

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF
MADRAS COLLEGE ARCHIVE SUPPORT GROUP
Thursday 19th April 2012

- 1 Present: Frances Humphries (FH), Anne Morris (AM), Elaine Methven (EM), David Watkinson (DW), Edmund Robertson (ER), David Cleland (DC), Jim Bennett (JB), Christine Noble (CN), Liz Higgins (LH), Ann Bridges (AB), Donald Macgregor (DMc), Colin Mackey (CMA), Lindsay Hodge (LH), David Galloway (DG), Arlen Pardoe (AP)
Apologies: John Gilbert (JG)

2 Introduction

AP had been asked to chair the meeting. He read out an introduction detailing the events leading up to the resignation of Lindsay Matheson (LM) as chair of the group and a subsequent meeting of DG, LH and AP to discuss the consequences and to call the Extraordinary Meeting. Some correspondence was circulated.

3 Discussion

The meeting was thrown open to discussion. The following comments were made:

The two issues of the stand taken by LM and the Kilrymont Road (KR) option and his chairmanship of the archive group are separate. One has not the slightest bearing on the other. The ex-Rector of Madras College is entitled to his own opinion. He has brought much knowledge and experience to the group. A bizarre situation, a strange letter – first being asked to consider his position and later being told to hand in materials.

Agree with above. Never has LM used the group to forward his views on the KR option. That would be the only reason to ask him to step down.

How many staff have *repeatedly* expressed their view as stated in the letter?

Not democratic. If it was affecting the work in the school then LM should have been called in to defend the matter. He is a distinguished person, this is against his democratic rights. A serious matter.

Everyone must be entitled to express their views.

A bolt out of the blue. It should be discussed first.

There was reportedly a suggestion made to staff that funding would go elsewhere if staff did not support the KR option. DMc said that this was not a council position.

There is no connection between the two areas. LM was involved in the initial negotiations with the University and it is understandable that he would wish to continue and try to salvage something from that. You can have more than 1 view on what is best for the school. There is a worry that people are being railroaded to

take the KR option. LM is entitled to support what he sees as best. How many staff were consulted?

There was a lack of proper process. Bad management procedures

How was LM to know what the opinion was of staff before the results were announced? He could only voice his own position.

- 4 After further discussion it was decided that the best way forward was to ask for a meeting with the Rector. This was best done by a small sub-group, consisting of DG, LH, AM & AP. A simple letter asking for a meeting was to be the basis of the letter, to discuss how the group is to continue in the absence of a chairperson.

The preference of the group is for LM to be re-instated.

Arlen Pardoe
19th April 2012

ADDENDUM 24th April 2012

Dear Colleagues

Four members of the group met on Tuesday April 24th with Mr Jones.

He was adamant that he would not take Lindsay Matheson back as chair of the group, that the staff who had written to him would not find it acceptable. He was, however, quite happy for him to be an ordinary member. This means that his experience and expertise will not be lost and the sub-group felt this was a compromise to which they could agree.

Whilst it was not possible entirely to avoid reference to the issues that led to Lindsay's resignation as chairman, for the most part these were avoided. However, mention was made of the strong feeling in the Group that the matter had been dealt with in an unfair and unjust manner.

Mr Jones did add that he recognised the valuable work done by Lindsay for the archive.

Our next meeting is scheduled for 31 May in K1 at 3.45pm. The agenda will include items on the constitution of the group, the posts of chairperson and secretary. If you have any items you wish to add to the agenda, please let me know by May 24th.

Arlen Pardoe, for the Madras College Archive Support Group