



RCSA Open Meeting Agenda

2pm, 20th November 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) Constitutional Reform
 - b) Constitutional Alternatives
 - c) CUSU Affiliation
 - d) Renewable Policies
 - e) Student Switch Off Campaign
 - f) Robinson College Cross Country & Athletics Budget
 - g) Underwriting of Robinson May Ball
 - h) Robinson College Table Tennis Club Budget
 - i) Signing CUSU Letter against TEF
 - j) Formation of Robinson Backgammon Society
11. Any other RCSA business

Ordinary Motions

A) Constitutional Reform

RCSA Notes:

1. It has been nearly five years since the last constitutional reform. The last constitutional amendment was in 2012.
2. The Constitution must be submitted for review by College Council every five years or upon amendment.

RCSA Believes:

1. That constitutional reform may be of 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 any changes before they are put to a referendum.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To convene 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 sections of the constitution; iv. meet at least twice during the period in which it exists, at a time and place decided by the chairperson.
 - 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.

Proposed by : RCSA Executive

B) Constitutional Alternatives

RCSA Notes:

1. The constitution although thorough isn't the most digestible source of information about what the RCSA offers.
2. Students (particularly freshers) are often unaware of the procedure to set up a society and claim budget or get reimbursed.

RCSA Believes:

1. That providing abridged guides about societies and funding would be of benefit to the student body.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To mandate the RCSA to produce such abridged guides and make them easily available on the RCSA website.

Proposed by: RCSA Executive

C) CUSU Affiliation RCSA

Notes:

1. According to the constitution, a list of organisation that the RCSA is affiliated with should be submitted yearly for approval.
2. The RCSA is currently affiliated to CUSU, for the cost of £2840 including NUS subscription fees. This money is allocated within the RCSA budget for solely this use and as such payment of the subscription does not take funding away from anything else in the RCSA budget.
3. That CUSU's support in terms of welfare, access, 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 major benefit to the college RCSA

Resolves:

1. To stay affiliated to CUSU

Proposed by : RCSA Executive

D) Renewable Policies

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 12 and not contained within the renewable policy list.

Proposed: RCSA Executive

E) Student Switch Off Campaign

RCSA Notes:

1. The importance of promoting energy saving measures amongst the student body
2. The NUS run a Student Switch Off campaign, currently including 15 other colleges, that has been shown to be successful in saving energy amongst students.
3. Little is currently done to incentivise students to take such energy saving measures.

RCSA Believes:

1. Promoting energy saving is important.

RCSA Resolves:

1. That £290 (plus VAT) should be made available from the reserves to enrol the college in the Student Switch Off campaign for this year.

Proposed: Monty Matson

Seconded: Catriona Somerville

F) Robinson College Cross Country and Athletics Budget

RCSA Notes:

1. People in college want there to be a budget for the 'Robinson College Cross Country & Athletics' (RCCCA) of £50
2. £50 would go towards college league so that members of Robinson can compete in CUH&H league fixtures.
3. Previously had a budget until a typo removed it at the most recent budget meeting.

RCSA Believes:

1. It would be good to represent Robinson at Running and Athletics Events RCSA

Resolves:

1. To give funds to the RCCCA

Proposed: Patrick Roddy

Seconded: Cameron Holloway

G) Underwriting of Robinson College 2017 May Ball

RCSA Notes:

1. We are on our way to delivering a May Ball on June 16th 2017.
2. There is a very small chance that the Ball could collapse financially or otherwise.
3. Should this happen it is preferable that the RCSA absorbs the fiscal impact given the capability their budget affords them.

4. College Council will not permit the May Ball to occur if the RCSA does not adopt this position.
5. The RCSA are not being asked for money, simply to underwrite the 2017 May Ball as outlined in Addendum A – May Ball Contract between the RCSA and the May Ball Committee.

RCSA Believes:

1. The majority of the College unquestionably wants the May Ball to take place.
2. It would be rather unfair for an individual member of the May Ball Committee to be personally liable for any losses incurred by the May Ball.
3. The proposed agreement is adequate and acceptable for both parties.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To authorise the RCSA President to enter into the agreement attached as Addendum A on behalf of the RCSA.

Proposed: Tasha Robinson

Seconded: Sam Lewis

H) Robinson College Table Tennis Club Budget

RCSA Notes:

1. That it will benefit students of the College to revive the operations of the Robinson College Table Tennis Club.
2. That the Robinson College Table Tennis Club wishes to enter a team in the intercollege league and hold conduct a ladder for members of the College
3. That the Robinson College Table Tennis Club intends to promote its activities more generally to encourage College members to play table tennis.
4. That the current equipment available for table tennis in the Porters' Lodge is in a state of disrepair.
5. That the budget meeting has already passed.

RCSA Believes:

1. That the Robinson College Table Tennis Club should be provided with an initial allocation of funds sufficient to enable the club to carry out functions for the benefit of club members and for the benefit of Robinson students more generally.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To provide funding from the open meeting budget of up to £138 to the Robinson College Table Tennis Club for the following purposes:
 - a) £8 for entry of a team into the inter-college table tennis fixture.
 - b) £130 for the purchase of table tennis rackets, balls and glue and related equipment

2. That equipment purchased should be generally made available for use by members of the College from the Porters' Lodge when not being used by members for training or competition.

Proposed: Tim Mason

Seconded: Andriy Levitsky

I) Signing CUSU Letter against TEF

RCSA Notes:

1. That Cambridge is deciding whether or not to join the TEF (Teaching Excellence Framework) which was proposed in the Government's green paper in 2015 2. A Letter against signing the TEF has been proposed by Roberta (CUSU Education) RCSA Believes:

1. The RCSA believes that the TEF will be a devastating blow to access and outreach from Cambridge University
2. The TEF will allow for fees to increase and also vary between certain subjects.
3. The RCSA believe that we should continue to support disadvantaged students applying to Cambridge from lower income backgrounds and poor achieving schools. Joining the TEF will go against those values which the college admissions department and committee strongly support.

RCSA Resolves:

1. We should vote to sign the letter from CUSU education (Roberta) supporting CUSU in abstaining from joining the TEF.

Proposed: Emily Fishman

Seconded: Rhys Goodall

J) Formation of Robinson Backgammon Society RCSA

Notes:

1. There is interest in forming a college Backgammon Society.
2. The joyous game of Backgammon is becoming increasingly popular amongst college members.
3. The romance of the beautiful board game requires proper backgammon boards to play on.

RCSA Believes:

1. Forming a Backgammon Society will bring a cross-section of members of the college together to enjoy one of the world's oldest, and surely the most dynamic and thrilling, board game in a setting well apart from other college activities.
2. The RCSA should officially recognise the Robinson College Backgammon Society (RoBS).

3. Two-dimensional representations of a backgammon board are a perennial disappointment, putting a checker on the bar is physically displeasing if there isn't a physical bar to put them on, and so this: <http://tinyurl.com/j6oadh2> is a good value, appropriately sized, three-dimensional board to purchase. It also looks durable enough to last many years of fast play, or many more years of slightly slower play.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To create a "Robinson College Backgammon Society (RoBS)".
2. The society will be bound by the constitution of the RCSA.
3. To amend appendix 1 of the RCSA constitution to include "Robinson College Backgammon Society (RoBS)".
4. To approve the "Robinson College Backgammon Society (ROBS)" Constitution (appended).
5. To allocate £84.95 from the Open Meeting Budget to purchase 5 of the above described backgammon boards.

Proposed: Chris Barton

Seconded: George Barton

Appendix

A)Renewable Policy List

Late Bar Opening November 21st 2004 - Renewed January 27th 2008, 28th November 2010, 23rd November 2013

- That subject to consultation as required, the RCSA is in favour of extended bar opening hours, or continued extended bar opening hours, particularly on Fridays.

Matriculation photographs in the JCR October 16th 2005 - Renewed January 27th 2008, 28th November 2010, 23rd November 2013

- That the RCSA is in favour of matriculation photographs being displayed in the JCR.

Charities Account – Donation to RAG October 16th 2005 - Renewed January 27th 2008, 28th November 2010, 23rd November 2013

- That the Treasurer be responsible for a yearly transferring of charity funds from the RCSA to Robinson Rag.
- That this policy is expressly negotiable and replaceable (i.e. by other donations) following consideration by Open meeting.

Fairtrade February 24th 2008 - Renewed 28th November 2010, 23rd November 2013

- That the RCSA works to maintain the college's official 'Fairtrade status.
- That the RCSA is committed to serving Fairtrade products at events it hosts wherever possible.
- That the RCSA will encourage college authorities to include Fairtrade products in food prepared on site.
- That the RCSA will encourage college authorities to sell more Fairtrade supplies within college, but with no intention of removing all other options
- That the RCSA supports the campaign to achieve Fairtrade Status for Cambridge University.

Fourth Year Returnee's Rent May 4th 2008 - Renewed 28th November 2010, 23rd November 2013

- That the RCSA believes that fourth year returnees should not have to pay increased rent.

Hobs 28th November 2010 – Renewed 23rd November 2013

- That the RCSA is emphatically opposed to any action to take away the hobs in our kitchens in college.

B) May Ball Contract between the RCSA and the May Ball Committee

Agreement between Robinson College May Ball Committee ("the Committee") and the Robinson College Students' Association ("the Association") for the provision of financial support in respect of the 2015 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 2017, and shall be constructed 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 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, nor shall it hold this over the Committee's head in a smug manner.

2. That it shall not demand repayment of any funds provided under clause 2(1).

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 the 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.

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 and Acceptance of Agreement

Clause 5:

This agreement shall be governed by English Law and by signing, the parties indicate that they have read and accepted the terms of this agreement.

The Association Date

The Committee Date

C) Constitution of the Robinson College Backgammon Society (RoBS).

Article 1: Name of the Society

The name of the Society shall be the Robinson College Backgammon Society(RoBS), herinafter referred to as 'the Society'. The motto of the society will be "Roll Deep".

Article 2: Aims of the Society

The aims of the Society shall be to encourage interest in and appreciation of the beautiful game of Backgammon to all members of the college, and to provide backgammon supplies (boards, checkers, dice, dice cups) for the members to play with. Meetings of the members will be held, which the backgammon supplies may or may not be brought to, in order to fulfil these aims.

The Society aims to provide for all members of the college without regard for gender, race, sexuality, disability or any other characteristic. For those members of college unable to roll dice and move checkers, suitable digital alternatives will be pursued within the reasonable scope of the Society. Inclusivity is the key word.

The Society aims to provide enough boards, checkers, dice and dice cups for its assembled members to play, without needing to supply their own. If this is not the case, it will return to the RCSA to ask for more supplies.

Article 3: Membership and the Conduct of Members

Membership is open to all members of the college. Members are expected to respect the aims and equipment of the Society, and the Society shall have the right to expel from the membership any member who does not respect the aims or equipment of the society or who otherwise acts to bring the society into disrepute. Expulsion can never be permanent, people can change and should be forgiven for any disreputable actions on an appropriate timescale.

There shall never be more than 0 members who are named "Greg". If this rule is ever close to being broken, the Society shall endeavour to change this point of the constitution to another name.

Article 4: Running the Society

The society will be run by a committee of officers whose roles will include the following:

- Organising meetings of the Society, including a minimum of one backgammon tourney per term
- Applying for funding from the RCSA after determining the budget
- Managing the finances of the society
- Liaising with other societies within the University
- Looking after the boards

Article 5: Rights of the Society Committee

The committee reserves the right to rescind membership for periods of up to 2 weeks.

Article 6:

Dissolution of the Society

The society may be dissolved by decision of the committee or the RCSA. On dissolution of the Society, its assets shall become property of the Robinson College Student Association.

