



Ustinov College GCR Exec Meeting

Minutes

6:00 pm, 30/11/20

Action Points From Minutes – red is new from today's meeting.

CA to extend last few email accounts

CA to contact someone to fix the vending machine

CA to find out about the updates to green move-in sale, and update details about facilities at SP for handbook

CA to organise an online office hours rota as the new committee comes in

DM to check with university and college about the consequences of purchasing drug testing kits

DM to give the pool table invoices to college/Ian

All to look into online events theatre shows available to stream

FD and JB to follow up on car harassment reports in the Viaduct/Claypath for livers out

LC to make a post advertising the Culture Commission survey.

VV to email Ustinov finance regarding the reimbursements (allotment £8k and transition fund) and about the levy incomes

Apologies: *CA, MZ*

Present: *BD, DM, JB, CV, VV, FD, SG, LC*

1. Approval of minutes from last meeting.

- a. Approval of minutes from 23/11/2020 – *passed with all in favour*

2. Matters arising from previous minutes.

- a. CA to extend last few email accounts *ongoing*
- b. CA to contact someone to fix the vending machine *ongoing*
- c. CA to find out about the updates to green move-in sale, and update details about facilities at SP for handbook *ongoing*
- d. CA to organise an online office hours rota as the new committee comes in *ongoing*
- e. DM to check with college if the volunteer system is enough *done – wasn't enough/we don't need it!*
- f. DM to check with university and college about the consequences of purchasing drug testing kits *ongoing*
- g. CV to design and send out a gym interest form which informs them about the additional tasks. Could potentially draft a volunteer system *done - we might not need it since we will have a trial period; we should be good to open next week*
- h. BD to sort out the gaps in the minutes from previous years GMs *done*
- i. All to look into online events theatre shows available to stream *ongoing*

- j. SG and social committee to come up with a schedule of activities during the lockdown *done*

3. Agenda Items:

a. [DM] January support/activities.

With January intake, we should consider having another virtual induction week, to promote the GCR to all students not only the new.

Expecting 180 students arriving in January, much bigger than previous years. Will be in Durham.

Will have a lot of isolating students again. Whatever we use for the holidays calendar, we can roll over and tailor to the incoming students.

Are they arriving on a specific date? They are kind of spread out – if we were to have a week, it should be at the end of January. The 180 includes livers out, so might be even less.

The social calendar being designed

b. [JB] Viaduct/Claypath Harrassment

People have been driving in cars harassing people in Claypath/Viaduct. FD is investigating who is living around there and what messages of support we need to send. The students there have made a new WhatsApp group to support each other.

We have no students who have reported anything this, but would be good to have an infographic about this about what to do, who to call etc, so that they are prepared to deal with the situation. FD and JB to figure out how many students are in these areas and could be affected by this, and then let them know about the WhatsApp group and other modes of support – if there is a lot of students then maybe we should make a post to deal with this – could be a case of helping out students individually.

[AP] FD and JB to follow up on car harassment reports in the Viaduct/Claypath for livers out

4. Officer Reports:

a. Bar [-]

- As the lockdown is over, County Durham will be transitioning to Tier 3, following the new regulations under this Tier, our bar will continue closed.

Events can go on as normal – just organise with Trudie to get the necessary bar staff etc. Can still be used over holidays.

b. Clubs & Societies [CV]

- Regarding the gym, the current plan is to be reopened on Monday 7th December till the end of the term for a trial period. I'm currently finishing an updated induction process to include measures related to covid. In summary, there will be limited slots every day with a maximum of 8 people at a time. The housekeeping team from Monday to Friday and the porters on weekends will be responsible for disinfecting it between the slots. If this system works, we might be able to keep it open in the next term too.

- About access to MC, there will be no training slots after the lockdown and till the Epiphany term. I'll see if there's something that can happen for Ustinov since we don't have any other alternative options unlike most other colleges.

c. Communications [LC]

- Newsletter 5 sent out this week - featured DSU feedback forms and

introduction to 'petofustinov' Instagram

- Post to be sent out (Friday) to kickstart PetsOfUstinov, as well as advertisements on other socials
- General posts regarding the social sec's lockdown calendar (pub quiz etc)
- As of next week, I will start to post a comms schedule at the beginning of the week so that other exec members can see when things will be posted. This will help keep everyone updated on comms stuff and let people see when there is space to make a new post/push a new agenda on socials.
- GCR membership to be advertised over the weekend, alongside bingo night.

d. DSU [-] (DM)

- DSU had 3 nominations for Chair of Assembly, however, 2 students stepped down and the other one was not eligible, the only vote that passed was for the newest member of the Governance and Grants Committee. All motions passed in the Assembly. DSU is asking to help them to promote their Democracy focus groups and promote the feedback survey for the Culture Commission.

[AP] LC to make a post advertising the Culture Commission survey.

e. Facilities [-] (DM)

- Issues on the Observatory have been resolved, I'm working with College to get the Fisher Room and Music Room ready to be used.
- I'm working with College and Christos to get ready for the gym for the trial period, if everything goes correct, we are aiming to have it from the 7th of December, with 5 sessions during Monday to Friday and 7 sessions on Saturday and Sunday. Maximum occupancy will be 8 students and won't be restricted to only one household. However, it will have to close from the 18th of December to 4th January.
- Despite College won't be able to have staff to use the fogging machine on the Common Room, this space will remain open.

f. Finance [VV]

- Account start balance: £ 33,779.33

- Reimbursements were made:

Sorcha Grant Bonfire Drinks

- £95.35

DIANA MARTINEZ Pumpkin

- £26.95

Ryan Pointing Movie Night Snacks

- £7.16

Sorcha Grant Diwali Deco

- £43.97

- Account Current Balance: £ 33,605.90

[AP] VV to email Ustinov finance regarding the reimbursements (allotment £8k and transition fund) and about the levy incomes.

Have the pool table invoices been given to Ian yet? Not yet; need to do tomorrow (DM)

[AP] DM to give the pool table invoices to college/Ian

g. International Officer [MZ]

- Nothing to report.

h. Livers Out Rep [FD]

- Since last Friday, I have been catching up with emails (as usual) and have been thinking about starting office hours. I will post something on the fb group and send an email to the mailing list by the end of this week. I have also had a chat with the Social Secretary to start thinking about a calendar of events and activities to organise over the Christmas break. Details will follow soon.

i. Social [SG]

- Activities in the bar are continuing to go well, movie night is the only one that has not been popular.
- Sadly we are not able to have a Christmas formal in the HUB.
- In terms of alternatives, the formal secretary and I decided that a mini formal would not generate the same interest as before since it would have to take place on the last day of term (after the student exodus whereby a lot of people would have left).
- Instead we have designed a secret santa idea, and are working on making the xmas treat bags and candygrams.
- Social committee meeting to take place this coming week to discuss holiday calendar, although waiting on feedback as to whether in person events can take place in the bar in light of tier 3 restrictions.
- Launching a survey to find out how many people are left in college?

j. Steering [CA]

- Nothing to report.

k. Welfare [JB]

- Attended virtual first aid training this past weekend for physical and mental health emergencies. 12 Days of WellBEEing at the Bill Bryson Library starts on Monday – on Wednesday 2nd they'll be showcasing college student welfare teams.

l. College Matters [DM]

University matters

- University has shared information about the Fraud Alert with students, this has been sent from different departments and also doing a lot of emphasis on International students.
- We are waiting for confirmation from the University if there is going to be an MCR President in the CHRISTMAS WORKING GROUP, at the moment there is just one JCR President, but we need someone to work on behalf of the PGs.

College matters

- Konstantina and I worked on the 25th and 26th with College to promote the Lateral Flow testing for livers-in. More sessions will be available in December, further communication from College has been sent to students regarding the dates and procedure to collect the kits.
- On Tuesday 1st of December, College will have a meeting with University to get more guidelines on how we are going to operate during the Christmas break considering we have students staying.

Exec matters

- College is expecting to get 180 students on the January intake, they have asked

if we will be able to run again a virtual induction week, as most of the new students will need to self-isolate.

5. AOB

a.

Brad Din

GCR Secretary

30/11/2020