

RCSA Open Meeting Minutes

5:30pm, JCR, Sunday 16 October 2011

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Alex Walmsley (Green Officer)

2. Guests

Alex Brazier (AB) introduced Jake who would be going out with him after the meeting.

3. Order of the Agenda

Harry Brunton (HB) requested that motion h) and i) be switched. No objections.

Tom Anelay (TA) requested for motion g) to come first. No objections.

Rosalyn Old (RO) requested that her report regarding CUSU council be moved until after the first Ordinary Motion. No objections.

4. Approval of minutes

CH confessed to the previous Open Meeting minutes not being made public before this meeting. He passed a copy around and it was approved.

5. Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

6. Reports from the committee

HB said that there are 6 fridges currently in the trunk room, 1 of which is unnamed and 3 of which are in no fit state to be used. No fridges should be left in the trunk room and they cost £50 to remove. Named fridges are labelled: Ricky Edison and Lauren Horsley - who are no longer here, Daniel Fishen, Fran Botts and Simon Bushell. Money will be requested from those named unless removed by them.

RO said those who have left could be contacted via email as there were those in college who knew them.

HB also reported that the gym would be closed until further notice, but when it opened it would also include a treadmill. Arun Niranjana (AN) asked why this was, HB said it was due to missing parts. Maria Farrimond (MF) asked whose fault it was that they had gone missing, HB admitted it was his.

7. Questions to the committee

There were no questions to the committee.

8. Extraordinary motions

There were no extraordinary motions.

9. Ordinary motions

g) Bike Pump

This motion requires two-thirds assent to pass

RCSA Notes:

1. The bike pumps in the porters lodge are small handheld pumps which are inadequate for getting bike tyres up to proper pressure, they are more designed for emergency puncture repair on a long ride.
2. Bike tyres at lower pressure puncture more regularly and this can also result in inner-tubes twisting and ripping.
3. The attachments in the porters lodge for the bike pumps have gone missing rendering them useless.

RCSA Believes:

1. All college members would benefit from a simple stand-up pump in the porters lodge enabling them to get their tyres up to pressure.
2. When Winston Churchill said “give us the tools and we’ll finish the job” this was precisely the kind of situation he was referring to.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To allocate £25 from reserves for the purchase of a stand-up bike pump, See Appendix B for details.

Proposed: Josh ‘Pump it’ Brooked

Seconded: Tom ‘Cycle-path’ Anelay

TA explained the lack of bike pump attachments in the Plodge currently, rendering them useless. He also noted that it was difficult and expensive to go to a bike shop. It would be good to have a bike pump available for those who need it.

Bryn Pickering (BP) noted that he had found the same pump for £19.

HB asked if it would be possible to get 2 pumps or a chain to attach the pump outside rather than having to go to the Plodge each time. TA said that it was good for people to have accountability for the pumps, so they should remain in the Plodge but it would be nice to have 2, so perhaps £40 would be a better sum to ask for.

Dan Green (DG) asked how often two people needed a bike pump at exactly the same time. BP replied that it had happened to him in the past and you need them urgently occasionally to get to lectures etc.

Alex Carruthers (AC) noted that the bike shop he goes to pumps his tyres for free. TA replied that it must be because AC is beautiful.

AK asked what there currently was in the Plodge. BP replied that there was one with just a racer bike attachment.

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

For: 19

Abstain: 3

Against: 0

Motion g) passed.

TA left.

President's CUSU Council Report

RO went to CUSU council in which there were exciting motions passed that she would like to report on. All the following motions passed:

- 1) The motion was to support Nov. 9th demonstration. This was to be a follow-up demonstration to the one last year in which 50,000 students took part. Coaches have been booked, paid with CUSU funds. RO said further information would be passed on later.
- 2) The Government have produced a white paper on future of higher education. The University have savaged said white paper. And this was a motion to continue campaigning against it and for the CUSU President to write a thank you letter to the Vice-Chancellor based on the University's reply.
- 3) On the 30th of November, teachers and lecturers are intending to go on strike over a change in pension schemes. They would like students to support them, arguing that when we were protesting about fees and cuts over higher education, they helped, and now we should help them. CUSU encouraged students to join the walk-out.
- 4) The University were in breach of the equalities act and gender equality issues. CUSU intend on campaigning against that.

a) TV Room TV

RCSA Notes:

1. The TV in the TV room is relatively small.
2. The TV is not HD.
3. The TV room has sky unlike the JCR.
4. Not all sports fixtures are shown in the bar.
5. The JCR is often busy.

RCSA Believes:

1. A new TV for the TV room would allow people to watch sport not on in the bar.

2. Such a TV would also be of benefit to other societies
3. Not everyone likes watching the same programs

RCSA Resolves:

1. To mandate the catering and amenities officer to research and find a new TV for the TV room

Proposer: Chris Rafaluk

Secunder: Dylan Ede

Chris Rafaluk (CR) noted that the TV in the TV room is 'a bit shit' and that not everyone likes watching x-factor on Saturday night in the JCR. He continued saying that a new TV in the TV room would be good.

RO was worried that buying a TV now would mean they'd both need replacing at the same time, incurring a large cost to the RCSA.

HB asked CR why he didn't ask for money, CR blamed BP to which BP replied that he thought it was a better idea seeing as it might need College approval so it was better if researched by the C&A officer to find one that would suit their wants.

HB asked EM if it had to go through college, EM replied that he didn't think so.

DG asked how likely sky was to be axed in this year's Budget Meeting. AB replied that it probably wouldn't need axing at all. He went on to explain that the budget was more flexible this year after a meeting with the Bursar.

RO asked AB what the issue was with getting Sky in the JCR, There were a few vague explanations given by those in the room about cables and such.

RO asked why the TVs in the RCSA office weren't being used. HB said they were very old and would soon be scrapped.

EM invited the meeting to vote on motion a)

For: 15

Against: 0

Abstain: 6

Motion a) duly passed

b) CUSU block grant

RCSA Notes:

1. That a 'block grant', which is unrestricted funding direct from the central University, is the standard model for funding Student Unions in Britain.
2. That the average block grant in the Russell Group is £1,200,000 a year, and at Oxford is almost £400,000 annually.

3. That CUSU is the only University Students Union in Britain without a block grant.
4. That CUSU is, as a result, forced to levy college affiliation fees which impair JCRs and MCRs from spending money on their College members.
5. That despite meagre funding arrangements, CUSU runs the world's largest student-run access scheme, gives JCRs/MCRs important training and infrastructural support, and represents us successfully on issues like bursaries and the sports centre at the highest levels.

RCSA Believes:

1. That there are significant weaknesses in the college affiliation fee model, by levying undue financial pressure on JCRs and MCRs and leaving services for all students at risk from individual College disaffiliations.
2. That with even a modest block grant, CUSU could both expand the services it offers its members, as well as reducing the direct burden on JCRs and MCRs.
3. That tripling tuition fees with no corresponding increase in funding for student-led representation and support is unjustifiable.

RCSA Resolves:

2. To add our voice to the CUSU Block Grant campaign
3. To ask our JCR/MCR Committee to raise the issue of the college affiliation fee model with the College Bursar
4. To consider writing to the Vice-Chancellor as a JCR/MCR to express the above view

Proposed: Rosalyn Old

Seconded: Chris Halcrow

RO explained how every other Student Association in UK gets money from their University, except CUSU. A block grant could allow CUSU affiliation fees currently paid by college JCRs to be lowered. CUSUs reliance on affiliation fees is quite heavy at the moment, CUSU would probably have to axe certain facilities if only a few more colleges disaffiliated and they and RO do not believe this is particularly fair, especially when new entrants would be paying higher fees next year and thus expecting more from their student services.

Dan Dyer (DD) asked if the RCSA budget received from College would be cut in accordance with this, RO replied that in light of these changes, there would probably be little impact on what the RCSA receives. Also the Bursar seems quite flexible.

MF asked why RCSA believes: part 3, from the motion, was 'unjustifiable'. RO explained that if people are paying more for University then the University will have more to spend. MF asked if the increase in tuition fees really covered the cut in University budgets as set by the Government as she was worried that this grant could draw money away from the academic side of the university. DG explained that it wasn't really relevant as it comes out of a different section of the University's budget and doesn't directly affect

education/research.

AK had heard that it was also more efficient than the Uni paying that money to colleges to subsequently pay to CUSU in affiliation. DG said that it was more to separate affiliation fees and money given by the University in the form of a block grant, it would be CUSUs priority to cut affiliation fees in the light of a block grant. But he agreed that it was more efficient.

HB asked to amend the motion such that 'consider writing' be changed to 'write' in RCSA Believes: part 3. RO made a friendly amendment such that RCSA Resolves: part 2 was changed from 'To ask our JCR/MCR Committee to raise ...' to 'To have our JCR/MCR Committee raise...' and RCSA Resolves: part 3 from 'To consider writing to...' to 'To mandate the RCSA President to write to...'.
EM invited the meeting to vote on motion b)

for: 21

abstain: 1

against: 0

Motion b) duly passed

c) RCFC Budget Reallocation

RCSA Notes:

1. The previous captain of RCFC was unaware that spending in excess of individual spending categories, but within the society's cumulative spending allocation, is prevented by the Finance section of the RCSA constitution.
2. The previous captain of RCFC spent money allocated for Referee fees and Laundry on football equipment.
3. In order to reimburse the previous captain of RCFC for his expenditure an open meeting motion is required under article 65b of the RCSA constitution.

RCSA Believes:

1. Reallocating funds will allow RCSA to function without incurring any financial cost to any of its members or any additional cost to the RCSA.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To reallocate £20 from RCFC's laundry allocation, and £40 from RCFC's "Referees" allocation, to RCFC's allocation for equipment/balls.

Proposed: Peter 'nice touch' Judge

Seconded: Joe 'Jooooooooooooo' Pritchard

AB explained that the RCFC treasurer thought it was a block budget so spent more money on one section over another.

DD asked how they didn't spend so much in other sections of the budget, AB explained that it was because they didn't wash the clothes unless they won and they rarely won...

EM invited the meeting to vote on motion c)

For: 17

Against: 0

Abstain: 5

Motion c) duly passed

d) RCFC Five-a-side

This motion was withdrawn due to the Five-a-side pitches being so far away that it wasn't worth participating.

e) RCBC Budget reallocation

Joe Griffiths (JG) made a friendly amendment to RCSA Resolves: Part 1 so that '£467 from Race fees' became '£296 from Race fees'.

HB argued that it seemed ridiculous to ask for money for fines when they weren't certain it would need spending. JG replied that they have been fined more in previous years, they must have just been good this year.

CH spoke for the motion saying it seemed more acceptable to ask for this reallocation than it had been to ask for fines to begin with. RO said there had been lots of controversy in the 2010 Budget Meeting about fines and said it would be better to ask for the money from Open Meetings as it was variable.

AN agreed with RO, asking JG if it wouldn't be easier to try and not get fines and then come to an Open Meeting to ask for money if it does happen. JG agreed that it was a good idea.

HB asked JG what would happen if they got fined before the next Open Meeting. JG said they had two weeks to pay the fines usually and so they would have time to get to an Open Meeting before having to pay it.

EM invited the meeting to vote on motion e)

For: 11

Against: 5

Abstain: 7

Motion e) duly passed

f) Basketball league fees

This motion requires two-thirds assent to pass

RCSA Notes:

1. Basketball league fees have increased dramatically (£170 to £290) since last year, due to:
 - a) Kelsey Kerridge increasing the price of court hire.
 - b) Fees for a single team being proportionally higher than for a joint team.
2. The fees have already been paid by the RCBbC vice-captain so that the team can play this year.
3. There is no money left in the 'Fees' section of the basketball budget, due to last year's fees being paid out of it.

RCSA Believes:

1. Robinson should be able to play basketball this season.
2. The vice-captain should not have to pay the fees.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To reallocate the money from the 'Kit' section of the basketball budget (£99.86) to the 'Fees' section.
2. To allocate a further £190.14 from the Open Meeting budget to reimburse the vice-captain the full amount. See Appendix A for Report.

Proposed: Joe 'tomahawk' Griffiths

Seconded: Josh 'ankle-breaker' Lomax

JG explained that by moving to a single team, they couldn't get St. Catherine College to pay for the league fees and for them to pay them back after the RCSA Budget Meeting.

RO made a point against, saying that money for things like league fees should really wait until the Budget Meeting. JG explained that the fees had to be paid before the Budget Meeting and matches started before then too, so they were asking for it now otherwise they couldn't participate. RO agreed that it was understandable in this case.

AN asked if there was enough money in the Open Meeting Budget to cover all claims in the Open Meeting. BP explained that there currently wasn't, but was privy to knowledge of a friendly amendment being made later in the Open Meeting to ensure there was enough money in the Open Meeting budget.

EM invited the meeting to vote on motion f)

For: 20

Against: 0

Abstain: 3

Motion f) duly passed

i) Board Games

This motion requires two-thirds assent to pass

RCSA Notes:

1. The board games in the JCR are 'past their best'.
2. There are no board games behind the bar.
3. People like to play board games.
4. The bar staff have agreed to a new, more secure, way of looking after board games.

RCSA Believes:

1. People should have the option of playing board games.
2. The board games will keep in good condition behind the bar.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To allocate £100 from the Open Meeting Budget to Purchase several board games.
2. To keep these board games behind the bar using the proposed 'card deposit' system to keep them safe.
3. To mandate the Catering & Amenities Officer to organise the purchasing of said darts.

Proposed: Harry 'With the Spanner in the Linnet Room' Brunton

Seconded: Steven 'All Above Board' Gordon

HB made a friendly amendment to RCSA Resolves: Part 1 such that 'Open Meeting Budget' changed to 'Reserves' as the purchase of board games was for the long-lasting benefit of College. He also amended RCSA Resolves: Part 3 such that 'darts' was changed to 'board games', an error through copy and pasting.

HB explained that they would be implementing a scheme with the bar staff in which certain items (including board games) would be kept behind the bar and any persons wishing to use said items would have to leave their College card as deposit. He hoped this would help ensure that such equipment would be better protected. He said that the MCR were particularly keen.

BP made a speech against (RO took the minutes during this time), saying that having your card as a deposit system is a bit annoying if you wish to use pool cues or play board games from the bar in the JCR as you might have trouble getting back in the door. Clive Newstead (CN) suggested that bad ones could still be left in the JCR. BP said that most people would want to use the new ones, he thought it was a good idea overall but could be a problem at the same time.

HB addressed such problems by saying that the motion was about board games not pool cues (although BP made a speech against board games mainly anyway) and that if needs be the door could be wedged open and that there were old board games still in the JCR that people could use.

BP noted that the JCR door was probably a fire door and shouldn't be wedged open. HB noted that it was wedged open at the current time.

Forbes Lindsay (FL) asked if it would be better to have the Board Games in the JCR rather than the bar. HB explained that some of the MCR were too lazy to activate their cards for the JCR so wouldn't be able to access the board games and that they could make use of the deposit system if they were kept behind the bar. He also said that St. John's College did it quite successfully.

CN said that he'd had the impression at the meeting with College in which this was discussed that as they would be looking after them they would be buying them. HB explained that he didn't think they'd buy anything in the short term, the RCSA, however, could.

RO also noted that if they bought the board games and the deposit system didn't seem to be working they could take them back, whereas, if College bought them they probably wouldn't be able to.

RO made a quick point that such things had been asked for in Open Meetings many times in the past, this would ensure that they didn't have to keep coming back as the items should survive much longer.

EM invited the meeting to vote on motion i)

For: 17

Against: 0

Abstain: 3

Motion i) duly passed.

h) Darts

This motion requires two-thirds assent to pass

RCSA Notes:

1. There are no darts left in the bar.
2. There is a darts board in the bar.
3. People like to play darts.
4. The bar staff have agreed to a new, more secure, way of looking after darts.

RCSA Believes:

1. People should have darts available to play.
2. The new darts will be more secure than previous sets.

RCSA Resolves:

4. To allocate £50 from the Open Meeting Budget to Purchase 2 new sets of darts.
5. To keep the darts behind the bar using the proposed 'card deposit' system to keep them safe.
6. To mandate the Sports & Societies Officer and/or the Catering & Amenities Officer to organise the purchasing of said darts.



Proposed: Harry 'Double Top' Brunton
Seconded: Steven 'Straight to the Point' Gordon

HB explained that the request for darts was practically the same as for board games, just with darts.

FL asked if the darts board was in good enough condition as it looked pretty wrecked last time he looked.
DD explained that it was frequently hit by darts, so wouldn't look perfect.

EM invited the meeting to vote on motion h)

For: 18
Against: 0
Abstain: 2

Motion h) duly passed

j) Pool Cues

This motion requires two-thirds assent to pass

RCSA Notes:

1. The pool cues are in poor condition (again...).
2. People like to play pool.
3. The bar staff have agreed to a new, more secure, way of looking after pool cues.

RCSA Believes:

1. People should have good quality cues for playing pool, especially when they have to pay 50p per game.
2. We should not have to continually fund new cues if they keep getting damaged; however
3. The new cues will be more secure.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To allocate £120 from the Open Meeting Budget to Purchase 4 new pool cues.
2. To keep these cues behind the bar using the proposed 'card deposit' system to keep them safe.
3. To mandate the Sports & Societies Officer and/or the Catering & Amenities Officer to organise the purchasing of said pool cues.

Proposed: Harry 'Is that a Cue in your Pocket...' Brunton
Seconded: Steven 'Cue the Music' Gordon

HB explained that the request for pool cues was practically the same as for board games and darts, just with pool cues.

Peter Newton (PN) made a speech against, saying that in February 4 new cues were bought for £40, and this time HB was asking for £120, he noted that the problem wasn't how good the cues are but that people were using them incorrectly. He also said that the cues could be re-tipped which would cost around £10 for 5. HB argued that the cues bought in February had lasted no time at all and that he felt £120 was necessary for good cues. PN argued that it didn't matter how good the cues were if they were being broken by incorrect playing rather than maliciously trying to break them. HB replied that he understood this but with the deposit system it was less likely to happen, or could be charged to the person upon return to the bar.

DG asked how the bar staff would know who to blame for a broken cue if it got progressively damaged from usage rather than snapped in half by one person.

HB explained that it was less likely to happen with good cues, and that if the bar staff refused to give the cues to those who didn't seem in a fit state to use them properly then it might help them survive longer.

RO asked if a lot of pool cues got snapped in half quite often. Alex Kennedy (AK) nodded his head sadly. HB said that those who gave their card as deposit for pool cues would probably know what they were doing and how to treat them right, again increasing the life expectancy of the cues.

DD asked how the extra £80 on last time would translate to a better cue. HB said that there were quite a few factors, including better weight distribution, better tips, smoother wood

EM invited the meeting to vote on motion i)

For: 10

Against: 4

Abstain: 6

Motion i) fell

10. Any Other RCSA Business

None.

