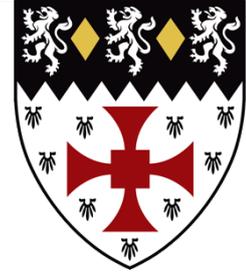


# Ustinov College GCR Exec Meeting

## MINUTES



11:00 am, 07/04/20

1. **Apologies: VB, ML, RR**
2. **Approval of minutes from last meeting.**
  - a. Approval of minutes from the 31/03/20 – *passed on a general aye*
3. **Matters arising from previous minutes.**
  - a. CA to email Emma/Ian to ask their opinion on restocking the vending machine. *Done – see facilities report*  
CA to confirm the tech booking for the BBQ and send the invoice to VB. *Ongoing*
  - b. DM to check the prices for the Thursday, Friday or Saturday for Summer Ball next year. *Done – see agenda item b*
4. **Agenda Items:**
  - a. **Engaging students to run for Exec [AH]**

We are probably going to have to hold our AGM online, and so need to start planning ways to motivate people to run for next year's Exec. Previous years have usually been successful by promoting positions in person, usually at GCR events. This will be significantly harder to do online, and interest is likely going to be lower. As such, we should start brainstorming ideas to get people to run ASAP, as it will probably take longer to recruit new members. A suggestion from other colleges was to do videos highlighting each of the roles. Do we have any other ideas?  
*We could all write something good about our roles and what we have got from them and share them in an email or have them as stories on Instagram/social media. Some other colleges have done "a day in the life of... committee member" during the lockdown. We can also mention it at the end of pub quizzes and general meetings. We can focus on one particular position at a time and have a question and answer session, for example on Discord. We will also need to write good handover documents, as many of us will not meet our successors. Everyone can start to make nice videos or posts to put on social media.*
  - b. **Date for Summer Ball 2021 [DM]**

The prices, which were posted on our Facebook group, are as follows:  
Friday and Saturday: **£30pp** - 3 courses/ Reception drink  
Sunday to Thursday: **£26pp** - 3 courses/ Reception drink  
Price includes room hire, 3-course set menu, sparkling wine reception drink, disco, tablecloths and napkins, and VAT.

We need to decide on a date so I can pass it on to Ramside Hall.  
*The general consensus is that Friday/Saturday is better despite the £4 extra for the*

*ticket price, as more people would be likely to come on a weekend instead of a Thursday due to work commitments.*

*Vote to pay the higher price for Friday/Saturday – passed unanimously [7 votes].*

*Vote for the Friday or Saturday - Saturday voted for unanimously [7 votes].*

**AP: DM to pass this date on to Ramside Hall.**

*The Saturday is not available so vote on Facebook page for the date – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> [7 votes], Monday 21<sup>st</sup> [1 vote]. Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021 is the confirmed date and will be passed on to Ramside Hall.*

**c. Online film nights**

*We could potentially have a watch party on Discord to watch Netflix. It is illegal to stream Netflix so that everyone could watch it so we need alternatives. We could share the link for the Netflix party, even though this means that only those who have Netflix can attend. We could also share links to other websites for the movies so it is not just always Netflix. There are also free plays at the minute which we could share the link for and watch at the same time, e.g. on YouTube as you don't need subscription for this. Netflix Party works differently though as everyone is watching it in sync and can chat about the film.*

*Vote to stream and share Netflix on Discord as well as promoting the link so that non-Netflix owners can also watch the film – motion not passed [7 no, 1 abstention]. We will just share links for Netflix/iPlayer so people can watch along together.*

**AP: CA to contact Phil and Matthew to set this up for next week.**

**5. Officer Reports:**

**a. Bar [AL]**

*Nothing to report. The University staff are considering furlough for the bar staff, but this may be excluded in the government guidance for zero hour contracts.*

**b. Clubs & Societies [RR]**

*Nothing to report.*

**c. Communications [ML]**

*Diana sent an email on Friday to let the students know about the cancellation of the Summer Ball and that the BBQ is hopefully still going ahead. We will all work on creating videos and reports to motivate our successors to apply for roles and then send them to Maggie.*

**d. DSU [AH]**

*Continuing to advertise any useful links/ activities that the DSU is promoting.*

**e. Facilities [CA]**

*Following approval from Ian, the vending machine has been restocked. I have been told this is on the list of key contact points that are covered by the cleaners so we are OK there. I'll check at the weekend and decide if we are selling enough to look at making an order next week. Diana talked to Jonathan (porter) and he said he was very happy that we were still refilling the vending machine.*

*The discord continues to grow slowly... if we want it to bring people together more we need a greater variety of events on it and to promote them more... ideas?*

*A book club is also a good idea if a group of people are interested in reading more. This could be facilitated by us but run by people who want to take part. The next*

*email could mention this and ask if anyone is interested.*

**f. Finance [VB]**

**g. International Officer [SH]**

*There are some virtual tours for museums online that we could share. Jess already put a few on the list from a couple of weeks ago.*

**h. Livers Out Rep [SK]**

There are no particular activities specific to livers out due to the lockdown. The majority of livers out have left Durham and the ones who are still here are facing certain problems pertaining to rent and facilities in their private accommodation facilities. I don't know how much the GCR can help in this regard but in case this is asked by anyone/help is sought, we should probably wait for a while to see if private home owners/student accommodation owners bring something up to help ease of the monetary burden. *There will be an email going out to advise students if there is anything that can be done.*

**i. Social [JI]**

Nothing to report.

**j. Steering [AH]**

I've looked into using Zoom for meetings. While being able to see everyone at once is a nice feature, Teams allows sharing documents, auto-transcribing and the ability to keep a record of messages from the call, and so I feel this is probably best for meetings. We will probably use Zoom for the pub quizzes, as it is easier to share audio for the music.

**k. Welfare [BR]**

*I'll be sending round more welfare emails this week. The second one this week could be an ISO one. I will be also refilling the sanitary products in the bathrooms. We could also do videos about how we are coping with the isolation, for example on Instagram stories. Bryony will do Monday for next week and then we can set up a rota for next week and take it in turns to take over the Instagram account and we can start advertising it this week.*

**l. University/College [DM]**

**University matters:**

From my weekly meeting with PVC Jeremy Cook, University is looking into how postgrad students will be affected with the accommodation in College if they return. If a student has formally declared that they don't want to stay at College but they can't travel, University will work on not charging them. From the 350 students that were on placement, 317 have returned but the rest are still outside. If we know about any student that needs help we have to refer them to University so they can bring them back, if possible. NHS workers are currently using Hatfield. There are a lot of Chinese students who don't feel secure in the UK compared to China, therefore the University is working to make them feel more comfortable. Durham Award students might get computers from University to help them with their work. Key workers are receiving letters from University so they don't have problems with the police to go to their work. University is working to help Colleges have rooms

available for students who want to return for the Summer Ball/ College day if this event is in the holiday period.

**College matters:**

I have been in contact with College and there is nothing to report so far.

**Exec matters:**

We had our first “official meeting” for our Summer BBQ that might take place in Collingwood if the COVID-19 situation gets better before then. I have asked College if there is any possibility have rooms available for students who want to return for the event; they will look into it closer to June. Trudie has been in contact with the catering group at Collingwood and sent me an approximate price of £6.50 - £7 per person. This included costs for catering and the Function sheet that outlaid all equipment needed, areas and timings based on the same plan as Van Mildert. On Friday I sent an email to all students to update them on the situation with our events, Summer Ball being cancelled and Summer BBQ still working on it, plus a reminder of our Discord server. Also, I pointed out that we appreciate the help we are getting from housekeepers and porters in these difficult times.

*Some students on placement in Scandinavian countries actually want to stay there, as the situation is better over there than here. PhD students have queries about accommodation.*

*AP: DM to push University for a response on how PhD students can get support for accommodation.*

6. AOB

Rebecca Salthouse

GCR Secretary

07/04/20