

The Downian Society

Widening Eligibility for Membership

DRAFT Proposal

To be put before the next Meeting of the Committee or Membership.

Membership of the Society is currently open to past pupils and, in at least some circumstances, to teaching staff who were at the Downs Malvern or any of its three predecessors (“the School”).

Others have at times also given much time and dedication to the life of the School, in both material and personal ways going well beyond any financial contribution. These include; spouses of current members, former governors, parents or non-teaching staff, and possibly a few other exceptional contributors.

The proposal is that eligibility for membership be expanded to include more such persons. Specifically:

- a. Automatic eligibility for former teaching staff who served for at least one full academic year (three successive terms).
- b. Discretionary eligibility for spouses of current members, former governors, parents or non-teaching staff, and any other persons who have contributed significantly to the life of the School.
- c. Any current member may propose a discretionary candidate to the Committee. At least one other current member must second the proposal. A proposal may alternatively be put to a meeting open to the full membership, provided that it is seconded by at least five current members.
- d. The significance of a candidate's contribution is at the discretion of the Committee or convened Membership, but will normally require long-term personal contribution and commitment. Candidates may also be considered on an exceptional individual basis.
- e. The Committee or convened membership shall consider a proposal at the next available opportunity. The result shall be decided by majority vote. In the event of a tie, the Chairman shall have a casting vote. In the case of the Committee this may be at any formal meeting or by mutual exchange of recorded communications. No reason for a refusal shall be given.

Membership fees for the widened membership shall be the same as for the current membership. However in exceptional circumstances an individual discount or waiver may be offered at the sole discretion of the Committee.

Guy Inchbald

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