

Minutes for the Extraordinary DCSA Meeting, May 15th 2003

Present:

Bee (Treasurer)
Gabriella (Sport's Officer)
Joe (Ents officer)
Jon (Admiral of Punts and Chairman of this meeting)
Khanum (Bar chair)
Michael (Secretary)
Mike (Communications Officer)
Nikki (Ents officer)
Sally (Greens officer)
Scott (College Council)
Tom (LBG officer)
Vikram (President)

Apologies:

Jason (Welfare Officer)
Jenn (Women's officer)
Jess (International Officer)

Procedure:

Jon proposed and we all agreed to first let Bee describe what happened, then let Vikram explain why things happened and what his perspective is. Then we would discuss what consequences we were willing to take. Because of conflict of interest we wanted to do this in Vikram's absence to which he agreed.

Bee:

As already described in the email Bee was notified by Michael who had received an email from Rowena Small, a secretary at the Old schools, asking where our ballot papers were. Since neither Bee nor Michael knew anything about any election, they contacted her to find out that there were supposed to be elections for the University Council and General Board on the 6th May. It turned out that now there is no Graduate rep on these committees and there will have to be another election in 2 months time.

Vikram:

Vikram was not aware of this election, because

- a) There were no email discussions or notifications through GU or CUSU
- b) All but the first letter sent from Rowena Small were addressed to the JCR President. Since the JCR mail usually is a copy of the MCR mail, Vikram does not open it. The first letter he received and filed away in the DCSA office. His pigeonhole he did not check the whole week because he was preoccupied with other things that week. That's why he also did not receive the ballot papers. Vikram added that this should be the only thing gone past since all letters are in the DCSA office and he checked that there was nothing else overlooked. He

furthermore added, that Hughes Hall also did not hold an election and that generally many MCR presidents were unaware of the election. He found this out when he wrote to all MCR presidents to find out which other college had not held the election. He also had checked with Rowena Small that this incident will have no further consequences for Darwin College. Last night Vikram attended the GU election hustings where it was discussed to send the GU president as the grad rep in case of the absence of an elected rep.

Sally pointed out that he was made aware of the possibility of nominations and that he did not publish this at all. Furthermore the letter addressed to the MCR president mentioned the electoral roles which should be made public in college in case someone wants to be added. This did not happen.

Vikram replied that they did arrive from CUSU, but usually it is only checked with the Deanery that these agree with their records and thus they would have been available in the Deanery, but nobody was made aware of it.

Scott asked what happened with the ballott papers.

Vikram replied that he had not checked his pigeonhole and that's why he did not receive them.

Tom asked if the first letter addressed contained the itinerary for the elections. Sally who had a copy of the letter from Michael confirmed.

Jon asked how this was in the past? Nobody knew, Vikram also read out the duties of the President and the Secretary as written in the constitution. But nothing is mentioned there explicitly concerning the elections.

Nikki asked Michael if he had not received any notification of these elections.

Michael replied the first time he heard anything about them was Rowena Small's email.

Vikram added that another problem is that a lot of letters are still directed to Katy who was president last year. Only when she picks them up they will come to Vikram. Nevertheless he made clear that the incident was his mistake and that he takes the full responsibility for it.

Joe wanted to know why Vikram did not make sure that these elections go correct after there was already strong criticism about the way he conducted the CUSU elections.

Vikram replied that a lot of MCR could not organize it. The CUSU election procedure was actually coordinated with CUSU. So CUSU was informed that the elections were only held 1.30 hours.

Khanum added that the GU elections today were also only announced 24 hours in advance which is too short for students living out of college.

Scott wanted to know if the rules for the elections are the same for the GU elections as for the University Council elections? For the Council elections the instructions said that they should be held for at least 4 hours and around lunch and dinner time.

Vikram replied that the reason why he did not announce the GU elections earlier on What's Up was that the Returning Officer of GU is stepping down and that there was a discussion in GU going on if the elections have to be rescheduled to accommodate reopening the nominations first.

The turnout for the GU elections in Darwin was very low with 30 votes. Last year we had 70 votes Scott added.

Concerning the GU elections Vikram declared that he thought he was doing the right thing and that he did not deviate from other MCR president's organization.

Changes

We first discussed what long term changes there should be to avoid such incidents in the future.

Because it still does not work that all important events are advertised on the calendar, Khanum asked where the problem is. So far everything has to be sent to the students webmaster Pam. In the future the communication officer will get the password so he/she can immediately publish the information.

It was suggested that there should be a sheet in the Porter's Lodge so that every officer can immediately put down dates and times for events when he/she receives it. This would then be put online by the communication officer.

Also we had not had any General Meeting yet. We will have one this term.

It was seen as a problem that things are not delegated if someone cannot carry out his duty as it happened with Vikram.

Also the communication from the President to the Secretary does not work.

It was proposed that there should be a shared pigeonhole for DCSA President and Secretary. Both can then read each other's mail so that both are informed and when both have read and signed it it will be filed in the DCSA office.

For the same purpose the dcsa-president email address should be copied to dcsa-secretary as well in the future.

With this additional redundancy in the communication as a safety backup such incidents should not happen in the future.

It was also proposed to keep a DCSA diary where all dates are marked as they come up in a meeting.

Concerning the calendar it was voted yesterday that the communication officer will receive the password to make changes. The new calendar is up and running. The late bar on Saturday was not advertised yet.

Now we wanted to list all events which will have to be handled correctly for the remaining period of office.

- 1.) Diablo
- 2.) Accomodation Ballott
- 3.) DCSA elections

Concerning the first point, the measures propped above should be sufficient.
Concerning the second point, we might ask if we could bring two representatives to the meeting.

For the elections it was proposed that they are organize by the External Officer. We will vote about that at the next meeting.

Khanum remarked, that Gustav had read the whole DCSA constitution and that there was no mentioning of the Bar chair not having a voting right. Vikram said that he was told by Katy already in the beginning that the bar chair had no voting right basically because the Bar chair is not a elected position. Khanum asked Vikram to check this. She also asked Vikram to attend the next bar meeting where the future organization of the bar will be discussed.

Now Vikram left the room and we discussed what we thought was necessary to do.

We voted on two things:

- 1.) Are we confident that Vikram is capable to do his job for the next 2 months ?

Yes 2 votes
No 8 votes

We saw basically two options:

- 1.) A Vote of no confidence
- 2.) Give his duties to someone else
- 3.) Arrange regular meetings between him and someone else to make sure things dont go wrong again.

The majority thought that the first two options would create too much transition work for such a short period.

So we had a vote about point 3: Do we think such a regulated roll would be sufficient to make sure that things go right ?

Yes 8 votes
No 2 votes (Amongst them Michael who refused any responsibilities in case something goes wrong in the next 2 months). ?? Was this mentioned at the meeting? How will it work? Does it mean that you are conceding any and all responsibilities of the office of Secretary?

It was agreed on the following changes:

- 1.) Vikram Bee and Michael will meet once a week. A weekly meeting to be held between the President, Secretary and Treasurer to manage the remaining DCSA milestones e.g. general meeting, DCSA elections. The meeting are designed to ensure that all parties are kept fully informed of activities undertaken, communications received and actions required. If it is felt necessary, the 'meeting' members may delegate role and tasks to other members of the DCSA to ensure adequate resourcing and support.
- 2.)
- 3.) The email of dcsa-president will also be sent to dcsa-secretary In consultation with the Computer Officer, e-mail addressed to the President will be filtered / directed towards the Secretary as well. Presidential discretion must be exercised when communicating sensitive information intended for MCR presidents only.
- 4.)
- 5.) Mail will be kept in a separate pigeonhole in the Porter's Lodge and only after Vikram and Michael have read and signed it, it will be filed in the DCSA office
- 6.) **The DCSA elections will be organize by Jason as External Officer.** ??? Was that agreed? In the case of EXTERNAL elections, it would make sense to have an external officer coordinating internally and externally. In the absence of an external officer, Welfare, with external responsibilities is the next logical choice. However, this is not an external election. It is also a lot of work for Jason to take on in addition to his current duties. Both the president and secretary, and the support they feel they require, must manage this. If not, what are we now having these special meetings for?? Also another rep of the DCSA should be sent to the barcomm meeting on the 17th of June
- 7.) The committee shall be updated about the meetings between Vikram, Bee and Michael
- 8.) At last we wanted to make clear that this is a last chance for Vikram. I don't think this is a particularly constructive comment. I do not think it needs to become public knowledge. It was made clear in the meeting (I hope I was clear) that his performance would be closely monitored. I believe I said, as was discussed, that this was a formal warning. Should it be deemed necessary, an additional meeting to might be called to develop further measures to ensure that the DCSA fulfils its objectives.

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