



RCSA Open Meeting Agenda

Sunday, 25th November 2018

5pm
JCR



Agenda

1. Apologies for absence or lateness
 - A) Christopher Cheng
 - B) Flo Balmer
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
 - A) Tom Hinch
 - B) Phoebe Cramer
 - C) Emily Hall
 - D) Sebastien Williams
 - E) Victor Ellwood
8. Questions to the Committee
9. Extraordinary Motions
10. Ordinary Motions
 - A) CUSU Affiliation
 - B) Renewable Policies
 - C) Motion to Make Lobbying for a Real-Term Rent Cut RCSA policy
 - D) Allocation of Funding to the RCSA Sanitary Product Scheme
 - E) Underwriting of Robinson May Ball 2019
11. Any other RCSA business

Ordinary Motions

A) 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 The RCSA is currently affiliated to CUSU, however no longer pays affiliation fees, which have been replaced by College Levies.

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.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To stay affiliated to CUSU.

Proposed by: RCSA Committee

B) Renewable Policies

RCSA Notes:

1. That all policies on the Renewable Policy List (**see Appendix A**) lapse after 3 years.
2. That one policy is due to lapse during the forthcoming year, namely "Third and Fourth Year Hall".
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 we would not wish this policy to lapse.
2. That this policy continues 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.

Proposed by: RCSA Committee

C) Motion to Make Lobbying for a Real-Term Rent Cut RCSA policy

RCSA Notes:

1. That the deal secured by the RCSA in February only extends to the 2018-19 Fresher cohort, with no guarantees made to future years.
2. That Robinson College remains one of the highest average rents in the university, despite the addition of new value rooms and a capped rent increase last year
3. That the benefit of £50 Epos credit per term only applies to the years who campaigned for the rent cut.
4. That according to data provided to the RCSA and Robinson Cut the Rent by CUSU this month, 79% of Robinson College students believe rent prices are unfair.
5. That Robinson has the lowest access from the most disadvantaged areas of the country in the university.
6. That the deal secured by the RCSA in February had no effect on arrangements for Graduate Students.
7. That the RCSA passed a motion by a significant margin to give *Robinson Cut the Rent* funding for campaign materials in October 2018.

RCSA Believes

1. That the survey data provided by CUSU and the petition last year signed by 200 students of the College (see Appendix B) calling for a 15% rent cut shows rent remains a hugely significant issue for Robinson students.
2. That the deal secured last year was short term, and does not adequately address student concerns about high rents.
3. That claims made that the increased number of value rooms matches demand do not account for students who do not apply for these rooms due to the College informing them of the small number available in advance.
4. That benefits of the deal were extended to a limited range of students, failing to address the needs of graduate students and making few guarantees for future years' intakes.
5. That the RCSA committee, as the democratic representatives of the student body, should be mandated to continue pursuing a real-term rent cut.

RCSA Resolves

1. To make it RCSA policy to pursue a real-term rent cut of no less than 15% for college-owned accommodation, both for graduates and undergraduates.
2. To ensure that any deal negotiated benefits the future student body as well as the current.

Proposed by: Ben Margolis

Seconded by: Cameron Walters

C) Allocation of Funding to the RCSA Sanitary Products Scheme

RCSA Notes:

1. A survey conducted by Plan International UK found that 1 in 10 menstruating people aged 14-21 can't afford pads or tampons.
2. That over the last year the RCSA Women's Officer has run a scheme that has provided free sanitary products in College public toilets.
3. That the scheme needs funding to continue and the RCSA does not believe the £15 offered by the Women's Tutor is sufficient for this.

RCSA Believes:

1. That there will be some students in this college who struggle to afford sanitary products and that having a universal Free Sanitary Products Scheme helps to relieve them of a huge amount of stress and worry every month.
2. That the Free Sanitary Products Scheme is about much more than relieving Period Poverty but also about having emergency provisions to help all student feel more comfortable and to reduce the stigma around menstruating.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To allocate £110 from the Open Meeting Budget to help with the running of this scheme.

2. To make it RCSA Policy that the Women's Officer shall run the "RCSA Sanitary Products Scheme" and that the RCSA should either seek funding for the scheme or fund it itself.

Proposed by RCSA committee

E) Underwriting of Robinson May Ball 2019

RCSA Notes:

1. Preparations are well underway for the May Ball, to be held on 14th June 2019.
2. There is a very small chance that the Ball could collapse financially – the May Ball has the reserves to cover small losses so realistically, a collapse would only happen if the ball had to be cancelled last minute.
3. Should this happen, the May Ball reserves may not be sufficient to meet third party liabilities.
4. The May Ball Committee asks that based on the precedence set in previous years, the RCSA agrees to help absorb the fiscal impact in the event that the May Ball collapses and has insufficient reserves to meet third party liabilities, given the capability the RCSA budget and reserves afford.
5. The RCSA does not need to put aside money from their budget, but simply underwrite the 2019 May Ball as outlined in Addendum C – May Ball Contract between the RCSA and the May Ball Committee.
6. The alternative is that the May Ball Committee purchases private insurance which will likely lead to a substantial increase in ticket prices and/or a reduction in department budgets, and so a more expensive price for a lower quality ball.

RCSA Believes:

1. It would be undesirable for any individual member of the May Ball Committee to be personally liable for any losses incurred by the May Ball.
2. The majority of the College wants the May Ball to take place.
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.

Proposer: Hay-Yeung Tang (May Ball Co-President 2019)

Seconder: Nick Monioudis (May Ball Treasurer 2019)

Appendix

Appendix A – Renewable Policy

Third and Fourth Year Hall

Passed: January 28th 2007 Renewed: November 28th 2009, November 25th 2012, November 22nd 2015

- That the Catering & Amenities Officer should be responsible for the organising of a ‘Third and Fourth Year Hall’ in Lent term, similar in format to ‘Half Way Hall’.
- That tickets for this Hall should be available to all current third and fourth years.

Appendix B - Robinson College Accommodation Petition

Noting that:

- The University of Cambridge’s mission is to ensure the “widest possible student access”
- Recent statistics show that Robinson College has one of the worst problems with access amongst Oxbridge colleges.
- Robinson College describes itself as “one of the most egalitarian and relaxed colleges in which to live and work.” <http://www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/prospective-students/why-robinson>
 - This is undermined by the unaffordable rents they charge
- Incoming freshers only have a choice of 4 value rooms against more than 50 Standard Plus rooms
 - Even the value rooms are £1,330 for a ten-week lease, which is significantly higher than rents at other colleges
 - All but three freshers this year (2017) pay at least £1,600 per term
 - Not only that, it is significantly higher than the average rent at, at least 7 other colleges
 - Incoming students have no choice but to live in the main building, where the rents are unacceptably high
- College charges students for rent for a ten-week lease, yet if they vacate early college rent their rooms out to conference guests during this lease, meaning they collect double the rent for that timeframe
- Almost 60% of Robinson students said that they were dissatisfied with the value for money (Big Cambridge Survey 2016)

We believe that:

- High rent and poor-quality accommodation is a welfare issue
- Financial situation contributes to poor mental health

· Poor quality accommodation and the disruption of maintenance work has a negative impact upon student experience and academic work

- High rents are an access issue
 - Robinson needs to improve its access for low-income students
- College should not charge students rent for vacating their room early

We suggest that:

- College makes a 20% cut on rents
- College significantly increases the number of value rooms available – especially in the main building
- College commits not to decrease the number of rooms in the standard and value price bands.

Signed by:

James Hedge, Undergraduate

Jasmina O'Shaughnessy, Undergraduate

Niamh Buckingham, Undergraduate

Matthew Kite, Undergraduate

Elizabeth Palmer, Undergraduate

Sarah Ferry, Undergraduate

Natalie Johnson, Undergraduate

Christopher Cheng, Undergraduate

Samuel Sully, Undergraduate

Bradley Sawyer, Undergraduate

Anna Maloney, Undergraduate

Alex Williams, Undergraduate

James Timmins, Undergraduate

Paul Durbaba, Undergraduate

Charlotte Howson-Smith, Undergraduate

Catriona Somerville, Undergraduate

Peter Curry, Undergraduate

Katie Whitehouse, Undergraduate

Michael Croghan, Undergraduate

Rhys Goodall, Undergraduate

Joseph Townsend, Undergraduate

Rebecca Diston, Undergraduate

Anastasia Raymond, Undergraduate
Rebecca Guthrie, Undergraduate
Matt Chapman, Undergraduate
Ellie Gaunt, Undergraduate
Cecily Guild, Undergraduate
Emma Wills, Undergraduate
Amy Baxter, Undergraduate
Emma Turner, Undergraduate
Isobel Fordham, Undergraduate
Sian Evans, Undergraduate
Lily-Rose Starry, Undergraduate
Teddy Mack, Undergraduate
Mollie Biggadike, Undergraduate
Joe Farnworth, Undergraduate
Jessica Henderson, Undergraduate
Alice Gilderdale, Undergraduate
Cameron Gibson, Undergraduate
Harriet Crisp, Undergraduate
Thomas Hinch, Undergraduate
Rebecca Teagles, Undergraduate
Ben Margolis, Undergraduate
Phoebe Cramer, Undergraduate
Ho-Yee Lee, Undergraduate
Clara Bayley, Undergraduate
Anirudh Govil, Undergraduate
Ganesh Sivamani, undergraduate
Sam Byng, Undergraduate
Rachel Cox, Undergraduate
Matthew Price, Undergraduate
Amy Hall, Undergraduate
Chloe McQuillan, Undergraduate
Hearst Lam, Undergraduate
Ethan Davies Undergraduate

Sohini Vadera, Undergraduate
Henry Osborne, Undergraduate
Yuelin Zhou
Joe Collins, Undergraduate
Radu Dragulin, Undergraduate
Ricard Argelaguet, Graduate
Rowan Saada, Undergraduate
Amin Alhussainy, Undergraduate
Tom Pollard, Undergraduate
Esme Smith, Undergraduate
Callum Aitken, Undergraduate
Penny Brearley, Undergraduate
Alana Cutland, Undergraduate
Julia Lasica, Undergraduate
Emma Coates, Undergraduate
Sophie Adams, Undergraduate
Annalise Whitehead, Undergraduate
Georgina McCosh, Undergraduate
Valentine Lauwereins, Undergraduate
Kieran Mylrea, Undergraduate
Gaurav Mandana, Undergraduate
Juliette Blanchard, Undergraduate
Urvie Pereira, Undergraduate
Adam Hatoum, Undergraduate
Bethan Jones, Undergraduate
Joshua Vogwell, Undergraduate
Chelsea Austin-Ajaero, Undergraduate
Callum Ryan, Undergraduate
Becky Mackett, Undergraduate
Adriana Lee, Undergraduate
Amelia Hills, Undergraduate
Laura Robertshaw, Undergraduate
Nikhil Banerjee, Undergraduate
Jamie Buck, Undergraduate

Nick Calvert, Undergraduate
Sophie Tran, Undergraduate
Rebecca Hayward, Undergraduate
David Rennie, Undergraduate
Hazel Nicholson, Undergraduate
Arman Hakimazari, Undergraduate
Alex Berry, Graduate
Harris Webb, Undergraduate
Jan Elsner, Undergraduate
Rose Jump, Undergraduate
Matthew James, Undergraduate
Miteyan Patel, Undergraduate
Lillian Judd, Undergraduate
Ellen Weaver, Undergraduate
Zayn Khamisa, Undergraduate
Matthew Brickell, Undergraduate
Natasha Robinson, Undergraduate
Emma Jackson, Undergraduate
Maisie Hobbs, Undergraduate
Nora Csitari, Undergraduate
Sasha Bobak, Undergraduate
Caitlin Allt, Undergraduate
David Reavley, Undergraduate
Timothy Benger, Undergraduate
Pippa Graves, undergraduate
Monty Matson, Undergraduate
Laura Prince, Undergraduate
Elizabeth Shaw, Undergraduate
Quitterie de Beauregard, Undergraduate
Anna Seale, Undergraduate
Chiara Rohlf, Undergraduate
Grace Atkinson, Undergraduate
Antonio Morales, Undergraduate

Christie Lam, Undergraduate
Tiara Ataii, Undergraduate
Akil Hashmi, Undergraduate
Jonas Dein, Undergraduate
Rebekah Hornsby, Undergraduate
Nicholas Monioudis, Undergraduate
Hay-Yeung Tang, Undergraduate
Callum Holmes, Undergraduate
Patrick Sykes, Undergraduate
Alicia Grace Wergan, Undergraduate
Sophie Tran, Undergraduate
Mihai Truta, Undergraduate
Hethvi Gada, Undergraduate
Cameron Roker, Undergraduate
Hannah Mudge, Undergraduate
Janet Lei, Undergraduate
Benton Chung Pok Hei, Undergraduate
Catherine Kirk, Undergraduate
Kayani Kayani, Clinical Medical Student
Kenny Cho Hou Tang, Undergraduate
Oliver Rose, Undergraduate
Lawrence Atkins, Undergraduate
Helen Briggs, Undergraduate
James Vickery, Undergraduate
Joss Barton, Undergraduate
James Oades, Undergraduate
Shujing Chung, Undergraduate
David Theil, Undergraduate
Milo Howes, Undergraduate
Ashani Priya, Undergraduate
Tom Chalton Hellyer, Undergraduate
Lucas Huysmans, Undergraduate
Alfred Jacquemot, Undergraduate

Caitlin Howe, Undergraduate
James Gallagher, Undergraduate
Lorenzo Leoni, Undergraduate
Rebecca Hayward, Undergraduate
Omar Jamil, Undergraduate
Henry Phillips, Undergraduate
Piers Crowther, Undergraduate
Encho Mishinev, Undergraduate
Ben Nohr, Undergraduate
Thomas Whitworth, Undergraduate
Valentina Sassow, Undergraduate
Natanijel Vasic, Undergraduate
Maximilian Kotz, Undergraduate
Stephen Chan, Undergraduate
Mihails Smolins, Undergraduate
Charlotte Simpson, Undergraduate
Angus Parker, Undergraduate
Thomas McCann, Undergraduate
Imani Strangeway Al Sayigh, Undergraduate
Freya Caldwell, Undergraduate
Tiernan Banks, Undergraduate
Frederikke Koch Schwarz, Undergraduate
Amar Gandhi, Undergraduate
Amy Curran, Undergraduate
Daniel O’Riordan, Undergraduate
Pawat Silawattakun, Undergraduate
James Potter, Undergraduate
Esme Garlake, Undergraduate
Max Orviss, Undergraduate
Amelia Wainwright, Undergraduate
Katya Duncan, Undergraduate
Qiwon Zheng, Undergraduate
George Andersen, Undergraduate

Mariella Rice-Jones, Undergraduate
Chyna Fairclough-Jones, Undergraduate
Nicholas Winder, Undergraduate
Nathaniel Weisberg, Undergraduate
Edward Butler-Caddle, Undergraduate
Alex Fisher, Undergraduate
Amelie Haeblerlin, Undergraduate
Lisa Ragunathan, Undergraduate
Freddie Bartlett-Evans, Undergraduate
Carlos Val Mas, Undergraduate
Demetris Skottis, Undergraduate
Ryan Mori, Undergraduate
Stephanie Hui Yin Wai, Undergraduate
Jae Hee Lee, Undergraduate
Jessica Li, Undergraduate
Salil Navapurkar, Undergraduate

[Appendix C - Underwriting of Robinson May Ball 2019](#)

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 2019 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 2019 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.

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 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:

The Committee:

Date:

Date: