



RCSA - Open Meeting

Sunday 20 February 2011



1. Apologies for absence or lateness

Apologies from Rosalyn Old (RO) and Samantha Harrison (SH)

2. Announcement of the presence and purpose of guests

There were no guests

3. Approval of the order of the agenda

Krista Mumdzjana (KM) Requested that motion d) be moved to the end of the motions to which there were no objections.

4. 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 meeting were approved.

5. Matters Arising from the minutes

No matters arose from the minutes.

6. Reports from the Committee

Tobias Paul (TP) asked Chris Halcrow (CH) if there were enough rooms in the college for the amount of people wanting rooms in the last open meeting. CH believes that there is, unlike the last two years.

Jamie Paterson (JP) said that, as mandated at the last open meeting, the letter concerning the international student visas has been written and will be sent out in the coming week. They will be sent to Teresa May, the Warden and the pro vice Chancellors of the university.

7. Questions to the Committee

Dan Dyer (DD) had a letter concerning the issue of Romsey terrace and asked if the Vice President could look over it to see if it is OK and publicise its existence. CH was happy to do this once the ballots are over.

8. Extraordinary Motions

No extraordinary motions.

9. Ordinary Motions

a) Personal Safety and Response to the TCS Article

RCSA Notes

1. An article in the most recent edition of The Cambridge Student has accused Robinson of failing to take adequate steps to warn its students about the recent attacks on female students.
2. In particular, they pointed to the failure of the college authorities to notify people about the most recent attack on the 7th of February near Mount Pleasant Road.
3. An editorial in the same edition accused the porters of being “negligent” in this regard and suggested that they deserve more than “a slap on the wrist”.

RCSA Believes

1. The article does not take into account the previous and continuing actions of both college authorities and the RCSA in warning students and doing whatever is possible to reduce the risk of a future attack.
2. It reflects poorly and unfairly on the porters and Robinson in general by implying that the college does not care for the safety of its students.
3. Not responding to these allegations could be seen as reinforcing this implication.

RCSA Resolves

1. To mandate the President, Welfare Officer and Women’s Officer to write a response to TCS to draw their attention to the efforts made to protect Robinson students.
2. To express general confidence that the college authorities are doing everything in their power to ensure that the risk of another attack is minimised and that the porters have not been negligent in their duties.

Proposed: Rosalyn Old

Seconded: Jamie Paterson

JP spoke of the most recent TCS in which they published an article saying that Robinson and Selwyn were not doing enough to warn people of the attacker wandering around Cambridge. Specifically the lack of an email being sent out about the most recent attack on the 7th of February. JP said that this was due to the fact that a warning email had been sent out a few days before this attack.

JP wanted the students to mandate the President, Welfare Officer and Women's Officer to write a formal response to the article with what the college has been doing to try and protect students. They also want a general expression of confidence that the college is doing everything it can to look after its students.

TP asked if it would be possible to mandate the committee to request that TCS print an apology as the porters do a fantastic job.

JP said she would be happy to include that - a friendly amendment was made to the motion.

Dan Green (DG) made a point of information - you can make an unofficial complaint which is dealt by the editors in an informal way. Or, a formal complaint can be made which is dealt by the board, i.e the editors and elected members such as himself. It would have to be an official complaint to take it further, he re-iterated that he was not against the motion.

JP we will make an unofficial complaint and then see how things go from there.

Chris asked what is the college authorities view was on it.

JP said that Bill Nolan's opinion was that although upset about it, the college's stance would be to not respond to instances such as these. JP was satisfied that they have done what they can.

Tom Anelay (TA) asked if we should check that college officials are ok for a letter to be sent. JP ensured they they were. JP said that they were being mandated to write the letter in order to have the college being seen to be standing behind the porters on this issue.

Michael Boyle (MB) asked if it would simply blow over if they let it lie, are they worried about any issues that writing the letter might bring to the college as a whole. JP and RO were of the opinion that although the issue could be left and it would probably blow over, the seriousness of the allegations is deserved of a response for everything to be put into context,

DG noted that any formal complaint would require a publication in the TCS in reaction to it, although it would be small.

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

For: 34

Against: 0

Abstain: 3

Motion a) duly passed

b) New pool cues

THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS.

RCSA Notes:

1. Robinson College has 2 very good pool teams, but a distinct lack of good pool cues in the bar.
2. The last time the pool club applied for money for cues, we didn't spend it since we were promised that Simon the barman would get new tips for the existing cues. This hasn't exactly happened.
3. Owen has had quite a few requests for new cues from various RCSA members.
4. Robinson College pool also has a large fan base (mainly Alex Brazier), with one of the first team players having his OWN FAN CLUB!

RCSA Believes:

1. A lack of decent pool cues discourages people from playing pool and affects the quality of their game.
2. People should be encouraged to play pool to maintain Robinson's good reputation in the sport (yes, that's right, the 'sport').
3. RCSA members already have to pay to use the pool table - they shouldn't have to pay for their own cue too.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To allocate £40 from the reserves for the purchase of 4 new pool cues.
2. To place the new cues in the bar and JCR.

Proposed: Owen 'first-teamers don't need nicknames' Jones

Seconded: Peter 'Yoda' Newton

Owen Jones (OJ) had been asked by RCSA members for new pool cues in the bar, the money asked for previously was not spent as the bar promised to buy new cues, which didn't happen. OJ wanted to repeat that motion for 4 cues to be bought.

Dan Fisher (DF) asked if it is our responsibility to get new cues for the bar. OJ said that the bar believes it is our fault if the cues are broken so we should pay for new ones.

Harry Brunton (HB) asked if £40 is enough money for 4 pool cues. OJ said yes, for the cues they are looking at.

Alex Carruthers (AC) asked if the old cues without tips could be removed by OJ once they get the new cues, as their presence annoys him. OJ said he could do that.

Michael Baxby (MBa) asked if it were possible to just replace the tips of the cues and DD asked if it would be cheaper to replace the tips. OJ said they could, but the current cues aren't great.

TA noted that the wood is shattered on most of the cues.

EM invited the meeting to vote on motion b).

For: 36

Against: 0

Abstain: 2

Motion b) duly passed

c) Securing Valuables

THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS

RCSA Notes:

1. The new (60 Inch!) television, Blu-ray player, Old television, DVD player, and Sky box are currently not secured.
2. The Wii has been secured using the Catering and Amenities Officer's own lock.
3. The current method for securing the Wii seemsto be effective yet expensive.
4. The new Blu-ray player has been removed from the JCR over security fears.
5. Thieves might operate in this area.

RCSA Believes:

1. The security of the above items is a genuine issue.
2. It would be a good idea to secure the above items to help prevent them being stolen.
3. It would seem appropriate to secure the above items in the same way that the Wii has been secured.
4. The RCSA should provide the lock to secure the Wii.
5. It would be nice to remove the new Blu-ray player from quarantine.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To allocate £135 from the reserves to buy locks etc. to secure the above items, and replace the lock on the Wii.
2. To mandate the Catering and Amenities Officer to organise the purchasing of these locks etc.

3. In the meantime, to be vigilant and report any suspicious behaviour immediately to a member of the committee.

Proposed: Harry 'Safety in numbers' Brunton

Seconded: Rosalyn 'On dry land (economy)' Old

HB pointed out that the newly bought TV is currently not secured in any way, and the BluRay player has been removed for the time being as it would be easy to steal, not so much the TV. HB said that the TV, Sky box and DVD player in the TV room are not secured either

HB researched prices online and the total for securing all the valuables properly would cost £135 for which he has a spreadsheet of the breakdown of that cost. HB ask the opinion of the members as to whether they believed it worth the cost to secure all the items. Another option was to put cables through each other, cheaper but less flexible.

DG believed that the big TV and BluRay player should be secured, but perhaps not the TV and DVD players in the TV room.

MBa asked if it would be favourable to secure everything for insurance reasons?

HB had no idea

Bryn Pickering (BP) asked whether it would be possible to re-use the securing equipment on the occasion of buying new valuables that would replace the current ones. HB said it would cost £5.50 each.

HB if they are all safely secured then they would be insured, but what is safely secured?

TA proposed that the motion be moved to the next open meeting until we know how the insurance policy works

Tom O'Hanlon (TO) made a point of information that due to the fact that the cheaper items that were being proposed in the motion would be less than the insurance excess, so would be pointless to secure anyway.

HB accepted the point of information and also noted that, if the motion is suspended, the BluRay player would be out of use until next open meeting

EM put the proposal to adjourn the motion to next open meeting:

For: 17

Against: 10

Abstain: 10

Motion was adjourned to the next Open Meeting.

e) Record Player Replacement Needle.

THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS.

RCSA Notes:

1. That there is no needle in the record player in the Hi-Fi room.

RSCA Believes:

1. That there is no point having such an extensive record collection without the facilities to play them.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To give the High Fidelity Association the sum of £24.00 to buy a replacement needle for the benefit of the masses.

Proposed by: Michael *'and the Damage Done'* Boyle

Seconded by: Elizabeth *'in A Haystack'* Ayres

MB explained how a record player works, which requires a needle. A needle is something they don't have making the collection non functional. Cheapest needle found that will work is £24.

TP asked about the money allocated in the last open meeting to them, this money wasn't allocated as it was unconstitutional. TP also asked if the £24 included postage, MB said it did.

MF asked where the HI-FI room is.

MB explained that it is IN THE MUSIC ROOM COMPARTEMENT AREA.

DD noted that MB should probably publicise its existence, and asked that if the motion passes would they do so?

MB pointed out that without a needle it didn't really exist, but once they got one it would exist so hard.

Tanuj Bhojwani (TB) asked if it would be cheaper or more preferable to just get a new record player instead of buying parts for one that might keep breaking. MB assured TB that no, it is actually a very good record player.

EM invited the meeting to vote on motion e).

For: 32

Against: 1

Abstain: 3

motion e) was duly passed

f) Ski Cuppers Entry Fee

THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS.

RCSA Notes:

1. Indoor Ski Cuppers was held for the first time this year.
2. RCSSC has been established since the last budget.
3. 4 RCSA members competed as one team in indoor ski Cuppers on 7th Feb
4. these members paid £30 entry fee
5. The fee was announced after the deadline for motions for the last RCSA open meeting.

RCSA Believes:

1. Members of RCSSC should not have to pay this fee themselves as the RCSA fund many other sport's cuppers entry fees.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To allocate £30 from the open meeting budget to re-imburse the RCSSC members who have already paid the entry fee.

Proposed: Hannis "shifty Rodeo 5" Whittam

Seconded: Josh "switch flatspin 7" Brookes

both proposer and seconder were unable to attend the open meeting, BP read out the motion.

TP asked if people could claim from the refund scheme. Alex Brazier (AB) said that the scheme was for people who wanted to individually play a university sport that couldn't be played at a college level, for which there is a maximum of about £10 per person.

AB said that there is £250 in the open meeting budget, so no problems on that front.

EM asked if anyone was against moving to a vote. No objections.

EM invited the meeting to vote on motion f).

For: 29

Against: 0

Abstain: 7

Motion f) was duly passed

g) Academic Feedback Pizza

THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS.

RCSA Notes:

1. The RCSA Academic Affairs Officer (AAO) will in the coming weeks be running short academic feedback sessions to pilot a successful system currently in place in Oxford.
2. An estimated maximum of 50 students will be asked to participate in these sessions.
3. The AAO currently has a budget of £0.

RCSA Believes:

1. It would be nice to give people free pizza and drink if they participate.
2. 50 students can probably get through ten pizzas and ten 2L bottles of coke or lemonade.
3. Pizza usually costs more like £2.30 than £0. Coke and lemonade also cost more than £0.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To allocate £40 for the purchase of food and drink for these sessions.

Proposed: Clive "Meat Feast" Newstead

Seconded: Chris "Chicken & Sweetcorn" Halcrow

Clive Newstead (CN) said that in the coming weeks there are going to be some academic feedback sessions for which he believes pizza is necessary to entice the 50 or so students who he will be asking to take part. CN said that he doesn't expect to spend all the money and that he would be happy to reduce the number if there were any objections to it.

DG asked if any unspent money goes to the reserves or back to the open meeting budget. AB said that if CN just asks for what he has spent, any left over will just stay in the open meeting budget.

AC asked if it is worth claiming back after buying all the pizza-liciousness. CN said no, sticky situations ensued when that happened the year before.

TP asked from whom and to whom is the feedback. CN noted that it had little concerning the actual motion, but it would be from students of the college to him and then onto Dr Nolan.

Leo Sideris (LS) asked if it was all confidential. CN assured everyone that it was, but the motion was about buying pizza, not the feedback sessions themselves.

EM invited the meeting to vote on motion g).

For: 33

Against: 1

Abstain: 2

Motion g) duly passed

h) Volleyball Cuppers entry fee

THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS.

RCSA notes

1. that the Cambridge University Volleyball Club made a loss at the end of last year's Lent Cuppers due to unanticipated expensive court hire.
2. That, as a result, teams wanting to compete in this year's Cuppers are being asked to pay an increased fee of £50.
3. That Robinson's mixed volleyball team (RCVC) is actually very good; narrowly missing the second stage of Lent Cuppers last year and coming third in the University-wide league in the summer.
4. That finances granted to the RCVC at the Budget Meeting will be needed to compete in the summer league.

RCSA believes

1. That this year's competitors should not be disadvantaged by what happened last year

2. that we should be looking to compete in any sporting event...especially one we're actually good at.

RCSA resolves

1. To allocate £50 from the Open Meeting Budget to cover the cost of entering a team in this year's volleyball Lent Cuppers.

Proposed: Dan 'I like my volleyballs' Fisher

Seconded: Henry 'What can be served but never eaten?' Carruthers

DF said that the price of the Ski Cuppers has gone up and he needs £50 to enter the team.

DD asked if they had already been allocated £30 at the Budget Meeting, did they not only need £20. DF wanted the other allocated money to go other leagues in the summer.

AB asked why they didn't ask in the Budget Meeting. DF believed they didn't have to pay for these Cuppers, but how wrong he was.

DG asked if the summer leagues would increase in price also. DF said no as the increased fee in this case is due to court hire, whereas they would be outside in the summer, thus not incurring that cost.

EM invited the meeting to vote on motion g).

For: 34

Against: 0

Abstain: 2

Motion g) duly passed

d) Opening Robinson Film Showings to non-Robinson members.

RCSA Notes:

1. There are no objections in the RCSA Constitution to allowing attendance of Society events to students of other colleges, provided the event remains beneficial to Robinson members and non-affiliates

2. The agreement of the Conference and Catering Department in extending attendance to students of other colleges has been negotiated
3. The capacity of the Auditorium is not being fully utilised during the Sunday Film Showings. Up to 200 additional students could be permitted to see the film at no extra financial cost to the RCSA (although a further fire-steward would need to be provided by the Film Society)
4. Attendance by non-Robinson students would not incur financial or other expenses on the part of the Film Society or the RCSA

RCSA Believes:

1. Non-Robinson members should be able to attend the Sunday Film Showings
2. The Film Society should be able to advertise the Sunday Showing through the weekly CUSU bulletin
3. Extending attendance to students of other Colleges would assist in 'placing Robinson on the Cambridge map'

RCSA Resolves:

1. To allow the Film Society to invite non-Robinson students to Film Showings via the CUSU bulletin
2. To ensure that Robinson students would have absolute priority over external students, should questions of priority arise.

Proposed by Krista Mumdzjana

Seconded by Dan Green, Alex Kennedy & Martyn Statter

EM yielded his chair to CH in the interest of impartiality due to his prior decisions over the Film Society advertising.

KM said that the current status is that only Robinson College members and official guests of Robinson students are allowed to the Sunday film showings. KM wanted legal permission to put an advertisement in the CUSU bulletin. KM believed there to be no constitutional issues involved in this. Nick Milne and the catering and conference department have given their permission and are willing to change their terms and conditions in order to support this change. KM believed this advertisement would help fill the auditorium as there have been some sparsely attended film showings. It would also allow for members of Robinson to meet those

from other colleges. Some people don't even know where Robinson college is at the moment!

KM assured everyone that it would not incur any additional expenses, it would just be an advertisement in the bulletin.

EM Spoke against this motion. Having spent far too long in the archives EM found there is no obvious constitution, but any one would be that of the film section in the ENTs committee constitution circa. 1980, for this then became the film society. EM also noted that the Film Society would have to probably re-apply for funding if the motion were passed.

EM questioned what would happen if there were to many people attending a film and there wasn't space for Robinson College members, as it is very difficult to get rid of people once they are in. EM said that there could be some licensing issues. KM said that there was none.

EM read a section from the RCSA constitution (section 2.) and explained that the RCSA was there to provide services to Robinson members, not an advert for the college and the Film society would go from being a society to entertain Robinson college students to being a university society subsidised by the RCSA. EM believed that the current situation of the college is stable and he saw no reason for it to change. EM asked what the purpose of the motion was, and if there was a problem in which members of Robinson College were dissatisfied by the lack of attendance of the Sunday films.

MBa noted that they used to charge everyone, as well as those from other colleges, KM said the licence agreement forced that no one be charged.

TP proposed that the motion be adjourned to the next meeting due to possible constitutional bars needing to be investigated. Alex Kennedy (AK) made a rebuttal in which he said that he had checked and the only problem would be with paragraph 60a of the RCSA constitution. As it only says Robinson College members may not be excluded to ensure that the society gets funding and nothing about having it open to more people, it didn't seem a problem.

CH put the proposal to adjourn the motion to next open meeting:

For: 1

Against: everyone else

Proposal to adjourn did not pass.

DG assured everyone that they would be strict about ensuring Robinson Members get priority to see the films. DG said that any changes that needed to be made to the Film Society Constitution would be made if necessary.

TA said that although it was a really good idea, it is abhorrent to the RCSA constitution.

AK spoke against TA saying that considering there would be no financial costs incurred on the RCSA, would it not be good for the social value of the members.

TA agreed with AK, but said that the Film Society would not be allowed to claim money in the future from Open Meetings as it would then be subsidising members from other colleges.

EM said there could be issues with the fact that the constitution doesn't really address what to do with members from other colleges, only non-affiliates.

CN said it would be really awesome and it is becoming a bureaucratic mess. Would there really be objections if the odd member from another college came to the JELLY SOCIETY?

HB noted for the record that the RCJS doesn't post anything in CUSU bulletins.

DD asked if the money given to the Film Society from the RCSA would potentially change if anybody from outside college came to watch the films. KM said no.

DF asked if it would affect DVD borrowing. KM said no, that was still exclusive to RCSA members.

TP noted that this could put the Film Society in breach of its constitution and was of the belief, as a lawyer who had sold his soul, that DG was stupid to say that they could simply amend it if the motion passed. TP believed that the Chair should make a ruling to look into it further before continuing.

AK said that there is a new constitution that would supersede the 1980 constitution. TP pointed out that the old constitution would remain in force as the Film section is not revoked in the new constitution.

AK this is an issue that comes up time and time again, we might be reading things in the constitution that aren't there. AK would quite like to set a precedent that it would be OK to do it. EM said it was only a precedent if the motion passed.

MB noted that these arguments are why people don't care about what the RCSA does. **Applause followed**

KM proposed a point of information that the Film Society swears they will write a constitution that overrides all old ones and fits in with the current motion, if the motion passes.

DG proposed that the motion be moved to a vote. EM objected, saying that we should sort this out now so we don't go away with a bitter taste in our mouths.

CH put the proposal to move the motion to a vote:

For: 20

Against: 9

CH was confused for a short period as to whether 20 was bigger than 9 stating that the crocodile wants to eat 20 more.

Proposal duly passed

CH invited the meeting to vote on motion d).

For: 18

Against: 7

Abstain: 10

Motion d) duly passed

EM made a statement that KM should re-draft and re-submit a constitution as soon as possible to clear things up.

EM returned to the Chair

10) Any other RCSA business

CN asked what everyone's favourite pizza was?

AC said no vegetables.

Arun Niranjana (AN) brought up issue of Romsey terrace, having investigated the house he claimed it to be 'a shithole'. AN believed it should go to graduates as they are already closer and are more likely to be able to afford it

Issues are:

Current 3rd years staying on have to go very far to get back to college and to the Cavendish labs for Natscis.

Current 3rd years contribute to college life, any of those in Romsey Terrace just wouldn't bother. Graduates don't contribute to college life anywhere near as much as the current 3rd years.

MBa noted that it was common practice way back when for groups of undergrads to volunteer to move to Romsey Terrace. MBa said it was to allow more independence and yet still be part of college. AN said that this was OK when there were about 25 people, not 10. AN said that a current resident at the house simply told him 'don't live here'. Also, those in Romsey had worse tripos grades than others in the year, which is why what MBa spoke of was discontinued.

AN also stated that the current Gonville and Caius residents were being subsidised to live there as their college recognised how 'awful' the accommodation was. This is not something Robinson would do.

AN and DD asked if everyone could please sign the petition (documentation detailing the petition would be sent out by email soon) and would like as much undergrad support as possible.

TO asked what the charge would be on Robinson students who want to live outside college but not in college owned property. CH said he would find out as soon as possible.

TP congratulated BP on attaining the position of Secretary but asked him to ensure that the quorate in the agenda is corrected, and correct for the agendas thereafter. BP assured him they would be, although only 2 people actually noticed.

END