

DCSA Minutes

Date: 22/11/2003

To: Bee Smyth, Bojana Popovic, Amyas Phillips, Claudia Crovace, Massimiliano Molinari, Fanar Haddad, Michelle To, Peter Ahnesorg, Kate Kenny, Andreas Sattler, Shauna Garvey, Kathleen Breslin, Hannah Rippin, Martyn Dade-Robertson, Jessica Beckett

Cc: Michelle Crowe, Peter Brindle, DCSA members

From: Amyas Phillips

RE: Minutes of open general meeting of Thursday November 20th

Present: Bee Smyth (president)
Bojana Popovic (treasurer)
Amyas Phillips (secretary)
Claudia Crovace (sports)
Massimiliano Molinari (ents)
Fanar Haddad (ents)
Michelle To (welfare & external)
Kate Kenny (green)
Andreas Sattler (international)
Shauna Garvey (women)
Kathleen Breslin (admiral)
Hannah Rippin (communications)
Martyn Dade-Robertson (council)
Jessica Beckett (council)
(LBG)

Apologies: Peter Ahnesorg (bar chair)

Approximately 30 members were present. 15% of membership (approximately 60) is required to be present for an OGM to be quorate.

1. New Committee Members

Bee welcomed the incoming committee members and briefly summarised ongoing issues. She reminded everyone of the welcome dinner on the 27th.

2. College Events

Help will be needed for the Childrens' Party on December 6th afternoon. Bee commented that is one of the few events organised for the 14% of members with children.

Bee also gave advance notice that stewards will be needed for the Darwin lecture series in January.

Regarding the may ball, because the DCSA is having to assume oversight responsibilities subsequent DCSA meetings will be preceded by a report from the ball treasurer.

3. Reading Room

Jessica brought up the reading room. AP said that the Bursar's secretary Sandra knew of no obstacle to our clearing up some of the old material. Also, the constitution mentions the "DCSA paperback library" in the reading room so it is apparently our competence. Vikram recalled that the librarian had previously said the reading room was not in her purview.

The problem of disappearing periodicals was raised. It was suggested there be a request not to take them away in Whatsup, and that we stamp the magazines.

Copies of *Prospect*, *London Review of Books*, *Scientific American* and *New Yorker* were produced by AP for comments on suitability of our subscribing, although time did not permit much discussion.

4. Officer's reports

Treasurer

This was postponed to the end of the meeting as the budget is a large matter.

Secretary

Computer loan scheme application deadline is tomorrow. Only 5 applications have been received, for 8 machines.

Ents

Oktoberfest: Max said Bar com had asked whether Ents would subsidise this event, for chair rental etc. It was decided that as it was an entirely bar-run event in which they would be charging on the door, Ents should restrict themselves to allocating a late-night slot to them. Natalia commented that it was technically the "DCSA bar" to which Vikram responded that even so the bar and DCSA have been distinct entities since their sundering 3 years ago.

Phonographic Performance License (PPL): Max has been in touch with the CUSU Ents officer concerning the new restrictions (see previous meeting's minutes), since conforming to them as they have been described by the Bursar will make it very difficult for Ents to get DJs, even student ones, who are usually paid £50-£70. It has been represented to us that if anyone is intending to make a profit from performing recorded music they must be covered by a suitable PPL license. Max's enquiries have not found anyone with such a license and the CUSU ents officer says he does not know of anyone enforcing this in college bars. AP suggested that since it is apparently a recent legal development we should wait for precedent to be set before implementing a compliance strategy.

<http://www.ppluk.com/>

Welfare & External

Michelle drew attention to world AIDS day on December 1st and also CUSU's counselling services – CUSU pays professional councillors to come in several times a week. They can help with depression, stress etc.

On the external front, there is already an exchange with Johns, and next term Magdalene Pembroke and Peterhouse. Wolfson (Ox.) has invited us to their winter ball and Michelle is looking in to arrangements. Also, Michelle said that holding "theme" dinners e.g. national cuisines greatly increased interest from other colleges and proposed taking this up with the Meals Committee and the catering manager.

Bee said that for the meals committee to meet some matter to discuss has to be put forward first.

Bee also proposed having a new Ents-only whatsapp on Fridays, keeping Wednesday's for general announcements. This was positively received.

Council

Martyn has received a complaint that the College has levied a fine against users of a gyp room in the Rayne building because it was messy. A comment from the floor added that a fire extinguisher had been discharged at a fire and this was the main reason for the mess. There was consensus that fines should not be applied without due process, by the disciplinary statutes and ordinances of the college or at least by issuing a warning or conducting enquiries as to the causes and culprits. Martyn asked how to escalate such complaints. Bee said that in the first instance it should be taken up with the College staff concerned and, then if necessary with Council.

Green

Kate said that 9 and 10 Barton road have lost their recycling boxes because they were not regularly taken out and proposed asking individuals to take charge of this for each kitchen in order to reinstate this facility.

There was a question from the floor about the tree cutting. Bee said rotten wood was being cut and that the copper beech would suffer this fate in a year or two. AP commented that it still appeared vigorous.

International

Andreas drew attention to Newnham international night, CUSU international dinner, and CUSU campaign against the recent drastic hike in visa fees, all of which he has in hand.

Sports

Claudia had nothing to report yet. It was requested from the floor that she look in to securing access to playing fields and tennis courts somewhere.

Communications

There was a complaint from the floor that last-year's year book was not interesting. Hannah asked for suggestions for improvement to be given her later.

Women

Shauna asked about setting up a website and how best to distribute information. A multimedia blitz via email, pigeonholes, notice board and web (must liaise with student webmasters) was suggested.

There was some discussion about condoms and it was requested from the floor that there be a condom machine in the ladies loos as well, and that the machines be made to work.

Admiral

The punts have gone into storage with the Granta and will be repaired over the winter. Kat is to meet Jon for a handover briefing.

5. 2003-2004 DCSA Budget

Bojana presented a provisional budget and walked us through it. A number of specifics were debated.

- 6% more money to allocate this year than last, due to £3000 left over and an increase in subscriptions.
- Vikram expressed concern that sport subscription fees may be duplicated at club and DCSA level.
- Newspaper budget increased by £100.
- There was a question from the floor as to why the yearbook merited a £1000 allocation.
- Kat said that a canoe club has asked to use the punt shed and this may be a source of revenue.
- All club budgets are to have 18% held back as a safety margin until toward the end of the year.
- Photosoc members applied vigorously for more money. Hannah suggested £150 for a digital camera be taken from her year-book budget and added to theirs. Bee said that funding for new clubs always needs to be cautious in case they prove short-lived. Vikram suggested that the digital camera should be made available to all college members and kept in the porters lodge rather than in photosoc's personal possession. Siobhan (photosoc president) resisted this on maintenance grounds and said that she would personally make it available to any who asked.
- Generally, no budget for clothing was allowed, and coaching was regarded as a luxury. Tennis and Greek Dancing retained some coaching funds.
- On the subject of membership fees, Andreas suggested all should pay a small fee so as to provide a more reliable indication of the number of members a club has. Bojana expressed opposition to the idea that anyone should be expected to pay subscriptions, having paid their college fees. It was mentioned that boat club members pay £60pa subs. AP believed that the principle should be one of subsidising clubs only, especially the more expensive ones, rather than making them free, and perhaps a principle that the DCSA would subsidise up to 80% of a club's budget could be applied in future.
- The boat-club's allocation was reduced from £2000 to £1800 with the remaining £200 being dependent on DCBC raising matching funds, presumably not including subs.
- Several clubs asked for a budget for bibs. It was decided that the Sports Officer would instead buy two differently-coloured sets of 12 to be kept in the sports cupboard available to all.
- It was decided to grant Running its request for 2 London marathon entries, these being, according to Vikram, for blues-team triallists whom we should therefore support.

- Mens football strongly defended their budget request on the basis that they are number 1 in the inter-college league and can not play if they can not hire referees, pitches etc. There was some concern that it represented a large budgetary allocation for a small group of people.
- Vikram defended Tennis's budgetary request on the grounds that hiring indoor courts was the only way to train all year, that members were to pay £5 subs, and that unlike other sports professional coaching was indispensable.

6. Other business

The next meeting will be at 20:00 on Thursday December 4th.

AEWP