

KSA - Annual General Meeting

Date: Saturday 10th October 2009

Time: 3.00pm

Venue: Abrar House, 45 Crawford Place, London, W1H 4LP.

In Attendance:

Ali Tawfik-Shukor (A.S.)

Barzan Rahman (B.R.) - Secretary

Dila Jonrow (D.J.)

Fazil Kawani (F.K.) - Chairperson

Hady Sarraj (H.S.)

Mohammad Khailany (M.K.) - Treasurer

Mohammed Al-Armaghany (M.A.)

Sayah Saied (S.S.)

Chair of the Meeting:

Sayah Saied (S.S.)

Agenda Items:

Chairman's Report

Treasurer's Report

Review of KSA Constitution

Election of KSA Committee Members

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Activity of KSA committee members and KSA members

F.K. stated that, on the whole, members of the KSA committee had attended all scheduled meetings and events during the past year. These committee members had also participated in the decision making process of KMSF and offered support accordingly.

However, F.K. felt that the overall level of KSA activity was low and that this needs to change in order to promote the KSA as an organisation. There was a call for all those involved in the KSA, both members and committee members, to become more proactive in the operation of organisation. F.K. suggested that in order to achieve this, more clarity was needed in defining the plans and objectives of the group (as discussed later).

Social Events

F.K. claimed that last year's Nawroz party was a success, both as a social event and a source of fundraising. While Mr. Teshk Shawis was acknowledged to be the primary organiser, KSA committee members contributed to the selling of entrance tickets and raffle tickets.

Charitable Donations

KSA has supported KMSF in its donation giving, to remember the victims of Halabja and the Anfal, and has helped indirectly.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bank Account

M.K. reported that a KSA bank account has now been opened, with NatWest. The signatories to the account are the F.K. (Chairman), M.K. (Treasurer) and B.R. (Secretary). All account-related activities require the assent of at least two of these signatories.

The account is in credit, from money raised from the Nawroz parties, but it was not stated how much this was.

REVIEW OF KSA CONSTITUTION

Although a specific examination of the constitution was not conducted, the overall objectives of the KSA and its system of operation was discussed.

F.K. stated that the procedures and aims of the KSA need to be clearly defined in order for the organisation to operate more effectively. This in turn would ensure a greater level of activity from KSA members. It was felt that such a review was necessary to build constructive links between KSA and the other KMSF groups. These links could be furthered to establish a working relationship with the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG). The KSA should provide (non-financial) support to the scientific community in Kurdistan. Such support could encompass attending conferences, facilitating seminars and sharing our experience of the mainstream scientific framework. It was felt that some universities in Kurdistan (e.g. Kirkuk) would benefit from our support more than others (e.g. Sulaimania, Duhkok).

M.A. suggested that KSA members could share our teaching skills and provide short-term courses to university students in Kurdistan.

S.S. highlighted the needed for Kurdish universities to offer access courses to those wishing to pursue higher education. The foundation courses offered within the UK university system could be emulated by Kurdish universities.

A.S. mentioned the importance of establishing the needs of Kurdish universities and, so, provide help with their planning. Such areas of need may include the requirements of students for effective learning, the facilities available to academic staff for scientific research, the effectiveness of the teaching process, accessibility to the full range of journals available and the needs of graduate students.

F.K. stipulated the importance to establish contacts with the KRG, to establish such issues relating to research, education and student care. He proposed a re-emphasis of the KSA constitution to incorporate more of a lobbying role to influence change.

D.J. highlighted the need for a strong communication link with the Ministry of Education in the KRG.

ELECTION OF KSA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Outgoing Committee Members

Fazil Kawani (FK) - Chairperson

Mohammad Khailany (MK) - Treasurer

Incoming Committee Members:

Mohammad Khailany (MK) - Chairperson

Dila Jonrow - Treasurer

In summary, the KSA committee members are:

Mohammad Khailany (MK) - Chairperson

Barzan Rahman - Secretary

Dila Jonrow - Treasurer

Jamal Ameen - Honourary Member

Nafi Anwar – Honourary Member

Ali Tawfik-Shukor (A.S.) – Honourary Member