

# Ustinov College GCR Exec Meeting

## MINUTES



### Actions:

XM to investigate PayPal account problems and possibility of PayPal business account if issue persists.

XM to forward to college current asset register as provisional estimate of GCR assets.

KR to advertise GCR roles on GCR notice board.

JG to join Dryburn Facebook group and advertise Dryburn Rep role.

### 18:00 pm, 10/10/16

**1. Apologies:** JC, JF

**Present:** JG, AB, XM, KR, TAB, MA

**2. Approval of minutes from last meeting.**

Approved unanimously.

**3. Matters arising from previous minutes.**

None

**4. Officer Reports:**

**a. Bar [MA]**

**i. Induction Week Debrief**

Had post-IW bar management committee meeting. Induction week went well with no stock outages. This shall be last exec meeting for MA as Bar Steward.

**b. DSU [TAB]**

No updates.

**c. Finance [XM]**

**i. GCR Account Check**

14-15 deficit. 15-16 still being finalised.

**ii. Induction Week Income**

Currently there are issues transferring PayPal funds into GCR accounts – PayPal has given a warning of limit of £1800 being approached, but XM unsure if this is a monthly or yearly limit, or if it referred to the absolute value in the account or the total value of transfers. Strong objection to option of transferring money via any personal account. XM to investigate issue and possibility of PayPal business account if issue persists.

**iii. Asset List**

Asset register being completed. Believed all items now listed; only some costings and details left to add. XM checked physical items, so register accurately represents currently possessed assets. Register will be forwarded to college ASAP.

**d. Steering [JG]**

**i. Preparation for 18/10/16 General Meeting**

GCR committee roles available at GM have been advertised. Will also ask to ratify two alumni trustees by 2/3 majority at meeting.

**ii. Prospect of Moving Livers Out Representative to Executive Committee**

Prospect of moving Livers Out rep to an Exec position in the next update to the Standing Orders. Role responsibilities would otherwise remain the same. Suggested that this may provide positive message to community of students who live out, and increased probability of receiving applicants for LO representative and LO events being run. Events would not need to be solely for livers out. Would also bring Livers Out Rep into same level as International Student's Officer, although it was noted ISO potentially has more administration associated with role organising trips. Caution raised about adding too many Exec committee positions.

Unanimous agreement to add the proposal to move Liver's Out representative to Exec committee position in update to Standing orders to be voted on in the next GM.

**e. University/College [KR]**

**i. Meeting with College Management**

Showed list of desired facilities at SP to College, and received extra suggestions. XM to forward college current asset register as provisional estimate. Currently GCR assets total approximately £30,000. Meeting with Presidents' Committee tomorrow.

**5. Agenda Items:**

**a. Dryburn [JF]**

**i. Induction [JF]**

Dryburn induction scheduled for 19<sup>th</sup> Feb. KR to organise.

**ii. Advertising Dryburn Representative Position [JF]**

JF wants to advertise Dryburn Rep ahead of GM to Dryburn residents. Dryburn Resident Tutor can add Exec members to Dryburn Facebook group. Agreement from Exec that a targeted advertisement for a representative would be a good idea. JG to join Dryburn Facebook group and advertise.

**b. Joint Event Between SCR and GCR [KR]**

Joint event between SCR and GCR has been proposed, possibly tour of Durham Cathedral. KR to proceed with further planning.

**c. Advertisement of GCR roles Ahead of GM [JF]**

JF wants to split roles of who is doing advertising materials and office hours in café. Concern that time in café will be used up instead by people asking for/discussing gym membership. Agreed no office hours in café will take place. Usual advertisement on Facebook group will occur. KR to advertise on GCR notice board.

**d. Executive Meeting Schedule [JF]**

**i. Motion to move Regular Executive Meetings to Thursdays [JF]**

Proposal to move regular Exec meetings to Thursday. Unanimous agreement to delay discussion until after GM, since new committee members will be significantly affected.

**e. Sheraton Park [AB]**

**i. Residents Association [JG]**

Proposal to add Sheraton Park Resident's Liaison as GCR Executive Committee role in update to Standing Orders. Responsibility to attend Resident's association meetings. Beginning this year. Would need to be Executive committee role to communicate information.

TAB: Could this be written into standing orders as responsibilities of existing Exec position?

JG: Potentially yes, but it would need to be added to a suitable role most likely Vice President.

MA: What would role involve?

JG: Being a point of contact for concerns of local residents and attend Residents' Association meetings.

Decided to postpone adding formal Exec position until GCR are occupying SP site. JG willing to take over role responsibilities for this year.

**ii. Future Strategy Regarding Opposition of Relocation [AB]**

AB: Do we proceed down route of investigating taking legal action against the University for the SP move, or do we focus efforts on fighting for best facilities at SP? Some new students that will be affected by the move are angry about not being informed prior to joining Ustinov.

TAB: Will we need a new referendum on the topic due to the new student intake?

JG: Referendum will need to be voted on at next GM.

KR: New students may not make informed decision on SP, as information will primarily come from GCR.

MA: Previous referendum polled informed students, exposed to town hall meetings with University Executive Committee. Mandate still valid.

Unanimous agreement that decision on whether to proceed with legal action can occur on existing mandate without another referendum.

MA: On what grounds could we proceed with legal action?

AB: Existing informal advice suggested strongest arguments with respect to misselling of the student experience at Ustinov and/or discrimination of postgraduates.

(TAB leaves for gym inductions)

KR: Concern about GCR lacking connections and funds to carry through with legal action.

MA: Funding issue may not be insurmountable, as no-win no-fee possible.  
Further investigation of this would be needed.

KR: Concern that the GCR will be shut out of future discussions if legal action pursued.

JG: Will require significant time commitment for legal action to be successful.

Does anyone have the time to commit to this?

No volunteers.

Unanimous decision to discuss SP again once new Executive Committee members are elected, on grounds that legal will take up significant amounts of time of new members.

**6. AOB**

None.

Alexander Blair

GCR Secretary

10/10/2016