

RCSA Open Meeting Minutes

7.30pm, Sunday 27 January 2008: Umney Theatre.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Claire Horrocks (**Vice President**), who arrived during ordinary motion f, as well as from Becky Yeoh (**Secretary**).

Shiama Balendra (**Ents**) and **** (LGBT) were absent without apologies.

Guests

There were no guests

Order of the Agenda

There were no objections to the order of the agenda

Approval of minutes

All the minutes from Open Meetings on 14/10/07, 4/11/07 and 25/11/07 were approved without amendment.

Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes

Reports from the committee

Tom Kelly (**Chair**, hereby known as TK) reported that Scott Bolingbroke had resigned as Catering & Amenities Officer. He said nominations were open until midnight and the by-election would be held on the following Tuesday.

Iain Barr (**President**, hereby known as IB) told the meeting that he had met the Financial Bursar to discuss rent increases over the last couple of years. College authorities are arguing the main reason for the extent of rent increases is that energy bills have increased rapidly and the current system of fixed rents means that the majority of the rate change is concentrated on incoming students.

Chris Thistlethwaite (**Treasurer**, hereby known as CT) spoke about the RCSA reserves policy and bank accounts. A discussion report was circulated to those present at the meeting. CT said the reserves are kept in low interest bank account with the co-op and investigations are continuing as to get a better return from interest at a different bank. TK said that a motion authorising action on this issue was being planned for the next Open Meeting.

Questions to the committee

James Mott (hereby known as JM) asked a question about handover formal and the Catering & Amenities Officer. IB responded.

Extraordinary motions

There were no extraordinary motions.

Ordinary motions

a) Renewable policy list

TK introduced the motion so **IB chaired the meeting for duration of ordinary motion a.**

TK said that the RCSA is constitutionally required to have a renewable policy list and that the document presented in the addendum was a collation of policies from last few years in a single place. Previous policy had been ignored where the required action has been achieved, making it as meaningful as possible. TK continued that if policy revoked by the motion (i.e. older than three

years) became an issue again, then these could easily be brought again to an open meeting.

There were further no questions or speeches on the motion.

VOTE –	For: 26	Against: 0	Abstain: 1
<i>Ordinary motion a passed</i>			

TK resumed the Chair

b) Party room renovations

Pete Wood (**Green**, hereby known as PW) moved the motion and argued that the Party Room could be renovated using some of the reserves. As this would be RCSA money, PW held the improvements would be in control of the RCSA. This also made action more urgent, as little could take place during exams.

Michael Albert Brown (hereby known as MAB) made a speech against. He said we only have bops down in “The Bassment” and that the current décor has its charm.

Luke Snell (**Ents**, hereby known as LS) made a speech for. He called for more equipment and the construction of a semi-permanent bar and new seats – neither of which need be that expensive.

PW offered a point of information – He believed that somebody, possibly not from the executive, should go away and make a plan, reporting back to the open meeting

Johnny Young (hereby known as JY) made a speech in favour of the motion. He said this came up before and nothing had been done. Some things, such as the construction of a bar, had already been approved by Open Meeting.

Daniel Tse (**Overseas**, hereby known as DT) asked what time any refit would take place, alluding to the problem with international students requiring the party room for storage outside of term.

Ben Henriques (**Access**, hereby known as BH) asked how this would be organised

PW believed we needed a sub-committee for this issue with a chair.

BH expressed concern that it wasn’t clear who would be in charge if the motion passed.

TK pointed out it wasn’t constitutionally necessary to determine the chair of a sub-committee in an open meeting.

JM asked how big the sub-committee would be?

PW said that as many people as necessary, but that this would probably be only a handful.

Pete Thompson (hereby known as PT) said that “The Bassment” has already been painted on numerous occasions. He asked PW if it’s that good for the environment to keep doing this?

PW responded that this reiterates the need for planning.

IB said in summary that there should be a committee for the renovating of the party room. He asked the open meeting if anybody was willing to take part?

LS forwarded himself and asked PW wood to join him.

PW amended the motion to stipulate that the Ents Officers would chair the sub-committee.

VOTE –	For: 26	Against: 0	Abstain: 0
<i>Ordinary motion b passed</i>			Ents

c) Present for Jimmy Bell (Butler)

MAB brought the motion by arguing Jimmy was a nice guy and the general opinion in college is he's well liked. He has been working for Robinson for 26 years now, as have some other college staff, and Jimmy is valued by Robinson greatly. MAB suggested the £50 could be spent on champagne or flowers. He recommended somebody to talk to Nick Milne (Catering Manager) to ask for a speech to thank Jimmy and that it would be a surprise. MAB said he would liase with Nick Milne if necessary

BH asked if we knew what Jimmy likes
IB asked if someone can find out what Jimmy likes
MAB offered to talk to a friend of Jimmy.

JM asked whether the present should be something more permanent? He wondered whether it would make him feel like he was retiring.
MAB said it would be more of a celebration

JY spoke in opposition: Glenys (Food Service Supervisor) will get jealous. He added that perhaps we should extend our gratitude to all the catering staff, except the young ones, who get moody.

Chris O'Beirne made a comment.

VOTE –	For: 24	Against: 1	Abstain: 3
<i>Ordinary motion c passed</i>			Vice-President

d) Students' RCSA contribution

JM said this motion related to business he intended to bring last year. He explained that there is an option on College Bills to make a contribution to the RCSA but College has not transferred this money to the RCSA. He proposed the treasurer investigate. He also said the Pegasus charge was also a bit anomalous and wondered whether it should be voluntary, he was waiting for further information from Helen Cornish (Director of Development).

There were no further speeches or points.

VOTE –	For: 28	Against: 0	Abstain: 1
<i>Ordinary motion d passed</i>			Treasurer

e) Purchase of scales

DT said last term the Porters' Lodge did not have a scale and it was very necessary for overseas students weighing baggage. He continued that students have been involved in problems with luggage limits and that some scales in college could ease this problem.

PT made a speech in favour. He had recently paid £110 for overweight luggage to go to [inaudible] Northern Ireland

Alan Walbridge asked a question about the technicalities of scales and how much they would cost. DT replied that both M&S and John Lewis have suitable products for around £10.

CT asked why not get bathroom scales and apply a bit of maths.
JM said this might need instructions.

VOTE –	For: 27	Against: 1	Abstain: 0
<i>Ordinary motion e passed</i>			Overseas

f) JCR Board Games

TK said there had been minor amendments to the motion as previously published because the MCR had confessed to 'borrowing' *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire*.

Anna Waghorn (**Academic Affairs**, hereby AW) proposed the motion by saying that we could not afford Taboo or Risk on the last purchase.

Emma Irving suggested the RCSA purchase an up to date trivial pursuit.

AW said these were too expensive

Claire Horrocks (Vice-President) entered the meeting.

Rahul Mansigani (hereby RM) also proposed other board games

JY concurred promoting more consultation with members, via email, to find out exactly what people wanted, exploiting the flexibility in the motion.

IB spoke in favour by saying we could easily add more games at the next meeting.

BH asked whether there was a possibility that people could buy games and then be reimbursed. TK confirmed that this was possible, on successful application to Open Meeting.

Dave Bewicke asked if we could start a Board Game Society.

PT spoke against the motion: How could the *Academic Affairs Officer* be proposing *Risk!*?

VOTE –	For: 27	Against: 1	Abstain: 2
<i>Ordinary motion f passed</i>			Academic Affairs

g) DVD player in TV Room

PW moved the motion because he likes watching DVDs and would like to do so in the TV room. As a supplementary point, on a green issue, the more people that watch only one TV screen, more energy can be saved.

PT asked whether the Green Officer should propose spending £4.99 on delivery

PW said he would cycle to Argos and pick it up himself.

DT said he didn't have a DVD player and it would be handy for academic purposes. He asked if there would be a problem sharing.

PW said a booking system could be introduced if necessary.

AW offered a point of information – previously they may have been money leftover from a TV receiver purchase.

PT confirmed, in a point, that this probably was the case.

Lewis Hemens (**Computer**) asked what the technical specifications of the DVD player would be (Blu-Ray, play all regions?).

Chris O'Beirne wondered whether the RCSA already had a DVD player: What do FilmSoc use?

PW said this was probably tied up.

MAB offered a point of information, that there is already a DVD player for academic use in a teaching room.

Tom Blott asked if we could get a PS2 to play games as well as DVDs.

IB said there may be a PS2 becoming available to the RCSA.

As the meeting looked to be going over budget and because there was money previously allocated for TV equipment, PW amended the motion to not allocate any money.

Jasmine Lee (**Ethnic Minorities**), PW, RM and JM made further points about booking systems for the DVD player/TV systems concluding that it would not require immediate action.

AW, PW and Barnaby Mollett (**Newsletter**) spoke about the location for the DVD player.

IB proposed that the motion be put to a vote. An indicative vote established the meeting concurred.

VOTE –	For: 24	Against: 2	Abstain: 2
<i>Ordinary motion g passed</i>			Green

h) Brick by Brick - Engineering society

Alan Walbridge introduced the motion stating that the RCSA currently does not have an engineering society and that it would be beneficial to the enrichment of undergraduates.

PT asked if it would be open to all RCSA members.

TK said that it had to be, as was stated in the motion.

Claire Horrocks (**Vice-President**, CH) and Emma Irving (EI) asked what would it need money for. Alan said that it would be to organise lectures or social activities, but that the motion just establishes a society and doesn't commit the RCSA to allocating any money.

Chris Oulton made a speech in favour adding that any possible costs would be small.

LS said they meeting shouldn't block the formation of a society on the basis that they might request money in the future.

JM asked if the society required a constitution.

TK replied that they did not unless they wanted one or if they had a bank account. The RCSA executive could approve any constitution separately from the Open Meeting in any case.

<small>THIS MOTION REQUIRED A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY</small>			
VOTE –	For: 30	Against: 0	Abstain: 1
<i>Ordinary motion h passed</i>			

i) CUSU GO Greener

PW introduced the motion explaining it was a new campaign trying to get colleges involved with environmental issues. PW was seeking RCSA support, which would help him when talking to the Domestic Bursar.

PT questioned the length of the motion

PW said it outweighed the benefits of turning off lights in Umney theatre to overuse paper.

VOTE –	For: 26	Against: 0	Abstain: 2
<i>Ordinary motion i passed</i>			Green & President

j) Internationally themed bop

DT proposed the motion referring to having a bop that is more specifically for overseas students to gather. DT wanted to look into the possibility with the Ents Officers.

CT asked if a bop is really the best way for Overseas Students to meet up. Was there another event that would be more beneficial?

DT said that this was a fair point.

EI made a point that all students would be able to attend the bop and it could be something all students have in common.

John Tweed (**Welfare**) asked what the theme would be.

DT told the meeting that a Bop might cost money and that this would be investigated.

LS suggested that it could likely be funded by Bar sales.

JM proposed theme a theme of "come as a country"

Tom Blott asked whether you could only attend as an overseas student?

DT said it would be open to all.

VOTE –	For: 30	Against: 0	Abstain: 1
<i>Ordinary motion j passed</i>			Overseas & Ents Committee

With the conclusion of the ordinary motions, the meeting was £5 over budget. AW reduced the claim for JCR board games by five pounds.

Financial allocation: Butler Present = £50; Scales = £10; JCR Board Games = £40

Any other RCSA business

- TK said it should be recorded that all the RCSA exec were busy and working hard, but particularly attention could be brought to DT and BH who had spent in excess of six hours sorting out the trunk room in recent days.
- BH said FilmSoc had 8 large boxes in the Trunk Room and wanted the meeting's opinion as to whether this was acceptable. CT, LS and CH responded with comments and suggestions.
- PT raised a point about the use of undergraduate mailing lists, and their moderation.
- JY asked when the new Catering & Amenities Officer would be elected, with reference to the organisation of Third Year Hall. TK responded that there would be an election on Tuesday (29th Jan) if there was a candidate.
- RM enquired about duties for the new Catering & Amenities Officer. TK referred RM to the constitution and said the new C&A Officer would be briefed about other policy.
- IB revealed a present for former RCSA President James Mott (JM). JM received his Robinson boxer shorts and a presidential tankard. The meeting applauded JM!

There was no further business and TK concluded the meeting at 8.40pm.

Minuting by Lewis Hemens (**Computer**) with TK

For corrections to the minutes, before they are approved, please email:

robinson-JCR-external@cusu.cam.ac.uk