



# RCSA Open Meeting Minutes

2pm, Umney Theatre, Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2012



## 1. Apologies for absence or lateness

James White (attending an environmental forum in London in his capacity as Green Officer)

Rob Richardson (playing for Robinson football team in a match, in his capacity as Sports & Societies Officer...)

David Hoare (choir)

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

Rosalyn Old – because she still lives here and is still part of Robinson. It's like in the US – once a President, always a President...

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

Ros' speaking rights were approved by a vote.

## 4. Approval of the order of the agenda

Jimmy Campbell (JC) suggests the May ball motion be moved to come first in the ordinary motions.

**Vote:** 10 in favour, 12 against – motion was not moved.

## 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 from the minutes.

## 7. Reports from the Committee

Kitty Somerville (KS) reported on the open meeting budget for the year, which will be £1200 in total: £150 per meeting.

## 8. Questions to the Committee

Harry Brunton (HB) asks how much is currently in the reserves, KS replies that we currently have reserves of £18,674.19, but apparently the reserves from last year have not yet been added in yet so it may be closer to £22,000/23,000.

## 9. Co-Option of vacant Ethnic Minorities and Brick Editor RCSA committee positions

Speech by Christine Zhou for ethnic minorities officer.

Questions: Alex Marshall (AM) – given the last ten minutes are you regretting getting involved with the RCSA? CZ – no it seems like you have a lot of fun in these

meetings... (I'm unsure whether or not this was sarcastic)

### **Vote to Co-opt**

In favour: 32

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

**Christine Zhou is duly co-opted as Ethnic Minorities Officer.**

Speech by Richard Slade (RS) for Brick Editor.

Questions: AM – I'm sceptical that you would get that many contributions, would you be happy writing most of it yourself? RS says yes he would if necessary.

### **Vote to Co-opt**

In favour: 19

Against: 5

Abstain: 0

**Richard Slade is duly co-opted as Brick Editor.**

## **10. Extraordinary Motions**

No extraordinary Motions

## **11. Ordinary Motions**

### **a) CUSU Re-affiliation**

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

1. According to the constitution a list of organisations that the RCSA is affiliated with should be submitted yearly for approval. (Chapter VI: section 41).
2. The RCSA is currently affiliated to CUSU, for the cost of £2707 yearly.
3. That CUSU's support, in terms of welfare, representation at university level and running of campaigns would be unsustainable at a college level.

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

1. That its affiliation to CUSU is of major benefit to the college

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

1. To stay affiliated to CUSU.

#### **Proposed: RCSA Executive**

#### **FOR**

Lewis Blackwood (LB): Since it went to referendum last year and we overwhelmingly supported staying affiliated it seems silly to keep having a referendum every year since the result is unlikely to change.

Committee is in agreement with last years committee that we should stay affiliated.

## **AGAINST**

JC – I have attended CUSU council for the past year – LB has only been to two – we don't get a say at CUSU, it's dominated by people who turn up to have a bit of an argument and engage in arduous and boring debate and never achieve anything. The welfare stuff CUSU does is great but that is provided regardless of whether or not we are affiliated. I would encourage you to vote against the motion in order to send a message to CUSU that we are dissatisfied with the job they're doing.

## **FOR**

HB – I absolutely hate CUSU council and couldn't agree with Jimmy more, but CUSU does need the affiliation fee and they do provide useful services such as the online elections system and welfare etc, but we should do something about CUSU council. He suggests that we bring a motion to mandate RCSA exec to boycott CUSU council and write to them to explain our frustration. Therefore, we should still affiliate but try to do something to improve CUSU council from the inside.

## **AGAINST**

Ewan McGregor (EM) – I agree with most of what HB has said, CUSU council is a disgrace – it's bureaucratic and unrepresentative. But our affiliation fee is 0.45% of their budget which they can live without. The only way to send a serious message of dissatisfaction to CUSU would be to disaffiliate. There is too much niche campaigning and not enough representation of general student interests and needs. I don't think it's value for money for Robinson students.

## **FOR**

Dan Green (DG) – CUSU is a democratic system and many of the people you are objecting to are just random members of the University not CUSU itself, we're talking about affiliating to CUSU for the welfare things (in the last year they have changed 'degrading' to 'intermitting', they run the Newton bursary scheme, run the shadow scheme etc.), and they don't like asking for it but the affiliation fees are absolutely necessary.

## **AGAINST**

EM – We would be spending about £3k to reaffiliate, and CUSU has had a massive budget increase this year so our contribution can't be that important. In Oxford most colleges disaffiliated for similar reasons and now they don't have to pay affiliation fees. By affiliating to CUSU we are validating their policy, and our representatives are not getting a say in what goes on in CUSU. (There follows a long metaphor about mud and gold nuggets.) Also last year's referendum is not relevant as there has been a turnover of at least 200 students since then.

## **QUESTIONS**

MH – There were other reasons for the motion we took to CUSU council being sent down (it was an extraordinary motion, and badly worded), and if we disaffiliate CUSU will become LESS representative.

JC – Yes it would, but we just want to send a message to CUSU that we're not content with the service they're providing and this is the only way to do it.

Emily Fernandes (EF) asked if the shadowing scheme would still be allowed to happen in college if we disaffiliated, Ros Old (RO) said it is unlikely (Corpus are still allowed but CUSU can't afford to do it if more colleges disaffiliate) and asked Jimmy what he meant when he mentioned the ridiculous motions that get brought up at CUSU council.

JC – 'eg. Education should be free, and to achieve this we should tax the rich and businesses' and they were once asked to debate the Israel / Palestine issue.

Alice Udale-Smith proposes Procedural Motion to vote on this motion now – many people are leaving and we won't be able to vote later, risk of falling below quorum.

21 in favour of voting now

2 against

PASSED -

### **VOTE ON CUSU AFFILIATION**

22 in favour

16 against (including 7 proxy)

1 abstention

**Motion a) duly passes – we remain affiliated to CUSU.**

*Katie Reid leaves, Bryn Pickering takes over the minutes.*

## **b) Renewable Policies**

### **RCSA Notes:**

1. That all policies on the Renewable Policy List lapse after 3 years.
2. That a number of these policies are due to lapse during the coming year.
3. The constitutional requirement for such policies to be proposed for renewal at the first Open Meeting following the election of a new RCSA committee.

### **RCSA Believes:**

1. That we do not want these policies to be allowed to lapse and therefore they should be renewed.
2. That these policies continue to support the general aims and objects of the RCSA as set out by the constitution.

### **RCSA Resolves:**

1. To renew the policy contained in the list in the addendum.

### **Proposed: RCSA Executive**

Proposal that we defer renewable policies to the next open meeting: withdrawn.

Mary Hughes (MH): Friendly amendment re. 3<sup>rd</sup> year hall. Changed to 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> year hall

Point of info: Ethical investment for the college, not for the bank. So we can choose our bank irrespective of the policy.

**Vote**

For: 28

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

**Motion b) is duly passed – all renewable policies are renewed.**

**c) Bop Room DJ Equipment Improvements**

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

***RCSA Notes:***

1. The bop room is used weekly by many members of college and is open to all
2. DJ-mixed music is an essential part of bops
3. The current DJ equipment is failure-prone, quirky and therefore hard to use, and also does not match up to the sound quality of the newly-installed speaker system
4. The current system does not allow music from CDs or USBs to be played and does not allow music to be played from sources other than the bop room computer, e.g. an iPod, without rewiring
5. The current system does not have a hardware volume control and the lack of a mixer means that the speakers are poorly protected against excess volume.
6. The current system is undocumented.

***RCSA Believes:***

1. Some of the DJ equipment should be replaced with new equipment as set out in the attached report.
2. The software on the bop room computer should be updated.
3. A full set of instructions should be written for use of the system.

***RCSA Resolves:***

1. To fund the new DJ equipment (as set out in the report in the addendum) from the reserves with a sum of £2,230
2. To mandate the current Ents officers to install the system and update the software.
3. To mandate the current Ents officers to write a set of instructions for proper use of the system for the benefit of future Ents committees.

**Proposer: John ‘Margaret Scratcher’ Jarman**

**Secunder: Curtis ‘Kill The Noise’ Bonnell**

John Jarman (JJ) – Last year the sound system was upgraded but the DJ equipment wasn't. There isn't even a proper volume control which is dangerous for the new equipment. Can be used with or without bop room computer.

MF – Flood risk – where will it be stored?

JJ – Will find somewhere along with new location of JCR furniture.

HB – Certain things on the report for new sound system were questioned – ‘sound mixer’ that John doesn’t think was actually bought.

LB – When will this system become dated?

JJ – It won’t?

HB: The old report for the sound system said that external DJs could plug in their own equipment...

JJ: Some don’t have their own equipment and it isn’t easy to plug in your own down there.

MH: Should you find out about this old equipment that should be there (mixer etc.?)

JJ: We looked online and it isn’t a type of mixer that seems to exist.

### **Vote**

For: 28

Against: 0

Abstain: 1

**Motion c) duly passes – RCSA will fund new DJ equipment for the bop room and mandates the current Ents officers to install it and write a set of instructions to ensure its proper use in the future.**

### **d) Underwriting of Robinson May Ball 2013**

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

1. The May Balls in 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 were huge successes and were only possible due to the help of the RCSA.
2. College Council will only grant permission for a May Ball in 2013 if the RCSA once again accepts liability for any losses incurred by the proposed May Ball.
3. The May Ball is not asking for any money from the RCSA.
4. The May Ball is proposing the same contract with the RCSA as last four years. (The proposed contract in the addendum).

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

1. That the May Ball was a great success last year and it would be a great disappointment to all members of the college if it were not allowed to happen again this year.
2. It is unacceptable for individual members of the May Ball committee to be liable for any losses incurred by the May Ball.
3. The attached contract is an adequate solution for both the RCSA and the 2013 May Ball committee.

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

1. To enter into an agreement by deciding to sign the attached contract between the RCSA and the May Ball Committee 2013 at the Open Meeting on 25/11/2012.

**Proposer: Robin Šmíd**  
**Secunder: Peter Judge**

PJ: We need it to have a May ball, and shouldn't need to fall back on this as the May ball is healthy.

For: 29  
Against: 0  
Abstain: 0

**Motion d) duly passes – RCSA agrees to underwrite the Robinson May ball.**

## **12. Any other RCSA business**

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RO (guest) talked about CUSU council: doesn't like it, working on reforming it. CUSU officers are mandated by policy to act on things. Policy is decided upon at CUSU council by all these fun people – should talk to other representatives to get them to agree with you.

NUS conference – There is a dedicated team this year within CUSU working on the motions to be put forward at the NUS conference, to avoid such a long meeting again and to ensure the motions are put at the conference.

Spending on common rooms helps us!

Money for the access assistant was granted after diligent campaigning last year. CUSU is working on increasing the budget this year to enable better communication with College JCRs

Anyone can come to CUSU council/CUSU Open Meeting and can propose a motion if they want to.

EM believed the increase in expenditure by CUSU was for more than just paying for the access assistant, based on the fact the budget had increased so much (he read it on their website dontcha know)

RO said that the only extra money they had received this year was for the access assistant.

Working on a lot less money than other student unions – very difficult.

JC: We're not against sabs, but against the idea of council and he doesn't want to be a twat but he saw sabs shaking their heads when he brought his motion to council.

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