**27.11.22 - RCSA Open Meeting Agenda**

**6:00pm – JCR**

# Apologies for Absence or Lateness

# Aaron, Maya, Tasnia, Avery, Isaac, James

# Approval of the Presence and Speaking Rights of Guests

# Approval of the Order of the Agenda

# 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

# Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Last Meeting

# Committee Reports and Resolutions

# Amelie: Baking social went well

Plans to affiliate with a different voting system for RCSA elections, joining with other colleges in moving away from the SU system – should not cost more than £25p/a

# Questions for the Committee

# Extraordinary Motions

# Ordinary Motions

1. **Motion for funding for Robinson Pink Week Events**
2. **Motion for adoption of Committee Proposed Policy Renewal**

# Any other RCSA business

Sophie: How would we go about getting a college pet – preferably a cat? Who would look after it? Would we be on board with it?

Lucas: where would you get the money from and who would look after it? Vet bills, insurance, etc.

Alex: most other colleges which have cats are the master’s cats.

Sophie: Exeter, Oxford have the porters looking after the cat outside of term time.

Izzy: cats are different to dogs – it wouldn’t really be a pet as they sort of do their own thing. There are cats which already do this around Robinson – we don’t need extra expense, and the cat might run away or get run over. I don’t think it’s the most logical idea.

Sophie: what about a smaller pet like a rabbit?

Fabian: that would necessitate more upkeep and involvement.

Izzy: that would be a sad rabbit!

Lucas: so can you clarify again if you want money?

Sophie: we’re just trying to get an idea of support.

George: maybe a good idea in theory, but needs more consideration about the realities of pet ownership.

Alex: next term I might put forward a motion for a group working space – maybe in the CWB

Kaz: any room won’t be in the CWB.

George: we might be able to get something working in the main building but it wouldn’t be in the CWB.

**A.** **Motion for funding for Robinson Pink Week Events**

RCSA Notes:

* Pink week is something that has been running for many years in Cambridge and helps to bring both awareness to breast cancer and importance of women regularly checking themselves and also helps to raise money for breast cancer charities.
* As the Pink week reps for Robinson College we will support the week by holding Robinson Pink Week events – a formal, a bop and a sport day like event with baked goods and face painting.

RCSA Believes:

* Pink week is an essential event for people to get behind and it is vital Robinson gets behind this by funding the Robinson events.

RCSA Resolves:

* To give £200 from the RCSA Open Meeting Budget to fund the week. (£50 for general college decorations – approved by council, £50 for formal and bop decorations and £100 for supplies for the sports day event)

Proposed by: *Tamsin Sandhu*

Seconded by: *Jumeira Nathan*

Tamsin and Ilana are Pink Week reps, requesting budget of £138 for Pink Week events as detailed in the motion minutes.

Vote: all in favour, **25 aye, 0 nay - passed**

**B. Motion for adoption of Committee Proposed Policy Renewal**

RCSA Notes:

* The RCSA must renew its policy every three years or else it will become defunct
* That not all policy is always relevant in perpetuity, and must be subject to continual review

RCSA Believes:

* The policy items within Appendix B1 should be renewed as policy for the next three years as they are within the best interests of the students of Robinson College
* The policy item within Appendix B2 should be allowed to lapse at the end of its’ three year cycle as it is no longer relevant

RCSA Resolves:

* To renew policy items within Appendix B1 for the following three year period
* To create new, more appropriate, policy at the discretion of the committee to replace those which are allowed to lapse, specifically those regarding COVID-19.

**B1. Policy proposed by the Committee to be Renewed**

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.
* to 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. •

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. •

**B2. Policy that would be allowed to lapse**

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. •

All in favour of upholding policies in B1 and allowing those in B2 to lapse: **25 aye, 0 nay. Passed.**