

RCSA Open Meeting Minutes
2007 Budget Meeting
Sunday 2pm 4th November 07, Umney Theatre

1. Apologies for absence or lateness

Apologies were received from Maayan Ashkenazi and Lucy Clements.

2. Announcement of the presence and purpose of guests

There were no guests.

3. Approval of the order of the agenda

The agenda was approved by the open meeting.

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.

There were no amendments.

5. Matters Arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

6. Reports from the Committee

Peter Thompson reported that the work on the RCSA office had started. He also reported that subscription to Setanta subscription appeared unlikely as public Setanta might cost around £800, much more than initially thought.

Clara Calvert reported that the likelihood of the college attaining Fair Trade Status was slim as this would affect college throughout conference period too.

7. Questions to the Committee

There were no questions from the committee.

8. Extraordinary Motions

There were no extraordinary motions

9. Ordinary motions

(a) Rugby Photo in the Bar

Chris Land introduced the motion. He said that it had been long suggested that a photo of the rugby team be put in the bar and that it would be good for college moral.

James Mott asked the Open Meeting to vote on Ordinary Motion (a), resolving to allocate £35 for the purpose of framing a photograph of the rugby team and placing it in the bar.

Majority for

Ordinary motion (a) was duly passed.

(b) Presents for College staff and fellows

Jonny Young chaired the meeting.

James Mott introduced the motion. This money would provide for some gifts of appreciation for Ian Rudy and Isabella Alexander for their help with giving up time for counting votes and help with the constitution, respectively. It would also provide a present for Gary the Porter who had kindly given some drinks left over from his birthday to the college members.

James Mott asked the Open Meeting to vote on Ordinary Motion (b), resolving to allocate £65 for the purpose of buying some college staff presents.

For unanimous

Ordinary Motion (b) was duly passed.

(c) Reordering the Budget

Peter Thompsom introduced the motion. He said that big societies' budgets should be dealt with first as the cuts that were needed could only be made through adjusting their claims.

James Mott asked the Open Meeting to vote on Ordinary Motion (c), resolving to reorder the budget.

For unanimous

Ordinary Motion (c) was duly passed.

James Mott resumed chairing the meeting.

(d) The Budget

Peter Thompson introduced the claims for **non-Clubs and Societies**.

Claims for RCSA Administration, RCSA Insurance, RCSA TV License, the TV room were all unanimously passed.

The claim for the Romsey newspapers was discussed.

Arguments against: It was suggested that 5 papers were not needed each day.

Arguments for: Romsey people generally miss out on lots of other things.

The claim for Romsey newspapers was passed with a majority backing.
The punt membership scheme claim was passed with a majority backing.

The CUSU and NUS subscriptions were unanimously approved.

Peter Thompson offered a point of information: the Newsletter claim for last year had been only £50 after an allocation of £200.
The claim for the reduced Newsletter allocation was passed with a majority backing.

The MCR, RAG, Societies syndicate and Sports facilities claims were unanimously approved.

Peter Thompson pointed out that the Academic Affairs could be struck as there was no reason why they would need it. And if they did, they can request it from the overall RCSA photocopying. This was unanimously approved.

The reduced Access claim and the Ents claim were unanimously approved.

Peter Thompson pointed out that the Freshers' Week budget and Room Ballot budget could be combined to allow the Vice President more flexibility. This was unanimously approved.

The Welfare, chill-out café, Women's and Yearbook claims were unanimously approved.

The Refund Scheme claim was discussed but approved by majority.

The Open Meetings claim was unanimously approved.

James Mott asked the Open Meeting to now discuss and approve the claims of **Clubs and Societies**.

Dominic O'Connor Robinson introduced the claim for the Chapel Choir (first because there was a performance later in the afternoon). He cut the printing claim from £250 to £120. He said that the amount of music the choir can play each year is reducing. This year college wants the Choir to go to the UK for summer tour. The Choir used to get £1500, now it is asking for £700. He pointed out that the choir had repeatedly made huge cuts over the years and could not continue to do so. He also said that the choir received a significant amount of money from sponsors who like to see how much support the choir get from student body.

A discussion commenced over the cost of the summer tours and the cathedral visits. It was suggested that if the college liked the image that the choir gave it, then the college should provide the choir with more money directly. Dominic argued that the college gives money to the RCSA to support the choir.

Daniel Lee suggested that the student body could support the choir without actually giving them money. Dominic argued that it was essential that the sponsors see financial backing of the Choir from the student body.

The Chapel Choir claim was approved by the majority.

Mark Hunting introduced the claim for the Boat club. He pointed out that the budget had been cut by ten percent this year and reminded that every rower pays for his or her own kit and now also for transport of the boats. He pointed out that fines were not fines for individuals but for groups and could be simply for bad rowing. He argued that there was nothing there that the Boat Club did not need in the claim.

Jack Schennum noted that insurance premiums were much higher this year.

Brandon Green asked a question: the chapel choir raised more sponsorship than the total of the boat club budget; does the Boat Club have sponsorship? Mark Hunting confirmed that the Boat Club does have sponsorship.

Mark confirmed that some of the repairs were bumps but also for vandalism.

Claire Horrocks asked why equipment money continues to be requested every year.

Mark explained that the equipment deteriorates. Two cox boxes are needed each year and some lifejackets are in an unsafe state.

The Boat Club claim was approved by the majority.

Jo Souter introduced the claim for the Brickhouse Theatre. Rights and scripts were cut down which would limit the number of productions.

Jack Schennum asked why auditorium hire was so much lower last year. Jo explained that this was because the auditorium could not be used in Lent term because of repairs.

The new system of pricing was discussed. The college would now be taking money from profits. Jo pointed out that the Brickhouse still had some profits from successful productions like Grease, which skewed the profits that would be predicted for this year.

The Brickhouse claim was approved by the majority.

Chris Land introduced the claim for the Rugby Club. He said that he would cut the tour budget down to £200. He explained that the team desperately needed new playing shirts as they do not currently have enough. Chris said that the team would not request kit next year if their claim is approved this year. Last year's tour claim was cut back by £400.

Fiona Eilidh Wright suggested that the team buy their own shirts in the same way that the hockey team did. James Gordon pointed out that they would have to be bought in bulk and that some spares needed to be purchased too.

A personal contribution by rugby team members was discussed. Thomas Mead suggested a central fund for kits and tours. This was generally considered too difficult to administer.

Chris Thistlethwaite asked a question: How can you assure that the shirts will be kept? Four people obviously took them last year.

Adam Booth raised the issue of security of kit storage.

Russ Tannahill suggested that the Rugby team do the same as the Football team and buy their own personalised shirts. Daniel Lee pointed out that Rugby shirts get ripped and that no one would want to play in their own personal shirts.

Mark Hunting asked if the Rugby Team could get sponsorship. Chris Land confirmed that this had been investigated and would be further investigated next year.

The Rugby Club claim was approved by the majority.

Guy Corlett introduced the claim for the Hockey Club. He said that AstroTurf fees were going up. He cut the tour budget claim to £400. This would cover entry fees, accommodation fees and transport. Guy said that kit essential for safety was needed like a neck guard and goal-keeping hockey stick.

Louise Heron donated Will Clayton's neck guard and goal-keeping hockey stick to the Hockey Club. This was acknowledged with much appreciation by the Open Meeting.

Jamie Aspinall asked a question: Why is twice as much money needed for the hockey tour? Matt Burder explained that £175 alone was needed for entry fees.

The Hockey Club claim was approved by the majority.

Richard Heatley introduced the claim for the Film Society. He said that if the Film Society can continue it will cost £100 for films. Richard suggested that the society could provide one free film every two weeks to RCSA members.

Adam Booth suggested that much of the Film Society's problems lay in publicity and the fact that it showed films on the same day as St John's.

Jamie Aspinall asked a question: Why is there term card printing when we get so many emails about film showings all the time?

Anna Brydges suggested that the Film Society show less films.

James Gordon suggested that the Film society might be superfluous and antiquated at a time when people could download films for free from the internet.

Richard Thomson asked a question: How many people turn up on average? Richard Heatley said that on average maybe twenty.

Jonathan Spriggs pointed out that the RCSA had a lot of expensive film equipment and that this will become completely redundant if the Film Society does not show films.

Mark Hunting suggested that the Film Society cut its claim to £600.

Anna Brydges suggested showings to six a year – two a term.

The amended Film Society claim was approved by the majority.

Estzer Teknos introduced the claim for the Music Society. She said that the music society had to make enormous cuts which were damaging.

Thom Boyd suggested that money be raised by not making concerts free.

Philip Kynaston said that when they have charged, concerts had an audience of ten people but sixty when it was free.

The Music Society claim was approved by the majority.

Brandon Green introduced the claim for the Art Society. He said that it was a society open to all members of college. He said that the Art Society was hoping to replace the canvasses in the Garden Restaurant.

Daniel Lee questioned whether it was right for the Art Society to spend money redecorating the college's restaurant.

Estzer Teknos said that arts societies were underrepresented in the budget.

Salaj Massand asked a question: How much it would cost to purchase enough canvasses? Brandon Green did not know.

Adam Booth said that if no one knew how much money was needed, it did not demonstrate there was much support.

Anna Brydges went to find out how much money was needed.

The Art Society claim would be discussed later.

No one was at the Open Meeting to represent the Basketball Club.

Daniel Lee pointed out that the team does not have kit.

James Warner proposed that the kit claim be reduced to £20. The team could claim £100 at an Open Meeting later if it wished.

The amended Basketball Club claim was approved by the majority.

Ste Taylor introduced the claim for the Badminton club. He explained that £150 would be required for new shuttles as these each last for an hour at most. A supply of fresh shuttles is needed for each game.

James Gordon asked a question: Why are home matches not played on our courts that we hire?

Ste explained that the college only have access for a limited number of hours on the courts and that this only allowed enough time for practice.

The Badminton Club claim was approved by the majority.

The Art Society reduced its claim to £200.

The amended Art Society claim was approved by the majority.

James Gordon introduced the claim for the Cricket Society. He said that the items were claimed were essential.

The Cricket Club claim was approved by the majority.

Richard Thomson introduced the claim for the Tennis Club. He said that the claim would allow the purchase of some rackets to be put in the porters' lodge for everyone to use and also 12 white polo tops for the tennis team.

Adam Booth offered a point against: Players can play with any white top, not necessarily a polo shirt. Furthermore, the cup has not been engraved for 50 years.

Richard Thomson said that this does not mean that Robinson cannot engrave it now.

Brandon Green offered a point for the claim: This is a society that did particularly well last year winning the University Tennis Cuppers.

Anna Waghorn pointed out every one else has to pay for their kit in sports such as rowing.

James Warner proposed cutting the budget for kit.

This was approved by the majority at the Open Meeting.

Ste Taylor said that trophy engraving was non-essential and only for the team's ego. He proposed to cut the budget for the engraving.

Stewart Walker gave a point for: Tennis cuppers raised the prestige of the college.

Chris Thistlethwaite asked a question: How have you arrived at the figure of £40?

Richard Thomson said that was what his dad had told him.

Mimi Wilcock said that everything non-essential should be cut out.

Jack Schennum said that the engraving would be an investment in history because anyone looking at the tennis cuppers will think that for the last fifty years no one has won tennis cuppers – except Robinson.

The proposal to cut the trophy engraving was rejected by the majority at the Open Meeting.

The amended Tennis Club claim was approved by the majority.

Mimi Wilcock introduced the claim for the Ladies' Football team. She said that the team have no more kit.

Claire Horrocks asked if the team could buy their own kit. Mimi said that different people made up the teams each week and that it would put people off playing at all if they had to buy kit.

Salaj Massand asked a question: Do Selwyn contribute financially as it is a joint team? Mimi said that it was intended that they contribute for kit but not for fees, as it is a Robinson society.

Chris Thistlethwaite offered a point for the claim: This is a very reasonable price for a full football kit.

The Ladies' Football Club claim was approved by the majority.

Chris Thistlethwaite introduced the claim for the Pool team. He said that Robinson had won the league again and wanted to claim match and cupper fees.

The Pool Team claim was approved by the majority.

Adam Jones introduced the claim for the Water Polo Club. He said that effort had been made to cut down the team's claims.

Louise Heron pointed out that the team do not, of course, have any training pitch.

The Water Polo Club claim was approved by the majority.

Sam Goff introduced the claim for Amnesty. He said that the money would go towards sending a couple of letters a week.

Thom Boyd pointed out that spending was low last year simply because people did not claim the money they had spent back.

The Amnesty claim was approved by the majority.

Brandon Green introduced the claim for the Cheese Society. He said that the society had made a number of cuts and was now no longer able to participate in Cheese Cuppers.

Peter Thompson asked a question: Is it not true that a lot of the society's cheese is eaten by your friends at Adams Road?

Brandon pointed out that this was only cheese he had spent his own money on.

James Gordon offered an argument against the society's claims, describing them as 'cheesy luxuries'.

The Equipment claim was reduced to £10.

Richard Thomson asked if it was necessary to have two events.

Chris Land asked if the society would continue after Brandon had left. Brandon said that it was likely to continue under the guidance of cheesy protégée David Bewicke.

Estzer Teknos offered a point for the Cheese Society claim: it has a unique identity and more people outside of Robinson know about the Cheese society than they do about the Rugby team.

Thom Boyd proposed cutting the cheese society fresher event claim. This was supported by the majority.

The amended Cheese Society claim was approved by the majority.

Rebecca Yeoh introduced the claim for the Netball club (both mixed and womens'). She said that she would cut the kit claim.

James Gordon and Chris Thistlethwaite said that skirts and bibs were all that were needed for netball.

James Warner proposed to cut the kit money to zero. This was supported by the majority at the Open Meeting.

The amended Netball Club claim was approved by the majority.

Brandon Green introduced the claim for the CD Library. He said that CD is a dead art form.

James Gordon asked a question: Does anyone use it? Brandon said no.

The amended CD Library claim was approved by the majority.

Brandon Green introduced the claim for the Croquet Club. He cut the claim and said that the money would go towards purchasing two croquet sticks.

The amended Croquet Club claim was approved by the majority.

Chris Land introduced the claim for the Volleyball club.

The Volleyball Club claim was approved by the majority.

Dave Durbin introduced the claim for the Christian Union.

Brandon Green offered a point against the claim: He said that if the Cheese Society cannot have Freshers' events, then neither should the Christian Union.

Thom Boyd offered a point for the claim: He pointed out that it was a low claim for three events.

Adam Booth made a point against the claim: He said there was no real point in having a Freshers' event as it would hardly attract anyone who would not already be part of it.

Jo Souter made a point for the claim: She said that it is not designed just for people who sign up but anyone.

Richard Thomson offered a point against the claim: The RCSA have enough welcoming events.

David Dempster offered a point for the claim: These are evangelistic events and are therefore different to RCSA events.

The amended Christian Union claim was approved by the majority.

Daniel Lee introduced the claim for the Darts Club. He said that last year Robinson Darts team won the league and that he was now University Captain too. He said that the claim would provide two sets of darts behind the bar and also a few sticks of chalk. It would also cover darts for the JCR, although Dan said that this might not be permitted.

Claire Horrocks suggested that the money for the darts in the JCR be cut. If darts in the JCR were allowed by college officials then a request could be made at an Open Meeting.

Dan Lee accepted this and reduced the claim to £35.

The Darts Club claim was unanimously approved.

The Cross Country Club claim was approved by the majority.

Adam Booth introduced the claim for the Ultimate Frisbee Society. He said that there were missing discs but kit had been cut from the claim as non-essential.

Brandon Green asked a question: As a combined team, do you receive money from the other college? Adam Booth said yes.

The Ultimate Frisbee Society claim was unanimously approved.

Salaj Massand introduced the claim for the Lacrosse Team. He said that the team had just won its match 11-0. Salaj cut the Lacrosse Team's claim.

The Lacrosse Team claim was unanimously approved.

James Mott invited the meeting to discuss the claims of the Open Meeting, which were over-budget.

Brandon Green said that the meeting had cut back so much that the RCSA should go ahead and pass the budget as it was.

Chris Land suggested that not all the money will be claimed, as happened last year. Peter Thompson confirmed that 22% was not claimed last year but said that next year it is likely that this will be much lower because societies and clubs have cut back so much.

James Mott said that the RCSA cannot continue to sustain spending which it cannot afford. Arguably, he said, more could be cut.

Mark Hunting put a cap on rowing claims of £5995, reducing the claim by £500. He said that everyone should do the same.

Adam Booth said that the money should go towards societies which offered things which could not be done outside of college for free.

Daniel Lee said that the Open Meeting was being responsible and that Mark should add the £500 back. He said that clubs and societies were essential for university life.

Mimi Wilcock reduced the claim of the Ladies' Football Team and said that RCSA clubs and societies cannot continue to cope with such heavy cuts every year.

Russ Tannahill asked who negotiated the prices of sports grounds, as the cost of these is increasing at a greater rate than the money allocated to the RCSA by the college. He said that this is unsustainable too.

James Mott identified the RCSA's irresponsible budgeting as the problem.

Guy Corlett cut the Hockey Tour budget to £200. He said that little could be done whilst the interest rate of the RCSA's money remained at 1%.

Thom Boyd said that passing the budget would involve dumping a society.

Mark Hunting said that if the budget would be passed over-budget, then the £500 reduction on the cap of the rowing budget should be taken back.

Brandon Green suggested putting it all back.

Jo Souter said that the RCSA cannot keep passing over-budget budgets. She said that it should be standardized whether teams have their kit or tour paid for.

Edward Cairns emphasised that the budget could not be properly done until the problems with the RCSA's account and the interest it received were addressed.

James Mott asked whether the Open Meeting would like to move to the vote on whether to pass the budget or whether the Open Meeting would like to continue to discuss. A majority favoured continuing the discussion.

Adam Booth asked a question: What happens if the budget keeps going over?

Peter Thompson said that the RCSA could not continue to eat into its reserves.

Russ Tannahill asked a question to James Mott: As someone who has the best insight into how college officials will react to an over-budget budget, do you think we need to continue to reduce our deficit? James Mott said that he did think the Open Meeting must continue to reduce its shortfall.

Estzer Teknos said that the Music society would reduce its claim by £100.

Richard Thomson said that the Tennis Society would reduce its equipment claim from £150 to £125.

It was proposed that Romsey newspapers be cut completely, on the grounds that no one from Romsey had turned up to support the claim for Romsey newspapers. This was approved by the majority.

Luke Snell cut the RAG claim to £5.

James Gordon cut £30 off the Cricket Club's equipment claim.

Sam Goff cut the Amnesty claim so that only enough was left for aerograms.

Jo Souter cut the Brickhouse claim further.

Thom Boyd proposed cutting the Film Society claim to £300.

Jack Schennum proposed cutting the Film Society claim to £400.

Richard Heatley cut the Film Society claim to £500.

Russ Tannahill suggested that the Film Society be given a chance because of the new format. He reiterated Jonathan Spriggs' comment that stripping the Film Society of all its money would render expensive equipment completely useful. He said that the Film Society was a great amenity which was in many ways unique to Robinson.

Dominic O'Connor Robinson cut the Chapel Choir claim by £100.

Ben Henriques suggested cutting the allocation for JCR Newspapers by £284.

This was unanimously approved.

Peter Thompson announced that the claims of the Open Meeting were no longer over-budget, as it currently stood.

James Mott asked the Open Meeting to vote on the proposed budget.

The proposed 2007 Budget was approved by the majority.

10. Any other RCSA business

There was no other RCSA business.

James Mott concluded the Budget meeting.

End of meeting.