

Ustinov College GCR

Annual General Meeting

Agenda



7:00 p.m. 05/06/2017

1. **Apologies:** None.

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

a. **Issues Arising from Last Minutes**

i. **Pizza Expenditure from Michaelmas Term General Meetings**

During the Treasurer's report in the last General Meeting, it was claimed that approximately £250 had been spent on pizza for the final General Meeting of Michaelmas term in error. This was subsequently found to be inaccurate by other members of the GCR Executive Committee. The correct figure is £367.80 for pizza bought for the first General Meeting and £532.21 for the second General Meeting, totalling £900.01 for both general meetings occurring in Michaelmas term.

ii. **Results of Elections following Last Meeting**

Following the last meeting, Lihong Cao and Ilias Vlachogiorgos were both elected for the GCR Committee positions they were standing for.

Vote: 1 abstention and remainder for.

3. **Reports from Officers**

a. **President [KR]**

Current issues with access to a music room and sports facilities at Sheraton Park, as neither is currently guaranteed.

For two weeks there shall be no access to laundry facilities in college due to refurbishment works. KR meeting with college to discuss refunds for unused money on key fobs.

b. **Treasurer [XM]**

Income:

GCR levy - £53,000.

Expenditure:

Organised activities - £20,000

Clubs and society equipment payment - £2,500.

TV and copyright for playing music at Keenan House £2,800.

Insurance - £2,500.

Payments - £31,000

Outstanding payments for ball and barbecue - £15,000.

End of year with ~£6,000 surplus.

c. **Vice President [JF]**

This year we have completed splitting up music room assets with JB and installed new speakers in Fisher House. We have also cleared out the GCR storage room and compiled a list of GCR assets ahead of the move to Sheraton Park.

Attended many meetings on SP with Nick Benbow. Still looking at options for music room facilities for Ustinov students at Sheraton Park. Little success at external locations.

d. Bar Steward [BN] [Given by KR in abstentia]

I may be biased, but the bar continues to be a central point of life within college. As in previous years, we have several groups of dedicated regulars, and with the exception of a few isolated incidents, party nights have been successful. The staff team is currently larger than previously; we anticipate a high turnover in September when the several people complete their Masters programmes. The GCR is supporting the bar being open until midnight over the summer on Friday and Saturday nights, so watch this space for more news soon. Unfortunately, Kirin has been delisted by our supplier and we have been unable to source it at a price in line with the other draught beers so it will not be making a comeback. We're sad too. The bars relationship with Durham Brewery continues, with guest ales appearing regularly, as well as a regular supply of bottled Ustinovian. Congratulations must be sent to Yan and Miranda who have both completed their PhDs, and to Frank, who recently got married. Thanks for a great year.

e. Clubs and Societies Officer [WG]

Pool won a large number of medals through the year. The Festival of Sport is to take place on Thursday 08/06.

This year, a startup fund for new societies was established – new societies can apply for £100 to purchase equipment etc. to begin operation.

Sports formal took place.

Will sports formal be joined next year with awards? Don't think it worked well this year being merged.

It is hoped that there will be enough interest next year running across two sites that we will not need to merge the events.

f. Communications Officer [YL]

Currently making a picture board to display pictures from GCR events. Hope to receive more pictures from ball/barbecue to include.

g. DSU Liaison Officer [TAB]

Highest turnout Ustinov has ever had at 10% in the DSU elections this year. Average Durham turnout was about 25%, but 2-3 years ago only 13 people voted from Ustinov.

Attended DSU meetings and reminded DSU Sabbatical officers about postgraduate needs and concerns. DSU President in progress of making postgraduate advice information for next year.

The DSU now have a filled Postgraduate Officer position for next year.

h. International Officer [YX]

Had several GCR trips that appeared to be very successful.

i. Livers Out Representative [AH]

Several successful trips for livers out this year, including a trip to see Star Wars and an evening at the pub. Currently attempting to plan trampolining and/or go-karting events.

Currently trying to get housing advice for postgraduates from DSU. Hope to send information to students before they arrive. Planned to translate into other languages.

j. (Acting) Social Secretary [KR]

Summer Ball on 15th June. BBQ on 1st July, which is the biggest event of the year for Ustinov. Free food and events at the BBQ. KR encourages all to attend.

k. (Acting) Welfare Representative [TAB]

Did not have Welfare Representative this year. LGBT+ network has existed this year and Qstinovian set up. Welfare jar has been stocked – currently condoms have run out. Started distributing sanitary products for free.

Looking to run destress event with puppies. In discussions on how to raise awareness of welfare.

4. Agenda Items

a. Summer Ball Budget [KR]

i. Proposal

The GCR shall approve a budget of up to £5,000 to spend on the Summer Ball.

Proposer: Kirstyn Raitz

Secunder: Xiaoxiao Ma

ii. Supporting Information

The Summer Ball budget is divided into two parts. These numbers are based on the quotes received from vendors this academic year (2016/17)

The following items are covered by GCR Ticket sales:

Beamish prices these items at £41/person.

1. Food
2. DJ (if over 150 people buy tickets)
3. Venue booking

The following amounts are covered by GCR Funds (not ticket sales):

1. Decorations (provided by Beamish Extras): £960

- a. Chair covers: £375 (£2.50/each)
- b. White Tree decorations: £160 (£20/each)
- c. Light curtain and pillar decorations: £250
- d. Ivory candelabra table centres: £175 (£25/each)

**2. Entertainment for up to 3h (provided by Dusk 'til Dawn):
£2,520**

- a. Rustic Sweet Cart: £375
- b. Side Shows: £425
- c. Photobooth: £395
- d. Fire Performers: £300

- e. Caricature Artist: £250
- f. Henna Artist: £175
- g. Roaming Magician: £250
- h. Fortune Teller & Booth: £350

3. Buses: £925

- a. Two 70 Seaters: £500 (£250/each)
- b. One 57 Seater: £225
- c. One 33 Seater: £200

4. Ticket Printing Costs: £40

5. Roaming Photography (Brian): £250

Total Estimated Budget: £4,695.

A maximum budget of £5,000 is recommended to mitigate the risk of unforeseen additional costs.

Questions:

What was last year's budget?

[KR] The same as is being proposed for this year.

Vote: One abstention, remainder for. Motion passes.

b. Summer Barbecue Budget [KR]

i. Proposal

The GCR shall approve a budget of up to £8,000 to spend on the Summer Ball.

Proposer: Kirstyn Raitz

Secunder: Xiaoxiao Ma

ii. Supporting Information

The BBQ budget, being that the BBQ is a free event, is completely funded by the GCR.

Items are costed as follows:

1. Entertainment: £2640

- a. Tea Cups £350
- b. Magician £250
- c. Sideshows £425
- d. Pets Corner £300
- e. Ice Cream Bike £450
- f. Face Painter £125
- g. Children's Play Area £300
- h. Adult Bouncy Castle £300
- i. Generator Hire £140

2. Food: £2454.53

- a. Provided through university catering for up to 500 people.

3. Stage: £1540

4. Decorations: £250*

5. T-Shirts: £450*

6. DJ: £250

7. Additional performers/musicians: £200

*estimates based on past years.

The three highest individual costs will be food, entertainment and the stage. Everything else should remain under the £500 mark if possible.

Total Estimated Budget: £7,784.53

A maximum budget of £8,000 is recommended to mitigate the risk of unforeseen additional costs.

iii. Questions

Who is the company for the stage?

The same company who saved us last year. Last year stage from one company fell through.

iv. Vote

1 abstention, remainder for.

c. Amendments to the Standing Orders [JG]

i. Motion to Add Sheraton Park Representatives GCR Committee Role

1. Proposal

To alter the Ustinov College Graduate College Room Standing Orders to add one Sheraton Park Representative position on the GCR Committee.

Proposer: Jamie Graham

Secunder: Kirstyn Raitz

2. Supporting Information

The role description shall be created as follows:

Sheraton Park Representatives

- a. Should be available as a first port of call for residents' questions and concerns about living conditions, housing, repairs and other matters that need to be mediated with the College Officers.*
- b. Act as a contact for all questions and concerns about GCR events and services.*
- c. Assist the Social Secretary, Welfare and other GCR officers as may be necessary in distributing posters and flyers for GCR events and campaigns and in getting resident GCR members involved with GCR meetings, activities and elections.*
- d. Assist the Vice-President with the maintenance and stocking of any GCR-run vending and games machines in Sheraton House.*
- e. Monitor general GCR notice boards.*
- f. Work to promote the objects of the GCR as set out in the Constitution.*
- g. Sit on the following committees: GCR Committee, Facilities Committee*

JG: The role will involve the same things that the Dryburn/Howlands Rep, does but for the SP site.

3. Questions

Is this exec?

JG: No.

4. Vote

1 against, remainder for. Motion passes.

ii. Correction of Typographical Error

1. Proposal

A typographical error in Section 2.2 of the Standing Orders, under

“Procedure at Meetings”, will be corrected from “Complimentary to” to “Complementary to”.

Proposer: Jamie Graham

Secunder: Kirstyn Raitz

2. Questions

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3. Vote

(With above)

d. Honorary Lifetime Membership for Marc Owen Jones [KR]

i. Proposal

The GCR shall award Marc Owen Jones a honorary lifetime membership.

Proposer: Kirstyn Raitz

Secunder: Beth Nelder

ii. Supporting Information

Marc Owen Jones served two terms as president in the 2014/15 and 2015/16 years. Throughout his time at Ustinov, Marc maintained a friendly, approachable exterior made fellow Ustinovians feel welcome and accepted. Marc also played an important role in sticking up for Ustinov as a community from opposing rising accommodation fees to raising awareness about postgraduate mental health to playing an instrumental role in resisting the move to Sheraton Park. Marc has been an exemplary member of the GCR both before, during and after his time on the executive committee.

iii. Questions

He is also an alumni trustee. Does this affect his position on the board?

No.

What are the benefits of the award?

Very few benefits, GCR prices being one of the few. There should be a board with names of lifetime members but it has not yet been purchased.

iv. Vote

1 against, remainder for. Motion passes

5. Hustings

a. President

Candidate: Jamie Graham

Secunder: Daniel Rutter

Manifesto: *I'm a 2nd year PhD student in astrophysics, and for the last year I've been chairperson of the GCR. Throughout my term I have been deeply involved with not only all of the social events that the GCR organises, but also with everything Sheraton Park related. I have been attending meetings with college and the university regarding the design of the bar, provision of facilities for sports and music, design of the social space and many other aspects of the move. I have similarly been attending the Sheraton Park Residents' Association meetings in order to ensure that our college will be integrated with the local residents in Sheraton Park.*

The reason that I'm telling you all this is because I want to convince you that I'm well qualified and ready to continue Kirstyn's work. I know the people involved, I know the issues involved, and I know a lot of the solutions (but certainly not all of

them). When I hustled for chair last year I said I wanted to give back to the GCR for all that they did. I'm hoping that this year I can do everything possible to keep that going.

Ustinov has become my home over the last 2 years. I like to think I know what makes it so special, and what we can do to make sure that Sheraton Park is home for the next generation of Ustinovians.

Hust: I have been heavily involved with the move of Ustinov to SP. I have been there from the start (when the move was announced), and would like to see it through to the end. I have not had enough of the GCR yet.

Questions:

How can you encourage members to get involved in the team and in activities?

The number of people involved with the GCR has been going down over the last few years. We had no Communications Officer at the start of this year, which hurt us. SP meetings have brought about the highest turnout numbers in voting and the largest attendance at meetings. The declining numbers did not continue this year – we now have 10-11 people applying for positions, whereas at times last year we only had three.

We have not got everything we wanted at SP. Will you be willing to use GCR funds? I want to get the sports teams together to find out what facilities they need, and compare this with what is already being provided at SP. I can then assess the numbers for GCR financial support. I will look to see if the GCR levy needs to rise, but we should be ok for the next few years.

b. Vice President

Candidate: Xiaxiao Ma

Secunder: Joe Farrow

Manifesto: *My name is Xiaoxiao Ma and I got my Master degree from Durham University in 2014. I started my PhD in economics in October 2015. I have been an Ustinovian since 2013 and I never ceased loving this wonderful place. When I started my master, it is the people I get to know in Ustinov College that helped me get involved into the big family. And I always wanted to do something to help others as my friends used to do to me. And I think being the treasurer in GCR is a wonderful choice for me.*

I have been treasurer of GCR for the past one year and half and I enjoyed it very much. I get to know lots of people and I am so happy I could be part of the great family and contribute to making it a better place.

Besides that, I consider myself as a helper. I really hope that I could get as many as students, especially international students, to break their comfortable zone and enjoy the riches of the life here. If I was elected, you are actually giving me the chance to realize my dream.

I hope you could trust me and vote for me!

Hust: I have enjoyed my job as Treasurer, most of the time! Next year will be challenging as we have two sites to operate on. I am an international student, so I believe that I am well placed to encourage other international students to get involved with the GCR.

Candidate: Magdalena Garzon Fonseca

Secunder: Matthew Roberts

Manifesto: *As a future Vice-President my aim is to keep fomenting an international, open to diversity, inclusive and tolerant community and atmosphere in both Howlands and Sheraton Park where Ustinov will take place in the following academic year 2017-2018. In order to keep maintaining Ustinov as a community that promotes equal treatment and opportunities, as well as a place where Ustinovians could engage actively in the decision-making processes. For accomplishing that I will be supporting the President in all the activities needed with a mindset of multicultural cooperation. Moreover, as part of my role is to be in charge of the vending and game machines in the Common Room., I will make sure they work properly and that they suit the desires and necessities of the Ustinovians. Elaborating some doodle polls to know what the majority of people would like to have will be one of the strategies I will use for making those services better for everyone. As well, I will try to make the GCR services known and accessible to the members of Ustinov., very well spread adverts about Ustinov events, orders of college stash, etc., will be made and some polls could be used to know which kind of event the people would like to have. I will also look for having a good variety of products, prices and service in the Ustinov Café and Bar, looking for longer opening hours of the Ustinov Café as well as more variety of food. Finally, what I consider the most important is to make a good contribution in order to make sure that people enjoy their stay and membership at Ustinov, and leave University cherishing the moments lived there.*

Hust: I did my masters here in 2015, and have now returned as a first year Ph.D. student. I want to bring inclusivity to SP. I also have a couple of suggestions of things that can be improved around Ustinov. Firstly, the GCR has done a good job at running British style events, however I would like to broaden this and organise more events that are influenced by other cultures. Secondly, some people want to eat in Ustinov café at times when it is closed. I want to try to optimise the opening hours of the café in SP. Furthermore, I would like to run polls to see what students would like the café and vending machines to sell.

Questions

This is the first year that the role will have an accommodation scholarship. What will you do extra that Joe doesn't do already?

MF: I think Joe did a good job. I want to make (Ustinov) more inclusive for international students.

XM: I worked with Joe for the past year, and will try my best in this role by learning from the best.

A key part of VP is leading and working with other people. Have you any experience with this?

MF: I have experience with encouraging diversity at events.

XM: I have been a member of the GCR for the last year and a half. I have also organised two kids events in the past year, and am keen to organise more of these. I am confident I can work well in this role.

One of the roles of VP is to cover roles that are unfilled. Would you be happy to help out with covering positions such as eco rep and videomaster if they were unfilled?

MF: Yes, I am happy to do this.

XM: Yes.

Often problems around college are things that we are told no by College eg. Café hours. How would you deal with that?

MF: I would like to meet with the people that make these decisions. Many people

want to eat in the café at night, but are unable to. I can see no problems with trying to organise later opening times.

XM: I have the same issue with the café. I would suggest that students work together with College in order to try to change these things.

One thing VP has done this year is attend meetings about SP. Do you think you have what it takes to be a strong voice in those meetings?

MF: I have been in many meetings relating to SP as I am moving there. I am quite confident to speak on behalf of Ustinov members at those meetings.

XM: I have attended many meetings on SP this year. I have learnt that if you are quiet you will get nothing, and so am willing to speak up.

c. Chairperson

Candidate: Thom Addinall-Biddulph

Secunder: James O'Neill

Manifesto: *Hi! I'm Thom, and I'm running for GCR Chair. I've really got a huge amount out of being involved with the GCR thus far- I'm currently DSU Liaison Officer, and have run the film nights, been acting secretary, and done some welfare things, as well as running the pub quiz! I'd love to continue doing this. I'm especially keen to make sure things run as smoothly as possible next year when we'll be operating at Howlands, Sheraton Park, and Dryburn- certainly a challenging time! As Chair I'd want to make sure the GCR is run openly, efficiently, and fairly, while also helping out with anything that needs doing, whether it be formals, parties, or representing us to the college and university. I have a good sense of how things work at Durham after studying for three degrees here, so I hope to be able to stand up for Ustinov effectively. I'm also very familiar with the rules of the GCR- it would be a key priority to make sure things happen how they're supposed to happen, and that the committee is running smoothly! Overall, I love being involved with the GCR, and am strongly committed to ensuring that we continue to provide great activities, firm representation, and the diverse, friendly community that we pride ourselves on.*

Hust: I have been DSU Liaison officer for between a year and a half and two years, and have loved being involved in college. We really need serious meetings this year. I want to run for Chair as I have a good knowledge of the standing orders, as other executive committee members will attest. I know how meetings are run, as I took over Secretary for two months while Alex was in Stuttgart for his research. I want to encourage diversity in candidates, and I believe that talking to people face to face has had the best response when trying to get people to apply. I also want to run some meetings at SP. Furthermore, we are a charity now so we need to ensure rules are followed.

Questions:

Do you foresee making any operational changes to Standing Orders next year when we run across three sites?

I was going to suggest a new SP representative had it not be covered in this meeting already. Facilities will need to be assessed when we are there, for example the person(s) responsible for filling the vending machine, as I don't know if there is one at SP. As another example, Eco Reps. Also, I want to look through whole standing orders as I am aware of at least one location where they directly contradict themselves.

One of the most challenging roles of Chair is to control the duration of meetings. How will you do this?

Last summer, I chaired the ad-hoc meetings and there were a few times where

people discussed the same point in circles. They have been very efficient recently. I think the key point is to encourage concise responses.

You did mention problem of diversity in committee – it doesn't look great. How will you help to change this?

We need to talk to more people about the roles available on the committee. Advertisement on WeChat has been effective this year, so I would be looking to continue this next year. We also need to make it clear what the different roles do, as many people are unsure what the GCR is, let alone what we do.

d. Treasurer

Candidate: Alexander Blair

Secunder: Sarah Robertshaw

Manifesto: *The Treasurer's role over the next year will be challenging, as Ustinov College starts the transition to the Sheraton Park site, and will need a candidate familiar with the promises and claims made by the University to ensure they are held to account in executing them. This year, I have served as the Secretary of the GCR Executive Committee, in which I have minuted many key meetings on the move, making me well-placed to continue the fight to ensure the GCR get the best possible set of assets at the new site.*

I previously held the role of Treasurer for Durham University Rifle Club, in which I was responsible for the financial status of a competitive BUCS club with revenue of over £7000. During my tenure, I made the club more transparent to members by setting up a system for them to check their consumable equipment payments at will, which slashed the number of members in debt. If I were to be elected as GCR Treasurer, I shall champion transparency here as well, making it clearer what your money is being spent on.

Finally, if elected, I shall improve the thoroughness of all financial documentation held by the GCR. Now that we are an independent charity, this is not just a goal but a necessity, and thus I shall target improving cash handling procedures and implement training for GCR officers to ensure any discrepancies between expected and actual income can be rapidly identified and queried if they arise.

Hust: I was Secretary last year, and so have experience on the executive committee. I have been present throughout the SP saga, and will continue to help fight for what the college needs. I also have excellent attention to detail.

Questions:

Will there be separate budgets between SP and HF?

No, but I will do a breakdown of costs & make them transparent.

Would it be possible for formal payments to be made online?

Yes, I am keen to do this for next year.

What is your financial goal for the next year?

I am ready to spend what's necessary for the SP move, but will keep us in a good position financially.

Ticket sales will be between two offices, are you willing to go to both?

I am willing to go between the two sites whenever necessary.

Will there be reimbursement of assets at Howlands after the move to SP?

I will make sure to hold the appropriate person accountable.

e. Clubs and Societies Officer

Candidate: Tom Pitts

Seconder: Alex Hampton

Manifesto: *I am a current first year physics PhD, and as I will be around next year I intend to take a more active role in the college and take over as Clubs and Societies officer. After being an active member of both the Ustinov Pool team and the Ultimate frisbee team this year I believe our clubs and societies are an excellent way of trying something new and meeting other people.*

If elected I aim to support our clubs and societies as best as possible and work to promote societies at the sports fair next year. And with the move to Sheraton park I will work to ensure there is access to the relevant facilities local to the new accommodation.

Hust: I have really enjoyed my first year here, and a big part of that has been my involvement in sports. I want to encourage people who arrive this coming year to get involved as much as possible.

Questions:

One of aims of previous CS officer to have a discussion with all of the captains. How would you facilitate this?

I want to arrange regular meetings with the captains so I can discuss their needs.

How would you encourage advertisement of sports in the second half of the year, after induction week? This has been challenging in the past.

I would like to run a second sports/societies fair at the beginning of the second term, after Christmas.

We will be running across two sites next year, how will you make this successful?

I will need to assess the new site when we are there. Lack of facilities may mean we need to run some events at HF next year.

We might be the first college with a pool. How would you feel about organising a pool party?

Yes, that sounds like a great idea.

f. Communications Officer

Candidate: Matthew Roberts

Seconder: Marilyn Liu

Manifesto: *In this coming year, one of the foremost challenges we will face is coordination between our multi-site membership. As Communications Officer, my priority would be ensuring event awareness during our transition period, using the lessons and skills developed during my time volunteering for GCR and GCP.*

Additionally, I believe our strength of community comes not just from within our own college, but with the involvement of postgraduates from throughout the University. It is important that we communicate our role as a home for all postgrads by reaching out, raising awareness of our events and activities, and giving them the same opportunity to be a part of our Ustinov community. Finally, I wish to find ways to improve advertisement of Ustinov clubs and societies, to maintain an awareness of them not just at the start of induction week, but all throughout the Academic Year.

Hust: Getting people involved throughout the year can be a challenge, and I believe that being Communications Officer would give me the best chance to change that.

We are a postgraduate college, so I am keen to engage postgraduates from other colleges in events. My primary goal as Communications Officer would be to grow and foster a sense of community.

Questions:

Are you willing to pretend to be a platypus next year?

Having the platypus has been effective this year in getting people engaged in Ustinov. For example, it has done many rounds at the formals. I would hope to find someone to hand it off to, but yes I am willing to be a platypus.

How would you manage advertising on WeChat when it is mostly in Chinese?

I have organised advertisement posters for the oriental museum trip, in which I sought out Chinese translators to communicate the message to Chinese students.

College requires GCR communications to distribute important messages to student body quickly. How would you facilitate canvassing student opinion?

The GCR is an avenue for how a lot of information is communicated, and I do not want to overwhelm people with emails. WeChat was used to engage with students successfully who don't have Facebook. Every year we need to reassess what way will be the most effective in communicating with students.

g. DSU Liaison Officer

Candidate: Alex Hampton

Seconder: Vinay Utham

Manifesto:

Hi there,

I'm a first year PhD student in the Chemistry department. This year I have been the Livers Out Officer, and as part of that have been to several DSU Assemblies and other important meetings and working groups. I have represented Ustinov and it's views at these, and have set up joint presentations with the DSU to provide Ustinov with post grad aimed housing information. This is something that I would like to keep doing, so please vote me as next years DSU Liason officer!

Over my 5 years at Durham I have been had plenty of dealings with the DSU. This is something that I would like to keep doing, and feel that I have a lot experience in.

Alex

Hust: I was on the student staff committee for my subjects during my undergraduate. This year, I have been involved with DSU on housing talks, and have attended DSU meetings when TAB could not attend. I would hope to condense down the number of DSU emails, and the content of them. I have a good relationship with Megan, the incoming DSU president. I also hope to improve turnout of voting Ustinovians in DSU/college elections - 10% will be difficult to top but we will try.

Questions:

What is a hidden gem of DSU?

Puppies by the library during exam time is certainly one!

What do you think is the best way to engage Ustinovians with DSU and make them pay attention to it?

Hopefully having a postgrad officer, DSU will be more understanding of postgrad concerns. I would hope to make DSU more relevant to postgrads.

DSU website has online ordering system. Could this be used for online payments?

I don't think this has been done, but it could be possible. The DSU system is not very efficient in some areas, so I would like them to help us set up our own system.

h. Induction Officer

Candidate: Will Glossop

Secunder: Tim James

Manifesto:

Induction is the first major event most people at Ustinov experience, and also one of the best. The first week gives an amazing overview of what we do as a college, from the evening in the bar that sparks the first few friendships, to the karaoke night where everyone makes a fool of themselves to the clubs and societies fair that kindles new interests. This will be my third year at Ustinov, and seeing how well the previous two inductions weeks have gone has made me want to help with this year's, especially with the impending move to Sheraton.

I've been at Ustinov for two years and part of the GCR exec last year, so I have ample experience of the way things are run. I've had contact with many of the college staff, and am confident in working well with them to organise the week.

Outside of the induction week, I'll be helping with whatever the GCR needs, cleaning up at parties, setting up formals, helping with everything behind the scenes.

Vote for me!

Hust: Induction week this year went well, but next year we'll be running across two sites and will need more people.

Questions:

How do you think Induction Week can be improved?

I don't think that major changes are needed.

How would you manage events at two sites?

Either duplicate events and have them run at both sites, or alternate events between HF and SP.

What new sound effects will you bring to Exec next year?

Many, including *cheering sound effect* and *wahwahwooooww*.

Anything you will do to increase numbers of those who help out at induction week?

I would like to plan an event afterwards for all volunteers.

How would you let people know what the GCR is/does in induction week?

I would potentially organise an evening for a Q&A session for students with the GCR committee.

i. International Students Officer

Candidate: James O'Neill

Secunder: Jeanne Deysson

Manifesto:

I have spent this year as the team lead for the Café des Arts, within the Global Citizenship Programme. The responsibilities for this position fall primarily into two categories: firstly, planning events that are stimulating whilst maintaining some sense of excitement to draw students along; and secondly, designing events to suit the interests of a highly diverse group of international students with an equally varied background. To this end we have organised seminars on eroticism in Japanese, Roman and Elizabethan art; a walking tour of Durham's history of Crime

and Justice; and a trip to the living-Edwardian Museum of Beamish.

As the International Students Officer I would reflect the diversity of the Ustinovian student body with an equal diversity of trips. On the one hand, I would show home and international students an experience of local historic and cultural places of interest, such as York and its Medieval walls, Jorvik centre, a plethora of medieval stained glass and perpendicular Gothic architecture. On the other hand, I would also organise a private guided tour of the Oriental Museum to display the brilliant collection of oriental art that Durham holds (beside similar trips to Edinburgh with its fantastic National Gallery and Whitby, home to Dracula author, Bram Stoker, and the infamous Captain Cook.

Lastly, I would place myself as a go-to person for international students, facilitating any queries or requests and being a constant face of familiarity and help for International Students and the GCR generally throughout the academic year of 2017.

Hust: I have previous experience on the GCP.

Questions:

Do you have any ideas for trips that can be organised?

Trips that have already been run, including York, Edinburgh and Manchester are all good ideas, and should be run again next year. I also would plan a guided tour of Durham, which would be good for both home and international students. =I would like to run a private tour of the Oriental Museum. I will be able to use my experience on the GCP in order to effectively arrange these trips. I could run a poll in the term previous to the events to find out when they would be best run in the following term.

How can you engage international students with other GCR activities?

Advertisement and translation worked best for GCP events, and I believe this would be the same for GCR activities.

j. Secretary

Candidate: Alastair Stewart

Second: Alex Hampton

Manifesto: *My name is Alastair, and I am a 1st year PhD student in Mathematical Physics. I have had such a positive experience being part of the Ustinov community over the last year. The hard work and commitment of the GCR committee has helped to create a warm and friendly environment, which made the transition from Edinburgh to Durham, and undergraduate to postgraduate, very smooth for me. My main motivation for applying to be on the committee this year is to help give the next set of students a similar experience that I was lucky enough to have. I believe that the role of Secretary would put my skills to best use. As a PhD student, sifting through academic papers for key, useful points is a daily task; this skill will prove very beneficial when keeping track of important points in GCR meetings and taking concise, yet informative minutes. I helped run a peer-to-peer tutoring system named 'Maths Buddies' during my undergraduate. From doing this, I have an ample amount of experience in organising and preparing meetings and schedules in order to keep things running efficiently. As well as these tasks, I had to keep in consistent contact with the other tutors and the tutees through email. I believe that the skillset that I have developed in helping run this program will make me an effective Secretary. I would be very grateful to be given the chance to give back to the GCR committee, and to Ustinov, through this role.*

Hust: My daily goal to read journals etc. and pick out the key points. I believe that this will help with the role of secretary when minuting meetings.

During my undergraduate, I helped to run a peer-to-peer tutoring system called Maths Buddies, and played an important administrative role. I had to whip students and sometimes tutors into shape when they were not following through with promises that they made. That experience will help make me an effective Secretary.

Questions:

While the GCR is mainly minutes and meetings, are you happy to contribute time to GCR events as well?

Yes. My experience here has been so positive, and part of that has been due to the friendly faces of the GCR committee being around college. I would like to be one of those friendly faces next year.

One role is to write agenda for Exec meetings and encourage chair to make sure this is stuck to. How would you do this?

I have no problem in telling people to stop talking, in a polite way of course. I am comfortable with gently helping move the conversation on.

k. Tech Officer

Candidate: Joe Farrow

Secunder: Jamie Graham

Manifesto: *Hello friends, I was the Tech officer a year ago and I have been the vice president for the last year. I have run Ustinov live for the last 18 months and I do most of the tech for the college*

Hust: I run all of the tech in the college currently, and so have plenty experience.

Questions:

Will you hold any training meetings for helping with clear-up?

Yes, I would be happy to run this for any budding technicians.

6. Any Other Business

No other business discussed.

Alexander Blair

GCR Secretary

05/06/2017