

Ustinov College GCR General Meeting

Agenda

6:00 pm, 11/06/23

- 1. Apologies:** *Artem Chuiko (AC), Curtis Gribben (CG)*
Present: *Joel Lozano (JL), Anthony Jones (AJ), Oleksandra Mazurkevych (OM), Elliott Haurat (EH), Christeen De Silve (CS), Jamie Hunter (JH), Mathilda Butler (MB)*

- 2. Chair's Welcome [OM]**
25 people are present so the meeting begins.

- 3. Approval of minutes from the last meeting:**

Minutes from the previous general meeting on 29/01/2023 – *Approved by general aye*

- 4. Officer Reports:**

- a. President [JL]**

- University Matters

- Graduate Attributes
- Marking Boycott

- College Matters

- Nothing to report**

- Exec Matters

- Ustinov Ball
- Ustinov Day

- b. Vice President [AJ]**

- Extended Gym Hours have been implemented. Gym inductions will be put in place for new members this term.
- E-commerce system operating for all ticketing events.
- Sheraton Park Residents Association attended and updated with the GCR input.
- The observatory has been re-decorated.
- Funding for thermally insulated drapes to be put in the bar has been received via grant.
- Another stash window planned for this term.

- c. Finance [AC]**

- Throughout the year was assisting an executive team in approving spending for different events.
- In collaboration with an assistant treasurer (Rose), we managed to collect all invoices for the 2021/2022 period, which were then passed to a senior accountant for the creation of a report.

- Collected money from college partners that was then passed to a president.
- Showed my initiative in creating a college tie, which can be released later this summer.
- In collaboration with Rose, created a draft of a summer BBQ budget.
- In collaboration with vice president (Anthony) and Rose came up with a college budget for 2023/2024.
- Currently in the process of assembling invoices for the 2022/2023 period.
- At the end of this summer, I am planning to reimburse all who spent their own funds on college needs such as goods and services.

d. Clubs & Societies [JH]

- 2 new societies added in first term: Ustinov Knitting and Crochet Society and the Playful Ustinov Pool Society (PUPS)
- 1 sports club reactivated in third term: Tennis
- Ustinov currently has 10 active sports clubs: men's basketball, men's football, women's football, men's hockey, women's hockey, squash, table tennis, ultimate frisbee, volleyball and tennis. List of captains is up-to-date and has been sent to MC
- There are currently 4 active societies: the Knitting and Crochet, PUPS, Gaming and Allotment societies
- GCR website has been updated to provide relevant information on active clubs and societies
- @team_ustinov Instagram account is active again. Follow for clubs and societies updates!
- Participation at the Festival of Sport was up on last year - we entered 7 teams compared to 4 last year
- The women's football team won the Floodlit Cup and the volleyball team won the Premiership!
- Upcoming event (date TBC): Ustinov sports day, which will be organised in association with the Welfare Committee

e. Communications

- The position was not filled after the resignation of the elected comms officer in October 2022.
- Weekly communications were sent out by the GCR VP, Anthony Jones.

f. Welfare [MB]

- Welfare pool tournament organised to focus on men's mental health awareness
- Well-being event for Kings coronation held as part of inclusion strategy for international students
- Upcoming events:
- Welfare trip to bowling alley planned as a wellness break for students
- Welfare games will be organised to provide students opportunity to compete on friendly terms whatever their ability and promote physical health
- Welfare quiz to raise awareness about the dangers of alcohol and distribute drink stoppers to encourage student safety.

Despite the early resignation of the LGBTQ+ representative, the remaining officers carried on with their office hours to ensure continued accessibility for students seeking their services.

g. International Students Officer

- The International Students' Officer has been relieved of their duties due to challenges in fulfilling their responsibilities.
- In the previous term, JL ran a trip to Lindisfarne, JL, and AJ ran a trip to Raby Castle.

h. Social Secretary [CS]

Past events:

- Halloween party
- Keenan house Halloween party
- Bonfire formal and after party
- The great British bake-off screening
- Ustinov Bake-off
- Diwali Movie night
- World cup screenings
- Christmas formal and after party
- Christmas family party
- Drinks competition to pick college drink
- Lunar New Year formal
- Karaoke
- Open mic nights
- Weekly pub quiz
- Speed dating
- Karaoke
- Secret valentines
- Ceilidh
- GCR Trip - Lindisfarne Castle
- Latin Night
- St. Patrick's Day
- Castle formal
- Easter party (Keenan House)
- Back to Ustinov events: Pub Quiz, Bakeoff + Potluck, Taylor Swift Eras night, GCR Trip – Raby Castle + Deer Park, Ustinov Live
- Eurovision Watch Party
- Social events that were planned by the Bar (Curtis) – ABBA Night, End of Exams party, back to the 80's

Upcoming events:

- Ustinov Awards
- Summer Ball
- Ustinov Day

i. Bar Steward [CG]

- Have been actively involved in the planning of many colleges social event (e.g. Latin Night, St. Patrick's Day, Taylor Swift Night, Eurovision party, Abba Night, End of Exams Party, 80s Party, etc.)
- Launched a college-wide petition with the aim to prevent the bar's opening hours being cut from three days per week to just one. This was brought to

college management, where we were able to reach a reasonable compromise.

- Since then, the bar team and social sub-committee have been proactive in planning at least one event night per week, in addition to the weekly Thursday Quiz. This has seen a significant uptick in bar takings, which will help to keep us on target for our end of year takings, and so will help ensure that the bar continues to remain open as it currently is, and that the bar staff continue to receive enough working hours.
- We're continuing to work on events, promotions, and initiatives into the summer, to ensure that the bar thrives as best as possible.

5. Agenda Items

a. Nominations for Honorary Life Memberships

i. Tom Briton

Nomination of Tom Briton for Honorary Life Membership

Although only some of our members will know Tom personally from his role as a mentor within Ustinov, for 10 years he has been an abundant source of wisdom and steady scrutineer of the GCR. His dedication to the role as an external trustee has been unparalleled, a dedication and service that has steered our GCR through massive changes successfully, particularly during our relocation and the pandemic.

Tom has been instrumental in the last 10 years for his guidance to those that have been President and held the most responsibility within the GCR. He has also become good friends and maintained a positive relationship with many of those members well beyond when their role in college has concluded, a testament to his character and generosity of spirit. Tom helped ensure our charitable principles and representation of students always came first. Tom was never afraid to speak his mind in the role as a trustee and stood up for students against a University that often appears to forget there is an actual person in each college room that should be valued, rather than just a number in a spreadsheet. He worked closely with our treasurers throughout his time as a trustee to ensure bookkeeping was kept well in order and during lockdown helped sustain a GCR that could so easily, had it not been for the care and consideration of a few dedicated people, have ceased to exist.

As administrations came and went, Tom was a constant, often training the next incarnation of Exec and trustees to ensure a stable and sound transition. He never hid away from doing what he thought was right for our GCR and standing up for anyone that needed support. Besides from his work, Tom has also remained a very friendly face to see in the college, and a much-valued mentor to many. Tom will be dearly missed, it is very unfortunate that 10 years is the maximum period a trustee can stay in post in the GCR, and needless to say they are big shoes to fill.

Proposer: Anthony Jones

Secunder: Joel Lozano

Vote: Approved

ii. Alberto Rosales

Nomination of Alberto Rosales for Honorary Life Membership

Throughout his time here, Alberto has been a known figure in Ustinov. He's been extremely kind to everyone he's met and an absolute delight to be around. He captained the Basketball team for about two years, was the team lead for the Ustinov Intercultural Forum, and was incredibly helpful to the running of GCR events at college.

I had the pleasure of being his teammate for the UIF, and together, we created a culture of inclusivity through the celebration of various culturally significant events. Among the many achievements during our time on the team, Alberto and I developed a celebration of International Mother Language day - a tradition that is carried on by the UIF even now. Furthermore, during COVID, Alberto coordinated with UIF members online, all the way from his home in Mexico, to ensure that they were able to carry out their functions.

Alberto's approach to life here at Ustinov was one that inspired friendships and generosity. I believe that all his contributions merit this nomination.

Proposers: Ahmed Shafquat Hassan

Secunder: Anthony Jones

Vote: **Approved**

b. Re-election of the Alumni Trustee

i. Thom Addinall-Biddulph

Supporting Information:

Thom Addinall-Biddulph, an alumnus of Ustinov and former member of the GCR, has been serving as the Chair of GCR trustees for the past four years. Throughout his tenure, Thom has played a crucial role in overseeing various initiatives that have had a positive impact on the GCR. With a comprehensive understanding of the GCR's history, values, and goals, Thom is well-positioned to continue to effectively represent the interests and concerns of the Ustinov community as an Alumni Trustee.

Proposers: Joel Lozano

Secunder: Anthony Jones

Vote: **Approved**

c. 2021-2022 GCR Accounts

Attachment sent by email

Proposal: To pass the 2021-22 Accounts subject to the final audit from the accountant being complete

Supporting Information:

The spreadsheet with the accounts has been sent out to all Ustinov students with the agenda. Every year the GCR must report accounts to the Charities Commission, after the end of the financial year (June-end). These are the 2021- 22 accounts, covering the financial activities of the previous committee.

Proposer: Artem Chuiko
Secunder: Varduhi Mkrtchyan

Vote: **Approved**

d. 2023-2024 GCR Budget

Attachment sent by email

Proposal: To pass a budget of £100,375.00 for the 2023/24 year based off an estimated income of £77,950.00

Supporting Information:

In recent years, we have established a tradition of approving annual budgets for the upcoming academic years at our Annual General Meetings. These budgets have proven highly beneficial for our executive committees, allowing them to effectively monitor their spending and ensure alignment with our goals. As such, we have prepared a budget proposal for the 2023-24 year, serving as a guiding framework for the months ahead. The whole version of the budget was sent out to all of you on Friday, June 9th, together with the agenda. It serves as a roadmap for the upcoming academic year, providing transparency and accountability to our members and enabling us to deliver a fulfilling experience for all.

Proposer: Artem Chuiko
Secunder: Varduhi Mkrtchyan

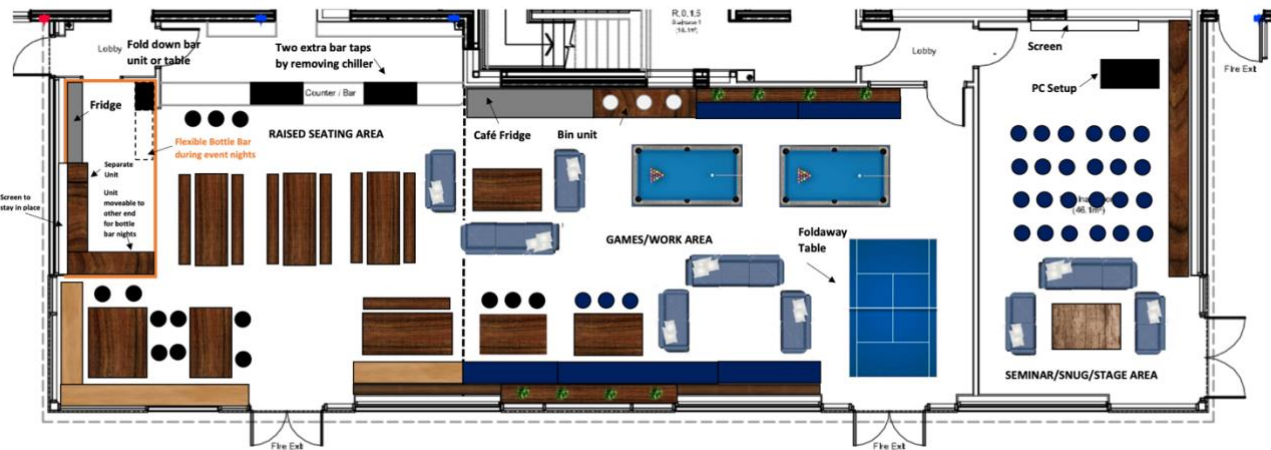
Vote: **Approved**

e. Bar Alterations

Supporting information:

The GCR has identified an opportunity to enhance our bar facilities with the surplus funds available in our accounts. While the specific budget for the renovation is yet to be determined, we propose discussing and gathering your valuable input during this meeting to improve our suggestions on how to enhance the bar since we believe it is important to involve our members in shaping the future of our social space. The official vote on the proposed budget will be held at the next general meeting in autumn. However, we still want to hear your thoughts and ideas to ensure that the bar renovations align with the preferences and needs of the Ustinov community.

Suggested alterations:



Questions: will the partition stay? Yes

6. Hustings

a. President

I. Candidate: Anthony Jones

Manifesto:

Hi, I'm Anthony, the current Vice-President. When I got elected last year, I could see so much potential but also some problems in Ustinov. I think we've made a lot of positive progress in the past year with the help of a great GCR team (such as having big events and extending gym hours) but I still believe we can make Ustinov better and make significant improvements next year. I'm running for President because I have the background as VP, an established relationship with college management, and I am dedicated to delivering more improvements. After working with the President this year, I know what the role entails and have a clear vision of how to make the college better. If I get elected, I propose to make the following changes:

- Revamp of the bar/common room to improve the functionality and feel of the space
- Improve formals by having them at different colleges rather than the hub
- More support of GCR sports teams and societies to give each of them the best platform to succeed and deliver the best student experience
- Have a full calendar of events for Induction Week to build a more inclusive and welcoming college environment that sustains throughout the year
- An informal office hour for the President where people can discuss or make suggestions

- More direct decision making by students with polls on group chats leading to direct action
- Better organised GCR trips and welfare

Hust: Never convicted of a crime and never been declared bankrupted

Questions: what is your favourite type of cheese? [Halloumi](#)

b. Vice President

I. Candidate: Jamie Hunter

Manifesto:

I think I am well placed to take on the role of Vice-President because I have learnt a lot about the functioning of the GCR Committee through my work as the Clubs and Societies Officer this year. In addition, I have experienced college life both at Ustinov and as an undergraduate student at Durham, which has given me a good understanding of what makes for a good college environment.

While serving as Clubs and Societies Officer, I encouraged and aided the setting up of new clubs and societies, such as the Knitting and Crochet Society, the Playful Ustinov Pool Society and the Tennis Club. I have enjoyed using the GCR website and Team Ustinov social media accounts to promote clubs and fixtures, finding it a rewarding way to reach out to the college community.

If I am elected, I would like to continue to improve the student experience by increasing engagement in college events and improving facilities to suit the needs of students. Utilising my organisational skills and enthusiasm, I would look forward to working with the GCR committee to achieve this.

Hust: Never convicted of a crime and never been declared bankrupted

Questions: Who do you think is the better pool player Anthony or James? [Anthony](#)

c. International Students Officer

I. Candidate: Ahmed Shafquat Hassan

Manifesto:

I'm an International Student myself and have been the ISO in 2019.

I will ensure term trips take place. Ustinov will become a more inclusive community, paying due attention and regard to the diverse community that our college is known for. This will happen through frequent celebrations of different communities through activities at the Bar and celebrations of culturally significant events. I will reinstitute a buddy system where students who have been here longer offer guidance to the newcomers. I will also endeavour to develop a language exchange system, where students are able to learn from each other to learn each other's languages. Additionally, I will endeavour to host term potlucks

where students will be invited to cook, and share treats from back home with one another as a means of showcasing their culture.

I believe these steps will ensure more students feel welcome in Ustinov and get the opportunity to learn about communities from all over the world!

Hust: Never convicted of a crime and never been declared bankrupt

Questions: How often will you run potlucks? [I will try to run them once a term](#)

d. LGBTQ+ Representative

I. Candidate: Artie Graham

Manifesto:

As a non-binary person who was the LGBT rep for their undergrad college at Durham, I'm part of the LGBT community and have experience as a representative. I intend to run events every ~3 weeks with different themes, pride parties once a term, and potentially a small pride fair in June '24. The regular events may include LGBT film screenings, guest lectures on LGBT history, guest workshops from local LGBT-run businesses, craft sessions, informative safe binding & resource seminars, and more. I will work with the Durham LGBT and Trans associations, as well as with local LGBT support groups, to connect LGBT folk from the broader university and surrounding communities with Ustinov. I have experience organising events within Durham from being on the executive team at my undergrad college and will reach out to build a network of reps from all colleges to work together. I look forward to contributing to the beautifully diverse Ustinov community.

Hust:

Questions:

7. Message from the Chairperson

[Expresses gratitude to everyone for coming to the General Meeting, announces that elections will be open from tomorrow, June 12th at 12:00 pm and will be taking place until June 19th, 12:00 pm. If there are any concerns about the General meeting or voting process, please email \[chair.ustinovgcr@durham.ac.uk\]\(mailto:chair.ustinovgcr@durham.ac.uk\).](#)

8. Any Other Business

Nothing to report

Elliott Haurat

GCR Secretary

11/06/2023