

RCSA Open Meeting Minutes

Sunday 7:30pm 08-05-2011, JCR

1. Apologies for absence or lateness

Rosalyn Old (RO), Forbes Lindsay (FL), Samantha Harrison (SH) and Kai Man Cheung (KM) sent their apologies.

RO was meeting with the CUSU president.

2. Announcement of the presence and purpose of guests

There were no guests.

3. Approval of the order of the agenda

Tobias Paul (TP) suggested that motion d) was brought before motion c) to deal with all financial motions at the same time.

There were no objections to this suggestion, the order of the agenda was duly amended.

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

There were no matters arising from the minutes

6. Reports from the Committee

There were no reports from the committee

7. Questions to the Committee

There were no questions to the committee

8. Extraordinary Motions

There were no extraordinary motions

9. Ordinary motions

a) Cricket Budget

THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS.

RCSA Notes:

1. As there was no cricket budget last year, the budget submitted was the same as two years previously which didn't take account of rises in price.
2. It worked better for the team to do all their indoor nets in lent term than one in Michaelmas, 2 in Lent and 1 in Easter as is set out in the budget.
3. The cost of indoor nets increased from £12/hour to £13/hour.
4. The cost of Cuppers entry has risen from £40 to £50.
5. Due to increased demand for cricket around College, the college is entering two XIs into Cuppers at a total cost of £100.
6. This year's cricket expenditure is as follows:

Cuppers entry - £100
Nets 21/1 - £26
Nets 4/2 - £26
Nets 18/2 - £26
Nets 11/3 - £26
Balls (4) - £67(£7 delivery cost)

Total: £271
Current budget: £150
Surplus: -£121

RCSA Believes:

1. That cricket forms a great revision break in the Summer months
2. That Robinson members should have the right to play college cricket free of charge.
3. That the captain is incompetent for not spotting this earlier, however not as incompetent as the previous year's captain who forgot to submit a budget altogether.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To allow the money allocated for nets in Michaelmas and Easter to be spent on the lent nets.
2. To allocate a further £121 from the Open Meeting budget to plug the hole in the cricket budget and to make further funds available for more cricket balls (£15 per ball) should the teams progress to the later rounds of cuppers.

Proposed: Josh 'That's just not cricket' Brookes

Seconded: Josh 'Not playing' Games

Josh Brookes (JB) said that extra costs had been incurred this year due to increased interest in cricket

Clive Newstead (CN) noted on behalf of RO that money can't be provisionally allocated in advance. Ewan McGregor (EM) agreed. JB made a friendly amendment to point 2 in RCSA Resolves to 'To allocate a further £121 from the Open Meeting budget to plug the hole in the cricket budget.

Alex Brazier (AB) asked about the nets that they had been using nets recently. JB said that they had been using outdoor nets this term that didn't cost anything to use.

EM invited the meeting to vote on motion a):

For: 23

Against: 0

Abstain: 1

Motion a) duly passed

b) RCCC Budget

THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS.

RCSA Notes:

1. There is a large interest in croquet at Robinson and there are lots of members of the Robinson College Croquet Club (RCCC).
2. Croquet is a good way to de-stress during exam term.
3. The college croquet equipment can be used by any member of the RCSA very easily by taking it out from the p'lodge.
4. The current croquet equipment is very old, there is not a full set of balls and the mallets are pretty rubbish.
5. RCCC are holding the first annual croquet ladder in college this year.
6. RCCC will be entering cuppers again this year and it's embarrassing not to have a full set of balls to play the games with.
7. Good quality croquet equipment lasts for many years.
8. A good quality set of balls costs about £60.
9. A half-decent mallet that won't break immediately costs about £70.

RCSA Believes:

1. We need a new set of balls and one new mallet to be stored with the other equipment in the p'lodge.

RCSA Resolves:

2. To allocate £60 from the reserves for a new set of decent quality balls.
1. To allocate £70 from the reserves for one new mallet.

Proposed: Hannis "gap 'em" Whittam

Seconded: Ed "peg-out" Hyde

JB spoke on behalf of Hannis Whittam (HW) and Ed Hyde (EH).

He reminded everyone about the great croquet lawn in college and the fact that it is so popular that the equipment is getting a little shoddy.

JB also said that the introduction of croquet Ladders in College and also the possibility of entering croquet cuppers meant that Robinson students would do good to have a good set of balls and a new mallet.

TP asked why they couldn't get two sets of balls so that two games could be played at the same time. JB said they would be happy to just be allowed one, but if there were no strong objections he would be happy to make a friendly amendment.

CH pointed out that he is very poor at croquet and wouldn't want to feel pressured by other good players getting up behind him. He did, however, emphasise that he didn't feel strongly about this.

AW didn't quite understand how many balls could be used at once in croquet. TP explained the game for clarification.

Lotte Reinbold (LR) asked if they had enough hoops and mallets for two games. JB said that there was enough stuff but it wasn't in the best of condition, for recreational use in college it would be fine.

Harry Brunton (HB) asked if the RCCC would be asking for money at a later date to cover Cuppers fees. AB said they hadn't asked for it in the budget. JB didn't know, but that if they were to ask for money it wouldn't be a large amount (found to be £5).

TP made a note that some pegs for croquet have gone missing. JB said they would look into it.

EM invited the meeting to vote on motion b):

For: 20

Against: 0

Abstain: 3

Motion b) duly passed

d) Yearbook budget

THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS.

RCSA Notes:

1. The 10/11 budget has allocated yearbook printing costs of £150.
2. Last year, a motion passed increasing the 09/10 budget allocation for the yearbook by £350 (to £500).
3. Students graduating in 2010 and onwards will have a higher level of collective debt from tuition fees than any preceding years.
4. The current yearbook editor will soon pay the yearbook deposit (of £100) from their own pocket.

RCSA Believes:

1. RCSA funding is received for promoting student activities not holding in reserve.
2. The yearbook represents an unrivalled record of student activities, is produced through student input and involves a potential financial cost to virtually all members sooner or later.
3. The yearbook allocation still has not been satisfactorily reviewed at budget meetings as editors are not in place in Michaelmas.
4. Where possible it should seek to avoid individual members entering debt in order to provide a service for other members.
5. A yearbook subsidy would provide an effective means for distributing its funds amongst a large number of members.

RCSA Resolves:

5. To allocated £350 from the 'reserves' to the yearbook allocation, allowing up to £500 to be used in subsidising the production of the 2011 Robinson College Yearbook.
6. That the RCSA executive should consider this motion when preparing future budgets.
7. To promote the inclusion of a yearbook charge on College bills next term (as was implemented last year) rather than burdening the yearbook editor, in their final term, with cheque collection.

8. That part of this allocation will be spent on providing an RCSA copy of the yearbook, available for all members to browse.

Proposed: James 'Go on, make my year...' Kemp

Seconded: Virginia 'I've been to the year 3000' Woolstencroft

James Kemp (JK) said they were simply asking for a little extra in the Yearbook budget to bring it up by £350 to £500 so that those getting the books would pay only £18 instead of £23.

CN noted on behalf of RO that the yearbook wasn't for the lasting benefit of members of the RCSA due to only affecting those in the 3rd year, so the money shouldn't be allocated from reserves. JK asked if the book given to the JCR could count to allow them to receive money from reserves. TP asked JK if this meant the yearbook for the JCR would be £350.

EM noted that the yearbook editor had asked for this same money in the 2010/11 budget meeting and had had the amount cut from £500 to the current £150.

AB said that they did ask for the same amount in February 2010 and been allowed the extra money by a unanimous vote, although they had their budget cut in the same way in the 2009/10 budget meeting. He also said that the finance committee might have a problem with it if the motion were to pass.

EM invited the meeting to vote on motion d):

For: 5
Against: 3
Abstain: 14

Motion d) failed

c) Academic Feedback Sessions

RCSA Notes:

The Academic Feedback Sessions in CompSci, Land Ec and Maths, which were piloted by the Academic Affairs Officer last term, were found useful by participating students and by the Senior Tutor

The Senior Tutor would like the sessions to continue in the future, but there is currently no obligation for the next Academic Affairs Officer to carry them out

Renewable Policy is an appropriate means of doing this whilst the sessions are still in the experimental stage (i.e. for the next year or two)

RCSA Believes:

Giving constructive feedback about supervisors and DoSes is beneficial for all

RCSA Resolves:

To update our Renewable Policy list to include the following entry:

Academic Feedback Sessions

- i. That the Academic Affairs Officer shall be responsible for running Academic Feedback Sessions for the Computer Science, Land Economy and Mathematics triposes, and discussing the feedback with the Senior Tutor at the end of Lent Term each year.
- ii. That these sessions should be expanded over time to include more triposes, subject to the success of those already involved.

Proposed: Clive 'feed it back' Newstead

Seconded: Chris 'spoon-fed' Halcrow

CN spoke of the academic feedback sessions and how they were a great success and would like the next academic affairs officers to continue it.

EM made the room aware that Policy would be in place for 3 years and then it would have to be decided to renew at that point.

Michael Baxby (MB) asked what the academic feedback sessions actually are. CN replied that at the moment the only way for people to give feedback on supervisors etc. is through the forms that everyone received at the beginning of Easter term. The academic feedback sessions allows students to speak to CN confidentially about their thoughts, giving a more in depth feedback for the Senior Tutor.

Bryn Pickering (BP) asked whether the supplying of pizza in the feedback sessions would be in the renewable policy. CN said that those involved in the feedback sessions believed that they got more out of it than just the pizza so it would be at the discretion of future academic affairs officers as to whether they wanted to apply for funding for pizza related treats.

EM invited the meeting to vote on motion c):

For: 22

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion c) duly passed

e) Robinson College Treehouse

RCSA Notes:

1. Robinson College is in possession of a rather large garden. A garden that is woefully treehouseless. All garden and no treehouse makes Jack a dull boy. I mean, 'Robinson a dull college'
2. Treehouses have been scientifically proven to be the best things ever.

3. That most members of the RCSA have fond treehouse-related childhood memories such as this:

I visited a treehouse once. It was magical. I felt like I was visiting Lothlorien and I was in a past age of lost elvish innocence; I pretended to be Frodo and my friends were all the other members of the 'Fellowship of the Ring'. Although there were actually nine of us there, and therefore too many seeing as Gandalf was supposed to have fallen fighting the Balrog of Khazad-Dum, we solved this problem by pushing Jeff off of the highest level, thus killing him. Although the police investigation was gruelling for all involved, it was worth it to get the atmosphere right

RCSA believes:

1. Students cannot reach their intellectual potential without at least one treehouse within a one kilometre radius. FACT.
2. That a treehouse would certainly raise Robinson's reputation to the upper echelons of Cantabrigian collegiate class.

RCSA resolves:

1. To mandate the Green Officer to liaise with the College Garden Committee and decide whether a treehouse on Robinson College grounds would be feasible.
2. In the event of College consent, to allocate funds from the reserves to help subsidise the building of said treehouse at the next Open Meeting.

Proposed: Jacob 'You know what they say about big feet' Waller

Seconded: Emma 'Ain't no party like a treehouse party' Naughton

Jacob Waller (JW) said that the virtues of a treehouse really speak for themselves. He was of the belief that any arguments against the motion would be insane.

EM reminded JW (as in motion a) that the motion can't bind the RCSA to allocate money at a later date.

JW made a friendly amendment such that only section 1 of RCSA Resolves remained.

AK asked if he would be forced to go into the treehouse as he is afraid of heights. JW said no.

LR argued that the motion isn't as much of a joke as everyone might think. A facebook campaign produced positive results and the garden is one of the few college gardens that is completely accessible to students and it would be nice to have something student made in the gardens. Leandros Sideris (LS) agreed loudly.

CN asked on behalf of RO that 'treehouse' be reworded to something else along the lines of an elevated study platform. RO was also concerned that the trees might be damaged. JW replied that he thought they were implicit in the original motion.

CH said patronisingly that it is a good idea and they had done really well so far, but that it really isn't feasible and would be expensive and would sully the name of the Green Officer. CH concluded that he thought it was damaging and hurtful.

TP suggested that the green officer be asked to report back on his findings.

HB agreed with CH but that if there were to be on it should go outside formal hall so people can look in through the window.

Michael McLeod (MM) asked if there were any suitable trees in college for a treehouse and whether it would be damaging to them to have a treehouse. JW said that there were trees according to his criteria and that cutting branches didn't necessarily mean damaging the trees.

JW confessed to murder.

EM invited the meeting to vote on motion e):

For: 9

Against: 6

Abstain: 7

Motion e) fell

10. Other Business

See Appendix A of the Agenda regarding the creating of the role of a Sports and Societies Officer.

HB said that as C&A officer he has found that there has been a build up of work due to things like the introduction of the gym in College. He pointed out that issues such as enough gym inductions, constant timely set-up of gym and new gym equipment couldn't be organised by himself as well as he would like due to other C&A related commitments.

HB brought his issues to the RCSA Executive and they were all in agreement that the creation of the role would be a good idea. FL pointed out that such things as keeping the societies list updated is something that doesn't fall in the remit of the C&A officer currently but would also be good for a Sport and Societies officer to maintain, giving the Computer Officer more time to concentrate on the RCSA website and other matters.

TP asked what became of the gym sub-committee that was spoke of when the motion for gym equipment was passed. HB wasn't aware of this but said that he had thought of creating such a sub-committee but that it would make more sense to create the RCSA position instead

MB asked if the plan was to get this position filled this term. HB said that the position would be filled at the same time as all positions are voted for in Michaelmas 2011.

EM hoped there would be a referendum next Friday for which an eighth of the RCSA would have to vote, and two thirds assent would be necessary for it to pass. EM said an email would be sent out informing the college of said referendum and what it concerned within a few days.