



# RCSA Open Meeting Minutes

7:15pm, JCR, Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2013



## Agenda

1. Apologies for absence or lateness  
Ben Peacock  
Richard Allitt
2. Announcement of the presence and purpose of guests  
No guests present.
3. Approval of the presence and speaking rights of guests  
N/A
4. Approval of the order of the agenda  
Request from Mary Hughes (MH) to move CUSU Re-affiliation from position (a) in the Ordinary Motions to position (f). Harry Bruton (HB) opposes as he needs to leave early.

### **VOTE:**

**FOR:** 18

CUSU Re-affiliation is moved to the end of the Ordinary Motions.

Mark Driver informs the council that Brickhouse Theatre Group Prop & Accessory Cleaning & Repair doesn't need two-thirds assents to pass.

"To allocate £70 to Brickhouse"

was changed to:

"To allocate £70 from the Open Meeting budget to Brickhouse"

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.

Request from Andreas Papadogiannakis (AP) to amend the minutes from the Budget Meeting of 10.11.2013 from:

"Andreas Papadogiannakis (AP): This is a claim for both men's and women's basketball. We spent £140 this term and we have £128 in receipts from training. This year court hire is decreasing by £128."

to:

"Andreas Papadogiannakis (AP): This is a claim for both men's and women's basketball. We spent £140 this term and we have £128 in receipts from training. This year court hire is increased by £268."

*Approved.*

Request from Harry Brunson (HB) to amend the minutes from the Budget Meeting of 10.11.2013 from:

“HB: Make sure you take your rubbish away!”

to:

“James Sandow (JS): Make sure you take your rubbish away!”

*Approved*

#### 6. Matters Arising from the minutes

There are no matters arising from the minutes

#### 7. Reports from the Committee

There are no reports from the committee

#### 8. Questions to the Committee

Mark Driver (MD): Why did you send out the agenda for the meeting?

Chris Halcrow (CHa): It was partly me and partly Jess was pre-occupied.

#### 9. Co-option of vacant RCSA committee positions- Women's officer, Overseas Student's officer, LGBT Officer, Newsletter Editor.

##### Vote: Abi Bevan as Women's Officer

The majority vote in favour

*Abi Bevan is now Women's Officer*

##### Vote: Yasmin Carzorla Bak as Overseas Student's Officer

The majority vote in favour

*Yasmin Cazorla Bak is now Overseas Student's Officer*

##### Vote: David Lewis as LGBT Officer

The majority vote in favour

*David Lewis is now LGBT Officer*

##### Vote: Liam McDonnell as Newsletter Editor

The majority vote in favour

*Liam McDonnell is now Newsletter Editor*

#### 10. Extraordinary Motions

There are no extraordinary motions

#### 11. Ordinary Motions

a) Brickhouse Theatre Group Prop & Accessory Cleaning & Repair

**RCSA Notes:**

1. The Brickhouse Theatre Group is one of Robinson College's oldest and most well established societies, which puts on various shows for the benefit of the members of the college (and others) every year.
2. The cupboards inside the dressing rooms behind the auditorium, regularly used in preparation for these shows, were filled with various props & accessories, many of which are in a very poor condition.
3. On Sunday afternoon, the Brickhouse Committee cleared up these cupboards and discovered the extent to which some items have been neglected / damaged.
4. Various items will require dry cleaning and significant costs will be incurred in order to bring these back to a condition in which they can be used for shows.

**RCSA Believes:**

1. That, following the correct procedures, many of these items could still be reused in future shows, increasing the quality of these.
2. That it would be worthwhile to clean & repair the items found as necessary rather than invest in (expensive) replacements.
3. That the costs of neglect of previous committees should not be taken from the budget for the Christmas Pantomime or other shows.

**RCSA Resolves:**

1. To allocate £70 from the Open Meeting budget to Brickhouse so that these items can be restored to their previous condition and reused in shows.

Proposer: Adam 'No Bricks Missing' Tyrcha

Secunder: Abigail 'Play on Words' Harris

**FOR:**

Abigail Harris (AH): Brickhouse wants money so we can clean the clothes and overall, the Pantomime will be better

**AGAINST:**

None

**QUESTIONS:**

None

**VOTE:**

**FOR:** 32

**AGAINST:** 0

**ABSTENTION:** 0

*The motion passes*

b) [New Monitor for Brickhouse](#)  
*This requires a two-thirds assent to pass*

**RCSA Notes:**

1. Brickhouse is a major asset to the RCSA
2. The TV monitors predate most of the undergraduate population of college
3. Being able to view the stage on a monitor from the stage wings benefits the running of performances

**RCSA Believes:**

1. That a new monitor should be bought
2. That it would be for the lasting benefit of college

**RCSA Resolves:**

1. To allocate £150 from the reserves to buy a new monitor for Brickhouse to use

Proposer: Mary Hughes

Secunder: Doug Robinson

**FOR:**

MH: We have some TV monitors that are over 22 years old because that's when the AV guy arrived. They're a bit old and bulky and not good quality. New TV monitors would be useful since you can use them to view what's happening in the stage from the wings or dressings rooms, which will make it must better for plays, shows and productions.

**AGAINST:**

None

**QUESTIONS:**

Bryn Pickering (BP): I believe there are three TVs in the trunk room that haven't gone to charity yet that could be useful.

MH: How big are they?

BP: They're reasonably big.

MH: Half the reason why we want to change these TVs is because they're big and bulky and take up half the wings.

**VOTE:**

**FOR:** 31

**AGAINST:** 1

**ABSTENTION:** 0

*The motion passes*

**c) Cash Machine**

**RCSA Notes:**

1. There is no cash machine in the vicinity of college.
2. There is one cash machine on the West Cambridge site, and the next nearest are then in the city centre.
3. Cash is required for many things in college, like the laundry room and bop drinks.

**RCSA Believes:**

1. That more convenient access to cash would save people time, and would benefit all members of the college.

**RCSA Resolves:**

1. To mandate the Catering & Amenities Officer to investigate getting a cash machine in college.
2. To liaise with college as to the best solution for having a cash machine on-site.

Proposer: Alex Bate

Secunder: Ollie Hart

**FOR:**

Alex Bate (AB): It will be very useful to have a cash machine in college. It seems that it was tried to do a few years ago, but nothing followed through.

**AGAINST:**

BP: There isn't enough traffic through the college to get is at a free cash machine.

**QUESTIONS:**

None

**VOTE:**

**FOR:** 27

**AGAINST:** 1

**ABSTENTION:** 3

*The motion passes*

[d\) Underwriting of Robinson May Ball 2014](#)

**RCSA Notes:**

1. The May Balls in recent years have been 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 2014 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 the last five years. (The proposed contract is in the addenda).

**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 2014 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 2014 at the Open Meeting on 24/11/2013.

Proposer: Ben Barna-Laue

Secunder: Jonathon Ellis

**FOR:**

Maeve Slattery (MS) and Katy O'Neill (KO'N): We want there to be a May Ball this year and if the RCSA doesn't support it, it won't happen.

**AGAINST:**

None

**QUESTIONS:**

Daniel Chatfield (DC): The dates on the contract seem incorret.

RO: There seems to be a mishap somewhere as the contract on the agenda was slightly different to the one submitted.

A friendly amendment was taken to change the contract attached to have the appropriate dates and to change Clause 3.2 to make grammatical sense.

**VOTE:**

**FOR:** 31

**AGAINST:** 0

**ABSTENTION:** 0

[e\) Renewable Policy](#)

**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 forthcoming 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 there are a number of such policies which we would not want to lapse.

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.
2. To expressly revoke any policy passed before 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008 and not contained within the renewable policy list.

**Proposed:** RCSA Executive

Mark Driver (MD): I propose that it is broken into parts with each policy being dealt with separately.

*There is a vote taken and the suggestion isn't accepted*

**FOR:**

Chris Parmee (CP): As a committee, we've gone through this list and checked the ones that we think are beneficial for the college. All the 7 policies should be renewed and voted through.

**AGAINST:**

None

**QUESTIONS:**

Ros Old (RO): Are there any ones you've taken out?

CP: Go Greener Campaign

BP: Did the donation to RAG happen last year?

CHa: it did.

**VOTE:**

**FOR:** 28

**AGAINST:** 0

**ABSTENTION:** 1

f) [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 approximately £3000 yearly (exact costs are determined later in the year).
3. The CUSU's support in terms of welfare, access, 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

Proposer: RCSA Executive

**FOR:**

CP: CUSU provides a lot for college e.g. training for committee members and it's a way to talk to other colleges. CUSU are also very good at keeping an eye on colleges. They do a lot of campaigning and this year, they're campaigning for tutor training, which is an important thing to us. They also sort out the shadowing scheme.

**AGAINST:** MD: How many Presidential Externals have you been to?

CP: 1 and there have been 2.

Catharine Hodge (CHa): Chris is also taking one member of the RCSA to each meeting.

MD: I have an article about disaffiliation with CUSU.

Emily Shaw: That article is obviously written by something that wants to disaffiliate.

**QUESTIONS:**

BP: Would we be barred from the contact with other colleges if we weren't affiliated with CUSU?

MD: Yes and we'd also lose the shadowing scheme

MD: I've discussed with Harry about maybe to put this to a referendum. With Selwyn having a referendum and just getting it through, it might show a sense of solidarity with CUSU and Robinson.

CP: It wasn't that long ago that we did a referendum and 81% were for it.

MD: Yeah, but we've had an overturn of students.

ES: If we weren't affiliated, from a welfare point of view, we wouldn't get supplied with condoms and students would have to go all the way to CUSU on Free School Lane.

RO: Yes everyone wants to learn more about CUSU, but having a referendum sends out a negative image and takes out all of the RCSA's times. If you want to find out more about CUSU, invite them into college because CUSU loves doing that stuff.

CH: Btw, you're also allowed to submit policies of debate.

CP: I think that a lot of colleges don't know what CUSU provide and I am planning to promote CUSU and show what they do to college so you wouldn't need to do a referendum because I'm doing that anyway.

MD: I tried to bring CUSU to Robinson College by holding CUSU council here, but only a few of the part-time executive positions got filled.

**VOTE:**

**FOR:** 25

**AGAINST:** 0

**ABSTENTION:** 1

## Addenda

1. Renewable Policy List
2. May Ball Agreement

### 1. Renewable Policy List

#### **Late Bar Opening**

*November 21st 2004 - Renewed January 27th 2008, 28th November 2010*

That subject to consultation as required, the RCSA is in favour of extended bar opening hours, or continued extended bar opening hours, particularly on Fridays!

#### **Matriculation photographs in the JCR**

*October 16th 2005 - Renewed January 27th 2008, 28th November 2010*

That the RCSA is in favour of matriculation photographs being displayed in the JCR.

#### **Charities Account – Donation to RAG**

*October 16th 2005 - Renewed January 27th 2008, 28th November 2010*

That the Treasurer be responsible for a yearly transferring of charity funds from the RCSA to Robinson Rag.  That this policy is expressly negotiable and replaceable (i.e. by other donations) following consideration by Open meeting.

#### **Fairtrade**

*February 24th 2008, Renewed 28th November 2010*

- That the RCSA works to maintain the college's official 'Fairtrade status.
- That the RCSA is committed to serving Fairtrade products at events it hosts wherever possible.
- That the RCSA will encourage college authorities to include Fairtrade products in food prepared on site.
- That the RCSA will encourage college authorities to sell more Fairtrade supplies within college, but with no intention of removing all other options
- That the RCSA supports the campaign to achieve Fairtrade Status for Cambridge University.

#### **Committee Reports**

*February 24th 2008, Renewed 28th November 2010*

- That the whole RCSA Committee shall be mandated to submit a report at the end of Lent Term and by the division of Michaelmas Term each year.
- That these reports should detail activities and plans (as appropriate) of each member of the committee and that contributions need not be in continuous prose.
- That the RCSA President, RCSA Chair or any other Officer that they deem appropriate should organise the compilation of this report.

#### **Fourth Year Returnee's Rent**

*May 4th 2008, Renewed 28th November 2010*

That the RCSA believes that fourth year returnees should not have to pay increased rent.

#### **Hobs**

*28th November 2010*

That the RCSA is emphatically opposed to any action to take away the hobs in our kitchens in college.

## 2. May Ball Agreement

### **May Ball Agreement**

#### **Agreement between Robinson May Ball Committee (“the Committee”) and the Robinson College Students’ Association (“the Association”) for the provision of financial support in respect of the 2014 Robinson College May Ball (“the Ball”)**

Clause 1: this agreement is intended by the parties to govern their duties towards each other in respect of the provision of financial support by the Association to the Committee in respect of the Ball. All references to “the Ball” in this agreement refer only to the Robinson College May Ball to be held in 2014, and shall be constructed as such.

#### Duties of the Parties

Clause 2: the Association undertakes

- 1) That should at any time the Committee have insufficient cleared funds to meet in a timely manner any liabilities to third parties incurred by the Committee in respect of the Ball, the Association will, on request of the Committee, provide such funds as may be necessary to enable the Committee to meet said liabilities in a timely manner, and the Association shall not require payment by the Committee of any charge or interest whatsoever in respect of said funds.
- 2) That it shall not demand repayment of any funds provided under clause 2(1) unless at that time the Committee has sufficient funds to meet such a demand

Clause 3: in consideration of these undertakings, the Committee undertakes:

- 1) That it shall repay on demand by the Association, any funds received under clause 2(1), provided that at that time the Committee has sufficient cleared funds to meet such a demand
- 2) To permit the Treasurer of the Association to inspect the accounts of the Committee at any time and to provide such help as they may reasonably require to do this
- 3) That it shall not voluntarily incur any financial liability in respect of the Ball, which it does not at that time, have sufficient cleared funds to meet, unless the Committee has obtained the express written agreement of both the President of the Association and the Treasurer of the Association.

#### Termination of Agreement

Clause 4: this agreement shall terminate automatically upon written confirmation by Senior Treasurer of the Association and the Senior Treasurer of the Committee that they are satisfied that all outstanding liabilities incurred by the Committee in respect of the Ball have been discharged

## Applicable Law and Acceptance of Agreement

Clause 5: this agreement shall be governed by English Law and by signing, the parties indicate that they have read and accepted the terms of this agreement.

The Association      Date  
The Committee      Date

## 12. Any other RCSA business

CHa: I think we need to get the JCR ceiling fixed.

CHo: We've got more than £15,000 in the reserve so think of things to spend it on.