



RCSA Open Meeting Minutes

Sunday, 4th November

5pm Umney Theatre



Agenda

1. Apologies for absence or lateness
Annalise Whitehead – could not stay for the delayed meeting.
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) Motion to set up Robinson's WonderWomen Society
 - B) Storage Refund Scheme and storage space in college
 - C) Expansion of Society Refund Scheme and exclusion of Cambridge Union Membership
 - D) Motion for the RCSA to support Living Wage Accreditation
 - E) The Budget 2018-19
11. Any other RCSA business
 - A) Consultation on CUSU Council motion regarding support for a people's vote

Ordinary Motions

A) Motion to set up Robinson's WonderWomen Society

RCSA Notes:

1. There are a number of women who drop out of sport when at university because of time constraints, other commitments or alternatively, feelings of pressure to perform.
2. Sport is a great way to relieve stress, keep a healthy mind and body, have fun, meet other college members and give each other a confidence boost.
3. There are no societies in college which focus solely on fitness building, offer a multi-disciplined fitness session and mix the fun, groovy and silly aspects of dance, with core workouts.
4. WonderWomen Zumba/circuit training/yoga sessions have been tried and tested with great enthusiasm

RCSA Believes:

1. The establishment of a formal society would attract more women to pursue their fitness goals in a supportive, sociable and easy-going atmosphere and allow the lessons to grow and accommodate student demand for fun fitness classes

RCSA Resolves:

1. To establish 'Robinson's WonderWomen Society' as a recognised society by the RCSA, binding by its own constitution (See [Appendix A](#)) and also the society in turn will agree to be bound by the Constitution and Policy of the RCSA.
2. Permit an annual budget, to be confirmed in the budget meeting (the costs of the society shall be limited to basic equipment and venue hire).

Proposed by: Katya Duncan

Secunder: Rebecca Diston

Katya Duncan: I'd like to make WonderWoman society – it's a Zumba/circuit training/yoga workshop that we run Wednesday 8-9PM. We've already done four sessions, it's working really well, we're also thinking of expanding to men. We can do a few trial sessions to see if it works, make sure it stays comfortable for everyone. It's working out really well, it's been really fun, we want to make it a formal society so it can carry on after I leave.

Mark Driver – As it's the current budget meeting, you won't be able to apply for a budget now until the next cycle.

Tom Hinch – There is nothing in the proposed budget for this, this is something we've discussed (with the society).

Mark Driver – They're eligible for Resolve 1, so shall we just remove Resolve 2?

Amendment: To remove Resolve 2, and vote on the motion with Resolve 1 only.

Taken as friendly amendment.

Vote on amended motion:

For: 35

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

This motion passes.

B) Storage Refund Scheme and storage space in college

RCSA Notes:

1. That currently a number of students are forced to pay for external storage, owing to the limitations of the trunk room at College.
2. That it costs approximately £5 per week to store a suitcase externally over the vacation period.
3. That the RCSA Treasurer has gained provisional approval for a separate branch of the RCSA Refund Scheme, allowing overseas students and those who arrive by train to have the cost of external storage subsidised by £20 per year.

RCSA Believes:

1. That the introduction of a student storage branch of the Refund Scheme presents a positive step forward in solving the issue of a lack of space in the trunk room in the short term.
2. That this scheme does not detract from the need for a long-term solution to the lack of storage space in College for students.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To create a new branch of the RCSA Refund Scheme, allowing overseas students and those travelling by train to claim back £20 on the cost of external storage in Cambridge, as provisionally agreed by the Finance Bursar, the Senior Treasurer and the Junior Treasurer.
2. To continue to lobby College for a long-term solution to the issue regarding storage space in College.

Proposed by: Thomas Hinch

Secunder: Christopher Cheng

Tom Hinch: As some of you may be aware, there are massive problems with the trunk room – we're on the way to getting a solution, but in the short term one way to mitigate this is by offering an expansion to the refund scheme. It has already been agreed with the Finance

Officer that overseas students and those travelling by train or bus can claim £20 per year, it would run like the refunds scheme where you send the treasurer receipts and the money can be transferred to the account. Note Resolve 2 – this is a short-term solution but will not be the end of the matter.

Vote on motion:

For: 35

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

This motion passes.

C) Expansion of Society Refund Scheme and exclusion of Cambridge Union Membership

RCSA Notes:

1. That in the 2017/18 budgetary term, the RCSA Refund Scheme, which allows members to claim back up to £20 on non-political society membership fees, has seen unprecedented take up, fulfilling over 200% of its original budgetary claim.
2. That a large amount of these claims are made by students for membership of the Cambridge Union.
3. That the RCSA Treasurer has gained approval for the allocation of additional funds to the refund scheme, including the increasing of the maximum amount of money per person, per year for subsidising society memberships to £25.

RCSA Believes:

1. That the society refund scheme is an effective use of RCSA funds, allowing Undergraduate students to fully partake in University life, in line with the stated aim of the RCSA “to uphold equal opportunities in Robinson College irrespective of financial status.”
2. That the society scheme would benefit from an increase in the maximum amount of money awarded, owing to the fact that many societies such as sports team charge very high subscription costs.
3. That subsidising the cost of Cambridge Union membership is not feasible in the long term, as so many Undergraduates are members of this society.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To increase the amount of money per person available to subsidise society membership to £25 per person, as provisionally agreed by the Financial Bursar, the Senior Treasurer and the Junior Treasurer.

2. To classify the Cambridge Union Society a political society and therefore not allow claims from the refund scheme for its membership.

Proposed by: Thomas Hinch

Seconder: Maisie Hobbs

Tom Hinch – This is something I've negotiated with the finance officer for this year's budget. The societies refund scheme has been a massive success, over £900 claimed this year, therefore we see the scope to expand to £25 per society. However, this is a massive job for the treasurer, in the awkward position where if everyone who applied for the Cambridge Union Society submitted a refund the scheme would not be feasible to run. The Senior Treasurer (college member, not on the RCSA) wants it to be that you should ask for the refund, but we should not promote it. By removing the union eligibility, this allows us to promote the scheme and engage people fully.

Vote on motion:

For: 35

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

This motion passes.

D) Motion for the RCSA to support Living Wage Accreditation

RCSA Notes:

1. That the Living Wage rate is based on the cost of living, calculated independently by the Living Wage Foundation, in order to ensure workers are paid a wage which they are able to live off.
2. That the UK rate is currently set at £8.75, significantly higher than the government's National Living Wage of £7.50, which does not take living costs into account.
3. That Robinson College currently pays below the Living Wage to 40 directly employed staff, with possibly more employed through agencies (see https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/data_on_wages_and_employment_pra_23?fbclid=IwAR0weqLITA9hKBTCwCl9bTStuAh5xXOQagSKH2B78OM5kNL03XWHEg2aQW0#incoming-1254744)
4. Graduates and prospective academics are subject to the pressures of low paid work and precarious contracts.
5. That the University and Queen's College have recently committed to becoming an accredited Living Wage employer.
6. That over 3,500 employers pay the Living Wage in the United Kingdom, including several Oxbridge colleges.

RCSA Believes:

1. That the College has a responsibility to ensure its workers are paid a wage which they are able to live off.
2. That College staff support students in our day-to-day lives at Robinson College, whether working in catering, housekeeping or other departments, and deserve our support in ensuring they receive a wage which genuinely reflects the cost of living in Cambridge.
3. The fight for Living Wage accreditation is also a step towards fairer employment practices, which affect many different workers in college, from cleaning to academic staff.
4. That paying College staff a real Living Wage will improve productivity and encourage a more communal working environment in college.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To investigate the current wage structures of the College in conjunction with the Robinson Living Wage Campaign.
2. To make it RCSA policy to lobby for college to become a fully-accredited Living Wage employer.

Proposed by: Poppy Cockburn

Secunder: Jordan Urban

Alice Gilderdale – The living wage campaign is currently happening in Cambridge, focusing on colleges, who should be paying the living wage. Cambridge is reportedly the most unequal city in terms of terms of income in the UK, totally unacceptable when the university has so much money – how can it be that the staff of colleges are paid below the living wage? The living wage is calculated not just by how much should be paid, also the area that you live in, how much council tax you pay, housing costs, having a child, paying for school uniform – it encompasses all these costs and the living wage foundation comes up with the cost of living. This is currently £8.75 per hour in Cambridge, we should push for colleges to pay the living wage as the support workers in college are often not paid the living wage – this is often women or people of colour, disproportionately affecting them in Cambridge. We want to pass a motion to say the RCSA supports this campaign.

Vote on motion:

For: 34

Against: 1

Abstentions: 0

The motion passes.

E) The Budget 2018-19

RCSA Notes:

1. The budget for the next year needs to be discussed and voted on.

RCSA Believes:

1. That this is essential.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To discuss the budget and vote on it, according to the constitution.
2. To approve the RCSA budget for 2017-18 as detailed in the attachment

Proposed by: RCSA Executive

Tom Hinch: I'll talk briefly about the budget – the net figure at the bottom shows the budget has stayed relatively stable, but that's not taking into account the CUSU affiliations etc. no longer come from the RCSA budget, so this is a massive increase in RCSA spending power, but that's all explained in the cover statement.

Valentine Lauwereins – We will ask if there are any questions and if anyone would like to make amendments.

Clara Bayley – I spoke to the people running yoga soc and they are willing to move £50 of their budget into ours, and I have heard the basketball budget is huge and not being spent – we'd like to know if we can move some.

Tom Hinch – Basketball originally claimed the same as last year and have contacted to say they no longer have enough players so the £280 and £50 for league and match fees can be reallocated – that's £330 for possible reallocation.

Valentine Lauwereins – Are there any others who would like to claim some of this?

George Martin – Hockey at the moment are asking for £550 for kit; this is the minimum that is going to allow us to get enough kit, shorts, socks, etc.... Hockey haven't had new kit for three or four years now – we only have four Robinson Hockey tops and have to wear various other things. If possible could this budget be expanded slightly? By £50?

Natalie Johnson – Welfare has had an increase which is great but we were going to ask for more for individual officers, and it sounds (from Hustings) like Mental Health and Disabilities are going to be more active – is there a possibility they could get a budget?

Valentine Lauwereins – So how much and for which officer?

Tom Hinch – I'd like to keep the same amount for individual welfare officer budgets.

Natalie Johnson – So £70 for mental health. I'm now conscious the only officer left off (except for Overseas, which works differently) is BME – this could be quite a controversial omission, could they have the same? So £70 more.

James Timmins – Ents asked for an increase this year and we were given a small increase, we had asked for significantly more for Freshers Week which this year involved ten separate events, only three of which are bops with potential for earning back any financial gain. If

there's anything going spare – we don't want to take from Hockey etc who seem to have more of a need, but anything to help with running a great Freshers Week. Let's hear from others before asking for a specific amount.

Sam Sully – Could we ask for a few tenners more for filmsoc, a new Umney booking fee has been introduced this year, we have enough for regular events but would be good to have some for spontaneous ones too.

Tom Hinch – To clarify, the agreement for free room use is still ongoing but college want to charge a nominal fee for AV maintenance.

Clara Bayley - A bit of background, we (Gardening Society) were given this budget because the college said we should share equipment with the gardeners instead of buying our own, but the gardeners would not like us to use their equipment so we need a lot of money to buy it or we cannot do any gardening, we'd like £100 from basketball.

Hazel Nicholson – We spoke to Clara and would be willing to give £50 of yoga society budget to gardening.

Valentine Lauwereins – I'm not sure this is how it should work, with one society giving budget to another.

Tom Hinch – The idea is that it is two separate processes, to give away the budget and for the other societies to ask to claim it. So you're happy to give up the £50?

Hazel Nicholson - Yes

Valentine Lauwereins – So we have £380 to reallocate – with £330 from Basketball and £50 from Yoga. So far we have 2 x £70 for Welfare, £100 for Gardening, some for Ents and Film Soc – this seems to work without disagreement.

Question about the need for other parts of the basketball budget

Tom Hinch – Is there any rep from Basketball? They already told me that they submitted a request for the same amount, I contacted them and they said they didn't need that much. They've trimmed their equipment budget, removed their kit budget – I will leave it for the meeting to decide whether they should be cut any further.

Sam Sully – So we could ask £40 for Film Soc

Ben Hart – I'm not sure how this works, but Ultimate Frisbee is asking for money, we have not claimed from the budget before, can we check how this works?

Tom Hinch – You made your claim, this budget was accepted by the finance office, we have now been given this allotted amount. Unless anyone challenges it, it will go through.

Valentine Lauwereins – So now we will vote for the amendment.

Budget Amendments

Basketball -£330

-£280 League Fees

-£50 Match Fees

Yoga

Equipment -£50

Hockey

Kit +£50

Welfare

Mental Health and Disabilities Officer +£70

BME Officer +£70

Freshers Week

Entertainments + £50

Film Society

Auditorium Hire +£40

Gardening

Equipment +£100

Valentine Lauwereins – Any questions before the vote?

(None)

Vote on amendments to budget:

For: 41

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Valentine Lauwereins – Now we will vote on the budget as a whole.

Vote on motion

For: 41

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

The motion passes.

Any other business

A) Consultation on CUSU Council motion regarding support for a people's vote

Tom Hinch – Briefly; at the last CUSU council meeting a motion was proposed for CUSU to support the move for a people's vote, a second vote on the Brexit referendum. This was delayed until the next meeting on Monday 5th November, and we were asked to consult with the RCSA about it, return to the meeting, and vote on this. I welcome any comments, thoughts on this.

Alice Gilderdale – It's not CUSU's place. So many people might not have an opinion, I realise CUSU has a political representation but the students in this room right now can't represent the college's view on this.

Mark Driver – Before the referendum in 2016 a similar motion was brought to the graduate union council looking to support one of the sides in the debate – you're saying it's political but it must represent what's in the best interest of students generally. Considering how the Brexit process has been going and looking at international students and what's involved there, we should be having some sort of policy drive, one of those things is having another referendum.

Lily Rose Sharry – You could support the views of international students by getting CUSU to propose a motion to deal with that specifically, international fees etc, it doesn't necessarily have to be by having a people's vote.

Tom Whitworth – Given it's an issue for the international students in Cambridge, but many of them are not eligible to vote. While it's a student issue, it's political, and not CUSU's place.

Hazel Nicholson – The other part it affects is funding for research conducted. That's the other thing to look at, how it impacts us.

Alice Gilderdale – I know the graduate union has put their name on something endorsing the people's vote, this is something different.

Mark Driver – It is meant to support all students too.

Alice Gilderdale – This motion is different, I think the wording needs to be looked at by Tom (RCSA President-elect) or someone.

Tom Hinch – So to wrap up, I appreciate this is a small group, but a show of hands? If you think we should support the motion to support the campaigning for a second referendum.

Do we agree it's CUSU's place to do this? Should we vote for, against, or abstain?

(An informal vote gave 1 vote for supporting the motion, 4 for abstention, and 10 for voting against)

Appendix

Appendix A - Proposed Constitution of 'Robinson's WonderWomen Society'

Constitution for Robinson's WonderWomen Society

1. Name

1.1. The name of the society shall be 'Robinson's WonderWomen Society'.

2. Membership and subscriptions:

2.1. All Women and non-binary students of Robinson College shall be Full Members of the Society.

2.2. Any member may invite any female or non-binary supporter of the society to become an Honorary Member.

2.3. No subscription or minimum payment is required for membership of the society.

2.4. All Members agree to be bound by the constitution of the RCSA.

3. Definitions

a. In this constitution, unless explicitly stated otherwise,

i. AGM shall refer to the Annual General Meeting which takes place at the end of Easter Term

4. Composition and Election of Committee a. The following shall be officers of the committee:

i. Co-presidents (2) ii. Secretary (1)

b. Responsibilities for the running of the society shall be divided up by the committee

c. Nominations for officer positions shall be presented to an officer of the committee no less than 24 hours before the AGM

d. In the case of unfilled positions, the responsibilities of the vacant role shall be split between members of committee

e. Voting will be done during the AGM

f. Leaving committee members will remain in their posts after the election until July 31st. The new committee is effective from August 1st onwards. It is the responsibility of individual officers to ensure there is a smooth transition during the change of committee.

5. Finance

- a. The financial year shall be kept from August 1st to July 31st
- b. It shall be the duty of the secretary to keep accurate details of decisions, correspondences, accounts, and all expenditure by the society, which may be inspected by the committee at any time
- c. The society shall be funded by Robinson College Students' Association
- d. All society-related expenditure is under the authority of co-presidents
- e. The co-presidents are responsible for preparing the budget proposal to be submitted to the RCSA each year

6. Meetings

- a. An AGM shall be held once every year at the end of Easter Term
- b. Reasonable notice of the AGM shall be given to all members
- c. Attendance of all members is permitted at all general meetings
- d. It is the responsibility of the co-presidents to convene meetings

7. Constitution

- a. Amendment of the constitution can only occur via a 60% majority vote by society members present at the AGM (of which there must be a minimum of 10)
- b. A copy of the constitution is kept by the secretary and is available to view by any member of the society upon request

8. Affiliation

- a. The society has no affiliation with any other society (other than the RCSA)

Appendix: Aims and Objectives

- 2. To encourage women within college to pursue sport alongside their degree;
- 3. To help each member reach fitness goals in a fun, supportive and sociable atmosphere
- 4. To build each member's confidence and leadership skills by rotating class leaders