



RCSA Open Meeting Minutes 2pm Sunday 22nd November 2015, JCR



1. Apologies for absence or lateness

Ed Butler Caddle, Karl Thompson, Dan Kent, Claire Hemingway, Gabrielle McGuinness, Cammy Mitchell and Amy Hall have apologised for absence. Bavni Tulsiani, Patrick Lundgren and Emily Fishman apologised for lateness.

2. Announcement of the presence and purpose of guests

Richard Allitt and Claire Farey.

3. Approval of the presence and speaking rights of guests

Approved.

4. Approval of the order of the agenda

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.

N/A

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

There are no questions to the committee.

9. Co-option of LGBT+ Officer and Newsletter Editor

Matt Kite – LGBT+ Officer

For: 28

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Questions: -

Peter Curry – Newsletter Editor

For: 28

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Questions:

Mark Driver (MD): This is a historic question that is asked every year. Tell a joke.
Peter Curry (PC): What's black and white and red all over? A sunburnt penguin.
Nobody laughs.

10. Extraordinary Motions

There are no extraordinary motions.

11. Ordinary Motions**a) Underwriting of Robinson May Ball 2016****RCSA Notes:**

1. We are on our way to delivering a May Ball on June 10th 2016.
2. There is very small chance the Ball could collapse financially or otherwise.
3. Should this happen it is preferable that the RCSA absorbs the fiscal impact given the capability their budget affords them.
4. College Council will not permit the May Ball to occur if the RCSA does not adopt this position.
5. The RCSA are not being asked for money, simply to underwrite the 2016 May Ball as outlined in Addendum A – May Ball Contract between the RCSA and the May Ball Committee.

RCSA Believes:

1. The majority of the College unquestionably wants the May Ball to take place.
2. It would be rather unfair for an individual member of the May Ball Committee to be personally liable for any losses incurred by the May Ball.
3. The proposed agreement is adequate and acceptable for both parties.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To authorize the RCSA President to enter into the agreement attached as Addendum A on behalf of the RCSA.

Proposer: Michelle Nuvall

Secunder: Karl Thompson

FOR:

Michelle Nuvall (MN): It is unfair for one person to deal with financial liability.

Martha Krish (MK): So what does this actually mean?

Michael Palmer (MP): It means you (Martha) will be liable for the ball unless College underwrites it.

AGAINST:

-

QUESTIONS:

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VOTE:

For: 28

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

This motion passes.

b) 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 £3,000 a year.
3. That 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. That the RCSA should stay affiliated to CUSU.

Proposer: RCSA Executive

FOR:

MK: CUSU is impressive, and has provided us with lots of stuff and good services this year, and it's useful for officers to meet up so we should stay with them.

AGAINST:

-

QUESTIONS:

Ben Morris (BM): How much do we pay CUSU?

MK: About £3000 from the College budget but we are thinking of moves to change this to a direct college payment to stop the need for re-affiliation every year.

VOTE

For: 29

Against: 0

Abstention: 0

This motion passes.

c) Renewable Policies List

RCSA Notes:

1. That all policies on the Renewable Policy List lapse after three 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

FOR:

MK: It sounds legit.

AGAINST:

-

QUESTIONS:

MD: It should be Third and Fourth Year Hall in the renewable policies and not just Third Year Hall so we should amend the appendix.

Dexter Chua (DC): Why is this a policy when the descending claim order has never been used before at the budget meeting?

Kayani Kayani (KK): So we should vote for each policy separately.

a) Third/Fourth Year Hall

FOR:

MD: it's good.

AGAINST:

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QUESTIONS:

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VOTE

For: 28

Against: 0

Abstention: 0

This motion passes.

b) Trunk Room

FOR:

Louise De Paepe (LDP): There is lots of stuff in there, and it needs to be cleaned up to have more space for more stuff.

AGAINST:

-

QUESTIONS:

Hugo Smith (HS): What is done with the stuff?

LDP: There is a recycling centre which could be used.

MD: Charity. We have taken good stuff from there in the past including May Ball poster from the 1980s.

VOTE

For: 28

Against: 0

Abstention: 0

This motion passes.

c) Budget Meeting

FOR:

-

AGAINST:

DC: It is not helpful, it is useless and not practised. (see previous)

KK: So it is a redundant policy.

QUESTIONS:

Andrew Burrell (AB): They might have it this way so that most expensive stuff goes first so people who want to leave can do so.

VOTE

For: 0

Against: 28

Abstention: 0

This motion fails.

d) Funding request for Welfare Christmas Party

RCSA Notes:

1. That Christmas is fast approaching us and there is a lack of JCR events.
2. We are all very stressed and in definite need of some nice, relaxing events towards the end of term

RCSA Believes:

1. That it would be a really wonderful idea to host an evening of festivities in the JCR, where the choir would sing and there would be Christmassy fun.
2. This would also involve buying mince pies, some decorations and games and various other snacks in order to make it a lovely event.
3. It would be the perfect way to improve general college welfare and integrate people better.

RCSA Resolves:

1. That £50 should be transferred to the RCSA to buy the goods needed for this event to make it truly Christmassy.

Proposer: Gabrielle McGuinness

Secunder: Dan Kent

FOR:

Sneha Barai (SB): We want a Bridgemas Party to cheer people up but we need money from the open meeting budget for it.

AGAINST:

-

QUESTIONS:

Rhys Goodall (RG): These events tend to occur at 3pm-4pm so science students can't attend. Can we make it for a longer period and can we make sure that the mince pies last?

SB: It will be in the evening.

Ben Morris (BM): Can it be 6-9pm so people will go to the bop after?

SB: Yes we'll have it then.

VOTE

For: 28

Against: 0

Abstention: 0

This motion passes.

e) CUSU Regional Meet-Up Access Costs

RCSA Notes:

1. That the college conferencing office charge for venues for events that take place and that there is a surcharge for refreshments.
2. That college often do not indicate accurately how much this charge will be.
3. That the Access budget is an important fund to be used throughout the year, especially for events such as the Shadowing Scheme

RCSA Believes:

1. That students should not have to pay out of their own pocket for events they have planned within college for the benefit of other students.
2. That this year's Access budget should be reserved for the current Access Officer to use and not be used up by costs induced from the previous Access Officer's term.
3. That Access events are very important for a university-wide campaign to encourage people of all different backgrounds to apply and feel comfortable at Cambridge, especially at Robinson, which upholds an accepting and welcoming atmosphere.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To use the reserve funds in order to cover the £85.50 charge for a CUSU Regional Meet-up event held in college at the beginning of term.
2. To leave the Access budget for this year untouched for the benefit of the new Access Officer.

Proposer: Elle Shea

Seconder: Karl Thompson

FOR:

Elle Shea (ES): I held an access event at the start of term and asked college about the cost, and they said they would send the invoice and that the access budget could be used. It came to £85.50 which is above the year's access budget and is a lot. I don't think Emily's budget should be sucked up by this cost.

AGAINST:

-

QUESTIONS:

AB: Can we amend the motion to say open meeting funds and not reserves?

MK: Yes.

RG: What was the event?

ES: It was as North West regional meet up.

DC: Should we tell College about this? The same thing happened with the music society. We should give the money but we should speak to college on top of this.

ES: Yes they didn't indicate what the costs would be.

MK: I'm worried that money for student things is being spent on an access event. It is ridiculous that College should be charging this much. Who should we bring this to? Victoria?

RG: This event was affiliated to CUSU so surely CUSU should pay rather than College.

MD: The next open meeting won't be until January. We need to speak to CUSU.

MK: Emily should talk to College about funding events.

VOTE

For: 27

Against: 0

Abstention: 1

This motion passes.

12. Any other RCSA business

Appendix 1: Underwriting of Robinson May Ball 2016

May Ball Contract between the RCSA and the May Ball Committee

Agreement between Robinson College May Ball Committee ("the Committee") and the Robinson College Students' Association ("the Association") for the provision of financial support in respect of the 2016 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 2016, and shall be constructed as such.

Duties of the Parties

Clause 2: The Association undertakes

8. 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, nor shall it hold this over the Committee's head in a smug manner.

9. That it shall not demand repayment of any funds provided under clause 2(1).

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

7. 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.
8. To permit the Treasurer of the Association to inspect the accounts of the Committee at any time and to provide such he as he may reasonably require to do this.
9. 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

[Appendix 2: Renewable Policies](#)

- a) Third Year Hall (January 28th 2007 – Renewed November 28th 2009) - That the Catering & Amenities Officer should be responsible for the organising of a 'Third Year Hall' in Lent term, similar in format to 'Half Way Hall'. That tickets for this Hall should be available to all current third years.
- b) Budget Meeting (November 4th 2007 – Renewed November 28th 2009) - That the budget meeting shall be ordered by size of claim amount in descending order, starting with the society with the largest claim.
- c) Trunk Room (November 25th 2007 – Renewed November 28th 2009) - That the Catering & Amenities Officer and the Oversees Officer should audit the trunk

room each year to dispose of items marked for over a year and that continued re-audits should occur.