

DCSA Minutes

Date: 05-11-04

To: Jessica Beckett, Katie Tanner, Melanie Keene, Claudia Crovace, Massimiliano Molinari, Gustavo Rosa, Michelle To, Daniel Tattersall, Kate Ni Chionnaith, Andreas Sattler, Shauna Garvey, Kathleen Breslin, Hannah Rippin, Martyn Dade-Robertson, Andrea Balbo

Cc: Peter Brindle (bursar), DCSA members

From: Melanie Keene

Re: Minutes of open general meeting of 4th November 2004

Present: Jessica Beckett (president, *education committee rep*) JB
Katie Tanner (treasurer, *finance committee rep*) KT
Melanie Keene (secretary, *buildings & grounds committee rep*) MJK
Massimiliano Molinari (ents) MM
Gustavo Rosa (ents) GR
Michelle To (welfare & external, *library committee rep*) MT
Claudia Crovace (sports) CC
Martyn Dade-Robertson (College council rep) MDR

Apologies: Kathleen Breslin (admiral) KB
Kate Ni Chionnaith (green, *health & safety committee rep*) KK
Daniel Tattersall (bar chair) DT
Andreas Sattler (international, *meals committee rep*) AGHS
Shauna Garvey (women) SG
Hannah Rippin (comms, *computer committee rep*) HR
Andrea Balbo (College council rep) AB

Approximately 15 members were present. 15% of membership (approximately 60) is required to be present for the open general meeting to be quorate.

1. Signing of Minutes of Last General Meeting

Minutes of the last general meeting of November 2003 were agreed and signed.

2. Report of the DCSA Exec

MJK reported on the recent activities of the DCSA executive committee: as well as organising the Freshers' events, bops, formal hall exchanges, and overseeing the day-to-day running of the student organisation our two current projects are the refurbishment of the television room and coordination of a bike loan scheme. Plans

for the TV room renovation should be ready soon, and student input is welcomed and should be addressed to KT or MJK. The first bike sale will occur on Saturday 6th at 2pm. More generally, any comments or suggestions on what we do, or should do, are always welcomed, and can be emailed to members of the DCSA exec.

3. Report of College Council

MDR reported from the last college council meeting. Items discussed of relevance to the student body were: the approvals of the bar's extended opening hours, including for this term's events (e.g. Oktoberfest, Snow Bop); the instigation of stricter regulations on the use of the common room for band practices in an attempt to lessen noise pollution; and the fact that last year's building work came in on time and under budget, providing additional accommodation that should be available for student use in the new year.

4. Graduate Union Update

MDR updated the open meeting as to the current problems at the Graduate Union (GU). At a meeting last Thursday a vote of no confidence in the current GU president was passed, and the president consequently impeached. This was in response to a series of allegations, and concerns that, for example, the GU shop has been closed all summer. MDR stressed that this crisis has prompted questioning of the need for a GU at all, and that the future of the organisation is being hotly debated: over the next year the DCSA should ensure it stays involved with what's going on, and has a clear position on the role of the GU. MJK attended a second meeting on this issue, at which it was agreed that a working party be set up to investigate possible directions the GU could take: one favoured idea is for the creation of a second sabbatical post, a Chair, who could help out the President and allow the GU to be more effective. Other suggestions included merging the GU with the Cambridge University Students' Union (CUSU). Elections for several GU positions, including that of president, will take place on 16th November, Hustings on 15th November. If Darwin students are keen to stand then they should get in touch with JB. JB informed the meeting that at the last CUSU Council it was made clear that CUSU would not want to incorporate the GU, and that though Wes Streeting, current CUSU president, is to be co-opted to the GU's working party on its future, CUSU believes this should remain a graduate-only issue. JB also reported that CUSU is working together with the Architecture Department and University Architecture Society in an attempt to save the department from being closed down.

5. DCSA Budget 2004/05

- KT presented the provisional DCSA budget for 2004/05; copies of this budget were circulated to attendees.
- KT briefly detailed where the money comes from and what it is to be used for: college provides the DCSA with a percentage of the student fees which is then allocated to run the student association, to make the college a 'nice place to live in', and to help out the college clubs and societies.
- JB and KT stressed that there are certain items that the DCSA does not pay for, e.g. personal kit and prizes/awards. Last year approximately £7,700 was given to clubs and societies; this year £9,730.40 has been allocated.
- Warren K questioned the £1,126.14 paid as 'Sports Affiliations' and asked what this money was for: JB and KT replied that they weren't certain, but was probably to ensure that Darwin students could represent University teams and be affiliated to the national BUSA competitions.

- The Chess Club agreed to compromise and accept a lower amount of money for coaching – they were allocated £50 for this purpose.
- GR contested the deduction of the £100 request from the men's football club for 'Miscellaneous items': he argued that this money was required to fund the weekly washing of the shared kit by the team captain, which amounts to approximately £50 a year for each team. GR suggested the DCSA provide a laundry card to be signed out by the clubs' presidents or captains. JB replied that this would cost in the region of £600 a year, as it would have to be available to all sports clubs, and emphasised that this money would have to come out of the clubs and societies budget. Julia Z asked why the Football Club did not ask their members to make a small contribution towards the cost of washing the kit: the DCSA provides a considerable amount of money for the club so players would get a lot in return for a small donation. KT noted that other societies, e.g. the Boat Club, ask members to pay a termly fee. Michelle C commented that the women's football team takes it in turns each week to wash the kit, returning it to college for collection by the captain. MDR stated that such an issue could not be decided immediately, but would be taken under consideration by the exec committee: this plan of action was agreed.
- Brian D suggested that the allocation of money to the Fright Club be cut, as he didn't believe the society to be that active, or have many members. It was agreed that the allocation would be reduced to £50, and given with the recommendation that the Fright Club collaborate with the Film Club to provide a range of films for a video library to be housed in the TV room.
- Brian D asked that 'scepticism on the part of Darwin members' as to the proportion of Darwin students in the Greek Dancing society be registered, as he believes most members of the society come from outside college. KT reported from their funding application that they have 22 Darwin members, but also incorporate students from other colleges. MJK pointed out that, constitutionally, up to 30% of a society's membership can be non-Darwin members.
- Michelle C raised the issue of storage facilities for the Music Society's equipment: apparently the cellar below the bar area is prone to damp, and some of the equipment is starting to rust. This is why the society has applied for money to replace the drum set, etc. JB suggested that the society purchase some boxes or other airtight containers in which to store the equipment. Michelle C confirmed that alternative ways of, and locations for, storing the equipment are being investigated: this storage might end up being at another college. The application for the drum snare is also an attempt to reduce the noise made by practising bands (see item 3 above).
- KT informed the meeting that she and CC had purchased a table tennis table last week for the use of students, and that it should be arriving in the next few days.
- JB asked if anyone knew about racquet hire, as money for this has been requested by the Real/Lawn Tennis Club.
- Warren K commented that he believed the Running Club already possessed some vests in Darwin colours.
- The 2004/05 DCSA budget was passed, with these minor alterations, by a unanimous DCSA exec vote. (N.B. A copy of the budget will be posted on the DCSA noticeboard as soon as it is finalised.)

6. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 18th November at 7.30pm** in the Old Library.

MJK