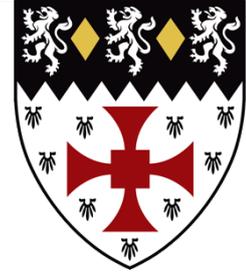


Ustinov College GCR Exec Meeting

MINUTES



11:00 am, 14/04/20

1. **Apologies: JI, SK, ML**
2. **Approval of minutes from last meeting.**
 - a. Approval of minutes from the 07/04/20 - *passed on a general aye*
3. **Matters arising from previous minutes.**
 - a. CA to confirm the tech booking for the BBQ and send the invoice to VB. *Done*
CA to contact Phil and Matthew about setting up film nights online. *Done – this will start next week.*
 - b. DM to book the Summer Ball 2021 date with Ramside Hall (Friday 18th June). *Done*
DM to push University for a response on how PhD students can get support for accommodation. *Done – see officer report 1.*
4. **Agenda Items:**
 - a. **Chicken wire for allotment [CA]**

Fiona would like us to pass money to buy chicken wire for the allotment. This is usually around £1/ m² but she has instead found a supplier in Pity Me, which will see us 50m x 1m for £35+VAT. This is the final item we need, we were hoping it wouldn't be necessary but a lot of what was planted a month ago has been savaged by rabbits. There is a local resident willing to drive and collect it for us and as it relates to growing food, they believe this is permissible. *It would be immediately installed and not stored for next year, but there is no issue with storage if needs be.*
Proposal: pass £45 to cover this (should only be £42); there should not be any further allotment purchases this year (even without the pandemic). *This was put to a vote and passed unanimously [8 votes].*
5. **Officer Reports:**
 - a. **Bar [AL]**

Trudie has suggested a potential drink recipe for the summer BBQ.
 - b. **Clubs & Societies [RR]**

Nothing to report.
 - c. **Communications [ML]**

We will share the photo for the design competition for the BBQ on the Facebook page.
 - d. **DSU [AH]**

Kate issued a joint statement with our local MP calling on private landlords to cancel students rent contracts if they aren't using the room. Also a reminder to help

support each other during this difficult time.

e. Facilities [CA]

Vending machine has not been selling so much so we don't need an order this week. I'll reassess at the weekend again as we may have to wait longer for delivery than usual. Film nights should hopefully be up and running for next Monday. *We had a BBQ meeting at the weekend. The main thing we are waiting on is staging costs, as this is the biggest unknown at the moment. We have an idea on catering costs. The stage is coming from Collingwood.*

f. Finance [VB]

Figures:

Balance Brought Forward (11/03/20) £46,550.14
Durham University (Formal payments part 1) (11/03/20) -£6,000.00
Kleitos Stavrou (Football equipment) (11/03/20) -£76.82
Selecta UK (Coke machine) (12/03/20) +£111.76
Durham University (Formal payments part 2) (12/03/20) -£5,867.70
Bidfood (March order) (20/03/20) -£158.23
Diana Martinez (Family egg day) (20/03/20) -£6.00
Diana Martinez (Family egg day) (20/03/20) -£34.97
Diana Martinez (Family egg day) (20/03/20) -£56.19
Fiona Brewis (Allotment manure) (20/03/20) -£20.00
Bryony Rogers (Welfare supplies) (20/03/20) -£4.75
Bryony Rogers (Pub quiz chocolate) (20/04/20) -£8.00
Vera Bieber (GM Nov snacks) (20/03/20) -£49.31
Bryony Rogers (GM Feb pizza) (20/03/20) -£191.40
BT Group (23/03/20) -£383.96
Tom Pitts (Frisbees) (25/03/20) -£52.99
JC Audio (BBQ Tech deposit) (14/04/20) -£200.00
Balance Carried Forward (14/04/20) £33,551.58

g. International Officer [SH]

I am currently sharing my day on the Ustinov GCR Instagram account for Bengali New Year.

h. Livers Out Rep [SK]

Nothing to report.

i. Social [JI]

Nothing to report.

j. Steering [AH]

Exec meetings are still being held throughout self-isolation. We're starting exec stories on social media following a suggestion from the Welfare officer to help with engagement with our members.

k. Welfare [BR]

I've done the first vlog on Instagram about the exec in lockdown, lots of people seem to be viewing it (*about 130 including lots of alumni*) - I'm looking forward to seeing everyone else's! *John Snow Welfare also shared the story.* I'll write another welfare email later this week with any more free/cheap activities I find online.

I. University/College [DM]

University matters:

On Tuesday, Charlie (JCR Castle), Josh (JCR Stevo) and I had our first meeting with WSE Online - Enterprise and Employment. Below are the initial ideas presented to us:

- Game Changer: College Challenge – teams from each college will take on a real-world challenge relating to one of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We will use design-thinking methodologies to help the teams explore the problem and develop viable solutions. Teams will then take part in a pitching competition to win the title of Game Changer Champion and cash prizes.
- The Startup Sessions – Weekly workshops on how to take the first steps to develop an initial idea and turn it into an exciting startup venture with the potential to grow. The sessions will be fast-paced and highly interactive, encouraging you to make strong progress quickly.
- Effective Entrepreneur Programme: develop key skills of highly effective entrepreneurs. Equally useful if you plan to start your own business or want to achieve impact in future employed roles. This could be run as weekly workshops or as a Bootcamp event.

It would be useful to get this information added to the DCAD emails.

WSE will also be running the following services virtually:

- Startup coaching sessions
- Idea Evolution Fund Panel – Pitching event for startups to pitch for grant funding

We were then pointed in the direction of the university enterprise webpage which none of us had really heard of -

<https://www.dur.ac.uk/careers/students/enterprise/>.

A lot of the work we did was about promoting these enterprise opportunities and the funding to help business ventures and explained that sending material to CR presidents as well as VP's was a good idea as promotions can easily get lost. We offered them the opportunity to come back for feedback on promotional material.

Work closely with them about developing game changer online

(<https://www.dur.ac.uk/careers/students/enterprise/gamechanger/>), which is a programme they have run twice so far once over 6 weeks and once over 2 days. We explained that students have more time at the moment, and this could be a good opportunity to help students develop problem-solving skills while tackling global issues and also in with the chance of winning money. Help with developing a plan to run this online so said run it over a week or two and have daily catchups with the enterprise team for challenges. Get into college teams and make it an inter-collegiate competition.

On Wednesday, we had our weekly JCR update with University, this time we spoke with Quentin. Important points from the meeting are; UEC is looking into course fees, University is looking into support students with funding, the topic of PhD accommodation was raised, and students staying in Durham will receive an email from University about the rules of lockdown since University is getting a lot of complaints from local residents.

On Thursday was the JCR PresComm meeting where we talked about the issues we believe we need to discuss with DSU. We have been working on a list so everyone agrees with the issues. A point of casual workers and the possibility to get the 80% of their income was discussed; here is a link about this topic:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-you-could-be-covered-by-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme>.

Hardship funding from College and Common rooms was another topic; we discussed the different funding we have for each College.

Since the weekend, PresComm is looking into the language and treatment of others during this time on social media. Some issues were raised to University and they will send an email to all students reminding them about the Code of Conduct University has.

College matters:

On Monday Dryburn experienced some problems with the heating system. After Lana's report to College they got an engineer on-site, who had to reset the heating system every 10-minutes. This continues until 10 pm. College has managed to get contractors in on Tuesday to try to fix the problem. Also, they seemed to struggle with kids' noise after midnight.

Exec matters:

On Friday I had a meeting with IndyComm. We discussed the MoA that Alex (JCR Aidan's) has been working on with Quentin; they want to know the coverage of our insurance. The induction course/meeting has been moved online, and it was agreed that we will share the topics we think our successors would find helpful. The system for levies online has been paused due to the current situation, so we might have to continue using the University system for the next academic year. It was noted that the IndyForum should be run again to help the other Colleges who are thinking about becoming independent. We discussed how we could handle the possibility of postponing Induction week until January 2021. *We don't think we should reduce the price of the levy. Term would still start in September but the first term would possibly be online and then students could move to Durham in January. Alcohol awareness training for Bar Staff is available with the University as part of Fresher's Week and is normally offered to Freps, which we don't have.* **AP: DM to ask if they can include Ustinov Bar Staff in the training if they do still run this.**

BBQ updates:

I have been in touch with Brian and he is free on the day, but still, he can't confirm covering the event, which I mentioned that we are just planning, and we can come back to him close to the date. On Sunday, the contest guidelines for the T-shirt design were published on the website, and hopefully, we get some students sharing their designs.

6. AOB

Rebecca Salthouse

GCR Secretary

14/04/20