

23ST CHAD'S COLLEGE, DURHAM SENIOR COMMON ROOM

Minutes of the meeting held in the Chapel on November 3 2016

Present: Bill Apedaile (President), Ashley Wilson (Treasurer), Paul Braidford (Secretary), Margaret Masson, Rhys Burriss, Tony Chapman, Colin Ferguson, Katharine Saunders, Mervyn Ellis, Eleanor Spencer-Regan, Jenny King, Malcolm Reed, Colin Woodward, Edwin Holmes, Jessica Holmes, Gillian Allnut, Oliver Burnham, Niall Cunningham, Roger Muttit, Andy Stephenson, Richard Taylor, David Lamb, Nick Barton, Robert Eaton, Maurice Simmons, Mark Roberts, Gordon Harper, Ian Zass-Ogilvie

Apologies for absence had been received from: Frank Cranmer, Martin Wright, Toby Breckon, Alice Hills, Rosalind Brown, Gillian Weir, Richard Davison, David Hunt, David Stancliffe, Jean Woodward, Richard Monk, David Eaton, Judy Burg, Hans Wabl, Theo Harman, Alison Mbekeani, Michael Snape, David Blazey, Edward Cam, Greg Pritchard, James Page, Helen Donoghue, Lucy Smout Szablewska, Marek Szablewski, Andrew Mann, Anthony Anderson, Jens Funke, Peter Fisher, Elizabeth Fisher, Julian Fowell, Iain Edgar, Richard de Robeck, Tony Seward, Angela Seward, Bill Wylie, Annette Wylie, Jonathan Tate, James Lancelot, Clare Stancliffe, Richard Hird, Anne Allen, Michael Butler, Jonathan Moreland, John Hanks, Oliver Burnham, David Crookes, Naomi Mackintosh, Miko Kundegorski, Fred Robinson, Jane Manley, David Stanley, Judy Burg, Jenny Parker, Jess Stacey, Arthur Middleton, Bob Guthrie, Stephen Regan, Sofia Ropek-Hewson, Ann Loades, Pauline Watson, Julian Kotze-Wilson,

Minutes of the meeting held on 19 May 2016 The minutes were accepted as an accurate record

Matters Arising There were no matters arising

Treasurer's Report The Treasurer reported on the accounts (appended) - the account is in good health, with around £5,000, and reserves are building up. A summary of the situation regarding charitable donations is appended, and the Treasurer asked for members to suggest other causes the SCR could potentially support, with a view to a possible online poll.

Principal's Report The Principal reported on: the excellence of the current student leadership; the awarding of the first Shattock Family scholarship (with the first Cassidy and Access to Learning scholarships due to be awarded after Christmas); the financial pressures faced by students, and Chads' commitment to students who may drop out because of financial circumstances; the appointment of the first 15 temporary (one-year) fellowships to Durham academics; welcoming the new Senior Tutor, Eleanor Spencer-Regan; farewells to Commercial Director Liz Pearson and Bursar Gary Cox (and the ongoing recruitment of a new Bursar); the relationship with the University; the new *Perspectives* initiative; the new College strategy (an illustrative mind-map is appended; feedback from members is welcomed to inform a Governing Awayday and working groups to shape ideas and aspirations into plans, targets and commitments);

President's Report The President reported on discussions with SCR Presidents of other colleges with a view to informing SCR development, including additional cultural activities; meeting with Presidents of the other common rooms; extended congratulation to SCR members Kat Saunders and Matt Smith on their recent marriage; a proposal for co-opting of SCR members onto sub-committees to extend the capacity of the Officers (on a temporary pilot basis), which was received positively by members; the success of Research Forums, and the invitation to SCR members to contribute to a greater extent; the ongoing development of the Cassidy memorial lectures; proposed SCR Guest Nights (weekend formals, with only SCR members and their guests, no students) which was received positively by the members;

New Members

Ex officio new members: **Alison McManus** (Teaching Fellow, Foundation Centre) and **Alastair Edge** (Reader, Physics Department) [new tutors];

Dr Sarah Buxton (MLAC), **Dr Marcela Cazzoli-Goeta** (MLAC), **Dr Ben Dodds** (History), **Dr Anna Rowlands** (Theology), **Dr Sara L. Uckelman** (Philosophy), **Dr Gillian Campling** (Biological and Biomedical Sciences), **Professor Stewart Clark** (Physics), **Dr Jens Funke** (Mathematical Sciences), **Professor Gordon Love** (Physics), **Professor Jon Trevelyan** (Engineering and Computer Sciences), **Dr James Walton** (Chemistry), **Professor Gillian Bentley** (Anthropology), **Dr Andy Hayward** (Law School), **Dr Matteo Iannizzotto** (Economics / BS), and **Dr Mark McCormack** (SASS) [one-year fellows/honorary SCR members]

Appointed as new members: **Niall Cunningham** (Lecturer in Human Geography) and **Sian Broadhurst** (Senior Executive Officer in the Vice-Chancellor's Office)

Elected as new members: **Laurens de Rooij** (PhD Student in the Department of Theology and Religion; proposed by Mark Roberts, seconded by Oliver Burnham), **Frederik Seidelin** (former MCR President; proposed by Paul Braidford, seconded by Ashley Wilson), **Claudia Wardle** (PhD candidate at York, proposed by David Crookes, seconded by Bill Apedaile) and **Judith O'Reilly** (journalist and novelist) and **Alistair McCall** (editor of the *Sunday Times Best University Guide*) (both proposed by the Principal, and seconded by Maeve Sherlock)

The date of the **next SCR meeting** is 2nd February 2017 (to be confirmed)

AOB Ian Zass-Ogilvie asked about the differences in menu between the High Table and the students at Special Formals, and whether combination formals could go by a different name. The President and Dr Masson noted that students were positive about High Table and formals as they were currently constituted, while there is scope for a constructive conversations for future changes (such as the dress code)

In the absence of further business the President closed the meeting at 7pm.

SCR TREASURER'S REPORT 31/10/2016

Balance at 13/05/16 3040.89

INCOME

Subs income 1565.00

Sri Lanka project income 262.50

PDA Fund income 765.50

Other income

 Misdirected payments 120.00

 Castle formal payments 150.00*

 Donations to funds 257.50

TOTAL 3120.50

EXPENDITURE

SCR Grants 500.00

Unsung Hero Award 150.00

Castle SCR (for formal) 150.00*

Catering (Chad's Day 2015) 284.00

TOTAL 1084.00

Balance at 31/10/16 5077.39

SCR CHARITABLE DONATIONS

The SCR currently supports two charitable causes

- Project Sri Lanka – this link was established in response to 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami as part of a University-wide campaign
- Its own Personal Development Awards fund – this is designed to allow the SCR to make awards to students for personal development projects and, more recently, to assist with the costs of presenting research at conferences

The SCR's original commitments were

- Project Sri Lanka £400 per annum – to sponsor 2 children (@ £200pa each) through school to the age of eighteen
- No specific target. Money raised is supplemented by donations from general income.

Our current commitments

- Sri Lanka £200pa in the academic year 2016/2017
- We now sponsor only one child as the other has reached the age of eighteen and has left school
- The second child reaches eighteen and leaves school in summer 2017

Options after 2016/2017

- We could allow the Project Sri Lanka donations to lapse and not replace them
- We could continue to donate to Project Sri Lanka for their other projects in water provision, sanitation and medicine
- We could identify a new charity to fund
 - This could be at home or overseas (in any part of the world)
 - This could be contributions for scholarships (see below)
- The SCR will be consulted in good time about this decision

New opportunities

1. The three common rooms in College have set up a committee to co-ordinate charitable fund-raising within the college. The JCR currently supports a Charity of the Term: it is hoped that in future all three common rooms will have a say in choosing this and that all three common rooms will contribute each term by way of small fundraising events/collections
2. College is hoping to raise £1m to establish the Joe Cassidy Memorial Scholarship fund
 - Dr Joe Cassidy was Principal of St Chad's College from 1997 until his death in 2015. He was passionate about St Chad's being able to offer students the support they need to succeed. He believed that anyone with aptitude and promise should have the opportunity to become part of an academic community like St Chad's, whatever their background.

- These Bursaries which bear his name and are funded through gifts from St Chad's alumni, fellows and friends, are intended to reflect Dr Cassidy's personality and principles, and celebrate his achievements. Applicants should ideally be able to demonstrate a commitment to social justice and a proven appetite for intellectual curiosity and academic and community engagement.
 - The Bursaries are intended to encourage applications to Durham and St Chad's from students from less affluent economic backgrounds and under-represented communities in the UK and EU. Successful recipients will receive £3,000 per year for a maximum of four years.
3. Choral and Organ scholarships
- St Chad's College Choir represents a wide cross-section of the College, welcoming undergraduates, postgraduates and members of staff alike. The Choir consists of approximately 40 singers, most of whom are very informally auditioned though some previous experience of singing in a choir is desirable.
 - The Choir's primary function is to sing at College Chapel Services during term time. (Currently a Eucharist on Sunday morning and a midweek Choral Evensong or Choral Eucharist). The range of music is vast, with settings by Byrd and Palestrina through to Stanford and Howells. In addition, the Choir is privileged to sing in Durham Cathedral, usually once or twice each term. The College's annual Advent Procession in the Cathedral is undoubtedly a highlight in this respect; the annual celebration of St Chad's Day is another.
 - The College values its Choir and choral tradition highly and provides it with many opportunities to play a full and central part in the cultural life of the College. This includes regular concerts and recitals in the chapel and beyond. CD recordings have been released from time to time to mark the ever evolving membership and continuing success and development. The Choir also tours regularly: recent tours have visited Amsterdam (2016), New York (2015), Prague (2014), Paris (2013) and Rome (2012).
 - There is a total of 12 Choral Scholarships and 2 Organ Scholarships available each year (£1000pa)
4. Rhodes University – Top-up Bursaries
- Dr Cassidy and Tim Barnard had put together a draft proposal for a scholarship fund to provide an academically capable pupil of St Matthew's High School, Keiskammahoek, who expresses an interest in pursuing either an academic or teaching career with the means to study at Rhodes University each year. The award would cover tuition fees for the first year of study (£2,000 - £2,500) and a small maintenance allowance (around £250). Following Dr Cassidy's death, there was a hope that such a fund might be established in his memory.
 - Tim and I met with Dr Sizwe Mabizela, the Vice-Chancellor of Rhodes University in Summer 2015. During this conversation it became clear that Rhodes seem to battle with any deviation from the "usual way of doing things", and the VC was clear that NSFAS would usually be their funding route (the National Student Financial Aid Scheme is a statutory body, funded primarily by the South African National Department of Education). It seems that most students from St Matthew's would be eligible for the higher rate of NSFAS funding if they were to attend Rhodes University. NSFAS funding covers tuition fees and accommodation but NOT, books, materials, photocopying or "student experience". Dr Mabizela suggested that an award of SAR 2500 (currently in the region of £150) each year would make a significant difference for such students. Other students from low income families (with parents who are teachers or nurses for example) would receive a lower level of NSFAS funding and for such students an award of SAR 5000 (£300) would be appropriate. It seems that a significant difference could be made to the student experience of a significant number of students for a relatively modest outlay.

Proposals

1. Income for the Sri Lanka Project last year was £285 and is likely this year to exceed our £200 sponsorship commitment. I propose to donate any excess monies to Project Sri Lanka for their other projects
2. After 2016/2017 the SCR should identify another project to support
3. Other smaller events should be held on a regular basis to support the College's Charity of the Term

St Chad's College Strategy 2017-2027 Mindmap

