



RCSA Open Meeting Minutes

Sunday February 17th 2013, 7.30pm



1. Apologies for absence or lateness

Emily Fernandes was absent due to being at home this weekend.

2. Announcement of the presence and purpose of guests

There were no guests.

3. Approval of the presence and speaking rights of guests

N/A

4. Approval of the order of the agenda

There were no objections to the order.

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

There were no reports from the Committee.

8. Questions to the Committee

There were no questions to the Committee.

9. Extraordinary Motions

There were no extraordinary motions.

10. Ordinary Motions

a) Gifts for Outgoing President, Chair and Vice President

RCSA Notes:

1. That it has become customary to purchase a present for the outgoing President and Chair of the RCSA
2. For the last 2 years £80 has been spent on the purchasing of these gifts.
3. That the role of Vice President is a significant one and we feel that Bryn's and future Vice Presidents' contributions should also be recognized.

RCSA Believes:

1. That it would be nice to buy Harry, Jimmy and Bryn something to thank them for their hard work and commitment to the RCSA.
2. An allocation of £20 each for the outgoing Chair and Vice-President and £40 for the President from the Open Meeting Budget would enable the committee to purchase these gifts.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To allocate £40 from the Open Meeting Budget for the purchase of a present for Jimmy Campbell, RCSA President 2011/12.
2. To allocate £20 from the Open Meeting Budget for the purchase of a present for Harry Brunton, RCSA Chair 2011/12.
3. To allocate £20 from the Open Meeting Budget for the purchase of a present for Bryn Pickering, RCSA Vice-President 2011/12.
4. To mandate an as yet undecided member (or members) of the committee to purchase these gifts on behalf of the RCSA and, by extension, college as a whole.

Proposer: Lewis “Just call me Santa” Blackwood

Seconder: Mary “Bring back the nicknames” Hughes

Speeches for the motion

Lewis Blackwood (LB): Last year’s committee did a sterling job, therefore they deserve a present.

Speeches against the motion

Ewan McGregor (EM): I think it’s a great idea on principle, and there is a lot of hard work put in by the top of the committee, and although Bryn put in a lot of work and more than his predecessor, often the Treasurer has a lot more work to do than the VP so it’s a bad idea to set the precedent for future committees. Also Harry Brunton put in an awful lot of work, a lot of which wasn’t obvious to everyone else, so I move that we **amend the motion** to £40 for Chair and £40 for President.

Vote on the amendment

In favour: 2, Against: 6, Abstentions: 23

The amendment is not approved.

Bryn Pickering proposes a procedural motion that the motion should not be put:

BP: Although it’s very nice to give people presents and I was quite surprised to be included this year, it is very hard to tell how much work different people put in and therefore it perhaps isn’t right to single out certain positions to be rewarded and leave others out.

Vote on procedural motion:

In favour: 18, Against: 6, Abstentions: 10

The Procedural Motion passes – Motion a) will not be put.

b) Access – Visiting Link Area Schools

RCSA Notes

1. Robinson has designated link area schools in Wandsworth, Swindon, Wiltshire and Gloucester, a system which is dedicated to improving access to the college.
2. Most other colleges send current undergraduates to talk to prospective students in their link area schools. Robinson currently does not send students to talk in any of its link area schools.
3. Feedback forms indicate that students feel the most valuable part of Access events is the opportunity to meet and speak with current undergraduates.
4. Roisin Ellison – Robinson’s School Liaison Officer – notes that students feel that they can relate to and ask questions of undergraduates in a way that they cannot with SLOs, Admissions Tutors etc.
5. Current undergraduates have expressed strong interest in accompanying Roisin to visit schools in the London borough of Wandsworth London.

RCSA Believes

1. There should be funding available to send undergraduates to visit Robinson’s link area schools.

RCSA Resolves

1. To provide funding for two students to accompany Roisin to visit Graveney School and Emanuel School on 26th February to the sum of £50
2. To provide funding for two students to accompany Roisin to visit St Cecilia’s and Ibstock School on 4th March to the sum of £50 (£22 per return ticket with a Young Person’s Railcard; £3 per head for lunch).

Proposer: Emily “FERNAAANDEESS” ...Fernandes

Secunder: Rob “Who broke my treadmill” Richardson

Speeches for the motion

Rob Richardson: It’s all explained very clearly in the motion, basically Emily and the School Liaison Officer want to take current undergraduates to visit Robinson’s link area schools to talk to prospective students, as previous school students have said that the most beneficial aspect of access events was talking to current undergraduates.

Questions

EM: How much is this actually in the RCSA’s interests?

Mark Driver admits that it isn’t specifically listed as one of the RCSA’s constitutional ‘aims and objects’, prompting an irritated interruption...

Katie Reid: Sorry, but surely simply by having an Access Officer the RCSA recognises that improving access is one of its interests? What would be the point in having a

position specifically dedicated to access if the RCSA wasn't going to support their activities and any access events they ran as part of their role?

Maria Farrimond (MF) suggests a friendly amendment that in future the access officer is mandated to seek funding from the access office of college.

Vote on the motion, including the proposed amendment:

In favour: 34, Against: 0, Abstentions: 0

Motion b) duly PASSES with the amendment proposed by MF

c) Fairtrade Society Funding

RCSA notes

1. Everyone enjoys Fairtrade snacks and drinks.
2. The Fairtrade Society budget is running low.

RCSA believes

1. The college would benefit from some refreshments provided at the upcoming Fairtrade society events.

RCSA resolves

1. To allocate an extra £50 to the Fairtrade Society.

Proposer: Katy "We just want more money" Taylor

Seconder: Cathy "Fairtrade > Green" Mansfield

Speeches for the motion

KT: Fairtrade food and drink is quite expensive, and I'm hoping to run a film night with snacks and another tasting evening next term, so if there's enough money I would like some more funding.

Speeches against the motion

EM: We did have a budget meeting under 4 months ago, and we were literally begging societies to take money – you should plan your year in advance and all other societies are bound on a yearly basis by the budget meeting so I don't think the fairtrade society should be any different.

KT: Well, if the budget wasn't tight at the time of the budget meeting is it still not tight now?

EM: Well, it's more a matter of principle really.

It becomes evident that no one really cares about Ewan's principles.

Vote on the motion:

In favour: 30, Against: 1, Abstentions: 1

Motion c) duly PASSES

d) Women's Basketball

RCSA Notes:

1. There is a Robinson college men's basketball team but not a women's team.
2. Some Robinson women would like to play basketball.
3. We would like to join the women's league.
4. We would like to train with a ball.
5. As we can share training sessions with the men we do not require money for renting a sports hall.

RCSA Believes:

1. Women should be allowed to compete at basketball.
2. Money should be spent on a good quality ball so it will last a long time.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To allocate £113.50 from the Open Meeting Budget to join the women's league and buy a ball.

Proposer: Stef "Michael Jordan" Brown

Seconder: Deborah "Space Jam" Brobbey

Speeches for the motion

Stef Brown: As far as I know, for the first time we have a women's basketball team and we need a decent ball to practice with and would like to join the women's league so are asking for the sum necessary to be able to do this.

Some discussion over whether Women's Basketball is listed as a recognised society – it is established that there is a Basketball Society which is not restricted to men or women.

Vote on the motion:

In favour: 32, Against: 0, Abstentions: 0

Motion d) duly PASSES

11. Any other RCSA business

No other business.

Meeting ends 8.05pm