



THE RUSKIN COLLEGE FELLOWSHIP

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD ON 2 NOVEMBER 2013 AT RUSKIN COLLEGE, RUSKIN HALL, OLD HEADINGTON, OXFORD

1. **Present:** Richard Maher (President), Chris Bussell, Angela Potts, Bob Anderton, Jenny New, Pauline Hamilton, Roger Dyas-Elliott, Frank Simkins, Elcena Jeffers, Jill Watts, Alan Shepherd (sec).
2. **Apologies:** Debbie Hollingsworth, Karen Ridley, Prof. Audrey Mullender, Anne Sieve, Brian Smith, Sally Courtney, Art Wright (received after the meeting).
3. The Chair welcomed Jill Watts who was attending her first meeting.
4. **To confirm the Constitution, Standing Orders and Code of Ethics:** The EC was reminded that meetings of the Committee were guided by the Constitution, the Standing Orders and the Code of Ethics. NOTED
5. **To agree the minutes of the EC meeting held on 22 June 2013:**
Moved by B Anderton, seconded by C Bussell. The minutes were AGREED a correct record.
6. **Matter arising**
 - i. Fellowship Marketing Leaflet (min 4i refers): It was confirmed that a copy of the leaflet was in the graduation packs of those students attending the ceremony on 26 October. NOTED
 - ii. Methods of payment (min 4i refers): It was reported that there is now an electronic method of making payments to the Fellowship and that two members had made their payments through this method when joining the Fellowship. It was confirmed that there was now a system for paying by Direct Debit and also that people could still make payments to the Fellowship via cheque and cash. NOTED
 - iii. Skype Conferencing (min 4ii refers): A discussion took place around issues related to Skype conferencing and telephone conferencing. It was AGREED to add this to the Action Plan and review it.
 - iv. The 2013 Reunion (min 5 refers): EC members were thanked for their work over the Reunion weekend. Bob Anderton provided a written and a verbal report arising from the Evaluation returns received after the Reunion.
7. **The Action Plan for the Year**
 - i. “Working Together”: It was AGREED to use the College Guidelines on this issue when they had been produced.
 - ii. College records – letter to Governors: A draft was read to the meeting. It was AGREED to send a letter to College Governors, in the terms set out, at an appropriate time and with sensitivity.

Two other points were raised; i) that there may be a role for the Fellowship in helping to catalogue the archive; ii) some unions may be in a position to help fund the archiving.

NOTED

- iii. To review Fellowship Aims: It was AGREED that the secretary set up an activity for the next meeting of the Fellowship that would enable a full consideration of the current Aims with a view to amending them.
- iv. Area meetings: The AGM had taken the decision to identify a single Region to organise a 'social and engaging event'. It was AGREED that Debbie be asked to establish such an event in the London area.

It was also confirmed that events could be established in other Regions if members of the EC were willing and able to organise them.

NOTED

- v. Date of next AGM: It was confirmed that the date of the next Reunion weekend would be Friday 19, Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 of September 2014. The President said he would probably be in Australia at that time. It was AGREED that the President and Deputy President would work closely during the year.
- vi. Topics for the Reunion: The AGM had given the EC a 'steer' on topics for the Reunion of 2014. It was AGREED that,
- Jill Watts would contact Shaun Green regarding speakers for the Environment debate
 - The secretary would discuss with Ian Manborde the arrangement for linking the anniversary of the Miners' Strike to the Reunion.
 - That Frank Simkins and the Secretary would work on a Fellowship History and World War 1 Pamphlet for that aspect of the Reunion.
- vii. Public telephone at the College: It was AGREED to ask the College about the possibility of establishing a public telephone at the College. If this was not feasible then the EC would identify a method of enabling members attending the Reunion to have access to a mobile telephone.
- viii. Access to taxi telephone numbers: It was AGREED that such numbers would be displayed on the new Fellowship noticeboard.
- ix. Transferring Fellowship Data to Web Alumnus: It was reported that the Fellowship database needed to be integrated with Web Alumnus. It was AGREED that the President and Secretary work with Stuart Maidment on this project.
- x. To develop the partnership with Ransackers: Jenny New raised several points regarding the Ransackers' Association –
- The organisation wanted to contact people who had been on Ransacker Courses in the past. The majority of Ransacker students attend Ruskin College.
 - A lottery grant had been received to support Ransacker courses. Colleges were being visited to identify the ones that would be prepared to run such a course.
 - Whilst the Ransacker Association was a separate organisation and is listed as a company, it was very keen to work more productively with the Fellowship.
 - Frank Simkins reminded the EC that Vi Hughes had introduced the idea of Ransacker education for older people.

It was AGREED that Jenny and the Secretary would work together to develop a framework for action to take the partnership forward.

- xi. Student Fund sub-committee: It was AGREED not to establish a sub committee this year and to consider expenditure later in the meeting.
- xii. Pamphlet on World War 1: It was AGREED that Frank Simkins and the Secretary would work together on the development of a pamphlet. (See also min 7 vi above)
- xiii. Widening participation on the EC: It was AGREED to discuss web conferencing and widening EC participation at the next meeting. (See also min 6iii above).
- xiv. Special Interest Groups: The secretary reported that he and the Deputy President had discussed the possibility of developing a study group to look at economics. Informal discussion had taken place with the Principal and she had suggested that only developments of this kind might come under the heading of Special Interest Groups. The idea has not yet been developed and was being reported to the EC on the basis that this *may* be a development over the coming year. NOTED

8. **Reports from officers**

- i. President: The President reported that he had been invited to the student Congregation held on 26 October but had been unable to attend. The Deputy President would report on this.

The President reported that he had, along with the secretary, attended the funeral of Vi Hughes on 23rd October. Vi was a member of the Fellowship EC and the founder of Ransackers. She had been part of the teaching staff at the College and was a much respected comrade. The President reported that the service held at St Andrew's Church in Headington, had been preceded by a procession from Vi's home at Rookery Cottage, led by a piper. The service itself had included many tributes to Vi from family, friends and neighbours. The Order of Service programme for the service was circulated to enable EC members to appreciate the music, the tributes, the songs and the poetry that accompanied Vi's funeral. The EC proposed that a small amount of finance for a students prize and a plaque for the circular bench be provided by the Fellowship, with the agreement of Vi's family. AGREED

The President thanked members of the EC for their brevity in discussion in what was his first meeting in the chair.

The President also said that it was very likely that he will not be able to attend next year's Reunion because of family commitments on the dates. It was AGREED that he would work closely with the Deputy President during the year.

- ii. Deputy President: The Deputy President reported that he had attended the Graduation Ceremony in October and that it was a good day for the College and the Fellowship. The ethos appeared to be 'you never leave Ruskin'. Everyone who graduated received a membership application form and the Deputy President reported that he had encouraged people to join, along with Prof. Mullender and Jim Mowett of Unite. The D.P. reported that he had personally congratulated every student who attended on the day. He reported that it was important to get in touch with students before they leave and that we need newer, younger members. The D.P. reported that he had met with Prof. Mullender regarding the future finances of the College. He had discussed the booklet that was provided for

homeless people in Oxford, which provided them with additional sources of funding. He felt that something similar would be useful for Ruskin students.

Jill Watts responded to the report by proposing that the Fellowship offers membership in the first year for free.

Elcena raised the Campaign on World Disability and the New Dynamic on ageing and suggested that the Fellowship become involved.

It was AGREED to give further consideration to these two proposals including the establishment of a sub committee in respect of the developments for older people.

- iii. Secretary's report: The secretary said that most of the points he would have addressed had been raised during the meeting. He reported on developments in membership since the AGM as follows:

New Members

1. Gus Grub; Life member; at Ruskin 2012 to 2012; Glasgow (verbal report to 2013 AGM)
2. Nicholas Owen; Life member; at Ruskin 2006 to 2012; Hampshire area.
3. John Harper; Life member; at Ruskin 2011 to 2013; East Sussex area
4. Coral Plumb; Annual direct debit; at Ruskin 1997 to 1998; Oxfordshire
5. Andrew Wells; Life member; at Ruskin 2007 to 2013; Cheshire
6. Ronald Leach*; Life member; at Ruskin 2006 to 2012; Cardiff
7. Simon Taylor*; Life member; at Ruskin 2008 to 2013; Leicestershire

All forms sent to Stuart Maidment

* BA ILTUS

Absent Friends

1. James (Jim) Fawcett; d. 3rd August 2013; student at Ruskin 1967/69
2. Vi Hughes; d 17th October 2013. Former Ruskin tutor. Ransacker. Fellowship EC member

Changed addresses

1. Wyn Thomas
2. Len Weston

REPORTS RECEIVED

9. **To confirm representatives for College Council:** Representatives are R Maher, C Bussell, A Potts. Dates of meetings are: 6 December 2013 and 4 July 2014.
10. **Christmas Cards:** It was AGREED that Christmas cards be sent to members who had attended the September Reunion, which had been the practice over the last two years.
11. **Any other business:**
 - i. Members of the EC had been advised that the Principal was retiring. Frank proposed sending a letter of thanks to the Principal for doing a challenging job well. The secretary was to draft a letter for the consideration of the EC. AGREED
 - ii. The EC had discussed the contribution made by Vi Hughes to the College and its students. Members present stood for a minutes silence as a mark of respect to Vi,
12. There being no further business the meeting closed at 3.45pm. **Next meeting 15 Feb. 2014**