

**SUSS-EX CLUB**  
**Notes of the 68<sup>th</sup> Steering Group meeting**  
**4.30 pm on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023, via Zoom**

**1. Welcome**

Present were Colin Finn, Jackie Fuller, Charles Goldie, Steve Pavey and Tony Moore, who chaired the meeting. Mike Hutchings was welcomed to the meeting, having been invited to join the Steering Group, and will consider whether to do so.

**2. Apologies for absence**

Paul Tofts, Helen Walker.

**3. Minutes of the 67<sup>th</sup> Meeting, of 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

Approved.

**4. Matters arising**

**Charles** reported that Alasdair Smith has agreed to succeed Sir Gordon Conway as our Patron. However owing to a previous engagement he cannot come to our Christmas Party this year.

**5. Financial report**

**Jackie** reported our balance was unchanged.

**6. Future events**

- **Steve** reported on the forthcoming USPAS/Suss-Ex Christmas Party, liaising with Cyndy Gould of the Pensions Office. She has been asked to find a senior manager to give a short address about the University, **Paul** to do likewise for Suss-Ex. Steering Group members to wear (self-provided) name badges to aid their important role welcoming the participants. It will be good if Steering Group members take photos of the gathering, for possible display on our Facebook site. Thanks to Steve and Jackie for leading on the Christmas Party.
- Agreed that a Drop-in Social will be a good idea to run in the New Year; **Steve** and **Helen** will scout for a venue.
- Further possibilities, for early Spring, should be discussed at our next meeting.

**7. Bulletin/This is Sussex**

**Charles** and **Paul** met Marion Hamilton, head of the Staff Communications Section of Internal Communications, in person on 16<sup>th</sup> November. Also present were Kate O'Connell, our contact in the Development & Alumni Office, and Toby Burgess, DARO's database person.

*(a) Staff newsletters*

Marion expressed willingness to circulate these to those who want them. Agreed there has to be an opt-in, as Suss-Ex members have not in general given permission for University, as distinct from Suss-Ex, communications to be sent them. Marion will propose the form of the opt-in, in consultation with DARO. Our Suss-Ex joining form should then include the opt-in by adding a box to tick.

*(b) Alumni communications*

We discussed to what extent ex-staff, in particular Suss-Ex members, count as alumni and what alumni communications might be sent them. Paul and Charles felt that circulars more frequent than fortnightly would be considered unwelcome and incur the risk of our

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members opting out of e-mails more generally. Again an opt-in would be needed. Marion will consult with DARO what might be offered.

*(c) Obituaries*

Charles outlined the position regarding the loss of obituaries and other items from the archive, claimed to be complete, of *The Bulletin* and its successor newsletters held by the Keep, following up with a detailed account by e-mail. Marion undertook to look into how the losses occurred and what might be done. Paul and Charles expressed the view that every effort should be made to restore the archive from back-ups.

**8. Proposed meeting with the VC**

As reported in e-mails, **Paul** is in communication with Zoe Varney-Burch, the VC's PA, and a meeting with Suss-Ex as a whole, not just the Steering Group, is under consideration. **Tony** will follow up.

**9. Membership**

*(a) Steering Group*

See Minute 1.

*(b) Mailing list*

**Charles** reported that new members continue to trickle in, through hearing about us by word of mouth or by receiving, on leaving employment, our invitation to join. **Mike** hoped that more effort could be made to alert, to the existence of Suss-Ex, the many ex-staff who have not heard of it.

*(c) Facebook*

**Jackie** reported that membership stands at 153 and the site has a modest but healthy flow of new items and reactions thereto.

**10. Other business**

**Tony** will look out for the announcement of the London memorial meeting for Sir Gordon Conway.

**11. Next meeting**

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 4.30 pm via Zoom, **Charles** to convene.