

UNIVERSITY OF KEELE

Staff Common Room

AGM

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 28th May 2014, 1.15pm

The Common Room, Keele Hall

01/13 Apologies for Absence: Caroline Baggaley, Peter Crome, Ted Evans, John Rogers, Paul Truman, Mike Turner, Chris Wain

Present: Peter Lawrence (in the chair), Margaret Bird, Stephen Clifford, James Elder, Helen Lovert, Rick Marshall, Bev Newton, Terry O'Neill, Robert Smith, Anna Truman (Secretary)

02/13 The **Minutes** of the Annual General Meeting of 29th May 2013 were **agreed** as a correct record.

03/13 Matters Arising on the Minutes.

None other than those appearing elsewhere on the Agenda.

04/13 President's and Chairman's Reports

The Chairman spoke about the past year and future developments of the SCR. This year was much the same as 2012-13 as we noted the improvements in the lunch time arrangements with CBE. More people seem to be taking advantage of the offering this year. The book club which began last year has also continued. The Christmas Dinner took place this year with lower attendance than before However Burns' Night was very successful and well attended. We had the annual whisky tasting and several wine tastings this year which were well received. The current chess tournament will continue into next year for its conclusion. The new members buffet drew a record attendance this year from both new and current members. Finally we had an innovative and successful concert presented by Dr Chris Satur and the Medical Orchestra and we would like to organise something again for the coming year.

Peter then spoke about some of the concerns of the committee. Other than Burns' Night there is a lack of member participation in the organised events. There has been less attendance each year at the Christmas dinner, and whether it should continue has been discussed; should there be a similar event but at a different time of the year?

The future of SCR is an issue. A few members of the committee were invited to a meeting with some of the senior management from the UEC. We met with Nick Foskett, Trevor McMillan, and Karen Clarke. The new Deputy Vice Chancellor, Trevor, wanted to find out more of what the SCR was all about. It was an informative lunch where we explained the current position of the SCR. They raised issues about our location and how to get more staff involved. Nick stated that he and the others thought the SCR had an important function for the university and wanted to support it. There should be some kind of social element to university staff lives. Whether a new location would increase participation was an interesting question they posed. This is an ongoing discussion and the committee has plans to meet again with them as a working group.

Peter then invited comments from the floor.

Martin Smith suggested the implementation of a designated hour in mid-morning or mid afternoon (seperate from lunch) where staff could gather at the SCR to meet with eachother and connect as a community. It seems that people don't have the time to talk to eachother.

Peter agreed that it would be an interesting thing to do, but it may be that people put in a full day and at 5pm they want to get home to their families, instead of staying on longer to account for another hour spent meeting other staff.

James Elder added that not all leave campus at 5pm exactly because of traffic, including himself. He suggested that the SCR could make arrangement that one a the week there could be a friendly delaying coffee in the the 5-6pm hour. Stephen Clifford added that far more people live off campus. Peter pointed out that the issue of the location of the SCR plays a part in involvement in such an hour. Those who are passing by on way home are more likely to stop than those who might have to go out of their way to stop by the SCR. Peter summarised; if the university would contribute resources to a designated time for some form of staff interaction we may see more engagement. Different departments could host such an event providing a chance for staff to see other departments and meet people.

Terry O'Neill suggested that we should find a successful model at another university, and that perhaps there isn't one. This may mean that it isn't possible to increase the participation in the SCR.

The President, Peter Crome sent apologies but noted his concurrence with the terms of the Chair's report.

Peter Lawrence thanked Peter Crome on behalf of the SCR for his leadership this year, as well as the committee for their work and the minute taking at meetings.

05/13 Treasurer's Report

Accounts for 2013-2014. For a statement of the account see the minute book. SNC reported. The basic position is that for the second year running we made a small net loss - this is the first year trading with CBE through the bar. It took its time to get going but it is doing better this year. It is projected that the bar trading will continue to go up. MISC room hire and piano hire has gone up as prices have increased. There was a deficit on functions which includes the cost of the new members buffet, a profit from the Christmas Dinner and small loss on the Burns' Night Supper. It would be good to boost reserves but that is unlikely in the short term given the low recruitment of new members. Thannotationon against the figure for newspapers reflects the move during the year to cut the number of bought papers for the SCR.

The proposal that the accounts be accepted was **carried** unanimously, with thanks to Stephen Clifford for his work this year.

06/13 Honorary Membership of the SCR

On the proposal of the Committee, it was unanimously **resolved** that Honorary Membership be offered to the following:

Professor Peter Crome (retiring President, who has retired from the School of Medicine)

07/13 Election of Committee for 2013/2014

The successive motions that the Committee's nominations for each of the four officers, and for the remainder of the SCR Committee *en bloc*, be accepted, were **carried** unanimously.

President	Nomination To Be Announced
Deputy President	Nomination To Be Announced
Chairman	Professor Peter Lawrence (c/o Management School)
Secretary	Mrs Anna Truman (Music)
Treasurer	Mr Stephen Clifford (Retired Member, c/o SCR)
Assistant Secretaries:	
Room Bookings	Mr Stephen Clifford (Retired Member, c/o SCR)
Social	NOMINATIONS INVITED
Membership	Miss Margaret Bird (Retired Member, c/o SCR)
Treasures	Dr Philip Kivell (Retired Member, c/o SCR)
Newspapers	Mr Chris Wain (Planning & Academic Administration)
Rambles	Dr Terry O'Neill (Associate Member)
Wine Stewards	Dr David Cohen (Retired Member)
	Mr Stephen Clifford (Retired Member, c/o SCR)
Members	Professor Marilyn Andrews (past President)
	Professor James Elder (Retired Member)
	Dr Helen Parr (SPIRE)

08/13 Any Other Business

Peter Lawrence spoke about the recent death of Martin Dent OBE who was a member of Keele for many years in the department of politics and co-founder of Jubilee 2000 to relieve the debt of 3rd world countries. There will be a memorial service for Martin in the University Chapel in June. Martin was remember by the SCR as he was a former secretary for SCR and a longstanding member.

Margaret Bird thanked Peter Lawrence for his service as the chair and for agreeing to stand for another year.

09/13 The Date & Time of Next Annual General Meeting were agreed as: **WEDNESDAY 27th MAY 2015, 1.15 p.m.**

Anna Truman
Minute Secretary to the AGM, 29.5.14