

# RCSA Open Meeting Minutes

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2010-6pm Umney Theatre

## 1. Apologies for absence or lateness

Apologies from Letty Key (LK), Dan Jackson (DJ) and Luke Whiting (LKW).

## 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 previous minutes.

## 7. Reports from the Committee

### a) Presents for erstwhile president and chair

Duncan Stibbard Hawkes (DSH) said he had been mandated to sort out the presents. DSH said that unfortunately the present for the Chair is in transit. Andy Aitken (AA) said he blames the snow for this.

DSH gave Rahul Mansigani (RM) his present (a tea pot designed by DSH). RM said "Oh My God! This is so cool". Barnaby Mollett (BM) asked if the pitch of RM's voice could be noted. RM's voice was incredibly high pitched.

Rob Beagrie (RB) asked John Crook (JC) if he would like his present at the next meeting or when it arrives. JC said he would like it at the next meeting.

RM said that he did not cry. Michael Boyle (MB) said that RM was crying.

## 8. Questions to the Committee

David Bewicke (DB) pointed out that the snacks were not fairtrade.

Jessica Rose Brush (JRB) asked what has happened to the Sunday newspapers. JC said that they are there. JRB said that they haven't been for the last two weekends. She said she checked in the morning and afternoon. RB asked for someone to look into this. Niall Browne (NB) volunteered. BM said that they were on the order form.

JC asked about the JCR renovation. DSH said that there would be a meeting next Saturday and he would send an email out about this.

RM said thanks for the card.

## 9. Ordinary Motions

### a) Matriculation Photo

***THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS***

#### **RCSA Notes:**

1. We decided to buy a Matriculation photo for the JCR of this year's fresher's.
2. That the photo will actually cost £50, not £45 as allocated in the last meeting

#### **RCSA Believes:**

1. That we should still buy the photo
2. That no member of the RCSA should have to foot the bill for the photo

#### **RCSA Resolves:**

1. To allocate an additional £5 from this open meeting budget for the purchase of the Matriculation photo.
2. To mandate the Catering and Amenities officer to purchase the photo.

*Proposed: Andy "costs more than we thought" Aitken*

*Seconded: Duncan "disappointed by the lack of matriculation photo" Stibbard Hawkes*

AA said that the photo was going to be £50, not £45 and therefore an extra £5 is needed. Dan Green (DG) asked about the budget for the meeting. AA said that if the ironing board motion is amended then the meeting will be under budget. MB asked if £50 or £5 was wanted. RB said just £5.

RB invited the meeting to vote on motion a).

For: 26

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion a) duly passed

**b) Ironing Board**

***THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS***

**RCSA notes:**

1. The ironing board is in a very bad state
2. The top is no longer flat, rendering the entire board useless
3. The ironing board is too small for people of reasonable size
4. The ironing board cover does not stay on the board when in use
5. It is important to maintain the image of the College, and as such, facilities for ironing clothing should be available for those who wish to use them
6. In particular, the morale of students has been hit severely by excessively crumpled shirts at formal Hall
7. The College has a vested interest in maintaining facilities
8. A new ironing board and cover of reasonable quality can be purchased for at most £50 (source: Argos website)

**RCSA believes:**

1. Replacing the current ironing board would be useful for all those who may at some point wish to iron clothes
2. It may be possible to get some or all of the funding from the College, if the College will not replace the ironing board itself

**RCSA resolves:**

1. To mandate the Catering and Amenities Officer (CAO) to have, by the next business meeting, either
  - a. Purchased a new ironing board, or
  - b. Lobbied College to purchase a new ironing board(whichever is decided appropriate by the Meeting)
2. If it is decided that it is the duty of the CAO to purchase the new ironing board and cover, up to £50 should be made available for the purpose from the relevant funds. This money would be used in the event that the College would not provide funding.

*Proposed: Matthew "Straightening things out" Jordan*

*Seconded: Antony "Can't stand creases" Milne*

Matthew Jordan (MJ) said that the ironing board was rubbish. He said that some people use it and it would be a nice idea to get a new one. DSH said that it seems like it should be College's job to pay for it. DSH said that he should be mandated to ask Dr Guild, and if college won't buy one than the RSCA will. RB accepted this amendment. DB suggested that if we wanted a massive ironing board then college won't pay for it. DSH said that he will check. AA proposed a friendly amendment, that the budget should be changed to £20. MJ

accepted this, as long as the ironing board is reasonable. AA said it might not be massive, but would be of a reasonable quality. RB suggested a budget of £30. This was accepted.

RB invited the meeting to vote on motion b).

For: 26

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion b) duly passed

### c) Fairtrade Policy

#### **RCSA Notes:**

1. That the issue of supporting the Fairtrade movement to guarantee “fair” prices for farmers in developing countries is important to many Robinson students.
2. That the existing RCSA Fairtrade Policy needs updated as we have implemented many of the changes required to become a Fairtrade establishment.

#### **RCSA believes:**

1. That the updated policy document highlights the changes that have been made, in our aim towards becoming a Fairtrade establishment.

#### **RCSA resolves:**

1. To replace the original Fairtrade Policy document with the updated version (see addendum), as a more representative reflection of the level of Fairtrade activity within Robinson College.

*Proposed: Rosalyn ‘daughter nature’ Old*

*Seconded: Amy ‘mother nature’ Woolloff*

Rosalyn Old (RO) said that the policy needed updating as some of the aims had been fulfilled and the wording needed changing. DG asked about the Jammie Dodgers and asked the extent to which the new policy is going to make us have fairtrade snacks. RB said we are already mandated to do this. RB said he thought it was within our ability to do this. RM said that it might be best not to make too much fuss, as other colleges are having trouble with this. Ewan McGregor (EM) said that having fairtrade food might cause costs to spiral. Without it, we would save money which would be for the good of the college. RB said that this was not the case as we do already have a policy and we do have a budget to buy them. Therefore the costs won't spiral. RO asked if EM meant generally. EM said he did. RO said that they are working to get the label of a 'fairtrade establishment'. RO said that the cost was to the individual. EM said as long as this doesn't cause the cost of lunches to increase. RO said she doesn't think it does. DG said that it won't as most fair-trade goods aren't staples, such as fruit and coffee. Amy Woolloff (AW) said that Nick Milne (NM) said he would consult with college if costs were to go up.

RB invited the meeting to vote on motion c).

For: 25

Against: 1

Abstain: 0

Motion c) duly passed

#### **d) Laundry Baskets**

***THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS***

#### **RCSA Notes:**

1. People don't always collect their laundry when it's done.
2. There is no good place to put completed laundry.

#### **RCSA Believes:**

1. Baskets should be placed in the laundry for completed laundry to be put in if necessary.

#### **RCSA Resolves:**

1. To allocate £35 to purchase washing baskets (gets 5 + P&P).

*Proposed: Dan 'scrubs up nice' Green*

*Seconded: Andy 'The Soap you can believe in' Aitken*

DG said that people don't always collect their laundry. He said that we could put it in a basket on top of the machine. He has looked on Amazon and is confident that the amount proposed is accurate. DG said his will do his best to get value for money and would be happy to be mandated to do it.

Clive Newstead (CN) asked if five baskets were necessary. He suggested three, one for each dryer. DG said he would be happy with this. CN suggested three should be purchase and then we could see how it goes. Robin Lawther (RL) said that we are not struggling for money, so we might as well buy five and have some in case they need to be replaced. RM said it costs more to buy three and then two rather than five at once.

RO asked "how do you know they won't just disappear?". DG said that he hopes we can have them there in good faith and there is one there already. He said he had thought about attaching them, but this might be unnecessary. James Pacey (JP) suggested they could be marked with 'I'm a thief and a terrible person'. RB invited a vote on whether we should get five. RO asked if we were keeping the rack. DG said yes. RO asked what the purpose of the baskets would be. DG said that this would enable you to know it is your washing. Tom O'Hanlon (TO) said that wet washing on a washing machine could cause people to be electrocuted. DG said that washing is already put on top. BM suggested we buy five.

RB invited the meeting to vote on motion d).

For: 27

Against: 1

Abstain: 0

Motion d) duly passed

#### e) **Wii Game**

***THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS***

##### **RCSA notes:**

1. Wii games have been well received
2. The Wii is totally RAD.
3. There are lots of totally RAD games that we don't have though
4. That total RADness is a good state of affairs

##### **RCSA believes:**

1. That any opportunity to make Wii based puns can be nothing but a good thing.
2. That another Wii game would enrich the lives of students, no end!
3. That the people should decide which game is chosen.

##### **RCSA resolves:**

1. To put a poll on the RCSA website in order to gauge which game would be the most popular.
2. To allocate £40 towards the cause.
3. To buy that game for college.
4. To play that game- awesome!!

*Proposed: Duncan "Head Shot" Stibbard Hawkes*

*Seconded: Chris "Pwned in THE FACE" Powell*

DSH proposed that another Wii game should be purchased. The game would be chosen by an online poll. DB said that he had 2 questions. He asked if this mandates the entire committee to play the game at some point. DSH said no. DB suggested an electronic referendum system. DSH asked RB. RB said that he doesn't think people will be able to submit names. DSH said that having a poll was simple and easy enough not to merit thinking about alternatives. RM said a referendum would have to comply with the constitution and therefore notice would be needed. RB said it would have to be done on one day. RM said we might have to run a parallel paper ballot. DG mentioned the quorum, and said that the Wii might not reach this. DB proposed a procedural motion to put this to a referendum. He

said this would force people to think, get more involved and would be more secure. RB said there should not be a referendum.

BM asked about the opportunity to keep voting on an online poll. DSH said that you can, but only if you go to different addresses. MJ asked how the game would be decided. DSH said he had asked in a bulletin for suggestions, but didn't receive any. DSH said it would be the popular ones from last poll. Arun Niranjana (AN) asked what games we already had. DSH said we have: Wii sports, Mario and Sonic at the Olympics, Super Mario cart and possibly Wii play. RM proposed a procedural motion that the motion be put to a vote.

RB invited the meeting to vote on motion e).

For: 28

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion e) duly passed

## **10. Any Other RCSA Business**

RB said that there are two CUSU referendums which he has sent an email about. He said if people wanted more information then they could go to him. RB said that these were about affiliation to NUS and a dedicated student support officer which the University are offering to pay for. JC asked who was behind it. RB asked which one he meant. JC said the NUS one.

DSH explained that sometime last year CUSU agreed this year they would discuss affiliations at CUSU council thinking that everyone would want to re-affiliate to NUS. Some thought it would be good not to. The decision at CUSU council was that students would decide. DB asked if it was not quorate, then would the RCSA have a policy on it? RB said no as the college is not affiliated to the NUS. RM said that if it is not quorate then it is likely that a challenge would be mounted so that CUSU would not re-affiliate. RM said that before CUSU existed, each college was individually affiliated to the NUS, so a college was perfectly entitled to have policy regarding the NUS. RB suggested it might be worth bringing this to the next open meeting. DB asked if it would be a better idea to set up a confederation of colleges that wished to remain affiliated. DSH said that we should cross that bridge when we come to it. RB said that we will discuss again when the issue comes up. MB asked why we should/shouldn't re-affiliate. DSH explained that according to some, the leadership of the NUS was mildly suspect. RM said that, amongst other issues, the NUS national executive are considered too politically partisan, e.g. the current NUS president is a member of the Labour Party, and some think there might be a conflict of interest. Furthermore, some argue that the NUS Board is allowed to undemocratically go against democratically decided NUS Policy, according to the NUS constitutional amendments passed last year at conference. It could be argued that the board exists to provide advice on legal and other issues, and acts to prevent the NUS enacting policy illegal under the Education Act. RM said that other problems were

that some considered NUS conference to be undemocratic, as student political parties tend to form. Some say this is the nature of democracy. NUS also failed where top-up fees were concerned. RM's opinion was that it was better to have some voice rather than none, and that the NUS had several successes too. RM said that there will be campaigns and information in the CUSU bulletin. RM suggested that people should make sure they vote. RB said that if people were super keen they could get the CUSU council minutes.