



# Sunday 22nd February 2009

## Agenda

1. Apologies for absence or lateness
2. Announcement of the presence and purpose of guests
3. Approval of the presence and speaking rights of guests
4. Approval of the order of the agenda
5. 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.
6. Matters Arising from the minutes Reports from the Committee
7. Questions to the Committee
8. Extraordinary Motions
9. Ordinary Motions
  - a) Trunk Room
  - b) Newsletter Ethical Guidelines
  - c) Ethical Investment
  - d) Budget Reform
  - e) Wii All Over Robinson
  - f) CD Library
  - g) Garden Sculptures
  - h) Swimming Pool
  - i) Astronomical Society
10. Any other RCSA business

by a minority of small and current students.

3. A skip was hired at the cost of £115 in order to dispose of unwanted items.
4. Money was raised from the sale of items to contribute towards the skip hire.

### RCSA Believes:

1. The provision and maintenance of vacation storage facilities is essential for current students, especially international ones.
2. That while a significant number of items have been sold by the RCSA, there were still a considerable number of unusable or valueless items that could not be sold and must be disposed of in order to maintain a clear and usable storage facility.
3. That the trunk room is a general student amenity and costs incurred in its maintenance should not be met by the ordinary Open Meeting budget.
4. That in order to maintain the trunk room as such a usable storage facility, all members must ensure that they abide by the new registration system in place for vacation storage.

### RCSA Resolves:

1. To allocate from the reserves the sum of £50 to contribute to the hire costs of the skip.
2. To support and abide by the new registration system as a matter of policy.

*Proposed: Robin "I'll make him an offer he can't refuse" Lawther*

*Seconded: Rahul "Don Vito Mansigani" Mansigani*

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## Ordinary Motions

- a) Trunk Room

***THIS MOTION REQUIRES TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS.***

### RCSA Notes:

1. The second large scale clearout of the trunk room occurred on Saturday 23rd January.
2. This was made necessary by the prolonged misuse of trunk-room facilities

- b) RCSA Newsletter Ethical Guidelines

### RCSA Notes:

1. College authorities have called for ethical guidelines to be established for the RCSA newsletter.
2. These ethical guidelines must be presented to the College authorities for scrutiny.

**RCSA Believes:**

1. The Students Association should reflect the will of the students it represents, and not that of the College.
2. Thus it is for members of the Students Association to decide whether the RCSA newsletter should have ethical guidelines.
3. Whether the RCSA feels ethical guidelines are needed should be decided at this meeting, thereby making our will known before ethical guidelines are enforced under College pressure.
4. Furthermore, if RCSA members feel the content of the RCSA newsletter is inappropriate or unethical, or has overstepped a mark, they can express this in the vote of no confidence.

**RCSA Resolves:**

1. That the RCSA newsletter requires ethical guidelines.
2. That the RCSA newsletter does not require ethical guidelines, the content of which is under the scrutiny of the elected RCSA newsletter editor.
3. That any ethical guidelines need only be approved by the RCSA, irrespective of the outcome of Resolves (1) and (2)

*Proposed: Luke "Skywalker" Snell*

*Seconded: Will "The Conqueror" Ratoff*

c) Ethical Investment

**RCSA Notes:**

1. Robinson College currently takes no ethical considerations into account when making its investments

2. Although the college has no direct investments we invest through a tracker fund which places no ethical constraints on its investments
3. Several other colleges, such as Murray Edwards and Clare Hall, have implemented SRI (Socially Responsible Investment) policies
4. CUSU is currently campaigning for the University to implement an ethical investment policy. St. Andrew's, UCL and Oxford all have SRI policies for ethical investment, yet Cambridge does not.
5. The University should not invest in corporations whose activities conflict with its institutional aims (for example education) or that damage fundamental human rights

**RCSA Believes:**

1. That Robinson College, as Greenest college, should act in support of the wider University campaign for an SRI policy by engaging with ethical investment at college level
2. That Robinson should research ethical tracker funds to manage its investments
3. That Robinson should have an investment policy which reflects its commitment to sustainability and education.

**RCSA Resolves:**

1. That the RSCA should endorse and actively support the implementation of an SRI policy in college
2. That the RSCA will support a petition in favour of this policy organised by Amy Woolloff (Green Officer) and Catherine Lough (Cambridge Amnesty Chair)

*Proposed: Amy "Do you feel lucky punk?"*

*Woolloff*

*Seconded: Catherine "Go ahead, make my day" Lough*

#### d) Budget Reform

##### RCSA Notes:

1. The RCSA receives the majority of its funding from college.
2. Recent discussions between the RCSA Treasurer, Finance Bursar and Chief Office Clerk have suggested that the way college currently provides income for the RCSA is not efficient.
3. The RCSA currently holds a large quantity of so-called 'reserves', which are essentially unspent funds from budget years past, but are not allowed to hold such a stockpile of funds for no particular purpose.
4. Around half of the 2008/09 Budget has been allocated to pay rents for various sports facilities, the bills for which are passed onto the RCSA from college.

##### RCSA Discusses:

1. The possibility of giving some of the current reserves to the college bursary scheme.

##### RCSA Believes:

1. Letting college pay the bills for sports facilities rent (as outlined in the addendum) would prevent any future increases in these rents from detracting from the budget available for other purposes e.g. allocations to clubs and societies.
2. That having a 'student development sinking fund' would be a suitable alternative to the current system of 'reserves', and one which has the backing of the Finance Bursar.
3. That this student development fund would act in much the same as the

current reserves, except that any allocations drawn from the fund would have to be justified as in some way falling under the category of 'student development'.

4. Having this fund would remove the need to 'get rid' of a large quantity of the funds that currently constitute the 'reserves'.

##### RCSA Resolves:

1. That from the Budget for the year 2009/10 the rent for Queens' Sports Ground, LMBC Boathouse, the squash courts and the badminton courts will be paid directly by college.
2. That the 'student development sinking fund' is implemented from the 2009/10 Budget year, and the base level of this fund set at £40,000.
3. The use of any funds surplus to this level should be considered at a later Open Meeting (for example for use in JCR refurbishment after the cost of this has been worked out).

*Proposed: Barnaby Mollett, Budget the Little Helicopter*

*Seconded: Rahul Mansigani*

#### e) Wii all over Robinson

***THIS MOTION REQUIRES TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS.***

##### RCSA Notes:

1. The lack of a Wii and the presence of a TV in the JCR
2. The inherent fun factor of a Wii to many people
3. The cost effectiveness of a Wii compared to a bouncy castle (£176+£130 for games and "shit" = unlimited FUN!)
4. The Amazon home page notes that a Wii is in stock!
5. We have a LOT of reserves

**RCSA Believes:**

1. There should be a Wii in the JCR
2. It is a good use of the money set aside for spending at open meetings
3. We should almost certainly get a Wii if
4. We can work out some way to lock it down
5. We can work out a sign-out system with the plodge
6. Wii would like to play!

**RCSA Resolves:**

1. To spend £306 from the reserves to buy a new Wii, four controllers and a couple of games to be stored in the JCR

*Proposed: Duncan "Noel Edward"  
Stibbard Hawkes*

*Seconded: Grace "Wii haven't got silly names" Parker*

f) CD Library

**RCSA Notes:**

1. That there are a lot of CDs in the library that are unused currently and gathering dust instead of providing a light melodic accompaniment to life.
2. A lot of the music available is about 10 years old or more.
3. There are no current members of the society within college.
4. No one so far has come forward to take on the role of reopening the CD library.
5. Tom Grimble has expressed interesting in running the CD library for the benefit of RCSA members.

**RCSA Believes:**

1. Reopening the library would be of benefit to all members of college particularly in exam term when you need to relax to some nice music.

2. There would be a lot of interest from college members if some of the latest music releases were added to the collection.

**RCSA Resolves:**

1. To appoint Tom Grimble to the post of President of the CD Library and allow him to appoint suitable persons to the other committee positions to allow the society to reopen. Selection could be done by interview if necessary.

*Proposed: Tom Grimble, CD-lightful*

*Seconded: Barnaby Mollett, The Vinyl Frontier*

g) Garden Sculptures

**RCSA Notes:**

1. That the recent acquisition of sculptures has had a profound impact on the visual impact of the college.
2. That no undergraduates were involved in the selection process of the statues.

**RCSA Believes:**

1. That the sculptures are an important part of college life.
2. That as such, undergraduates should be involved in their selection.

**RCSA Resolves:**

1. To mandate the RCSA Green Officer to lobby college authorities to create a "junior member" position on the college visual arts committee.

*Proposed: Lucas Fear-Segal, regal in stature*

*Seconded: Rob Beagrie, statuesque*

h) Swimming Pool

**RCSA Notes:**

1. That Robinson is a college without a swimming pool.
2. That Clare Hall is a college with a swimming pool.

**RCSA Believes:**

1. That Robinson members would benefit from the use of a swimming pool.

**RCSA Resolves:**

1. To mandate the RCSA Catering & Amenities officer to enter negotiations with Clare Hall college with the aim of securing use of Clare Hall's pool for Robinson members.

*Proposed: Lucas Fear-Segal, a fish out of water*

*Seconded: Sam Oxley, drinks like a fish*

i) Astronomical Society

**RCSA Notes:**

1. There is currently no astronomy society in Robinson College.
2. Using the university astronomical society telescopes is a bit inconvenient for students with only a moderate or glancing interest in astronomy.
3. Members may use equipment that they already own to get the society going.

4. Investing reserves in a moderate amount of astronomical equipment could be worthwhile.

**RCSA Believes:**

1. An astronomical society would provide a facility of intellectual, recreational and social value to its members, and encourage applications to Robinson for the physical sciences.

**RCSA Resolves:**

1. To form the Robinson College Astronomical Society (RCAS), which shall agree to be bound by the Constitution of the RCSA.
2. The objects of RCAS shall be:
3. To promote astronomy at Robinson College.
4. To organise astronomy-based activities and social events for its members.
5. RCAS shall adopt the Schedules as its initial constitution, and that a democratically elected and representative Committee be responsible for their due amendment.
6. RCAS shall be open to any member of Robinson College.

*Proposed: David Bewicke, thinks the moon is made of cheese*

*Seconded: David Trethewey, superstar (gazer)*

# Addendum

## Trunk Room Report

The RCSA Constitution, in Article 11(f), requires that a comprehensive written report be submitted with any motion requesting financial assistance from the reserves.

As outlined in the motion, the cost of hiring a skip was incurred by the RCSA Committee in their work to clear out the trunk room. This was obviously a necessary cost in order to dispose of the substantial amount of items that could not be sold or were of insignificant value.

The funds were not requested at the budget meeting as the current committee were not yet in position, and it was therefore unknown at what point a clear out would commence, and whether a skip would be required.

The clear out of the trunk room, consequent as it is on the skip hire, benefits all members of college, especially international students, in ensuring that they have adequate storage facilities.

The sum requested, as detailed in the motion, is £50.

## Wii Report

This motion requests £306 from RCSA reserves, which would cover a Nintendo Wii, four controllers and two games. The Wii will hopefully be stored in the JCR, with an anti-theft system, and the remotes may be kept with the porters on a sign-out system. The Wii will greatly benefit all members of Robinson college who feel the need to Wii, and will hopefully be an awesome addition to the rest of the fun stuff we already have in the JCR. This money was not requested at the budget meeting as the idea was part of the election manifesto of someone who was as yet unelected.

