



RCSA

robinson college students' association

Open Meeting



Sunday 25th November 2007

Agenda

- 1) Apologies for absence or lateness
- 2) Announcement of the presence and purpose of guests
- 3) Approval of the order of the agenda
- 4) Reading by the secretary on request by any Member, amendment if necessary and approval of the Minutes of any previous Open Meeting not yet accepted by an Open Meeting
Budget meeting minutes not yet published.
Approval deferred to next Open Meeting.
- 5) Matters Arising from the minutes
- 6) Reports from the Committee
- 7) Questions to Committee
- 8) Extraordinary Motions
- 9) Co-option of remaining non-executive officers
 - a. Men's Officer
 - b. Ethnic Minorities Officer
 - c. LBGT Officer
 - d. Newsletter Editor
- 10) Ordinary Motions
 - a. Renewable Policy List
 - b. Affiliation to CUSU
 - c. May Ball Contract
 - d. Present for James Mott
 - e. RCSA Reserves
 - f. Christmas Decorations
 - g. Rent Increases
 - h. Formal Booking
 - i. Staircase Kitchen Bins
 - j. Trunk Room
 - k. Bar Clock
- 11) Any other RCSA business

Ordinary Motions

a. Renewable Policy List

RCSA Notes:

- 1) According to the RCSA constitution, policy will lapse after 3 years, (Chapter III: OPEN MEETINGS AND POLICY, part 18)

- 2) "In the first Open Meeting following the election of a new Committee any Policy on the Renewable Policy List due to lapse in the forthcoming Year according to article 18(a) will be proposed by the RCSA Executive to be renewed." - (RCSA constitution, Chapter III: OPEN MEETINGS AND POLICY, part 19,b)
- 3) The list of policy older than 2004 does not exist and no policy has been renewed over the last two years.

RCSA Believes:

- 1) That renewing a policy list is a good idea.
- 2) But, that renewing a policy list that doesn't exist is a silly idea.

RCSA Resolves:

- 1) To make sure a policy list exists to be renewed next year.

Proposed: Iain Barr, Reads the constitution.

Seconded: Pete Wood, Lives next to Iain

b. Affiliation to CUSU

RCSA Notes:

- 1) According to the constitution a list of organisations that the RCSA is affiliated with should be submitted yearly for approval. (Chapter VI: section 41).
- 2) The RCSA is currently affiliated to CUSU, for the cost of £2500 yearly.
- 3) That CUSU's support, in terms of welfare, representation at university level and running of campaigns would be unsustainable at a college level.

RCSA Believes:

- 1) That its affiliation to CUSU is of benefit to the college.

RCSA Resolves:

- 1) To stay affiliated to CUSU.

Proposed: Iain Barr, enjoys Cindies Q-Jump!

Seconded: Pete Wood, has important CUSU job (sort of)

c. May Ball Contract

RCSA notes:

- 1) The May Ball in 2007 was a huge success and was only possible due to the help of the RCSA.
- 2) College Council have only granted permission for a May Ball in 2008 if the RCSA once again accepts liability for any losses incurred by the proposed May Ball in 2008.
- 3) The May Ball is not asking for any money this year.
- 4) The May Ball is proposing the same contract with the RCSA as last year.

The proposed contract in the addendum.

RCSA believes

- 1) That the May Ball was a great success last year and it would be a great disappointment to all members of the college if it were not allowed to happen again this year.
- 2) It is unacceptable for individual members of the May Ball committee to be liable for any losses incurred by the May Ball.
- 3) The attached contract is an adequate solution for both the RCSA and the 2008 May Ball committee.

RCSA resolves:

- 1) To enter into an agreement by deciding to sign the attached contract between the RCSA and the May Ball Committee 2008 at the Open Meeting on 25/11/2007.

Proposed: Rebecca Campbell, party Queen

Seconded: James Griffiths, Splendid DJ

d. Present for James Mott

The RCSA Notes:

- 1) The hard work put in by the ex-president over the last year.

The RCSA Believes:

- 1) James has done a wicked awesome job for the RCSA over the last year.
- 2) Giving present is a really nice thing to do.

The RCSA Resolves:

- 1) To allocate £60 from this budget meeting to buy James a present.

Proposed: Iain Barr, because Presidents deserve rewards

Seconded: Pete Wood, for carbon neutral presents

e. RCSA Reserves

The RCSA Notes:

- 1) The RCSA reserves are currently held in a low interest account.
- 2) Money at budget meeting is always lower than needed.

The RCSA Believes:

- 1) It would be beneficial to move the reserves to a higher interest account.

The RCSA Resolves:

- 1) To mandate the RCSA Treasurer to investigate other possible accounts for the reserves,
- 2) To investigate the practicalities in moving the account with relevant college staff.
- 3) To report back at the next open meeting.

Proposed: Iain Barr, free & fair financial advice

Seconded: Pete Wood, enjoys seconding motions

f. Christmas Decorations

RCSA Notes:

- 1) That good decorations will improve the Christmas Bop.
- 2) That decorations from Argos! are cheap.
- 3) That a Christmas tree in the JCR would be nice

RCSA Believes:

- 1) Students would appreciate the purchase of decorations for the JCR and the Basement.

RCSA Resolves:

- 1) To buy £50 worth of decorations
- 2) To use these decorations in the JCR and Christmas Bop
- 2) To store these decorations somewhere secure (e.g. Old RCSA Office) so they may be reused.

Proposed: Luke "Luka" Snell

Seconded: Shiama "Don't call me Shambles" Balendra

g. Rent Increases

The RCSA Notes:

- 1) Over the last few years there has been a massive increase in rent, not in relation with interest rates.
- 2) A freedom of information request was made to college on the 11th of March 2007 by FAIR (fight against increased rents) for details of how the yearly increase in rents are decided.

The RCSA Believes:

- 1) It is in every student's interest to be aware of how their rents are decided.

The RCSA Resolves:

- 1) To mandate the RCSA to follow up this freedom of information request, submitting another one if required and to report back at the next open meeting.

Proposed: Iain Barr, RCSA President

Seconded: Claire Horrocks, vital statistics

h. Formal Booking

RCSA Notes:

- 1) That when a formal ticket is booked via the meal-booking website there is an option to view other attendees.
- 2) That the list of names includes middle names and does not take into account preferred names.
- 3) That a database of students preferred names exists.
- 4) That the meal-booking procedure is fairly new.

RCSA Believes:

- 1) That students should have the right to be called what they like.
- 2) That the database of preferred names should be used instead of the current list.
- 3) That it is important to get the meal-booking procedure right from its inception.

RCSA Resolves:

- 1) To mandate a member of the RCSA committee, selected by the president, to lobby Conference & Catering to use the database of preferred names rather than the current names.

Proposed: Mott, James Edward

Seconded: Thompson, Peter Alan

i. Staircase Kitchen Bins

RCSA notes:

- 1) That the current staircase kitchen bins are unhygienic, especially for an area where food is prepared
- 2) That the current bins are in a bad condition anyway, with many of the lids being cracked or broken in some way

RCSA believes:

- 1) That flip top bins would be more suitable
- 2) That housekeeping should be contacted to discuss this possibility

RCSA resolves:

- 1) To mandate the next Catering and Amenities Officer to contact housekeeping and discuss the buying of new bins for the staircase kitchens

Proposed: Anna Waghorn, talking trash

Seconded: Claire Horrocks, RCSA 'Vice Girl'

j. Trunk Room

RCSA Notes:

- 1) The Trunk room contains a large number of trunks.
- 2) Many of these look like they have been there for some time, and have not been used or moved.

RCSA Believes:

- 1) This is an annoyance to the majority of college members, but a serious problem for overseas students, as was seen at the hustings for the Overseas Students' Officer.
- 2) That not all of the bags in the trunk room can be from year abroad students, and some must be removed.

RCSA Resolves:

- 1) To mandate the next Catering and Amenities Officer, in collaboration with the Overseas Officer, to carry out the following tasks:
- 2) Audit the trunk room before the Christmas break, and mark all bags without marking information stickers with the date of the audit.
- 3) Contact all members of the college to inform them of the need to mark bags, or claim unmarked bags.
- 4) All trunks found whose marking stickers show the owner to have graduated will be removed and the owner contacted (via the Development Office) over what to do with the contents.
- 5) If the trunk is unwanted, it shall be given to the Robinson RAG rep, to dispose of to charity in whatever way they feel fit.
- 6) The trunk room shall be re-audited next Michaelmas to dispose of all trunks not collected by returning year abroad students, and given to Robinson RAG.
- 7) That this policy shall be expressly renewable - to ensure it is not lost by next year's committee.

Proposed: Peter Wood, Thinks cleanliness is next to godliness.

Seconded: Iain Barr, lives next to Pete.

k. Bar Clock

RCSA Notes

- 1) The bar clock runs approximately 7-10mins fast depending on whose watch you go by.
- 2) The bar is closed when the clock reaches 11pm (during weekdays), which corresponds to between 10:50-10:53 in everyone else's time.
- 3) Students often go to down to formal according to that clock, which usually causes a long wait before the fellows arrive.

RCSA Believes

- 1) The bar staff are reluctant to change the clock.

- 2) The bar clock should be correct.
- 3) The bar should close at 11pm GMT (or BST, when appropriate).

RCSA Resolves

- 1) To mandate a member of the RCSA committee, selected by the president, to lobby the bar manager to change the clock so that it reads the correct time.
- 2) If resolves 1) is unsuccessful, to mandate the RCSA Committee to organise a sit-in protest in the bar, until the bar clock is changed.

Proposed: James Mott, more time for the Bar
Seconded: Jonny Young, because 7 minutes makes a difference

Addendum

(In relation to ordinary motion c)

Agreement between the Robinson May Ball Committee (“the Committee”) and the Robinson College Students’ Association (“the Association”) for the provision of financial support in respect of the 2008 Robinson College May Ball (“the Ball”)

Clause 1: this agreement is intended by the parties to govern their duties towards each other in respect of the provision of financial support by the Association to the Committee in respect of the Ball. All references to “the Ball” in this agreement refer only to the Robinson College May Ball to be held in 2008, and shall be construed as such.

Duties of the Parties

Clause 2: the Association undertakes:

- 1) That should at any time the Committee have insufficient cleared funds to meet in a timely manner any liabilities to third parties incurred by the Committee in respect of the Ball, the Association will, on the request of the Committee, provide such funds as may be necessary to enable the Committee to meet said liabilities in a timely manner, and the Association shall not require payment by the Committee of any charge or interest whatsoever in respect of said funds.
- 2) That it shall not demand repayment of any funds provided under clause 2(1) unless at that time the Committee has sufficient cleared funds to meet such a demand.

Clause 3: in consideration of these undertakings, the Committee undertakes:

- 1) That it shall repay, on demand by the Association, any funds received under clause 2(1), provided that at that time

the Committee has sufficient cleared funds to meet such a demand.

- 2) To permit the Treasurer of the Association to inspect the accounts of the Committee at any time, and to provide such help as he may reasonably require to do this.

- 3) That it shall not voluntarily incur any financial liability in respect of the Ball which it does not at that time have sufficient cleared funds to meet, unless the Committee has obtained the express written agreement of both the President of the Association and the Treasurer of the Association.

Termination of Agreement

Clause 4: this agreement shall terminate automatically upon written confirmation by the Senior Treasurer of the Association and the Senior Treasurer of the Committee that they are satisfied that all outstanding liabilities incurred by the Committee in respect of the Ball have been discharged.

Applicable Law

Clause 5: this agreement shall be governed by English law.

Acceptance of Agreement

By signing, the parties indicate that they have read and accepted the terms of this agreement

Signature 1: The Association

_____ Date: _____

Signature 2: The Committee

_____ Date: _____