



RCSA Policy List



Articles 18 and 19 of the RCSA Constitution state that:

18. RCSA Policy

- a. A motion regarding RCSA Policy passed by an Open Meeting shall become RCSA Policy unless it lies in breach of this Constitution or beyond the powers of the Open Meeting.
- b. RCSA Policy shall lapse after three years subject to part (c) and Article 19(b).
- c. Members may call for a Referendum to annul RCSA Policy (Article 23(b)).
- d. If RCSA Policy is no longer viable, a Committee can propose a motion of annulment (Article 11(b)(i)) to the next Ordinary Open Meeting.
- e. RCSA Policy takes precedence over Resolutions of either the Committee or Welfare Committee.

19. The Policy List

- a. The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping a record of Policy. This record shall be known as the Policy List.
- b. In the first Open Meeting following the election of a new Committee any Policy on the Policy List due to lapse in the forthcoming Year according to Article 18(b) may be proposed by the Committee to be renewed.
- c. The Policy List shall be available on the RCSA website.

Note: Open Meeting motions relating to the allocation of funds are not considered policy and expire at the conclusion of the Budget Cycle in which they are passed.

The policy of the RCSA has been separated into three-year cycles such that it is obvious when policy needs to be renewed. Within each cycle they are listed chronologically with the oldest policies first.

2019/20

Next Renewal: 2022/23

Late Bar Opening

Passed: 21st November 2004

Renewed: 27th January 2008; 28th November 2010; 23rd November 2013; 20th November 2016; 1st December 2019

- That subject to consultation as required, the RCSA is in favour of extended bar opening hours, or continued extended bar opening hours, particularly on Fridays.

Matriculation photographs in the JCR

Passed: 16th October 2005

Renewed: 27th January 2008; 28th November 2010; 23rd November 2013; 20th November 2016; 1st December 2019

- That the RCSA is in favour of matriculation photographs being displayed in the JCR.

Fairtrade

Passed: 24th February 2008

Renewed: 28th November 2010; 23rd November 2013; 20th November 2016; 1st December 2019

- That the RCSA works to maintain the college's official Fairtrade status.
- That the RCSA is committed to serving Fairtrade products at events it hosts wherever possible.
- That the RCSA will encourage college authorities to include Fairtrade products in food prepared on site.
- That the RCSA will encourage college authorities to sell more Fairtrade supplies within college, but with no intention of removing all other options.
- That the RCSA supports the campaign to achieve Fairtrade Status for Cambridge University.

Fourth Year Returnees' Rent

Passed: 4th May 2008

Renewed: 28th November 2010; 23rd November 2013; 20th November 2016; 1st December 2019

- That the RCSA believes that fourth year returnees should not have to pay increased rent.

Staircase Hobs

Passed: 28th November 2010

Renewed: 23rd November 2013; 20th November 2016; 1st December 2019

- That the RCSA is emphatically opposed to any action to take away the hobs in our kitchens in college.

Standing Desks

Passed: 9th October 2016

Renewed: 1st December 2019

- The RCSA is in favour of the provision of two standing desks in the college library.

Teaching Excellence Framework

Passed: 20th November 2016

Renewed: 1st December 2019

- The RCSA believes that the TEF will deal a devastating blow to the access and outreach efforts of the University.
- The RCSA is in favour of the University of Cambridge abstaining from the TEF.

Shadow Ballots Ban

Passed: 1st March 2020

- To ban future 'Shadow Ballots'.
- That the consequence for anyone who chooses to create a Shadow Ballot shall be at the discretion of the RCSA Senior Team, likely being moved down on the ballot.

Lobbying for College Divestment from Fossil Fuels

Passed: 1st March 2020

- To officially declare that we are living in a state of climate crisis.
- To keep up a regular and transparent dialogue with students about the college's divestment status, taking into consideration confidentiality restrictions.
- To lobby college management to:
 - Commit to permanently moving all investments out of the fossil fuel industry and extractivist research.
 - Invest in sustainable energy alternatives.

Termination of Barclays Bank Account

Passed: 1st March 2020

- To ask the Senior Treasurer to:
 - Terminate any existing account with Barclays.
 - Open a comparable account with a bank that does not finance fossil-fuel expansion or extractivism, based on Ethical Consumer's 2018 ranking of top ethical accounts, such as The Co-operative Bank or Nationwide Building Society.
- To send a letter to Barclays on behalf of the students of Robinson College, detailing the specifically environmental reasons for the change.

- To lobby the College to do the same with their own accounts.
- To only accept a negotiation with College based on an RCSA Committee consensus, ensuring the autonomy of the RCSA is protected.

Lobbying for accommodation for those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic

Passed: 26th April 2020

- To ask the College to allocate a portion of en-suite and hostel housing to those in need during this public health crisis.
- To ask that the college pledge a portion of their empty accommodation to the Cambridge City Council, to be added onto the Council Housing Register.
- To allow the City Council and local organisations to allocate and govern the accommodation according to the College's own health and safety standards and with respect to the College's safeguarding and duty of care to all stakeholders involved.
- To provide accommodation to immigration detainees, in the event that they get released from detention centres, particularly those who are now held in Yarl's Wood – where appropriate and with guidance from the council.
- To spread awareness and support the local initiatives and organisations who aim for the provision of housing and sanctuary in Cambridge.
- To continue to support initiatives raising awareness of and providing support for rough sleepers, the unemployed, domestic violence survivors, and asylum seekers, in Cambridge including after this crisis is over.

Robinson College Boat Club Photos

Passed: 21st June 2020

- To allocate space on a wall in college to display the annual photos of boat club members.

Campaign to Prevent Job Cuts

Passed: 11th October 2020

- To lobby the university, faculties and colleges to protect jobs and provide fair pay, pensions and conditions to all of their employees.
- To educate and inform students about any job cuts, and what this will mean for students.
- To provide information on the job cuts to members of the JCR, including details of how to support staff facing redundancy.
- To fully and publicly support student campaigning and actions in opposition to job cuts, including but not limited to sharing publicity and supporting campaigning and actions, as led by students.

2018/19

Next Renewal: 2021/22

Third and Fourth Year Hall

Passed: 28th January 2007

Renewed: 28th November 2009; 25th November 2012; 22nd November 2015; 25th November 2018

- That the Catering & Amenities Officer should be responsible for the organising of a 'Third and Fourth Year Hall' in Lent term, similar in format to 'Half Way Hall'.
- That tickets for this Hall should be available to all current third and fourth years.

Lobbying for a Real-Terms Rent Cut

Passed: 25th November 2018

- To make it RCSA policy to pursue a real-term rent cut of no less than 15% for college-owned accommodation, both for graduates and undergraduates.
- To ensure that any deal negotiated benefits the future student body as well as the current.

National Student Survey Boycott

Passed: 20th January 2019

- To support CUSU's boycott of the NSS by distributing information to finalists encouraging them to partake in the boycott.
- To publicly express backing for the boycott by making relevant posts on the RCSA Facebook Page and through material in the JCR.
- To lobby College to not actively promote the NSS to finalists and to make student opposition to the marketisation of education clear at the University and national level.

Online Room Booking System

Passed: 9th June 2019

- To create an online room booking system or get college to create one

Commemoration of Mark Driver

Passed: 9th June 2019

- To make it RCSA Policy that the 10th June become "Mark Driver Remembrance Day" in commemoration of his commitment to the RCSA.

Annual Removal of Inactive Societies

Passed: 10th November 2019

- To formally disband inactive societies and remove them from the RCSA Constitution and RCSA materials such as the website.

- To add any new societies formed since the last update to the RCSA Constitution and RCSA materials such as the website.
- That this will be completed in Michaelmas term of each academic year by the Sports and Societies Officer.

Annual Big Robinson Survey

Passed: 10th November 2019

- To produce an annual "Big Robinson Survey" to be published before the division of Lent term.
- To work with either members of the College fellowship or experts to make sure the survey produced is an accurate reflection of student opinion.

Lobbying for Transparency

Passed: 10th November 2019

- To lobby college management figures to release data about employment practices to the public.
- To lobby college management to be more transparent with releasing data to the public in future.

Support for UCU Strikes

Passed: 10th November 2019

- To give a public statement in support of striking workers via social media and the college mailing list.
- To distribute information about the reasons for the strikes, how best to support strikers, and how to continue studies during the strikes.
This could include:
 - Information from CUSU.
 - The Strikebridge page on Facebook for book sharing and academic queries.

2017/18

Next Renewal: 2020/21

RCSA Reserves

Passed: 16th October 2005

Renewed: 27th January 2008; 27th November 2011; 30th November 2014; 19th November 2017

- That RCSA reserves can be used for the continuing development and improvement of the RCSA.

Constitution & Open Meetings

Passed: 12th February 2006

Renewed: 26th November 2008; 27th November 2011; 30th November 2014; 19th November 2017

- That all members of the RCSA Committee should have a working knowledge of the RCSA constitution.
- That attendance at Open meetings is important.

RCSA Song

Passed: 26th November 2006

Renewed: 26th November 2008; 27th November 2011; 30th November 2014; 19th November 2017

- That an adapted version of Simon & Garfunkel's "Mrs. Robinson" is the official song of the RCSA.
- That the RCSA is in favour of this becoming the official college song.

Wifi

Passed: 26th November 2006

Renewed: 26th November 2008; 27th November 2011; 30th November 2014; 19th November 2017

- That students should have access to an effective wireless internet service.
- That where needed the RCSA supports the improvement of this service, particularly to the same standard as conference facilities.

CCTV Data Storage

Passed: 9th November 2008

Renewed: 27th November 2011; 30th November 2014; 19th November 2017

- That the RCSA believes that the College should store CCTV data for a maximum of 14 days.

Open Meeting Budgets

Passed: 9th November 2008

Renewed: 27th November 2011; 30th November 2014; 19th November 2017

- That the Open Meeting budget will be divided equally between the eight ordinary Open Meetings specified in the constitution.
- That any money unspent from the Open Meeting budget at a particular Open Meeting shall be made available to the next Open Meeting (with the exception that funds from the Budget meeting cannot rollover).
- That no single motion may request financial assistance in excess of 12.5% of the Open Meeting budget without also complying with the conditions specified in article 11 (f) of the constitution.

~~Cafe Opening Hours~~

Passed: 29th November 2008

Renewed: 27th November 2011; 30th November 2014; 19th November 2017

- That the RCSA supports the opening of the Red Brick Cafe on Saturdays.

Representing students on matters relating to residence charges

Passed: 28th January 2018

- Mandates the RCSA President ~~and Cut The Rent Campaign~~ to represent students on matters concerning residence charges.

4th Year Room Ballot Position

Passed: 11th February 2018

- That students returning for a fourth year to above current second years in the room ballot.

~~Raising awareness of reasons behind UCU strike~~

Passed: 4th March 2018

- To distribute literature via email lists, social media, and on paper (resource dependent) explaining above reasons for and issues at stake regarding the strike; and to invite a UCU representative to give a talk in college about the reasons for the strike and how it affects students.

Cambridge Refugee Scholarship Campaign (CRSC)

Passed: 29th April 2018

- That the RCSA will endorse the Cambridge Refugee Scholarship Campaign as it calls on the University to:
 - Offer at least 10 scholarships that cover course and maintenance fees for refugees and individuals who have been granted international protection by the state in which they reside lawfully. "International protection" in this context means recognition as a refugee or a grant of complementary protection.
 - Publicise these scholarships so that potential students can easily apply.

Motion to support 'Why Gender Neutral?' campaign and lobby for implementation of gender neutral toilets in college

Passed: 13th June 2018

- That the RCSA will officially support and endorse the Why Gender-Neutral? Campaign.
- That the RCSA will lobby college administration to implement accessible, permanent gender-neutral toilets across the entirety of college, acknowledging that disabled toilets are not an adequate option