



Ustinov College GCR Exec Meeting

Minutes

6:00 pm, 15/02/21

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

CA to extend last few email accounts

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

VV to investigate the capabilities of the local Durham banks

VV to look into alternative membership levy systems.

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

JB to recontact women's refuge regarding donations

1. Apologies: SG

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

2. Approval of minutes from last meeting.

- a. Approval of minutes from 08/02/2021 – *passed on a general aye*

3. Matters arising from previous minutes.

- a. Election results:

Vice President: Dafni Chorattidou

- b. CA to extend last few email accounts *ongoing*
- c. CA to contact someone to fix the vending machine *done*
- d. CA to find out about the updates to green move-in sale, and update details about facilities at SP for handbook *ongoing*
- e. CA to organise an online office hours rota as the new committee comes in *ongoing*
- f. DM to check with university and college about the consequences of purchasing drug testing kits *ongoing*
- g. DM to ask college regarding Peter Ustinov celebration and pass info onto SG to plan events if necessary *done*
- h. DM to email Ramside to postpone booking until the Summer of 2022 *done*
- i. JB to recontact women's refuge regarding donations *ongoing*

4. Agenda Items:

- a. [VV] Change of Bank

Move of monies to another bank. Issue was raised with Trustees and they advised that this is a reoccurring problem as many banks face regulation which restricts the prompt change of account ownership.

Not sure about bank to go to yet, but would rather get opinions from exec. Previous treasurers have had to go to Newcastle etc; waste of time. Barclays has been an option, but this has been deemed a bad choice by some; would be good to have a bank in Durham. Most opposers are happy to see what options we have. Plan; look into the 4 or so banks in Durham, and see if they can provide what we need.

Vote to allow VV to look into these banks and get back to us with the details – passes with 8 in favour, 1 abstention.

[AP] VV to investigate the capabilities of the local Durham banks

b. [DM] Face-to-face WSE planning

Documents have been shared on Thursday and the University needs the Feedback of Common Rooms so they can plan for Term 3.

What new things can we provide for students? Probably depends on local restriction.

This depends on the situation after Easter as well. The plan was basically the ideal plan for the Epiphany term. We would like the gym back; had a good system before, and can maybe even extend it to livers out.

For other activities, depends on the bar restriction, and if we're allowed mixed restrictions. We are hoping to open bar as we had it in November with booking system.

As first port of call, we would be hoping to run a calendar similar to first term, but without the gradual removal of events as restrictions come in.

Could we focus perhaps on outside activities, such as socially distanced walks etc. Easter term begins 26th of April. Is this a bit early to be planning activities?

For access to bar, will there be conditions, e.g testing? Probably just pushing the same LFT recommendation as before; might not be a condition.

Are there any questions that the uni needs us to answer in the next week?

5. Officer Reports:

a. Bar [-]

- Nothing to report.

b. Clubs & Societies [CV]

- The Team Durham AGM happened last week, with Chris Lennon the current president getting re-elected. Apart from that not many updates regarding college sports.

- The gym is closing again from Monday after a decision of the council. So far this term around 50 students have been using the gym, others more others less. There are a few groups of 3,4,5 but quite a lot book alone. Most of the ones who book alone are the only ones from their households but in some other households people have been booking separately. Usually at any time the gym was fully booked 3 days in advance. After the rule of showing a negative test before every session the bookings dropped a lot (some people even emailed me to cancel bookings before they don't want to get tested very often). So since that time the slots have been booked by a smaller group of people.

- Finally the sport socials started last week. Unfortunately Ustinov lost to South College.

c. Communications [LC]

- Newsletter 13 sent out advertising the Jazz night, Lunar New Year celebrations, GCR elections and various welfare matters
- Social advertisements for events running throughout the week
- Facebook page to be made for the Jazz Night next Saturday and advertisement of the poster/ FIXR tickets

d. DSU [-] (DM)

- DSU has published a video (<https://www.facebook.com/durhamsu/posts/4217433831618797>) to try to answer the questions that students submitted regarding the RON campaign.

e. Facilities [-] (DM)

- Recent guidance from PHE has been reviewed and all gyms at the University are closed from Monday 15th February onwards.
- The TV will be mounted on the wall this week and both DVD and PS2 are working now. I am searching for a pedestal drawer that can be used to store both items instead of using the big cover on the Fisher Room. I have also added a new poster on both rooms and at the entrance of the building, in case any student needs to contact security or give feedback to us, the contact is the VP email.
- I am still waiting for more details on the vending machine from Selecta. Tom Briton is helping us to sell the old vending machine (if negotiations go well).

f. Finance [VV]

- Current Account Balance: £ 46,960.23
- This week the ticket sales for the Jazz Night were initiated, where tickets were sold at £3 (+booking fee) for non-members and Tier 1 members and provided for free for Tier 2 members.
- The approximate associated cost per head (for the provision of a small bottle of wine and a box with cheese, grapes, chutney and other) is £5, however, a vote took place to subsidise the tickets in order to increase attendance to the event.
- As of now (12th Feb) the event has been very popular amongst Ustinovians with 18 bookings made for one day! Among these 6 people purchased Standard tickets and 12 Tier 2 member ones.

Updated: 29 books with 8 standard tickets. Deadline for sales is Wednesday; expecting around 30, but can change the order.

If we can't have university opening systems for levy payments, can you think of system for obtaining memberships?

Fixr? Has a small additional fee. Alternatively, we can start taking cash.

Cash front: if people wanted a membership and wanted to arrange it in advance, they can deposit envelope with name/details/money and post them a receipt back.

[AP] VV to look into alternative membership levy systems.

g. International Officer [MZ]

- We have had a decoration contest last Friday commemorating lunar new year. I have posted a poster related with the festive in the social media. The winner of the contest should be announced next week.

Islamic society is hoping to plan an event for Ramadan at some point in the future (over the holidays)

h. Livers Out Rep [FD]

- Over the past week, I have mainly promoted events and activities on the Ustinov Livers Out Facebook group. These include: the last film night; directions for collecting the welfare supplies in Neville House; the Lunar New Year wishes; and the news regarding Purpose Built Student Accommodation providers offering refunds, reductions and early contract terminations for students who are not in Durham.
- Following up on the Durham Event car side, I have not received any reports yet so I must assume that no Ustinovians have been involved so far.
- I am now starting to think about the best way(s) to gradually let livers out back into college.

i. Social [SG] (apologies)

- Jazz night tickets are on sale, currently seeing a fair few purchases. Estimate is 50 by Wednesday. Jake is in touch with the cheese family to update them, I have also spoken to the Jazz man and he's very nice and happy to play whatever requests we put forward. Only thing left to do is buy the wine and soft drinks with Brad.
- Weekly events are continuing - any quiz host volunteers?
- Valentines day baking competition launched.
- Instagram posts for pancake day.
- Lunar New Year decoration competition was launched, half the packs I made were taken in the end. Yet to receive any entries.

j. Steering [CA]

- *Election results have been finished and published; still need to send out email and post on Facebook/Whatsapp, or send out in newsletter.*
When will our next social be? Probably next Friday/Saturday evening.

k. Welfare [JB]

- First Welfare Drive was a moderate success- will continue on Wednesday afternoons for the time being. LGBT+ History Month quiz went fine, had four teams. Advertised other events from the Association, still waiting to hear back about other events. SMVOG (Sexual Misconduct and Violence Operations Group) meeting on Thursday, discussed some of the challenges in different aspects of university and academic life. Still at the brainstorming stage.
About half of the supplies put out were been taken in the event. Good participation!

l. University/College Matters [DM]

University matters

- Due to the ongoing significant measures designed to manage the spread of Coronavirus and the latest advice available from Public Health England, the University has taken the decision to postpone April 2021 and Summer 2021 congregation ceremonies. Emails went out to all students affected by this decision on Monday 8th February 2020. These ceremonies will be rescheduled and graduands from Summer 20, Winter 21 and Summer 21 will have the option to attend a ceremony.
- Summer 21 awards will still be legally conferred in early July 2021 'in absentia' and degree documents will be dispatched within 8 weeks of this date. University expects that these students will register for their degree documents and confirm their interest in the rescheduled ceremonies as per the Summer 20 and Winter

21 cohorts.

College matters

- In the past General meeting College mentioned that in order for a student to prove that they are not using their room, the students should have left the keys in reception. Further discussion on the CMT, College will wait for further communication to be sent by University. In the meantime, students can contact College directly for any query.

Exec matters

- Have contacted Finance to see if we can get the site to buy levies working again but, Event Durham approached central and asked if they wanted the sites taking down from the end of January, since they said yes thinking that most, if not all money would have been received by now. It seems that anyone who wants to pay now can pay directly.

6. AOB

a.

Brad Din

GCR Secretary

15/02/2021