



Sunday 30th January 2011

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
6. Reports from the Committee
7. Questions to the Committee
8. Extraordinary Motions
9. Ordinary Motions
 - a) Creation of Association Sub-committee
 - b) Asylum Seeker Support
 - c) International Student Visas
 - d) High Fidelity Association
10. Any other RCSA business

Ordinary Motions

a) Creation of Association Sub-committee

RCSA notes:

1. the report of the Executive Officers entitled 'CUSU Affiliation: An RCSA Report'; in particular
2. section VI subsection e) of the aforementioned report, concerning perceived constitutional difficulties in the event of disaffiliation from the Cambridge University Students' Union ('CUSU').

RCSA believes:

1. that the opinion of the Executive Officers, that

the problem identified would require constitutional amendment, is correct;

2. constitutional development does not have to be a reactive process;

3. that effective and considered amendment of the Constitution can best be achieved through detailed, unhurried investigation and consultation; and

4. that it is desirable for the issue identified in the report (supra) to be resolved in strict isolation from any motion, referendum or discussion of the real or perceived benefits and disbenefits of affiliation to or disaffiliation from the CUSU.

RCSA resolves:

1. to establish forthwith a sub-committee pursuant to Article 54(b) of the Constitution, to be known in all correspondence and within any record as the 'Lent 2011 Standing Committee' (the 'Committee') or by such other name as its membership may determine to be expedient and appropriate;
2. to authorise the Committee to investigate the issues and documents stipulated in - and in accord with - the Terms of Reference (appendix 1 of this motion);
3. to instruct the Committee to publish such proposals, if any, that it should deem requisite for the resolution of the problem referred to in Note 2 (supra) before the third open meeting of the Association held within Lent Full Term, after which point it shall be dissolved; and
4. to mandate the Association's Chairman to appoint the membership of the Committee in accordance with the Articles of Establishment (appendix 2 of this motion) and to oversee its activities with a view to ensuring that such comply with the regulations and guidance therein contained.



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Proposed: Paul Galaway

Seconded: Tobias Paul

b) Asylum Seeker Support

RCSA notes:

1. An asylum seeker is someone who has lodged an application for protection on the basis of the 1951 UN Refugee Convention.
2. Asylum seekers are in the UK seeking protection and may wait months or even years for their application to be processed.
3. Article 26 of the UDHR which states "Everyone has the right to education... and higher education shall be equally accessible to all..."
4. That at Cambridge University, asylum seekers are classed as international students and for a typical undergraduate degree at Cambridge have to pay between £10,752 to £14,073 pounds per annum fees instead of the "home fee" rate of £3,290.
5. That asylum seekers cannot afford these fees (or living costs) because they are neither allowed to apply for student loans nor work in the UK and that asylum seekers are unable to apply for a bursary from Cambridge University.
7. Cambridge Student Action for Refugee's campaign for equal access to university for asylum seekers.
8. NUS policy in support of STAR's campaign to guarantee equal access for asylum seekers in UK Higher Education (2008).
9. The success of STAR's campaign in Manchester, London Met, Liverpool, Manchester Met, Middlesex and Edgehill universities, which now offer home-rate tuition fees to asylum seekers.

RCSA believes:

1. That everyone ought to have an equal opportunity to education.
2. That no-one should have to put their entire life on hold for years unable to get an education.
3. That the current funding system, both nationally and within Cambridge University, is unfairly punitive towards asylum seekers.
4. That Cambridge University should take a leading role in this national Campaign.

RCSA resolves:

1. To pledge support to STAR's campaign.
2. To mandate The JCR President and External Officer to vote in favour of this motion at CUSU council, with view to lobby Vice-Chancellor and pro Vice-Chancellors to:
3. Offer degrees at 'home rate' prices to Asylum Seekers. (This would essentially require the university to subsidise degrees for Asylum Seekers, to make up for the gap in government funding.)
4. To make the Cambridge Bursary available to Asylum Seekers.
5. To pledge Cambridge University's support and campaign for a change in government policy that will give Asylum Seekers equal rights to government funding.

Proposed: Alex Walmsley

Seconded: Arun Niranjana

c) International Student Visas

RCSA Notes



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1. The government is looking to impose stricter regulations on immigration, and students are not exempt from this.

2. These regulations include: making international students go to their home country to reapply for post-grad study visas, and effectively disallowing staying on to work in the UK after the degree (Tier 4 visas); limiting highly skilled worker permits (Tier 1 visas). This affects university academics. Previously almost unlimited, Oxbridge currently benefits from roughly 350 academics this way. Under the new proposals this will be limited to about 1000 nationwide.

RCSA Believes

1. If these regulations were passed it would be a bad thing for students of the College, the wider University and the World.

2. This not only affects students and academics but also our country, as we are making it more difficult for the brightest people from around the world immigrate to the UK.

3. The proposals are still in the consultation stages so we, as a student body, still have time to make our views on the matter heard.

RCSA Resolves

1. To mandate a relevant member of the RCSA to write a letter to senior College staff, University staff, the Public Consultation, our MP and anyone else they can think of express our concern about the proposed regulations.

Proposed: Leo Sideris

Seconded: Rosalyn Old

d) High Fidelity Association

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

RCSA Notes:

1. That there is an amazing record collection atop high court, dating from the founding of the college, which has tragically fallen into disrepair since the mysterious abandonment of vinyl in the late eighties,

2. That, as proven by the surprisingly high attendance at the 1960s bop, Robinson is calling out for a return to the musical glories of days gone by, meaning there would be sufficient interest to restore the vinyl collection to a working and expandable library,

3. That the current film society, despite their best efforts, cannot be expected to organise the vinyl collection on top of their other responsibilities,

4. That the Hi-Fi room has been neglected to the point that there is currently no stylus in the record player, rendering an otherwise excellent system unusable,

RCSA Believes:

1. That there is a need for a contemporary music appreciation society to maintain, organise, develop, and, most importantly, play the records that are but gathering dust in a hidden away room in a hidden away corner,

2. There are enough dedicated music listeners (henceforth referred to as hepcats) to justify the creation of a club to cater for their musical needs,

RCSA Resolves:

1. To form The Robinson College High Fidelity Association (RCHFA). The RCHFA agrees to be bound by the constitution of the RCSA.

2. To amend Appendix 1 of the constitution to include The High Fidelity Association.



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3. The aims of the RCHFA shall be:

- to restore the record collection to a usable condition,
- to responsibly oversee the management and expansion of the record collection,
- to encourage the appreciation of full albums in their intended form through regular listening sessions in the college Hi-Fi room.

4. To allocate £20 for the purchase of a stylus for the record player in the college Hi-Fi room.

Proposed: Michael 'A Brimful of Asha on the...'

Boyle

Seconded: Elizabeth 'Don't be Cruel' Ayres



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Appendix 1 [a] Creation of Association Sub-committee]

Terms of Reference

1. The Committee shall have competence to examine the issue of how best to remove all references to CUSU in the Constitution.
2. The Committee shall also have competence, at the discretion of its membership, to examine the possibility of more general reform of the Constitution in relation to the subject of external affiliation and connected obligations which may be placed upon the Officers; such discretion shall be limited to consideration of Chapters VI and XI.
3. The Committee may refer to the following documents in its deliberations:
 - a. the Constitution of the Association;
 - b. the Constitution of the CUSU;
 - c. any relevant constitutional provisions of other colleges; and
 - d. any study, paper, statistical analysis or other pertinent publication that its membership consider to be of utility.
4. The Committee shall have due regard to the need for impartial treatment of all evidence in its deliberations and should, where appropriate, consult the Association in general.
5. The Committee shall, wherever possible, strive to reach consensus in its decisions and recommendations; in any case, its members shall be collectively responsible for any proposals brought forward in accordance with Resolve 3 of the motion.



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Appendix 2 [a] Creation of Association Sub-committee]

Articles of Establishment

1. The Committee shall consist of at least three and not more than five members of the Association, subject to the proviso that Officers of the Association and their deputies and officials of the CUSU and their deputies shall be ineligible, with the exception of the Chairman of the Association, who shall sit ex officio for the purposes given in Resolve 4 of the motion.
2. In the event that the membership of the Committee does not include a person reading law, the Chairman shall appoint an undergraduate member of the college reading law (not being a non-affiliate as defined in the Constitution) to act in an advisory capacity to the Committee.
3. The Chairman, sitting pursuant to Article 1, and any person appointed under Article 2, shall be entitled to attend all meetings, discussions and other activities of the Committee and shall be privy to all correspondence, but shall not be permitted to vote, speak or otherwise actively to participate except where the matter at hand falls within their field of competence or expertise or where necessary in order to fulfil any and all duties as determined by the motion or in these Articles.
4. The Committee shall elect from amongst its membership a Rector, who shall take the chair for all meetings, in addition to a Clerk, who shall be responsible for the recording of minutes of business transacted and shall deal with all correspondence and publicity matters; the Chairman may also appoint a Depute at his discretion.
5. Meetings of the Committee shall be bound by 'Robert's Rules of Order', insofar as they are applicable to small groups.
6. Where the Chairman, the Committee or the Rector are called upon to exercise or are entitled to exercise a discretion, this shall serve as final.



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Appendix 3 [d] High Fidelity Society]

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE ROBINSON COLLEGE HIGH FIDELITY ASSOCIATION

CHAPTER I: THE ROBINSON COLLEGE HIGH FIDELITY ASSOCIATION

SECTION 1:

The name of the Society shall be “The Robinson College High Fidelity Association.”

SECTION 2:

The objects of the society shall be to maintain the college’s record collection, and encourage the appreciation of full albums on vinyl by organising regular group happenings, where the Association listens to complete LPs of the Association’s choosing.

SECTION 3:

There shall be standing orders for the conduct of general meetings, committee meetings and any other activities of the Society. Their amendment shall be the province of the committee.

SECTION 4:

A Member of the society shall be a Member of Robinson college who shall have satisfied the Committee of her or his qualifications for membership specified in the standing orders.

SECTION 5:

Amendment of this constitution of the Society shall require the assent of two thirds of the Members of the Association present and voting in a general meeting.

SECTION 6:

In case of doubt interpretation of this constitution of society shall rest with College Council.

CHAPTER II: GENERAL MEETINGS

SECTION 1:

There shall be an annual general meeting called by the Committee during Lent Full Term or the Easter Full Term neither earlier than ten months nor later than fourteen months after the previous annual general meeting. There shall have been three and only three annual general meetings within any period of three years. Every member of the Society shall be entitled to attend and shall have been given two weeks written notice

SECTION 2:

There shall be an extraordinary general meeting at the call of the Committee or on petition to the secretary signed by one tenth of the total number of members of the Society. Every member of the Society shall be entitled to attend and shall have been given one week’s notice. There shall be at least one extraordinary general meeting during the Michaelmas Full Term.



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SECTION 3:

General Meetings shall be held during Full Term in a Public Room in the Main Building.

SECTION 4:

The quorum for general meetings shall be one quarter of the total number of the members in the Assoc.

CHAPTER III: THE COMMITTEE

SECTION 1:

The Committee shall consist of the following [insert number] officers in order of seniority: [the order may differ]

- i) The President (otherwise referred to as 'The John');
- ii) The Vice-President (otherwise referred as 'The Paul');
- iii) The Treasurer (otherwise referred to as 'The George');
- iv) The Secretary (otherwise referred to as 'The Ringo');

SECTION 2:

No person shall hold more than one office at any time.

SECTION 3:

Each Officer shall serve on the Committee from the end of the general meeting at which he or she shall have been elected until the earliest of the following conditions:

- i) The end of the next annual general meeting;
- ii) He or she shall cease to be a member of the Association;
- iii) He or she shall have published written notice of resignation;
- iv) He or she shall have been challenged by the signatures of one [reciprocal of the number of officers] of the total number of members of the Association.

SECTION 4:

Elections shall only be held at general meetings. There shall be the annual election of all officers at the annual general meeting.

A bye-election shall be held at an extraordinary general meeting neither fewer than 7 Days nor more than 14 days following the resignation or challenge of the officer to be replaced.

SECTION 5:

After every election the Secretary of the RCSA shall be notified of the names of each of the holders of all the Offices of that Association.

CHAPTER IV: DUTIES

SECTION 1:

A committee meeting shall be allowed to be called for any time and any place by either the President or a majority of the officers.

Each officer shall have been given seven days written notice.



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SECTION 2:

The quorum for committee meetings shall be half of the officers.

SECTION 3:

The President shall present to the annual general meeting a written report on the old activities of the Association since the previous annual general meeting.

SECTION 4:

The treasurer shall present to the annual general meeting a written report detailing the financial position of the Society and explaining income and expenditure since the previous annual general meeting. The treasurer shall maintain a list of members of the Society which shall be available for inspection by any member of the Society.

SECTION 5:

The secretary shall be responsible of advertisements and shall give notice of each general meeting, each committee meeting and every other activity of the Association to those entitled to attend. The secretary shall keep true and accurate minutes of each general meeting, each committee meeting and every other activity of the Society which shall be available for inspection by any member of the Association. The secretary shall invite nominations for elections.

CHAPTER V: POLLS

SECTION 1:

A valid nomination for an election shall consist of a note declaring the office for which the nominee shall be a candidate bearing the signature of a member of the Association indicating his or her willingness to stand and agreement to abide by the constitution and standing orders together with the signatures of the two other members of the Association.

SECTION 2:

Any member of the Association shall be allowed to be nominated for more than one office and retiring officers shall be allowed to stand for re-election.

SECTION 3:

The close of the nominations shall be midnight after noon on the third Day before the general meeting at which the election is to be held. At the close of nominations the secretary shall prepare ballot papers and shall advertise all the candidates to each member of the Society.

SECTION 4:

The elections will be held in the order of seniority of the officers to be elected. A person already elected to an office shall not be eligible for an inferior office at the same general meeting.



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SECTION 5:

Each nominee shall be allowed to withdraw his or her nomination from any election before the poll for that election.

SECTION 6:

Two tellers shall be elected by show of hands at the general meeting during which an election is to be held. They shall count the single transferable votes of each election as soon as every member is present at the general meeting shall have been allowed to cast a vote in that election. The results of each election shall be announced before proceeding with the next election.

CHAPTER VI: FINANCE

SECTION 1:

The committee shall decide how funds at the disposal of the society shall be disbursed in pursuance of the objects of the Association.

SECTION 2:

The RCSA Treasurer shall have the power to inspect all documents pertaining to financial transactions conducted on behalf of the Society.

SECTION 3:

The Treasurer of the Society shall appoint a person independent of the Association as auditor who shall check the financial statement presented by the treasurer to the annual general meeting.