

5<sup>th</sup> June 2016 – Liaison and Welfare Officer Hustings

**Chair:** Filip Szczypiński (FS)

**Deputy Chair:** Rory Little (RL)

*Meeting opened at 20:00 by FS who reminded those gathered of the procedure for the hustings. The order was not randomised as only one candidate was standing for the position. Mark Burrell (MB) was given three minutes for his speech:*

Mark is a PhD student from New Zealand studying neuroscience running for the Liaison and Welfare Officer. As he is the only person running he will keep his speech short. The BA society is great. More focus could be made in the future on the college family system, particularly later in the first year and follow-ups in later years. College parents have the most experience in dealing with issues that arise later in PhD, so would be a good first point contact for students. Mark would also advocate for graduate housing and fiercely support BAs in general.

**Filip Szczypiński:** How would you include leaving/4<sup>th</sup> year PhD students who can feel excluded?

**MB:** Making them college parents would be good as they are the most experienced. However, it is more the role of Ents Officers to make sure they feel included in the events organised.

**Matthew Griffiths:** What support would you give students with mental health problems?

**MB:** Many helpful resources are not known to students, both in the BA Society and with the NHS. I would make these resources more known to students and provide more information when needed.

**Question:** what about the four-week wait for a counsellor?

**MB:** Not good enough, obviously.

*Meeting closed at 20:05 by FS.*