

**RCSA Open Meeting Minutes**  
**7.30pm, 9 March 2008, Lent Term**  
**JCR**

**1. Apologies for absence or lateness**

There were no apologies for absence or lateness

[After the conclusion of the meeting it was noted that Will Ratoff and Parysa Mostajir had been absent without apologies]

**2. Announcement of the presence and purpose of guests**

There were no guests.

**3. Approval of the order of the agenda**

There were no objections to the order of the agenda.

**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. The minutes from 24<sup>th</sup> February 2008 were approved.

**5. Matters Arising from the minutes**

There was one matter arising from the minutes.

Tom Kelly (TK) said that further to a minute on the debate over a Medical Resources Room (ordinary motion b, 24<sup>th</sup> February) the RCSA should be aware of article 3g.i of the constitution. He continued 'in light of this, and given the RCSA financial contribution, I can confirm that all junior members would have access to the medical resources room.' TK acknowledged that the college will have partial ownership of the resources and is expected to ensure that they are secure. The RCSA executive should adjudicate and act further if any junior member registers their belief that their constitutional rights are materially infringed.

**6. Reports from the Committee**

i) RCSA contributions

Iain Barr (IB) said that the money has been sitting in a bank account and it is for us to use, and it should be used for something, so if anyone has any ideas, please bring it to an open meeting

ii) Weighing scale

Daniel Tse (DT) said that the weighing scale has arrived in college

iii) Pegasus society charge

IB said that he had confirmed with the Pegasus society that if you have been paying the fees, once you graduate, you will be a member of the society. If you have not been paying, there is the option of paying a single lump sum of £40 upon graduation

James Mott (JM) asked if the payments have to continue even after graduation

IB replied that the impression he got was that the £40 was a one off and there would be no further yearly subscriptions, but he would email them and confirm it

iv) CUSU Cross-campus elections

TK said that Mark Fletcher was re-elected as CUSU president

v) Kitchen bins

Rahul Mansigani (RM) said that college has told him that they will deal with it after the new budget comes through

Luke Snell (LS) said that the budget came through three weeks ago

RM said well then they lied

vi) Name List for Formal

RM said that college said they couldn't and wouldn't change it as it is part of the website set up

vii) Party Room Bar

LS said that he didn't want to submit motion to build bar to college until he was sure about all the costs so he would wait until the next term before confirming it.

**7. Questions to the committee**

There were no further questions to the committee

**8. Extraordinary motions**

*i) RCSA Office*

IB said that no money was allocated in the ordinary motions and since we have cleared out the RCSA office we now have an office that we can use so we would like to use this money to buy things for the office, namely, a plaque that indicates that it is the office as well as things like a filing cabinet.

David Bewicke (DB) said that the societies have taken a big hit on the funding and he didn't see why the money had to go to buying staples and office equipment when the college already has an ample supply of such things. He added that the RCSA has a budget for administration and could they not use that?

IB said that while societies have taken a big hit, none of them had come forward to claim money from the Open Meeting (OM) which indicates that they don't have any pressing financial needs.

JM said that the RCSA had also not come forward to the OM to ask for the money, and in a way had used a privileged position to put forward an extraordinary motion by arranging for 2/3rds of the committee to support the motion.

Pete Thompson (PT) said he agreed with JM as it is much easier for the RCSA to get the required 2/3 support as we have a committee list.

Chris Thislethwaite (CT) said that all sports societies have lists too and it makes sense to stock the office because if there's nothing in it it's basically pretty useless.

JM said that his problem wasn't with stocking the office, but that it wasn't in the spirit of a normal extraordinary motion.

TK offered points of information from the chair, and said that the committee was in a privileged position because they could bring an extraordinary motion with only 13 signatures. More than 40 signatures would be required from general members of the RCSA. TK also said that there was no constitutional requirement for there to be an emergency nature to extraordinary motions, in contrast with other associations in Cambridge such as CUSU.

PT said that while it might not be the best way to have asked for it, the cause was a valid one and if it doesn't go through we will have to wait a long time

Lucas Fear-Segal (LF) said that the objections sounded bureaucratic and we shouldn't have that much of issue with it if we agree with the principle of the request.

JM asked what stuff specifically would be bought

IB said a plaque, a filing cabinet and college could provide most of the old furniture. He added that various other things might come up but he could not think of them right now.

DB proposed an amendment to £50

TK took an indicative vote. The amendment failed.

BH proposed that the motion be put to the vote as we've been talking about it for quite a long time

TK took an indicative vote, which passed, so the question was asked

For: 21

Against: 2

Abstaining: 1

Extraordinary motion i) was duly passed.

*ii) Budget Re-allocation for Brickhouse*

JS said that they had to make certain allocations in the budget meeting and they have just discovered that they have exceeded their allocation for auditorium hire which means that they cannot put on shows. They have lots of money left over from other areas as they have not had to pay for scripts. She said that all they wanted was to have their money grouped collectively under “production costs” so that they could allocate it as they see fit.

TK checked that the meeting had view of the extraordinary motion, which was separate to the agenda, and read out RCSA resolves.

JM asked why it has come as an extraordinary motion rather than an ordinary motion

JS said that they need to pay the ADC back now, and also applications have to open as soon as possible to put on a show in May week, for which they need to hire the auditorium, and thus cannot really wait.

JM repeated his question

JS said that they had only just received a notice from college that they had used all their audition money.

For: 25

Against: 0

Abstaining: 0

Extraordinary motion ii) was duly passed

**9. Ordinary motions**

*a) Pillar of the Community Award*

LF said that there are many people who contribute significantly to college who are not in the RCSA. He said it would be nice if these people received recognition in the form of a picture in the plodge, JCR and RCSA notice board.

DT asked if he could give some examples as to what counts as a contribution.

LF said that he doesn't think that he can give an example as this would skew the electorate. He added that the whole point of the motion was that there is no definition which is representative of Robinson College ethos.

Claire Horrocks (CH) asked if this might not end up as a “who has the most friends” award.

LF said that all elections, including the RCSA elections, had an element of “who has the most friends”

DB said how will we be sure that these elections are free and fair

LF said that Lewis Hemens (LH) should institute an online voting system to ensure free and fair voting

TK said that there is a defunct voting part of the RCSA website

LH said that it was actually working

PW said that we could just use the CUSU voting system

JM asked if this award was only for junior college members or for anyone, including the staff.

LF said that he would like to include students, staff and faculty

Ben Henriques (BH) asked if LF was sure that people would really want their photo plastered everywhere

LF said that he was willing to include an opt out and a certificate.

LF amended the motion to include a certificate and opt out options.

DB asked if we could have a sub committee to oversee it.

LF said that he wasn't convinced it was necessary - LH was sufficient.

LS proposed moving the motion straight to the vote

TK took an indicative vote which supported the procedural motion.

For: 17

Against: 0

Abstained: 7

Motion a) was duly passed

*b) Canteen Cutlery Fiasco*

LF said that the new cutlery is ridiculous and RM should be made to investigate and rectify it. A sample fork was distributed

BH said he had spoken to the college and they said that these were cheaper, which is necessary as people kept stealing the forks

RM said that they probably should not have the fork in the JCR

BM said that the canteen had explained that it was a fish fork, necessary because they had run short of forks because people kept taking them away.

Peter Wood (PW) said that he likes eating fish and the new forks had enhanced his fish eating.

DB said that we should have a referendum

DB proposed having a referendum

TK took an indicative vote and the motion failed

LF proposed taking the ordinary motion to the vote

TK took an indicative vote and this passed

For: 7

Against: 10

Abstention: 7

Motion b) duly failed.

*c) Console*

LF said that the idea was that Robinson is a great place and it would be nicer if it had a games console. He said he would amend the motion to put Time Crisis in the JCR instead of in the bar. He added that it would make us the envy of other colleges and would pay for itself in two years.

DT asked how LF would define college spirit and whether this was a general consensus or a personal imposition

LF said that he believed firmly, from the bottom of his heart, that there was a college spirit of fun, friendliness and equality and that these were embodied by Time Crisis

Fiona Wright (FW) asked if we could not get the original games console working again

LF said that that was the next motion

CT said that having done the maths and taking maintenance into account, the game may not actually pay for itself in two years. Also, he would have to take into account the company that presently runs the IT box and the pool table as they might not be happy with it.

LF said that these machines do make money which is why there are so many companies running them

BH asked if the machine is noisy as there was a possibility that it would cause a disturbance. LF said the only thing people would hear is excited cries

PT said that the RCSA used to get money from the pool table and games machines. They came to an agreement with college that college would pay money for Sky TV in exchange for keeping the money from the machines, so it was doubtful that they would allow the student body to bring in their own machines.

PW asked if it was possible to get a time crisis game for the PS2 as a cheaper alternative.

LF said that the motion was just to look into investigating

JM said that all the motion said was investigating and we should vote and stop talking about it

For: 22

Against: 2

Abstentions: 2

Motion c) was duly passed

d) IT box

Sam Oxley (SO) said that the IT box has been replaced by a ghastly golf machine that no one uses so he wished to mandate the catering and amenities officer to find out why this had happened and to bring the IT box back

LS proposed an amendment that someone else should look into it since RM had a lot of things to do as it was.

BH said that we should mandate LF and SO to investigate it

DB said that the RCSA cannot mandate someone not in the RCSA to do it

BM proposed that the motion be amended to mandate the Catering and Amenities officer and the Newsletter editor to look into bringing the IT box back

CT said that the whole motion should be scrapped because he had talked to Sarah and she was getting snappy about it. He added that the company had split up which is why the machine had been removed and Sarah was already trying very hard to get the machine back so there is no point it getting someone on her case about it.

RM asked for a definition of swift

For: 4

Against: 10

Abstention: 7

Ordinary motion d) duly failed

e) Rollover OM Funds

JM proposed a procedural motion to adjourn motion e) to the next meeting

CT, DB and TK made comments on whether a policy of this kind could automatically apply in future and the constitutionality of such a measure.

TK took an indicative vote and the procedural motion passed. Ordinary motion e) was adjourned to the next open meeting.

**10. Any Other RCSA Business**

i) Bar glasses

IB said that glasses have been disappearing and this week there'll be a case out for pint glass collection and if enough glasses are returned, the bar will revert to using glasses instead of the plastic cups which they are currently using.

ii) Trunk Room

RM said that people must label anything being put in the trunk room or there is a risk it will be disposed of.

End of meeting.

*T. Kelly*

---

---

**Extraordinary Motion for Amalgamation of the Brickhouse Budget**

*(NOT ON THE AGENDA)*

**The RCSA notes;**

- 1) That this year the Brickhouse theatre company (hereafter referred to as BTC) has put on a greater number of more cost effective shows than in previous years comprising of more opportunities for Robinson students to become involved in the theatre both on and off the stage, as well as generating high audiences for all of our productions.
- 2) That although BTC is currently well under the overall budget which it was assigned at the 2007-08 budget meeting, the manner in which money's were budgeted to BTC has meant that it is currently unable to put on anymore shows due to the fact that it has spent it's entire allocation for auditorium hire.
- 3) That no two shows are ever the same in terms of the amount of money they need to spend on different parts of the production.

**The RCSA believes;**

- 1) So long as BTC remains in it's overall budget it should not be constrained financially to fund any shows which it chooses.
- 2) The current budget heading of "production costs" "auditorium hire" "publicity" and "rights/scripts" are counter-productive and unnecessary.
- 3) BTC should be allowed to continue activity for this budget year so long as it remains within it's overall budget.

**The RCSA resolves;**

- 1) To amalgamate all the current BTC budget sub-headings into "production costs" with the exception of the website, effective immediately and to be continued within future budget meetings.

*Proposed by: Jo Souter- Brickhouse Treasurer*

*Seconded by: Lis Wood- Brickhouse President*