



RCSA Open Meeting Agenda

2pm, 24th January 2016, JCR



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. Extraordinary Motions
10. Ordinary Motions
 - a) New Drum Kit and Cymbals for the music room
 - b) LGBT+ Flag
 - c) Sexual Harassment and Assault Statement
 - d) Waterpolo Team
 - e) Running Machine
 - f) Squash Racquets and Table Tennis net
 - g) Weights Room: Request for Pull-Up Station/Frame
 - h) Men's Drinks Reimbursement
 - i) May Ball fencing
11. Any other RCSA business

Ordinary Motions

a) New Drum Kit and Cymbals for the music room

RCSA Notes:

1. There are a substantial number of students at Robinson who like to play the drums or be in bands who are not able to easily access a drum kit.
2. The nature and cost of the large instrument means students cannot bring their own kits to University or buy their own.
3. There are currently no working drum kits in college, compared with a few pianos (and a new one of ~£4500 being purchased) The current kit is in a very poor unplayable and incomplete condition. There is only one old cymbal and no hi-hat.
4. Both a drum kit and cymbals will need to be purchased.

RCSA Believes:

1. There should be at least one working drum kit of a decent quality for students to use.

2. The drum kit may also be utilised for live performances outside of the music room, if so required.
3. The cost for a 'mid-range' drum kit and cymbal set that should be appropriate for different musical styles and last for many years would be around £800-£1000.
4. Any more than that would be superfluous for most drummers, but any less will reduce quality. Quality is important as the kit will get bashed up a bit due to its communal purpose.
5. There is a good deal for both online costing £796.48: <http://www.gear4music.com/Drums-and-Percussion/Mapex-Mars-529-Rock-22-5-Piece-Drum-Kit-Nightwood/XHD> and <http://www.gear4music.com/Drums-and-Percussion/Paiste-PST-7-14-16-20-Medium-Universal-Cymbal-Pack/10IU#full-des>
6. Buying a cheap kit will simply be a false economy as it will need replacing in the near future. Plus it will sound bad.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To buy a new drum kit at the cost of £797 from the reserves budget.
2. Party on Garth.

Proposer: Louis Jones

Secunder: Max Kotz

b) LGBT+ Flag

RCSA Notes:

1. February is LGBT History Month, which in 2016 is being hosted in Cambridge.
2. CUSU LGBT+ are organising the flying of the rainbow flag on 1st February 2016 at as many colleges as possible.
3. A motion to allow the flying of the flag at Robinson has been put to the College Council, with the support of the Senior Tutor.
4. The college will not finance the purchase of the flag.

RCSA Believes:

1. The flying of the rainbow flag is an accepted display of support for the LGBT+ community.
2. Robinson College and the RCSA are proud of their openness and acceptance of members of the LGBT+ among members of the college, staff, and in the wider community.
3. A rainbow flag would be of lasting use to the college because it could be used at future LGBT+ events.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To support the flying of the rainbow flag at Robinson College.
2. To allocate £30 from the Open Meeting budget for the purchase of a rainbow flag of the appropriate size for flying from the college flagpole.

Proposer: Matt Kite

Secunder: Laura Prince

c) Sexual Harassment and Assault Statement

RCSA Notes:

1. That the college does not have a specific public sexual assault policy, nor has it issued a statement concerning sexual assault
2. That this current lack of comprehensive sexual assault protocol in Robinson College is insufficient and puts student welfare at risk
3. That the university is working to put policy in place to deal with sexual assault
4. That other JCRs have passed specific sexual assault policies/ statements in a growing university wide movement

RCSA Believes:

1. That having sufficient sexual harassment protocol is essential to the safety and wellbeing of all Robinson students.
2. That Robinson College should add support to this positive and growing movement recognising the importance of comprehensive sexual assault policy
3. That a statement on sexual assault would show commitment to preventing and responding adequately to sexual assault
4. That such a statement would acknowledge the occurrence of sexual assault
5. That a public statement could help victims knowing what to expect from college after an assault.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To issue a statement of intent to College to support these developments by giving RCSA backing and approval to the document 'SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND ASSAULT STATEMENT ROBINSON COLLEGE' (See Appendix 1)
2. To continue to support the movement to develop sexual assault protocol in College and more widely at the university

Proposer: Martha Krish

Secunder: Cammy Mitchell

d) Waterpolo Team

RCSA Notes:

1. Cycling relatively late at night when you are not sure where you are going is unsafe.
2. The Robinson College waterpolo team had a match against an Addenbrookes hospital team on the 17th of November at the Frank Lee Centre on the Addenbrookes site from 9pm until 10.30pm.

RCSA Believes:

1. It was safer to take a taxi than cycle.
2. That the team should endeavour to field full teams for all games regardless of whether or not they are in the usual location (pool).

RCSA Resolves:

1. To reimburse the team £20 for transport costs from the open meeting budget.

Proposer: Rhys Goodall

Secunder: Max Kotz

e) Running Machine

RCSA Notes:

1. That Robinson's running machine has been broken for years.
2. That Robinson's indoor sport facilities are extremely limited.
3. That Robinson has as duty to provide opportunities for physical exercise to college students.
4. That Robinson remains woefully behind in this respect compared to both Cambridge and Oxford colleges who either provide on site facilities or subsidize gym memberships.
5. That sporting facilities are imperative for physical and mental wellbeing.

RCSA Believes:

1. That the provision of indoor sporting facilities is extremely important for both physical and mental health.
2. That running during the evenings in winter may compromise an individual's safety.
3. That simply asking students to sign up for the University Gym instead is unacceptable because:
 - a. This imposes financial strains on many individuals.
 - b. The issue of safety remains an active issue for those seeking to travel to the sport centre during the evenings.
4. That only providing a room in which weights may be used is not a solution. Concerns as to whether this reflects a gender imbalance have also been raised.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To buy a new running machine, or, if the existing running machine is in a salvageable state, to fix it at the earliest convenience.
2. To run a survey to find out which other sporting machines or equipment would be most popular.
3. To invest in some of these items within a reasonable budget set out by the committee, with particular reference to Men's, Women's, Sports, and Welfare Officers.
4. To ensure that one room in college is available every evening for an hour per week so that people do not have to book a room in which to exercise through the booking system which is not only bureaucratic but also reluctant to let Robinson students book rooms for non-study purposes.
5. To commend the active presence of classes run by students such as Ellen Weaver (Karate) and to encourage more students to do so. (Please see Number Four, which currently is major obstacle to this resolution).
6. To consider investing in some classes such as Yoga, Dance or Workout sessions, which students may contribute to on a subsidised basis.
7. To recognise the potential of physical exercise to support mental health.
8. To recognise that college have a duty to support students in this respect and particularly to encourage women into sport, which the weights room, with its heavily weighted (Excuse pun) gender imbalance fails to do.

Proposer: Katie Fox

Secunder: Gabrielle McGuinness (Women's Officer)

f) Squash Racquets and Table Tennis Net

RCSA Notes:

1. There are currently only three usable squash racquets in the Porter's Lodge available to be used by students, and often groups of four or more need to borrow them and we need to have spares since they sometimes break. Therefore the porters request that at least two more should be purchased.
2. The table tennis table in the games room does not have a net, so one should be purchased.

RCSA Believes:

1. The squash courts are opposite to Robinson College meaning squash is a very convenient way for Robinson students to exercise, benefitting their health, and it is also an excellent way to relax and socialise, which are also vital to students' well-being. Many people use the squash courts on a regular basis, and since squash racquets are relatively inexpensive, this small investment will benefit the health and enjoyment of a large number of people, and they should not need to be replaced for several years if used properly.
2. The table tennis table in the games room provides the same benefits, and since it is already there, it is a waste not to provide a net for it to be used. A net is also only a small investment which should last for several years, if used properly.

RCSA Resolves:

1. The Sports and Societies officer should purchase at least two squash racquets, costing £20-30 each, and a table tennis net, costing £30.

Proposer: Edward Butler-Caddle

Secunder: Joanna Jennings

g) Weights Room: Request for Pull-Up Station/Frame

RCSA Notes:

1. There is demand for a pull-up station/frame in the college weights room.
2. Free space has recently been made available in the college weights room.
3. Current equipment allows for strength training of most muscle groups; however, a pull-up station would enable compound exercises that focus more on the back muscles.

RCSA Believes:

1. The weights room is an invaluable asset to all college members, which may be used free of charge, at any time of day throughout the year (with notable restrictions during choir practice, chapel activities etc.)
2. A weights room that can become more fully equipped would maximise its benefits to all college members while further encouraging its use.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To release funds of £149 to purchase a brand new pull-up station/frame for the college weights room: <http://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/B00NHOR03G>
2. If necessary, to consider raising this proposal with other interested parties in college, such as the MCR and Cambridge Weight Lifting Club (whose members also regularly use the weights room)

Proposer: Max Kotz

Secunder: Jonathan Lau

h) Men's Drinks Reimbursement

RCSA Notes:

1. That I spent £69.55 on the supplies for men's drinks in Freshers' week.
2. That as a result of my own organisational incompetence and a mistaken belief that I had a month post-budget meeting to deliver the goods, I was never refunded.

RCSA Believes:

1. That no member of college should be left out of pocket.
2. That I am sorry about this.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To reimburse George Barton with £69.55.

Proposer: George Barton

Secunder: Chris Barton

i) May Ball fencing

RCSA Notes:

1. That the May Ball committee have been quoted a figure of up to £500 for the fencing of the event.
2. That this would ensure the safety of the event and prevent 'gate-crashing'.
3. That helping to relieve the Ball's budget where possible will help to maintain what is a good value and well respected event.

RCSA Believes:

1. That the May Ball is an event open to and enjoyed by the vast majority of Robinson members and thus members of the RCSA.
2. That ensuring the security of the event is vital for its smooth running and to the benefit of the RCSA.
3. That the RCSA Reserves are to be used for long-lasting benefit to the college, and college has made clear that it supports such spending.
4. That such fencing would be used for multiple years and thus to the long-term benefit of the RCSA.

RCSA Resolves:

1. That up to £500 of the RCSA Reserves should be allocated for such fencing.

Proposer: Michelle Nuvall

Secunder: Lucy Cooke

[Appendix 1 – Sexual Harassment and Assault Statement](#)

SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND ASSAULT STATEMENT ROBINSON COLLEGE

Robinson College in conjunction with the RCSA is committed to providing a safe environment in which all members of the College can participate freely and contribute fully without fear for their personal security. A safe environment free from harassment or threat is fundamental to the academic, social and living environment of our community. Sexual harassment and assault will not be tolerated. The College will support and assist anyone alleging harassment or assault.

To this end the College and RCSA will:

- promote a culture in which there is zero tolerance for sexual harassment and assault. All members of the community must treat each other with respect. There must be a clear understanding of the types of behaviours that are inappropriate and unacceptable. The College's Dignity at Work Policy, and its support for awareness raising initiatives by the RCSA, reinforce this zero tolerance culture.

- treat harassment seriously and respond to it effectively. The procedure outlined in the Dignity at Work Policy allows for harassment complaints and those concerning the behaviour of members of the College to be addressed in a robust and fair manner. The College will ensure that anyone raising a concern is neither victimised nor disadvantaged as a result. However, allegations of rape and sexual assault, as with any other criminal behaviours, can only be investigated by the police and judged by the criminal justice system. This means that the College cannot undertake an independent investigation into allegations of sexual assault. Nevertheless, even if a student does not wish to follow legal procedures, the College still recognizes that it has a duty of care to support any students concerned.

- support individuals in reporting assaults. The College and RCSA will ensure that appropriate information and assistance is available for an individual deciding what steps to take following assault. In the case of sexual assault the College strongly advises the student to consider carefully involving the police, who have access to investigatory and forensic resources. The College has a wider duty of care to the college community, and if it considers that anyone may be at risk of further harm it may need to report a suspected crime to the police.

- support victims following assaults. Everyone reacts differently to assault, but all reactions are equally valid. Whether or not a report is made to the Police, the College will endeavour to ensure that individuals have access to welfare provision and appropriate support. This support may only be required in the short-term or for a longer period. The College will investigate whether steps need to be taken to ensure that someone who has suffered an assault can continue to feel safe studying and participating in the College community. These may include both living and academic arrangements.

- respect confidentiality. The College and RCSA will respect any request for confidentiality of someone reporting harassment or assault: the complainant decides who they would like to be informed. In very rare cases, when there is a perceived risk of harm to the complainant or to anybody else, the complainant's identity may have to be divulged to a further small group of people. Complaints from anonymous sources will not be considered: the College requires an individual to allow their name to be disclosed to *at least* one fellow of the College, such as a Tutor, in order to consider any complaint.