



Robinson College Students' Association - Open Meeting

Saturday 28th November 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
7. Reports from the Committee
8. Questions to the Committee
9. Co-Option of remaining non-executive officers:
 - a) Women's Officer
 - b) Ethnic Minorities Officer
 - c) Overseas Officer
 - d) LBGT Officer
 - e) Newsletter Editor
10. Extraordinary Motions
11. Ordinary Motions
 - a) CUSU Re-affiliation
 - b) Renewable Policy
 - c) Presents for outgoing Chair/President
 - d) Cash machine
 - e) Gym
 - f) Constitutional Reform
 - g) Underwriting the May Ball
 - h) Matriculation Photograph
 - i) May Ball Committee Photo
 - j) Wine society
12. Any other RCSA business

Ordinary Motions

a) 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 £2500 yearly and that the new JCR Affiliation fees are provisionally £2694.17
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: Duncan "Noel Edward" Stibbard Hawkes

Seconded: Lana "Jay" Whittaker

b) 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 2007 and not contained within the renewable policy list.

Proposed: Lana "Too bored and tired to think of something to put here" Whittaker

Seconded: Duncan "Too 'just about to have dinner' to think of something to put here" Stibbard Hawkes

c) Presents for outgoing Chair/President

THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS

RCSA Notes:

1. That it is customary to purchase a present for the outgoing President of the RCSA and that a combined £80 was spent last year on presents to the President and chair.
2. That doing so could be described as a 'Nice idea'
3. That the committee have already come up with some jolly good present ideas which they cannot reveal at an open meeting as it would, like, *totally* ruin the surprise!
4. That the RCSA Committee think this is a jolly good idea!

RCSA Believes:

1. That an allocation of £60 from the RCSA Budget for the president and £20 pounds for the chair would enable the committee to purchase some rather exciting gifts
2. That these gifts should be purchased to thank the ex-president and ex-chair for their hard work.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To allocated monies from this open meeting to the sum of £80 towards purchasing presents for the ex-president and ex-chair.
2. To buy presents up to the value of £60 for the Rahul and £20 for John Crook.

Proposed: Duncan "The Present-ident" Stibbard Hawkes

Seconded: Lana "The Present Secretary" Whittaker

d) Cash Machine

RCSA Notes:

1. There is currently no cash machine in Robinson.
2. The nearest cash machine is a long and very, very cold walk into town away
3. That Simon Murden has been heard to say that "there's no fucking way" a cash-back system in the bar is plausible, because nobody ever pays for anything with cash
4. That the bar is often open.
5. That Simon Murden and The Domestic Bursar are provisionally in favour of implementing a cash machine.
6. Simon has said in the past he would be prepared to help manage the machine

RCSA Believes:

1. That, sadly, it would be very difficult to get a bank to provide us with a free of charge cash machine.
2. That a small-fee cash machine would, however, have the support of the student body.
3. That there's absolutely no harm in asking.

RCSA Resolves:

1. That the Catering and Amenities officer or the RCSA President be mandated to ask all relevant parties, including Nick Milne.

2. To do what has to be done to start the ball rolling.

*Proposed: Duncan "Went to a cash machine"
Stibbard Hawkes*

*Seconded: Andy "Money-money-money"
Aitken*

e) Gym

RCSA Notes:

1. That there is currently an underground weights room in College but that this room has no room for anaerobic gym machines
2. That being fit is important to a healthy lifestyle and the welfare of students
3. That having a small College Gym in the "Games Room" would allow students to exercise safely in college
4. That having a small college gym would stop many people from needing to join an expensive gym elsewhere in Cambridge
5. College's objections to the proposed gym are the reduction in the number of breakout rooms during conferences, the possibility of students hurting themselves if untrained, the fact that other groups use the Games room during term time and concerns about noise pollution
6. The purchase of gym equipment would contribute to the long term welfare and benefit of the members of the RCSA
7. This motion is NOT asking for any money, merely confirming the support of the RCSA members to install a College Gym
8. That College would like us to be properly trained to use any equipment such as gym machines

RCSA Believes:

1. That fitness equipment should be available to be used by all members of the RCSA
2. That quite a lot of people don't like doing weights
3. That quite a lot of people do like treadmills, cross trainers and rowing machines
4. That there is room in the Games room to locate three (or four) folding machines which

could be moved to the side when the room was in use by other groups

5. That during conference season the equipment could be moved to another location (the party room, or a bedroom in Adams Road) if necessary
6. The level of noise created by anaerobic exercise is minimal and far less than the noise created by Korean Drumming

RCSA Resolves:

1. To mandate the relevant members of the RCSA to liaise with College Authorities to establish whether or not it would be feasible to introduce a gym to the Games Room
2. To mandate the Catering and Amenities officer to find out how much space there is in the party room for storage, and to find out how portable the equipment would likely be
3. To report back to the next open meeting with a plan of action and budget if permission is granted
4. To agree with the Conference Department whether having a gym onsite would be beneficial and whether they would require it moving at the end of each term
5. To find a person suitably qualified to carry out a gym induction in college

*Proposed: Duncan "Dumbbell" Stibbard
Hawkes*

Seconded: Andy "Aerobic" Aitken

f) Constitutional Reform

RCSA Notes:

1. The work of the previous committee in producing a proposal for constitutional reform.
2. That these proposals have not yet had a chance to be put to an Open Meeting.
3. In the past a Constitution Sub-Committee has effected changes to the constitution but the process by which constitutional amendments are brought about is not codified.

RCSA Believes:

1. That the constitutional reform proposals produced by the previous RCSA committee contain changes that may well be of great benefit to future RCSA members and officers.
2. That every RCSA member ought to be given fair opportunity to contribute their thoughts and opinions to these (and possibly other) changes before they are put to a referendum.
3. That this process ought to be set out in RCSA policy for future constitutional amendments.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To create a Constitution Sub-Committee that shall:
 - i. have the RCSA Chair as its chairperson;
 - ii. exist until (whichever is sooner):
 - a) the Sub-Committee is satisfied that the proposals are ready to be considered by the Executive, or
 - b) the last Ordinary Open Meeting of lent term;
 - iii. review, discuss and, if necessary, amend current proposals for constitutional reform;
 - iv. be subject to the same timing and situation constraints as Open Meetings; and
 - v. be open and advertised to all Members.
2. To mandate the RCSA President to bring the proposals of the sub-committee for consideration at an Open Meeting once they are complete and before they are officially considered by the Executive.
3. To mandate the Executive to consider the finished proposals from the Constitution Sub-Committee once they have been passed by an Open Meeting and decide whether or not to put these to a referendum.
4. That future constitutional amendments be proposed by an Open Meeting and reviewed by the Open Meeting or a sub-committee open to all RCSA members before being considered by the Executive for a referendum.

Proposed: Rahul "One-man-army" Mansigani

Seconded: Duncan "Unhyphenated" Stibbard Hawkes

g) Underwriting the May Ball

RCSA notes:

1. The May Balls in 2008 and 2009 were huge successes and were only possible due to the help of the RCSA.
2. College Council will only grant permission for a May Ball in 2010 if the RCSA once again accepts liability for any losses incurred by the proposed May Ball.
3. The May Ball is not asking for any money from the RCSA.
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 2010 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 2010 at the Open Meeting on 28/11/2009.

Proposed: Jessica Rose "Basil" Brush

Seconded: Sam "Foxy" Oxley

h) Matriculation Photograph

THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS

RCSA Notes:

1. There has been a policy for the last five years to buy Matriculation photos, however this has never happened so far
2. The Fresher Matriculation Photo has just been brought out
3. It is still available to order from the shop
4. The JCR is being renovated so we could integrate the hanging of Matriculation photos at the same time
5. The Pegasus society would like to help out with "interesting schemes" in college

RCSA Believes:

1. We ought to have photos of each year matriculating in the JCR
2. Eventually all years having matriculated since 2005 should be represented, if possible, however it is important to get the ball rolling to start with

RCSA Resolves:

1. To allocate £45 from the Open Meeting Budget to buy a Matriculation photo for the current freshers to hang in the JCR and to mandate the Catering and Amenities Officer to organise the purchase of the photo
2. To investigate which other matriculation photos are available, and find out how much it would cost to buy these.
3. To mandate the RCSA President to contact the Pegasus society to ask whether they would be interested in supporting the purchase of Matriculation photos.

Proposed: Andy "cheeeese" Aitken

Seconded: Duncan "Snap" Stibbard Hawkes

i) May Ball Committee Photograph

THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS

RCSA notes:

1. Some college societies have their photograph in the bar.
2. The May Ball is an important college society, full of aesthetically pleasing individuals.
3. The May Ball committee had their photo taken last year by Eaden Lilly (La Fayette).
4. Photographs only cost about £41, including frames!
5. Everyone loves the May Ball.

RCSA believes:

1. That a photograph of aesthetically pleasing individuals who contribute significantly to college life would enhance the ambience of our bar.
2. Many colleges have more photographs in their bar than us, and Robinson should strive to beat other colleges in all bar-related activities.

RCSA resolves:

1. To designate £41 from this Open Meeting towards the purchase of a framed photograph of the 2009 May Ball Committee, to be hung in the bar.

Proposed: Sam "I want you cause I'm Mr Vain" Oxley

Seconded: Jessica "you probably think this motion is about you" Rose Brush

j) Wine Society

THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS

RCSA Notes:

1. There is currently no wine society in Robinson College.
2. The objective of the society is the promotion of the development of the knowledge of wine and the promotion of its appreciation.
3. The society is merely intended to promote the pursuit of oenology. The society will establish a strict protocol to limit the alcohol consumption in order to prevent any unfortunate behaviour by members.
4. (If the concern of verifying the legal drinking age is raised, the society will accept only graduate students to participate the event or become members.)

RCSA Believes:

1. The society will create camaraderie among members who share the pleasure of understanding wine.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To form the Robinson College Wine Society (RCWS), which shall agree to be bound by the constitution of the RCSA.
2. The objects of the RCWS shall be:
 - a) To promote the oenology at Robinson College
 - b) To organise weekly wine tasting/class for its members
3. RCWS shall adopt the schedules as its initial constitution, and that a democratically elected and representative Committee be responsible for their due amendment

Proposed: Jin "lightly-tipped" Nam (Myung Jin Nam)

Seconded: Karol "hints of Mulberry" Dzionek

Addendum

Co-option of remaining non-executive positions: 100 word summaries

Letty Key (Women's Officer):

As Women's Officer I would hope to see ongoing projects like the sanitary bin debate to conclusion. I would provide my email address and mobile number to be easily contactable outside of the drop-in session as well. In addition to stocking standard emergency supplies, such as condoms and pregnancy tests, I would also have a large supply of tampons and pads freely available. In more extreme cases I would provide any level of support needed, whether this be merely offering the relevant contact details or accompanying you to the clinic/hospital. I would also organise more social events.

Arun Niranjana (Ethnic Minorities Officer):

The issue of ethnic minority access to Cambridge University and Robinson College is one I care about deeply. I'm enthusiastic and a good speaker, which is crucial for a job like this. I can provide a voice for people of all backgrounds, work with the access officer to get people from a more diverse range of backgrounds to apply to Robinson, raise Robinson's profile by going to secondary schools and 6th forms, raise awareness of cultural events across the University and be available to discuss in confidence any racial issues students face.

Harshil Raisinghani (Overseas Officer):

I'm Harshil, a first year Engineer and I'm running for Overseas Student's Officer. My 3 years of experience in the army and outside university life has given me the skills needed for this post; diplomacy in dealing with sensitive issues, counselling international and UK students alike and a cheerful smile no matter how cranky my day was. I'm willing to spend the time and effort needed to secure the welfare of students when the time comes to lock horns with College and I'm definitely continuing the tradition of international swaps and events with gusto. I trust that my input to the RCSA committee will yield positive results for all students and I will be proud to be a representative of the student's views.

Dan Green (LGBT Officer):

Having been managing director of a highly successful Young Enterprise company organising large scale events, I am well equipped to organise LGBT swaps and the Rainbow Bop next term (as well as helping with freshers week). I also have good experience of committee meetings (having also served on my school's charity committee for over three years) and I work well as part of a team. I am committed to looking after the welfare of the LGBT students of Robinson and I therefore think I could be a useful and dynamic member of the RCSA and an excellent LGBT officer.

Michael Boyle (Newsletter Editor):

I'm Michael and I'm running for Editor! Much as we print types are confused by, and therefore terrified of the internet, here are my terribly serious plans for what I'd do as editor. I'll keep publishing at least two Bricks a term and involve as many Robinson writers as possible. I'll broaden the paper's scope to fiction, poetry and serious articles. I'll combat my phobia and improve the Brick's presence online by uploading a termly podcast and making a better website for old articles. Plus, I think I'm uncontested, and RON's writing style is just so derivative!

Renewable Policy

The policies up for renewal are:

Third Year Hall (January 28th 2007)

1. That the Catering & Amenities Officer should be responsible for the organising of a 'Third Year Hall' in Lent term, similar in format to 'Half Way Hall'
2. That tickets for this Hall should be available to all current third years.

Budget Meeting (November 4th 2007)

1. That the budget meeting shall be ordered by size of claim amount in descending order, starting with the society with the largest claim.

Trunk Room (November 25th 2007)

1. That the Catering & Amenities Officer should audit the trunk room each year to dispose of items marked for over a year and that continued re-audits should occur.

Underwriting the May Ball Contract

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 2010 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 2010, 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: _____