

RCSA Open Meeting Minutes

Sunday 7:30pm 13th March 2011, Umney Theatre

1. Apologies for absence or lateness

Leandros Sideris (LS) and Arun Niranjana (AN) sent their apologies

2. Announcement of the presence and purpose of guests

There were no guests.

3. Approval of the order of the agenda

The order of the agenda was approved.

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.

There were no amendments.

5. Matters Arising from the minutes

Harry Brunton (HB) reminded everyone of the motion in the last Open Meeting regarding securing the valuables in the JCR. Having spoken to the Domestic Bursar (DB), HB was informed that by simply adding the valuables onto a list for the insurance, they would be insured without needing to be secured.

6. Reports from the Committee

Ewan McGregor (EM), on behalf of Krista Mumdzjana (KM), read a sincere apology from the Film Society regarding an infringement of the constitution by acting on a motion within 48 hours of it being passed. KM ensured everyone that it will not be repeated.

Rosalyn Old (RO) thanked everyone for voting in the CUSU elections and helping with the 'Save our Bursaries' campaign. It has been since noted that Robinson is not so apathetic.

Steven Gordon (SG) said that after much demand for a different style of College hoodie he will be getting a poll up on the RCSA website for RCSA members to vote on designs they like.

Samantha Harrison (SH) asked SG if the hoodies were going to be forced upon the RCSA committee alone. SG ensured SH that they would be available to the whole College and looked slightly hurt at SH's choice of wording.

Alex Walmsley (AW) informed those present that after the Joint Liason Committee (JLC) meeting, it was decided that he would go ahead with buying boxes for people to use to recycle paper in their rooms. Sadly, Houskeeping have said they refuse to help until members of the College are able to sort the current recycling. AW implored the College to recycle when it is their turn!

7. Questions to the Committee

Alex Kennedy (AK) asked what the turnout was for the CUSU elections from Robinson. Dan Green (DG) said the unofficial estimate was about 40%. But the official stats would be out soon.

8. Extraordinary Motions

There were no extraordinary motions

9. Ordinary motions

a) Weights Room Inductions

THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS.

RCSA Notes:

1. There is a long list of names waiting to be inducted for the Weights Room.
2. The Weights Room is run by the Cambridge Weight Lifting Club.
3. The Cambridge Weight Lifting Club have provided someone to run inductions in the past. This has been in his own time at his own expense.
4. The price of fuel is continuing to rise.
5. The inductor will not hold any more sessions without being subsidised for his costs.

RCSA Believes:

1. People should continue to be inducted for the Weights Room for free.
2. The inductor should be subsidised for his travel costs.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To allocate £40 from the Open Meeting budget to subsidise a number of induction sessions.

Proposed: Harry 'This way to the gun shop' Brunton

Seconded: Rosalyn 'weighing up the options' Old

HB said that the current Weights Room inductor has asked for money to subsidise his expenses, petrol etc. As the Weights Room is not run or owned by the RCSA, but the Cambridge Weight Lifting Club, HB was a little reluctant to have the RCSA pay for him to come, but said there weren't any other options.

Michael Baxby (MB) asked HB if there was the possibility of getting someone in College to do the inductions. HB replied that the current inductor is probably trained and what with the Weights Room not being run by the RCSA, people would be a little reluctant to take the induction sessions.

AK asked if we had actually asked if the weight lifting club would be willing to pay for the inductor. HB said no.

RO said that another option would be to charge people to do the induction, but to make it cheap enough for each person there would need to be 5 people at each induction, which might be hard to organise.

EM noted that there would be constitutional problems too.

DG asked that did it not make more sense to try and reduce the number of induction sessions taking place anyway in order to minimise costs on whoever's side is paying. HB said that the waiting list is very long and only a certain amount of people can fit in the weight's room at any one time, so there should be no problem filling the spaces available.

EM invited the meeting to vote on motion a):

For: 17

Against: 0

Abstain: 4

Motion a) duly passed

b) Weighing Scales

THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS.

RCSA Notes:

1. People like to weigh themselves to monitor their health.
2. People tend not to bring scales with them to University.
3. Most gyms have weighing scales.
4. The College Gym does not have any weighing scales.

RCSA Believes:

1. The College Gym should have weighing scales.
2. Providing weighing scales may improve people's health.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To allocate £30 from the Open Meeting Budget to purchase a set of weighing scales for the College Gym.
2. To mandate the Catering and Amenities Officer to purchase these scales.

Proposed: Guy 'Conscious about my weight' Sucharitakul

Seconded: Harry 'Man-date me' Brunton

Guy Sucharitakul (GS) was unable to attend the meeting. HB said it was probably an appropriate time to get weighing scales due to the new gym now taking shape, so to speak (laughter ensued).

RO asked if they were just standard bathroom scales, as £30 seemed like a lot. HB replied that he had done a quick Google search and £20 seemed a good, cheap, option. He then added on £10 to account for postage. Bryn Pickering (BP) noted that they could be bought for as low as £10, RO agreed that they could probably be bought for more like £20 from John Lewis. RO also noted that John Lewis have 'great customer service'

HB made a friendly amendment to RCSA Resolves, pt. 2. 'To mandate the Catering and Amenities Officer to purchase these scales as cheap as reasonably possible'

EM invited the meeting to vote on motion b):

For: 18
Against: 3
Abstain: 3

Motion b) duly passed

c) Gym Exercise Bike

THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS

RCSA Notes:

1. The College gym is great, but doesn't have an exercise bike.
2. Robinson College recently borrowed an exercise bike for the 24-hour fundraising marathon
3. That this bike is available on eBay to purchase for just £20.

RCSA Believes:

1. The College gym would benefit from having an exercise bike, as it would give students a greater array of gym equipment to choose from.
2. It's pretty small, so could easily be stored in the games room and not get in the way.
3. £20 for a decent exercise bike is pretty cheap.
4. Said bike now has a special place in the hearts of many Robinson members

RCSA Resolves:

1. To allocate £20 from the open meeting budget to purchase the bike.
2. To place the bike in the Games room/college gym.

Proposed: Owen 'sends lots of annoying RAG emails' Jones

Seconded: Joe 'Tour de Robinson' Griffiths

Owen Jones (OJ) said the bike used for most of the RAG 24hour cycle ride has been listed 3 times on Ebay and hasn't sold yet, or had any bids on it. OJ believed we should buy it to put in the gym.

Clive Newstead (CN) asked that in order to ensure that no letters of grievance are submitted regarding infringement of the constitution, how would we go about purchasing the bike when it would be within 48 hours of the motion passing. EM stated that it could be bought by OJ and that the RCSA could reimburse the cost after the 48 hours have passed.

HB noted that the current gym equipment had to come with warranties and that if there isn't a warranty for the bike, they will have problems. HB also pointed out that although there is space at the current time for storing the bike in the Games Room, when the treadmill arrives things might begin to get a little tight.

OJ said that they had found a nice little nook that the bike fitted into nicely, HB was happy with this.

RO said that College might have problems with insurance aspects of the possible lack of warranty and that she would need to talk to them as to whether they would be happy with it or not.

BP asked what would happen if the bike went up in price. OJ didn't foresee it, but they could increase the value of what was being asked to accommodate. EM saw no major constitutional objections to this.

RO said if there are any problems with College and insurance it could always go in the JCR.

MB asked if the bike they were hoping to buy was the one that broke during the 24 hour RAG bike marathon. OJ pointed out that not only was it a simple thing that went wrong and was easily repairable, but people would be unlikely to be using it non-stop for 17 hours, so there shouldn't be a problem.

OJ made an amendment to RCSA Resolves pt.1 'To allocate £30 from the open meeting budget to purchase the bike.' OJ also thanked everyone for taking part in the RAG event and for giving money. Apparently the bike ride was the biggest fundraising event out of the colleges in RAG week.

EM invited the meeting to vote on motion c):

For: 20

Against: 1

Abstain: 2

Motion c) duly passed

d) Romsey Terrace

RCSA notes:

1. There has been some controversy regarding the housing of fourth years at Romsey Terrace in the next academic year.
2. Affected students were not happy with explanations College made for this decision, partly because communications came only via the Vice President.
3. An open letter was sent by Robinson students to the Senior Tutor and Domestic Bursar to ask for an explanation and some concession on rents to compensate for the inconvenience of living at Romsey Terrace.
4. The Senior Tutor responded by holding open sessions in which he explained College's decision.
5. The Senior Tutor also offered students chosen in the ballot to live at Romsey Terrace the opportunity to stay there over the Christmas and Easter vacations at no extra cost, and stated that students electing to live out instead would be still be able to live at Romsey if their private accommodation plans fell through before the start of the academic year.
6. The Senior Tutor believes that student views should be directed to him through the RCSA, and not via open letters.

RCSA believes:

1. The Senior Tutor has provided an adequate response to students concerns.
2. That it is the RCSA executive's role to represent students on their behalf to College, and so direct communication from students to the Senior Tutor in the form of an open letter should not have been necessary.

RCSA resolves:

1. To accept the decision of college on the matter of Romsey Terrace.
2. To ensure when student's views are brought to the attention of College in future by the RCSA executive, that responses are circulated to RCSA members efficiently.

Proposed: Daniel 'wrote the letter' Dyer

Seconded: Chris 'wrote his name once' Halcrow

Daniel Dyer (DD) said that, after fairly constructive meetings with the Senior Tutor, they had all left feeling a little happier. It is not a fair world and College couldn't have done much more. DD wanted to assure everyone that the matter is now resolved and that writing angry letters is perhaps not the best approach as it annoyed the Senior Tutor

DG asked what would now come of Romsey terrace in the coming years. RO replied that it came up in JLC, and the Warden said that it is not the College's intention to use Romsey Terrace again, that this year was an exception. The Senior Tutor made it fairly clear to her and Chris Halcrow (CH) that they

probably WOULD be using Romsey Terrace again, but they would wait for it to be seen in writing. RO also passed on the information that the College intended on giving notice much further in advance if ever it happens again, as this might have been part of the reason for the reaction from students.

AC asked if the problem arose due too many freshers attaining their offers. DD replied that it was not true, just a rumour being bandied around.

DG asked if the Senior Tutor being annoyed by the letter made the difference in the end. RO noted that it took the letter to act as a tipping point for the Senior Tutor to respond to questions from concerned students.

DG said that he was slightly worried that we are resolving to restrict what we do, where perhaps the letter by DD is what got things moving. It might be a good idea in other similar situations in the future.

DD said that the angry letter wasn't the main focus of the motion, but more the flow of information from the College to the relevant RCSA committee members and then to students of the College.

RO said that the RCSA committee didn't know it was going to happen until late notice and RO wasn't aware there would be quite such a response. She said it takes students to come to the RCSA committee and raise the issues and then a balance needs to be found. RO also said it would be good to know what information people want from the RCSA, as people just get plain annoyed by emails sent to all undergrads all the time.

EM invited the meeting to vote on motion d):

For: 3

Against: 4

Abstain: 16

Motion d) fell

e) Basketball Club Budget Reallocation

THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS

RCSA Notes:

1. The Basketball Club has a slight overspend in the "Court Hire" category of their Budget Allocation
2. The Basketball Club has a total of £108.00 still to claim from the current budget.
3. Under the finance section of the RCSA Constitution, a society can only restructure their budget in terms of the amount in each budget category through an Open Meeting.

RCSA Believes:

1. Reallocating funds will allow the Basketball Club to continue to function without occurring any financial cost to any of its members or any additional cost to the RCSA.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To reallocate £8.14 from the “Kit” category of the Basketball Club budget to the “Court Hire” category.
2. The new totals for each category of the Basketball Club budget would be; League Fees £170, Kit £99.86, Court Hire £78.14

Proposed: Alex 'don't put all your balls in one basket' Brazier

Seconded: Carlos 'Slam dunk the funk' Peralta

Robinson's joint basketball team with another college splits its costs equally. Due to problems such as VAT there isn't enough money for courts, so they simply need to re-allocate money within their own budget.

AK asked if we could savour this motion for future constitutional amendments as to how silly some sections of the constitution truly are. EM countered that it is a very sensible safeguard to stop people spending money allocated to certain things being spent on something like beer. Chair's ruling that it is sensible to behave in a prudent manner.

EM invited the meeting to vote on motion e):

For: 22

Against: 0

Abstain: 1

Motion e) duly passed

10. Other Business

EM thanked BP and SG for superb balance and general heroism that day.