



Ustinov College GCR Exec Meeting

Minutes

6:00 pm, 04/01/21

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

JB to recontact women's refuge regarding donations

VV to email Ustinov finance regarding the reimbursements

SG to plan out the induction week activities/icebreakers

FD to reshare the PG housing guide

1. Apologies: *LC, VV*

Present: *BD, DM, CA, JB, CV, MZ, FD, SG*

2. Approval of minutes from last meeting.

- a. Approval of minutes from 14/12/2021 – *passed on a general aye*

3. 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 university and college about the consequences of purchasing drug testing kits JB to recontact women's refuge regarding donations *ongoing*
- f. LC to make a post advertising the Culture Commission survey *done*
- g. LC to make a celebratory post on Christmas etc *done*
- h. VV to email Ustinov finance regarding the reimbursements (allotment £8k and transition fund) and about the levy incomes *ongoing*

4. Agenda Items:

a. [DM] Second Induction week

With the changes on Tiers, we must consider to have an online version of the induction week. This is the last time we will be able to push our membership. We need to come up with a schedule and people responsible for the events.

We need to create events for the many students who will be coming to Durham in January, regardless of the incoming lockdowns/restrictions. Will need new online events. SG already planning these since bar events will be cancelled with tier 4. Original induction week was wholly online – would need to do something similar

for this.

First people are arriving from today. Do we organise events now or save for a block? MCR considering doing another pub quiz later on.

Is college doing the same welcome talks as before again? Yes; 11th of January. DM will be giving a talk about the GCR again.

Do we do something this weekend Friday/Saturday as a preliminary welcome?

Probably seems sensible to introduce them to college first.

Can do a pub quiz as normal.

New ideas around – other colleges etc. Board games, among us, virtual games etc (DM has some notes from other colleges – on the drive, in 20/21 Second IW drive).

Last time we spoke with college, 200 new students but not all living in college. In theory, this is broadly unaffected by restrictions.

Only thing we need to decide today is what to do this weekend and what to do next week, e.g. icebreaker quiz and other events. SG happy to make a plan.

[AP] SG to plan out the induction week activities/icebreakers.

5. Officer Reports:

a. Bar [-]

- After the announcement on the 30th of December, bar staff was contacted that all remaining events from the GCR were going to be cancelled.

b. Clubs & Societies [CV]

- The gym trial period finishes with very good attendance and only a few issues. For now the gym will remain closed until further notice.

- For the sport teams, I'm waiting for new updates from TD. Last information was from just before the break when they were planning training and some competitive games for outdoor sports and training slots for indoors but now I imagine these will change a lot.

No team sports to occur whilst in Tier 4. CV already in the process of informing captains.

c. Communications [LC] (apologies)

- General posts regarding social events on facebook/whatsapp/Instagram

- Post on all socials made regarding future GCR events being cancelled until further notice

d. DSU [-] (DM)

- Nothing to report.

e. Facilities [-] (DM)

- I am waiting on University guidelines if we would be able to open the gym, the observatory and the Common Room.

Again, some water leaking in observatory. States and facilities going to try and fix it.

Gym confirmed to not be open.

f. Finance [VV] (apologies)

- Current account balance: £ 33,605.90

- Again, this is my best guess without access to accounts and as per the latest statement I have seen.

With latest changes, we won't be selling gym membership or higher tiers any time soon. Best action is to push lower tiers as much as possible.

Invoice from university; some payments from BACS. Need to get the following

payments confirmed by VV.

- 8th December 2020 – Ustinov Composition Fee 1: +£3593.00

- 11th December 2020 – Ustinov Composition Fee 1: +£433.00

- 10th December 2020 – Reimbursement: +£8940.00

g. International Officer [MZ]

- With the introduction of Durham into tier 4, we literally have no choice but to postpone/cancel day trip for the next academic term. At this rate, national trust membership is beyond our reach to utilise it. I have tried to contact them, but due to our current unique situation stuck in tier 4, we practically have nothing comparing to previous years.

h. Livers Out Rep [FD]

- Right after the term finished, I worked on the Secret Santa event for livers out, which went pretty well. I managed to deliver gifts to the six livers out who participated in the event and everything ran smoothly.

- After that, I have been in touch with Sorcha and Julie from the Social Committee to work on the scheduled events, but that is not happening anymore sadly, given that the county has entered Tier 4 now.

- Apart from that, I have been dealing with usual admin work.

Would be good to share the PG guidelines for housing with the livers out. Most will already have something, but good for the other students and best to have more information.

[AP] FD to reshare the PG housing guide.

i. Social [SG]

- Remainder of christmas calendar events have been cancelled.

- Induction week for incoming students - still agree to have it at the end of January?

- What is the scope for bar events next term? If not need to think creatively about virtual events.

- Baking competition went well, deciding on winners.

- Julie has launched new weekly zoom chat with movie concept.

- Christmas crafts sessions with the children went well.

Money previously passed wasn't spent.

Need to get more resources e.g. glue sticks at some point in the future if we do more crafts. If things like baking competitions are going well, then we can do these more often.

j. Steering [CA]

- Things have been quiet over the break (as expected). It's now coming up to the point where we want another GM both to try and fill some by-election roles and try and re-engage our membership. I am thinking it might be a good idea to also invite the Principal to this one as I'm sure people are likely to have questions for us and them. The current outlook for this year means we may not be able to give them satisfying answers though.

- I was thinking 31st January would be a good date to aim for? In the run up to this, we should also try and push membership (even if it's just the £1 one) to hopefully get people more hyped about who we are and what we do... I'm being optimistic on that.

*GM can be worked into an induction schedule towards the end of the note.
Noticeboard has been updated.*

k. Welfare [JB]

- LGBT+ History Month (in the UK) is February, with a theme of "Body, Mind, Spirit", and so will be making preparations for a campaign, including hopefully some of the following ideas: rainbow lanyards (or similar) to give out, arranging a talk/workshop with the LGBT History Project NE, voices and visibility wallchart, film night, pub quiz, and a playlist.
- Invited to attend a roundtable discussion with Not On My Campus UK on the 31st January addressing building more inclusive reporting systems at institutions like Durham, to talk about challenges students have with reporting sexual violence and misconduct. If anyone has particular questions or comments they'd like me to raise, please let me know.

l. University/College Matters [DM]

University matters

- University will continue with two cohorts, adding one week to both to return to courses.

College matters

- I have been working with College to keep updated on the new changes derived by the Tier 4 announcement. In the meantime, it was decided that all remaining events from 31st onwards should be cancel until further notice.

Exec matters

- We will need to wait on the plans for offering the gym membership, also it seems that the Burns Night Formal will not go ahead as we currently are not allowed to have those events
- Second Induction week might need to be all online as the first edition of the academic year.

CMT meetings have moved – now Tuesday afternoon.

6. AOB

a.

Brad Din
GCR Secretary
04/01/2021