

RCSA Open Meeting Minutes

Monday March 9th - 7pm JCR

1. Apologies for absence or lateness

Apologies were received from James Kemp (JK, ill), Robin Lawther (RL, at NI Society Dinner) and Amanda Myers (AM, at Dance Society AGM).

2. Announcement of the presence and purpose of guests

There were no guests.

3. Approval of the presence and speaking rights of guests

There were no guests.

4. Approval of the order of the agenda

The order of the agenda was approved.

5. 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 of the previous open meeting were approved.

6. Matters Arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

7. Reports from the Committee

a) Senior Scholarships

Grace Parker (GP) reported that college had agreed to amend the awarding of senior scholarships so that anyone who achieves three first class results in Tripos exams, in any combination of years, will receive a senior scholarship when they graduate. So, students who already have three first class results and decide to take a part III will not be disadvantaged as previous.

b) Nintendo Wii

Duncan Stibbard Hawkes (DSH) said he had bought a Wii, which would be relocated to the JCR once a lock was available and he would be buying games soon, possibly after requesting suggestions from members.

c) Self Defence Classes

Rahul Mansigani (RM) said that joint self defence classes with Newnham would be available as of next term. College had agreed to subsidise part of this service but there would be a small fee to participating students.

8. Questions to the Committee

Tom Kelly (TK) asked what the results of recent CUSU elections were, and whether there would be any opportunities to get involved in the near future. JC answered that there was a meeting soon, and RM continued that the position of CUSU Officer without portfolio as well as several other part time positions would be elected at the Council/Open Meeting on Wednesday evening, that Tom Chigbo had been elected President and that the other election results would be made available on request. Ben Henriques (BH) asked if the CUSU results could be sent out by email. John Crook (JC) said he would do this.

9. Extraordinary Motions

There were no extraordinary motions.

10. Ordinary Motions

a) DVD Library

THIS MOTION REQUIRES TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS

The RCSA notes

1. That the RCSA has a CD Library, and a Film Society, but that there are many other types of enjoyable digital media.
2. That there is no DVD library for things like comedy shows, or TV series, etc.
3. That DVDs cost money.

The RCSA believes

4. That a DVD library would be a good common resource for the RCSA's members, especially during the stress of exam term.
5. That this would require a DVD society, and some money to buy DVDs.

The RCSA resolves

6. To set up an RCSA DVD library society to maintain a common resource of DVDs for loan to the RCSAs members. It would be bound by the constitution of the RCSA.
7. To grant the new society £300 to buy DVDs (See addendum)

Proposed: Pete Wood, hasn't seen "The Wire"

Seconded: Amy Woolloff, hasn't seen "The Good Life"

Pete Wood (PW) said that this motion had attempted to create a DVD library for anything on a DVD that is not a film, and allocate this society £300 for DVDs so that they would be available for exam term. Unfortunately this was unconstitutional. Our options if we wanted to support this motion were either to set it up now and allocate the money next term or we could forget the society and nominate an RCSA member to head a DVD subcommittee that would handle the DVD purchase. Barnaby Mollett (BM) asked whether we could just incorporate any new purchases into film society. PW said he hadn't spoken to Ed Marffy, who was in charge of the film lending activities of Film Soc. PW said there might be a conflict of interest, as members of

Film Soc were likely to be biased towards the purchase of films and someone specifically interested in TV series etc. could be better placed to make these purchases. BM said we could set up the society by extraordinary motion now and allocate the money this meeting. TK proposed to amend the motion to delete resolves one and replace it with "To create a new subcommittee of the RCSA chaired by Duncan Stibbard Hawkes which would oversee the purchase of new DVDs that are not films and the lending of these films to students". The DVDs purchased by this subcommittee could be transferred to the film society or a new DVD library society at the next Open Meeting. RM asked if this meant DSH was in charge. TK said yes but any member of college could sit on the committee and the committee would only make recommendations to the RCSA executive. Luke Snell (LS) asked if the chair shouldn't be someone who was in Cambridge over the holidays. PW said DSH would only be in charge of buying the DVDs, not necessarily lending them to students. The subcommittee could work out a viable system after the meeting.

JC invited the meeting to vote on motion a):

For: 19

Against: 0

Abstain: 1

Motion a) duly passed.

b) Volleyball

RCSA Notes:

8. That the Robinson Condors have been representing the College for many years in the CUVC Volleyball Summer League.
9. That the previous volleyball captain graduated some time in Michaelmas term without requesting any money in the budget meeting.
10. That there are currently no funds allocated to the Robinson Condors.
11. That the RCSA currently has no volleyball.
12. League fees are £30 and research shows that a reasonable volleyball can be purchased for £19.53.

RCSA Believes:

13. That volleyball can be a fun activity for the summer term.
14. That Robinson should be represented in the summer league.
15. That volleyball is difficult to play without a ball.

RCSA Resolves:

16. To allocate £49.53 from the allocation to this open meeting towards the purchase of a volleyball and league fees.

Proposed: James Mott, no balls

Seconded: Chris Land, out of his league

James Mott (JM) said there used to be a volleyball team, and a summer league on Jesus Green. The previous captain, Florian, had graduated last year and no one had noticed, so there had been no requests for funds from the volleyball team at the Budget Meeting. RM asked if Florian

had taken the volleyball with him. JM said he wasn't sure but he thought the ball belonged to Florian. BM asked who would be captain. JM said he would by virtue of no one else doing it.

JC invited the meeting to vote on motion b):

For: 20

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion b) duly passed.

c) Party Room Renovation

THIS MOTION REQUIRES TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS

RCSA Notes:

17. That BOPs are generally not well attended before the bar closes.
18. That this is probably because the bar is quite nice and the party room isn't.
19. That reserves are available which could be used to improve the party room.
20. That improving attendance at BOPs would make them more fun and raise income, allowing bigger and better ents to be organised in future.

RCSA Believes:

21. That it'd be nice to have a nicer party room. Nice.
22. That BOPs would be better if we had a comfy seating area, a bar selling a wider range of cheap drinks and a funky décor.
23. That with better facilities, people would be more likely to come down to BOPs earlier.
24. That 1,2 and 3 are all so good that we should emphasise that fact in a fourth point.

RCSA Resolves:

25. To allocate reserves up to a maximum of £5000 to fund the renovation of the party room.
26. To mandate the ents officers to deliver the renovation plans outlined in the addendum to this motion.
27. That the treasurer only release funding for renovation works that are within the scope of the addendum, as approved by this open meeting.
28. That any additional renovation plans falling outside the scope of the addendum must be submitted for approval by an open meeting prior to being carried out.

Proposed by: James Pacey, lacks wit and imagination.

Seconded by: Luke Whiting, addicted to opiates.

James Pacey (JP) said that the party room wasn't the greatest space in college. The RCSA had enough reserves, and the Ents Officers' plans were in the addendum. Basically they wanted to sort out the seating area to put in some better stuff and maybe make the bar a bit bigger so it would be easier to serve people. RCSA resolves 1 was designed to be a cap on the maximum amount that they would spend, but they weren't expecting to actually spend that much. PW asked what the bar staff have said about the RCSA continuing to make the Party Room nicer than their bar. JP said as far as he knew it was OK as long as the bursar said it was OK. LS asked about the money allocated to UV cannons and disco lights. He said that the previous Ents officers had spent over £1000 on new lights and UV cannons and he wondered what else JP needed the

money for. JP said this allocation was just for wiring and attachments so that the lights purchased by the previous Ents Officers could be put up. BH asked if there was a possibility for getting air conditioning, and if not what the alternatives were. JP said the person in the maintenance department who would deal with this was ill, but he would speak to him about it as soon as he was back. RM asked if JP had asked the college authorities. JP said no, the motion was designed to show support for the renovations before specific plans were taken to the Bursar. TK asked if JP knew more specifically what the items would cost, as in its current state the motion would allow him to spend £5000 on one sofa. JP said it had not been costed yet, but the Ents Officers were responsible people and the Financial Bursar would prevent them from spending the money on anything ridiculous. JM asked if they could investigate the use of EPOS cards in the Part Room. JP said that might alert college to us competing with their bar, and it would have to be wired in, but he would ask. DSH asked if the college was allowed to deny us the opportunity to upgrade the Party Room on the grounds that it would compete with theirs, this was the point of living in a capitalist society. JP said he wasn't sure about the legality. BM asked about posters/pictures for the walls. What was JP planning on purchasing? JP offered BM the opportunity to chair a subcommittee to investigate various options for Party Room decorations. BM declined the offer. RM asked if there would be consultation with students before any specific purchases were made. JP said there would be to some sort of e-mail consultation and a meeting for anyone who wants to make suggestions before the works began and a full report on how the money was spent would be produced upon completion of the works.

JC invited the meeting to vote on motion c):

For: 20

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion c) duly passed.

d) Board Game Mania

RCSA Notes:

29. That the JCR currently has several board games for members' use.
30. That the JCR does not have the games 'Cranium' or 'Articulate'.
31. Tom Blott has 'great chat'.

RCSA Believes:

32. That board games are a good resource for hard-working students to use when having a 'time-out' from their studies, during their free time or just for 'banter'.
33. The games 'Cranium' and 'Articulate' are pretty fun and would improve the current collection of board games available in the JCR.
34. Playing 'Articulate' could make Tom Blott (and other RCSA members) have 'even better chat'.

RCSA Resolves:

35. That £40 is allocated from the funds for this Open Meeting to provide a copy of 'Cranium' and 'Articulate' to the JCR.
36. To mandate a member of the RCSA committee to purchase said board games.

Proposed: Barnaby "Total Eclipse of the Art(iculate)" Mollett

Seconded: Grace "I Can Draw Grapevines with My Eyes Closed" Parker

BM said there were some games in the Party Room, but some were rubbish. Cranium and Articulate on the other hand were great, so we should get them. Towards exam term people might be more likely to play the games as opposed to going out and getting battered. PW asked if it was possible for any game to improve Tom Blott's chat. BM said he wasn't sure, but it was certain his admirers could improve theirs. Luke Whiting (LW) asked if we could add Kerplunk to the list. BM said he would be happy to accept a friendly emotion (or an amendment) for £10 more that would cover the increased cost, although he did note that this additional purchase wouldn't improve Tom Blott's chat. LW proposed the amendment and BM accepted it.

JC invited the meeting to vote on motion d):

For: 18

Against: 0

Abstain: 2

Motion d) duly passed.

e) Aerobics Fund

RCSA Notes:

37. That exercise is important
38. That there is a currently a lack of aerobic activities in college
39. That not everyone wants to row to keep fit

RCSA Believes:

40. That we should put on aerobics classes once a week
41. That the aerobics instructor who will teach the classes costs £20 per hour
42. That classes will cost students £2 per class
43. That in case not enough people show up there should be a reserve fund to pay the teacher with.

RCSA Resolves:

44. To create a fund with £40 in it to supplement payments for the aerobics instructor

Proposed: Amanda Myers

Seconded: Rahul Mansigani

RM said there was a lot of response to the original email about aerobics and the welfare committee had agreed that this would be a good way to de-stress during exam term. The aerobics teacher we wanted to use charges by the hour and so if there was a low turn out one week we would still have to pay her. This motion only requested a contingency fund should the

need arise. BM asked if the money requested would be coming from the budget of this Open Meeting? RM said yes it would. BM proposed that the motion be amended to clarify this. RM accepted the amendment.

JC invited the meeting to vote on motion e):

For: 20

Against: 1

Abstain: 0

Motion e) duly passed.

11. Any Other RCSA Business

RM said that the JCR renovations had stalled because College authorities had been dragging their feet, but it was still an ongoing project.

JC closed the meeting.