

RCSA Open Meeting Minutes

Sunday June 11th - 4:30pm JCR

1. Apologies for absence or lateness

Apologies for lateness were received from Barnaby Mollett (BM), Dan Jackson (DJ) and Lewis Hemens (LH) for a five aside football tournament, and Jamie Beeching for a prior social commitment.

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. Duncan Stibbard Hawkes (DSH) was happy with them.

6. Matters Arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

7. Reports from the Committee

a) Catering and Amenities

Robin Lawther (RL) said that Clare Hall had finally replied to his email and there was no chance of us being able to use their swimming pool. He had also spoken to Colin Barnes and the photo board for the Porter's Lodge was already being sorted out.

8. Questions to the Committee

There were no questions to the committee.

9. Extraordinary Motions

There were no extraordinary motions.

10. Ordinary Motions

a) Honorary Life Membership

RCSA Notes:

1. That James Mott and Tom Kelly served as RCSA President 06-07 and RCSA Chair 07-08.
2. That they both made an extraordinary contribution to their roles and the RCSA.

RCSA Believes:

3. That James and Tom were exceptional student union officers.
4. That the RCSA is indebted to them for their contributions.
5. Hard work should be rewarded.

RCSA Resolves:

6. To create the status of honorary member of the RCSA as a nominal position.
7. To thank James and Tom for their work and to award them both honorary membership of the RCSA.
8. To mandate the RCSA Computer Officer to set up a section on the RCSA website listing the honorary life members of the organisation.

Proposed: Rahul Mansigani

Seconded: Maria Radjenovic

Rahul Mansigani (RM) said that CUSU had already implemented a similar honour, so there was some precedent. He added that James and Tom thoroughly deserved this for their hard work and dedication.

Rob Beagrie (RB) read a statement from BM: "James Mott was an RCSA President who compared favourably to every head of state since the extinction of the pterodactyl and woolly mammoth, whereas Tom Kelly wore in an eternal groove in the inaugural RCSA Chair. For these reasons, they both deserve to be remembered as committee members who went out of their way to ensure the welfare of all Robinsonians and whose impact on college life as a whole was exceptional."

Dave Bewicke (DB) asked what extra benefit they would get by being awarded this position. RM said nothing, just a position on the website. DSH said it might cause friction between them and other members of the RCSA who were not being similarly honoured. Daniel Man hon Tse (DMHT) asked if this was a motion that paved the way for making RM an honorary member at the end of his presidency. RM responded that it was not. BH said that as a former RCSA member contemporary with the recipients, he didn't feel the motion would cause any friction, particularly as it was only an honorary title. Emma Gordon (EG) asked if we needed to pass this motion each time we wanted to confer such an honour. RM said yes. Tom Kelly (TK) said there was a specific section that dealt with honorary membership in the CUSU constitution, so it might be worth considering a similar addition to our constitution if we were going to be making these sorts of awards regularly. DB asked for an amendment so that all previous/future presidents would be awarded honorary membership. TK said that one previous president had resigned in disgrace. RM rejected the amendment.

JC invited the meeting to vote on motion a):

For: 19 + 1 proxy

Against: 0

Abstain: 3

Motion a) duly passed.

b) Swimming Cuppers Trophy

THIS MOTION REQUIRES TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS

RCSA Notes:

9. That Robinson Swimmers took first place at the Swimming Cuppers this term
10. That Chloe Grover has had the Swimming Cuppers trophy engraved, which cost £16.95

RCSA Believes:

11. That Chloe should not have to bear the cost of engraving the trophy herself

RCSA Resolves:

12. To allocate £16.95 from the budget of this Open Meeting to refund Chloe for the engraving

Proposed: Chloe Grover

Seconded: Lydia Bridgland

RM said that the swimming team had done really well and shouldn't be penalised. He asked the meeting to vote for the motion so that Chloe wouldn't be out of pocket. DB asked why they hadn't budgeted for this additional expense. RB said that might be seen as a bit of a jinx.

JC invited the meeting to vote on motion b):

For: 23 + 1 proxy

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion b) duly passed.

c) Netball Budget Reallocation

RCSA Notes:

13. That the netball team had allocated £100 for playing courts, but has managed to negotiate their use for free so that this money has gone unspent
14. That Holly Langstaff would like to set up a new, mixed netball team next year

RCSA Believes:

15. That the £100 saved on playing courts would be very useful for the extra kit needed for the new team

RCSA Resolves:

16. To reallocate £100 of the Netball society's budget from "Playing Courts" to "Kit"

Proposed: Holly Langstaff

Seconded: Barnaby Mollet

RM said that this was a technical reallocation of money within the netball budget and clarified that it doesn't award any additional funds. There were no speeches for or against the motion.

JC invited the meeting to vote on motion c):

For: 23 + 1 proxy

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion c) duly passed.

d) Video Game Society

THIS MOTION REQUIRES TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS

RCSA Notes:

17. There is currently no video games society in Robinson College
18. Members may not wish to bring their own consoles and games to college for a variety of reasons
19. Members may wish to be able to play more games than are provided by the RCSA JCR Wii equipment
20. Members may wish to get to know others with interests in video games
21. Video Games have been shown to provide beneficial skills such as problem solving and hand-eye coordination

RCSA Believes

22. A video game society would provide a great source of recreational and social value to its members, catering to a variety of tastes in gaming

RCSA Resolves

23. To form the Robinson College Video Game Society (RCVGS), which shall agree to be bound by the constitution of the RCSA.
24. The objects of the RCVGS shall be:
 - To promote social video gaming at Robinson College
 - To organise weekly gaming and social events for its members
25. RCVGS shall adopt the Schedules as its initial constitution, and that a democratically elected and representative Committee be responsible for their due amendment
26. RCVGS shall be open to any member of Robinson College

Proposed: Christopher Powell, Still can't beat Duncan at Smash Bros.

Seconded: Mike Curtis..... Ninja.

Chris Powell (CP) said that as far as he could tell, there wasn't a video games society in the whole university. The success of the Wii showed that people were interested in video gaming. The society would enable members to get together on a weekly basis to enjoy each other's company. Tanuj Bhojwani (TB) asked what they would plan to buy to get the society started. CP said they would use their own equipment (consoles, games etc.) initially. There might be low cost things such as cables to connect to projectors that they wouldn't necessarily have a use for themselves.

JC invited the meeting to vote on motion d):

For: 23 + 1 proxy

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion d) duly passed.

e) Wii Additions

THIS MOTION REQUIRES TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS

RCSA Notes:

27. The RCSA owns a Nintendo Wii console, with a few games, four controllers and one nunchuck accessory.
28. There is a poll on the RCSA website indicating a preference of a game to be bought in the future.
29. There is currently just over £20 left in the budget allocation for the Wii.

RCSA Believes:

30. The Nintendo Wii is fun and has been used already by many members.
31. It would be nice to have money to buy another couple of games, some replacement batteries and an additional nunchuck.

RCSA Resolves:

32. To allocate £60 from this Open Meeting budget to the purchase of the preferred Wii game according to the poll on the RCSA website, an additional nunchuck controller and some replacement AA batteries for the existing controllers, and potentially any extra Wii items which would further the welfare of members.

Proposed: Mollett, Barnaby Mollett

Seconded: Pacey, James ~~and~~ Pacey

RB read a statement from BM: "The Wii was recently secured in the JCR and has been subsequently used and enjoyed by many JCR members. This enjoyment would be furthered by the expansion of the set of equipment and accessories we have for our Wii. Notably, Duncan made a poll on the RCSA website, indicating a preference for 'Mario Kart' to be bought for the Wii. This retails at around £30. An additional nunchuck controller would be circa £15, allowing for more functionality within games. Some of the remaining money could be spent on batteries, to replace those in controllers when they run out. Additionally around £10-15 from existing funds has to be spent on the security mechanism for the Wii, hence the claim for extra funds."

BH mentioned the result of a poll. And asked if the RCSA was going to use a poll for other things. DB pointed out that it was possible to vote several times from different computers. DSH said that he was not aware of this and would look into it.

JC invited the meeting to vote on motion e):

For: 23 + 1 proxy

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion e) duly passed.

f) RCMS Budget

RCSA Notes:

33. The Robinson College Music Society (RCMS) currently has a slight overspend in their 'Performers' category in their budget allocation.
34. There is a total of £149.85 remaining in the RCMS budget for 08/09.
35. Under the Finance section of the RCSA constitution, a society can only restructure their budget in terms of the amount in each budget category through an Open Meeting.
36. RCMS President Daniel Tse has proposed the restructure to RCMS' budget (as in RCSA Resolves 1).

RCSA Believes:

37. The reallocation of funds will allow RCMS to continue its function without incurring any additional financial cost to the RCSA or any of its members.

RCSA Resolves:

38. To restructure RCMS' budget as follows:
 - Allocate £21.38 from Instrumental Hire, and £20 from Score Hire to Performers.
 - Additionally allocate £20 from Instrumental Hire, and £10 from Score Hire to Printing, Photocopying and Laminating
 - This leaves: 'Performers' at £20; Instrumental Hire at £37.13; Score Hire at £52.81, Printing, Photocopying and Laminating at £39.91.

Proposed: Barnaby Mollett, music fan

Seconded: James Pacey, hates loud noises

RB read a statement from BM: "This is a standard re-allocation of existing funds amongst a society, which constitutionally has to come to an Open Meeting to be finalised. Daniel Tse, Music Society President requested the restructuring given in the motion. Passing this will help the RCMS to function properly without restricting its expenditure on performers, and also keeps the RCSA accounts in shape as the overspend in this category is strictly not allowed, even if the overall society total is positive. Hence this motion is merely a formality."

JC invited the meeting to vote on motion f):

For: 22 + 1 proxy

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion f) duly passed.

g) JCR Computers

RCSA Notes:

39. There used to be two PWF-linked computers in the JCR for use by students.
40. After accidental damage when moving the computers without official permission, they were repaired by the college's IT department, at a cost of £121.90.
41. The computer cannot be returned from college possession until this bill is paid.
42. The college does have insurance for accidental damage, but it has an excess of £500, hence the repair costs cannot be claimed for on this policy.
43. The price of two new computers of a similar specification to those damaged and their PWF installation would be significantly more than the price of repair.

RCSA Believes:

44. That the computers that were in the JCR were beneficial to students' welfare and their return would reinstate this benefit.
45. That although the repair of the damage cannot be claimed on the college's insurance, it would be of positive use to students for the repair costs to be paid to reinstate the two computers to the JCR.

RCSA Resolves:

46. To allocate £121.90 from the Open Meeting budget to the purpose of 'JCR Computer Repair' and mandate the RCSA Treasurer to pay the bill from college for the repair of the two computers.
47. Mandate the RCSA Computer Officer to oversee the re-installation of the two repaired computers to the JCR, complete with connection to the PWF network.

Proposed: Rahul Mansigani

Seconded: Barnaby Mollett

RM said that this motion had been brought at the last Open Meeting. He said that the computers were damaged during fresher's week. He had investigated the college insurance and there was a £500 excess, so there was no point in claiming for the repairs. RM said that if we want the computers back we would have to pay for them. He asked the meeting to vote for the motion so that we could have them back. RB asked if the total claims from this Open Meeting were covered by the rollover budget. RM said they were. TK said it should be pointed out that the damage wasn't anyone's fault.

JC invited the meeting to vote on motion g):

For: 22 + 1 proxy

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion g) duly passed.

11. Any other RCSA business?

IB asked if the RCSA committee wanted a trebuchet. RM responded in the positive. IB asked where he should put it, and RM replied it could be stored in the RCSA office. DSH said that if anyone wanted to write for the Robinson brick, the deadline was tomorrow.