



Ustinov College GCR Exec Meeting

Minutes

6:00 pm, 11/01/21

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 ongoing – have emailed with uni confirmation but just waiting for bank confirmation
SG to plan out the induction week activities/icebreakers
FD to reshare the PG housing guide
DM to check if college will allow livers out to access the gym

1. Apologies:

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

2. Approval of minutes from last meeting.

- a. Approval of minutes from 04/01/2021 – *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. VV to email Ustinov finance regarding the reimbursements *ongoing – have emailed with uni confirmation but just waiting for bank confirmation*
- g. SG to plan out the induction week activities/icebreakers *ongoing*
- h. FD to reshare the PG housing guide *ongoing*

4. Agenda Items:

a. [DM] Provision for the rest of lockdown to students.

Despite Term 2 has been moved to an online format, we are continuing having some arrivals at College (new and returning students). So far, the plan for the National lockdown is to continue until mid-February. We should consider what can we offer to the students who will continue on-site and more important for those living outside College.

Can we offer things like welfare supplies or printing services/access to computer room?

Worth pushing Netflix/Disney+ in the newsletter, to allow current members to

remember that it exists.

Is it actually worth thinking about this, or is there just a long list of things that we need to wait for the university to change its position on?

Could we promote the Fisher room as a study space for livers out? Contradiction to gov regulations, and no wifi.

SG is still planning events regardless; much better situation than before.

Welfare support seems promising. Could we have an in-person support system for livers in (since charity is counted as work), and perhaps some feasible livers-out support system as well? Less anonymity, but JB is developing ideas with college.

b. [DM] Strategy to involve students despite the distance

With Term 2 going completely online, we must work on a strategy to involve Ustinovians with our activities.

We have had some previous issues with time-zones.

New update: we are able to use the common room for social events again! No longer just in person. We can still do events any day of the week and at any time and therefore make them hybrid. Can repeat these again, such as bingo or quiz etc. Regarding timezones – events might need to be rescheduled to be in the middle or the day to allow. Many people in say Eastern timezones have demonstrated to LC and SG that they want to participate – we should have some events on the weekend earlier (middle) of the day. Social committee should be conscious of this going forward with new events.

Regarding e.g. Burns night, something like a full online formal would attract some more attention – SG will talk to Connie and see if we can organise something this.

If we're attempting to cater to more timezones, should we move the GM to be earlier in the day to allow other people to attend (e.g. 2pm on Sunday 31st).

c. [CV] Gym Opening:

Despite the lockdown, University is allowing college gyms to be open only for households though. In the last meeting before the break we had discussed setting a membership in January, but if the gym works with no household mixing I'm not sure we can do that anymore. Apart from that I'm planning on having the same booking system as in December since the rest of the rules haven't changed. *College/university is not allowing membership to be sold, and money handling is still an issue. Therefore, the same booking system previously used work well.*

[AP] DM to check if college will allow livers out to access the gym.

This would be started ASAP (next Monday 18th).

We still don't have an up-to-date number of students in college/number of households etc. If say, 5 households don't have any people in, then there is much more availability to share around.

Common problem last time – people doing multiple bookings, but CV already addressing this.

People can still book the gym with 1 household alone, but they will be alone. Can we merge single households together later on? DM asking college about this soon – seems unfair

Vote to open the gym as in December, and charge no membership fee for this – passes with all in favour.

5. Officer Reports:

a. Bar [-]

- With Term 2 going online and the lockdown until mid-February, I am working with College to get other possibilities for bar staff to have some opportunities to work.

*Will the bar (alcohol sales) be open as well as the common room? Will remain closed until government allows basically; not any time soon
In touch with DSU to see if they can push for a furlough scheme..*

b. Clubs & Societies [CV]

- Nothing to report – see agenda item.

c. Communications [LC]

- Post to go out this weekend for the next Ustinov Live event
- Email to go round regarding quiz on Sunday (hosted by Sorcha)
- Newsletter to be circulated from next week onwards (subject to news and information provided)

Newsletter on Wednesday – send items before this.

Events may seem a bit tailored to incoming students – try not to push only for the incoming students, since events should allow anyone to take part – last month we didn't even have too much participation.

Should also advertise to WeChat.

d. DSU [-] (DM)

- DSU Reps are working on how to support students about the safety net policy that Russell group has rejected.

e. Facilities [-] (DM)

- College has agreed to let us open the gym and the Observatory under the same protocol we had before the Christmas break.

- We got a donation of a treadmill from Keenan House; it has been stored in the observatory in the meantime.

Could we move the Table-tennis table into the Fisher room, and get rid of the other pool table? Cloth is not in a good condition, and not all the balls are correct but it is playable.

Would we want to move TT table back? Is it worth keeping the pool table just to have, so we can put it back later on. What if we try to get the seminar room to allow table tennis to happen in there? Not being used as a study space anymore, and was being used for LFT, but won't be used for these anymore.

TT as just an extra thing for some people to do; and should be relatively safe. Pool, darts and TT are allowed by the university amongst households.

Could move it using the porters van etc.

f. Finance [VV]

- Current Account: £33,605.90

- We have received a Remittance advice from university for the Reimbursement for buses and the First Composition fees, which should have reached our account by now, however, I will wait for the bank statement to arrive so that I can reconfirm that is the case.

g. International Officer [MZ]

- The announcement made last Monday on the introduction of another national lockdown has restricted all of the physical/social related events. Thus, with the new incoming students, I have made a list of the virtual events that we may introduce. Please find below as my proposed list of the virtual events and the list is not exhaustive.

- Virtual tour of Raby Castle- <https://www.raby.co.uk/raby-castle/virtual-tour/>

- Durham festival food and drink- <https://durhamfestivaloffoodanddrink.co.uk>

- Palace green library- <https://stories.durham.ac.uk/treasures-of-palace-green-library/>
- National trust- <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lists/virtual-tours-of-our-places>

h. Livers Out Rep [FD]

- Over the past week, I have sent Comms an email asking to add a welcome message for all the new livers out to the next newsletter. I also attached the link to the housing guide so that they can consult it and use it as reference.

i. Social [SG]

- Icebreaker Weekender For Incoming Students 15th-17th January
- Friday: Pub Quiz – over zoom 8pm-10pm
- Saturday: Games Night – Connor and Brad to discuss? 8pm-10pm
- Sunday: Icebreaker Bingo (same one from september) - 8-10pm
- Luke to advertise
- I have also started designing an online social calendar for the rest of the GCR, to launch for January 19th.

j. Steering [CA]

- Nothing to report.

k. Welfare [JB]

- Nothing to report.

l. University/College Matters [DM]

University matters

- On Thursday 7th, University took the decision to move Term 2 wholly online.
- Update from the library
- Postal loan service (start at some point this week and only be for Final year and postgraduate students):
- Restricted in quantity (within each calendar month – 2 requests with 5 items each – 10 a month)
- This will be free
- if they hit the limit they will have to return before getting more
- Scan and Deliver:
- When they need chapter /article
- Final year and postgrads only
- 10 requests over the month – subject to copyright

College matters

- On Tuesday 5th, we send a collaborative email with College to let know students about future plans and to reiterate our support towards all students.
- From Monday 4th we start to have one security staff on-site. This staff will be supporting College operations.

Exec matters

- Our membership will be affected with Term 2 going online. Despite we are getting some students coming (back) to College, some are deciding to return to their country/home. With this change, we will need to work on a new strategy on how to involve Ustinovians despite the distance
- One of the most concerning events that we still have planned is the Summer

Ball, we have the booking for the 18th on June on Ramside Hall, however, with students not coming back to Durham for Term 2, I am not sure they will come back to Term 3 (if this is not also online). The other matter that is concerning will be the continuation of the Committee, if we don't secure the involvement of the current students.

Ramside Hall might give us a date later to the time; it might have to be sorted closer to the time. It might be unsafe, or we might not have enough members, or we might deem it unsafe despite government restrictions technically allowing it. This is a matter to deal with later on.

6. AOB
 - a.

Brad Din
GCR Secretary
11/01/2020