

QGA Annual General Meeting Minutes 2015

Canada Room, Queen's University 6.30pm.

The outgoing President, Catherine Vint, welcomed all members present to the 12th AGM of the QGA and thanked all the committee individually for their support and friendship throughout her time as President. She quoted 'A friend may be waiting behind a strangers face' has indeed come true for her.

Apologies received from June Meenagh Smart and her husband Ronnie.

Previous Minutes. Elizabeth Miller and Ann Hunter the President confirmed that the previous minutes had been posted on our website with hard copies also available. She asked if there were any comments or amendments and there being none the acceptance of minutes of the 2014 AGM were proposed by Carolyn Forster and seconded by Dr Lavinia Boyce Secretary's Report was given by Liz Torrans, outgoing Secretary.

Treasurers Report was given by Gary Laverty, outgoing Treasurer who advised that membership had declined from a high of 1300 to 1000 in December 2014. However there was still a surplus available for Events funding and scholarships. There being no further questions Feargus McCauley proposed the acceptance of the 2014 Treasurers Report, seconded by Dr Lavinia Boyce.

Queens Women's Graduate Report was given by Janet Leckey who paid special mention to June Meenagh Smart for her leadership in 2014 and Catherine Vint who had been a pleasure to serve alongside on the QGA. Janet reminded all of the QWG Annual dinner on 11th June 2015 in the Great Hall.

Sub Group Update from Feargus McCauley who reported that Perks would no longer be funded by the Alumni Office due to budget cuts so all members would be charged an annual fee for membership of Perks when renewing our annual QGA membership. Feargus advised that he was committed to increasing our membership and also understanding what our members want from their Graduate Association. He was currently interviewing candidates to carry out a member's survey and will report back in the autumn.

Auditors. Feargus asked for agreement to Exchange Auditors carrying out the role for the QGA which was proposed by Stephen Torrans and seconded by Dr Marion Gibson.

Election of new officers and members. Oonagh Ferrity had agreed to perform the role of Returning Officer for elections to QGA. She reported that all nominations had been received within the required 6 days prior to this meeting for the 5 available positions:

- President - Feargus McCauley is the only nomination proposed by Catherine Vint and seconded by Jonny Hill. Oonagh asked for a show of hands, by which Feargus was duly elected to President for 1 year until 2016 AGM.
- Vice President - Liz Torrans is the only nomination proposed by Eoin McMullen and seconded by Stephen Torrans. Oonagh asked for a show of hands by which Liz was duly elected to Vice President for 1 year until 2016 AGM.
- Secretary - Angela Kelly is the only nomination proposed by Catherine Vint and seconded by Amanda Dillon. Oonagh asked for a show of hands by which Angela was duly elected for a period of 3 years until 2018 AGM.

- Treasurer - Eoin McMullen is the only nomination proposed by Jonny Hill and seconded by Liz Torrans. Oonagh asked for a show of hands by which Eoin was duly elected for a period of 3 years until 2018 AGM.
- Ordinary member - Paddy Skates is the only nomination proposed by Carolyn Forster and Dr Alan Skates. Oonagh asked for a show of hands by which Paddy was duly elected for a period of 3 years until 2018 AGM.

Oonagh then declared the elections complete for 2015.

The new President Feargus McCauley thanked everyone for supporting his election and presented a gift to Janet Leckey for her role as President of the QWG in 2014. He introduced Marie Anderson, Assistant Information Commissioner and Deputy Ombudsman for NI as our key AGM speaker. Marie shared some very useful and interesting insights into her world particularly from an International perspective. The President thanked Marie for speaking to the meeting, thanked Oonagh for acting as Returning Officer for the QGA elections and particularly expressed his gratitude to our outgoing President Catherine Vint for her inspiring leadership during a difficult 2 years for QGA.

There being no other business, the meeting was declared complete at 7.40pm followed by refreshments.

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