



RCSA Open Meeting Minutes 2pm Sunday 24th January 2016, JCR



1. Apologies for absence or lateness

Edward Butler-Caddle and Gabrielle McGuinness absent, Amy Hall late.

2. Announcement of the presence and purpose of guests

N/A

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

Claire Hemingway (CH): What will happen with the Marriage formal request?

Kayani Kayani (KK): You can have the money for props from the miscellaneous budget as it is a small amount.

9. Extraordinary Motions

N/A

10. Ordinary Motions

a) New Drum Kit and Cymbals for the music room

RCSA Notes:

1. There are a substantial number of students at Robinson who like to play the drums or be in bands who are not able to easily access a drum kit.
2. The nature and cost of the large instrument means students cannot bring their own kits to University or buy their own.
3. There are currently no working drum kits in college, compared with a few pianos (and a new one of ~£4500 being purchased) The current kit is in a very poor

unplayable and incomplete condition. There is only one old cymbal and no hi-hat.

4. Both a drum kit and cymbals will need to be purchased.

RCSA Believes:

1. There should be at least one working drum kit of a decent quality for students to use.
2. The drum kit may also be utilised for live performances outside of the music room, if so required.
3. The cost for a 'mid-range' drum kit and cymbal set that should be appropriate for different musical styles and last for many years would be around £800-£1000.
4. Any more than that would be superfluous for most drummers, but any less will reduce quality. Quality is important as the kit will get bashed up a bit due to its communal purpose.
5. here is a good deal for both online costing
£796.48: <http://www.gear4music.com/Drums-and-Percussion/Mapex-Mars-529-Rock-22-5-Piece-Drum-Kit-Nightwood/XHD>
and <http://www.gear4music.com/Drums-and-Percussion/Paiste-PST-7-14-16-20-Medium-Universal-Cymbal-Pack/10IU#full-des>
6. Buying a cheap kit will simply be a false economy as it will need replacing in the near future. Plus it will sound bad.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To buy a new drum kit at the cost of £797 from the reserves budget.
2. Party on Garth.

Proposer: Louis Jones

Secunder: Max Kotz

FOR:

Mikey Teal (MT): The current drum kit is in a poor condition, and is no longer playable and is very old. There is ambiguity as to whether it belongs to college or music society. A new one will be used a lot, and will last a long time if taken care of.

AGAINST:

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QUESTIONS:

Alex Bate (AB): Will this money be from the reserves?

Karl Thompson (KT): Yes

Cammy Mitchell (CM): would the music society be contributing to this?

Martha Krish (MK): Any music society money has come from RCSA anyway. If we vote this through, it goes to college who will need to ok it. Unless it is a ridiculous request, college should let us do this.

Bavni Tulsiani (BT): There are actually cymbals in the cupboard.

CH: Is this just because the current drum is old?

MT: Also because other colleges have much better ones.

Patrick Lundgren (PL): Would this just be used for auditions or college too?

MT: Both.

VOTE:

For: 23

Against: 0

Abstentions: 2

This motion passes.

b) LGBT+ Flag

RCSA Notes:

1. February is LGBT History Month, which in 2016 is being hosted in Cambridge.
2. CUSU LGBT+ are organising the flying of the rainbow flag on 1st February 2016 at as many colleges as possible.
3. A motion to allow the flying of the flag at Robinson has been put to the College Council, with the support of the Senior Tutor.
4. The college will not finance the purchase of the flag.

RCSA Believes:

1. The flying of the rainbow flag is an accepted display of support for the LGBT+ community.
2. Robinson College and the RCSA are proud of their openness and acceptance of members of the LGBT+ among members of the college, staff, and in the wider community.
3. A rainbow flag would be of lasting use to the college because it could be used at future LGBT+ events.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To support the flying of the rainbow flag at Robinson College.
2. To allocate £30 from the Open Meeting budget for the purchase of a rainbow flag of the appropriate size for flying from the college flagpole.

Proposer: Matt Kite

Secunder: Laura Prince

FOR:

Matt Kite (MK): There is currently a uni wide initiative to get colleges to fly the flag for LGBT History month. Though decision not made yet, we know that College are going to allow it. Can I have some money to buy a rainbow flag please?

AGAINST:

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QUESTIONS:

KT: How much do you need?

MK: £30

BT: When will we find out when we have permission?

MK: It is a vote that has been collected on college council but has not been announced.

VOTE:

For: 26

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

This motion passes.

c) Sexual Harassment and Assault Statement

RCSA Notes:

1. That the college does not have a specific public sexual assault policy, nor has it issued a statement concerning sexual assault
2. That this current lack of comprehensive sexual assault protocol in Robinson College is insufficient and puts student welfare at risk
3. That the university is working to put policy in place to deal with sexual assault
4. That other JCRs have passed specific sexual assault policies/ statements in a growing university wide movement

RCSA Believes:

1. That having sufficient sexual harassment protocol is essential to the safety and wellbeing of all Robinson students.
2. That Robinson College should add support to this positive and growing movement recognising the importance of comprehensive sexual assault policy
3. That a statement on sexual assault would show commitment to preventing and responding adequately to sexual assault
4. That such a statement would acknowledge the occurrence of sexual assault
5. That a public statement could help victims knowing what to expect from college after an assault.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To issue a statement of intent to College to support these developments by giving RCSA backing and approval to the document 'SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND ASSAULT STATEMENT ROBINSON COLLEGE' (See Appendix 1)
2. To continue to support the movement to develop sexual assault protocol in College and more widely at the university

Proposer: Martha Krish

Secunder: Cammy Mitchell

FOR:

MK: The university is working on a centralised sexual assault policy. We need a protocol in place in college for when a sexual assault happens to put students in the safest position. A statement of intent and support written by the Master at Clare who is a lawyer, that doesn't bind the university to do anything specific. But if we get approval on this, I will take it to Student Council with student support and it will become part of the website. It is not a policy but a statement and the exact same one has been passed at other colleges.

AGAINST:

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QUESTIONS:

CH: Is this going to be on the RCSA website?

Dexter Chua (DC): Both

Peter Curry (PC): Who is it referring to when it says the college will investigate it?

MK: Bill Nolan but also the nurse, any tutors or anyone involved. But it is designed not to be legally binding, but a general commitment from college.

VOTE:

For: 26

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

This motion passes.

d) Waterpolo Team

RCSA Notes:

1. Cycling relatively late at night when you are not sure where you are going is unsafe.
2. The Robinson College waterpolo team had a match against an Addenbrookes hospital team on the 17th of November at the Frank Lee Centre on the Addenbrookes site from 9pm until 10.30pm.

RCSA Believes:

1. It was safer to take a taxi than cycle.
2. That the team should endeavour to field full teams for all games regardless of whether or not they are in the usual location (pool).

RCSA Resolves:

1. To reimburse the team £20 for transport costs from the open meeting budget.

Proposer: Rhys Goodall

Secunder: Max Kotz

FOR:

Rhys Goodall (RG): Last term we had a match at Addenbrookes. I took the decision to get taxis back as it is safer than cycling and I would like reimbursement for this.

AGAINST:

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QUESTIONS:

MK: How much do you need?

RG: About £20

AB: Do you have the receipts?

RG: I gave them to the RCSA.

MK: Next year you can apply to get money for this sort of thing from the budget.

VOTE:

For: 24

Against: 3

Abstentions: 0

This motion passes.

e) Running Machine

RCSA Notes:

1. That Robinson's running machine has been broken for years.
2. That Robinson's indoor sport facilities are extremely limited.
3. That Robinson has as duty to provide opportunities for physical exercise to college students.
4. That Robinson remains woefully behind in this respect compared to both Cambridge and Oxford colleges who either provide on site facilities or subsidize gym memberships.
5. That sporting facilities are imperative for physical and mental wellbeing.

RCSA Believes:

1. That the provision of indoor sporting facilities is extremely important for both physical and mental health.
2. That running during the evenings in winter may compromise an individual's safety.
3. That simply asking students to sign up for the University Gym instead is unacceptable because:
 - a. This imposes financial strains on many individuals.
 - b. The issue of safety remains an active issue for those seeking to travel to the sport centre during the evenings.
4. That only providing a room in which weights may be used is not a solution. Concerns as to whether this reflects a gender imbalance have also been raised.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To buy a new running machine, or, if the existing running machine is in a salvageable state, to fix it at the earliest convenience.
2. To run a survey to find out which other sporting machines or equipment would be most popular.
3. To invest in some of these items within a reasonable budget set out by the committee, with particular reference to Men's, Women's, Sports, and Welfare Officers.
4. To ensure that one room in college is available every evening for an hour per week so that people do not have to book a room in which to exercise through the booking system which is not only bureaucratic but also reluctant to let Robinson students book rooms for non-study purposes.
5. To commend the active presence of classes run by students such as Ellen Weaver (Karate) and to encourage more students to do so. (Please see Number Four, which currently is major obstacle to this resolution).
6. To consider investing in some classes such as Yoga, Dance or Workout sessions, which students may contribute to on a subsidised basis.
7. To recognise the potential of physical exercise to support mental health.
8. To recognise that college have a duty to support students in this respect and particularly to encourage women into sport, which the weights room, with its heavily weighted (Excuse pun) gender imbalance fails to do.

Proposer: Katie Fox

Secunder: Gabrielle McGuinness

FOR:

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AGAINST:

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QUESTIONS:

Mark Driver (MD): The motion doesn't state how much money is needed and there are no speakers to account for this. A lot of information is not relevant in this motion and it is a wide ranging statement of intent, not indicative of what is in the resolve.

Procedural motion – that the motion not be put to a vote.

f) Squash Racquets and Table Tennis Net

RCSA Notes:

1. There are currently only three usable squash racquets in the Porter's Lodge available to be used by students, and often groups of four or more need to borrow them and we need to have spares since they sometimes break. Therefore the porters request that at least two more should be purchased.
2. The table tennis table in the games room does not have a net, so one should be purchased.

RCSA Believes:

1. The squash courts are opposite to Robinson College meaning squash is a very convenient way for Robinson students to exercise, benefitting their health, and it is also an excellent way to relax and socialise, which are also vital to students' well-being. Many people use the squash courts on a regular basis, and since squash racquets are relatively inexpensive, this small investment will benefit the health and enjoyment of a large number of people, and they should not need to be replaced for several years if used properly.
2. The table tennis table in the games room provides the same benefits, and since it is already there, it is a waste not to provide a net for it to be used. A net is also only a small investment which should last for several years, if used properly.

RCSA Resolves:

1. The Sports and Societies officer should purchase at least two squash racquets, costing £20-30 each, and a table tennis net, costing £30.

Proposer: Edward Butler-Caddle

Secunder: Joanna Jennings

FOR:

Joanna Jennings (JJ): There are not many squash racquets in the porters' lodge and the courts are a good nearby facility which we should use. It is also pointless to have invested in table tennis table without net.

AGAINST:

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QUESTIONS:

MK: What is the total cost?

JJ: It comes to £82

MD: We should allocate £90 to cover delivery costs too.

PL: Where is the table tennis table?

JJ: Garden room

RG: Where is the money coming from?

KT: We should try and take this from the reserves?

RG: These would provide lasting value.

VOTE:

For: 27

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

This motion passes.

g) Weights Room: Request for Pull-Up Station/Frame

RCSA Notes:

1. There is demand for a pull-up station/frame in the college weights room.
2. Free space has recently been made available in the college weights room.
3. Current equipment allows for strength training of most muscle groups; however, a pull-up station would enable compound exercises that focus more on the back muscles.

RCSA Believes:

1. The weights room is an invaluable asset to all college members, which may be used free of charge, at any time of day throughout the year (with notable restrictions during choir practice, chapel activities etc.)
2. A weights room that can become more fully equipped would maximise its benefits to all college members while further encouraging its use.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To release funds of £149 to purchase a brand new pull-up station/frame for the college weights room: <http://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/B00NHOR03G>
2. If necessary, to consider raising this proposal with other interested parties in college, such as the MCR and Cambridge Weight Lifting Club (whose members also regularly use the weights room)

Proposer: Max Kotz

Secunder: Jonathan Lau

FOR:

RG: I swim a lot and there are no weights for back muscles. Would be really useful for those muscle groups and people who like training all their muscle groups so they don't end up lopsided.

AGAINST:

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QUESTIONS:

MD: It doesn't say where the money is coming from.

MK: If this is from the reserves we could combine it with squash and table tennis so it is a chunk from the reserves.

MD: We can vote for them together after Karl has spoken to college.

VOTE:

For: 27

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

This motion passes.

h) Men's Drinks Reimbursement

RCSA Notes:

1. That I spent £69.55 on the supplies for men's drinks in Freshers' week.
2. That as a result of my own organisational incompetence and a mistaken belief that I had a month post-budget meeting to deliver the goods, I was never refunded.

RCSA Believes:

1. That no member of college should be left out of pocket.
2. That I am sorry about this.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To reimburse George Barton with **£66.57**.

Proposer: George Barton

Secunder: Chris Barton

FOR:

MT: Alex had a rehearsal so George bought all the booze for men's drinks. Uncertainty about how he would claim it back because he is not the Men's Officer. It is not the amount on the agenda – actually £66.57.

AGAINST:

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QUESTIONS:

MK: There is £70 in Men's budget – did this go unspent? Is there any way we can get it back?

KT: No.

Dan Kent (DK): Can you take it out of my budget this year?

MD: No – this is from the open meeting budget.

VOTE:

For: 15

Against: 1

Abstentions: 11

This motion passes.

i) May Ball fencing

RCSA Notes:

1. That the May Ball committee have been quoted a figure of up to £500 for the fencing of the event.
2. That this would ensure the safety of the event and prevent 'gate-crashing'.
3. That helping to relieve the Ball's budget where possible will help to maintain what is a good value and well respected event.

RCSA Believes:

1. That the May Ball is an event open to and enjoyed by the vast majority of Robinson members and thus members of the RCSA.
2. That ensuring the security of the event is vital for its smooth running and to the benefit of the RCSA.
3. That the RCSA Reserves are to be used for long-lasting benefit to the college, and college has made clear that it supports such spending.
4. That such fencing would be used for multiple years and thus to the long-term benefit of the RCSA.

RCSA Resolves:

1. That up to £500 of the RCSA Reserves should be allocated for such fencing.

Proposer: Michelle Nuvall

Secunder: Lucy Cooke

FOR:

Lucy Cooke (LC): College has given us a quote for just under £500 for new gate panels to make it a safer event and to protect it from gatecrashers, and to ensure it remains a respected ball. This will also relieve the budget for future years and is an event enjoyed by the vast majority of college.

AGAINST:

MD: There was a similar motion May 19th 2012 about umbrellas by Ewan McGregor who said that the May Ball is a commercial event, beyond RCSA reserves. We don't have enough money to fund students from other colleges and it is silly to pay for something that the May Ball Committee should have budgeted for.

KT: There was problems with the treasurer last year – now we cannot go into the reserves. Also the May Ball reserves are not as big as RCSA reserves.

MD: You should take it from the operating costs.

LC: We would rather spend our funds on stuff that can be seen. Otherwise it will affect future balls.

QUESTIONS:

AB: Why don't you increase ticket sales by 50p? That would make £500.

LC: Ticket prices were raised last year. We are regarded as the best value ball on the market and are increasing the price of non-member tickets.

MK: College is already pressuring May Ball Committee to raise ticket prices and want them to add to the reserves rather than take from them. They are under more pressure than previous years. The event is open to all and the RCSA has the reserves to fund it. There won't be any disadvantages to this. College actually want us to use this money, and don't want the May Ball Committee to use their reserves.

LC: It would help for future years.

RG: Is it public knowledge to know how much RCSA reserves are?

KT: £21,000

MK: The College is a charity and we are not supposed to have this build-up of reserves. We have an imperative and good reason to spend it.

MD: But the May Ball is a commercial venture not just for Robinson members. It'll benefit lots but is not purely for them and so money should not necessarily be spent there.

LC: This is why we have increased non-member price. The ball is something that the whole of College is proud of – people can bring their friends, and it impacts on Robinson students in this way.

MK: What are you doing to make sure this isn't a precedent so that the May Ball Committee don't come back next year and ask for more?

LC: We are only asking because our budget is smaller than most years.

MD: Can we find out how much is in the May Ball reserves?

KT: Yes but not now.

MK: This problem is not the fault of current committee.

CH: We shouldn't be willy nilly about spending the reserves. Does spending £500 on this set a precedent? College is saying money from bike racks etc has to come from somewhere.

MK: I agree we shouldn't be spending it randomly – people need to decide whether they think the May Ball is important.

PC: Do the RCSA reserves change every year?

MD: No but because of its size, money now doesn't go back to reserves, it goes back to college instead and doesn't increase.

BT: We need to remember we still have to sort the gym this year.

MD: How often are they replaced? What kind of fencing?

LC: Harris, wooden, will last five or six years. This will be claimed back from the May Ball reserves later on.

MK: What is the total May Ball budget?

KT: £85,000

LC: Barely double Trinity's food budget.

VOTE:

For: 14

Against: 4

Abstentions: 9

This motion does not pass.

11. Any other RCSA business

MK: The RCSA is going to be looking at the constitution in terms of welfare officers with the possibility of adding a Mental Health and Disabilities Officer through a referendum. We will also consider reforming voting in favour of a self-defining system (eg. those who identify as female will vote for women's officer, and abstain from voting for men's officer) for welfare subcommittee positions. This means people who belong to that group and are being represented have a say. This will be discussed at the next RCSA committee meeting and brought to the next open meeting.