

Grey College Association AGM Minutes 21st March 2015 at 4pm, Pennington Room, Grey College

Minute 856 - Welcome

The President welcomed members to the 2015 AGM . Those present - Andy Petch, Piers James, Neville Gowton, Mike Robinson, Brian Darracott, John Earp, Colin Isaacs, Len Anderson, Nick Klein, Parik Chandra, Neville Griffiths, Tom Allen, Peter Swift, Tom Cliff, Dave Baldwin, R J Hilton, Steve Gregory

Apologies for absence: Janet Gyllenspetz, C Jewkes, H Dyson, A Sparrow

Minute 857 - Minutes of 2014 AGM

The minutes of the 2014 AGM were approved (proposed Andy Petch, seconded Mike Robinson) on a 'general aye' and signed.

Matters arising from the minutes: The President explained that he had not written to the Chair of College Council as agreed, but had given her the Association's view about the Colleges Review in person at the College Council Meeting. At the present time the review has been paused, but the subject is likely to rise again following the General Election in May 2015. Dialogue with other College Associations continues.

Minute 858 - President's Report

The President reported that he had received 117 responses from members to his request for views re "profile" of any future Vice Chancellor. A consolidated document was sent to the Chair of University Council, but no response had so far been received - the President will ask Robert Gillespie for feedback on how our input was used.

A successful London reunion had been attended by ca 70 members & guests. The Careers event in November was appreciated by the 60+ students who joined in, as were three 'webinars' held in Feb/March 2015 to help students prepare for Assessment Centres. The Assessment Centre workshop organised by Alumni will take place in the three weeks after exams.

Costs of the sponsored Formal Dinner had been split between the Association & Grant Thornton, which uses it as a recruitment opportunity.

Positive feedback has been received for the latest edition of Grey Matters

Awards to 12 students this year had totalled £4k.

Minute 859 - Treasurer's Report & Accounts 2014/15

In the absence of the Treasurer, the President presented the financial report, noting the first ever profit from reunions as a result of a number of individuals cancelling but then donating their payments to the Association.

Income stayed level, continued spending of total Awards budget and the transfer agreed at 2014 AGM of £1k to reserve gave an operating loss last year of £1.6k, compared with £3k surplus in 2013.

The Budget for 2015/16 anticipates increased income from more Freshers, but the question of membership fees for postgraduates joining Grey from outside is still under consideration - Tom Cliff & the JCR President are trying to decide how to collect fees - probably on 1st term Battels bill. The Master wondered if the new postgrads could be asked to contribute to the Association. Nick Klein & Tom Cliff explained the changes to the MCR status (now a self-governing element within the JCR Charitable Trust).

More Awards are planned (£4k from £3k), with emphasis on support for personal development of students. An increase has also been included to account for the approved gifts to staff supporting the Association, and for 'boosting' Facebook posts to involve more Alumni. This year £25 was spent to get the request for VC profile suggestions to more people (11,000 people were reaches), and this will be done more often in future, four boosts are planned for 2015/6).

In response to a question from Len Anderson as to why the Durham Reunion is not publicised on the University booking site, Steve Gregory explained that we have chosen to keep bookings in-house to avoid the need for members to use another ID & password. The event IS mentioned in Durham First & Newswire. Steve & Peter Swift will confer to try to increase such publicity.

Mike Robinson asked if it is possible to improve on the present 0.1% interest on the Reserve funds. The President replied that to do so would involve switching from a Charity (Club) account to a business account, which would greatly increase bank charges.

Len Anderson asked why the Corney & Barrow is still the regular London Reunion venue, Dave Baldwin explained that we are accommodated free of charge and with no 'minimum spend' condition. He did, however, announce that other locations are under investigation. Most who attend are in the 22- 35 age group, and they like the informal approach which suits most London lifestyles.

The President noted that our use of social media for communication continues to grow, although e-mail is still favoured for Grey Matters and for the Angels scheme (now with over 500 volunteers).

Minute - 860 Governance development & election of Officers

The President confirmed his intention to stand down at the 2016 AGM (the end of his permitted two 3-year terms of office) and asked anyone interested in this rewarding position to contact him.

The Treasurer, Vice Presidents and Secretary were re-elected on a general aye.

Minute 861 - Reunions 2015/16

Date of the Durham Reunion 2016 to be confirmed, but will be after Easter.

The 2015 London Reunion will be held on Friday 25th September 2015, at a venue to be confirmed.

Minute 862 - Any Other Business

Steve Gregory reported that it is hoped to hold a dinner for Senior Men and JCR Presidents in the summer. He explained that Grey is almost alone in not having some kind of Honours board listing the holders of that post. A quote of ca £2k for the traditional wooden / gold leaf boards had been obtained in 2008/9, but had been felt then to be too expensive, and would now be probably closer to £3k. Current thinking is to have a framed 'scroll' (provided by a supplier already used by the College) which can be extended annually. The President proposed that the cost should be spread between the Association, the Trust and the JCR, but that we should put our best foot forward on this project. After a number of members welcomed the idea, wondering why it has not already been done, the meeting approved that the executive should have a budget of up to £1200 to pursue this project ahead of the Presidents dinner.

The JCR President thanked those present on behalf of current students for the support which the Association provides in so many ways.

The President drew the meeting to a close at 4.47pm and informed those present that the Bar would open at 5.00pm in time for the England rugby match.