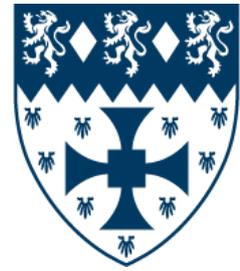


# Ustinov College GCR General Meeting Minutes



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7:00 p.m., 18/10/2016

**1. Apologies: None**

**2. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting**

**a. Issues Arising from Last Minutes**

Last meeting was emergency Town Hall Meeting regarding Sheraton Park (SP). Minutes approved. 1 vote against, remainder for.

**3. Reports from Officers**

**a. President [KR]**

College will be relocating to SP site starting next year – new site smaller than Howland’s Farm. Last general meeting town hall style discussing SP move with members of University Executive Committee - minutes and video of meeting available on Ustinov GCR website.

GCR fought strongly against relocation. We had concerns with extent of consultation. Held referendum on whether to oppose relocation, which had the highest voting turnout of any vote in last four years. 86% of GCR members voted against the relocation. The GCP and Ustinovians4Ustinov groups strongly supported the GCR in opposing the move, and letters were submitted by alumni. However, relocation formally decided upon in meeting of University Council which KR attended.

GCR currently fighting for best situation given relocation. Created asset register listing ~£30,000 of assets. Also added to wishlist of items at new site containing items such as asking for a shuttle service between new and old site for induction week and social events. GCR still putting strong pressure on University. Any more questions ask Jamie Graham, Joe Farrou, Thom Addinall-Biddulph, Alex Blair or myself (Kirstyn Raitz). Further information available on website. Any other issues please send me email.

**b. Treasurer [XM]**

GCR receives money from University, by selling tickets for events, and from GCR membership fees. People who live in college pay GCR membership fee automatically, whereas people who live out can opt-in.

GCR money is spent on events (formal dinners, parties etc.) and on clubs/societies. Formal tickets only cover cost of catering – GCR funds are used for decorations and parties. GCR members get discount at formals; non-members are charged actual costs. Also, if you wish to establish a new club/society, please ask. GCR members can also request for items to stock in vending machines – a form is available on the website.

Biggest expenditure ~£1500 for induction week events, which is approximately the same as the previous year’s budget. GCR has surplus of ~£7000 pounds from

last year, but this has occurred after two years of deficit so money is being used to balance books. GCR is a charity, so we are trying to ensure all money taken in is returned to members.

**c. Acting Vice President [JF]**

New sound system has been installed in the café, linking bar and café audio systems. New lights installed for parties. Music room facilities and assets used to be shared with Josephine Butler college until earlier this year – now assets and music rooms have been divided between Ustinov and Josephine Butler. Also helped write asset register.

**d. DSU Representative [TAB]**

DSU have helped GCR significantly in opposing decision to move Ustinov to SP.

DSU also hosted postgraduate forum in Ustinov for first time to discuss issues affecting postgraduates, such as postgraduate student representation. Fed into information for current campaigns.

DSU student groups and societies are open to postgraduates as well as undergraduates.

**4. Agenda Items**

**a. Alterations to Standing Orders**

**i. Motion to Amend Livers Out Representative Responsibilities**

**Proposal:** *To alter section h) of the responsibilities of Livers Out Representative from:*

*"h) Sit on the following committees: GCR Committee, Facilities Committee."*

*to:*  
*"h) Sit on the following committees: Executive Committee, GCR Committee, Facilities Committee."*

Proposer: Kirstyn Raitz

Secunder: Joe Farrou

JG: International Student Officer represents approximately same number of students as Liver's Out Officer, but does not sit on Executive Committee. This amendment would treat both roles consistently.

**Questions:** No questions.

**Vote:** Motion passes unanimously.

**ii. Motion to Clarify Eligibility of Postdoctoral University Members to Stand in GCR Elections**

**Proposal:** *To append:*

*"Postdoctoral members of the University who are members of the GCR, graduated within the two years immediately preceding the date of the election hustings, have not received full time employment with the University, and live within the Durham area, may run for committee positions"*

*to the end of section 11.2 (a) of the Standing Orders, which currently states:*

*"All full members of the GCR who will be present at the University throughout the*

*term of their office, and who shall not cease to be a member of the University and Ustinov College during their time in office, and are not banned in any way, are eligible to stand for election."*

Proposer: Thom Addinall-Biddulph  
Secunder: Kirstyn Raitz

TAB: First must declare vested interest – I am currently postdoctoral member of University. Currently not represented. I was Ustinov student. Postdocs are still engaged. We suffer same problems as postgrads so can effectively represent them. Motion will help me directly, but I would propose it even if it did not.

**Questions:**

*How would this affect the statement elsewhere in the Standing Orders that GCR Committee members need to be available for a year?*

JG: No change to this. Standing orders would still require a commitment for a year.

*Are postdoctoral members likely to be able to reasonably commit for a year, given the large number of zero hour contracts for postdocs?*

TAB: Issue of dropping out of GCR committee before end of tenure has occurred with other GCR committee positions in the past, due to dropping out of course. Such circumstances can affect postgraduates, not just postdocs.

*I think postdocs should become members of the SCR. Can a non-student be a member of the GCR?*

TAB: To run for any GCR positions, a candidate must be a member of the GCR, the University, and Ustinov College.

*I am concerned this amendment risks creating contradictions with other sections of Standing Orders. I think this needs legal clarification before proceeding with this vote.*

JG: Do not believe there are any potential legal issues with this amendment. There exists a well-defined procedure for dropping out of committee in the Standing Orders already. The clause requiring commitment for a year was introduced to allow Durham Masters students continuing to Ph.D. at Durham to hold positions.

**Procedural Motion:** *To delay the vote on this discussed amendment to the Standing Orders until the next GCR General Meeting, to allow time for any potential contradictions to the Standing Orders arising due to this amendment to be identified.*

**Vote for Procedural Motion:** 1 vote for. Remainder against. Motion fails.

**Vote on Original Motion:** 35 votes for, 2 against, no abstentions. Motion passes.

**b. Ratification of New Alumni Trustees**

**i. Motion to Ratify Proposed New Alumni Trustees**

**Proposal:** *To ratify two proposed alumni trustees, who have been passed by the board of trustees. Those being:*

Marc Owen Jones [MOJ]

Jesper Pedersen [JP]

*This will need to be passed by a 2/3 majority vote given quorum.*

JG: MOJ was a previous Ustinov GCR President. JP was previous GCR Treasurer, amongst other roles.

**Questions:** No questions.

**Vote to ratify MOJ:** Motion passes unanimously.

**Vote to ratify JP:** Motion passes unanimously.

## 5. Hustings

Two minute talk for each hust. Open to questions. All questions must be directed at all candidates. Voting happens immediately afterwards online.

### a. LGBT+ Welfare Officer

**Candidate:** Nicky Burbach [NB]

**Secunder:** Lissa Gardner

NB: Have been LGBT+ Welfare Officer for past year. Set up role. Set up LGBT+ network. Ran film series focussing on LGBT+ issues. Ran pride party and am keen to run it again this year. Participated in Durham Pride; last year was first time Ustinov participated in march. Put sanitary bins in mens toilets. Dental dams in welcome bags (but unfortunately ran out). Primary strategy to deal with welfare issues will be by cultivating LGBT+ community in college. Also wish to futher build links with University LGBT+ society.

**Questions:** None.

### b. Clubs and Societies Officer

**Candidate:** Will Glossop [WG]

**Secunder:** Chris Whitmore

WG: I believe clubs and societies are a very important part of Ustinov College. Set up games society. I want to liaise with clubs to campaign for appropriate facilities at SP, given the college relocation. Furthermore, I want to better organise room booking system to prevent room clashes that of occurred in the past year. Also have some ideas for clubs and societies ball.

**Candidate:** Dan Rutter [DR]

**Secunder:** Amelia Dunn

DR: Captaining Ustinov Cricket team. Run club myself and have experience liaising (and arguing) with Team Durham. Have experience negotiating room bookings. Also was involved with fighting SP move by writing letter about how cricket will suffer at new site.

**Questions:**

*Many old clubs and societies are no longer active and the GCR has lots of equipment that is not currently being used as a result. What will you do about this?*

DR: I helped catalogue all existing equipment in sports shed with XM.

Taekwondo society were interested in taking some of the equipment. Picnic games have also been underutilised. I know what's in there, and I'll make sure it's used.

WG: I will try and get current societies to use it. Unwanted items can be moved to other colleges or, failing that, sold to students to raise funds for the GCR.

*This position is a GCR Executive Committee role and you will therefore be committing to attending meetings, being on the rota for GCR office hours, and*

*helping clear up after events in addition to your role-specific duties. Are you prepared for this?*

WG: I have spoke to previous Clubs and Societies officer about role. Fully prepared for responsibilities.

DR: Also spoke to previous Clubs and Societies officer about role. I prepared in induction week by helping the GCR clear up after some events.

**c. International Students' Officer**

**Candidate:** Yi Xu (Catherine) [YX]

**Second:** Yuwei Liu

YX: Ustinov is my home community and I want to give back to it. I am an international student myself, so I understand the needs of other international students. This role includes the organisation of trips around the northeast of England. I have several ideas for this, including potentially planning trips to Hadrians wall, Sunderland and other big cities in the area.

*Note: The second candidate, Alisher Soibjonov, was not present at this General meeting. According to the requirements for husting for positions set out in the Standing Orders, this means that they shall be ineligible for election for this role in this round of voting.*

**Questions:**

*This position is a GCR Executive Committee role and you will therefore be committing to attending meetings, being on the rota for GCR office hours, and helping clear up after events in addition to your role-specific duties. Are you prepared for this?*

YX: I am clear about the responsibilities of this role. I have previous experience in helping societies during my bachelor's degree.

**d. Social Secretary**

**Candidate:** Gaurish Chawla [GC]

**Second:** Vinay Utham

GC: In time living here, I have had many ideas about improving social events to improve social cohesion between different groups in Ustinov. I want to plan and run events that better represent the diversity of students in Ustinov. I am very involved, having set up many societies such as Ph.D. society, tennis society etc.

**Questions:**

*In your hust you mentioned wanting to run events that better represent student diversity in Ustinov. What event(s) in induction week would you consequently add or replace?*

GC: I would like to run an event specifically for Ph.D. students, since doctoral students can be alienated. Furthermore, as some cultures are not comfortable with socialising in bar environment, I would also like to run a lunch club.

*You appear to be involved in a large number of societies. Will you have the time needed to carry out the role of Social Secretary effectively?*

GC: My intention would be to do this role to my best of my ability. I hope I will indeed have the time to do this role well.

**e. Livers Out Rep**

**Candidate:** Alexander Hampton [AH]

**Name of Second:** Vinay Utham

AH: Lots of students do not live in college. I want to be good point of call for livers out. I have already been here during Induction Week helping move people

into college. I have been in Durham during my undergraduate degree, so have good local knowledge that I can bring to this role.

**Questions:**

*What events would you organise for Livers Out?*

AH: I would like to organise monthly events outside college. For example, this could include go karting and cocktail nights. I want to run many events outside - not all events have to run in Fisher House.

**f. Elections Officer**

**Candidate:** George Pegler [GP]

**Secunder:** Ben McGuckin

GP: I will ensure that all elections are conducted in an open and fair manner. I want to look at ways to make elections more friendly. Also wish to be active member of the GCR committee. Elect me to help make the committee a fairer and more democratic one.

**Questions:**

*Whilst there is often sufficient numbers of people running for GCR positions, there are not usually many. What would you do to encourage people to apply for GCR positions?*

GP: It is a difficult task – for example, tonight we need free pizza to get people to attend. This problem is not unique to Ustinov – student involvement is commonly <10% at other universities. I think we need to make elections more open and inclusive, such as by involving postdoctoral students as discussed in the motion earlier tonight.

*We currently have no applicants for two key GCR Executive Committee roles: Welfare Officer and Communications Officer. What would you do to get people to apply for these?*

GP: We need to promote these roles on the website and on social media. Will also be the job of other committee members to seek out potential candidates.

**g. Video Master**

**Candidate:** Alex Papadopoulos [AP]

**Secunder:** Yan Birch

AP: Currently starting my second Master's degree at Ustinov and have held this role before, running themed movie nights and marathons. Previously wrote database of DVDs in GCR library. Bought over 100 new titles for library during my previous tenure. I will also be happy to liaise with other committee members for themed film weeks, such as for alcohol awareness and LGBT+ campaigns.

**Questions:**

*What is your opinion of running foreign language films?*

AP: Have previously run them in film nights.

*This position is on the GCR Committee and you will therefore also be committing to being on the rota for GCR office hours and helping clear up after events. Are you prepared for this?*

AP: I have had previous experience on the GCR Executive Committee as Bar Steward, so I have done it before and do not mind doing it again.

**h. Assistant Treasurer**

**Candidate:** Alex Papadopoulos [AP]

**Secunder:** Yan Birch

AP: Assistant treasurer is appropriate to my current course. I have had previous experience liaising with treasurer during my previous GCR Committee positions.

I am not yet sure on details on role, but I believe I will be subservient to the current treasurer.

**Questions:** None.

**i. Webmaster**

**Candidate:** Matthew Roberts [MR]

**Seconded:** Jing You

MR: I have a general background in computer geekery. Have held previous jobs in web applications. Whilst this has nothing to do with Ustinov site directly, I have some experience with PHP, MySQL etc. which may be useful.

Heard from many people tonight to check website – it is the most convenient way of students accessing information. I want to bring more information to the fingertips of students to better keep everyone informed.

**Questions:**

*Can you find DVD database, and if so, could you make it more available to GCR members on the website?*

MR: I am willing to try and help.

*How would you plan making a resource for students to find out which rooms are booked on the website?*

MR: I would prefer to use front end database – I wouldn't use the current WordPress site as first choice. I would need to think further about this. However, I should be being trained on methods of doing this as part of my course.

**j. Vice President**

JF: I joined the GCR Committee in Jan/Feb as Tech Officer. Have organised Ustinov Live events and sound systems. Have been Acting Vice President since August. I have been involved in many meetings during the opposition of move to SP. Also wrote asset list as part of the responsibilities of Vice President to be in charge of Facilities. I am not yet in charge of stocking vending machine but shall be in future.

JG: Joe has been acting Vice President for last three months. As such, instead of online vote, he must instead be ratified at this meeting by at least a 2/3 majority.

**Vote:** Unanimous pass.

**6. Any Other Business**

JF: Two key Executive Committee roles are currently unfilled – Communications Officer and Welfare Officer. Anyone here tonight should consider applying for them at the next election. We shall be holding another General Meeting, with another round of elections, in a few weeks.

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Alexander Blair

GCR Secretary

18/10/2016