

# R.C.S.A. Open Meeting Minutes

Sunday 5 pm, 19<sup>th</sup> February 2012, Umney Theatre

## **1. Apologies for absence or lateness**

Will, Toby, Daisy – all have family commitments this weekend so are at home

Catherine and Lotte – have choir

Jimmy – has a real tennis match

Bryn, Steve, Mary – will be 10 minutes late

Missing people - Favourite

## **2. Announcement of the presence and purpose of guests**

There were no guests.

## **3. Approval of the presence and speaking rights of guests**

Unnecessary as there were no guests.

## **4. Approval of the order of the agenda**

The order was approved.

## **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.**

There were no amendments.

## **6. Matters Arising from the minutes**

There were no matters arising.

## **7. Reports from the Committee**

Harry Brunton (HB): CUSU and NUS elections open tomorrow, voting on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> March online and on the 7<sup>th</sup> in college. Nominations for the university council open the day after.

Peter Judge (PJ): budget for today is £190. Also have Will and Toby done anything towards getting an outside opinion on the bop sounds system.

Bryn Pickering (BP): new TV and sound system are in the TV room, although surround sound still has to be set up. The new darts board has also arrived and will be put up soon.

## **8. Questions to the Committee**

Dan Green (DG): what's happening with the glass board?

BP: going to college council on the 5<sup>th</sup> March to get formal permission so will get back to him after that.

## **9. Extraordinary Motions**

None.

## 10. Ordinary motions

### a) New 2.8k Projector

***THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS***

#### **RCSA Notes:**

1. The Auditorium is the largest, most technologically advanced conference room in Robinson College
2. Its full potential is presently not exploited fully by the RCSA
3. The RCSA is only allowed to use the Conference projector in exceptional situations
4. The Auditorium used to contain a long-range projector used mainly by FilmSoc. This projector exploded about a year ago after 10 years of consistent use by students

#### **RCSA Believes:**

1. The modern day society is facing the problem of an ever-decreasing attention span. A bright projection would better capture the attention of any audience.
2. A projector available for use to the RCSA in the Auditorium would benefit the college in a number of ways:
  - a. Improve the quality of official RCSA events by enabling the use of a top-of-the-range projector in the biggest room in College
  - b. Enable College Sports, Societies and Individuals to use the projector in a creative way for an unprecedented range of events
  - c. Avoid extensive negotiations with the Conference Office which are currently present when requesting access to their projectors in the Umney/Auditorium
  - d. Help the next Pantomime Director project a better quality Eye of Sauron
3. The proposed projector is a mobile one. The RCSA could therefore use the projector in rooms other than the Auditorium if needed

#### **RCSA Resolves:**

1. To allocate £1915.44 from the reserves for the purchase of a projector [see report]
2. To allocate £928.80 from the reserves for the purchase of a lens to enable viewing in the Auditorium
3. To mandate the Film Society as its potentially most regular user to gain guardianship over the projector
4. To nominate the current Film Society presidents to be fully inducted in the use and operation of this projector.
5. To nominate an additional member from the RCSA to be fully inducted in the use and operation of this projector.

**Proposer: Krista 'Helena' Mumdzjana**

**Seconded: Steven 'the writing's on the wall' Gordon**

**WITHDRAWN – quote is being changed and will be submitted at a later date**

### b) Yoga Mats

***THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS***

**RCSA Notes:**

1. There are currently no yoga mats in Robinson College.
2. Yoga mats are a necessary piece of equipment needed for Yoga Classes to be held in Robinson College
3. That 20 yoga mats would be needed. Each costing £6.82 from Tesco. (20 x 6.82 =136.40)
4. That the potential of yoga classes proved popular among Robinson students
5. That a motion has already passed through an open meeting to pay a yoga instructor to run these sessions each week

**RCSA Believes:**

1. That yoga classes would be beneficial for many students in college
2. It would be difficult to run Yoga classes without yoga mats available to participants

**RCSA Resolves:**

1. To allocate £136.40 from the reserves (20 x 6.82) in order to purchase Yoga mats.
2. To mandate Daisy May Pope to take responsibility for the purchase, set-up and maintenance of these mats

**Proposed: Daisy 'Deena' May Pope**

**Seconded: Alex 'The Situation' Marshall**

**Speaking FOR the motion:**

Alex Marshal (AM): needed to perform Yoga which a motion has already been passed supporting. We have plenty of money in the reserves to afford this small amount that will be needed to buy these mats.

**HB asked if there were any questions:**

Rosalyn Old (RO): where will there be stored?

AM: not sure, with gym equipment or maybe in the RCSA office.

Ewan MgGregor (EM): Propose an amendment to mandate the sports and societies take care of storage and looking after the mats. But keep women's officer responsible for purchase.

AM: Accepts the amendment as friendly.

DG: Will anyone be able to use them, not just Yoga?

AM: Yes.

**HB invited the meeting to vote on motion b):**

For: 20

Against: 0

Abstain: 2

Motion b) duly passed

**c) Take a Break afternoon in exam term**

***THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS***

**RCSA Notes:**

1. Exam term is a stressful term and we should try our hardest to help alleviate some of this stress.
2. The exams are in summer, and there are sometimes better ways to spend a sunny afternoon than studying.
3. That the RCSA can persuade everyone to take an afternoon off of studying if they put on an afternoon of fun and frolics in the garden.

**RCSA Believes:**

1. That this afternoon needs a bouncy castle and sumo wrestling suits.
2. That this afternoon needs Twister and GIANT JENGA.
3. That this afternoon needs soft drinks and nibbles, including party rings.
4. That this afternoon needs some music, featuring the best artists from the next open-mic night at the bar.
5. That this afternoon will take place in 5 Adam's road garden.

**RCSA Resolves:**

1. To mandate the Welfare Officer to negotiate with college about hosting this event.
2. To promote this afternoon of fun (happening near the start of term so as not to interfere with people's actual exams) in order to prevent students becoming too stressed and to send a message for the rest of term about the importance of learning effectively by taking regular breaks.
3. To allocate £350 from the open meeting budget to allow this event to be funded if it does take place - see the report attached for the cost breakdown of the event.

**Proposed: Hannah Cowan**

**Seconded: Rosalyn Old**

**Speaking FOR the motion:**

Hannah Cowan (HC): I want to do an afternoon in 5 Adam's as a welfare event/distress event, giant jenger, sumo wrestling suits. Get people in college to play music and encourage people to take breaks.

RO: Propose an amendment to take the money from sponsorship rather than the open meeting budget as this is not big enough to cover the event.

BP: Instead can we pass the motion without awarding money and then use the sponsorship money to cover it at a later date?

HC: Agree to scrap resolves 3 to remove the request for money.

**HB asked if there were any questions:**

DG: College has been against bouncy castles and games in the past and also anything in the gardens before the May Ball has happened. What do we do if college says no?

HC: I'm going to suggest that Tutors/Chaplin/Nurse come along too and we can paint it as a welfare event first and foremost to college.

EM: how much support has there been for this?

AM: I'm erect with excitement.

HC: everyone I've spoken to has thought it was a good idea.

DG: Could we amend resolves 1 to include... "with the full support of the RCSA" now that the motion has lost resolves 3.

HC: Accept amendment as friendly.

**HB invited the meeting to vote on motion c):**

For: 21

Against: 1

Abstain: 1

Motion c) duly passed

**d) Manuel's Charity Fundraising**

***THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS***

**RCSA Notes:**

1. That charitable giving is good.  
This an especially worthwhile cause – for info on charity see appendix.
2. To participate in this trip to Kenya Manuel and the other 7 Cambridge students need to raise £5600 for the charity - not their travel/accommodation costs - between them.

**RCSA Believes:**

1. That this charitable cause deserves the support of the RCSA student body.
2. That fundraising this money for this cause will allow Manuel to take part in this worthwhile project in Kenya.

**RCSA Resolves:**

1. To allocate Manuel the sum of £100 towards his fundraising efforts from the open meeting budget.

**Proposed: Manuel Hettich**

**Seconded: Mehdi Gourdazi**

**Speaking FOR the motion:**

Manuel Hettich (MH): I belong to the KOP Cambridge team fundraising for a project in the western part of Kenya, in particular in Kisumu. One 3<sup>rd</sup> of all AIDS children in Kenya are there. We have to raise £800 each which goes directly to the projects and not on admin costs or on funding the journey for the students involved. About 14 university groups involved. Education for the students in the work of the charity is also a key point.

**Speaking AGAINST the motion:**

EM: Giving money to charity is worthwhile and I'm sure this charity is fine but we are given money by college for us to use for our benefit so we can't really allocate money to. Not an appropriate use of RCSA funds

**HB asked if there were any questions:**

DG: Calls for a procedural motion that this motion is not put to a vote. It is better to say that we won't put it to a vote rather than voting it down as it is a worthwhile cause and we should support it individually.

Tobias Paul: Can't the chairman call for the motion to be ruled as outside our remit as that will

HB: It doesn't breach the constitution so can't rule it as illegal; it's a good test case. No constitutional grounds for refusing it.

Speaking against the procedural motion

MH: similar motions for MORE money have passed at other colleges.

Vote on procedural motion:

For: 13

Against: 7

Procedural motion passes and the question is not put.

### **e) Newsletter Funding**

#### ***THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS***

##### **RCSA Notes:**

1. The new format of The Brick has been well received by students and even by the teaching staff
2. The distribution model has worked, but it is very difficult to prevent people from taking copies
3. Currently we spend £15.90 on each edition, making 18 copies with college printers
4. From issue three onwards, CUSU printers would be used, with which the budget can print 36 copies of each of the remaining editions
5. The idea would still continue that The Brick remain in public circulation, but that with extra copies there will always be several issues in the Café and JCR.

##### **RCSA Believes:**

1. The Brick can be an entertaining facet of college life.
2. With a small budget increase, we can print 50 copies of each remaining issue and reprint 10 copies each of the last two issues, which have been lost.

##### **RCSA Resolves:**

1. To allocate £27.36 (3 x 6.16 + 8.88) from the open meeting budget to print 50 copies of issue three, four and five as well as reprint 10 copies of issues one and two.
2. To mandate Alex Marshall to take responsibility for the budget, printing and publishing of the newsletter.

**Proposed: Alex 'Yeaah buddy' Marshall**

**Seconded: Joe 'Snooker Certificate' Pritchard**

##### **Speaking FOR the motion:**

AM: There are three more issues of the brick coming out. I've really enjoyed doing it but because we've been doing it on nice paper and printing in colour it is costing slightly more than was allocated in the budget

meeting. Just a small amount of money to increase circulation would be really appreciated. Also adding an amendment to increase the amount of money by £10 to include the price of the paper.

**Speaking AGAINST the motion:**

RO: Think the brick is great but think that the budget for the brick was decided already and if it's not working then maybe they should think about moving to a different system?

AM: The system is working and people really like having them printed in colour and available in the café. However after a few drinks people are removing them from the café and so it would be good to be able to replenish them more regularly when this happens.

**HB asked if there were any questions:**

BP: I haven't seen as many as 18 copies?

AM: we put 4 in the café which will last about two days and then carry on stocking them up for as long as possible until sticks run out.

**HB invited the meeting to vote on motion e):**

For: 13

Against: 3

Abstain: 8

Motion e) falls

**f) Pool Tables**

**RCSA Notes:**

1. It currently costs 50p to play a frame of pool in college
2. The JCR pool table has a very poor playing surface
3. People like to play pool

**RCSA Believes:**

1. People should have access to good tables for playing pool.
2. These tables should be free to use within college.

**RCSA Resolves:**

1. To mandate the catering and amenities officer to investigate the cost of renting or purchasing outright one or more pool tables for the JCR and/or bar.

**Proposed: Shershah Assadullah**

**Seconded: Nathan Grundy**

**Speaking FOR the motion:**

BP: I looked into this last year, and it cost £800-900 for a pool table. But we also have pre-existing contracts which college has with these companies.

DG: can't we wait for 1800 games of pool to be played in order to fund the new purchase?

EM: current pool tables are maintained by the company so that they cover costs and upkeep. If we bought our own we would be responsible for their upkeep and replacing them if they broke.

Mary Hughes (MH): Simon in the bar has brushes we can use to improve the surface which she can borrow if needed.

**HB asked if there were any more questions:**

None

**HB invited the meeting to vote on motion f):**

For: 15

Against: 1

Abstain: 10

Motion f) duly passed

## **11. Any other RCSA business**

BP: As soon as the room ballot finishes I'm going to move to a parents system instead of the uncle/aunt system. Probably instigate this by the end of term...

PJ: have you considered the gender imbalance in college?

BP: men can marry men if needed.

HC isn't this something we should have a debate on, when I was a fresher I hated the idea of a parent system and found it strange and scary. It was one of the things I liked about Robinson that they didn't follow this weird tradition.

Jacob Waller (JW): Is it open to polygamy?

BP: Yes if people wanted.

RO: Can you consult people about this with college?

BP: This was brought up by the people who responded with feedback on fresher's week.

EM: can we get a scientific survey done? And can it go to open meeting?

BP: There's no easy way of doing a survey but it could possibly go through an open meeting if people wanted.

DG: Are you purposing people get married?

BP: Yeah if they want.

**Time of end of meeting: 5.40 p.m.**