



## RCSA Open Meeting Minutes

2pm, 14<sup>th</sup> February 2016, JCR



### Agenda

#### **1. Apologies for absence or lateness**

Louise De Paepe, Ben Morris, Bavni Tulsiani, Amy Hall, Claire Hemingway

#### **2. Announcement of the presence and purpose of guests.**

N/A

#### **3. Approval of the presence and speaking rights of guests**

N/A

#### **4. Approval of the order of the agenda**

Mark Driver (MD): The meeting was called late, and was called by the Chair not the Secretary. It is a technicality but I was wondering if anyone has a problem with it.

Kayani Kayani (KK): Yes I apologise for that.

*There are no further objections to this.*

#### **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**

Dexter Chua (DC): It says that the May Ball budget is £85,000 but it is actually £95,000 – can this be amended?

Cat Somerville (CS): Yes

#### **7. Reports from the committee**

Ed Butler Caddle (EBC): The running machine in the games room works. I have tried it myself. Kayani suggested that people want another one but the current one works so I'll advertise it on the freshers' page.

#### **8. Questions to the Committee**

N/A

#### **9. Extraordinary Motions**

N/A

#### **10. Ordinary Motions**

##### **a) Welfare Week Five**

RCSA Notes:

1. That it is week five and workloads are becoming very stressful
2. That our college lacks the sort of welfare events at this point in term that others have
3. That Robinson College students would very much appreciate something fun and enjoyable during this week.

RCSA believes:

1. A portion of money should be given to the Welfare team to buy snacks, fruits and juice for students during the day in that painful period of time before dinner
2. That a welfare event like this would improve the health and well-being of college students, thus improving their work.
3. That this would provide a much needed break for many while they are in the library or their rooms.
4. Activities such as mindfulness colouring evening would also provide a break from constant working.

RCSA resolves:

1. That £40 should be given to the welfare team to procure the goods to run this event successfully.

Proposer: Gabrielle McGuinness

Secunder: Cammy Mitchell

**FOR:**

Cammy Mitchell (CM): We have bought library snacks, not for inside the library but for outside, and we will have a comedy night, mindfulness and drawing too, as part of the welfare team's plans for Week Five. So we are looking for £40 to spend on this.

**AGAINST:**

-

**QUESTIONS:**

MD: I'd like to raise an amendment – you don't state where your money is from.

CM: This is from the open meeting budget.

**VOTE**

**For:** 25

**Against:** 0

**Abstentions:** 0

*This motion passes.*

**b) MCR Reimbursement**

RCSA Notes:

1. That £86.75 was spent by the MCR Presidents on Angela Coyle's leaving gifts.

RCSA Believes:

1. That it is important to show appreciation to the long serving staff of the college
2. That the responsibility to finance gifts to college staff should be shared fairly between the JCR and MCR

RCSA Resolves:

1. To reimburse the MCR President Anna Fee £43.38

Proposer: Martha Krish

Secunder: Claire Hemingway

**FOR:**

Martha Krish (MK): Angela Coyle the housekeeper left a few weeks ago and we presented her with her gift which the MCR paid for, and she was very touched. They want to be reimbursed for half of the costs, which is of course fair. I'd also like to propose a friendly amendment – the money will come from the open meeting budget.

**AGAINST:**

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**QUESTIONS:**

CM: What was the gift?

MK: Orchid and chocolates.

**VOTE**

**For:** 25

**Against:** 0

**Abstentions:** 0

*This motion passes.*

**c) Brick Newsletter**

RCSA Notes:

1. Cambridge students are a busy folk and writing for the brick takes times.
2. People like chocolate and more chocolate means more interesting articles + world peace.

RCSA Believes:

1. 'The Brick' is a valuable pillar of our community
2. 1 chocolate for 1 Brick Article means more valuable pillars and greater superstructure support.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To incentivise the greedy apathetic writers of Robinson to write articles.
2. That £10 from the open meeting budget should be given to this publication.

Proposer: Peter Curry

Secunder: Rufus McAlister

**FOR:**

Peter Curry (PC): It is hard to get people to write for The Brick so I was wondering if we could give them some chocolate to incentivise them.

**AGAINST:**

-

### **QUESTIONS:**

Gabrielle McGuinness (GM): You could get meal vouchers?

MK: That's more expensive

Alex Bates (AB): Doesn't The Brick have a budget?

PC: Yes, but I use it for printing.

### **VOTE**

**For:** 25

**Against:** 0

**Abstentions:** 0

*This motion passes.*

### **d) Photo Soc**

RCSA Notes:

1. Photography society has a GoPro that is being used by members of the college.
2. There is a lack of remaining budget in equipment and an excess of budget in prints.
3. This motion does not ask for more money.

RCSA Believes:

1. A GoPro should have relevant accessories to be used to it full potential.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To reassign £31.40 from Prints to Equipment to purchase GoPro accessories and memory card.

Proposer: James Baker

Secunder: Thomas Folley

### **FOR:**

AB: James wants to move money and wants to get some more accessories for the GoPro that was purchased so people can use it properly. He is not asking for more money, just to move some around.

### **AGAINST:**

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### **QUESTIONS:**

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### **VOTE**

**For:** 26

**Against:** 0

**Abstentions:** 0

*This motion passes.*

### **e) LGBT+ Flag**

RCSA Notes:

1. At the last open meeting, approval was given for the purchase of a flag.

2. The cost assessment for that flag was made on the best available information at the time.
3. The actual cost of the flag that was required to fly from college was £75, more than the £30 allocated.

RCSA Believes:

1. Officers should not be out of pocket for their actions in the roles on the RCSA.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To fund the additional £45 from the open meeting budget to make up the difference between the actual cost and the available funding.

Proposer: Matt Kite

Secunder: Niamh Buckingham

**FOR:**

MK: Last open meeting I asked for money for the LGBT+ flag. At the time I thought it would cost £30 but later received information from the Head Porter saying college has certain specifications for flags being flown. So I'd like £45 to reimburse the difference.

**AGAINST:**

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**QUESTIONS:**

-

**VOTE**

**For: 26**

**Against: 0**

**Abstentions: 0**

*This motion passes*

**f) May Ball fencing**

RCSA Notes:

1. That the May Ball committee have been quoted a figure of up to £400 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 it 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 £400 from the RCSA reserves should be allocated for such fencing

Proposer: Lucy Cooke  
Seconder: Michelle Nuvall

**FOR:**

Lucy Cooke (LC): We have been given a quote for £400 pounds to buy fencing that will last for a long time and ensure the smooth running of the ball. It is important that we stay within the budget, and cannot use the May Ball reserves this year. Given that there is money in the RCSA reserves that needs to be used, we'd like to use some of it so that we can use our own budget to buy more interesting things.

**AGAINST:**

MD: Can you read the minutes from May 19<sup>th</sup> 2012 (Ewan McGregor) against purchasing umbrellas for the May Ball using the RCSA Reserves?

*The secretary reads this section of the minutes.*

MD: This is for umbrellas but there are some points raised about what the May Ball actually is, and the fact that it benefits not just RCSA members but people from other colleges too. Given that your budget is £95,000, £500 is relatively insignificant.

**QUESTIONS:**

GM: (in response to MD) It's not really though and it could be spent on other things.

Chloe: McQuillan (CM): Compared to the budgets of other colleges it is not a lot.

GM: The RCSA has money in the reserves and we can't let it build up.

MD: Yes, but purchases should benefit all RCSA members.

Philippa Carr (PC): Fencing will protect everyone in college, even those who don't attend the ball.

Karl Thompson (KT): And £400 is a lot of money for each sub team.

LC: The ball is a source of pride for all RCSA members, as many people will also bring their friends.

GM: It puts Robinson on the map.

Natasha Robinson (NR): We can't access the reserves this year either.

PC: Where is the fencing going?

LC: In the garden.

AB: It should be a relatively small amount of money to raise, about 40p per ticket, and people wouldn't care if this price went up. It is probably too late for this but this could have been done two weeks ago.

GM: Making tickets £100 doesn't give it the appeal of a value ball.

LC: Ticket prices were raised last year, and we want to keep it under £100 for years to come. The RCSA has the money but it is not a lot out of their budget.

AB: But it cannot be used on willy nilly spending.

LC: It's not willy nilly when it's been well thought through.

MD: Because of the charitable status of college, we shouldn't have this sitting around – but it needs to be spent in a good way, and we must be careful about what we spend it on. Surely if it protects everyone, the ball committee should pay for this.

LC: College already puts in a lot for this to help us organise it so we cannot ask them to help.

GM: The ball committee is also linked to the RCSA so it shouldn't be an issue.

MD: College underwrites it but there is no true link between the two.

PC: The May Ball reflects on College, as does the RCSA – it is not constructive to have these massive discussions over £400. The RCSA budget is much bigger than ours. May week is supposed to be a celebration and we want to make sure it is a safe event.

CM: When do we need to have the reserves spent by?

MK: There is no date, and spending still has to be approved by college. We need to decide, but I'm wondering if college will have an issue about it being a commercial venture.

PC: We have spoken to college already.

MK: Just so that it is recorded in the minutes, can you repeat why this has happened this year?

LC: College has asked us to add to reserves this year and we cannot take from them. Costs of production eg. fireworks are always going up, and this would help relieve the budget.

EBC: If you used RCSA money this year, could you pay it back with budget next year? This could be a loan.

PC: But what is the money taking away from? What else will you be spending RCSA reserves on?

Will Scott (WS): We haven't decided yet.

GM: Fencing will benefit people from college – people will complain if we have to cut corners on other bits of the ball.

LC: Last open meeting, the RCSA voted to spend £800 on a drumkit.

KT: Hands up who will realistically benefit from this. And hands up who will benefit from the ball.

AB: I think we should call a procedural vote as everyone has decided.

#### Procedural vote:

For: 25

Against: 2

Abstentions: 0

LC: This is an exception to continuity.

KT: But it is not necessarily a one off.

#### VOTE

**For: 22**

**Against: 3**

**Abstentions: 3**

*This motion passes.*

#### **11. Any other RCSA business**

There is no other RCSA business.