

Grey College Association AGM Minutes

26th March 2011

2pm

Pennington Room, Grey College

Minute 815 - Apologies for absence

Michael Robinson.

Minute 816 - Approval of the Minutes

The minutes were approved and signed on a general aye

Minute 817 – Presidents Report

It was noted that in the last year the Association had held two reunions, the Durham reunion had once again been a success and had generated a £1250 donation to the Grey College Trust. A London Reunion was held in September at the offices of Sarasin and Partners, this was very well attended and was an excellent event, however, this reunion turned out to be very expensive, as whilst the building was free of charge, the staff food and drinks had to be paid for. The venue is therefore not a feasible option for future reunions.

It was minuted that, should he be re-elected, Dave Baldwin is going to continue to organise the London reunion and that it would continue to be a less formal occasion than the Durham Reunion.

The Association has once again sponsored a formal meal in College, these are not free now, and they cost students between £8-10. This is a great contribution to the College and we get charged the absolute minimum rate for the food; the Association does not contribute towards alcohol for the formal. This event also provides the Association with a platform to engage the current members of the JCR and explain to them the role of the Association.

The transfer to an electronic edition of Grey Matters has allowed the Association to make 10 student travel bursary awards, up from 6 the previous year. A total of £2000 was awarded following a rigorous application and selection process, an increase of £800 on the previous year. The Association received more applications than ever before, of which a number met the strict criteria of the Association and the College.

As previously noted Grey Matters magazine has been transferred to electronic media. Richard Hilton and Steve Gregory noted that we were short of 300 e-mail or postal addresses, on this occasion postcards have been sent to members who could not receive the e-mail alerting them to the publication of the magazine online. The Association has also made an appeal for information on "old pals", to help us find people for whom we do not have an e-mail address. The president thanked Steve for the time and effort that he puts in to increasing our electronic data base and for keeping us ahead of our competitors in this regard.

At the end of his report the President reiterated his intention to stand down at the meeting after 6 years in the role. He said that he was standing aside to make way for new / fresh ideas. The members present asked that their thanks to Henry be recorded in the minutes; Henry also received a round of applause from those assembled.

Minute 818 - Treasurers Report

The Treasurer presented the report which shows a surplus in the Association accounts.

There was, however, a loss on the reunions of £1300, due to the people attending the London reunion for their free reunion dinner. It was agreed that the Association should restrict the offer of a free meal to those attending the Durham reunion only.

It was noted that the reserves in the saving account were now comparable to the levels in 2005.

A question was asked about the number of students opting out of the Association. The Association President and the JCR President said that they were not aware of any students currently opting out of the Association. The President also noted that the college Battels bill had been discussed at the University Senate meeting and that it has been suggested that the Association levey is placed at the end of the time in Durham, as an exit fee / for cosmetic reasons. Those present agreed that the current billing structure was more palatable to students and that the Association would oppose any change.

Adam Ruddock, JCR President, asked if the subscription had been raised to cover the cost of the magazine and postage, the cost of which has now been removed. Henry advised that this was not the case and that the levy had been increased over a period of years to provide better value for money for students and to enable the Association to do more for the current students (sponsored formals, etc).

It was agreed that, as the financial position of the Association was healthy, no significant budget changes were required in the short term.

Minute 819 - Donations and Fund Raising

As has been popular in recent years, the Association will once again have a collection after dinner, any monies received will be doubled by an anonymous sponsor. The funds raised will go towards the Jubilee Development fund.

In addition to this, it was proposed that the Association make a donation of £10k to the Jubilee project to extend the JCR and the Library, this figure will be matched by the University. In line with our donation strategy, this is a way that we can show we are supporting the development of the College and contributing to the life of every student.

Steve Gregory mentioned that the increase in tuition fees from 2012 which will give rise to more student hardship, and asked how can the Association help with this? The president stated that the University has central hard ship funds, as does the Grey College Trust (The Halliday Fund), and suggested that ultimately the Association look to alleviate hardship in a different way, through improvements in infrastructure and cultural support, thereby helping every student not just the few.

The motion for a £10 K donation was put the vote and it was unanimously accepted.

Minute 820 - Election of Officers

All officers were elected on a General Aye, the position elected were:

- Secretary - Steve Gregory
- Secretarial Support - removed
- Treasurer - Alan Richards
- Vice president for Publications - Foster Neville
- Vice president, Website Editor - Richard Hilton
- Vice president - Janet Gyllenspetz
- President - Thomas Cliff

The incoming President briefly outlined his thoughts on possible future direction for the Association, and looked forward to building on the progress made under Henry's leadership.

Minute 821 - Reunions 2011/12

London Reunion: 23rd September 2011 -The Corney and Barrow, Paternoster Square, £25 per person, (inc. Bubbly, wine and food).

Durham Reunion: Will be held on 23-25th of March 2012.

American Reunion: TBC

Minute 822 - AOB

The dinner will be 7pm for 7:30pm in the Dining Hall.

The President drew the meeting to a close at 15:06