

Ustinov College GCR General Meeting Minutes



7:00 p.m. 12/5/2019

1. **Apologies: AS**
Present: TP, SL, EJ, MR, VB

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

All GM minutes for the year will be passed at the upcoming AGM. This will be taking place at the start of June.

- a. **Issues Arising from Last Minutes**

- i. **Results of Elections Following Last Meeting**

Following the last General Meeting, the roles listed below were filled:

Welfare Officer:	Jia Lai
Dryburn Representative:	Jia Lai

- ii. **Lack of Quorum**

Following the most recent General Meeting on April 28th, it has been highlighted that quorum was lacking. Consequently, this meeting will rerun the votes held in that meeting in order to rectify this.

3. **Reports from Officers [to be held during the meeting from]:**

- a. **President [TP]**

Not much new has happened since the last meeting, but next year PGR students will be getting free printing! This should come into force over the summer.

- b. **Treasurer [EJ]**

Not much has happened since the last meeting. The biggest expenditure recently was to Maiden Castle, and this was around £900. This was already budgeted for, though, so it was completely fine to pay.

- c. **Vice President [JO]**

Now have the new lamps, and a new stash order will be coming soon – this has been advertised via email to all Ustinovians. Only a couple of days left until it closes, so act now if you'd like some stash!

d. Bar Steward [AMH]

Nothing to report.

e. Clubs and Societies Officer [VB]

The awards formal happened, we handed out a lot of trophies and medals and it was a good night overall! If anyone is interested in playing cricket then please get in touch with the team because they need more people. The upcoming Festival of Sports will be on Sunday 9th June – 9 Ustinov teams, which is almost double from last year, most of our teams are represented. If anyone still wants to join a team they're more than welcome.

Q: Are we participating in the Hill vs. Bailey competition?

A: This competition is only for Rugby teams, so unfortunately not.

f. Communications Officer [KL]

Communications are still being sent out as usual, so not much has changed here.

g. DSU Liaison Officer [TP]

Nothing to report.

h. International Officer [MR]

We have the trip to Cragside on this coming Saturday, and we have a few tickets left if anyone wants to come. Normally, entry would cost £16-20, but we can get in for free because of our National Trust membership, so please come along!

We've also been travelling to various places around the NE over the last month or so. Keep an eye out for more trips in the future!

i. Livers Out Representative []

We are still open to ideas and suggestions from Livers Out, so please let us know to help us to run events for you!

j. Social Secretary [LN]

Eurovision is on next weekend, so keep an eye out for further advertising. Pride week is coming up, there will be a week of related events, and we'll be putting out several Facebook events for these.

k. Welfare Officer [JL]

Nothing to report.

4. Agenda Items

- Motion to pass the updated 2018-2019 GCR annual budget. Copies of this budget will have been circulated prior to the meeting. Updated versions of the budgets for the Summer Ball and BBQ will also have been circulated. ***Motion to pass the updated GCR budget for the academic year 2018-2019 - 24 in favour, 0 against, 4 abstentions. The motion is passed accordingly.***

[EJ] If anyone has any questions regarding the budget then let me know. We had planned on receiving £25,000 from GCR levies but the different system means that we didn't actually get this amount, so the budget needs to be amended accordingly. The £15,000 from composition fee never materialised, and EJ in touch with the finance team about this, but we've received all that we'll get for the rest of the year, which is only around £900 less than what we should have received. Other events were run during induction week which we've had to factor in – coaches were the main change, having switched providers, so this also affected the prices of other trips which we ran later. **Try and get the rest of this from EJ later.** Tom will offer a detailed explanation of the budgets for the Ball and BBQ later in the meeting.

- **[TP]** Ball budget – this is the specific budget for the Ball to fit within the broader revised budget for the year. All of the figures for particular areas of the budget can be found in the document attached to the email circulated prior to the General Meeting. **Motion to pass the budget – 23 in favour, 5 abstentions. The budget is passed accordingly.**

Q: The total expense assumes we can sell all the tickets, if not then won't we need to pass a higher budget to cover this loss? I'm sure some more tickets can be sold, but what if this isn't sufficient?

A: This is an issue which has been noted recently, and we're expecting to come in lower than we expected in terms of ticket sales, but I'm in touch with Beamish about this, and we have the AGM in case any more money needs to be passed in addition to the budget. Obviously there are some room hire costs involved as well as the cost of dining, so there will be changes to pricing if we don't sell enough tickets, and there are other options which we can use to make up ticket sales.

Q: What if there is such an increase in cost that it gets turned down at the AGM? Has it been opened to other colleges?

A: Then we can't run the Ball! MCR Presidents have all received an advertisement to distribute to their respective colleges, and I've advertised to mentors and college staff too. We're trying to fill spaces, and we'll advertise in the postgraduate Facebook group too.

Q: Two years ago IR brought a lot of students from other colleges. Could advertise in relation to subject groups?

A: Good idea, I'll look into it.

Q: Have you considered reducing prices for non-GCR members?

A: Cost of non-GCR is if we sold all tickets at £70 then prices would be covered. We don't want to subsidise non-GCR members using money from GCR members, as this defeats the point of being a GCR member. £70 is also not a huge amount of money compared to the prices of other balls.

Q: Have we paid a deposit?

A: We will be paying a budget of £250, which would be lost if the Ball didn't go ahead.

- **[TP]** Budget for the Summer BBQ. As above, the precise figures proposed can be found in the document attached to the email circulated prior to this meeting. ***Motion to pass this – 28 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions. Motion passed accordingly.***

Q: Will we have any outside bars, and what will they cost?

A: We won't have any this year, I know we had some last year but in VM the bar is very close to the stage, so walking a distance to get drinks shouldn't be an issue. We're going to try and get a cocktail/mocktail stand for outside, though.

Q: What date will this be on?

A: 20th July. We're holding off on advertising for now so it isn't confused with the Summer Ball!

Q: How are our staffing arrangements? We might be using Ustinov staff but wouldn't the profits go to VM?

A: I need to speak to VM about this. This is not directly related to the budget, as colleges will deal with it between themselves, but VM seem confident they'll have enough of their own staff on the day for this not to be an issue. Numbers of external staff still need finalising, though.

5. Hustings

N/A

AOB

[TP] Date of the AGM – all Exec positions will be open if people want to submit a manifesto and run for a position. It will be in the first week of June, but we're still waiting to finalise a date given the Festival of Sport. We should have confirmation of dates soon, so keep an eye on social media for these!

Sam Littlewood

GCR Secretary

12/5/2019