



RCSA Open Meeting Agenda

Sunday, 29th April
8pm
JCR



Agenda

1. Apologies for absence or lateness
James Timmins
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. Committee Reports and Resolutions
8. Questions to the Committee
9. Extraordinary Motions
10. Ordinary Motions
 - A) Creation of Robinson College Society of Dungeons and Dragons
 - B) Motion for the RCSA to partially pay for purchase of a Nintendo Switch
 - C) Motion to create scholarships for future refugee students at the University of Cambridge

Ordinary Motions

A) Creation of Robinson College Society of Dungeons and Dragons

RCSA Notes:

1. There is currently no society which promotes tabletop roleplaying games such as Dungeons and Dragons.

RCSA Believes:

1. That such a society would benefit those who enjoy such games.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To found such a society, namely the Robinson College Society of Dungeons and Dragons (see Appendix A for the constitution)

Proposed by: Sam Clements

Seconder: Sam Sully

B) Motion for the RCSA to partially pay for purchase of a Nintendo Switch

RCSA Notes:

1. The Video Game Society currently owns a PS4 and an Xbox 360. A Wii U is available to members of the JCR.
2. New Nintendo game releases are not compatible with the Wii U.
3. A Nintendo Switch costs £280 (e.g. on Amazon).
4. The Nintendo Switch would be available to all JCR members to use, as well as society members.
5. The Video Game Society could look after a Nintendo Switch as it does for other consoles, and purchase games and additional controllers out of its budget.
6. The society has £250 of its budget to spend (£120 of which could be spent on controllers, the game 1-2 Switch and a storage case).

RCSA Believes:

1. A new console would provide entertainment to students.
2. Nintendo multiplayer games are particularly popular.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To allocate £150 from the Open Meeting budget towards the purchase of a Nintendo Switch, which will be looked after by the Video Game Society.

Proposed by: Adam Dalglish

Secunder: Sam Sully

C) Motion to create scholarships for future refugee students at the University of Cambridge (see Appendix B for Cambridge Refugee Scholarship Campaign (CRSC) background information)

RCSA Notes:

1. That the plight of refugees remains a matter of profound ongoing concern both in the United Kingdom and around the world;
2. That over half of the 22million refugees, leaving aside the number of people who are displaced within their own countries, are under the age of 18;

3. That many thousands of students are among those currently fleeing conflict zones and that these students have been deprived of the chance to pursue higher education in their home countries;
4. That the University of Cambridge has thus far no existing sustainable system of scholarships or support for refugee students whilst 59 UK universities, including the University of Oxford, have committed to funding scholarship places;
5. The existence of the Cambridge Refugee Scholarship Campaign (CRSC), which aims to work to provide scholarships for future refugee students at the University of Cambridge;
6. That CRSC has been endorsed from refugee related groups in Cambridge;
7. That there is an urgent need for these scholarships, clearly demonstrated by the fact that there have been 33 eligible – accepted – candidates in the case of Oxford during the 2016-2017 application cycle.

RCSA Believes:

1. That access to higher education should be based on merit, and not nationality, race or financial situation;
2. That the University of Cambridge has a responsibility to support refugee students;
3. That given that the University of Cambridge is one of the leading universities in the world, by supporting this cause, it has the potential to influence the policy pertaining to student refugees at an international level;
4. Such a scheme would not only change the lives of the refugee students, but also enrich the Cambridge community;

RCSA Resolves:

1. To endorse the Cambridge Refugee Scholarship Campaign as it calls on the University to:
 - a. Offer at least 10 scholarships that cover course and maintenance fees for refugees and individuals who have been granted international protection by the state in which they reside lawfully. “International protection” in this context means recognition as a refugee or a grant of complementary protection;
 - b. Publicise these scholarships so that potential students can easily apply;

2. To mandate the JCR/MCR president to inform the College Governing Body that this motion has been passed and request they endorse the Campaign.

Proposed by: Tiara Atai

Secunder: Teddy Mack

Appendix

Appendix A - Constitution of the Robinson College Society of Dungeons and Dragons (RC-SDD)

CONSTITUTION

CHAPTER I: TITLE

SECTION 1

The name of the Society shall be “The Robinson College Society of Dungeons and Dragons”

SECTION 2

The objects of the RC-STR shall be:

- To promote tabletop roll playing at Robinson College
- To organise weekly tabletop and social events for its members

SECTION 3

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

SECTION 4

A Member of the society shall be a Member of Robinson college who shall have satisfied the Council of her or his qualifications for membership specified in the standing orders. A Member of the society shall also be a person who is participating in, or has participated in an activity organised by the Society within the previous 24 months.

SECTION 5

Amendment of this constitution of the Society shall require the assent of the Chair of the Society and 20% of the Members of the Society present and voting in a general meeting or 80% of the Members of the Society present and voting in a general meeting.

SECTION 6

In case of doubt, interpretation of this constitution of society shall rest with the Chair and Council of the Society.

CHAPTER II: GENERAL MEETINGS

SECTION 1

There shall be an annual general meeting called by the Chair during Lent Full Term or the Easter Full Term at any time not exceeding 15 months after the previous annual general meeting. 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 Council and Chair or on petition to the secretary signed by two thirds 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.

SECTION 3

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

CHAPTER III: THE Council

SECTION 1

The Council shall consist of the following 5 officers in order of seniority:

1. The High Lord and Master, His or Her Excellency the Chair
2. The Chamberlin
3. The Chancellor
4. The Whisperer of Secrets
5. The Master of the Revels
6. The Masters of the Dungeon's

SECTION 2

Each Officer shall serve on the Council from their election by the Chair, until the earliest of the following conditions:

1. The end of the next annual general meeting
2. He or she shall cease to be a member of the Society
3. He or she shall have published written notice of resignation
4. He or she shall have been challenged by the signatures of one seventh of the total number of members of the Society
5. He or she is dismissed by the Chair with the support of at least 1 other council position.

SECTION 3

Elections shall only be held at general meetings. There shall be the annual election of all officers at the annual general meeting. A by-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 4

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 Council meeting shall be allowed to be called for any time and any place by either the Chair or a two thirds majority of the officers. Each officer shall have been given seven days written notice.

SECTION 3

The Chair shall be responsible for organising and hosting of weekly meetings. The Chair shall make amendments to the Constitution or council at the discretion of the Chair, with the support of at least 1 other council position. The Chair also shall present to the annual general meeting a written report on the old activities of the Society since the previous annual general meeting.

SECTION 4

The Chamberlin 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 Chamberlin is responsible for the finances of the society. The Chamberlin must at all times be assisted by a dwarf who has delved too greedily and too deep.

SECTION 5

The Chancellor shall maintain a list of members of the Society which shall be available for inspection by any member of the Society. The Chancellor shall be responsible of advertisements and shall give notice of each general meeting; each Council meeting and every other activity of the Society to those entitled to attend. The Chancellor shall keep minutes, as determined by the Chair's interpretation of truth, of each general meeting, each Council meeting and every other activity of the Society which shall be available for inspection by any member of the Society. The Chancellor shall invite nominations for elections.

SECTION 7

The Master of the Revels is responsible for maintaining the assets owned by the society and bringing them to the necessary events. The Master of the Revels is also responsible for organising any events outside of normal activities and for general society advertising.

SECTION 8

The Whisperer of Secrets is responsible for the upkeep of the website and is to make updates as necessary to the website. The Whisperer is responsible for upkeep to the mailing list. The Whisperer is responsible for ensuring that all activities which involve a computational device do not cause undue harm or stress to any member of the Society.

SECTION 9

The Masters of the Dungeons shall consist of all current Members of the Society who are performing the role of Dungeon Master or who wish to perform the role of Dungeon Master in the future. For the purposes of Council voting, the masters of the dungeon are permitted only one joint vote, to be determined by unanimous accord amongst the Dungeon Masters. If no accord can be reached, the masters will forfeit their vote.

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 Society 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 Society.

SECTION 2

All electable offices shall be open to election or challenge at the AGM or EGM. The Chair shall be decided by selection at the discretion of the retiring Chair and Council. Each position on the council shall convey one vote to the holder of that position.

SECTION 3

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

SECTION 4

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 Chancellor shall prepare ballot papers and shall advertise all the candidates to each member of the Society.

SECTION 5

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.

SECTION 6

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

SECTION 7

The Chair 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.

Section 8

All elections, electors and elected officers are subject to the approval or dismissal by the Chair and Council before they may take their office.

CHAPTER VI: FINANCE

SECTION 1

The Council shall decide how funds at the disposal of the society shall be disbursed in pursuit of the objectives of the Society.

[Appendix B - Cambridge Refugee Scholarship Campaign \(CRSC\) background information](#)

The Cambridge Refugee Scholarship Campaign (CRSC) started campaigning last Michaelmas to establish a sustainable system of scholarships for refugees at the University of Cambridge. Similar schemes are in place at 59 universities across the UK, including the University of Oxford, which just last October provided 7 scholarships from over 30 eligible candidates (already accepted by Oxford). We think this really shows the demand for and huge potential of these scholarships.

We originally proposed a £4 per term opt-out donation to be added to students' college bill, by passing motions at each college J/MCRs. Our rationale for choosing this model was that the same donation scheme was pursued at the University of Oxford, which shares strong structural similarities with Cambridge. We also believe the opt-out donation scheme would enable the entire student community at Cambridge to respond to the ongoing refugee crisis, and demonstrate that the students at Cambridge stand in solidarity with individuals whose education has been interrupted by reasons well beyond their control. Last term, we managed to pass motions at the J/MCRs of four colleges (Newnham, Peterhouse, King's and Emmanuel).

However, during the course of our campaign we were notified by college staff on uncertainties surrounding the legality of opt-out donations. This surprised us because the opt-out donation had numerous precedents in Oxford and several Cambridge colleges. After contacting a number of individuals with the relevant legal expertise for guidance on the matter we have arrived at the conclusion that we will need to adopt a different funding model because the legal uncertainties surrounding the opt-out donation could potentially compromise the sustainability of refugee scholarships. We have henceforth decided to lobby the university directly to provide scholarships for refugees, a model that has been implemented by many other universities across the UK.

During Lent term we passed motions at 14 J/MCRs (including Trinity, Downing and Christ's) and were officially endorsed by the CUSU council. We've been fortunate to receive advice and support from a number of fellows and university staffs, who believe this approach would be able to succeed with J/MCR support. We are confident that Cambridge can be part of this growing movement that is providing the much-needed opportunities and opening new doors to those whose education have been interrupted by political and/or humanitarian reasons. We sincerely believe that these scholarships can empower the future leaders of many conflict-ridden nations and help build the foundation for lasting peace and justice around the world.

The Cambridge Refugee Scholarship Campaign is supported by a broad coalition including:

