

# OXFORD SOCIETY OF GLASGOW UNIVERSITY GRADUATES (OSGUG)

## **DRAFT** MINUTES OF THE 30th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY 12<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2020  
7.00pm

### MEETING HELD ON ZOOM

**COMMITTEE PRESENT:** John Gordon (President), Ken McClements (Treasurer), Alistair Mills (Webmaster), Margaret Stevenson (Secretary) and Jackie Hruby (General Member).

**ALSO PRESENT:** Maureen Aitken, Carole Bateman, Mary Gregory, Margaret Hancox, Freda Hughes, Hamish Macdonald, Rosemary Macdonald, Bob McLatchie, Alistair Milne, Mary White, Ann Young.

**APOLOGIES:** Tom Hanson, Maureen McKeown.

### UPDATE ON CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT

Richard McConnell from the University of Glasgow's Development and Alumni Office joined the Zoom meeting to provide an update on the campus development. Richard was joined by two colleagues – Clare McTaggart and Rosie Simm.

Richard provided a comprehensive update on the development of the Western Infirmary site which had been acquired by the University. This 14-acre site will enable the University to expand its footprint in the West End, extending the campus from Byres Road to Kelvingrove Park. This is the second major redevelopment of the University's campus following its move from High Street to Gilmorehill in 1870. One of the key challenges for the University has been an increase in student numbers from the 1980s from 11,000 to 28,000, which meant that the current campus was not large enough to easily accommodate the student body. The first building in the new development – the James McCune Smith Learning Hub – will open to students in January 2021. The building has a capacity of over 2,500 students and lecture halls which seat up to 500 students. Another building due to open in 2021 is ARC – the Advanced Research Centre – which will house researchers working across five core research themes – Creative Economies and Cultural Transformation; Digital Chemistry; International Development; Quantum and Nanotechnology; and Technology Touching Life. These research groups have already secured £5 million of funding over the past year. Richard also mentioned the Clarice Pears Institute which will focus on Health and Wellbeing and the development of University Square which will emulate the quadrangles in the Gilbert Scott Building. Richard concluded by saying that the University was investing £1 billion in the redevelopment - £775 million for the redevelopment of the campus and £225 million for staff and scholarships. The University needed to raise £110 million towards the development, and £65 million has already been raised with donations coming from alumni, friends and supporters at all levels.

There were a number of questions following Richard's presentation on topics such as widening access; the make-up of the current student body; students working across disciplines; the University's strategy for graduate student recruitment; student residences; whether the Veterinary Faculty was involved with ARC and the maintenance of the existing buildings.

Richard talked about the University's efforts to increase access by working with students in deprived areas of the city and also a recent project with Edinburgh University to reach disadvantaged communities. The majority of Glasgow students continue to come from Scotland,

although the percentage of international students has increased significantly and the Development and Alumni Office now works across North America, Asia and the Commonwealth to connect alumni with the University. The University also has a teaching hub in Chengdu. Student societies and sports clubs currently help facilitate cross-disciplinary exchanges and the new James McCune Smith Learning Hub will enhance this process. The University has not been involved with building student residences which are being built by private sector companies. The University's existing buildings continue to be maintained, and in recent years there has been a lot of focus on buildings built in the 1960s and 1970s. Richard said he would get back on the University's strategy for recruiting graduate students, and also encouraged members of the group to contact him should they have any further questions. He also highlighted the Development Office's support for any alumni wishing to organise reunions, and said that the Development Office would be able to organise campus tours for visiting groups.

## **BUSINESS OF THE AGM**

### **197 MINUTES OF THE 29<sup>th</sup> AGM**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2019 were accepted as correct.

### **198 MATTERS ARISING**

None

### **199 PRESIDENT'S REPORT (appended)**

John highlighted that at the 2019 AGM members wanted to channel funding to students in financial difficulty rather than on a travel scholarship hence a donation of £1200 was made to the Post Graduate Talent Scholarships Fund. Subsequent to the Covid-19 pandemic and an email vote by the members in May it was decided to donate in the current year to the Covid Hardship Fund, although our current funds only enabled us to donate £800. Both donations were acknowledged by the University's Development Office and OSGUG was listed on a virtual donor wall. Two members have moved away – Carol Bateman and Irene McKenzie – however Carol has continued to keep in touch via the monthly LTC meetings on Zoom. John has Irene's contact details and is able to put members in contact with her. The virtual LTC meetings are hosted by Alistair, and links to the meetings are available on the OSGUG website. John also mentioned the 2020 Burns Lunch, OSGUG's last physical event, which had been enjoyed by all. This year we had planned a college lunch at Exeter College to mark OSGUG's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary which we hope to have at a later date. In conclusion OSGUG continues with fewer members, but with numbers sufficient to support events and contribute to the University.

### **200 TREASURER'S REPORT (appended)**

Ken emphasised that OSGUG's bank balance has continued to diminish year-on-year, and that we could donate a bit more to the University if all members increased their subscriptions to the current rate of £20. Ken went on to say that the society's finances are generally healthy. The society has two bank accounts as some members continue to pay into the old account.

There was some discussion on how OSGUG donations could be Gift Aided in order to maximise contributions to the University.

**Action:** Ken will follow-up with the University's Development Office to see how OSGUG donations can be Gift Aided

### **201 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE FOR 2020-21**

John, Ken, Alistair, Margaret and Jackie indicated their willingness to stand again. Margaret stood down as Secretary after 8 years but remains on the committee. There was a vote of thanks

to Margaret for her many years of service, and a presentation will be made at our next physical meeting. Jackie has taken on the role of Secretary. This was approved by all present.

### **202 DONATIONS TO THE GU STUDENT HARDSHIP FUND**

Ken informed members that additional £140 had been raised so far for the Covid Hardship Fund following the appeal to members in OSGUG's latest newsletter.

### **203 FUTURE EVENTS**

#### **The Last Tuesday Club**

This will continue on a monthly basis on Zoom, and Maureen commented that virtual events may appeal to younger members. John asked anyone with ideas for other virtual events to get in touch.

#### **Physical Events**

It may be possible to organise walks and tours as well as small events from the middle of next year should the vaccine be rolled out successfully.

### **204 A.O.B.**

#### **Recruitment**

OSGUG are planning to ask the University's Development Office to email all alumni in Oxfordshire and neighbouring counties to inform them about OSGUG once the pandemic has subsided and we have some events which we are able to promote.

#### **Zoom Account**

Alistair has taken out a Zoom subscription which OSGUG will be able to use at a cost of £5 per meeting. All agreed that this was a cost-effective solution for the group to continue to use Zoom.

Margaret Stevenson (Secretary)