

# RCSA OPEN & BUDGET MEETING MINUTES

2pm, 9 Nov 2008, Michaelmas Term  
Auditorium



## 1. Apologies for absence or lateness

No apologies were received.

Tom Kelly was in the Chair and Rebecca Yeoh was minuting.

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

There were no guests. The meeting was reminded that only members of the RCSA could vote.

## 3. Approval of the order of the agenda

Daniel Tse asked to move the RCMS budget to the beginning of the budget motion. There were no objections to this change and the order of the agenda was approved.

## 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.

The minutes from 12 October 2008 were accepted without amendment.

## 5. Matters Arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

## 6. Reports from the Committee

### a) Online going down forms

Lewis Hemens (LH) said that college are trying to put the going down forms online to make things a bit more convenient. Basically they're probably going to do it unless anyone has major objections. He asked if there were any objections

There were no objections

### b) Resolutions of the RCSA Executive

Tom Kelly (TK) announced that the executive had recently passed the following resolutions:

- i) That the RCSA may enter into the proposed contract with the May Ball committee
- ii) That the RCSA executive acknowledges that 65 RCSA members (nearly a fifth of all undergrads) will be participating in the Varsity Ski Trip and that they will be on an epic coach journey to the mountains during the Friday Christmas Hall. This should be borne in mind in arrangements for the final week of term, including for the Tuesday Christmas Hall and other ents.

### c) Kitchens

Iain Barr (IB) said that there are issues with space and power supplies at the moment but the college asked if there is anything else that would make it easier for people to cook.

### d) Elections

TK said that members could vote in presidential and chair elections on Monday in the JCR.

## 7. Questions to the committee

There were no questions to the committee

## 8. Extraordinary motions

### a) Hockey club claim

Barnaby Mollett (BM, RCSA Treasurer) said that they were simply asking for reallocation of funds- not more money. He added that the motion had been submitted before and was withdrawn by the treasurer then for uncertain reasons.

For: 41

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

Motion a) was duly passed

## 9. Ordinary motions

### a) CCTV response

LH said that there are currently 35 cameras all over college. There is a slight issue at the moment of a hard disk that is storing the data- it was only meant to store 14 days worth but at the moment is storing a lot more due to only serving 10 cameras rather than the intended 35. He was proposing that the data should only be stored for a maximum of 14 days.

Luke Snell (LS) asked if we knew where the cameras would be.

LH said no, not at the moment, and college is unwilling to tell us for security purposes.

David Bewicke (DB) said that we need some map internally for college to show us where the cameras are

LH said that college would be unwilling to do that as it's impossible to keep that information limited to students only

LH said that there are cameras in long court, at the hostel front doors, etc, and several more scattered around the gardens.

For: 42

Against: 0

Abstentions: 3

Motion a) was duly passed.

### b) Open meeting budgets

IB was the chairperson for this motion.

TK said that this motion codified procedure on Open Meeting budgets, in response to a motion that had been repeatedly adjourned in recent months. Any money not used at an Open Meeting would now be made available to the next Open Meeting rather than being considered unspent. The motion also required that a motion that requested more than an eighth of the total Open Meeting budget would meet the conditions of article 11f of the constitution, including justifying why the money wasn't requested at the budget meeting.

For: 44

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion b) was duly passed.

TK resumed the chair

c) May Ball contract

Jessica Brush (JB) said that this is a formality demanded by college due to the ball losing money three years ago. It makes the RCSA reserves liable rather than the members of the May Ball committee. However, as the May Ball committee has its own reserves and is constitutionally bound not to lose money, this is very unlikely to happen.

For: 44

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

Motion c) was duly passed

d) Art Room

Sean Cuniffe (SC) said that the art room floods when it rains and he was asking that the college repair it as it is a good resource for the whole college to use.

For: 44

Against: 0

Abstentions: 3

Motion d) was duly passed

e) Annual budget

TK asked the meeting to firstly consider the unspent figures for the previous budget (2007-08) which were displayed.

The meeting approved the accounts for 2007-08.

i) RCMS

DT said that their budget is divided into five categories and they run weekly performances. Instrumental and score hire is required for one or two large scale concerts each year and they intend to invite professionals to perform at college and they need to pay for this.

Peter Wood (PW) asked how much photocopying needed to be done as £150 was enough for a book. He also said that if performers were going to be asked in surely this should be according to demand reflected in ticket price and thus should not be subsidised.

Claire Horrocks (CH) asked if laminating was really necessary and also how much advertising in this manner he needed- surely email advertisements could suffice?

DT replied that as they were choosing popular locations for the advertisements and as they were having a large scale concert at the end of this term the lamination was necessary.

Jim Arnold (JA) asked if we could go back to PW's second question regarding why the RCSA should pay for professional performers.

DT said that these people needed to travel in from London and as such there were transport costs. In terms of student performers, the college paid them in the form of free Formal halls which the 300 pounds would also go towards.

JA said are we seriously paying for your formals?!

Phillip Kynaston (PK) said that all musicians require payment and this was simply the form it took

Tim Pinder (TP) said that the film soc wasn't paid for putting up free films, why should it be the case with the college performers?

LS proposed cutting the photocopying budget to £100 from £150 and cutting the performers budget from £300 to £220, which would make the new gross figure £770.

The amendment passed by indicative vote

DT proposed an amendment cutting sheet music hire to £200 and the performers to £250 making it £800 in total. He also said that 15% cut was perhaps too heavy a decrease for one society.

The amendment failed by indicative vote

A procedural motion to continue talking about the RCMS was passed

BM said that we should take the original £50 off the photocopying as originally proposed by LS

PK said that £50 was already taken off the sheet music

The amendment passed by indicative vote

CH asked how well attended the concerts are and whether we're charging external members

DT said that the audience size tends to vary between 20-40 people and includes many fellows

DB proposed a procedural motion to extend the amount of time given to answer questions to 90 seconds.

LS said that that was too much time and no one wants to be here for 7 hours

TK suggested he was being fairly lenient with the 30-second time limit at the moment.

The procedural motion failed by indicative vote

CH said that fellows were getting in for free and we shouldn't be subsidising fellows as the RCSA is a student organisation which they are not members of

DT said that the amount of income they would get by charging would be minimal in terms of offsetting costs anyway.

Rahul Mansigani (RM) asked if they had looked into getting any sponsorship

DT said it was not feasible.

Mark Willis (MW) reiterated the question about why email could not be used and the photocopying budget cut

DT said that the budget was for programmes not just advertising.

The RCMS claim was approved by the majority

ii) Non-Clubs & Societies

TK said objections should be raised as this section of the budget was read.

TK commented that digital TV had gone up as have JCR newspaper because there was a cut in newspaper allocation but the papers were not cancelled - we paid them a lot more than what was allocated last year

PW proposed getting one copy of the Times per day instead of 2

DB said that we don't have that many papers anymore since we keep cutting it down

LS said that the papers are the same as in our first year

Revised down to £1130 for newspapers

Emma Irving (EI) asked who pays for newspapers in the Red Brick Café

LS responded that it was paid out of the college catering budget

DB asked what was happening to the charities money and whether we could use the reserves

IB said that it has been said repeatedly this year that we need a certain amount in the reserves just to be secure- in the past, unexpected things have happened that requires money in the reserves. Using in year on year to sustain the budget is irresponsible as it does not keep a check on claims. He added that the finance committee would be less likely to pass the budget if we exceed it.

LS asked what last year's surplus was

BM said that it is probably around £6k

LS asked how much is in the reserves

BM said around £61k

LS said that would mean that it would only be sustainable for 6years and as such we should vote against using the reserves.

Brief comments were made on RCSA stash spending/sponsorship and the refund scheme

The non-clubs and societies budget was passed by the majority

Benedict Henriques (BH) said that in previous OMs the consensus had been that we only want to spend the reserves on things that have lasting value rather than not meeting the budget

CH agreed with what BH said and added that we should scrutinise the budget claims even though it's tedious as it is the responsible thing to do

iii) Rowing (RCBC)

Iain Lingwood (IL) said that Robinson is at a major disadvantage compared to other colleges due to financial constraints. The cut that they took last year was simply unsustainable. A lot of the money goes to maintain the boat house and a lot of things need to be replaced.

BM said that there were 300 pounds unspent from the previous year and that he thinks that he would be able to buy everything that he needs if they put the cap at £5995.

IL said that the Boat club was only one society and they could not take off so much money

The amendment to introduce a cap failed

R Said that given the number of people involved in the society it was fair that they get a significant amount of money

IL said that there are more people that want to take up rowing for the first time compared to last year and they should not be prevented from doing so merely due to financial constraints.

CH asked why it was that the budget was so high to begin with if they are able to cut so much.

IL said that they are running an extremely tight ship and that ideally they did need the extra money

BH asked what proportion of the budget the Boat club claims

BM said that they claim around 44.7% of the total clubs and societies budget.

BH said that they should probably take off the same proportion of the deficit

BM said that to do this they should cut an extra 150 pounds in order to do this.

The amendment was accepted

IL said that the caps give them more flexibility

Chris Oates asked what fines are and why we should pay them

IL said that fines occur for technical reasons and are somewhat unavoidable and difficult to apportion blame for.

£7325 (cap of £150)

The Boat House claim was approved by the majority

iv) Brickhouse

JB said that they had based their claim on last year's budget. Ultimately they do aim to be a self funding society to bring plays to Robinson however they do have to pay auditorium fees and they think that they are bringing something very positive to Robinson student life. She added that she would like to keep the flexibility between the different areas as it was difficult to get accurate projections for each category. She brought down the overall claim to a cap of 1750 (cap of £514).

Sean Gilbert said that this year they have a lot of shows planned and he thinks that it will be a huge benefit for the college and not a burden.

Alison Kirby (AK) asked what proportion of the budget they were requesting and how much they're cutting.

BM replied 14% and 30% respectively

The Brickhouse claim was approved by the majority

v) Chapel choir

Adam Dickson (AD) said that they were asking for money based on news and information from previous organ scholars. Printing costs went to printing music from legal sources, since the size of the choir has increased, they need more scores. Cathedral visits are important to go on as our choir is not very well known relative to other college choirs. Last year we went to Spain and this greatly helps choir's exposure.

BM said that the increase was only 5% higher which is inline with inflation so it seems fair enough.

BH asked what their justification is for asking for a summer tour

AD said that they need the money as sponsors give them money in proportion to how much the RCSA gives them

JA asked why the summer tour has gone down so much

AD said that they don't know where they're going to go yet

LS asked how much was paid for printing in the previous year

BM said that every single penny of last year's claims were claimed

CH asked if we have members from other colleges and if they pay their own way

AD said that all members pay a substantial amount of money including Robinson members but they pay the same amount

CH said that we shouldn't be subsidising people from other colleges

PK said that in singing for our choir they are effectively representing the college

The chapel choir claim was approved by the majority

vi) Film Soc

TP said that this year they had switched to a different model where they did not charge for anyone seeing a film.

DB said that if the projector is bought with RCSA money, it ought to be used for other things

BH said that he was at the last budget meeting and that the film soc took a large battering previously and we should support them

PK said that the projector was a one off so the claim should drop back to £500 next year

TP agreed

DB proposed to increase budget by £300 from the reserves which would effectively pay for the projector.

The Film Club claim was approved by the majority

Interest rates

BM said that the interest rate accounting for £1550 of the income was a conservative estimate and should be reasonable but is a projection.

vii) Rugby

Chris Oulton said that the budget is straight forward and the money requested for tour covers insurance. They also required pitch hire. They also need more equipment such as tackle shields to prevent themselves from getting injured during training.

BH asked how they represent Robinson by going on a tour.

CO said that they represent Robinson on tour the same way that rowing represents Robinson in a race. That amount was the minimum amount the needed to have a game.

The Rugby claim was approved by the majority

viii) Football

BM said that they're claiming the same as last year with the addition of laundry. They need a new set of socks and shorts.

PK said that other sports had to buy their own socks and shorts

TK said the football budget would resume on return of the football captain.

Adam Jones (AJ) said that they need balls and equipment such as stop watches. They need more shorts and socks as the second team don't have a kit at the moment. League fees and referees are necessary in order to play at all but are contingent upon how far they get in the cup. Laundry adds up quite a lot.

AK said that rowers pay for their own laundry so why shouldn't the football team

AJ said that theirs was the team kit



Chris Oulton asked why they were claiming so much for kit when most societies paid for it on their own.

LS said that he thinks laundry is fair

Lee Eccleston (LE) said that the reason of people stealing kit is a pretty lame one.

Tom Hirst said that last year the captain had free access to laundry as he lived in Romsey

BH said that as other sports team pay for their own kits why football can't

AJ said that they only buy shirts for those people who cannot pay for their own shirts. The shorts just make it look a bit more professional and all other teams wear the same kit.

BM said hockey and rugby claims for kit were not that different quantitatively

The football budget was approved by the majority

ix) Basketball

LH said that the majority of the claim is league fees which are £270. The remainder is for basketballs as they do not have any which are necessary for training sessions.

The basketball claim was approved by the majority

x) Badminton

ND (Neeral Dodhia) said that they have 12-13 matches each year and they need to replace equipment as well as pay for courts. They have reduced courts claims by half as they did not use it all last year.

DB asked why they can't practice on the existing courts they use

DN said that the times were restricted on those courts

RC said that it was useful to have an alternative venue for people not playing matches

The badminton claim was approved by the majority

x) Netball

Rebecca Yeoh spoke in favour of the Netball budget.

The Netball claim was approved by the majority

xi) Water Polo

SS said that the majority of the fees were for pool hire

The Water Polo claim was approved by the majority

xii) Women's Football

Ley Chan said that they need kit as the team changes every week and at the moment they're looking pretty shabby

The Women's football claim was approved by the majority

xiv) Amnesty

SC said that aerograms are expensive and there's been an increase in membership this year.

xiii) Art society

SC said that he's halved it from last year

The Art society claim was approved by the majority

xiv) Tennis

TK read a speech from Stewart Walker. Amongst other things this explained that not all Cuppers money had been claimed due to the progress of the teams in that competition.

The Tennis claim was approved by the majority

xv) Christian Union

Andrew Gay (AG) said that they do parties and events

Yusuf Undre (YU) asked if all entry was free

AG confirmed that it was

The Christian Union claim was approved by the majority

xvi) Cricket

Ed Marffy (EM) said that they need to money for equipment and teas

The Cricket claim was approved by the majority

xvii) Pool

BM said that they only have one team out instead of two which explains the dramatic cut

The pool claim was approved by the majority

xviii) Table Tennis

The Table tennis claim was approved by the majority

xix) Cross country

PK said that that was pretty much what their fees are

The cross country claim was approved by the majority

xx) Frisbee

BM said that the discs get broken easily and they have to pay cuppers fees

The Frisbee claim was approved by the majority

xxi) Cheese Soc

DB said that they make a loss on things such as Freshers Fair but they don't mind because they want to keep it going

The Cheese Soc claim was approved by the majority

xxii) Casual football

Chris Oates increased the claim increased to £20 so that an additional pair of goalie gloves could be purchased.

The Casual football claim was approved by the majority

xxiii) Hockey

John Crook (JC) said that if they wanted them to cut their tour budget they should align it with rugby. This year it would actually happen which it did not last year.

BM said that he would like to make a cut of £200

JC accepted the amendment

BM said that in the previous year they spent nearly all the money that they were allocated (all but ~£70 of their budget)

Chris Oulton asked what the tour money would be used for

JC said that the money would be used for travel costs and accommodation primarily

CH said that quite a lot of the money was to enter tournaments

LS said that he would like to support the money that is put towards the tour. He argued that comparisons with Rugby budget need to bear in mind that the hockey claim had male and female squads amalgamated, there was only one rugby team by contrast.

LH said that they had £400 last year for Astroturf in the previous year but they didn't use all of it

BM said that they did through reallocation.

BH said that while it appreciates that JC isn't planning the tour but it's slightly unfair to come to budget meeting with unjustified claims.

The Hockey claim was approved by the majority

At the conclusion of all of the clubs and societies being considered individually the budget was in surplus.

TK said that despite BM's repeated efforts to liaise with the college office and the Senior Treasurer the income from LEA fees are a forecast so we could have less money than we expect.

Removal of Boat Club cap

IL asked if they could remove the cap imposed on the Boat Club of £150 since they were in surplus

BM said that the cap has been passed and people were happy with it and it's not an unreasonable cap and we're not in that much surplus, particularly given how unhelpful college was at providing LEA fees

LS said that we should take off the cap because we shouldn't pass less money than college gives us in case college decreases the amount

IB agrees that we should not have surplus left over but what he would like to see instead was to put the money towards Open Meetings instead giving a clear procedure for people to claim the money, and also leaving some leeway for LEA fees.

The removal of the boat club cap was approved by the majority

Surplus allocation to Open Meetings

IB said that the remaining surplus should go towards allocation through OMs, bringing up the total amount to £1040

PK suggested to make it a round £1000 to allow leeway for the LEA of £100

DB proposed that we put it back to £800 as it's unfair that the boat club received an increase while the other clubs didn't.

The Open Meeting budget was increased to £1000 by the majority

TK asked the meeting to vote on the RCSA budget 2008-09 as a whole

For: 34

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion e) was duly passed (the RCSA budget passes)

## 11. Other RCSA business

BM was commended on his preparation of the budget in rushed circumstances. IB drew attention to this meeting being the last for the 2007-08 committee and the efforts that they had made over the previous year. TK closed the meeting.