

# Ustinov College GCR General Meeting Minutes



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7:00 p.m., 30/11/2019

1. Apologies: SH
2. Issues Arising from Last Minutes

- a. **Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting**

Approval of Minutes from 13/10/2019 [approved on the general aye]

- b. **Results of Elections following last meeting:**

Chairperson: Alexander Hampton  
Clubs and Societies Officer: Rayan Rachedi  
International Students Officer: Ahmed Shafquat Hassan

Election Officers: Muhammad Mahmudul Hasan, Kimberley Liu

Deputy Social Secretary: James Ireland  
Video Master: Philip McCann  
Formal Secretary: Arabethan Lecuyer

Female Welfare Rep.: Jess Craig  
Male Welfare Rep.: Tomos Arthur Lloyd-Evans  
LGBTQ+ Rep.: Nicole Terry  
Disability Rep.: Joe Wilcock

Dryburn Rep.: Martha Muir  
Ecology Rep.: Fiona Brewis

Tech Officer: Alastair Stewart  
GCP Liason Officer: Bea Fones

Assistant Treasurer: Shahzeb Bey

Female Sports Rep.: Junru Wang  
Male Sports Rep.: Christos Vlahos

Student Trustee: Tom Toward

- c. **Resignations since last meeting:**

Bar Steward

### **3. Reports from Officers**

#### **a. President [DM]**

##### **University matters:**

University is looking to reduce the price of the accommodation fees, how would this change, is still on process, but I will keep you up to date.

As a result of the BPR1 (*a review of University Operations*) Colleges have had an increase in the Catering prices for their formals, some colleges have reported doubling the price when the formal is on a weekend. A point that Presidents would like to emphasize to University is that we are a College-based University, therefore, it can't be centralized because Colleges don't operate the same way and have different facilities. Another side effect is the amount of staff turning over, losing specialized staff (sometimes due to age).

As part of my position as President of Ustinov GCR, I am part of the Induction week Committee, where University is trying to improve all the system and the student experience, I invite all of you if you have any feedback to email me about this matter.

##### **Community matters:**

The Mayor has invited Ustinov College to visit the Town Hall. This event is special since is just aimed for Ustinovians and they will be welcomed by the Mayor in person.

We have had some complaints from local residents about students taking photos of the inside of their house from their windows, I would like to invite students to don't take photos, even if you find a cute dog/cat inside the house, that is trespassing property!

For our next formal, we will have the opportunity to get together with members of St. Mary's MCR after the dinner is over, please feel free to arrive at the bar even if you don't come to the dinner, would be nice to say hi to our fellow postgrads at St. Mary's.

##### **College matters:**

Members of the exec had been taking readings of the temperature from our past 2 parties, and with these data, College has finally shown to University that the heating/cooling system that is centrally controlled doesn't work properly, for our next party, College has assured us that the bar won't get too hot.

We took part in the National Road and Safety Week having, as a result, a new video that we have shared with all of you by our social media.

#### **b. Treasurer [VB]**

In the seven weeks since our last General Meeting the number of GCR members has increased from 223 to 287. We need to continue advertising and encouraging students to become members since our annual budget planned for 350 members and we won't be able to spend as much money on activities and events as hoped at this rate. However, I have seen quite a few students becoming members to make use of the reduced price for the York trip, so I think the continued advertisement of reduced ticket prices is a good way to gain more members!

Expenses so far are all within budget. Especially for activities where we are flexible, we try to spend as little as we can since we are aware of the low number of levies. The pricing of all ticketed events

so far (formals, fireworks coach, York trip) has worked out well to avoid making any significant loss. The vending machine is also making a slight surplus while being very popular with students.

College have finally transferred the £13,600 from the transitional fund to cover some expenses of the last two years to us, so in terms of cash flow, we are in a very comfortable position.

The issue with college overcharging us for last year's formal is still ongoing. This year I am however making sure to get the price per head for each formal in writing and I have been pressuring the finance team to send us an invoice for each formal ASAP. We have however not yet received any for this year.

*Q: With respect to the update on formal price increases, will it affect how many formals we run or the ticket price we charge (or other arrangements)?*

*A: The days of the formal are normally out of our control. We have been getting prices in advance to plan ticket pricing and so have been careful to try and break even. If they turn out to be more expensive then yes, we would have to charge a little more.*

### **c. Vice President [CA]**

I have several updates since the last meeting. Our first Stash order has been delivered; we hope everyone who ordered is satisfied. For those who missed out (this includes me): don't worry as we will have another next term. We've also been keeping the vending machine stocked up – we're always up for hearing new suggestions on the snacks you want.

I had been hoping to announce that the first set of visual improvements to the Observatory were now complete, but this has been postponed to Tuesday. If you are still braving the weather to practice up there, let me know what you think and if you have more suggestions. We've decided to hold off on a TV for the Fisher Room for now but will be installing a projector as soon as we get a suitable shelf. If this proves popular then we'll look at upgrading it.

On a related note, we've had another successful Ustinov Live since the last GM and are planning a Christmas Edition on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December. Thanks again to our Tech Officer Alastair for running things there as to everyone who has come and performed for us – it's been amazing!

I've been working with our new Eco Rep Fiona to try and get set up an allotment for gardening. We're currently looking at modifying her original proposal to fit in with our preferred location – near to the observatory. If you're interested in helping with this then let us know (we have a Facebook group). The end-goal is to eventually restart a gardening society.

My plans for the near future are to update the info we have about the GCR games/ DVD collection as well as our (tiny) library. As always, if you have any improvement ideas to the facilities here or at Dryburn then let me (/us) know and we'll see what we can do to help.

### **d. Clubs and Societies Officer [RR]**

Societies update: since the last general meeting, we have re-ratified most of last year's societies. We are now looking into creating new societies based on interest. We now have a new Love Island society and the Ustinov GCR Choir – which should be performing soon at the Christmas formal! New societies are also being looked into, including a swimming society (we're exploring swimming facilities arrangements with the Experience Durham staff as we have had 45 people show their interest in swimming with Ustinov!); a squash society (currently in the process of being created, as the squash courts have just reopened); a cricket society (some people have expressed interest and we will send a poll around to get numbers soon!); a gardening society (pending arrangements to get

an allotment with college). We're always open to new society ideas and feel free to get in touch if there is anything you want to start — chances are you will find other keen people in the college!

Communications: every week, we now post an update of how our sports team have been doing against other colleges on the Team Ustinov Facebook page. We will also publish a weekly GCR Clubs & Societies column on The Ustinovian blog, in collaboration with the GCP. We will continue offering football tickets with Newcastle over the year so keep an eye on Facebook and like the Team Ustinov Facebook page for that!

Facilities: since the last general meeting, we have been given access to a number of facilities for sports societies. We now have access to the Durham High School for Girls for a total of 4 slots and five hours and a half every week. However, during vacation time, we do not have access to the Durham High School for Girls or Durham School and I am currently looking into alternative options for our clubs who would be playing there during the vacation.

Gym: we will be looking into potential improvements in coming weeks and will send a poll around for any suggestions you may have.

#### **e. Welfare Officer [BR]**

This term we have had several welfare events including a coffee and cake session and pub quiz for World Mental Health Day. I have also been working with Diana for a Road Safety Awareness campaign, you can still get high vis wristbands from reception! We have been working with college to get a stand in the Sheraton Park disabled bathroom so that we can have welfare supplies in there and have been discussing the possibility of getting a Gender Neutral Bathroom in college. We have trialled welfare hours on weekends and evenings during the week outside of office hours but due to a lack of demand have moved them to regular office hour slots on alternating Mondays and Thursdays.

Coming soon we are going to have a couple of campaigns around beauty and sustainability. We are currently working with Fiona, the eco rep, on the possibility of having a stall at college with lots of sustainable products such as: feminine hygiene products, solid shampoo and eco-friendly deodorant from local businesses. We are also looking into the possibility of having a beauty product and toiletries drive where people can donate all their unwanted make-up and toiletries they receive over the holidays, which will be donated to women's charities. As usual, the college will be having its annual foodbank collection where you can donate unopened non-perishable food, toiletries and feminine hygiene products to local people in need.

#### **f. International Officer [SH] Apologies**

Since taking over as International Students Officer, I have had the opportunity to work with an amazing group of people on the GCR. Considering that I am relatively new to the role and still need to learn more about my functions, I am grateful for Diana and the team for all their encouragement and help with my duties.

With regards to trips; Christmas being almost upon us, we've organised a trip to the Christmas Market in York. Tickets sold out VERY Fast for this one. In the near future, I intend to organise more trips like this and am currently considering a number of options. Additionally, true to my manifesto, I have been hosting International Students sessions once a month, so that I am able to better understand and assist with the problems that most international students have. The sessions have begun to quiet down now, and I am hopeful that this is due to the fact that people are settling in better. However, we're still going to be doing a session a month at least. I will also be coordinating with the welfare team and the president to do drop-in sessions for livers out and Dryburn students.

I encourage everyone to keep an eye out on social media. I am currently working on a number of Christmas Market locations which are very nearby and worth a visit. Once I have the list composed, I will be publishing it and would encourage everyone to check out the markets at their own convenience.

#### **g. Acting DSU Rep. [AH]**

This term I have been representing the interests of Ustinov, and PG students in general, at SU rep meetings and Assembly. We have recently elected a chair of the SU reps committee and set areas we would like to focus on this year – notably improving the University’s sexual violence policy and clarity about SU democracy when it comes to Sabbatical Officers.

At the last Assembly a motion was passed to mandate the SU to lobby landlords to accept international guarantors when renting non-University accommodation. This will have a significant impact on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year international PhD students who live out by helping them find affordable housing without having to pay six months of rent upfront.

There will be another Assembly next week in which the other SU reps and I are hoping to bring forward an amendment to the SU policy on the UCU strikes. Currently staff wages (from student fees) will be withheld if they decide to strike. In the previous strike these funds were used to improve mental health awareness, subsidise the cost of academic societies, and improve facilities in the DSU. The impact of this expenditure will not usually benefit the current students affected by the strike, and hence there is a consensus that masters students, in particular international ones, will not receive enough benefits from their fees that won’t go towards lectures. As such the SU reps are looking into the feasibility of students getting these funds returned to them.

*Some items of interest from the upcoming assembly (to be discussed Tuesday). PG-specific study is well-used and so rarely has excess space. Uni has agreed to build more. PGT fees have increased very quickly and without oversight – aim is to mandate this to be rectified. There will also be changes and updates to mental health support (BR/ AH to keep everyone posted). There are also plans to look into increasing support for students with families, this will be particularly relevant to Keenan House.*

Currently, elections are being held for delegates from Durham to represent Durham University at the National Union of Students (NUS). I strongly encourage you to vote in this, as the NUS selects policies that effect all students in the UK. More information can be found on the DSU website.

*Q: When is the deadline for the NUS delegate voting*

*A: Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December, 5pm*

#### **4. Agenda Items**

##### **a. Summer BBQ Venue [DM]**

Some context [CA]:

For those of you new to Ustinov, the Summer BBQ is the biggest event of the year, like our 'College Day'. The event usually starts around midday and features live music, amusements and free BBQ food (with no entry charge). It is suitable for all ages so we cater for Ustinovians with families as well as those without. We then aim for the bar/ after-party to continue until 2am with a DJ and more music. Past attractions include a smoothie bicycle, climbing wall and soft play area as well as separate bouncy castles for adults and kids. Previously, it was held at Howlands. Last year it was held at Van Mildert College as Ustinov is no longer on the Howlands site.

Arrangements for 2020:

From our last minute, I have informed you that Van Mildert College was confirmed as the venue for our annual Summer BBQ, however, this has been changed since the date we had, the College will go under some refurbishment.

At the moment, we are looking at 2 main options:

1. We will instead hold the BBQ at Ushaw College, making necessary arrangements to account for the distance from Durham City and Sheraton Park in particular. This is pending a viewing of the site at Ushaw to make sure it can satisfy everything we need for the BBQ. *This is also unconfirmed from Ushaw... but we will be getting this sorted soon.*
2. We will hold the BBQ at Van Mildert but on a Sunday. [This is not our preferred option as we believe that it will impact alumni or others who need to travel further to attend the BBQ, meaning they would need to schedule a day off on the Monday. It would also mean that the committee would need to take time off to clear away on the Monday.]

*Q: Which date would the VM BBQ be?*

*A: Was originally on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July. They then proposed Mon, Tue, Sun of that week. Current proposed date (if Van Mildert) is therefore Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July.*

*Q: What about later in July?*

*A: We did consider this before changing the location and VM is already fully booked. We are also restricted in venues by the fact that we don't exactly know how many will attend.*

*Q: What about the price of a stage etc? Using Van Mildert meant we could hire their stage cheaply and save money for other items. We also had Hilde Bede as an option last year.. what about there?*

*A: HB has refurbishments so we cannot use it. We hope that it might be possible to use some of the transition fund for additional costs.*

*Q: Should we ask the wider membership about their preferences?*

*A: If we will be at VM on a Sunday then we will look on voting on it. Any voting would happen after we know more though.*

*Q: Have access/ distance to both been considered? Ushaw isn't the most accessible place by foot.*

*A: Yes, this is something we have considered when looking at these options.*

## **b. Motion to support the UCU Industrial Action**

*Presented by Anna Kranz on behalf of the proposer*

Proposal:

To support the industrial action taken by the UCU concerning both the “pensions and pay” and the “casualisation, equality and workload” movements. *Chad’s has already voted in support of this.*

To support UCU in reaching out to postgraduate students as it gathers information about the conditions of hourly-paid (eg postgraduate) staff.

Supporting information:

The University and Colleges Union has voted this week to take industrial action on two fronts: pensions and pay; and casualisation, equality and workload. As postgraduate students, we are particularly affected by the second of these. Postgraduate students who teach have not received a pay rise in ten years, and are frequently expected to work significantly more hours than they are paid for. The Union have been lobbying the University to improve conditions and job stability for hourly-paid and fixed-term employees, but have been met with resistance and cancelled meetings. *Postgrads are also often on zero-hour contracts to teach.*

Proposer: Clare Wallace

Secunder: Anna Kranz

**i. Questions**

None

**ii. Vote**

30 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions. Motion is passed.

**c. Motion to amend the standing orders on election procedure for Student Trustee.**

The GCR notes that:

- In 2017, a motion was passed that allowed GCR members to run for non-exec committee positions during a General Meeting if no manifestos were submitted for that role prior to the meeting. Section 3.2 b) of the Standing Orders currently reads as follows:

*‘...If a position not on the Executive Committee has received no manifestos by the close of nominations, any GCR member may nominate themselves for that position at the GCR meeting in question, with their hust as minuted by the GCR Secretary then serving as their manifesto.’*

- The proposers of this motion note that this does not currently prohibit candidates running for the role of Student Trustee during a General Meeting if no manifestos for the role were submitted prior to the meeting.
- Applicants to the other trustee roles, alumni trustee and external trustee, must be put forward in a motion before the General Meeting, i.e. before the deadline for motions of a given General Meeting set out by the Steering Committee.
- Unlike for the other non-exec committee roles, there are legal requirements that candidates for Student Trustee must fulfil in order to apply for the role.

The GCR believes that:

- It is reasonable to keep the timetable of applications for Student Trustee in line with Alumni Trustee and External Trustee (as far as the General Meeting part of the application is concerned).
- Some time is needed before a General Meeting to check that the candidates for Student Trustee fulfil the relevant legal requirements set out by Charity Law.
- The Standing Orders should be altered to not allow the role of Student Trustee to be run for on the night of a General Meeting if a manifesto has not been submitted prior to the meeting.

The GCR resolves to:

- Amend Section 3.2 b) of the Standing Orders to read

*'...If a position not on the Executive Committee, and not on the GCR Board of Trustees, has received no manifestos by the close of nominations, any GCR member may nominate themselves for that position at the GCR meeting in question, with their hust as minuted by the GCR Secretary then serving as their manifesto.'*

Proposer: Alexander Blair

Secunder: Alastair Stewart

**i. Questions**

None

**ii. Vote**

29 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions. Motion is passed.

**5. Hustings**

**a. Bar Steward**

**Candidate:** Arabethan Lecuyer

**Manifesto:**

“During my five years in Durham, I’ve become very involved in college life. After moving to Ustinov College, I have been keen to get involved with the GCR community to add my contribution to college life.

To my mind, a good Bar Steward is professional, reliable, up to date and stringent in their licencing and bar knowledge, highly hygienic in their bar practices and organised in their leadership. To address professionalism and reliability, in my previous work as a Bar Supervisor during term time and as an IT Assistant for a law firm out of term time, I demonstrate high professionalism in my work and customer service. I am always on time and prepared for the shift ahead, having done the necessary preparation, such as stock and hygiene checks. Having worked as a Bar Supervisor, I have gained extensive knowledge of both the creative and health and safety aspects of running a bar. This ranges from good knowledge of stock and recommendations, to licencing objectives and how to perform a line clean.

On a more personal level, I am an enthusiastic, fast learning and organized person. Throughout the years I have worked hard in all of my commitments but working in bar service has been a favourite. To maintain such commitments alongside an enjoyable social life and a first-class degree takes a huge amount of dedication, organisation and self-determination, all of which I would bring to the role of Bar Steward.”

**Hust:**

*Hi I'm Arabeth and I'm running for Bar Steward for 2 reasons. I am enthusiastic about working in bars (it is weirdly therapeutic). I also have a lot of experience having been staff and supervisor at Aidans', as well as experience at events as a supervisor.*

*I'm aware how important communication is – working as a team, making sure the bar is running smoothly. I have ideas for events and new drinks. Despite being small, I think we can really use the space – make it more efficient; use the fridge's (eg Box ciders). I think I have the experience and the enthusiasm and want to make a good job of it.*

**Questions:**

*Q: If you want to make a college drink, what would you not label it?*

*A: Lord/ Lady is out [Reference to suggested names for College drinks currently being floated]. I would speak to people and get their opinions. Eg Bakewell tart cocktail... but would ask people.*

*Q: The bar hasn't made a profit in year. Any ideas on how to fix this?*

*A: Not many bars in Durham make a proper profit. The members of Ustinov being older will need to be paid more. We can't advertise too much. Instead we want to make sure we have stuff that people want to buy. Be fully stocked for parties and for events (election night etc.).*

*Q: How are you going to manage with getting more experience?*

*A: I will need to learn about how things work here. Including the food you serve and the pizza oven. I would want to speak to past bar stewards, hosp. manager and all staff to see what works and what ideas people have.*

*Q: Our last bar steward was looking at getting a food bank for students at Sheraton. Eg to donate food whilst they went on holiday.*

*A: This is a good idea but we would need to be careful – eg food safety and refrigeration and stuff.*

**b. Secretary**

**Candidate:** Rebecca Salthouse

**Manifesto:**

“Hi everyone, I'm Rebecca, a second year PhD student studying Chemistry, and I would like to be your new GCR Secretary. I have really enjoyed attending events run by the GCR and have always been made to feel welcome so would love to help give prospective students a similar experience to mine. This is my second year at Ustinov but my sixth year in Durham so I understand how the college exec system works. I have been a member of various societies during my undergrad in Durham, including tennis, and Rock and Alternative Music Society where I attended meetings and helped to

organise events such as DJ nights. My PhD requires me to write concise but complete reports of my lab work and to organise my time efficiently on a daily basis, skills which will prove advantageous when taking minutes at meetings, keeping action points, and publishing the minutes on the GCR website. I would be grateful for your vote and the chance to give back to the Ustinov community through this role.”

**Hust:**

*Hi, I'm Rebecca. A 2<sup>nd</sup> year chemistry student. People have been so friendly and I want to help out and get involved. I'm in my second year at Ustinov but I've been in Durham for 6 years (too long) so I know how the college system works and I know a bit about exec roles. In terms of experience, I've been involved in societies before. I was in Rock Soc, which is a music society and helped run meetings and events like DJ nights.*

*I'm organised (being a PhD student) and have dealt with reports and stuff so I think I can handle it – it should help me be good at taking minutes. Please vote for me and not RON.*

**Questions:**

*Q: Would you be willing to consider writing minutes in Comic Sans?*

*A: No*

*Q: One of the most routine jobs is summarising a heated discussion (eg in Exec) down to key points. How would you assist the chair in keeping discussions on track and making sure we get actionable outcomes?*

*A: Would aim to keep people on track and on topic. I have some teaching experience which might come in handy.*

*Q: One of the jobs of secretary is collecting reports from exec before meetings (we aren't always on time). How would you motivate people to do this?*

*A: Keep pestering people. Possibly also bribery with food.*

**c. Social Secretary**

**Candidate:** Amy Bartlett

**Manifesto:**

“Hi, I'm Amy, and I'm currently studying for my Masters in Socio-Cultural Anthropology. At my previous university I was the Social Secretary for the Photographic Society, and the Activities Officer for the Women in Business Society. As these two groups differed greatly in their content, I have ample experience in organising and hosting a variety of events and socials. From liaising with external speakers, in order to organise networking events (one of my most successful events being the 'Cocktail Masterclass', in which members of the Women in Business Society were able to network with representatives from PWC over home-made drinks), to running Christmas trips, to cities such as York (in which we enjoyed the festivities of the markets as well as running a street-photography bingo), I have honed the ability to cater for a whole host of interests.

As your Social Secretary, I will ensure that the GCR holds events that are appropriate and beneficial to the needs of the members of our college. In particular, I would love to work with the Welfare team on events concerned with sexual education, International Women's Day, and mental health

(especially around deadlines). I will also endeavour to help Livers Out and those on our Dryburn Site feel more included in college life. Here at Ustinov College we have a wealth of culture and knowledge that forms a unique kinship integral to our college identity; this is something that ought to be celebrated, and something that I will strive to represent to the best of my ability.”

**Hust:**

*Hi, I'm Amy and running for social sec. I feel the GCR has done a great idea with events and things. Before coming to Durham I have sat on 2 committees. Been social sec for photography and events sec for another society. This has involved liasing with people and making sure events are run smoothly and properly. I've also been a brand manager for teach first.*

*Aim is to make sure everyone has a voice – including, Livers Out, Dryburn, families and international students. We would want to make sure all cultures are not misrepresented when working with international themes – would put on extra office hours to ensure this would work. Want to have specific event for non-drinkers, eg mocktail party and such (perhaps a masterclass in it). FOOD: International food-based events. We have a culturally diverse college and I want to see this celebrated. Thanks.*

**Candidate:** James Ireland

**Manifesto:**

“Hi everyone, my name is James and I am currently the Deputy Social Secretary for Ustinov College but would like to run for the position of Social Secretary as the position is yet to be filled, rendering me as deputy to nobody.

I have been actively involved with the college since the academic year began, taking part in office hours, helping to set up social events and attending committee meetings. I am also in the final stages of planning a Ustinov Pub Golf event as well as the early stages of pricing up a wine and cheese evening for next term. I would also like to potentially book a venue in the near future to give us all a chance to catch up in the city that both livers in and out can attend with minimal hassle. But I am open to suggestions from anybody if they think they have a great idea for social events here at the college.

The last few months have given me a much better understanding as to how the college and its events are run. I've been given a great deal of support with my current role at the college and due to this, believe that I would be right for the role of Social Secretary.

Thank you for your time and I hope you will consider giving me your vote.

James Ireland”

**Hust:**

*I'm James, deputy social secretary at the moment, so I've been attending a lot of meetings and helping with events and office hours. We've put on a lot and still have the Christmas party and formal (so more to do). Been coming up with some ideas but finding it hard to balance non-alcohol with fun. Pub golf is a work in progress (it's been through many iterations) but wine and cheese has been very popular although expensive so we will wait and see.*

*The bar is not always open late so going into the city is a good idea to help with livers out and Dryburn and such. It's nice to get ideas from students to make a good society and make good events so am open to ideas – either as social secretary or deputy social secretary.*

**Questions:**

*Q: One of the important parts of being social sec is accounting for the community with events for families and children. How do you feel about kids' parties?*

A [JI]: I Don't have any current experience, but we do have a good venue here. Would need support from others but would hopefully be able to work things out as it would be my job.

A[AB]: I have no experience in kids' parties, but Sheraton Park is definitely a nice venue (including courtyard). Coach & getting families over here is good (Easter egg hunt). Moving them over here would make them feel more involved than Dryburn.

Q: From previous events, they can be hot, busy and stressful. How would you care for attendees' welfare?

[AB]: Parties can be overwhelming. Having calm spaces can be a good thing. Eg seminar room. Have soft drinks and snacks and cooler place in busy night.

[JI]: During Halloween event we use the GCR Office as it was sweltering inside. We also have the courtyard which is cooler. We have many extra rooms that people can use for this purpose but need to make sure they are aware where they should go.

Q: Both of you are keen and qualified. There can only be one. Regardless of who wins, would both be interested in helping on a casual basis?

A: [JI]: I'll still be DSS and this won't be too different. I'm not too bothered and would still want to stay active and involved.

[AB]: I would happily volunteer or run for other positions regardless as I want to be involved.

Q: The social secretary is the exec member with the largest subcommittee. We have many members on it. How would you organise them and make sure they are all getting involved in organising events?

[AB] Communication is key – weekly/ biweekly meetings with coffee etc. To get everyone involved and make them feel wanted.

[JI] Use group chat and keep them involved, delegation? Subcontracting is important. Want to use the committee and make them all have a good role (not just lorded over by social secretary).

Q: One of the hardest things is to cater for livers out and make them feel involved in the community and social events. Any specific ideas for event/ how to get them more involved?

[JI]: It's hard and have been working on it. Many live miles away and may still want to be social. The trips are good and the college is always open to all (although not central). City is more central but we need to find right event to draw people in – would need a variety of different events to do this – not all are drinkers etc. Would hopefully figure it out as a social committee.

[ASB]: Is difficult, would speak to bars in town and maybe look at hiring. Is perhaps more fair to ship everyone out into the City. Talk to students – ask where they want to go and what events they want.

Q: We need to give College 1 month notice for bar rota and stuff. But there are some people that don't book stuff 1 month in advance. How would you make sure this happens?

[AB]: We would want to make sure that the year is planned out in advance. Could have backup locations outside college with shorter notice.

[JI] we have spreadsheet to book dates well in advance. Pestering committees to do this and make sure everyone has a good time.

Q: We have a lot of international student. There are some dates like chinse/ lunar new year et. How would you make events like this appealing to the student they are personal too?

[JJ]: *Would need to get volunteers from relevant community to plan and make event be the way they want (it isn't for us to decide).*

[AB]: *Can't speak on behalf of people when running an event from their culture. Run drop-ins/ get volunteers etc.*

Q: *If you had to organise an engaging event with a platypus, a pineapple and a firepit... what would it be?*

[AB]: *Dress the platypus as a pineapple and make them fight? Or something.*

[JJ]: *Carve the middle out and build an effigy to burn. Stupid Question.*

## **6. Any Other Business**

### **a. Open Roles:**

#### **Max Ratcliffe, Candidate for SP Rep:**

*Hello, I've lived in SP for close to 3 years. I have heard plenty of complaints about this place. I want to be Sheraton rep as I've been hearing about the water issues and other things and would want to help with that. I would like to be your rep and I promise to not be cowed when people have an issue and will instead see things through. Thank you.*

Q: *Hypothetically, if there was a gas leak, how would you hide it from the students?*

A: *Canaries? I would not hide it, people have been without hot water fixing it ASAP is the most important things so people don't freeze in the shower and can do their laundry.*

Q: *What would be your ideal VM snack?*

A: *Salted Penn-state pretzels as they are great with beer and sour cream ones are a disgrace. What else would people like?*

Q: *As SP rep, you might need to go to the SPRA meetings. Are you willing to go and talk to our local residents?*

A: *Yes! I am an archaeology social rep and so I am used to attending meetings and talking to people. Would be very happy to get involved with the local residents (have done parties with them and so am happy to talk to them. They also have cute dogs.*

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Connor Armstrong  
Acting GCR Secretary  
30/11/2019