



**RCSA Open Meeting Minutes**  
5pm, 12th March 2016, JCR



**Agenda**

1. Apologies for absence or lateness

Lottie Howson, Peter Curry, Monty Matson and George Barton.

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

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

N/A

7. Committee Reports and Resolutions

N/A

8. Questions to the Committee

N/A

## 9. Extraordinary Motions

N/A

## 10. Ordinary Motions

- a) 4th Year Mathematics Students Room Ballots
- b) New Microphones
- c) Reimbursement for the Robinson College Backgammon Society

### Ordinary Motions

#### **A) 4th Year Mathematics Students Room Ballots**

RCSA Notes:

1. Currently Natural Science, Computer Science and Engineering Students who continue for a fourth year of study are included in the undergraduate room ballot.
2. Mathematics students in the same position are instead included in the postgraduate room ballot
3. Approximately 1-2 Mathematics students each year from Robinson continue to the 4th year of study

RCSA Believes:

1. This disparity treats Mathematics students unfairly.
2. Including 4th year Mathematics students in the undergraduate ballot would be a small change.
3. Natural Science, Computer Science and Engineering Students may also prefer to join the postgraduate budget but are unable to do so.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To change the balloting system so that all students continuing to a fourth year at Robinson are offered a choice of ballots, or (if this is not possible), to include Mathematics students in the undergraduate ballot.
2. To resolve this issue with college before the next room ballot.

Proposed By : James Timmins

Seconded By: Dexter Chua

#### **FOR:**

James Timmins (JT): I don't think the current system makes sense. Currently 4th year maths students aren't treated the same as Natural Science, Computer Science and Engineering students. I think this should be changed in respect to the room ballot and with regards to the MCR. Ideally we would have a choice between being included in the undergraduate or postgraduate ballot - I realise that this may not be possible but some choice would be useful. Maths students are currently in a completely different situation than other students, it should be the same.

## **AGAINST:**

N/A

## **QUESTIONS:**

Mark Driver (MD): **Friendly Amendment** - Can we change Resolves 1 so that it says “ To consult with college and the MCR about changing the balloting system”. I think this is something that has to be discussed rather than changed immediately, If we gave all students going onto a 4th year the option of being in the MCR ballot there would be 30 more students in the MCR ballot.

Catriona Somerville (CS): There are also very few rooms left in college, so this is something that we need to discuss with college and the MCR so we know how to approach it.

Lizzie Palmer: James, are you happy with that friendly amendment?

JT: Yes.

## **VOTE**

For:28

Against: 0

Abstentions:0

*This motion is amended.*

JT: But on another note, I also think it is unfair that maths students get to join the MCR in fourth year but other students don't.

Rhys Goodall (RG) I think it is unfair too. This is something I'm trying to push Mark to do as it has to go through the MCR not the RCSA.

MD: We're trying but logistics at our end are making it difficult.

## **VOTE**

For:28

Against: 0

Abstentions:0

*This amended motion is passed.*

## **B) New Microphones**

RCSA Notes:

1. The student body does not currently own any working microphones.
2. Microphones are used regularly at open mic nights, comedy nights, karaoke nights and at the May Ball. As it stands, the microphones used are too poor quality to be used at the May Ball and frequently Simon (the bar manager) has to bring his own personal equipment for use at bar events.

RCSA Believes:

1. Having working microphones is beneficial in the long term for future may ball committee budgets, as we currently have to pay around £200 each year to hire microphones.
2. The bar events, for which Simon (bar manager) has been forced to resort to using his own personal microphones, are beneficial to student life at Robinson as they provide an alternative to working and create an environment that is very sociable.
3. Purchasing microphones would be beneficial to future students of Robinson as having ownership of the equipment would give more flexibility in organising bar nights without having to rely on Simon for equipment.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To give £100 from the reserves to purchase 3 new microphones for the student body.

Proposed By : Robinson May Ball Ents 2017 (Ellie Gaunt, Anastasia Raymond and Chantal Wong)

Seconded By : Amy Curran

**FOR:**

Anastasia Raymond (AR): At the moment the RCSA doesn't own any microphones. The ones in the bar don't work and the ones we've been using belong to Simon, the bar manager. We are proposing that we get £100 to buy 3 new microphones so we wont have to waste £200 of the May Ball budget on hiring them. They're also used regularly by the bar so we could use them for bar events, which would be great as we wouldn't have to rely on Simon. Additionally, if we owned them we could share them with brick house if they ever wanted to use those mics instead of radio mics.

**AGAINST:**

N/A

**QUESTIONS:**

Dexter Chua (DC): Why should the RCSA supply things for bar events?

AR: Because the events are run by the RCSA.

Sarah Ferry (SF): Yeah we have two karaoke nights a term. There will be one on Thursday so everyone come along.

AR: It's not Simon's responsibility to provide the equipment. But he has been doing it out of his own good will.

DC: If the May Ball has the money to rent the microphones why haven't you bought any in the past?

AR: I'm not sure why past committees haven't bought them but this year we have no money. Also if we used the may ball budget it is unlikely that the RCSA or Brickhouse would be able to use them .

RG: Are these microphones the same standard as the ones you have hired in the past?

AR: Yes

MK: We should discuss teaming up with Brickhouse and buying them together as Brickhouse are buying some too.

AR: Sounds good.

MD: **Friendly Amendment** - In resolves one change we change 'give' to 'allocate'.

EP: Are you happy with that Amendment?

AR: Yes

### **VOTE**

For:29

Against: 0

Abstentions:0

*This motion is amended.*

### **VOTE**

For:29

Against: 0

Abstentions:0

*This motion is passed.*

## **C) Reimbursement for the Robinson College Backgammon Society**

RCSA Notes:

1. The newly founded Robinson College Backgammon Society (RoBS) has enjoyed an active and very successful term.
2. The training boards purchased last term have been put into regular use, with one member who was previously really terrible at the game successfully training really hard and winning the University level Lent Tournament.
3. The RoBS board which resides in the JCR has received a lot of attention, and some people have even used it for it's original purpose.
4. RoBS is hosting backgammon Cuppers next term.
5. Mark Driver put in a friendly amendment to ask for money later, so here we are, smiling in a semi-friendly way through gritted teeth, slightly aggrieved that a second motion was necessary given the popularity of the game, asking for money.

6. RoBS Lent Tournament, Monday night, in the bar. Everyone reads these agendas/minutes so this is basically free publicity. Come along, no previous backgammon experience needed. Further details to be circulated nearer the time.

RCSA Believes:

1. No RoBS member should have to stump up funds for their own boards.
2. The boards acquired are top quality.
3. Except the dice - they were too big for the cups, making dice rolls non-random so we had to purchase smaller ones.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To reimburse Arthur Henderson £84.95 from the open meeting budget for 5 backgammon boards.
2. To reimburse Chris Valentine £9.60 from the open meeting budget for the purchase of small dice to fit the cups.

Proposed By: Arthur Henderson

Seconded By: Mark Driver

FOR:

Arthur Henderson (AH): Mark wouldn't let us have any money last time so we've come back. Can we have some money please? Also come and play backgammon in the bar tomorrow evening.

AGAINST:

N/A

QUESTIONS:

Will Birch (WB): Why are you doing this through the open meeting.

AH: We didn't set up the society in time for the last budget meeting.

WB: Ok, well it will be an easier process next time when you put your funding requests in before the budget meeting.

DC: What did you buy?

AH: I bought 5 boards and they're good quality. We had to buy new dice as well because they were the wrong size/

DC: £9.60 sounds like a lot to spend on dice.

MD: It's not.

**VOTE**

For:30

Against: 0

Abstentions:0

*This motion is passed.*