

Ustinov College GCR Exec Meeting

Minutes



Actions:

Alyssia to send to AB Ustinovian advertisement for newsletter and post on group.

TAB to investigate legal action costs regarding SP.

XM to investigate affordability of funding instant camera prints from formals budget.

WG to chase up list of clubs & societies from Jasmine Cross.

JF to investigate repairs on bass speaker.

XM to sort out PayPal and insurance.

YX to organise trip to York.

YX to propose budget for York trip travel and liaise with Keenan House Resident Tutor.

AH to investigate booking Gala for Star Wars film release.

GP to make posters, FB posts, and advertise in accommodation blocks.

KR to distribute updates regarding SP working group meeting.

18:15 pm, 07/11/16

1. Apologies: None

Present: JG, KR, TAB, AB, JF, GC, WG, YX, XM, AH.

2. Approval of minutes from last meeting.

Minutes from 24/11 passed on general aye.

Minutes 31/11 passed on general aye.

3. Matters arising from previous minutes.

Officer-specific matters will be raised in Officer Reports.

4. Officer Reports:

i. Clubs & Societies [WG]

Still waiting on Jasmine to submit list of clubs & societies.

Society AGMs are now occurring.

Discussions ongoing with Sheila regarding automating room bookings online.

ii. Yoga Society [XM]

Yoga trainer contacted who is willing to run every week on Fridays except on formals. Next Friday first taster session. Regular cost of £25 per session.

Taster session will be funded by GCR but not subsequent sessions – fear of setting a precedent for other societies to request coaching fees, which would be unaffordable. Also concerns raised about risk of favouring one society over others.

b. DSU [TAB]

Hannah Britt confirmed as postgrad rep on senate. Two more representatives in upcoming elections who may be elected onto Assembly, so postgraduate representation on Assembly may triple.

i. NSS Boycott [TAB]

Emergency DSU assembly meeting has been called to discuss position on national NUS ballot on whether to have a risk assessment/equality impact assessment on an NSS boycott. NSS boycott would affect postgrads too. TAB to keep committee updated on matter.

University challenge candidates for next round not yet arranged.

No additional information on Champagne Society investigation.

c. Facilities [JF]

Finished invoicing college regarding new sound equipment.

One of cones ripped on bass speaker. Need to investigate repairs. Estimated cost for full replacement likely to be between £300-£500. May need to submit at general meeting.

Used to have two keyboards in music room, now one is owned by Josephine Butler following split of assets amongst music rooms. New stand, carry case and sustain pedal needed. Existing hi hat stand may need replacing – replacement may already be owned.

d. Finance [XM]

PayPal replied regarding account issues. Due to GCR card being registered another email address previously – thought to be due to previous GCR officers. XM currently attempting to register PayPal account with existing card.

Previously unknown cost in insurance renewal identified as Officer and Directors insurance, to cover GCR officers from personal liability in case of mistakes. Decreased from ~£1600 last year to ~£1500 this year. Property insurance ~£900. Will have to be paid in full. Already will incur fine of ~£20 for late payment.

e. International Officer [YX]

Will organise trip to York for Christmas festival between Nov 7th – Dec 23rd. Saturday 10th Dec preferred. Pick up ~9am. TM travel recommended by JF. Need 3 coaches – 2 at Howlands, 1 at Keenan. YX to have prices ready for General Meeting and will liaise with Keenan House Resident Tutor to ensure it is advertised there. Costs will be £3 for children, £5 for GCR, £7 for non-GCR. Need health and safety form from coach company. GCR phone number may be distributed for safety.

Black Friday trip not occurring, as it is unlikely to be profitable.

f. Livers Out Rep [AH]

Received apologies from DSU regarding request to advertise “Stop, Think, Sign” campaign – accepted it was inappropriate for Ustinov students.

DSU want to run event for postgrads to meet new flatmates at Ustinov. Thought that discussion about contracts could be beneficial to students who will return next year.

AH going to Gala on Wednesday to block book for college trip to Star Wars: Rogue One. Mondays are half price relative to rest of week.

g. Social Secretary [GC]

Suggestion to stagger the release of formal tickets to minimise queue lengths. Disfavoured as this was thought to extend the number of days with long queues. Also may cause problems with Livers Out who may travel to Ustinov to be turned away due to ticket restriction that day.

Christmas formal tickets to go on sale next Tuesday. XM, JG and GP to share Tuesday office hours. One laptop may be mobile to take names/details before people reach office, to reduce queue length. Importance of closing strictly at 8 p.m. emphasised.

i. Choir at Christmas Formal [AB]

Choir interested in performing at Christmas formal, and were asking if members could get reserved and/or discounted tickets for doing so. Support for having choir at formal, to make event feel more festive. Also support for reserving tickets for choir member. No free or discounted tickets will be supplied, as this is not allowed for any other group in GCR, including event organisers. Option for choir to between main and dessert courses proposed; this will be discussed with them.

h. Steering [JG]

Office rota updated with new GCR committee members.

For advertising of the next General Meeting, GP will make posters, Facebook posts, and put up in accommodation blocks. Current list of ~10 people who have expressed interest in positions.

i. University/College [KR]

Tomorrow will hold the first meeting of Howland's Farm Working Group, with representatives from JCR/GCR/MCR members of QC colleges, Josephine Butler, and Ustinov, along with College Principals and University.

Sheraton Park Working Group meeting to occur on Tuesday. Updates will be distributed to Executive Committee.

5. Agenda Items:

a. Pursuit of Legal Action Regarding Sheraton Park [AB]

Question of whether to still investigate the option of pursuing legal action against move of Ustinov to Sheraton Park. TAB volunteers time to investigate if GCR is willing to pay. Believed initial meeting (up to half an hour) may be free.

Motion: To allow TAB to make enquiries with legal firm to investigate cost and feasibility of pursuing legal action with regard to SP move.

Proposer: Thom Addinall-Biddulph

Seconder: Joe Farrow

Questions: None

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

b. Instant Camera for Social Events [GC]

£60 for camera. ~£1 per print. XM to investigate

Motion: To approve purchase of £60 instant camera to take photos at formals and parties

Proposer: Gaurish Chawla

Seconder: Joe Farrow

Questions:

How much will prints cost?

£1 per print. XM to investigate if this may come from Formal budget.

Vote: Motion to purchase camera passed unanimously.

c. Office Keys [AP]

AP asking if extra keys could be distributed amongst committee members to allow access to the GCR office. Rejected as there are not enough keys for the entire committee, and this would increase the risk of losing one.

KR needs a record of each key owner's key number to give to college. All Exec members to supply this.

d. Alternative Open Days [JF]

Postgraduate open day on Wednesday 16th November. Aim to flyer potential students with information regarding SP move and pay disparity and will asking for people to email VC with concerns. JF to post information on flyers on group and print out ~200. JG, AH, JF, XM volunteer to help distribute. Information also sent to Harry Cross who has previous experience with running alternative open day campaigns.

e. Ustinovian Articles [AB]

Editor of Ustinovian Magazine, Alyssia MacAlister (AM), invited by Chair.

GCR requested to write articles for Ustinovian with 1 week deadline. Brought up at last meeting. At the last meeting, there were no volunteers and concerns were raised regarding impartiality of material if written by committee members.

AM: Media team for all college. Happy to help GCR given current lack of Communications Committee members. AM told that GCR wrote the articles for Ustinovian before. Wants to make sure GCR get represented equally in Ustinovian.

JG: Most events social events. Feel uncomfortable selling events we have organised. Would GC wish to write article for every social event?

GC: Preferred if independent observer. Would be happy to contribute comments from GCR perspective, but would prefer attendees to contribute main material.

GCR happy to offer comment on events, but want honest feedback, which is thought may be compromised if written by GCR committee members.

AM: Does the GCR want to take the responsibility of finding writers?
Still influencing opinion if we are the group asking people to write for it.

AM: Can I post call for writers on college group?
Strong approval from committee. AM to send AB advertisement to distribute in newsletter.

Suggestion made of AM to create panel of writers to establish network of potential contributors.

Point of note – AM has shown interest in running for GCP Liaison at next round of hustings.

6. AOB

LGBT+ network want to run film in bar. No opposition.

Keenan house resident's meeting on Wednesday. Will be purchasing DVD player for their use. Keenan house also want to buy another ping pong table. College not sure if they can fit two in. Thought to be unaffordable even if allowed by college, since table costs > £200.

Bar having social event for all staff, which is usually funded by tips. College accidentally collected all tips and banked them. Money will be in staff paycheques, but College will also pay an additional £150 for bar staff social event. Unanimous support for this from Exec.

Alexander Blair

GCR Secretary

07/11/2016