

Ustinov College GCR Exec Meeting Minutes



Actions:

TAB to investigate legal action costs for SP.

GC to organise decorations for Xmas formal.

WG to complete list of clubs & societies.

JF to purchase speaker cone and repair speaker.

JF to restock vending machine.

JF to set poll for day for Cycas clear-out on Committee FB group.

XM to sort out PayPal account and insurance issues.

XM to investigate obtaining partial refund from Papa John's.

LL to add advertisement for York Trip to newsletter.

YX to book Keenan House coach.

KR to query college about Christmas tree order and set up poll on GCR Committee group to organise day to decorate.

BN to organise sale of mulled wine to sell at bar for Christmas.

JG to organise photos for new members and add to committee board.

JG to plan meeting of full GCR committee and set up FB poll to select day.

KR to request rearrangement of meeting with University Chief Operating Officer so GCR representatives may attend.

KR to ask Female Welfare Representative if she would be willing to attend any Welfare Officer meetings.

All Committee members with outstanding payments to settle all debts ASAP.

18:15 pm, 21/11/16

1. Apologies: GC

Present: KR, AB, JG, BN, WG, YL, TAB, JF, XM, YX, AH

2. Approval of minutes from last meeting.

Minutes from last two meetings passed on general aye.

3. Matters arising from previous minutes.

TAB to investigate legal action costs for SP.

Started to investigate legal firms available. Will pursue further.

AH to post photos from Halloween and Bonfire night formal.

Done.

4. Officer Reports:

a. Bar Steward [BN]

Ice machine and CO₂ broken. Canned soft drinks available in substitute. Should be fixed today or tomorrow.

Bar will be closed over Christmas and New Year's. Option for running New Year's Eve as GCR event.

b. Clubs & Societies [WG]

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

Given up on trying to receive list from Jasmine. Sent email to all societies to find out club captains and society presidents. WG to complete list of clubs & societies.

c. Communications [LL]

No updates.

d. DSU [TAB]

AH attended meeting for DSU Postgraduate Officer. AH raised perceived lack of relevance of DSU for postgraduates. Feedback form for Postgraduate Officer proposal distributed on Executive Committee message thread for those interested in supporting the motion; needs to be completed today.

Following question raised at most recent General Meeting, queried DSU about the possibility of running a societies' fair at Ustinov aimed at postgraduates at Ustinov. No reply yet.

Emergency meeting regarding the risk assessment of the NSS boycott to be held on Wednesday.

e. Facilities [JF]

Cleared up GCR office.

Found new equipment, including new subwoofer and smoke machine. As previously discussed, cannot use inside for health and safety reasons, but can use for outside events.

Cost to repair broken speaker ~£46. JF to purchase speaker cone and repair speaker.

Vending machine empty. JF to fill.

Cycas storage needs clear out. JF to set poll to set day for clear out on Executive Committee group.

Sam Jackson liaising with Music Durham to advertise music scene at Ustinov, including choir. JF writing articles about Ustinov Live. Hope that advertising importance of music scene at Ustinov would increase pressure on University to provide music room facilities at SP.

f. Finance [XM]

XM to sort out PayPal account and insurance issues.

XM to add GCR card to account. Sent insurance email to finalise invoice, will pay this week.

Pizza purchase from Papa John's significantly over budget for last GM at >£500. Apologies from XM for error. Arose due to no bulk discounts being applied to order. XM to investigate obtaining any money back from Papa John's on good faith.

Some people known to be abusing system and taking pizza despite not attending GM. Access to café area to be closed off after the start of the meeting to discourage people from taking pizza without attendance.

International Officer [YX]

Plan to start selling York trip tickets tomorrow. LL to add advertisement to newsletter.

Café Politique have booked a day trip to Edinburgh on the day before York trip. General reminder to email Sheila Seal regarding all booked events to minimise risk of event clashes.

Keenan house coach yet to be booked. YX to book.

Fourth coach may need to be booked depending on numbers – once 110 tickets are sold, contact YX to organise additional coach booking.

g. Livers Out Rep [AH]

AH to release poll to find preferred times for Star Wars event on college Facebook group.

Poll posted. Turnout slower than expected. 15th December currently most popular. Closes Wednesday at midnight.

h. Social Secretary [GC]

GC to organise decorations for Xmas formal.

Not yet completed.

GCR Secret Santa proposed by student. Plan disfavoured due to significant time commitment and organisation required.

KR to ask college regarding ordering of Christmas trees. KR to set up poll on GCR Committee group for date to do college Christmas decorating.

BN to plan mulled wine to sell at bar for Christmas.

i. Steering [JG]

General meeting took place and we have had several new GCR committee members elected. Office inductions on Wednesday for new members. Ad-hoc thereafter.

JG to organise photos for new members and add to committee board.

JG to plan full committee meeting and set up FB poll to select day.

j. University/College [KR]

Consultation with SP Working Group regarding MUGA at SP – keen to discuss with JF, KR, WG. Meeting to be organised.

University Chief Operating Officer requested to meet with GCP and GCR tomorrow. Request received with late notice, only today. JF and JG keen to meet, but would be unavailable at short notice. KR to request shifting of meeting.

Last week JF met VC. Most MCR presidents present. Raised issue of highly disparate pay for postgraduates in different departments – VC claimed not to be aware and said he would investigate matter. VC stated accommodation fees will not reduce. SP discussed. JF asked what University will do to replace loss of postgraduate hub but received no assurances. Other colleges, except University College, raised concerns about student allocation procedure.

5. Agenda Items:

a. Co-option of Unfilled GCR Committee Roles [JF]

Two people contacted after elections asking to get involved in GCR Committee in the roles of DUCK Officer and Ecological Representative. In general, is it reasonable to co-opt volunteers who enquire after a general meeting?

How feasible is it to run elections ad-hoc whenever new volunteers enquire?

JG: Could need GM or hustings potentially every week, and attendance is likely suffer significantly for each one. Next hustings will take place at the start of next term anyway.

What roles do we believe are 'essential'?

TAB: Most essential role Welfare Officer. Serious welfare issues arose last year.
JF: University Greenspace want role of Ecological Representative filled, and are placing large demands on my time as a result.

How good are these people be in job if they cannot take the time to apply?

JF: Lots of reasons why people may not have applied, such as not knowing procedure or deadline for applications.

JG: Procedure is simple; everyone here was able to, including people whose first language is not English.

Previous roles have been co-opted, including JF. Why should we be turning volunteers away now?

AB: Previous roles have been Executive Committee positions and were more important to the running of the GCR.

JG: No need to co-opt minor roles. Executive Committee roles are essential.

KR: Previous roles were co-opted mostly before induction week when people were needed on the committee and there was a long gap between elections. Not true in this case. No harm in people running at next hustings in January.

What is the concern with co-opting people until they must run again at next hustings?

JG: Large incumbency advantage to those who have already held role. Potentially unfair to new applicants.

[BN leaves temporarily]

Can we put volunteers in contact with relevant organisations (such as Greenspace and DUCK) in an unofficial capacity, without them holding position?

KR: Of course - we want to encourage people to get involved with improving the community. Oppose bringing people onto the committee.

Who would view this negatively?

AB: Anyone who is interested in the fair election of GCR Committee members.

JF: I don't believe we are a democracy; we are a dictatorship. Having people in these roles would be the best way of improving the GCR.

JG: We are absolutely a democracy, as stated in the Standing Orders. Concerned that co-option of volunteers who have not run makes a mockery of elections and is unfair on those who did take the time to apply.

In Standing Orders, co-option can take place only if officers have resigned or have been removed from office. Is there any contradiction with the SOs with this suggestion?

JG: The Standing Orders assume a full committee. Ambiguous in situation when positions are left unfilled as here.

[BN returns]

i. Motion: Co-option of Executive Committee Positions [JF]

Proposal: The Executive Committee shall allow people to be co-opted into unfilled Executive Committee positions.

Proposer: Joe Farrow

Questions: None

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

ii. Motion: Co-option of GCR Committee Positions [JF]

Proposal: The Executive Committee shall allow people to be co-opted into unfilled GCR Committee positions.

Proposer: Joe Farrow

Questions: None

Vote: 3 votes for the motion, 7 against. Motion fails.

6. AOB

a. Stand-in for Welfare Officer Meetings

Due to current lack of a Welfare Officer, TAB willing to volunteer to attend welfare meetings at DSU. Also willing to stand in on trustee board and bar management in

Welfare Officer's place if there are no constitutional restrictions. KR to talk to Female Welfare Representative on committee to ask if she would be willing to take over any of these roles instead, otherwise happy for TAB to stand in in these meetings until a Welfare Officer is elected.

b. Use of MUGA by other colleges

Mildert requested one-off usage of MUGA on Wednesday. However, noted that college want people to be GCR members in order to use MUGA and music room facilities, and there is a concern about setting precedent given the GCR pay for the facility. Rather than allowing booking, WG to tell Mildert to come up on the day and use if not already occupied by GCR members.

c. Outstanding Payments

Some members of the GCR Executive Committee have payments for formals and/or membership outstanding. All Committee members with outstanding payments to settle all debts ASAP.

Alexander Blair

GCR Secretary

21/11/2016