

Ustinov College GCR Exec Meeting

Minutes



Action Points:

AB/TP to buy the new games console, games and controllers.

[AB to look into insuring our assets before the next trustees meeting.]

[AB to look into sorting out online payment.]

JO to contact someone at Dryburn about selling tickets there.

JS to reopen the SP Café survey and look through the responses.

MR to speak to Walter about using and updating the website.

MR to email Ian about the cabinet to go into SP bar.

TP to organise the re-clothing and re-cushioning of the pool tables.

TP to fill in a reimbursement form to give to AB to allow AB to order the weights and flags.

TP to speak to Ian about mirrors for the gym.

XM to tell the SP Rep to collect the printer for SP.

XM to find out the HF café opening times.

XM to organise installation of the Dryburn TV.

XM to fill in a reimbursement form to give to AB.

18:30pm, 12/02/18

1. Apologies: VU, JS

Present: JG, TAB, XM, AB, AS, JO, NQ, TP, CW, AH, MR, FO

2. Approval of minutes from last meeting.

Minutes from 29/01: approved on the general aye.

Minutes from 05/02: approved on the general aye.

3. Matters arising from previous minutes.

Checked with College, putting flags up in SP is fine.

4. Agenda Items:

a. Games Console Budget [TP]

Proposal: To pass a budget of up to £410 for a PS4, four controllers and three games. The proposed games are Fifa, a Call of Duty game and Rocket League.

Questions/Points:

A poll was held, in which approximately forty people voted for PS4. This was the clear favourite among both old and new generation consoles that were in the poll. It is pointed out that if people have the option between a shiny new generation console and an old one then they would most likely lean toward the new one.

Where would the console be stored?

The idea would be for the games console to be stored in the locked cabinet to be bought for SP. It is pointed out that the cabinet to be put in the SP bar was for the DVD player which we no longer need to buy, however AS and TAB have no recollection of a DVD player or a games console ever being mentioned when the cabinet was first brought up. It was originally brought up as a place to store audio cables and to give somewhere safe the bar staff could put their phone in to play music in the bar. MR states College are willing to buy the cabinet, therefore it will be done.

How will students be given access to controllers?

This will have to be worked out. A suggestion of giving the key to the cabinet to the porter or bar staff is made. TP points out that this is the same issue we have with the Wii and Xbox in HF currently and it works out fine, so this should not be a reason to not buy the console.

A concern is pointed out that in the long term there may only be a couple of games available that are four person split screen. However, the Wii in HF currently only has two or three games that are played consistently and people seem to enjoy it, and it is pointed out that even if it was only used for Fifa the console would still get used a lot.

Another issue that will have to be worked out is getting access to the internet in order to update games; some members of the committee are confident that this can be done.

Vote: 10 for, 1 abstention, 0 against. AB/TP to organise the purchase of the PS4.

b. Office Hours [TAB]

This is an open discussion about the future of office hours over both sites. It has been pointed out that very often only one or two people, if any, come to the GCR office during office hours looking for help. In particular, there is very little to do in SP at the moment during office hours. The question is, should office hours be kept to two hours every evening over both sites, or is it not worth doing this.

A suggestion is put forward by FO to have the office on each site open on alternating nights; one night at HF, the next at SP, the next at HF etc. A number of committee members point out this could become very confusing, but MR says it perhaps could work if at least a regular weekly schedule was given to each site. Furthermore, there is enough of a problem with committee members forgetting to do their office hours as it is; this arrangement would probably exacerbate this. It is suggested that TAB would have to start posting each day who is on office hours the next day.

AB states that there is very little to do at the SP office at the moment, so people are not looking to come to the office unless it is for a gym induction (which there are not that many of now) or to buy tickets for formals/trips. He believes that confusion is not a good enough reason to leave things as they are.

It is suggested that the office could open regularly at both sites again on weeks where there are tickets sales. NQ points out that actually many of the weeks do have tickets sales going on, whether it is for a formal or for a trip. Furthermore, AS highlights a concern regarding committee members being able to fill in what would be 'extra' slots during these weeks. There seems to be an issue already getting a committee member to cover for someone's office hours who cannot make it to their regular slot; it seems very doubtful that the extra days for ticket sales would easily be covered.

JG asks if the answer is to gradually move things to SP so more facilities become available, meaning the office is better used during office hours. He also points out that despite being surrounded by things to do at HF, generally people do not do what they are supposed to during office hours there. It is decided some DVDs will be moved over to SP, and Jono (as the new Video Master) will be asked to advertise the DVD libraries.

AB points out that perhaps gym sheets/inductions will be more organised if office hours are not done every day as then they'll be done more in batch than currently.

It is pointed out that during the hustings of almost every committee member, a question is asked about whether they are willing to commit time to doing, for example, office hours. Every person who is asked that question says yes. Furthermore, for a number of committee members office hours seem to be the only thing that they do for the GCR.

TAB also highlights that the two sites cannot be treated differently regarding office hours. TAB will consider the points raised and come to a decision.

5. Officer Reports:

a. Bar Steward [VU] [Apologies]

Both bars still exist! The correct number of bar staff has been arranged for the Chinese New Year karaoke party.

Grenadine is back at HF.

JG is creating a list of issues specific to the SP bar regarding things that have not been done by hospitality.

b. Clubs & Societies [TP]

TP to ask Colin to paint the inside doors of the dartboard with the paint purchased for the dart team.

Colin said the paint is not very good, so JG bought some blackboards to go up on the inside of the doors to the dartboard.

TP to organise the re-clothing and re-cushioning of the pool tables.

The cushions must be custom made for the table, so Breakaway will email TP when they are ready. TP will confirm that only one table is being re-cushioned.

TP attended a disciplinary meeting regarding behaviour of a student toward a referee, which ended in a warning.

The Choir should be getting ratified next week. Samuel emailed JG asking for the choir to sing at a formal; it is decided they could perhaps sing at Castle formal. TP asks if you need to hold an election for the three committee members of a society before they are ratified. TAB points out the DSU can ratify a society with non-elected Exec members. It does not seem to be in the constitution.

TP spoke to LJ about Ustinov's lack of participation in sports and a few ideas were suggested. These included having a representative at the GCR Clubs and Societies Fair advertising the sports Ustinov do not have and Team Durham may be looking to organise university wide trials of sports then directing people to the relevant College teams.

c. Communications [MR]

At the GM it was mentioned to Sandhita and Walter that the Ustinov Snapchat, Instagram and Twitter have not been used, and they seemed ok with resurrecting them. MR believes that some of the social media platforms cannot be logged in to, but will check them again. It is believed that the Snapchat and Twitter at least should work.

It is noted that the gym information for SP needs updated on the GCR website. MR will speak to Walter about using and updating the website.

d. DSU [AH]

AH attended assembly on 08/02. The following are his notes from it:

NUS Motions:

Get organised for decent housing – Passed.

- Aiming to get other university SUs to set up tenants union such as ACORN

Potential low-income students at our best universities - Rejected

- Changing 'student loans' to 'graduate contribution' with no change to actual policy is condescending and won't aid Durham's elitist reputation.
- Universities have to spend a (large) proportion of the 9k fees on attracting local students from low socioeconomic backgrounds – why set this up nationally?

Non-Binary Inclusivity in Delegations – Passed but with abstentions from people with a good understanding of the election rules

- “No more than 50% of a delegation to National Conference, rounded up, may self-define as the same gender identity. Where a union is only entitled to send one delegate, the union's free observer place must be taken by someone who self-defines as a different gender identity”
- Some worried about the exact language but agreed with the proposal

DSU Motion

Proposal of creation of Students Union Rep Committee – Passed

- Needs a bit of rethinking regarding SU Reps representing Presidents on university working groups and the exact number of meetings is to be decided.
- Basically, SU rep next year will have more work, and the President can delegate more stuff to them.

The way it stands currently, the DSU Representative would be there on behalf of the President, meaning anything voted on at these meetings would be counted as if the Presidents had voted on them.

MR asks if anyone who attended the Owen Adams meeting would be willing to be interviewed for a Ustinovian article.

Charlie Walker had read the comments on the Owen Adams video meeting and flagged to watch, had not had time when last spoke. AH Spoke to Megan about the meeting and a large numbers of students feeling unhappy about some of the finer details in the business case (not all of which was shown to OA in video). AH is going to send her an angry email from Ustinov, which he will show exec first.

It turns out differential pricing is not as easy to work out as they thought it would. AH will raise his concerns with Megan about the idea, and point out that a 'one size fits all' policy is going to disadvantage Ustinov.

AH calls for UCU members to give him feedback on their stance on the strikes that are planned. It was pointed out that students that are here for only one year, especially international students, will not feel any benefit from the strikes.

The Bill Bryson library was closing early due to a lack of staff. It will be open 24/7 from tonight.

e. Facilities [XM]

XM to collect the printer for SP from Ian.

Ian has said he will deal with the printer in the SP GCR office. He had forgotten about it, and is out of the office until Wednesday, but XM will get the SP Rep to pick it up when he is back.

XM to find out the HF café opening times.

XM will send an email to Ian asking about the café, hoping that he can forward her to someone that is in charge of it.

XM to purchase the screen protector for the Dryburn TV and organise installation.

The screen protector has been purchased. XM is waiting for it to be delivered in order to organise installation. XM to fill in a reimbursement form.

XM to look into getting a fairer way of allocating hours of the music room to students.

XM contacted Sheila about music room use. It seems none of the students had have been booking it for more than two hours. It may be the case that those students

know there will be nobody after them so they stayed longer. The people that have been booking the post time are S Zhang, T Gu, S Yue, H Sun, Y Rang and L Tang. It will be double checked again that these students are GCR members.

MR to look into getting a cabinet for the SP bar to be placed near the sound inputs. College are buying the cabinet; MR will message Ian about it.

*JS to reopen the SP Café survey and look through the responses.
To be done.*

JG is trying to organise the rearrangement of the SP café, however Trudy is objecting to the layout that he has proposed. Ian and Emma were fine with it, and then Ian said in correspondence that it was not confirmed, despite the new dartboard being put up in the place stated in the plan. Trudy believes that moving things in front of the bar will kill the café, though it is pointed out by the committee that it has not been used well at all already.

f. Finance [AB]

Figures from the treasurer:

*Balance on 04/02: **£14,071.96***

<i>Amazon</i>	<i>-£47.99</i>
<i>Papa Johns (Town Hall)</i>	<i>-£153.52</i>
<i>Durham University</i>	<i>+£5,074.00</i>
<i>Netflix</i>	<i>-£7.99</i>
<i>Lees Coaches</i>	<i>-£395.00</i>
<i>Dusk 'til Dawn</i>	<i>-£200.00</i>

*Carried forward (11/02): **£18,341.46***

It is noted for the future that Papa Johns has gone from 50% off to 40% off.

[AB to look into insuring our assets before the next trustees meeting.]

[AB to look into sorting out online payment.]

AB to budget up buses that will be needed for the rest of the year.

AB gave JG figures for buses ahead of his meeting. So far the GCR has spent £3,735 out of the available £6,000. With Tony at less than £200 per event and around six events left, we are well clear (barring enormous spends on BBQ and Summer Ball transport). Therefore, it was decided that UIF can be given some of these funds for their International Dress Party, assuming the budget they request is reasonable.

TP/AB to purchase the flags for the World Cup.

AB is waiting for the reimbursement form for the flags.

AB spoke to Andy (Hatfield President) about the Inter-MCR payments. They'll be sorting it out.

The Finance Committee decided that for this year the funding approved for jerseys for the basketball team can be moved to cover referee and court costs. This is on the condition that the team provide all expense documentation and do everything they can to chase up their members for subs. They are aware of the Finance Committee's decision, and AB is now waiting for the information/receipts.

AB got in contact with the suppliers for cricket gloves, who said they are now out of stock. He is sorting out a replacement.

JG to upload the last trustee minutes as AB needs to make the formatting changes they said before documents can be forwarded to the accountant. It turns out it is a simple change, so AB will do this then send the accounts off.

Someone has been asking about getting lighter weights and mirrors for the SP gym. TP to give AB the reimbursement form for the weights, and talk to Ian about the mirrors.

g. International Officer [JO]

The ticket sales document has been set up for York ticket sales, complete with instructions on how to fill in the form. Tickets sales will start today. JO to contact someone at Dryburn about selling tickets there. York is the only trip planned for this term, however JO is thinking about contacting the Hill Walking Society about potentially booking a trip. TAB points out that the society is particularly careful about the equipment people participating on their trips have before they allow them on the bus. If this turns out not to be possible, the JO may organise another small trip.

h. Livers Out [CW]

CW to look into doing something for Pancake Day.

CW booked out the Pancake Café for 19:00 onwards on Tuesday. There has not been an email sent out yet, but if CW gets the Google Form up and running people can sign up at office hours tonight.

The Fire and Ice event is in Durham next weekend. An idea of a photography competition with some kind of prize is put forward; there is general agreement from the committee that it seems like a good idea.

i. Social

i. Social Secretary [NQ]

AS to make the formal sign-up sheet for CNY.

This was completed. Only 147/210 tickets were sold for the CNY formal.

XM to send an email requesting volunteers for CNY decorating.

An email was sent out calling for volunteers, and all the information about the CNY formal was posted in WeChat.

XM to contact Dusk 'til Dawn and ask them to do karaoke all evening (until around 01:00).

Dusk 'til Dawn has now been booked for karaoke after the formal this Friday.

NQ to organise decorations for the Chinese New Year events.

NQ had a meeting with Social Secretary to buy decorations for the Chinese New Year events. Most have arrived already, and Lily (Formal Secretary) went to Newcastle on Friday to buy the remaining items. Red envelopes will be filled tomorrow, decorating will happen on Thursday and the formal is on Friday.

XM says that only four people have responded to help decorating the place for Chinese New Year. She points out this may be because it is during the week. Decorations may be put in SP after enough have been used in HF. JG says College has given the GCR £200 to spend on the event.

MR says there may be some old decorations in a storage room near Elm. It is pointed out it is the College's store room, not the GCR's.

Snacks will be bought for the period of time Fisher House is being decorated. Chopsticks will also be bought for the formal.

ii. Ball Secretary [FO]

A date will be organised for JG, NQ, FO and CW to visit Beamish to look at the location of the Summer Ball.

j. Steering [TAB]

Two out of the three new committee members have been inducted to office hours. TAB is in the process of sorting out changes to the office hours rota. It is pointed out that certain members of the committee are still not handling money correctly.

k. University/College [JG]

JG has written the plan for formals for next year and has sent it to hospitality.

The observatory money has passed. We are currently waiting on E&B for a date estimate. The Head of Music Durham asked if she could help. A computer room for next year has now also been confirmed.

Stephenson's wish list has been delayed by a week.

JG will be meeting with Nick Benbow on Thursday to talk about lighting and to go through the music room stuff etc.

l. Welfare [JS] [Apologies]

The condom order is still on delay. JS chased this up on Friday; the person on the phone said they should be here by Wednesday this week. He also offered 25% off the next order.

The alcohol awareness event at SP as a bit of a let-down compared to HF, with only five people turning up in total.

JS met up with Sarah P and Brenda regarding sexual harassment. They are looking to run a joint awareness/educational event at both sites with Clarissa Humphreys, the Student Support & Training Officer (Sexual Violence & Misconduct).

JS got the green light for a puppy dog event sometime from March onwards.

6. AOB

Nothing else to discuss.

Alastair Stewart

GCR Secretary

12/02/2018