

RCSA Open Meeting Minutes

Sunday May 5th - 6pm JCR

1. Apologies for absence or lateness

Apologies for lateness were received from Grace Parker (GP).

2. Announcement of the presence and purpose of guests

There were no guests, except Barnaby Mollett (BM).

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) Use of College Gardens

Amy Wooloff (AW) said the gardens committee had written some guidelines about college garden use, but they wanted some student input. She noted that they weren't very specific. IB said we needed them to be more specific. AW said that they had probably made it that way because they wanted it to not be too restrictive. Dave Bewicke (DB) asked if it would affect events in hostel gardens. AW said she thought that it only applied to Thorneycreek lawn, but she would ask.

8. Questions to the Committee

BM asked Robin Lawther where he had got his ice cream? RL replied that he had obtained it from his freezer.

9. Extraordinary Motions

There were no extraordinary motions.

10. Ordinary Motions

a) RCBC Budget Amendment

RCSA Notes:

1. RCBC has been assigned money in an itemised budget at the previous budget meeting.
2. It is not feasible for some club members to purchase kit and communal kit for racing is useful for sports clubs due to changing crews.
3. RCBC is NOT asking for more money just to be allowed to spend £31 already allocated to ARA subs and unspent on communal kit.

RCSA Believes:

1. The nature of RCBC expenditure requires a degree of estimation in the proposed budget.
2. Money allocated by the RCSA should be put to a use that will benefit students and amendments to the proposed budget may need to be considered for this to occur.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To allow RCBC to spend up to £36.90 unspent from the category ARA Subs on a communal 'all-in-one'.

Proposed: Jessica Rose Brush - likes to share

Seconded: Iain Lingwood - because his body is too boatylicious

Jessica Brush (JRB) said an itemised RCBC budget was provided in October, but there was nothing allocated for kit. There was £35 left over in the RA subsidy category. BM said he had checked their budget and they had -40p in the RA category. JRB amended the motion so that resolves 1) would read "To allow RCBC to spend up to £36.90 unspent from the category Cam Subsidies on a communal 'all-in-one'." Claire Horrocks (CH) asked if this motion was just spending money because it's there. JRB said no, there was one person who already had an all in one but it didn't match. Harriet Clough (HC) said that W1 were planning to use them every Mays and Lents.

JC invited the meeting to vote on motion a):

For: 31

Against: 0

Abstain: 3

Motion a) duly passed.

b) Yearbook Subsidies

THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO-THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS

RCSA Notes

1. There is currently £150 allocated in the budget for yearbook production.
2. The yearbook editor has a £500 bill for a deposit.
3. Students graduating in 2009 and onwards will have a higher level of collective debt from tuition fees than any preceding cohort.
4. A poll on the RCSA website indicates some members will be deterred from purchasing a yearbook due to the cost.
5. The attached report in the addendum

RCSA Believes

1. Its funding is received for promoting student activities not holding in perpetual reserve
2. The yearbook represents an unrivalled record of student activities, is produced by students and involves a potential financial cost to virtually all members sooner or later.
3. The yearbook allocation has not been satisfactorily reviewed at budget meetings as editors are not in place in Michaelmas
4. Where possible it should seek to avoid individual members entering debt in order to provide a service for other members.
5. A yearbook subsidy would provide an effective means for distributing its funds amongst a large number of members.

RCSA Resolves

1. To increase the yearbook allocation by £350 (to £500)
2. That the RCSA executive should consider this motion when preparing future budgets.
3. To promote the inclusion of a yearbook charge on College bills rather than burdening a yearbook editor, in their final term, with cheque collection.

Proposed: Fiona "send me your JPG files" Giles

Seconded: Tom "TK Maxx" Kelly

Fiona Giles (FG) said it would be nice for students to have cheaper yearbooks. She had a bill for £500 at the moment and didn't want to pay it out of her own money. There were no speeches against the motion.

JC invited the meeting to vote on motion b):

For: 34

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion b) duly passed.

c) PA System

THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO-THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS

RCSA Notes:

1. That the RCSA does not currently have access to its own PA system.
2. That currently the Ents Officers must borrow the Bar Manager's PA when holding Ents in the bar. This has often required him to drive in to College on his days off.
3. That a good quality PA system would give greater flexibility for ents in the bar and could also be used at Corruption and May Balls, saving on hire costs.
4. That the Catering Department has agreed to pay half the purchase-cost in return for use of the system for conferences.
5. That the system could be made available for college members to borrow.

RCSA Believes:

1. The current arrangements for PA use place an unfair personal burden upon the Bar Manager.
2. That it would be preferable to have a system available on site.
3. That a PA system would be a beneficial resource for college members.
4. That given RCSA Notes 3 & 5 and RCSA Believes 3 that the allocation of £325 of reserves towards the purchase of a PA system would constitute a sensible investment of RCSA funds.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To allocate £325 of reserves towards the purchase of a PA system (see addendum), three microphones, stands and cables with the other £325 of the cost to be provided by the Catering Department.
2. To mandate the Ents Officers and Treasurer to carry out this purchase and bill the Catering Department when its next budget cycle begins in July.

Proposed by: James Pacey PAthetic at puns.

Secoded by: Daniel Jackson can't wait to address his public.

James Pacey (JP) said a PA would be really useful for ents, the May Ball and corruption. The catering department had agreed to pay half of the cost. RL asked if this could come out of the party room renovation budget. JP said they were pretty close to limit on that money already. Luke Snell (LS) asked why this expenditure shouldn't come out of the old ents account money. JP said they had used a lot of this money for Corruption as they would be selling fewer tickets this year. JRB said a PA would be useful for future May Balls. JP clarified that the PA used at the moment belonged to the bar manager. He said that a new PA would be made available for use by students.

JC invited the meeting to vote on motion c):

For: 38

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion c) duly passed.

d) JCR Computers

RCSA notes:

1. The removal of the computers from the JCR following damage to them;
2. The fact that College authorities will not replace the computers until payment of £119 has been made for the cost of repairs;
3. That negotiations to avoid this payment have failed and in fact resulted in the repeated removal of the computers;

RCSA believes:

1. Computers are a useful facility, especially in the JCR;
2. Facebook is very important.
3. So, technically, is Hermes Webmail.
4. Students should have the ability to use PWF machines in convenient places.

RCSA resolves:

1. To allocate £119 from this Open Meeting's budget towards the cost of repair of the JCR Computers.
2. To mandate an RCSA Officer to make this payment to College and press for the replacement of the computers as soon as possible.

Proposed: Rahul Mansigani - Facebook whore

Secoded: Robin Lawther - Doesn't have internet at home

Rahul Mansigani (RM) said that the JCR computers have been absent since October due to an accident during freshers' week. College had replaced one but had then removed it again when

the RCSA hadn't paid for repairs on the second one. RM amended the motion so that the amount requested in resolves 1) was changed to £121.90. Lewis Hemens (LH) said that the Domestic Bursar had claimed the problem had been caused by a student flipping the voltage switch on the back of the tower, but he had checked and this didn't seem to be the problem. When asked for further information, the Domestic Bursar had said that he was not prepared to discuss the problems. LS asked if accidental damage wasn't covered by the college insurance. RM said he would ask, but he thought college had probably already taken this into account. Tom Kelly (TK) asked exactly how college had refused to pay for the repairs. RM said the issue had been discussed at JLC, where it had been agreed to replace them, and then he had invoiced us by email. PW said we knew how it had happened and it wasn't anyone's fault. BM said that the RCSA had insurance, and asked whether that might not cover us. RM said it wouldn't, as the computers were not RCSA property. DB said the computers were useful and it would be worth the money to get them back now rather than have to wait for them if we argued with the domestic bursar. LS said this was a bit frivolous as we didn't need to pay for them, so we shouldn't. Robin Lawther (RL) said there wasn't really much choice, in his opinion the Domestic Bursar simply wouldn't pay. Tanuj Bhojwani (TB) asked if we could pay out of RCSA money, and then ask for college to refund us if it transpired that there was some insurance cover. RM said this was unlikely as accidental damage cover probably wouldn't apply, as there were no college authorities present as witnesses. If we want them back we may as well just pay for the repairs. TK said we should pass the motion, as it authorised the RCSA to spend the money, but add a new point to the resolves that the RCSA would bring the matter up at college council so that the Domestic Bursar would have to deny us in front of the other senior staff. RM refused the amendment. Emma Gordon (EG) asked if we could just buy a replacement computer. DSH said we might not be able to get college maintenance if it was RCSA owned. LH said there would be loads of things to sort out, and due to software licences this could be problematic.

JC invited the meeting to vote on motion d):

For: 14

Against: 8

Abstain: 9

JC ruled that motion d) passed. TK issued a challenge to a decision made by the chair. After consultation with the RCSA constitution, it was ruled that motion d) did not pass.

e) Porter Board

RCSA Notes

1. Whenever people are discussing the porters with their friends they sometimes have difficulties in identifying which porter they are talking about

RCSA Believes

1. That it is important for students to be able to identify each porter and know their name

RCSA Resolves

1. To mandate the catering and amenities officer to ask the porters to produce a board for the porters lodge with each porters photograph and name on it . RW asked where this was going to go. RL said in the plodge. RW said maybe JCR as would be more accessible. DSH said it might not only be for student use.

Proposed: Robin Lawther - Denies that "Porter Boarding" is a form of torture

Seconded: Sarah Jennings - Worried future RCSA administrations may not agree

RL said he'd like to have a board in the Porter's Lodge with names and pictures on it. Apparently they already have one, but haven't put it up. RB asked if the board could also include other senior college officials. RL accepted this amendment.

JC invited the meeting to vote on motion e):

For: 28

Against: 0

Abstain: 1

Motion e) duly passed.

f) DVD Library Society

THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO-THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS

RCSA Notes:

1. That an RCSA sub-committee was set up at the last open meeting to buy some "DVDs that are not films"
2. That the sub-committee was successful in its aim of spending allocated RCSA money on said DVDs
3. That the constitution requires that this sub-committee be terminated at some point
4. That the intention of the committee was to transfer the DVDs to a "DVD Library" society
5. That Pete Wood would like to run a "DVD Library" society

RCSA Believes:

1. That setting up a "DVD Library" society to administer the loaning of these DVDs to college members is still a great idea

RCSA Resolves:

1. To create a "DVD Library" society, run by Pete Wood
2. That this society will be bound by the constitution and policy of the RCSA
3. That this society will be responsible for the storage and administration of the DVDs previously bought by the RCSA sub-committee

Proposed: Duncan Stibbard Hawkes "For HD's a jolly good format"

Seconded: Pete Wood "Hip Hip Blu-Ray"

DSH said that before we start handing out DVDs we need to make a DVD society. PW asked for an amendment to resolves 1) so that it ended "who will have an AGM next week".

JC invited the meeting to vote on motion f):

For: 28

Against: 0

Abstain: 1

Motion f) duly passed.

11. Any other RCSA business?

BM noted that RM had received emails claiming Robinson College was ineligible for punting discounts at Scudamore's. It turned out that the punting scheme membership had automatically run out, but subsequently BM had paid for annual membership to the scheme.

RM said college authorities wanted suggestions for help with revision, and people should email him if they had any.

JC said that there would be University Council elections on Tuesday.

TK asked about the availability of old minutes on the RCSA website, as they were his favorite. LH said he was on it.

LS asked about putting the brick under raven protection. DSH asked if he actually got ravens. LH said he would sort this out soon.

JRB asked about budget breakdowns on the RCSA website. BM said they were now on there.