

RCSA Open Meeting Minutes

Sunday 28th November 2010, 5pm, Umney Theatre

1. Apologies for absence or lateness

Apologies from Forbes Lindesay (FL), Michael McLeod (MM).

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

Hannis Whittam (HW) requested to move motion **q)** to the beginning.

Ewan McGregor (EM) invited the meeting to vote on moving the motion.

For: 11

Against: 2

Abstain: 8

Duly passed. Motion **q)** is moved to the beginning of the agenda.

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

Mike Baxby (MBa) stated that the question about whether a request for female hockey kit replacements was purely a cosmetic issue (in the 7th November 2010 open meeting minutes) is incorrectly attributed to him.

The minutes in question were amended.

7. Reports from the Committee

Harry Brunton (HB) said that there were several fridges and unnamed items currently left in the trunk room. HB said that he will be sending an email out to ask people to remove these items from the trunk room, as they shouldn't be there.

8. Questions to the Committee

There were no questions to the committee.

9. Co-Option of remaining non-executive officers:

a) Ethnic Minorities Officer

Kai Man (KM) said that he should be co-opted as he's suited for the role: he was in his school council, and has attended lots of committees and meetings. He is of an ethnic minority, he volunteered at a disadvantaged school with lots of ethnic minority students, and so he knows the problems and difficulties of this background. KM went to an ethnically diverse school in Manchester, and so can deal with issues of culture clash and integration. His ideas include planning meals and hopefully swaps, and organising paintballing. People can email him for advice, or he can arrange one-to-one talks. KM has the committee experience, the 'ethnic' experience, and the plans of his own required for the role.

MBa asked what experience he has of ethnic minorities issues in his first term at Cambridge. KM said that he's noticed a few things, namely that there's a cultural misunderstanding between Chinese students and other students.

EM invited the meeting to vote on whether to co-opt KM.

For: 29

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

KM was duly co-opted.

b) Overseas Officer

Leandros Sideris (LS) said that he is from Cyprus, and this is his first time living outside of his own country, and so he can understand the difficulties of being living away from your own country for the first time. Someone had to explain what cleavage was to him when he first arrived here. He has done military service, two years with the red cross, and spent time with underprivileged children. He was on his school committee.

EM invited the meeting to vote on whether to co-opt LS.

For: 29

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

LS was duly co-opted.

10. Extraordinary Motions

There were no extraordinary motions

11. Ordinary Motions

q) CUSU Research

RCSA Notes:

1. Several colleges are actively debating and considering disaffiliation with CUSU.
2. One college has already voted to disaffiliate from CUSU.
3. Many of the RCSA members aren't aware of the advantages or disadvantages of the RCSA being affiliated with CUSU.

RCSA Believes

1. That all members of the RCSA should be adequately informed of the advantages or disadvantages of the RCSA being affiliated with CUSU.

RCSA Resolves

1. To mandate the RCSA President and committee to produce a short, unbiased report into the advantages and disadvantages (for the members) of the RCSA of being affiliated to CUSU including the consequences for individual RCSA members and the RCSA as a whole.

Proposed: Johannes "CUServed" Whittam

Seconded: Andy "True dat" Aitken

HW requested to amend the motion – in 'RCSA resolves', the committee should be mandated to publish the report through email and the RCSA website before the start of the next full term. This amendment was accepted.

HW pointed out that we have to decide on whether we are re-affiliating, at least for now, in this open meeting, but we don't actually re-affiliate this term. HW thought that people should be more informed about the decision re-affiliate. HW said that the best way to achieve this would be to ask the committee to produce an unbiased report.

Rosalyn Old (RO) clarified that the RCSA budget has already allocated money to re-affiliation for this year. HW asked if that money would go unspent in the budget if the RCSA didn't re-affiliate. RO said that it would go unspent, and that the money would go back to the college.

Dan Green (DG) asked if constitution states that we can only discuss affiliation once per year. EM said no, it states that we can only have a referendum on it once per year. We can discuss affiliation as much as we like.

Rosie O'Neill (RN) asked if it would be better for people outside the RCSA to be involved as well. HW pointed out that the point of the report is to inform more people about affiliation and involve more people in the decision. HW said that the committee would be looking at a document that CUSU president Rahul Mansigani has produced, detailing the advantages of affiliation.

Clive Newstead (CN) points out that the RCSA are planning on doing this report next term anyway, and so why should the RCSA do it now? EM said that they should because they are

being asked to now via this open meeting motion. RO confirmed that the executive were going to put together a report about CUSU affiliation anyway.

Tom Anelay (TA) said that the point of this motion was to make sure that everyone in college made the decision about affiliation, not just the thirty people that were currently in the open meeting, and so the report should be done before we definitely have to re-affiliate.

DG made the point that the continuation of the RCSA is assumed, but we are debating continual involvement with CUSU. The RCSA puts forward the motion relating to affiliation every year because the constitution states that the RCSA must. DG argues that we don't need a major debate about whether we should re-affiliate, and that the RCSA should only strongly reconsider whether the RCSA affiliates if anything major has changed, and it hasn't.

EM pointed out that the constitution mandates the RCSA to involve as many people as possible in the decision, and we are discussing whether we should mandate the committee to create a report. DG stated that he is just pointing out that we shouldn't react strongly, and that the context he is providing is needed.

RO asked if this motion goes through and we decide to take out the motion relating to CUSU affiliation, when do we have to re-affiliate by. EM and DG explain that we notify of disaffiliation by the end of Lent term.

MR stated that the MCR want a sufficient amount of time to discuss re-affiliation as well

HW suggested we take the motion to a vote. EM asked if there are any objections. Chris Halcrow (CH) objected. No-one cared.

EM invited the meeting to vote on motion q).

For: 18

Against: 5

Abstain: 8

Motion q) duly passed.

a) CUSU Re-affiliation

RCSA Notes:

1. According to the constitution a list of organisations that the RCSA is affiliated with should be submitted yearly for approval. (Chapter VI: section 41).
2. The RCSA is currently affiliated to CUSU, for the cost of £2700 yearly and that the new JCR Affiliation fees are expected to be £2707.
3. That CUSU's support, in terms of welfare, representation at university level and running of campaigns would be unsustainable at a college level.

RCSA Believes:

1. That its affiliation to CUSU is of benefit to the college.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To stay affiliated to CUSU.

Proposed: Rosalyn "They'll be back" Old

Seconded: Chris "Handsome" Halcrow

RO said that the RCSA have to put in a motion about re-affiliation. RO said that the RCSA believes that CUSU is a benefit to all students at Robinson. RO said that the money for affiliation has already been allocated in the budget. RO said that the issue has been blown up a lot due to Corpus disaffiliating, but the situation hasn't changed within Robinson. RO said that the RCSA is in a difficult position without CUSU as it would be unable to train RCSA committee members and provide services to college. RO said that Robinson must stay affiliated to CUSU, and that we must put through the motion on the first open meeting of the new committee, but that we can change our minds later (after the report).

HW asked what the price of an NUS subscription is. CN said that it was £250. RO pointed out that any money saved from dis-affiliating goes back to college, not us. HW suggests to students that if they feel that they are not informed, that they should abstain from the motion vote.

MBa asked, if there are issues rising from the RCSA's report, if we can change our decision to affiliate. EM said that we can. If a concerned group bring up their doubts before the first open meeting of Lent term, the decision will go to a referendum.

DG stated a point of information: affiliation with CUSU is considered a long term thing, and that doing nothing keeps us affiliated. CUSU do not care whether we have a yearly motion or not. EM said that, on a constitutional point, we must vote on this for Robinson.

RO pointed out that dis-affiliation would cause lots of problems in the RCSA committee. RO said that the fact that some committee members are constitutionally obliged to attend CUSU meetings meant that the constitution might have to be amended or re-written if the RCSA disaffiliated. EM suggested that the RCSA could let some articles lapse if that did happen.

Arun Niranjana (AN) stated that if Robinson is not affiliated to CUSU, then it would be a terrible thing for Access. Robinson couldn't run the shadowing scheme, for example.

Alex Brazier (AB) stated that inertia towards constitutional amendments should not stand in the way of a decision whether to re-affiliate or not.

TA said that the number of people currently in the room is tiny, and we should post-pone the decision to get more people involved in the decision. RO said that it's more of a continuation than a decision, and that the RCSA have decided like this every year. TA said that just because apartheid happened for years, that doesn't make it right.

Owen Jones (OJ) asked if there is another way that's not an open meeting that students can make this decision, such as online? RO pointed out that everyone in college has the chance to go to open meetings. HB suggested that postponing the meeting would make no difference, as the same amount of people would turn up. DG reckoned that nothing in the situation of Robinson has changed, and that postponing the decision would suggest that something has changed. Jessica Rose Brush (JRB) said that as the affiliation issue isn't pressing, it would be a good thing to sit down and take time to consider why we want to affiliate. JRB said that this is

no slight on CUSU; it is a positive thing to formulate a considered report, and it would make students appreciate what CUSU does for them more.

EM invited the meeting to vote on whether the decision to re-affiliate should be postponed until the next open meeting.

For: 9

Against: 24

Abstain: 4

Motion duly rejected.

EM said that we will now return to discussing the original motion as a whole.

DG said that he got support from CUSU when degrading, that they had supported students during the recent spate of student deaths, that CUSU have campaigned against Robinson's poor attitude towards progress reviews and kicking Robinson students out. DG said that disaffiliating would say that we don't appreciate these efforts that directly help Robinson students. DG said that the financial debate as to whether we should be affiliated is a stupid one. The collegiate system means that money gets to CUSU through a convoluted route (from CUSU to JCRs back to CUSU); the money should be going straight to CUSU anyway. If we are to debate our affiliation, it should be a political debate.

EM reminded the meeting that the RCSA qualifies as a student union under the Education act. CN noted that even if the RCSA disaffiliates, we are still all personally affiliated. DG said that affiliation payment is calculated per member of college. We would all be affiliated individually politically, but not financially. Technically all students would receive the same amount of support, but the money wouldn't be there to pay for it. TA argued that it would be a tiny amount of CUSU's budget gone if we disaffiliated. DG argued that it would be the whole budget for their services to Robinson gone. RO said that the RCSA is paying for CUSU services that directly affect the RCSA, and that the rest of CUSU's budget is for its premises, etc.

AN said that he was the RCSA committee member that threatened to resign if the RCSA disaffiliates. Robinson access would crumble – Robinson is not a rich college, we need CUSU publicity and resources. AN acknowledges that it is too early in the year for freshers to be able to make an informed decision, but that we should vote now and make the report and come back to the issue later.

Duncan Stibbard Hawkes (DSH) said to the meeting that if the referendum is how you want to use the energy of the RCSA committee, feel free to kick up a ruckus, but that he thinks it isn't.

RN said that CUSU runs the societies fair and provides for the welfare cupboard. HW pointed out that CUSU makes a profit on the societies fair. DG said that CUSU does indeed make profit, but that we don't see that money – its ring fenced. Sabs and other workers need to be paid, and there wouldn't be the impetus for the fair without that money.

RO sums up voting for affiliation: this isn't saying we have to be affiliated forever. If members want a bigger debate, we can do. But we must put the motion through now. RO thinks that CUSU has benefits for all of us and the RCSA. RO says the RCSA has a duty to bring CUSU to the students, and will make more effort to do so this year. CUSU is the only university wide forum for students; we won't have strong voice in higher education cuts issues if we disaffiliate.

TA sums up voting against affiliation (now): the whole of college should make the decision as to whether we affiliate or not.

EM invited the meeting to vote on motion a).

For: 29

Against: 1

Abstain: 7

Motion a) duly passed.

b) Renewable Policy

RCSA Notes:

1. That all policies on the Renewable Policy List lapse after 3 years.
2. That a number of these policies are due to lapse during the forthcoming year.
3. The constitutional requirement for such policies to be proposed for renewal at the first Open Meeting following the election of a new RCSA committee.

RCSA Believes:

1. That there are a number of such policies which we would not want to lapse.
2. That these policies continue to support the general aims and objects of the RCSA as set out by the constitution.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To renew the policy contained in the list in the addendum.
2. To expressly revoke any policy passed before 1st January 2008 and not contained within the renewable policy list.

Proposed: Rosalyn "Out with the New, in with the" Old

Seconded: Chris "is super cool" Halcrow

RO explained that the RCSA has a list of policies that they pass every year. They are reviewed in an open meeting once every three years, and fall if not reviewed. EM said that the issue of the hobs (in motion c)) are being brought up now, even though the policy isn't due for renewal for another two years, because we want to show college that we care about the hobs issue.

EM requested two amendments to the addendum: that the treasurer be responsible for a yearly transferring of charity funds from the RCSA to RAG, and that the fair trade motion be changed to reflect that the college now has fair trade status, thus "That the RCSA works to maintain the college's official 'Fairtrade status'." The amendments were accepted.

DSH asked why the sex party policy isn't up for renewal, as it was last made three years ago. DSH suggests a friendly amendment. RO accepts this. The clauses will be amended.

EM invited the meeting to vote on motion b).

For: 34

Against: 0

Abstain: 1

Motion b) duly passed.

c) New Renewable Policy – Hobs

RCSA Notes:

1. A few years ago College took away our ovens.
2. We are worried that College may find a reason to take away our hobs.

RCSA Believes:

1. The RCSA needs to be strong and united about this issue.
2. We would be very sad and annoyed if the hobs disappeared one day.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To update our renewable policy list to include: "Hobs: That the RCSA is opposed to any action to take away the hobs in our kitchens in college."

Proposed: Rosalyn "Doesn't like her food C" Old

Seconded: Chris "excellent chef" Halcrow

RO said that there was a motion vaguely similar made a few years ago, but that it's not on the renewable policy list. Given the current situation regarding the hobs, it is a great idea to state our views and put it into RCSA renewable policy.

AN asked if we could make the statement stronger and ask for ovens back as well? RO asked if we can add this. Alex Kennedy (AK) asked if we can put 'with violence' on the end of the proposed policy, regarding how we would react if college tried to remove the hobs. DG asked if we can add 'emphatically' when discussing how opposed the RCSA is. RO accepts this amendment.

TA asked if we can state that we would boycott the garden restaurant. RO replied that the RCSA cannot speak for whether everyone would boycott the garden restaurant.

Tobias Paul (TP) suggested that it is slightly overambitious to ask for the returns of our ovens, and should just ask for microwave combination ovens. DG said that we should be more ambitious and start compromising after stating what we want.

The policy is amended with 'emphatically', but not with a request for ovens, microwave combination ovens, or a declaration that students would boycott the canteen.

EM invited the meeting to vote on motion c).

For: 34

Against: 0

Abstain: 2

Motion c) duly passed.

d) Presents for outgoing Chair/President

THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS.

RCSA Notes:

1. That it is customary to purchase a present for the outgoing President of the RCSA and that a combined £80 was spent last year on presents to the president and chair.
2. That doing so could be described as a 'nice idea'.
3. That the RCSA Committee think this is a great idea!

RCSA Believes:

1. That an allocation of £60 from the RCSA Budget for the president and £20 for the chair would enable the committee to purchase wonderful gifts for the outgoing President and Chair.
2. That these gifts should be purchased to thank the ex-president and ex-chair for their hard work and commitment to the RCSA.
3. That Duncan and Rob were awesome at their jobs and deserve a nice treat!

RCSA Resolves:

1. To allocated monies from this open meeting to the sum of £80 towards purchasing presents for the ex-president and ex-chair.
2. To buy presents up to the value of £60 for Duncan Stibbard Hawkes and £20 for Rob Beagrie.

Proposed: Rosalyn "Santa" Old

Seconded: Chris "Rudolph" Halcrow

RO stated that DSH and Rob Beagrie (RB) had worked hard last year and so should receive presents as a thank you for their commitment to the RCSA.

DSH suggested that they were total idiots and shouldn't be encouraged.

TP said that £60 is a lot of money, considering that most societies had to take a cut in the budget. RO said that the money was the same as what was spent last year.

EM invited the meeting to vote on motion d).

For: 29

Against: 3

Abstain: 4

Motion d) duly passed.

e) Underwriting of Robinson May Ball 2011

RCSA Notes:

1. The May Balls in 2009 and 2010 were huge successes and were only possible due to the help of the RCSA.
2. College Council will only grant permission for a May Ball in 2011 if the RCSA once again accepts liability for any losses incurred by the proposed May Ball.
3. The May Ball is not asking for any money from the RCSA.

4. The May Ball is proposing the same contract with the RCSA as last year. The proposed contract is in the addendum.

RCSA Believes:

1. That the May Ball was a great success last year and it would be a great disappointment to all members of the college if it were not allowed to happen again this year.
2. It is unacceptable for individual members of the May Ball committee to be liable for any losses incurred by the May Ball.
3. The attached contract is an adequate solution for both the RCSA and the 2011 May Ball committee.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To enter into an agreement by deciding to sign the attached contract between the RCSA and the May Ball Committee 2011 at the Open Meeting on 28/11/2010.

Proposed: Rory "Wants a ball" Thomas

Seconded: Poppy "Has a" Goodheart

Rory Thomas (RT) said that the RCSA has underwritten the may ball for the last three years. If the may ball makes a loss, then the RCSA has agreed to underwrite it. The may ball has made profit for the last three years. A loss is very unlikely. If the motion doesn't go through, there will be no may ball this year.

TP asks how much would the RCSA be paying in extremis? JRB said that the may ball would have to lose £14K before they asked the RCSA for any money. JRB said that they may ball has previously been asked to make money as the reserves were wiped out three years ago. JRB has been asked to make £3K a year. The may ball is now no longer so driven to make profit, but they now need to build up reserves in sustainable way. The may ball now has £12K in the bank and want to keep this as a base level.

MBa asks how big the may ball turnover is. JRB said that the turnover is £80K-£90K. AN said that previous may balls have been amazing, and that we must vote for this motion otherwise there will be no may ball.

EM invited the meeting to vote on motion e).

For: 34

Against: 0

Abstain: 2

Motion e) duly passed.

f) Photo of May Ball Committee in the Bar

THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS

RCSA notes:

1. Some college societies have their photograph in the bar.
2. The May Ball is an important college society, full of aesthetically pleasing individuals.
3. The May Ball committee had their photo taken last year by Eaden Lilly (La Fayette).

4. Photographs only cost about £41, including frames!
5. Everyone loves the May Ball.

RCSA believes:

1. That a photograph of aesthetically pleasing individuals who contribute significantly to college life would enhance the ambience of our bar.
2. Many colleges have more photographs in their bar than us, and Robinson should strive to beat other colleges in all bar-related activities.

RCSA resolves:

1. To designate £41 from this Open Meeting towards the purchase of a framed photograph of the 2010 May Ball Committee, to be hung in the bar.

Proposed by Rory "Of all the bars in all the world, I want to hang in yours" Thomas
Seconded by Poppy "Here's looking at you kid" Goodheart

RT would like to withdraw his request for £41 in this motion. RT requested a friendly amendment to change it to asking students if they support the photo being in the bar. The may ball committee will now pay for the photo, they are not asking for any money.

EM invited the meeting to vote on motion f).

For: 32
Against: 1
Abstain: 3

Motion f) duly passed.

g) American Football Society

THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS

RCSA Notes:

1. There is currently no American Football society.
2. Lots of people are interested in American Football in Robinson College

RCSA Believes:

1. College needs, now more than ever, an American Football Society.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To form the Robinson College American Football Society (RCAFS). The RCAFS agree to be bound by the Constitution of the RCSA.
2. To amend Appendix I of the Constitution
3. The objects of the RCAFS shall be to: i. To improve the living standards of every people in the world (especially the ones who are member of Robinson College), by playing, watching and talking about American Football

The proposed constitution of the RCAFS is in the addendum.

Proposed: Lajos "Offence" Torok

Seconded: Lola "Defence" Gonzalez

Lajos Torok (LT) said that college players have started playing American football this term. Cambridge will play against Oxford in May, and LT hopes that 4-5 players in that team will come from Robinson. Society members will also watch games on Saturday and Sunday in the TV room, as well as play.

LT requests an amendment of the addendum from 'every people in the world' to 'every person in the world'. This is accepted. DG suggests amending 'in the world'.

TP asked how much interest had been expressed in the society. HW said that lots had, and that we have a GB Lions player at Robinson.

EM invited the meeting to vote on motion g).

For: 29

Against: 2

Abstain: 3

Motion g) duly passed.

h) Motion Sensor Lighting

RCSA Notes:

1. Lights are often left on around college without need.
2. Students often leave lights on in the corridors outside their rooms because they need to find their keys and then end up leaving the light on when they get in their rooms.
3. This wastes excessive amounts of energy which is bad for the environment and college funds.
4. Amy, the Green Officer for 2008/09, investigated motion sensor lighting and was told that the technology was insufficiently advanced and costs were too high. This may have now changed.
5. Some of the lighting on Adams Road uses motion sensors – hopefully this can be spread to the rest of college.

RCSA Believes

1. Motion sensor lighting would reduce energy and money wastage
2. It would facilitate energy saving for students who do not usually consider it.
3. Long term financial benefits of reduced lighting bills would outweigh the initial financial input needed to install motion sensor lighting.

RCSA Resolves

1. To mandate relevant members of the RCSA to liaise with College Authorities to establish possible introduction of motion sensor lighting in relevant parts of College.
2. To mandate relevant members of the RCSA to research companies that could supply motion sensor lighting in College.

Proposed: Alex "Afraid of the dark" Walmsley

Seconded: Rosalyn "Lights up our nights" Old

Alex Walmsley (AW) said that lighting was left on a lot in corridors, staircases, etc. Amy investigated getting motion sensors two years ago and was told by college that it was too expensive. AW wants support to look at the issue again and get college to investigate it.

TP found it odd that we should have motion sensors. Why couldn't we have switches? And are there health and safety concerns over having motion sensors? HW said that he'd rather have lights turn on automatically. DG said that the point of the motion's investigation is that the lights turn on when needed, and aren't left on needlessly as light switches are, though he conceded that ghost could present an issue.

MBa asked if AW will look into alternatives if cost is an issue. AW said that the point of the investigation is to find out the cost. RO pointed out that the college was in favour before but said that it was too expensive; college liking the idea isn't an issue.

HB asked which committee members this is relevant to. EM suggested catering and amenities officer, green officer and president. DSH suggested a friendly amendment to specify the involvement of suggested catering and amenities officer, green officer and president specifically and any other relevant members. The amendment was accepted.

EM invited the meeting to vote on motion h).

For: 29

Against: 1

Abstain: 4

Motion h) duly passed.

i) Bottled water and water fountains

RCSA Notes

1. The College café sells bottled water.
2. Vast amounts of energy is used making a product through production, transport, logistics and refuse.
3. The consumption of bottled water is a reaction to 'manufactured demand' and an irrelevant product.
4. Though water bottles can be recycled doing so required lots of energy that could be saved.
5. Even when water bottles are recycled many are in fact 'downcycled' a process whereby they are converted into different products of a lower quality, not more plastic bottles. The lower quality products have a high probability of then going to landfill sites.
6. Not everyone puts water bottles in recycling bins and as such some go directly to landfill sites.
7. Bottled water is a very expensive product at 2000x the cost of tap water, a cost that is already paid for in students rent prices, bottled water is wasting students' money.
8. There are currently no water fountains on college.
9. Reusing a water bottle can be dangerous as plastic becomes dissolved releasing carcinogens.

RCSA Believes

1. Not selling bottled water in College would reduce irrelevant energy wastage.
2. Students are more than capable of bringing a water bottle with them to fill up
3. Some students are not aware of the health problems of reusing plastic water bottles and should be.
4. If water fountain were installed students would have access to water throughout College.

RCSA Resolves

1. To mandate relevant members of the RCSA to liaise with College Authorities to establish a possibility of stopping selling bottled water and the introduction of water fountains.
2. To mandate relevant members of the RCSA to investigate the costs of installing water fountains in College.

Proposed: Alex "likes it wet" Walmsley

Seconded: Rosalyn "has a water problem" Old

AW said that college sells lots of bottled water, which is bad for the environment and unnecessary. AW is seeking support for him to talk to college to encourage them to not sell bottled water, and install water fountains to fill up your own bottles in replacement.

DSH said that he's not a personal fan of bottled water, but if people want to buy it and college want to sell it then we shouldn't stop this. DSH suggested that Duncan – not a personal fan of bottled water, but if people want to buy it and college want to sell it then we shouldn't stop this. Maybe a sign saying they can give you tap water instead.

HW said that, for sports people, the ability to buy bottled water is necessary if you don't have a bottle of your own. HW noted that there are some fountains and thought we should have more. HW pointed out that conference guests probably buy lots of water, and college were unlikely to stop selling it for this reason. HW proposed an amendment to ask college to ability to buy bottled water is necessary. Some fountains, think we should have more. Conference guests probably buy lots, Simon unlikely to stop selling for this reason. Proposed an amendment to say that college should discourage buying bottled water.

MBa suggested that we should sell bottles instead of water if not having bottles is an issue.

Heather Holland (HH) pointed out that water fountains currently have plastic cups, which are a lot worse for the environment than bottles.

HB pointed out that he used bottles all the time, and he hasn't died yet.

TP said that tap water in Cambridge has grit in it. TP said that everyone had a sink in their room, so there's no point having water fountains, and TP asked why bringing our own bottle is better than buying. AW said that bottles sold separately are different bottles better for the environment.

DG said that he was on a restricted diet earlier this term and during that time buying bottle water was a necessity. DG agreed that college should make people aware of alternatives to bottled water rather than cutting out selling it all together.

HW asked AW if he'd talked to Simon the bar manager about the issue. AW said that he hadn't much at this age.

HW proposed a friendly amendment that college should 'actively discourage' selling. AW accepts.

In reply to TP, AW said that a lot of people that use the college aren't students in college and so don't have access to sinks/kitchens. AB asked what influence we realistically have. EM said that we can only show our views. RO and DSH disagreed, saying that we do have influence through catering committee.

AW requested an amendment to specifically involve the catering and amenities officer, the green officer and the president. This amendment is accepted.

TP proposed a friendly amendment to 'bottled, still water', unless we are to propose to install taps that dispense fizzy water. HW said that this would be wicked. AW said that the desire to stop selling bottled water was due to its environmental damage, not the type of water. HW said that there was no alternative to fizzy water. RO pointed out that we are now discouraging no banning the selling of water.

TB proposed a procedural motion to amend the motion to specify 'bottled, still water'.

For: 13

Against: 6

Abstain: 15

CN proposed a friendly amendment to change the motion to 'discourage sale and purchase' rather than just sale. AW accepted this amendment.

EM invited the meeting to vote on motion i).

For: 20

Against: 5

Abstain: 8

Motion i) duly passed.

j) Conference client policy

RCSA Notes

1. Robinson College is used by many companies to host conferences.
2. We are currently unaware of any policy over the choice of who we allow to use our facilities.
3. Companies who we allow to use our facilities reflect our position as a student body and as such we should be able to determine who we host conferences for in College.

RCSA Believes

1. Unethical companies or groups should not be allowed to use the College facilities as this reflects the College as a whole.
2. There needs to be a process of vetting potential conference client.

RCSA Resolves

1. To mandate relevant members of the RCSA to liaise with College Authorities to establish any current policy on who we allow to use College facilities.
2. To report back with information on whether or not there is a policy in place.

Proposed: Alex "ethic cleansing" Walmsley

Seconded: Rosalyn "is so" Old

AW stated that conference policy reflects us as a college and that we should not be doing business with arms traders, etc.

TA said that this isn't a worthy use of RCSA time: Robinson wouldn't commercially survive if not for conference guests, and it seems like a lot of effort to make no realistic change – students would not be able to change who college does business with.

AN said that college would benefit from doing business with green and ethical companies, and that we (as students) should have a view. This motion is calling for an investigation, and that shouldn't take up too much time.

HW pointed out that there is a big conference every easter for VISA that funds about half of college. We need that money. But if the motion is just to support an investigation, then that's fine.

DSH requested a friendly amendment to change 'relevant members' to 'green officer, catering and amenities officer, vice president, president and treasurer'. EM said that this was outside of the catering and amenities officer's permit. AW accepts 'green officer, president, treasurer and other relevant members as an amendment.

TP asked if this motion would extend to the Huntingdonshire conference centre or just the main site. RO said that the policy would cover everything.

DG said that it was cynical not to have a view because we might not be able to change policy. We should have a view and then campaign from that point.

EM invited the meeting to vote on motion j).

For: 21

Against: 7

Abstain: 6

Motion j) duly passed.

k) Composting

RCSA Notes

1. Organic waste from student kitchens is thrown out in the main waste that goes to landfill.
2. The Garden Restaurant collects all of its organic waste for composting.
3. Students are reluctant to throw away organic waste but are presented with no viable alternative at present.

RCSA Believes

1. The installation of organic waste bins in student kitchens will allow students to compost their waste.
2. Our lovely gardens would be happy recipients of compost to maintain them.
3. By having organic waste bins in kitchens students may be further spurred on to put the rest of their recyclable waste in recycling bins.

RCSA Resolves

1. To mandate relevant members of the RCSA to liaise with College Authorities, in particular catering, housekeeping and the Gardens Committee to investigate the introduction of composting organic waste from student kitchens.

Proposed: Alex "spread that mulch" Walmsley

Seconded: Rosalyn "Compost isn't so" Old

AW said that most of our rubbish goes to incineration or landfill, which is stupid when we have gardens we can compost. This motion asks for support to research installing organic wastebins in kitchens. AW would try and make emptying the same day as the other recycling to try and make it less work.

HW said that the council bins are quite small and so would have to be emptied often.

AW suggested an amendment of the motion to 'green officer and vice president' from 'relevant members'. This is accepted.

MBa said that compost bins need to be emptied more than once a week, and that there are some compost bins already near 1 Sylvester road. AW pointed out that there was nothing available on the main college site.

TP called the declaration that the proposed recycling wouldn't be much more effort because it would be on the same day pathetic. TP said that he already emptied recycling crates with bad grace, and that he would refuse point blank to empty compost bins.

DG pointed out that the worst thing about already existing recycling not getting done is that it doesn't get done, whilst if compost bins don't get emptied then there will be rotting food (and housekeeping will get annoyed). They can't be left. Would AW be happy to sort out unemptied bins.

CN pointed out that we are only voting on looking into having the bins at this stage.

EM invited the meeting to vote on motion k).

For: 25

Against: 2

Abstain: 4

Motion k) duly passed.

l) Suggestion board

RCSA Notes:

1. The aims and objectives of the RCSA include acting as a channel of communication between Members and College/University (1/2/ii in the constitution) and involving an appropriately wide range of Members in its decision making (1/2/v). 2. It is impossible to represent the views of Members whose opinions are not given.

RCSA Believes:

1. Though sufficient, the current means of communication between Robinson students and the RCSA Committee is not as accessible as it could be.
2. Reluctance or inability to go to the effort of hunting down the right person to talk to about an issue shouldn't be a reason why the issue shouldn't be raised.
3. There should be some centralised and easily accessible form of communication between RCSA Members and the RCSA Committee.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To put a "suggestion board" in the JCR so that students can communicate with the RCSA Committee.
2. This board will take the form of a large piece of recycled paper pinned up on the "RCSA Notices" board in the JCR.

Proposed: Clive "Suggestible" Newstead

Seconded: Jamie "Bored" Paterson

CN said that two people have come to him saying that it's hard to communicate with the RCSA regarding issues they want to raise, so CN proposes a suggestion piece of paper in the JCR that people can easily write on. The idea of online suggestions is nice but lots of people don't know where the RCSA website is.

AK proposed a friendly amendment to change the idea to a box. CN rejected this amendment because a box would be awkward because there would have to be a supply of paper next to the box that would be more likely to be used for pizza order lists, etc.

DSH suggested a whiteboard. CN said that suggestions could be rubbed off.

RO asked for a box that we could attach to the notice board with pins, for privacy reasons.

CN said that the paper would be intended for communication with the RCSA. RCSA email addresses would be put on there to contact individuals on.

HW mentioned that we have a good box for this that we used for RCSA elections before elections were done online. EM said that the box has gone walkies, but that we could probably find it.

CH said that it would be nice for people to see others' suggestions on paper.

HW proposes an amendment to make the paper a box.

For: 14

Against: 5

Abstain: 15

Motion duly passed.

The paper is now a box. CN proposed another amendment. CN has already located pieces of paper, and so CN would like a piece of paper and a box. This amendment is accepted.

EM invited the meeting to vote on motion l).

For: 28

Against: 0

Abstain: 6

Motion l) duly passed.

m) RCSA Sponsorship

RCSA Notes

1. The RCSA requires hoodies for the committee to wear during Freshers' Week.
2. The hoodies need to have our names on them so that the Freshers can identify us! Therefore we cannot get money for them from the budget.
3. Our sponsor (currently KPMG) pays for the hoodies.

RCSA Believes

1. KPMG didn't pay enough to get Fairtrade hoodies last year.
2. There are other (more ethical) sponsors out there.
3. A new sponsor could potentially give us more money allowing us to subsidise other RCSA events.

RCSA Resolves

1. To mandate the President, Treasurer and Green Officer to investigate possible new sponsors for the RCSA.

Proposed: Rosalyn "All good in the hood?" Old

Seconded: Alex "sponsor monster" Walmsley

RO said that she needed money from somewhere to pay for the hoodies. KPMG didn't pay for fairtrade hoodies, and the RCSA are supposed to try and get fairtrade hoodies as part of Robinson's fair trade status. KPMG have tax evasion issues, and the RCSA could get a better, more ethical sponsor and more money.

DG asked if we were currently in contract with KPMG? DSH said we were. DG asked if this motion is in breach of contract. DSH said no, as long as we are looking for sponsors for next year. HW said that our sponsorship deal ends at the end of August 2011.

EM invited the meeting to vote on motion m).

For: 28

Against: 1

Abstain: 5

Motion m) duly passed.

n) Matriculation Photograph

THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS

RCSA Notes:

1. There has been a policy for the last six years to buy Matriculation photos, however this has happened for the 2009 matriculation photo only.
2. The 2010 matriculation photo has recently been distributed.
3. It is still available to order from the shop.
4. The JCR has been painted and is being renovated so we could integrate the hanging of Matriculation photos with the introduction of new furniture.
5. The Pegasus society would like to help out with "interesting schemes" in college.

RCSA Believes:

1. We ought to have photos of each year matriculating in the JCR
2. Eventually all years having matriculated since 2005 should be represented, and it would be good to get this sorted this year.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To allocate £240 from the reserves to buy a matriculation photo for 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010.
2. To mandate the Catering and Amenities Officer to organise the purchasing of these photos.
3. To mandate the RCSA President to contact the Pegasus society to ask whether they would be interested in supporting the purchase of Matriculation photos.

Proposed: Harry 'focus' Brunton

Seconded: Chris 'flash' Halcrow

HB said that this motion comes up every year. HB and college want matriculation photos in the JCR. This was previously passed as a renewable policy. The JCR has the 2009 matriculation photo. HB wanted more: photos 2005-8, and 2010.

HB requests an amendment to the motion, to ask for £250 instead of £240. This amendment is accepted.

EM invited the meeting to vote on motion n).

For: 29

Against: 3

Abstain: 2

Motion n) duly passed.

o) Hi-fi Motion

THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS

RCSA Notes:

1. The JCR is currently undergoing refurbishment.
2. It would be nice if more people were to want to use the JCR.
3. People like to listen to background music when talking/working/reading/playing pool.
4. Not everyone wants to listen to the music in the bar.
5. Most people have their music on an iPod/MP3.

RCSA Believes:

1. It would be nice to give people the option of listening to music in the JCR.
2. It would be good to purchase a hi-fi for the JCR so people can do this.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To allocate £25-£60 (depending on which hi-fi is preferred – see appendix for suggestions) from the open meeting budget to purchase a hi-fi system for the JCR.
2. To mandate the Catering and Amenities Officer to organise the purchasing of this.

Proposed: Harry 'hi-five' Brunton

Seconded: Bryn 'pump it up' Pickering

HB said that he wants to get more people using the JCR, and that everyone likes music. There should be a hi fi to encourage this use. A cheap one can be bought for £30. HB asked if college wanted this.

CH pointed out that, as acting secretary, he had received HB's research on the issue, but didn't print it off as he didn't have enough printer money. CH pointed out that the information is available on the online copy of the agenda.

DG asked how much were we allocating? HB said it depended on what type of hi-fi was decided on. DG pointed out that there wasn't enough money in the open meeting budget to allocate £60. MR asked if the money could be taken from reserves. DG said that any requests for reserves have to be made five days in advance of the open meeting, so no.

HW asked how we were going to secure the hi-fi and make sure it's not knocked over. HW suggests looking into wall brackets for speakers.

RO asked if we can instead buy speakers that plug into an mp3. MBa suggested looking into getting a cable to connect the mp3 to the TV, and so speaker damage would be taken out of the equation. DG pointed out that a cable costs £5-£10.

HB agreed that this sounded like a good idea.

HB withdrew the motion.

p) RCJS Funding

THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS

RCSA Notes:

1. The Robinson College Jelly Society has recently been created with an overwhelming majority.
2. RCJS have already held their 1st meeting, which attracted 25 people.

3. RCJS is normally attended by jolly people, and it is impossible to gauge how many happy people there are in college.
4. At the moment the Committee are funding the society.
5. Whilst small amounts of jelly are relatively cheap, large quantities of jelly, ice cream, and moulds are more expensive.

RCSA Believes:

1. The RCJS committee should not have to fund their society.
2. Jelly, moulds, and ice cream, are crucial to a Jelly Society.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To allocate £60 from the open meeting budget to be used to purchase moulds for RCJS, and to act as a safety net in case the committee can't regain their costs from the members.

Proposed: Bryn 'mould me' Pickering

Seconded: Steve 'set me' Gordon

DG is surprised to find that the 'J' in RCJS stands for 'jelly', not 'jews'.

Bryn Pickering (BP) said that lots of people were in the RCJS facebook group, and so for each meeting they made jelly in quantities for the number of people in the group. Sometimes people are busy and can't turn up for the jellerific fun, and so they have extra jelly left over. RCJS is spending more than they are bringing in, as they don't want to charge people too much. BP requests a contingency blanket of £60 so that no money comes from the society's officers' own pockets. BP said that members were unhappy recently as some innovative mulled wine jelly was made, but they didn't have enough for everyone as they only had enough money to make one round of it.

HW asked what happens if RCJS don't need the £60. BP said that RCJS would then take no money and give the money back to the RCSA at the end of the year. AB said that this is fine, but the money would have to go back to the reserves.

TP suggests that the RCJS managed their stock better and got their budget in order

CN said that the jelly society is awesome, but £60 is slightly too much. CN proposed a friendly amendment to a £40 contingency. BP accepts £45.

MBa asked if the money could be taken from the welfare budget, as jelly makes people happy. EM said that it was a society issue.

EM invited the meeting to vote on motion p).

For: 25

Against: 5

Abstain: 11

Motion p) duly passed.

r) Ski and Snowboard Club

THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS

RCSA NOTES

1. Lots of members of the RCSA like to Ski and Snowboard
2. There is currently not an RCSA Ski and Snowboard Club

RCSA BELIEVES

1. It would be good to have a ski and snowboard club to create more of a ski and snowboard community within college.
2. RCSA members would like a ski and snowboard club

RCSA RESOLVES

1. To found the Robinson College Ski and Snowboard Club (RCSSC) which agrees to be bound by the RCSA Constitution.
2. To temporarily instate Hannis Whittam as the President until the RCSSC organise elections and write a constitution

Proposed: Johannes "There's no hills in Cambridge" Whittam

Seconded: Andy "likes to second things" Aitken

HW said that Robinson doesn't currently have a ski and snowboard club. There are 49 students from Robinson going on the Varsity trip, so there's lots of people who ski. Between 4 and 12 students go every Friday to Milton Keynes to freestyle. There are two captains in Robinson. So a society would be good.

MBa asked what aims the club would have beyond what the Cambridge ski club had. HW said that the club would, as well as organising ski trips, get together to watch ski films once a week.

DG asked if there was an orphan society. EM said that there is the ski trip society, but that's different. EM asked if the club would include cross-country skiing. HW said that he supposed that it did.

TB asked why hasn't the club written a constitution and then had elections? HW said that what he has done is the usual way. HW proposed an amendment to the constitution to swap the order to writing a constitution and then organising elections. The amendment was accepted.

EM invited the meeting to vote on motion r).

For: 35

Against: 0

Abstain: 6

Motion r) duly passed.

s) Bursary Application Shake-up

RCSA Notes:

1. That the CUSU Access and Funding Officer Andy McGowan is seeking to change the bursary application system to a UCAS-based system – that is, when applicants can agree for their financial information to be shared via UCAS with the universities that they have applied to, for the purpose of bursary allocation. This would be in line with other British universities (including Oxford).
2. That Andy McGowan is looking for the support of college JCRs.

RSCA Believes:

1. That the university bursary system at present is too complex and students do not receive their payments early enough in the year.
2. That what McGowan proposes would work better for students.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To support CUSU's campaign and allow them to reference our support in negotiations with the university.

Proposed by Arun "A-(su)ccess" Niranjan

Seconded by Helen "Looking out for the" Young

AN said that the motion was asking for the RCSA to support CUSU on this issue. The bursary application system (for the Newton bursary) is convoluted, and we want to support this change.

TP suggested that there is a benefit to delay the money coming in so that bursary recipients don't drink it all away in the first term. AN said that most students are capable of managing their money, and if it was going to be spent on drink anyway then the delay doesn't matter. DG said that he thought it was offensive for TP to assume that bursary recipients would spend the money on alcohol. Students need that money, and the current delay until January causes difficulties. TP said that people are lucky to be getting the money. DG personally finds TP's statements very offensive.

EM invited the meeting to vote on motion s).

For: 38

Against: 1

Abstain: 0

Motion s) duly passed.

t) Weird Bicycle Association Society

THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS

RCSA NOTES

1. There is not currently an RCSA weird bicycle appreciation society
2. Lots of members of the RCSA appreciate weird bicycles

RCSA BELIEVES

1. It would be good to have a weird bicycle club to create more of a weird bicycle appreciation community within college

2. RCSA members would like a weird bicycle club

RCSA RESOLVES

1. To found the Robinson College Weird Bicycle Association Society (RCWBAS)
2. To temporarily instate David Williams and Hannis Whittam as the copresidents until RCWABS organise elections and write a constitution

Proposed: Johannes "Wants to ride his (weird) bicycle" Whittam

Seconded: David "Still needs stabilisers" Williams

HW said that he wants to set this up. Several people in college want to buy a tandem. Hannis – wants to set it up. People want to buy a tandem. HW asks if anyone has got any beef with this?

Richard Slade (RS) asked if the society were going to get penny farthings. HW said maybe.

TP asked how much money the society is planning to ask for. HW said that there were no current plans to ask for any money.

CN asked if it was desirable, necessary or irrelevant that a bicycle has two wheels. HW, recognising that a bicycle must by definition, proposes a friendly amendment to change the name of the society to 'The Robinson College Weird Cycle Association Society'.

EM invited the meeting to vote on motion t).

For: 36

Against: 0

Abstain: 2

Motion t) duly passed.

12. Any other RCSA business

MR said that emails about the open meeting being on didn't reach the MCR. EM said that he has been having problems with the grad list. The chair and secretary will note the problem and resolve it. CH said that it was his fault, but that it is now the problem of Helen Young (HY).