

Durham University Retired Staff Association

Inaugural General Meeting

8 July 2013

Present: The Chairman of DURSA, Dr KJ Orford in the chair, Professor JH Anstee, Professor MHP Bott, Dr GM Brooke, Professor BH Bransden, Professor RD Chambers, Professor JI Clarke, Mr F Cleveland, Dr WD Corner, Dr AI Doyle, Dr CH Emeleus, Dr IM Evans, Dr IS Evans, Professor JW Feast, Mr JMM Good, Professor BS Gower, Dr AJ Heesom, Dr JG Holland, Dr RL Kell, Miss JM Kenworthy, Dr M Kilner, Miss MS Mc Collum, Dr DE Manuel, Dr MJ Morant, Dr WTW Morgan, Professor JA Moss, Mrs F Navabpour, Mr FW Pritchard, Professor PJ Rhodes, Dr JMJ Rogister, Mrs MK Rogister, Dr IM Stewart, Mr G Teasdale, Dr RB Thomas, Professor AR Townsend, Dr JG Townsend, Professor K Wade and Mr ER Wood.

In addition to the members of DURSA there were present the Vice Chancellor, Professor Chris Higgins, and as observers, Mrs Joyce Bott, Mrs Molly Corner, Professor Joe Elliott, Mrs Jenneke Feast, Mrs Diane Gower, Mr T Guinan, Mrs Olive Holland, Ms Louise McLaren, Mrs Ruth McRee, Mrs Pamela Stewart, Mr B van Dyk and Mr D Williams.

Minutes

1 Action at General Meeting in 2010

Reported: that at the General Meeting held on 30 September 2010 the following were elected to serve as the DURSA Committee to bring the Association into being:

Dr KJ Orford – Chairman

Emeritus Professor JI Clarke – Vice- Chairman

Dr IM Stewart – Secretary

Mr FW Pritchard – Treasurer

Emeritus Professor JH Anstee

Dr AJ Heesom

Emeritus Professor Sir Arnold Wolfendale

2 Report

The Chairman reported on the period since 30 September 2010 and the various technical, legal and other difficulties which had been encountered and which had delayed the establishment of the Association. He thanked the secretary for his contribution and the staff of DARO for their efforts in effecting the launch of the Association and registering members as well as for the arrangements for the dinner which was to follow the Inaugural General meeting.

3 Memorandum of Understanding with the University

The Vice-Chancellor welcomed the fact that DURSA was finally established and emphasised that the retired staff were part of the University. The Memorandum of Understanding with the University was then signed by the Vice-Chancellor on behalf of the University and by the Chairman on behalf of DURSA.

4 Membership

Reported: that, starting in May 2013, the invitations to join DURSA had been sent out to those retired University staff on record with the request that the invitation be forwarded to ex-colleagues who might not have received it. It was explained that Data Protection provisions had made it difficult to trace retired staff but at the time of the meeting 83 retired staff had registered as members. A number had made a point of expressing their regret that they could not get to the Inaugural Meeting. Some problems had been experienced during the registration process which of necessity for reasons of economy, had had to be based on the system for alumni. There was a brief discussion of the benefits of membership and accessibility to periodicals in JSTOR.

5 Nominations for Membership of the Committee

a) Reported: that nominations had been invited for the offices of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and for not more than three other members but that none had been received.

b) Noted: that the present Committee had recommended:

That, initially at least, the Committee should not exceed nine in number.

That in future all members be elected to serve for renewable three year periods.

That to establish a system whereby one third of the Committee retires each year, the members elected in 2013 serve for one, two or three years, and to this end;

That at their first meeting the newly elected Committee members draw lots or otherwise determine which one third of their number shall retire in 2014, which one third in 2015 and which one third in 2016.

c) Noted: also that the current Committee had been conscious that its composition did not reflect the composition of the likely membership of DURSA and had very much hoped that nominations would ensure a committee representative of both men and women and of all categories of former staff whether academic, administrative, clerical, technical, departmental, college or other.

d) The Chairman drew attention to the desirability of a degree of continuity and the Vice-Chairman indicated his willingness to stand down in favour of a younger member.

e) In the absence of nominations the Chairman proposed that, subject to regular reporting back to the membership and until an Annual General Meeting in about a year's time, the current committee should remain in being with a somewhat fluid membership and using co-option to achieve a more representative composition.

f) Agreed: in the absence of objections to proceed on the above basis.

6 Future Activities.

The Chairman outlined his vision for DURSA not merely as a dining club or social gathering but as making a real contribution to the University and not only in fund-raising terms. The Committee should draw up a list of specific aims and invited members to let him have proposals. Sponsored lectures, lectures from experts in their fields and, in a social context, making use of visitors to the University were all suggested at the meeting.

7 Tour of the Palatine Centre

Members were invited to sign up after the meeting for a conducted tour on Friday 2 August of the Palatine Centre. This would be followed by light refreshments. If the event proved popular it was hoped that a second tour could be arranged.

IMS 11.7.13