

# DCSA Minutes

Date: 20-05-05

To: Jessica Beckett, Katie Tanner, Melanie Keene, Massimiliano Molinari, Gustavo Rosa, Yuri Ji, Julia Zaccai, Maurice Fallon, Dan Tattersall, Suil In, Roseinne Farrugia, Gustavo Garcia-Lopez, Martyn Dade-Robertson, Andrea Balbo, David Kuhlmann

Cc: Peter Brindle (bursar), DCSA members

From: Melanie Keene

Re: Minutes of open general meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> May 2005

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Present:

Jessica Beckett (president, *education committee rep*) JB  
Melanie Keene (secretary, *buildings & grounds committee rep*) MJK  
Katie Tanner (treasurer, *finance committee rep*) KT  
Martyn Dade-Robertson (comms, *computer committee rep*) MDR  
Julia Zaccai (sports) JZ  
Dan Tattersall (bar chair) DT  
Gustavo Garcia-Lopez (greens, *health & safety committee rep*) GGL  
Suil In (international, *meals committee rep*) SI  
Maurice Fallon (admiral) MF  
Gustavo Rosa (ents) GR  
Yuri Ji (welfare & external, *library committee rep*) YJ  
David Kuhlmann (College council rep) DK

Apologies:

Roseinne Farrugia (women) RF  
Massimiliano Molinari (ents) MM  
Andrea Balbo (College council rep) AB

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

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1. Signing of Minutes of Last General Meeting

Minutes of the last general meeting of November 2004 were agreed and signed.

## 2. Report of the DCSA Exec

MJK reported on the recent activities of the DCSA executive committee. In addition to ongoing activities such as formal hall exchanges, recycling, attending College meetings, funding clubs and societies, etc., the TV room refurbishment is near completion, with the curtains on order and film posters ready to go up – our next project will be the renovation of the gym. Also, the River Rat magazine will be coming out next week, the Down House trip organised in conjunction with the Education and Research Committee is taking place on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June, and there will be a Korean Night on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May.

## 3. Children's Christmas Party

The Bursar asked JB to inform the committee that the 2005 children's Christmas party has been taken off the calendar. This was cancelled last year due to a lack of interest. Students who wish to organise a replacement event should feel free to do so.

## 4. DCSA Exec Elections

It was decided that the next set of DCSA exec elections will take place on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June, with Hustings held on the evening of Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June. In line with the constitution, the positions up for election will be: President, Secretary, Treasurer, Sports Officer, Ents Officers (2, with 1 vote on the exec), and College Council reps (2). Moreover, further to discussion about the role of the Admiral of the Punts (see item 6 below), this position will also now be elected in June. Therefore, MF's term of office will end at the May Ball, the usual changeover date for committees. The constitutional amendments required to alter this will be put to the vote at the same elections. The committee noted that after the failure to get other amendments passed at the last election, MJK will ensure that this additional vote is adequately advertised. Moreover, in an attempt to encourage more students to vote, ballot papers will be put in each student's pigeon hole: these will then need to be filled out and delivered to the ballot box during voting hours. There was some discussion of other ways of increasing student turn-out, such as email voting, already employed at some other colleges, and which might be implemented in the future. JB will advertise the election times, dates, and positions to be filled to the student body.

## 5. Gym

JZ has started to obtain quotations for the refurbishment of the gym, which will involve replacing the floor, shelves and stereo, and repainting the walls. She has some prices for different types of flooring, including a slightly more expensive Eco-tile, which handily come in all the College colours! The committee discussed ways in which the stereo could be secured in order to ensure it is not stolen, as previous hi-fis have been. DT wondered if it would be worthwhile spending more money on a fully-installed system, with mounted speakers, etc. Other options include fixing the stereo in a locked cupboard, with the key available to be signed out from the porters. JZ has had some difficulty in disposing of the current multi-gym, as none of the companies who would deliver the new equipment would remove the old machine. Selling it on

eBay was suggested, as well as dismantling the machine and putting it in the May Ball skip, or offering it for a nominal sum to a Darwin member, or another Cambridge student through other colleges' Sports Officers, on the understanding that they collect their purchase. JZ will think about the best way to solve this problem. The exec agreed unanimously to allocate approximately £3,000 to this project, and gave JZ the go-ahead to order the flooring, equipment, etc.

## 6. Admiral of the Punts

Further to discussion of this issue at previous DCSA exec meetings, the idea of having 2 officers to share in the responsibility of the Punts position was again proposed. However, and in line with previous conversations, it was agreed that another exec position would not be created, but that the elected Admiral would be encouraged either to appoint an informal auxiliary team, or to invite students to apply for a co-opted, non-voting, Vice-Admiral position. JB will advertise this possibility when promoting the Admiral position for the elections. By changing the date when the position is elected, it has been ensured that the Admiral will be a PhD student: hopefully this provision will facilitate the transfer of responsibility as incoming and outgoing officers will both be around Cambridge over the summer; moreover, the Punting season will have been set-up and will be underway when the new officer takes charge. MF additionally commented that it was important that the Admiral be readily-contactable by the porters, and available on-site for answering questions and sorting out problems such as free-floating punts. Therefore, JB and MF will talk to the Bursar about the possibility of an on-site room for the Admiral; to aid in these discussions, DT will email them the proposals put together for the various College Committees when on-site accommodation was obtained for members of Barcom.

## 7. Officers' Reports

### Treasurer

KT circulated a summary of our financial expenditure on the recent TV room refurbishment: it came in at £5,150.08. She has spoken to the Bursar, who informed her that there is a possibility the Finance Committee will contribute towards these expenses. [N.B. This item will be discussed at the Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting next week.]

### Secretary

MJK advertised the Down House trip, which is taking place on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June, and encouraged anyone who wanted to go to book with her soon.

### Sports

There will be sale of Darwin clothing on the evening of Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May, and at lunchtime on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May.

### Greens

GGL has been working with an intercollegiate environmental and ethical committee on the question of using 'green' electricity. Last year much of the University switched to a supplier of 'green' electricity, and the committee has been encouraged to lobby the bursars of their colleges to encourage their use of 'green' energy as well. The exec felt that an informal approach to the Bursar to discuss this issue, rather than

a formal lobbying, would be the best way to proceed, and agreed to support GGL in his proposals to the Bursar. YJ suggested that a Whatsup message be sent to students asking them to 'act green': GGL will think of some environmentally-friendly tips and will pass them on to JB. GGL also reported that at a recent Health and Safety Committee meeting the question of lightbulb recycling was raised. [N.B. The Bursar commented via email that 'all the electricity used in our houses is 100% 'green' already - it's supplied by Scottish & Southern from hydro sources'.]

#### 8. Any Other Business

GR reported that he had been to see the Clerk of Works about ventilation in the TV room. The CoW informed him that measures such as putting vents in the door to the room could contravene fire safety regulations, and pointed out that there is an extractor fan in the room. When turned on and with the windows open, this system should ventilate the room sufficiently. GR will make and put up a notice informing students how to operate this.

KT asked about the DCSA video camera, which according to the website is available from the Bar Chair: DT commented that he did not know where the camera was. JB will ask Derek the porter about the camera again. The committee decided that if the camera is AWOL or very old (as has been reported), it would probably be best to replace it with a digital model, and make it available from the porter's lodge. More generally, KT pointed out that much of the website (society pages, etc.) is out-of-date: several committee members agreed with this, and that more generally the Student Life pages could do with a revamp. This will be looked into, but may well be forwarded as a recommended project for next year's committee.

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 8pm** in the Old Library.

MJK