



RCSA Open Meeting Agenda

2pm, JCR, Sunday 9th March 2014



Agenda

1. Apologies for absence or lateness
Chris Barton
Aislinn McDonagh
Liam McDonnell
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
N/A
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.
N/A
6. Matters arising from the minutes
There are no matters arising from the minutes.
7. Reports from the Committee
Catherine Hodge (CHO): Hopefully, you'll be aware of this, but there's a strike on lectures surrounding pay for lecturers. Basically, the UCEA is refusing to have any talks with them at the moment and they feel that the next step to take is to boycott the marking of exams at the end of the year. It could even stop people from graduating and it could be quite complicated. So basically, Mark, Ros and I went to a meeting on Friday evening on what the CUSU motion is. The agenda says that they are going to vote to try to get them to stop the boycott and possibly talk to the UCEA. If anybody does have any views on it in terms of what Robinson should be saying to CUSU or what CUSU should be saying to the NUS please tell Chris.
Mark Driver (MD): The reason their striking is because they've been given a 1% pay rise, but no more chance for negotiation. CUSU want to get the UCEA to get back to the negotiation stage.
8. Questions to the Committee

Harry Brunton (HB): On this marking boycott, I have quite strong feelings and imagine others do too. Do you not think it's the type of thing to be a motion for an RCSA open meeting on how college thinks about this?

Chris Parmee (CP): Personally, I'm against the boycott and I think we should vote to support the lecturers.

Steven Gordon (SG): So the CUSU motion will say 'we're not endorsing the boycott'?

HB: If I ever want to find a CUSU council agenda, they're not on the website and they're not up to date.

CP: I can bring that up and also post the agenda on the group. I didn't realise you couldn't see it.

9. Extraordinary Motions

There are no extraordinary motions.

10. Ordinary Motions

a) Caught in a Spin

This motion requires two-thirds assent to pass

RCSA Notes:

1. A highly successful Winter Olympics has just been completed at Sochi 2014
2. A Robinson alumnus made an appearance at the games.
3. These actions have inspired others to attempt to achieve the same dizzy heights of sporting achievement.
4. Robinson sporting accomplishments have generally been on the increase, with a fine selection of results on display on the Sports Board as well as representation in numerous varsity matches.
5. One of the most popular sports at Sochi 2014, as at Vancouver 2010, was curling.
6. As a team sport, curling installs cooperative values rather than just individual ruthlessness.
7. There are currently no curling facilities in Cambridge.
8. The RCSA Reserves are to be used for the lasting benefit of College.
9. Table-top curling products are widely available online (Appendix A)

RCSA Believes:

1. Current and future Robinson students will gain enjoyment, transferrable skills, and may unearth previously undiscovered talent through exposure to curling.
2. Curling should be available to those who are geographically less mobile, as such it should be possible within College.
3. Implementing a full scale curling rink would be a significant hazard.
4. A suitable compromise would be the provision of a mobile table-top alternative.
5. Across the board, table-top curling offers better value-for-money than

other student-funded ventures.

6. Present investment in table-top curling would be for the lasting benefit of RCSA members, and as such represents prudent use of the Reserves.

7. The curling scene offers an unrivalled opportunity for flare stash (Figure 1).

RCSA Resolves:

1. To allocate £725 from the RCSA Reserves to finance the purchase and delivery of a suitable table- top curling system.
2. To mandate the RCSA Vice-president to coordinate the procurement of the aforementioned device (now that the room ballot is nearing completion)
3. To ensure that table-top curling is accessible and available to all RCSA members.

Proposed: Steven 'drawing to a close' Gordon (Vice-president)

Seconded: Harry 'on-ice' Brunton Figures:

FOR:

SG: I really enjoyed watching the Winter Olympics and you do feel a little bit of national pride like all big sporting events. I think most people who watched it felt that it was something they enjoyed. But then I also got a bit annoyed that it was good watching the sports and if I wanted to ski, I could go to Peterborough, but if I wanted to do curling, there are not facilities to do this so I'm not able to try out this thing that I'm inspired by so short of building a curling rink in Cambridge, I think it's reasonable to ask to get one in college. The reserves are there to be spent and I think this it's justifiable as a use for the reserves and got be useful for everyone. People that want to try and get a feel for curling could use this and we could even set up some type of society. The costs may need amending. As a nominal figure it looks quite high, but if we compare it to getting a jacuzzi, which would be around £5000, looking at curling doesn't seem too much.

Amendment:

1. To allocate £725 from the RCSA Reserves to finance the purchase and delivery of a suitable table- top curling system.

Has been changed to:

2. To allocate £1020 from the RCSA Reserves to finance the purchase and delivery of a suitable table- top curling system.

AGAINST:

Lydia Burton (LB): I see lots of things on TV that I can't have or do and I don't want to buy them.

SG: If you're happy not to buy certain things that's fine and I'm just saying I don't like doing this.

LB: It's not your money. It's ridiculous.

CHa: I'm aware there's a new curling rink in Kent.

Conor O'Malley (CO'M): It's £10 per session.

SG: I believe it's actually £152 per session.

Doug Robinson (DR): College gives us an amount of less than what we spend from last year.

SG So by spending the money we get more reserves?

DR: The reserves come from a separate place.

CP: We're technically in a sense not allowed to have reserves because it's a public event.

QUESTIONS:

Barney Woodhouse (BW): Why can't you just buy a bag of marbles?

FOR

George Barton (GB): If we look at the problem with Robinson, we're not getting enough applications and I think this will definitely be a selling point.

AGAINST:

Kostantin Röder (KR): Certain sports are really expensive so they're normally done at a university level not a college level so why don't you take it to the university?

SG: There's not a senior member of the university to act as the curling club's treasurer.

Questions:

Niamh Spence (NS): It's not even real curling. It's not worth £1000 pounds.

Laurie Dudley (LD): Where will it go and is there any evidence of a desire among the student population?

SG: It will go in the Games Room.

HB: There is a blatant desire from the number of curling apps downloaded. I have spoken to at least 10. It could be stored in the Party Room.

CHo: If both of you don't enjoy it or are bad at it will we give our money back?

HB: I have played the actual table top version whilst on holiday in Canada and enjoyed it.

CHo: Harry you're leaving this year and Steven you have another year and then you'll be in the real world and you're probably going to start to need to get in touch with that. It's an absolutely ridiculous use of £1020, which could be spent on bursaries or something.

SG: Is the bursary fund for one person or for the college?

Chorus of 'boo'

CHo: The bursary fund is for someone who is clever and talented and loves studying and I would much rather have that kind of person here that someone who can't be bothered to get on a train to Kent.

SG: I think it could actually add some enjoyment to people's lives here.

MD: Looking from the pictures here it's going to be quite a substantial here so what if you lift it and drop it?

SG: We've lifted that TV and not broken that.

NS: What about maintenance. The whole reason we couldn't own our own pool tables is because of that? How much is it going to cost to maintain. It's a lot of money to spend to maintain for just you two to play it.

SG: it'll be insured.

DR: What evidence is it that it'll be lasting and worthwhile? We've got this Sochi fever thing going on now, but we won't in a few months.

SG: That's why we have a lull because there's nothing in your mind to keep you going.

HB: The TV cost way more.

CP: You're saying people are going to use this more than watching TV?

CHO: I'm sorry for what I said, but would it not make sense maybe for you to go away maybe and consider setting up a constitutional curling society and asking for a bit of money to go to this place in Kent and then maybe bring a motion back again

SG: We considered that, but if we were going to do that, we would do it in a university scale.

CHO: But not in college?

DR: Can you not fund it yourselves?

CHO: If students want to go horse riding, they have to fund it themselves.

VOTE

FOR: 5

AGAINST: 27

ABSTENTION: 1

This motion does not pass.

11. Any other RCSA business

There is no other RCSA business.