

Ustinov College GCR General Meeting

Minutes

6:00 pm, 04/10/20



1. Apologies: *Jl*
Present: *CA, DM, BD, JB, SK, CV, MZ*
62 in total, peak at 67

Introduction from CA informing the new students about what the GCR is and stands for, and why these meetings and attendance is important. Reminder that running for other positions will be possible later on in the meeting.

Introduction and welcome from DM. Explaining the difference between college and the GCR. Encouraging students to buy membership for their representation and ability to vote, get discounts and take part in clubs/societies

CA informing students about recording of the meeting.

2. Matters arising from the last minutes
 - a. Approval of minutes from last meeting.
Passed on the general aye.
 - i. No other matters.

3. Officer Reports:
 - a. **President [DM]**

University matters

- Changes on the eduroam wireless will be in place later, to use it students will need to log in using abcd123@durham.ac.uk instead of just the username.
- University will be having Stewards around University grounds for the first 3 weeks.
- University has shared their last information about the Outbreak response, this has been added to our Comms site under Welfare Support.
- University will be reinforcing the COVID-19 guidelines, if students continue to break the rules, they will be subject to disciplinary measures.

College matters

- This week, College has been issuing the student cards in the Bar area, this is the only exception for Livers out to come to College grounds, we hope this situation will change soon.
- The College will be implementing a specific time-slot for quarantine students to use the laundry, this period will be restricted for certain students and more information will be shared later.
- We will be having more picnic benches on Sheraton Park and Dryburn court, to give more space for students to socialize, if weather permits and following any guidelines.
- The College has placed an infrared thermometer in the reception with an alarm, to help students to check their temperature. The college will also give 1 thermometer per household and will be for the use of all students on the household.

Exec matters

- First of all, I would like to thank all my Committee and volunteers who have been helping me so that all of you can enjoy our Induction week and have the support you needed
- Ustinov GCR levies have been updated on the system, so now we can promote the levies with just Tier 1 and Tier 2
- From SJNX, we have received a welcome message to our students and a video. To share the information provided by them, there is a new section in our Comms Site called Neighbours. This section aims to share anything from our local neighbours
- I have shared a video about our Induction talk, so it will be uploaded on Youtube and share to students who were not able to attend the talk.

b. Vice-president [-] (DM)

- The community room has not been approved to be open, since College hasn't finished arrangements with the SPRA. The music room at the observatory is going through the process of the 5-test check, we hope to be able to open it.
- The Common Room of Keenan house will be open as a study space later on Term 1.
- The foosball table and the darts won't be available at the moment in the bar due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- The Common Room at Sheraton House will be open as study space from Monday 5th of October.

c. Treasurer [DM/CA]

- The College has received the approval from Jeremy Cook to transfer the money from the transition fund we are working in the final paperwork.
 - All our outgoing payments for induction week occurred before the last GM so there aren't any significant changes here.
- Current Account: £34,135.75 Savings Account: £ 48,355.67

d. Welfare [JB]

- Hi all, and welcome (back) to Durham. As the Welfare Officer, I'm here as a contact and to provide signposting for any health or safety problems, including living conditions, illness, mental health problems or anxieties about personal safety. I regularly meet with the student support team at Ustinov College, to represent the study body and voice their concerns. If you have any issue you'd like me to raise, please get in touch. We will continue to supply welfare products safely in the public restrooms and through private requests. See the GCR website for more details about what we have or if you have any need for anything, please get in touch with me for more information. Many of the welfare-related events that we might normally plan are not currently possible but we will continue to arrange virtual events and celebrate certain observance days and periods including Disability Awareness, International Men's and Women's Day, and Black History Month which started this week. I'm looking forward to working with the new Welfare Committee to collaborate on these events. We will be offering welfare hours this year that align with regular office hour slots for members of the Welfare Committee. Starting (and continuing) a PhD or Master's course is a challenging time but please remember there is plenty of support available to you all regardless of whether you are currently in Durham or away.

For signposting and direction, email me at welfare.ustinovgcr@durham.ac.uk.

e. Clubs & Societies [CV]

- Considering the University guidelines and the current restrictions, the gym will remain closed. We will be monitoring the situation through the year to see if (and when) it's safe to open again.
- College sport is still projected to start competitively on January, with some activities and training taking place during Michaelmas term (if allowed).
- The Clubs and Societies Fair took place last week, and considering it was the first time it was held virtually on discord, it was definitely the best virtual fair we've ever had!

Q: Do we have any table tennis facility in college? At least if can be played with social distancing?

A: We do have table tennis stables, but in a room which has not passed 5 tests yet; for now this is unavailable and no space to play. There is also a TT team – see website for captain details.

f. Communications [-] (DM)

- QR-codes have been redone due to a technical problem and they stop working. This can be found around Sheraton House and Neville House.
- We have shared our first-ever Communications site based on MS SharePoint. This is aimed to share all the important information with all of you. So far, we have over 160 students who signed up.
- We have created a guide on how to get the GCR Membership, this has been posted on the Comms site, and will be posted soon on our external website.

g. DSU Representative [-] (DM)

- We have been contacted by Charlotte (DSU Campaigns Coordinator) to get our availability from October 14th to 16th, to have our first meeting with all DSU Reps and Charlotte. We will be meeting monthly. These meetings will be chaired by the Union Rep Committee chair (Elected in our first meeting) who will also set the agenda.
- Once term starts, we will receive a weekly update from her which will contain key messages to pass on to students and also key information for us.
- Assembly dates have not been set yet but as soon as she knows when the Assembly meetings will be, she will let us know. Assembly will be going ahead this year and with the new COVID-19 guidelines will be taking place online, how this will be happening is again still in discussions but once she knows more information, she will let us know.
- University Challenge in some form will also be going ahead this year, Poppy, Volunteer Development Coordinator, will be in touch shortly with how this will be running etc.

h. International Officer [MZ]

- Since the last general meeting, a post under the welfare committee called BAME representative has been initiated. During induction week, I have explained to everyone about my role as ISO and the likeliness of our future trips. In the future, a virtual contact session is expected to be conducted by me in order to facilitate the international community to settle in and ease any problem faced as much as possible.

i. Livers Out Rep [SK]

- The post-graduation housing guide can be found on the website with detailed information about livers out looking for student accommodation. Specifically, PBSAs and private landlords are included therein for Ustinovians who are looking at getting non-college accommodation soon.

j. Social [JI]

Despite having to move our entire schedule online, we have still managed to run a fair number of induction events, including film nights, the regular pub quiz and games nights as an online friend-meeting session. We're hoping to keep this up throughout the year whilst working in physical (or hybrid) events as soon as it is safe to do so.

Note: hoping to having formal for bonfire, but working how to do within covid guidelines if it doesn't get more restricted. So far just for livers in – still in green allowed phase, but might change.

k. Bar [-] (DM)

- The bar has opened on October 1st, the service is table service only with a booking system, and having 2 bar staff working on the shifts. The app has been tested and feedback has been shared to College.

- We have created a Track and Trace app that has been changed for the Track and Trace system from the NHS, as University requests. Bar staff will be in charge to ask students to use the track and trace system.

- Students can choose the duration of their booking instead of the 1-hour slot proposed by University.

- On September 30th the bar staff had their training at the bar. Plus, they have finished online training about COVID-19 guidelines. PPA will be provided for all bar staff.

- The layout for the bar will be, the main entrance is the normal entrance and the fire-doors will be used as exits, to have a 1-way system.

- The bar won't be able to be cashless, but it won't have the cashback option.

- To follow Government guidelines, the bar will be taking the last orders at 9:30 pm, the bar will be closed at 10 pm, and any alcoholic beverages will be removed. The Common Room will stay open until 11 pm, to give students time to socialize a bit, then it will be closed.

- It has been discussed with College the option to move the open time to 6 pm, this will be reviewed later, once the bar is open.

4. Agenda Items:

- a.** No agenda items.

5. Hustings:

a. Treasurer

- i.** Victoria Vasileva

Manifesto:

With this application, I would like to be considered for the Treasurer position at Ustinov College.

I am currently on the MSc Finance and Investment program here at Durham University. I am keen to undertake the position, as I would love

to assist with the work involved in the financial team. As a member of the Finance team at Influential Software Services I gained experience in budgeting, financial reporting, end of month procedures and other financial procedures.

As Treasurer, I plan to voice a need to cut-down expenses and increase in spending for Online events. I believe that at present time there is room for improvement into the online activities as events and societies are among the most substantial parts of the university experience and the position of Treasurer would allow me to achieve this goal.

For example, I believe that at present the online events can be improved with more realistic interactions. Hence, I will be voicing for the need of investment into virtual reality equipment to guarantee that the general university experience remains as realistic as possible.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. I will be looking forward to giving my speech on Sunday.

Hust:

Studying for MSc finance, chose Durham because of historical sites and experience. Want to be considered for treasurer because of previous accounting experience history. Allow to express opinions of investments into online events, for example, for how the events are delivered. Investment into virtual reality is an option. But overall, how the general experience should be improved.

ii. *Adeel Sadar Al Din Mohammed*

Manifesto:

Hi, my name is Adeel and i am running for a treasurer role at GCR Ustinov college. I have a good in-hand experience of accounting and auditing through out from my 8 years of practical working experience at KPMG - One of the Big four auditing and consultancy firm in the world as well as being working for the largest bank in Oman. I am a professionally qualified Chartered Certified accountant and i believe in myself that i would be able to fulfil responsibilities assigned to me with this important role as well as managing my studies. Being a team player i would look forward to engaging and co-operating with different stakeholders including Students.

Hust:

Studying Islamic Financial Management. Looking forward to have an impact amongst all of college. Worked at KPMG as an auditor for 3.5 years; has a background in auditing and finance role. Wants to gain an experience of GCR, and find out about how best to succeed in the role of treasurer, maintaining accounts etc. Hoping that will be able to fulfil this important role.

iii. *Ryan Pointing*

Manifesto:

I am running for the role of Treasurer because I think that is especially important during Covid to maintain community through Ustinov College and as treasurer I will aim to facilitate this as much as possible through exciting and reasonably priced (or free!) events in person or online. I would also like to volunteer my time to making student's time at Ustinov

college more enjoyable, as I found at my previous university, student events are just as important to student experience as academics and modules. I also believe that I could find ways to finance new events for students while maintaining established events, making student's experiences at Ustinov even better.

I believe the necessary skills a treasurer requires are good organisational and communication skills. Having volunteered as a secretary for the Volunteering Society during my undergraduate days I needed to be both organised and communicate effectively with the rest of the society, an experience which would I take into a role as the Treasurer. I also have knowledge and experience for some the more nitty-gritty requirements of the role such as reporting the financial status of GCR to the trustees and pricing events. During an internship I was in charge of making accurate prices for properties and during my degree I developed accounting knowledge which would be useful for making GCR's financial reports.

Overall, I believe I have the motivation, skill and experience to succeed as the Treasurer for the GCR and improve student's time at Ustinov college.
Withdrawn candidacy.

Questions for Victoria and Adeel only

Q: As part of role, must be part of trustees role. Have you got any unspent convictions for deception/dishonesty? Have you been declared bankrupt, or otherwise disqualified for being a trustee of UK charity committee?

Victoria A:

Adeel A:

Q: x

Victoria A: No and no

Adeel A: New to UK: clear record

Q: In the case that someone has misused money, what would you do?

Victoria A: Speak to exec and see what has happened – if there is a miscommunication and if this can be resolved. If needed, see who is responsible and report accordingly.

Adeel A: Similar idea – first check where misappropriation has occurred, and how we can resolve/recover. Should be addressed appropriately.

Q: big part of role is doing a bit of everything all the time. How good are you at managing time at working under pressure.

Victoria A: Previous experience has taught how to work under pressure.

Confident that it won't be a considerable constraint and able to handle and confident in ability to manage.

Adeel A: Good under time management, and good in difficult conditions. Last 7-8 years of practical experience, but manage studies also makes it challenging, but well prepared – looking forward.

Q: One of main tasks is to count money and find when payments are due to arrive – need to have software to keep track of these. Any problems with how to manage these things? Sometimes have to track payments etc. Do

you have an idea of which software might be useful for you? In the past used google sheets for payment tracking/accounting, but different JCRs use different software.

Victoria A: Previous role looked after expenses and payments as well, which are overdue and yet to receive etc. Quite a lot of extensive experience (7 months).

Adeel A: As Diana mentioned, google sheets will be fine, but also excel spreadsheets. Don't think we need very complex software.

Q: In your opinion, which GCR area is most important to spend money on? Societies/free events/ticket formals etc?

Victoria A: Concentrated on mostly social events and mental health; expecting less social interaction and fewer events. Ensure that everyone is as happy as can be.

Adeel A: Important to be spent on student, to ensure good experience. Also on welfare.

b. Vice-President

Huseyn Mammadov

Manifesto:

I have been working for the Qafqaz Model UN club and Model OIC club's vice-president. According to this experience I believe in myself to do my best for our college. I've also received the IBM customer service specialist accreditation which indicates my resourcefulness for this role.

Not present in meeting. Withdrawn.

c. Comms Officer

Luke Phillip Chand

Manifesto:

Here are the three reasons I believe I am best suited for the role of Communications Officer:

I) I have professional experience as an Executive Search Consultant

II) I was previously a PwC Campus Ambassador at Newcastle University

III) I am incredibly tenacious and disciplined

I) As an executive search consultant, I was responsible for identifying recruitment opportunities and acting as a third party to connect global leaders and industry experts. I managed clients ranging from management - C level positions. The role involved long hours and high-pressure situations, so I had to be very efficient and flexible with my time.

II) As a PwC campus ambassador, I represented the firm at Newcastle, hosting their career events and networking evenings. The role involved organizing events, communicating with students and societies, and also presenting in front of large audiences. Teamwork was a key factor here so that all the ambassadors, students and societies knew about the opportunities available.

III) I'm a strong believer in the compound effect - the small changes and habits we perform each day ultimately lead to the individual we become. Guided by this principle, I am able to stay disciplined and focused every day to perform at my best. Optimizing our practices in the small leads to copious success in the large.

As communications officer, I will provide strong communication skills, efficiency, and leadership to ensure a fantastic year for Ustinov College.

Hust:

Thank you to GCR and Ustinov for the opportunity. Currently based in Leeds, frees up lot more time for extracurricular and studying. Based in Leeds so can travel up if needed. In manifesto, outlined key skills for this role. Executive search recruiter, working with clients and candidates at senior positions, negotiating salaries etc. Worked at PwC campus ambassador in undergraduate. Connecting students and societies, running events etc; ties in to comms officer. Why comms? Enjoy fostering new relationship with student body. Essence of communication begins with being able to listen – first listen to what student body needs to say, and what issues they'll be facing; fundamental for both GCR and students. Will be a strange year – communication will be more important than ever. Need a robust network for the whole of college

Q: GCR has lots of channels of comms – email, facebook, insta etc. How we will ensure that all channels are covered, but not overloaded with information?

A: Works with both webmaster and press secretary, collude with other exec messages. It might be quite important this year to make sure that students have all info, regardless of in college or out of the country – 'aggressive' strategy should be taken to ensure that everyone knows what is going on. Make sure info is easy to understand – a strength of the website e.g. FAQs and any queries. Should listen to students, and see what they want, and what they have to say. This should be the first step.

d. Livers Out Rep

Faustino Dardi

Manifesto:

I am Fausto, 28, Italian, and third year PhD candidate in Translation Studies.

Only those who have been livers in understand what it feels like to be a liver out. Experiencing such a dramatic change, in terms of both accommodation and emotional displacement, makes you realise how easy it can be to feel left out. I am running for the Livers Out Rep position to prevent livers out from feeling left out, to give them the support they need in order to feel part of the Ustinov community and enjoy college to the fullest, and to make their time in Durham less daunting.

This latter aspect is particularly true of international and non-native students, who may see language barriers as an obstacle to their student life, and whose voice is sometimes less likely to be heard. Being an international student myself, I am fully aware of the enormous impact that those elements have on livers out. I will make sure that special attention is given to them and that their concerns are always heard.

My experience as student rep for PhDs in my department has taught me what it means to have responsibilities and duties towards your peers and those above you. I have also been in charge of organising reading groups, presentations and film screening sessions in my department over the past year, so I am not new to the pressure of putting things together and hoping for the best outcome... while getting ready for the worst case scenario!

Hust:

It's quite hard being a liver out, particularly in this strange time. Feel of being left out and distanced when you leave out. This is particularly true for international students; everyone needs their voices heard. International student as well, so understands why it's easy to feel inhibited when it comes to speaking up. As mentioned in manifesto, not new to organising events and trying to boost ideas together rather than hoping for best result without planning. Hope that previous experience will help with this.

Q: Livers out are scattered across Durham, and now even other cities/countries. How do you plan on getting them all together, or even getting a list of them to socialise/bring them together?

A: Everything is focused online, so would be okay. Would be interesting to get a mailing list, should be done hand-in-hand with college; ask Ustinov to get a list of students who are members but not living in. Against idea of treating livers out as a separate category – treat them as a marginalized group is bad. Certainly hard, but keen to try this.

Q: Once pandemic starts to settle down, and events in college, easier for livers in to socialise. Need to keep livers out connected. What would be your perfect online event to keep livers out in touch?

A: Not something like a coffee break – maybe something to allow them to make their voices heard. Online arts and crafts. Not necessarily the event itself, but how it's organised. Mailing lists again will be important. There's no perfect event, but something to make them interested in attending events.

Q: Would you be willing to liaise with Comms officer or rest of GCR to take over social media accounts to reach out to livers out.

A: Yes; this is vital to work with other members to include livers out.

e. Social Secretary

Sorcha Grant

Manifesto:

Hello, my name is Sorcha and I would love to be your social secretary for this year! Having been social secretary of my college at my undergraduate university, I have the experience of not only being an incredibly fun person, but also the dedication and organisational time it takes to create enjoyable and worthwhile events. As much as we are becoming accustomed to conducting our social and academic lives over zoom, I think it's really important that plans are made to reintroduce in-person events as safely and effectively as possible. Having not been a member of this college for all that long, I am in the process of learning more about the limits and the potential to create a schedule of such events. Some ideas range from household centred activities including

pizza nights and 'come dine with me' style activities, to utilising the outdoor grounds for socially distanced winter themed food and drinks stands. As the bar reopens I would support the potential return to hosting fun events like karaoke and open mic nights. Planning for the return of formals and even a summer ball and BBQ would also be my priority, which promise to be the highlights of the social calendar. Of course whilst there is no guarantee such events will happen all that quickly, I would endeavour to deliver as much as possible as I cannot emphasise enough how much I believe in maintaining a fun and social environment as we all take on this challenging year together.

Hust:

Studying history MA. Many people getting frustrated with restrictions, new to country/uni/town. Main goal to encourage in person events in line with government advice as safely as possible. New student, so would be good to sit with committee and see what options. Can have nights like pizza household nights, or Come Dine With Me events. Can also utilise outdoor area where possible. Social sec at previous undergrad college – ran induction week, clubs in city etc. Running events in bar (open mic/karaoke) reintroducing where possible. Would be nice to form a social calendar since in person events are so important.

Q: How are you going to ensure accessibility?

A: Not entirely sure how everything works in that respect, but should be raised with committee to see how it is possible.

Q: If only online-events possible, then what ideas do you have for this?

A: Quizzes, bingo, film nights such as induction really good for inclusivity; keep these!

f. Sheraton Park Rep

Konstantina Votsika

Manifesto:

My name is Konstantina Votsika and I would love to run up for the Sheraton Park Representative position. While being in my previous university, I was always the person that knew everything regarding the facilities, events, stuff going on inside the college. I'm really social and patient, two characteristics that will be handy in this position! What is also exciting is that I will be meeting people from all over the world. I'm really excited to start and assist everyone in their new home :)

Hust:

Important to have a contact if any issues/problems etc. Doing a lot of work with previous undergrad in Greece; main contact for everyone that has issues for societies/problem with professors etc – relevant experience for this. Very friendly – want to meet other people in these strange times. Excited to be part of the committee!

(CA outlines the role; relation to facilities committee and relation to VP)

g. Formal Secretary

Connie Gallagher

Manifesto:

Hi, I'm Connie, a 1st Year MA student studying Classics, and I would love to be the Formal Secretary for the next year!

Why I think I would be suited to this role

Having done my undergraduate degree at Durham, I have been to a fair number of formals and they have been some of my favourite experiences of Durham. I therefore know what makes formal events a success: the food, entertainment, and atmosphere. I think I can bring all of these elements into formals this year, even if some of it is virtual or socially distanced, and will do my best to recreate what is a classic Durham University experience.

I really enjoy organising events and creating the sense of community a formal brings to the college it's in. Since many members of Ustinov may only be here for one year, I think it is important to make every opportunity count for social events and create positive memories of the college and bring people from the college together.

I hope to be able to be involved in organising something that can bring a sense of a Durham formal, despite how different this year will be, and therefore be able to maintain a crucial Durham experience

Hust:

Studying classics. Been at Durham for undergrad, new at Ustinov. Experience of attending formals, really enjoyed them over three years, of course this would be different. When possible, would love to take in-person formal events. In the meantime, replicate with online versions – Zoom between households. For in-person formals; bring in themes! Halloween, Christmas etc – bring in competitions for best outfit. Would be good since knows what formals are like and what they need to be good. Enjoys organisation and has the skills to create something really enjoyable for everyone.

Q: Might have first formal next month (Burns/Bonfire) – but need a lot of preparation to account for mixing households etc. Would you be able to do extra work to ensure this.

A: Yes

h. Tech Officer

Bryony Rogers

Manifesto:

My name is Bryony and I am a 4th year PhD student. I have been a member of the Tech Team for a year and have helped to run Ustinov Live (our live lounge) both in person and online. I also helped to run Virtual Ustinov Day, producing the graphics and was in charge of streaming pre-recorded content on the day. As tech officer I would run at least one online Ustinov Live before Christmas and should restrictions change in the new year would hope to host a live stream of performances in the Common Room to students (in a scaled down version of Virtual Ustinov Day). I have experience both with the online streaming software and with GCR's tech facilities and would love to host in person Ustinov Lives before the end of the academic year if the situation allows!

Hust:

Involved in GCR for last three years in committee and exec. Worked in tech team last year; experience in running events, such as Ustinov Live (both in person and live), and in Virtual Ustinov Day. Experience with the software needed. Would like to run at least 1 Ustinov live, with prerecorded videos from college members and alumni. If restrictions ease, can do a mini version with Ustinov day – performances live from the bar; mixed in with prerecorded – streamed to Ustinovians and maybe even a small in person crowd if allowed. If possible, host an in-person Ustinov live in the new year.

Q:

A:

i. Women's Welfare Rep

Alannah McPhee

Manifesto:

I want to run for women's welfare representative as I want to ensure that every woman knows they have somewhere to turn to no matter what the issue.

Post-graduate life is undoubtedly stressful and I want to help ease some of the stresses that come along with this. Also, I understand that the covid-19 crisis is having an effect on people's mental and physical health and people need support now more than ever. I will ensure that that support is available wherever possible.

It is my aim to provide a safe space for all women for advice and support regardless of the issue. I am not one to sit in judgment, instead I want to offer assistance and support in whatever way possible. I consider myself a good listener and sensitive to other's problems and I have experience working in confidential situations.

I look forward to liaising with other GCR officers as and when required. In addition, I will work to promote the wellbeing and assist the Welfare Officer in his role when requested.

In a nutshell, I think I'd be a good women's welfare representative as I am hard-working, empathetic, and dependable.

Hust:

Masters in international law. Hardworking, dependable and approachable. Experience working in sensitive and confidential environment. Opportunity to provide advice, support and signpost to relevant information. Also organise online events, to help mental health which is so important at this time.

Q: Can be quite stressful on the welfare committee. How can you preserve your own health and ensure that other committee members stay healthy?

A: Important to be mindful, and keep an open atmosphere where everyone feels that they can talk about these issues, decompress and debrief.

j. LGBT+ Rep

Mikayla McClanahan

Manifesto:

My name is Mikayla McClanahan and I am in the Politics and IR program at Durham. I am from the USA and in my time in undergrad I was a founding member on our LGBTQ+ social organization on campus. I was actively involved in promoting LGBTQ socials, spending time finding ways we could be involved in the bigger community and becoming an active liaison between the needs of the LGBTQ+ community and the University. I would love to be a part of this community at Durham as well.

Can't attend meeting. Role will be open at the end of the meeting.

k. Male Sports Rep

Matt Adams

Manifesto:

As the six months of lockdown has demonstrated, sports and physical exercise play a huge role on the mental well-being of many people. Whether running, walking or cycling, many, including myself, took lockdown to become reacquainted with nature and the outdoors. The role of sports exec is one of paramount importance as lockdown restrictions become equally eased and tightened. The rules and guidelines change everyday, and having someone who is able to communicate clearly any changes is vital. Having held various positions on sports committees during my undergraduate degree, I am aware of how important an organised and lively committee is in regards to a degree, whether undergraduate or postgraduate. I aim to take communication skills and organisational skills learnt in prior experience and develop them accordingly, whether it be keeping every member of Ustinov in the loop regarding government sporting guidelines, working alongside fellow members to organise sporting watch-alongs or sitting on various committees to speak on behalf of the college on sports related matters

PGCE student. New to college, know how awkward it can be to meet people. Throughout lockdown and undergrad, sport can make it feel like nothing has changed and can feel much better. Sat on previous committee for UEA sports clubs – used to sitting on committee and speaking for the club as a whole. Experience working with other members to create events to allow people to feel welcome. With winter and COVID, more important to ensure people are safe and feeling positive about themselves; if they have to isolate, they can keep in the loop. Important that things are clear for everyone – constant communication to make sure that everyone knows what's going on. Try to get gym reopened to work out, and make sure that we can be ourselves when it's harder to be ourselves.

Q: Guidelines are changing very fast, expected to stay for at least first term. What we learn one week may not be useful next week. Would you be available to communicate to captains/teams what has changed quickly.

A: Yes – being in Ustinov, available to do this – making sure all information is correct at the time, but keeping things realistic; when things do change, teams are equipped to make the most of this.

l. Female Sports Rep

Diane Austray

Manifesto:

Hello! I am Diane, and I am running for the position of Female Sports

Rep. I have been at Ustinov for the past 3 years. I am part of the ultimate frisbee and women's basketball teams, I founded the running club, I play badminton and recently started playing tennis, so I am fairly involved in our college sports life! As such, I know well how our college sports clubs work, with their associated GCR regulations and constitution, so I can help make sure everything runs smoothly and help you make the most out of your experience participating in sports here at Ustinov! Last year, I sat on various academic committees in the Psychology department as Postgraduate Research Rep, so as your Female Sports Rep I will be well prepared to represent and defend the interests of our teams during our meetings with Team Durham and other university bodies. Furthermore, I am not afraid to harass people to get things done! We are all facing a challenging and unprecedented situation with the Covid pandemic, and I believe that given my experience in representing students, my commitment to our sports community, and my interest and knowledge of the university and national guidelines and policies I can be of valuable assistance to our C&S officer to help our teams start to pursue their training safely and happily! Go Ustinov!!

Parts of many sports team. Made Ustinov running club, and making a tennis club. Know about GCR regulations for Clubs and socs, can help make sure these run smoothly. Regarding experience with committees – sat on psychology department; well prepared to have meetings with Team Durham and university bodies. We are all facing a challenging time; can provide a good assistant to Christos to help clubs pursue training safely and happily.

Q: Alternative ways of keeping Ustinovians active?

A: Challenge faced over lockdown already – not able to finish season and everyone spread. Created Ustinov running club – even if we can't play as a team, still ways to make a community and support virtually.

m. Assistant Treasurer

Laurence Norman

Manifesto:

I am undergoing a Master's in Finance and Investment at Durham University. I am actively seeking to participate in Ustinov College's finance department, with the aim to carry out duties in a professional and precise manor.

For the role as Assistant Treasurer, I believe it requires strong attention to detail, accurate due diligence and effective communication with other members of the wider committee. I am confident in my understanding of budgeting, transactional and processing of money through my study of accounting practices at university as well as my work placement in the finance department of Mondelez International. These opportunities gave me hands on experience in balance sheet management and forecasting whilst honing my technical ability in the software package EXCEL.

As the Assistant Treasurer, I would conduct my duties in supporting the Treasurer with the handling of college financial funds, preparing notes for committee meetings whilst maintaining an active role on college campus; making sure my interests lie within the code of conduct as set out by the college constitution.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my application and I look forward to meeting you on Sunday.

Hust:

Nice to meet you all! First time in Durham; new to area and university. With current situation with COVID, would be nice to get involved with GCR and college. Experience with accounting theory module and internships; different departments. Use of excel and balance sheets etc. Experience is limited, but confident that will be able to assist treasurer and provide a student experience for all of Ustinov

Q: Do you enjoy counting large of cash?

A: Yes, very much so.

Note for treasurer and assistant treasurer – Q for exec

How do we need to keep ourself safe while counting cash? Any protocol to follow? Gloves etc..

Will be ensured that we have suitable procedures.

Open positions:

- 1. Eco rep: Julie Garg*

Hust:

I want to run for eco rep because there is some definite issues with recycling in Ustinov. It's a pretty easy thing that could be done. Would like to run an educational campaign; recognise a lot of students from different cultures, where recycling might not be as big of thing. Work with Greening Ustinov and Sheraton Park (GUSP) group, promote recycling in community and their ideas. Possible bike sharing ideas, buying food in bulk (sharing pasta and reducing single use plastic) – just some of the ideas available. But would be particularly interested in an education campaign regarding importance of recycling. Also want to continue work in café, plant based snacks etc. Do a bullet-section in the Ustinovian etc; could have a monthly insert regarding something eco related around the college (activities, recipes suggestion etc).

Q: Part of work of eco rep takes care of allotment – however, this is being fought to keep from the university. We also have local residents to help. However, if hypothetically there are any issue with local residents trying to keep this, would you be able to step up and say that it belongs to the GCR?

A: Ustinov property. If there's involvement from students and it's on university property, then argument that it's something that we're a part of rather than a community space. Would take to exec and see what can be done.

Q: Important for the allotment to become a GCR society so that college doesn't take what we have invested into it. Would you be willing to lead this? Still open to locals, but to ensure that the GCR can safely keep it, instead of college/uni taking control.

A: Need to ask for help on making a society, but yes, something which should be looked into if this is the best route.

2. *Ents officer: Ryan Pointing*

Hust:

Some background info about myself – I love movies and social activities and sport. That’s why I’m running for this role – I like to organise social events and have experience at my previous uni where I had a role doing similar things. With COVID, it’s important to maintain sense of community, and make college experience better for people. I have a few good ideas for different social events, while maintaining events that are currently going on; I would love to get involved with some of these events as best I can.

6. Any Other Business:

a. **[CV] Colour of College Stash**

I’m trying to set up a range of college sport stash with PlayerLayer for Ustinov. In the slides you can see a few examples from products used by other colleges. For that we need to decide the two colours (one dominant, one for the details) that will appear on them. Since Ustinov’s official colour is black (common among other colleges) I was thinking of putting this choice into a vote along the normal elections. For that I’ll make some suggestions, hopefully not shared by other colleges and you can vote on which one you want.

Brad Din

GCR Secretary

01/10/2020