



RCSA Open Meeting Minutes 2pm, 29th January 2016, JCR



Agenda

1. Apologies for absence or lateness

Emily Fishman, Monty Matson.

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

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

N/A

7. Reports from the committee

Rhys Goodall (RG): Nothing other than to propose to Mark that 4th year masters students should be able to go to MCR events.

Matt Kite (MK): Everybody come to Rainbow Robinson on Friday, it will be great.

Lizzie Palmer (EP): If you're a final year student don't fill in the NSS.

RG: I've sent an email to all third years about the NSS.

8. Questions to the Committee

N/A

9. Extraordinary Motions

A. Co-option of the LGBT+ officer into the committee.

RCSA Notes:

1. The co-option of the LGBT+ officer into the RCSA has been left off the agenda

RCSA Believes:

1. That it is important to co-opt the LGBT+ officer into the RCSA

RCSA Resolves:

1. To co-opt the LGBT+ officer into the RCSA.

FOR:

N/A

AGAINST:

N/A

QUESTIONS:

N/A

VOTE

For: 25

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

This motion passes

10. Ordinary Motions

A. Drum Kit Purchase

RCSA Notes:

1. The Drum Kit in the Music Room was never replaced
2. It was already agreed to use RCSA funds to find a replacement Drum Kit.
3. Some parts are missing and others are damaged and although it is okay now, it will probably only deteriorate more.
4. It's not really suitable for big performances.

RCSA Believes:

1. It was already agreed that it would be beneficial to have a new drum kit.

2. Ideally we need a new one for may ball - there was a real struggle to source drum kits last minute after it was found out that it was never replaced.
3. The Drum kit can be used by both students and societies.
4. Not a lot of colleges in the vicinity have kits that they are willing to lend so it make sense to have our own one in Robinson for things like May Ball

RCSA Resolves:

1. Chase up the purchase of the drum kit or allocate more funds for the purchase of a new one - May Ball are happy to dedicate time to finding one.

Proposed by : Natasha Robinson

Seconded by: Louise De Paepe

FOR:

Tasha Robinson (TR): Can we please chase up the drum kit purchase for May Ball. We sent people to go and look at the drum kit again and although Tiernan has replaced a small part of the drum kit, it is still unusable. You might be able to rehearse on it but it cannot be used for the May Ball. My motion is basically asking that we chase this up. Tiernan said that he is happy to sort it out. He basically needs to buy it and show the receipt, but I sent in the motion before I managed to talk to him in person.

AGAINST:

N/A

QUESTIONS:

RG: So we allocated £700 and Tiernan spent over £100 of that.

Mark Driver (MD): Yes, so this is where my **friendly amendments** come in.

1) add 'as described in open meeting motion 10A on 24/01/16'

2) change to: "Motion 10A from 30/10/16 allocated funds to get replacement components for the Drum kit".

3) change the 'it it' to 'it is'

Believes 1: this should become a notes, as it's already been stated in Believes in previous motions, so this is more of a statement of fact.

Believes 2 should also become a notes- as you are stating the difficulty of sourcing a drum kit, the same is true of believes 4.

Add a Believes: 'That the RCSA should investigate why a replacement kit nor replacement parts have not been purchased.'

change resolves: 1

To mandate the RCSA Sports and Societies officer to investigate the results of motion 10A from 30/10/16, which is the last mention of the drum kit.

MK: Tasha are you ok with these amendments

TR: Yes.

VOTE

For: 25

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

This motion is amended.

VOTE

For: 24

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

This amended motion passes.

B) Creating Fresher Staircases

RCSA Notes:

1. That there are a set number of rooms allocated for freshers on each staircase throughout the college
2. This policy results in mixed year staircases

RCSA Believes:

1. Freshers are more likely to develop friendships with other freshers on their staircase than second or third year students living in the same staircase.
2. Friendship groups in second or third year are more likely to be split across staircases with the current allocation of rooms for freshers.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To carry out a consultation or referendum among student to try and gauge student opinion on fresher staircases. If the student body are in favour or the creation of fresher staircases the RCSA resolves to
 - Support the assignment of particular staircases as 'fresher staircases' where all rooms will be allocated to freshers, leaving other staircases to second or third year students.
 - Where it is not possible for entire staircases to be allocated to freshers due to student numbers, to support rearranging the room allocation such that fresher rooms are grouped together along the top or bottom of staircases.

Proposed by: David Hutchinson

Seconded by: Bavnisha Tulsiani

FOR:

David Hutchinson (DH): In my 1st year there were only two freshers on the first part of my staircase and this year I've ended up being separated from my friendship group. I think it would be more beneficial to split up staircases so that it is easier for Freshers to gain a sense of community on their staircase and to make it easier for second year students to be near their friends. I therefore think that we should consult the student body to gain their perspectives, or have a referendum.

Amelie Haerberlin (AH): One of the reasons I chose Robinson was because there is good mixing between the year groups. I really like that there is so much friendliness between year groups and I believe this would be inhibited if staircases were mixed. This is also quite awkward because David is on my staircase. Nonetheless, I think we should consult the student body to get their opinions.

AGAINST:

Laura Prince (LP): Some of my best friends are in other year groups and I think mixed staircases do allow people to make friends in other years, which is beneficial. I think that we could help freshers meet more people in their year by holding more welfare events throughout the year and not just concentrating them in the freshers week. I realise that at other universities people are in flats and that creates a sense of community, but I also think that staircases would stop people from branching out.

Louise De Paepe (LDP): I agree with Laura, I think this problem could be solved by just having more freshers events. I think college cohesion is quite important and freshers only staircases could mean that people are less encouraged to make friends beyond their staircase.

Sarah Ferry (SF): It was also quite good to have second and third years about for when things went wrong in the kitchen.

QUESTIONS:

MK: Do we even have the power to create freshers only staircases?

RG: We have control to shift rooms around unless the college says no.

CS: I think we could group freshers more but I don't think we could create complete freshers staircases.

RG: Yes, we could group them more but Bill won't be happy if we do it too much.

TR: Where would we put them? It might mean that all the freshers end up being in the renovated rooms. Also, one good thing about mixed staircases is that freshers are forced out of their room to make friends.

DH: But the real benefit would be for second or third years.

LP: What do you mean the benefit would be for second and third years? I don't think I know anyone who really had a problem with room allocation.

MK: I think it is difficult for some people to be with their friends and often freshers get stuck in a room surrounded by second and third years.

EP: How would you do a consultation? Do you want the RCSA to carry it out?

DH: My preference would be for a referendum

MD: A referendum would be very difficult. It would have to be a binary choice and we don't know that it would be possible to act on the result if it were in favour of freshers only staircases.

CS: It would be very difficult for me to assign rooms in a way that would allow all freshers staircases. Perhaps it would be better for us to just do a consultation and investigate possible ways to improve the density of freshers rooms.

Edward Butler-Caddle (EBC): Yeah I think that we should just do a consultation and then Cat can assign rooms according to that.

MD: Yes I think it should just be a consultation, no referendum.

EP: David would you be ok with a **friendly amendment** to remove the "or referendum" from the motion and just have a consultation?

DH: Yes

VOTE

For: 25

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

This motion is amended.

VOTE

For: 22

Against: 1

Abstentions: 2

This amended motion passes.

C) Reimbursement for the Welfare Party

RCSA Notes:

1. The RCSA had a christmas welfare party last term.
2. Members of the committee paid for this.

RCSA Believes:

1. The RCSA should reimburse the members of the committee for the party.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To reimburse members of the committee for the party

Proposed by: RCSA Executive

FOR:

LP: We don't have a welfare budget yet - it is in the works. Sneha spent £50 on the welfare party and we would like it back.

MD: **Friendly amendment** to allocate £50 from the open meeting budget.

AGAINST:

N/A

QUESTIONS:

N/A

VOTE

For: 25

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

This motion is amended.

VOTE

For: 24

Against: 1

Abstentions: 0

This amended motion passes.