

Open Meeting

Thursday 12 June 2008



- 0 7.15pm, Umney Theatre
Tom Kelly in the chair and Claire Horrocks minuting. The meeting was quorate.
- 1 Apologies for absence or lateness
Apologies were received from Rahul Mansigani (who arrived during item 9g), Becky Yeoh and Peter Wood who had long standing social commitments elsewhere and Barnaby Mollett who still had exams.
- 2 Announcement of the presence and purpose of guests
Chris Oates introduced an observer who was accompanying him. No request was made for speaking rights and her presence was approved. Tom Kelly reminded the meeting that only members of the RCSA could vote.
- 3 Approval of the order of the agenda
Tom said that motion 9i (Condom Machine) had been submitted before the deadline but had required amendment to be constitutionally valid; there were no objections to its inclusion. The order of the agenda was approved.
- 4 Reading by the secretary on request, amendment and approval of minutes not yet accepted by an Open Meeting.
The minutes from May 4 2008 were approved without amendment
- 5 Matters arising from the minutes
None
- 6 Reports from the Committee
None
- 7 Questions to the Committee
None
- 8 Extraordinary motions
None
- 9 Ordinary Motions
- 9a *GO TEAM*
- .1 Andrew Kay (AK) introduced the motion arguing that a Go Team should be recognised by the RCSA so that they could have a stall at the Freshers' Fair. He said that there will be a University-wide Go Tournament next year.
- .2 There were no further speeches or questions
- | | |
|---------------|------------|
| In favour: 24 | Against: 0 |
| Abstain: 0 | Passed |
- 9b *SAFE ALLOCATION RATIFICATION*
- .1 Tom Kelly (TK) explained that the SAFE committee apologised that neither Maia Beresford or James Howat could attend the meeting in person. TK read a speech that Maia had sent. This detailed that £1600 from the previous two years, which students

donate to the fund through college bills, would be split between three charities that the SAFE committee had considered. DAAT fund women to go to tertiary education in Tanzania, Ripple works in Malawi and Rainbow have a school project. Maia's speech said she could be contacted for further information about SAFE.

- .2 David Bewicke (DB) asked what was happening to RCSA donations. Chris Thislethwaite (CT) responded that this money was being put into an account for the RCSA by college. Luke Snell (LS) and TK made comments about whether this money had to be donated to charity.

In favour: 24
Abstain: 0

Against: 0
Passed

9c *COMMITTEE HOODIES*

- .1 Iain Barr (IB) spoke for the motion saying that reallocations within the non clubs and societies budget would be used in the short term to pay for the hoodies, as Deloitte had pulled out of sponsorship. He said if this meant the budget went over then RCSA officers would be asked to pay for the cost of the hoody either in full or in part.
- .2 LS said there was a problem in members being asked to cover the cost of equipment that many would deem necessary.
- .3 CT made a point that officers could opt out of getting a hoody. Anna Waghorn (AW) responded that this would be difficult as officers would not necessarily know where funding was coming from before they were ordered.
- .4 James Mott (JM) asked whether another clothing item had been considered as cheaper, such as hats or bibs. IB responded that all options would be considered to minimise costs. Ben Henriques (BH) said that the advantage of hoodies was that they could be worn all the time over other types of clothes.
- .5 Daniel Tse (DT) said that home adapted hoodies could be tried. IB responded that members may not like hand drawn writing on their hoodies and would have to be further consulted.
- .6 DB said that hoodies were essential and that RCSA resolves 4 and 5 should be amended to reflect this. IB said that this would not solve the problems with paying for the hoodies.
- .7 TK asked what was the likelihood of the Non-Clubs and Societies fund being over budget this year. CT said he thought it could be under, a few things had come in more than expected however.
- .8 LS said that he was against the motion and did not want to incur a cost for RCSA equipment
- .9 JM suggested the committee opt for non-personalised that could be retained by the RCSA, in which case officers should not pay.
- .10 IB said that this could happen but the motion still needed to pass.
- .11 TK reminded the meeting that reallocations require open meeting approval.
- .12 LS reiterated that the RCSA should pay and not committee members
- .13 CT favoured getting non-personalised hoodies and then getting these personalised if additional funding was found.
- .14 *TK said the motion was out of time, LS moved to extend the debate: this had the support of the majority.*
- .15 *LS proposed an amendment to remove RCSA resolves 4 and 5 from the motion. The right to a speech against the amendment was not exercised. The amendment was made by 17 votes to 7.*
- .16 CT asked whether this meant the hoodies could not now be personalised. TK said that he thought it did not necessarily mean that. Neither this policy nor the constitution could be said to require that during this Open Meeting.
- .17 Peter Cary (PC) raised the point of whether different sized hoodies would be transferable. Claire Horrocks (CH) suggested getting all medium sized hoodies.

- .18 TK made further constitutional points in relation to two clauses. On the one hand the hoodies might be deemed an RCSA facility and need to be retained, but on the other the constitution said officers should not incur debts in the course of their duties
- .19 JM asked whether the sponsorship income was specific to hoodies. IB replied that it was.
- .20 IB said that passing down of hoodies could be problematic: part of the set would get lost, people would not want to re-wear them. He continued that the point of the motion was how essential people thought hoodies were.
- .21 BH held that there was a benefit to freshers of personalised hoodies so that the committee were more approachable.
- .22 LS said he was strongly in support of the amended motion as hoodies were essential for the committee and freshers.
- .23 JM suggested passing the motion implied it was acceptable to go over budget, undoing the efforts of the most recent budget meeting.
- .24 DT said that we could use the reserves.
- .25 TK said any overspend from the budget would probably have to come out of the reserves.
- .26 IB surmised the benefits of the hoodies for recognition as well as the risks of going over budget.
- .27 TK clarified that passing the motion would not rule out officers making voluntary contributions.

In favour: 22
Abstain: 3

Against: 3
Passed

9d *BIKE PUMP*

- .1 John Tweed (JT) proposed the motion
- .2 JM suggested getting different valves for football and rugby balls. JT said he hadn't asked for much money but he would try.

In favour: 27
Abstain: 0

Against: 0
Passed

9e *AMATEUR FOOTBALL SOCIETY*

- .1 Chris Oates (CO) spoke for this on behalf of those not up for full team football due to lack of skills and said that many people had been meeting for some time and that they wanted to be official to have a stand at the freshers' fair and to gain access to the colleges pitches at Barton Road.
- .2 Ellie Walshe asked whether the society would be open to girls. CO replied that it would be.
- .3 Jack Schennum asked where they played at the moment. CO said on Trinity pitches sometimes, but it was difficult to find places.

In favour: 27
Abstain: 0

Against: 0
Passed

9f *HOLIDAY STORAGE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS*

- .1 Emma Irving (EI) introduced the motion in response to the possibility of not being able to use the party room for storage this vacation. She continued that overseas students would like somewhere else to put their stuff.
- .2 JM asked whether this was college work or RCSA work?
- .3 CT and TK confirmed that there had been no money approved by the RCSA for any work so far but they had heard at various times that college might want to work on the room.

- .4 Jasmine Lee (JL) made a point that the Domestic Bursar had said that the overhead storage lockers could be used over the long vacation as long as they were padlocked, and a key given to Housekeeping.
- .5 AW suggested people used the newly cleared trunk room. EI did not think this would be enough as the party room was often nearly full.
- .6 JY said there were no reasons to vote against the motion; students needed storage.
- .7 *DT made a friendly amendment to RCSA resolves 1 to reflect that the party room could still be available.*
- .8 BH spoke in favour of the motion

In favour: 32
Abstain: 1

Against: 0
Passed

9g *ROBINSON COLLEGE STASH*

- .1 IB proposed the motion
- .2 CO asked whether we could get college shorts. IB said all sorts of items can be purchased.
- .3 Roger Lin (RL) asked a question about price. IB replied that he had not looked into this yet.
- .4 AK asked whether the RCSA was expecting to make a profit. IB said he hoped it would make a small profit.
- .5 BH asked about personalisation. IB said that at least colours could be personalised.

In favour: 23
Abstain: 0

Against: 0
Passed

9h *COLLEGE FAMILIES FOR FRESHERS*

- .0 *Tom Kelly asked Chris Thislethwaite to chair for this motion*
- .1 DT proposed the motion which would change the Aunts/Uncles system to Parents.
- .2 CH opposed the motion, suggesting the changes could lead to more emphasis on social events for current students rather than fresher welfare. As the person organising the scheme she suggested it would be logistically difficult to implement.
- .3 John Crook (JC) said that CH made some valid points but he was in favour of the proposed system as it could encourage greater participation and effort.
- .4 Jonny Young (JY) said why fix something that isn't broken? As a former Vice-President he emphasised the already considerable workload for this scheme and he said that he was aware in some other colleges of 'children' who did not get their grades being labelled 'still borns' which was mean!
- .5 Fi Wright held, as a Northerner, she felt there were considerable benefits to retaining both a local and a subject Aunt/Uncle
- .6 AW said that local Aunts/Uncles were not that useful and that workload may actually be decreased by changing this system. JY replied that from his experience local Aunts/Uncles were useful and that the system had been improved to ensure that local relations were as local as possible.
- .7 JT questioned the use of language in RCSA Believes 2 and what it implied about a 'conventional' family. DT apologised for any inappropriate suggestion saying that it was intended to remove confusion rather than to make a political point. He added that he was not a scientist!
- .8 *IB proposed to remove RCSA Believes 2, this was accepted by DT*
- .9 DT said to compensate international students for any loss of a local parent or otherwise, he was starting a scheme to write to all international students on behalf of the RCSA. He said that his Auntie's letter had arrived at his address in Hong Kong in mid October.
- .10 DB wondered whether there would be time for the Vice President to organise the proposed scheme during Lent, at the same time as the Room Ballot

- .11 CH spoke again in opposition, criticising marriage formal and repeated that the system works well already. She added all VPs in undergraduate memory had opposed similar changes.
- .12 *CT informed the meeting that time was up, BH moved to extend the debate but this did not win sufficient support.*

In favour: 7

Against: 17

Abstain: 0

Failed

- .13 *TK resumed the chair*

9i *CONDOM MACHINE*

- .1 JT proposed the motion, and said that the cost being greater than £84 he hoped the additional money would be successfully claimed from a later open meeting. He would use the Welfare budget to make up the difference for the time being.
- .2 BH wondered whether this meant the RCSA was soon to be generating its own condoms [would there be extra supply costs?]. JT replied that he did not foresee extra supply costs for condoms being incurred.
- .3 *IB asked JT to amend RCSA resolves 3 from 'below the Library' to 'Laundry' in line with discussions at Joint Liaison Committee, JT accepted the amendment.*
- .4 TK asked JT whether the machines had an option of charging a nominal fee, discouraging people from stealing on bulk. JT replied that they did.
- .5 JT and TK asked for indicative votes on how limited the supply of absolutely free condoms should be (such as just with the Welfare Committee) and what an acceptable 'nominal fee' was. No clear consensus emerged.
- .6 AW said the machine could provide condoms for free for a while and then at closer to cost price if needs be.
- .7 IB asked whether there was a machine that had a timer on the dispenser. JT said no such machine existed.
- .8 *JT amended RCSA resolves 2 to allow a nominal cost to be charged.*
- .9 JY said the motion was important to stop people taking too many free condoms.

In favour: 23

Against: 0

Abstain: 1

Passed

9j *ROLLOVER OPEN MEETING FUNDS*

- .0 *IB moved that this motion be adjourned to the next Open Meeting. This clearly passed.*

10 Any other RCSA Business

None

TK thanked everybody for attending the last Open Meeting before the holidays.

END OF MEETING