



Robinson College Students' Association - Open Meeting

Saturday 29th November 2008



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.
5. Matters Arising from the minutes
Reports from the Committee
 - a) Trunk Room
6. Questions to the Committee
7. Co-Option of remaining non-executive officers
 - a) LBGT Officer
8. Extraordinary Motions
9. Ordinary Motions
 - a) Renewable policy
 - b) CUSU re-affiliation
 - c) Bar closing time
 - d) Café at weekends
 - e) Bassment bar
 - f) Charities account
 - g) Present for Iain Barr
 - h) Present for Tom Kelly
 - i) Robinson Puppy
 - j) CD Library
 - k) Bouncy Castle
10. Any other RCSA business

Ordinary Motions

a) Renewable Policy

RCSA Notes:

1. That all policies on the Renewable Policy List lapse after 3 years.
2. That a number of these policies are due to lapse during the forthcoming year
3. The constitutional requirement for such policies to be proposed for renewal at the first Open Meeting following the election of a new RCSA committee.

RCSA Believes:

1. That there are a number of such policies which we would not want to lapse.
2. That these policies continue to support the general aims and objects of the RCSA as set out by the constitution.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To renew the policy contained in the list in the addendum.
2. To expressly revoke any policy passed before 1st January 2006 and not contained within the renewable policy list.

Proposed: Rob Beagrie

Seconded: RCSA Executive

b) CUSU Re-affiliation

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 £2700 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: Rahul Mansigani, 'Workers of the world, unite!'

Seconded: Rob Beagrie, 'See you later, affliator!'

c) Bar Closing Time

RCSA Notes

1. That if a conference is using the bar, at closing time the bar staff simply shut up the bar and leave, then the porters make sure the bar area is clear when they lock it at midnight.
2. That this is not the same procedure as when students are in residence.
3. Students often have some drink remaining when they are asked to leave the bar 20 minutes after closing time.

RCSA Believes

1. That it would be an improvement for the bar to operate as it does for conferences during term time.
2. That the bar staff might like to leave 20mins earlier.
3. That the wage bill for the bar staff could be reduced if the bar operates as outlined in RCSA Notes 1.
4. That the porters may need some gentle persuasion to take on this extra role.
5. That students are unlikely to trash the bar area just because the bar staff have gone home.

RCSA Resolves

1. To mandate the Catering & Amenities Officer, or another RCSA Committee member appointed by the President, to lobby all appropriate College staff to change the operating procedures of the bar so that students are allowed to remain in the bar area to finish their drinks after closing time.

Proposed: James Mott, slow drinker.

Seconded: Carlianne White, procrastinator.

d) Café at Weekends

RCSA notes:

1. That the Red Brick Café has proved popular with college members and others since its opening at the beginning of this term.

RCSA believes:

1. The café would be equally popular on weekends, when students tend to be less busy and will have more time to use it.
2. That coffee is just the thing to get you through that essay.

RCSA resolves:

1. To support the opening, at least for a few hours, of the Red Brick Café on Saturdays.

Proposed: Rahul Mansigani, likes coffee in the morning

Seconded: Robin Lawther, prefers a "paaar shaar"

e) Bassment Bar

RCSA Notes:

1. That in the Party Room there exists a currently unused main bar facility which is far superior to the facilities used at the moment.
2. That the bar is currently unused, as the College has vowed "never again" to let Students use it following damage occurring during the 06/07 Ents term.
3. The current Ents Officers wish to produce a proposal, including a contract between the RCSA and College to underwrite any damage, to secure the reopening of the party room bar for Ents Committee use.
4. Should this motion be successful, there will be another motion proposed during Lent term to enter into a contract with College.

RCSA Believes:

1. That the bar facilities currently used during BOPs are inadequate.
2. That BOPs would be vastly improved were the main bar facility re-opened.
3. That every effort should be made to secure the re-opening of main bar facility in the Party Room.
4. That provided the Ents Committee can demonstrate that the bar facility will be used responsibly, the College has no reason to prevent it from doing so.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To allow the Treasurer to use reserves to underwrite any damage to the party room bar during RCSA use up to a maximum of £2,000.
2. The terms of this underwriting will be formally set out in a contract between the RCSA and college, which will be submitted as a motion to the first Open Meeting in Lent Term 09.

*Proposed: James Pacey, partial to a drink.
Seconded: Barnaby Mollett, impartial to a drink.*

f) RCSA Charities Account

RCSA Notes

1. There is £1181.84 in the 'Charities Account' (as of the end of the 07/08 Academic Year).
2. The money is from student donations, paid alongside their college bills.
3. There is current RCSA policy on this account, an open meeting (12/10/08) held an indicative vote, with 16 votes in favour of the money being transferred to RAG and 13 against.
4. If the money was allocated, more members may be inclined to donate.
5. RAG claimed £100 at this year's Budget Meeting for 'General' expenditure.
6. It is not currently noted on College Bills that the contribution is to the RCSA Charities Account.

RCSA Discusses

1. The amount that should be allocated to RAG after this Open Meeting.

RCSA Believes

1. That some amount should be allocated to RAG after this open meeting.
2. That the RCSA treasurer should investigate the labelling of the donation tick box on future College Bills, and amend it to read 'RCSA Charities Account Donation'.

RCSA Resolves

1. To confirm that this account is the 'Charities Account'.
2. To allocate £_____ to RAG from the current balance of the 'Charities Account'.
3. To continue Resolves 1 on an annual basis.

*Proposed: Barnaby Mollett, charity case.
Seconded: Tom Kelly, second hand.*

g) Present for Iain Barr

RCSA Notes

1. The hard work put in by the ex-RCSA President over the past year.

2. That Iain's hair has been a source of inspiration to college members.
3. Last year a sum of £65 was allocated towards purchasing a gift for James Mott.

RCSA Believes:

1. Iain has done a top job for the RCSA over the past year. This work should be rewarded.
2. The tradition of buying presents for ex-Presidents is an awfully nice idea.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To allocate monies from this open meeting to the sum of £40 towards purchasing a gift for Iain Barr.

*Proposed: Rahul Mansigani, successor.
Seconded: Barnaby Mollett, admires blue hair.*

h) Present for Tom Kelly

RCSA Notes:

1. The hard work put in by the ex-RCSA Chair over the past year.
2. That no one else will ever learn the Constitution by heart.
3. Last year a sum of £65 was allocated towards purchasing a gift for James Mott.

RCSA Believes:

1. Tom has done a top job for the RCSA over the past year. This work should be rewarded.
2. The tradition of buying presents for ex-Chairs is an awfully nice idea.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To allocate monies from this open meeting to the sum of £40 towards purchasing a gift for Tom Kelly.

*Proposed: Rahul Mansigani, gift of the gab.
Seconded: Barnaby Mollett, present today.*

i) Robinson Puppy

RCSA notes:

1. When a new administration was elected in a certain country, one of the major issues following election is the choice of pet dog.
2. Robinson College, unlike some others, does not possess a college pet.

RCSA believes:

1. That it would be fitting to have a college mascot or pet of some form.
2. That it would be helpful not to have to clear up after it.

RCSA resolves:

1. To allocate £15 from this Open Meeting budget to purchase a stuffed toy, preferably of the same species that President-elect Obama has selected.
2. To hold a poll to decide the puppy's name.

Proposed: Rahul "loves puppies" Mansigani

Seconded: Amanda "me too!" Myers

j) CD Library

RCSA Notes:

1. The CD Library is a society of the RCSA but has not been active for over a year.
2. The library is above the music room.
3. The key is at the porters lodge but can only be signed out by Brandon Green.
4. The full list of CDs can be found at <http://www-stud.robinson.cam.ac.uk/cdlibrary/>

RCSA Believes:

1. The library is a very valuable resource and should be available to benefit all members of college rather than being left forgotten.
2. The library could be of use to the Ents Committee.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To ask for volunteers to investigate what would be involved in restarting the society and potentially set up a new committee.
2. To mandate a senior officer of the RCSA committee to inform the porters of the new person(s) who can sign out the key.

*Proposed: Tom Grimble, 'Thank You For The Music'
Seconded; Barnaby Mollett, 'Aye, Tunes!'*

k) Bouncy Castle

RCSA Notes:

1. It does not currently own a bouncy castle.
2. Bouncy castles reduce stress.
3. There are blue brick bouncy castles on e-Bay for about £1300.
4. The Association has excess reserves.
5. Its aims: to provide facilities which are of recreational or social value to Members, and to advance the welfare of its Members.
6. A bouncy castle would be useful for Corruption and garden parties.

RCSA Believes:

1. Owning a bouncy castle would improve the welfare of its members, by reducing stress, especially during exam term.
2. The bouncy castle would be an excellent addition to the chill-out cafe.
3. A bouncy castle would provide a facility of lasting value to the RCSA, and therefore it would be appropriate to use reserves to purchase it.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To allocate £1400 from Reserves to purchase a bouncy castle and necessary accessories, in line with the accompanying and constituting report in the addendum.
2. To mandate the RCSA Executive to carry out the purchase in Resolves 1.
3. To negotiate with College about the positioning, supervisor training, and safety/general arrangements for the bouncy castle.
4. To make the bouncy castle available to groups or associations of members in College for a nominal fee or deposit.

Proposed: Iain Barr, came to get down.

Seconded: Dave Bewicke, jumped around.

Addendum

Renewable Policy due to lapse

RCSA Song (26/NOV/2006)

- That an adapted version of Simon & Garfunkel's "Mrs. Robinson" is the official song of the RCSA.
- That the RCSA is in favour of this becoming the official college song.

Wifi (26/NOV/2006)

- That students should have access to an effective wireless internet service
- That where needed the RCSA supports the improvement of this service, particularly to the same standard as conference facilities.

Constitution & Open Meetings (12/FEB/2006)

- That all members of the RCSA Committee should have a working knowledge of the RCSA constitution
- That attendance at Open meetings is important.

Bouncy Castle Report

Definition: (n) a large inflatable structure, resembling a castle etc., on which students jump and play as on a trampoline

A bouncy castle would be profoundly useful to the RCSA. For a relatively small investment, it has the potential to be a permanent attraction at College events, such as Corruption. In the long run, it should save costs on hire, and possibly be of use to societies when organising garden parties. Regardless of this, **its main use would likely be de-stressing during exam term!**

The allocation proposed is: £1400 from Reserves.

The money was not requested at the Budget Meeting for the following reasons:

- Support for the bouncy castle was especially strong at hustings, with regard to the Ents Officer discussion; hustings took place after the Budget Meeting.
- With the timing especially tight at the Budget Meeting, given the limit of responses to 30 seconds, despite an overall limit to discussions, it was felt that this discussion was best left until after the Budget Meeting.

- The Budget Meeting is typically designed for annual recurring expenditure, rather than to allocate money from reserves.

This investment is aligned with the RCSA's aims:

- to provide facilities which are of recreational, intellectual or social value to its members and/or increase their quality of life; and
- to advance the welfare and security of its Members.

The exact extent of RCSA reserves is currently unknown; however, from RCSA Open Meetings, the figure has been estimated to be "about £60,000". Given an absence of other ideas, and that the RCSA Treasurer's target for Reserves is "£30-40,000", this seems like a good place to allocate some money for lasting benefit. Also noteworthy is that some of the main reserves were intended to upgrade the Bassment, however another Ents account contained "about £14,000", which will cover those costs.

VAT will be at 15% starting from Monday; so now is a good time to buy!

There are a number of important qualities that the Ideal Bouncy Castle will have:

- Fire-proof/resistant
- Reinforced - for adults.
- Include a mat, and blower (to inflate it).
- Be of suitable dimensions to fit in College.

The RCSA will also need to determine policy on the use, safety precautions, supervision, and rental/deposit for societies and others. Rental and deposits may need to be reflective of the Constitution, article 3.g.i. "Every resident junior member of Robinson College is entitled to Share use of RCSA facilities and equipment provided for Members." Commercially, day hire is typically £50-100 for a bouncy castle. A small amount of money may need to be allocated from time-to-time on repairs/replacements or electricity, should college charge; however this could be funded by rental.

Examples of Bouncy Castles

Most starter packs include the fan (air pump) and stakes.



18ft square (requires 24x20ft actual space) £1200-1450



15ft square £1100



20ft square £1200