



THE RUSKIN COLLEGE FELLOWSHIP

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD ON 12 APRIL 2014 AT RUSKIN COLLEGE, RUSKIN HALL, OLD HEADINGTON, OXFORD

1. **PRESENT:** Richard Maher (Chair), Jill Watts, Pauline Hamilton, John Hurlston, Chris Bussell, Debbie Hollingsworth, Anne Sieve, Alan Shepherd (Sec).
2. **APOLOGIES:** Angela Potts, Brian Smith, Chris Wilkes, Paul de Felice, Frank Simkins, Owen Murphy, Teresa Lefort, Bob Anderton, Art Wright, Karen Ridley.
3. The minutes of the meeting held on 1st March 2014 were **AGREED** a correct record.
4. **MATTER ARISING:**
 - i. Skype/Conferencing (min 5i refers): No responses had been received to the Comments Sheet for today's meeting. It was reported that Owen Murphy had forwarded some comments on items from the minutes. It was **AGREED** to send out a Comments Sheet for the next meeting on the basis that time needs to be given to this new activity to enable EC members to get used to it.
 - ii. 'Working Together' (min 5ii refers): It was reported that an amended document would be available in the summer for consideration of the EC. NOTED
 - iii. Public Telephone at the College (min 5v refers): It was reported that, whilst each College 'block' had access to emergency services lines, it would not be cost effective for the College to establish a public telephone on the premises. It was **AGREED** that, for Fellowship purposes, a nominated telephone person would be identified during the Reunion.
 - iv. Access to taxi telephone numbers/Fellowship Noticeboard (min 5 vi refers): It was reported that the President had spoken to the Acting Principal and that he had agreed to put a notice on the Fellowship Noticeboard stating that it was for Fellowship use. A sign denoting that the Board was for Fellowship notices needed to be produced. It was **AGREED** that the President would speak to Ian Manborde.
 - v. Transferring Fellowship Data to Web Alumnus (min 5vii refers): It was reported that there had been a delay in taking this forward because of a problem of printing paper lists. The task was ongoing. NOTED
 - vi. Fellowship Pamphlet on World War 1 (min 5 ix refers): It was reported that there was still a significant amount of work to be done on this but that a draft would be ready prior to the next EC meeting. NOTED
 - vii. College Records / newruskinarchives (min 8ii refers): It was reported that the Secretary had discussed this issue with the Acting Principal and that the people running *newruskinarchives* had asked if their leaflet could be included in the Fellowship mailing in July. After lengthy discussion the E.C. voted 6-1 against this request.

5. **PROGRESS ON ORGANISING THE REUNION AND AGM**

- i It was reported that discussions were underway with Bill Rigby of The Green Party to be our speaker on *Climate Change*. NOTED
- ii It was also noted that Art Wright had suggested that Gary Hart, the Parliament Outreach Officer, would be a good speaker to have in the future. NOTED
- iii In terms of Reunion Tasks, the following was agreed (subject to confirmation from those members not present):

No.	TASK	PERSON	COMMENT
1	Planning	All E.C. members	Commenced November 2013
2	Booking speakers	Secretary	
3	Updating papers for 1) the mailout, 2) the AGM	Secretary	
4	Organising social activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music • Bar • Poetry • Quiz • Raffle 	Debbie Debbie Debbie Art (to be confirmed) Angela (TBC)	£250 approved for live music
5	Taking bookings – July, August (inc room lists and meal lists)	John	Concern that some people had meals last year that were not booked and paid for. Sec to speak to College staff.
6	Chairing sessions on Saturday afternoon. Session 1: Icebreaker Session 2: Climate Change Session 3: TBA Session 4: The Miners’ Strike	Richard Richard TBC Debbie	
7	‘Meet and Greet’	Brian (TBC) Richard	
8	Evaluation Forms	Bob (TBC)	
9	Telephone person	Richard	
10	Badges	Pauline	

6. **LONDON AREA FELLOWSHIP MEETING**

It was **AGREED** that the Secretary forward a list of Fellowship members in the London area to Debbie Hollingsworth. It was suggested that the London meeting be a ‘low-key’ affair in the first instance. It was **AGREED** that Debbie would progress this item.

7. **JOHN AND Vi HUGHES – PROPOSAL FOR STUDENT PRIZE**

The E.C. discussed several ways in which such a prize could be offered. Owen Murphy had proposed that a Cup could be presented, which would be held for a period of time and then passed on. Other proposals related to presenting an engraved medal or presenting a book voucher. The meeting also discussed whether the presentation should be based on a ‘competition’ or coursework. It was **AGREED** to defer decision on this until next academic year.

8. **RUSKIN COLLEGE ARTS DAY**

It was NOTED that this would take place on 24 May.

9. **THE INTERNATIONAL BRIGADE MEMORIAL TRUST**

It was reported that this item had been brought to our attention by Councillor Van Coulter, who is a Fellowship member and a College Governor. Pauline said this issue was very important to her because her father-in-law had been shot by the Franco regime. It was **AGREED** that: 1) The Fellowship donate £150 to the memorial; 2) A stand be set up to advise members and to seek donations; Pauline to arrange.

10. **REPORTS FROM OFFICERS**

i **The President:** The President reported that he had emailed Caroline Lucas's office regarding speaking at the Reunion but that she was not able to accept the invitation. The Secretary was now dealing with this. It was also reported that the President had discussed the use of the noticeboard with the Acting Principal and had also investigated the use of Skype for Fellowship meetings, but had found the process too difficult for the Fellowship to deal with.

ii **The Secretary:** The following items were reported:

1. **Attendance 2013/2014 to date at EC meetings:** The Secretary presented some figures that outlined attendance at this year's EC meetings. The point was made that, for elected members we should expect *some* attendance during the year, although the Constitution does not require it. The College Governing Executive has an expectation of 75% attendance at meetings in any year. Do we want to have a similar rule for ***officers and elected members*** of the Fellowship EC?

The point was raised that some members may be experiencing problems of attendance because the dates of meetings were not published early enough for people to attend. It was **AGREED** to identify E.C. meeting dates earlier and to incorporate this in a resolution to the AGM. It was further **AGREED** that Debbie Hollingsworth prepare a resolution for the AGM.

2. **New Members since the last EC meeting:** John Donaldson. John was at Ruskin between 1962 and 1964. He lives in Berkshire and has joined as a Life Member. It was reported that a second member, Alexander Pandolfo, had joined. It was **AGREED** that Debbie send the form to the Secretary.

3. **College Developments**

- The situation remains very difficult financially and the emphasis on student recruitment and retention is the priority for the foreseeable future. The Fellowship should offer all the help it can.
- There will be a meeting on 29 April to enable members of the Governing Executive and staff to address the issues and to develop a unity of purpose.
- The process for appointing a new Principal is underway and interviews will be held on May 12 & 13.

4. **Ransackers**

- There are Ransacker courses being held at Ruskin on 11/12/13 April and Fircroft on 23/24/25 May.
- There is a proposal to 'buy' a grove or two of trees for the Trees for Life project in commemoration of Vi Hughes.

11. **ACTIVITY: REVIEW OF FELLOWSHIP AIMS**

The Secretary presented a paper that provided three Aims, which were amendments to the current four Aims. The purpose of the proposed Aims was to ensure that Fellowship Aims were achievable, which was not currently the case. The Secretary’s paper provided a basis for discussion and various other proposals were made. These proposals are shown below. As this was not an urgent issue it was **AGREED** to return to it at the EC meeting in November 2014.

Current Aims	Proposal 1	Proposal 2	Proposal 3
1. The furtherance of the work of Ruskin College by making it more widely known and by helping the college and its students by providing or obtaining financial help.	1. The furtherance of the work of Ruskin College by making it more widely known and by helping the college and its students.	1. The furtherance of the work of Ruskin College by making it more widely known. In particular, to support the process of student recruitment as appropriate.	1. The furtherance of the work of Ruskin College.
2. The bringing together of members for social and educational purposes.	2. The bringing together of members for social and educational purposes.	2. The bringing together of members for social and educational purposes. In particular, to organise an Annual Reunion and to organise meetings, workshops and/or social events in both Oxford and other parts of the country as appropriate.	2. The bringing together of members for social and educational purposes. In particular to organise an Annual Reunion and meetings, workshops and/or social events in Oxford and other parts of the country.
3. The advancement of the college and adult education in order that more people shall have the opportunity to develop their talents to the full.	3. The advancement of the college and adult education in order that more people shall have the opportunity to develop their talents to the full.	3. To work with any other appropriate organisations, including those organisations on the College Council, to support the future development of Ruskin College.	3. To work with any other appropriate groups, including those on the College Council, to support the future development of Ruskin College in order that more people shall have the opportunity to develop their talents to the full.
4. The encouragement and provision of financial and other means of support for the work of bodies associated with these aims.	X	X	X

12. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Access to the College: A member of the E.C raised the issue of the difficulty of those with mobility issues getting to the College, with the nearest bus stops being at Headington or the John Radcliffe Hospital. It was **AGREED** that consideration be given to how this could be improved. It was **NOTED** that this may impact on student recruitment to the College.

13. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** It was **AGREED** that the next meeting would be held on 12 July 2014. This would primarily be for envelope stuffing, but would also include a short ‘updating’ meeting on developments. It was also **AGREED** to organise a picnic for after the meeting, as we did last year.

14. There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.10pm.