including:

- Nissan (repeat visit)
- The School of Modern Languages and Cultures.
- The Law Department
- The University Sports Centre
- The Police Headquarters (repeat visit)
- The Department of Earth Sciences (repeat visit)
- County Durham and Darlington Fire Service Training Centre

In addition consideration would be given to running some of the cancelled events from the 2019-20 programme.

Looking further into the future the Committee has a list of other possible visits, namely:

- South Shields Ferry. An evening cruise
- Palace Green Library (repeat visit)
- Oriental Museum (repeat visit)
- New University Buildings e.g. a new College/Teaching Block
- Bowes Museum
- PBSA (Private build student accommodation).
- Hartlepool Nuclear Power Station, Seaton Carew
- Spanish Gallery and Research Centre, Bishop Auckland
- HMS Calliope. Royal Navy Reserve Unit, Gateshead
- Cathedral specialist tour e.g. geology or architecture (repeat visit)
- JDR Cables, Hartlepool (repeat visit)
- 'Cherryburn'. Thomas Bewick Birthplace Museum

65. Accounts

Mrs Fall, the Treasurer, noted that a credit of £558.77 was made to the DURSA account from funds held by Durham University at the end of July 2020, this being the balance of funds paid by members for various functions during the 2019/20 academic year. This balance has remained unchanged for the 2020/21 academic year due to Covid 19, which has resulted in DURSA being unable to take part in any activities during the past year. She hoped that DURSA could look forward to a better 2021/22 academic year when funds will increase accordingly.

66. Membership of the Committee

Reported: that Mrs Allison was stepping down from the Committee, and that Mrs Fall and Dr Kenwright had reached the end of their term but were eligible to stand again.

Resolved: that, in the absence of other nominations the following, who had been duly proposed and seconded, be deemed elected.

To serve till 30 June 2024: Mrs K. Fall (Treasurer), Dr A. Kenwright and Mr J.R. White

To serve till 30 June 2022: Mr T. Burman

*NOTE: The composition of the **Committee for 2021-22** is therefore as follows:*

Elected until 30 June 2022

Mr T. Burman

Dr K.J. Orford

Dr E. J. F. Ross

Elected until 30 June 2023

Mr T.C. Doloughan

Mr F.W. Pritchard (Secretary)

Ms S. Mavin

Elected until 30 June 2024

Mrs K. Fall (Treasurer)

Dr A.M. Kenwright

Mr J.R. White

Noted: A Chairperson has not at this point been elected.

67. AOB

1. Renewing IT Accounts

Professor Townsend noted that DURSA members' IT account renewal forms were automatically being referred to the Alumni Office for authorisation. It was

noted that, in order to acquire full access to online resources, DURSA members would need authorisation from their former departments instead.

2. Encouraging Participation

Professor Townsend wondered how more DURSA members could be encouraged to attend DURSA events. It was agreed that this would be put on the agenda for the next Committee meeting.

3. Retired Members as a Resource

Dr Whan asked why the University did not view retired members of staff as a useful resource. Dr Orford noted that, although the University's senior management had viewed retired staff as a resource, the difficulty had been in persuading middle management to do the same.

4. Campus Cards Marked 'Visitor'

The question was asked as to why retired members of staff were designated as 'Visitors' on campus cards, and Professor Rhodes said that that made it difficult for members to use the cards when accessing other university library collections. The Committee would follow this matter up.

5. Dinners

Professor Townsend asked about dinners arranged for DURSA members. It was agreed that previous dinners were popular, and that they would be continued once DURSA was re-launched.

6. Vice-Chancellor

The meeting agreed with Mrs Fall's proposal that the Committee arrange to meet the new Vice-Chancellor when she takes up her post in January.

Francis Pritchard
DURSA Secretary
23/6/21