

UCS Committee 2013-2014

04.05.2013

Glover Room, Gillespie Centre 16.45-18.20

Present

- Harry Peto
- Kiri Koumi
- Jenny Boddy
- Rebecca Harris
- Clare Lewis
- Fingal Plumpton
- Anna Ritchie
- Robin Elliott
- Ollie Russell
- Cleodie Swire
- Aimee Hesketh
- Ben Fraser

Apologies

- N/A

In attendance

1. **Finances (Ollie)**

- The exec were scheduled to hear a presentation by a man called Nick Harris who runs a student offer company. The presentation was cancelled by Nick Harris.
- **Objective:** The treasurer wished to clarify the exec's position with regard to making profit from social events. He wished to stress the need for a profit to be made from social events in order for the exec to put money back into the student body, e.g. through LCR supplies.
- **Discussion:**
 - a)** A point was raised that it seemed it seemed convoluted to take money from the students in order to merely return it to them. An analogy with the tax system was drawn to respond to this point- social events provide the revenue for the exec to maximise the welfare of the student body. All seemed to appreciate this point.
 - b)** It was stressed that the purpose of social events should not be to maximise profit. Although profit is necessary for the UCS to function, social events should be priced reasonably to maximise attendance.
 - c)** The point was raised that no one had objected to the price of this year's marriage formal. The exec had asked for a higher price than last year but there had been cost increases in hiring the venue. The organisers also wished to improve the quality of the event through extra entertainment and decorations.
 - d)** A query was raised regarding the financial position of the Clare Bar. In the previous year the UCS had refused to accept money from the bar, instead asking them to reinvest the money themselves so that the

student body could benefit. The position of the committee this year regarding finance and the bar will be decided at a later point once the bar's financial position is ascertained.

- **Conclusion:** All were happy that social events could and should be profitable.

2. **LCR Supplies (Cleodie)**

- **Proposition:** The committee were asked whether the LCR supplies should be extended to include hot chocolate.

- **Discussion:**

- a) There had been several requests from members of the student body that supplies be extended to cover hot chocolate.
- b) There was general consensus that hot chocolate was a luxury product. It would be very expensive to buy in and it was likely that considerable quantities should be used.
- c) Hot chocolate is not a caffeinated drink and, therefore, it has a lower utility than tea or coffee.
- d) Concerns about over use were raised given the current usage of the LCR coffee machine.

- **Action:** The committee agreed that the UCS would not be supplying hot chocolate to the LCR.

- **Proposition:** It was proposed that Cleodie might leave the coffee bean cupboard open so that people were able to access beans for use in the coffee machine. Currently a quantity of beans is left out and the cupboard is locked.

- **Discussion:**

- a) People were unlikely to take the beans for use in their own rooms. This is a problem with milk.
- b) Concerns were raised that the current messiness of the LCR might be increased by the cupboard being left open. A more chaotic LCR would lead to further complaints.

- **Action:** The consensus amongst the committee was that the current system was the most effective. It would be left to the Services Officer's discretion to amend the system if necessary.

- **Proposition:** Buy in UHT milk or milk powder for use in the LCR to top up the Milk Maids delivery if it runs out before the next delivery.

- **Discussion:** The committee supported the motion in their discussion of it. This was considered to be an inexpensive solution to a problem faced by the Services Officer. It was also felt that it might improve self-regulation of milk usage amongst the student body because of distaste for these alternatives.

- **Action:** The Services Officer may buy in UHT milk and milk powder to supplement the Milk Maids delivery. She may also wish to draw up signs reminding people to regulate their milk usage.

3. **Themed Buttery Nights (Cleodie)**

- **Proposition:** There should be themed nights in the buttery once per term to increase diversity in the food served. The food would be international and would cover a range of themes.

- **Discussion:**

- a) The buttery, by their own initiative, are preparing a themed night on 06/05/13. The Services Officer and the exec will look into the success of this evening.
- b) Themed formals already exist and, therefore, the consensus was that the focus should be on the buttery.
- c) The idea was raised that there could be weekly themed night- 'Themed Thursdays'- as well as a bigger event once per term. The exec would provide money for decorations for the larger event to make it special. This was met with approval.
- **Action:** The Services Officer will look into the logistics of a weekly themed night by liaising with the buttery. There will also be inquiries into making a once per term special, themed food event in the buttery.
- 4. **LCR Equipment (Kiri)**
 - **Proposition:** Replacing mugs and spoons with recyclable cups and stirrers.
 - **Discussion:**
 - a) It was put forward that there is currently a problem with getting people to wash up their mugs after they have finished the drinks in the LCR. The motion was tabled with a view of solving this problem by getting people to throw their cups in the bin. That way, the LCR would be tidier and people would have clean cups for their drinks.
 - b) Environmental concerns were raised against the proposition.
 - c) It was argued that providing cups would not solve the problem as people would not put their cups in the bin after they finished them. This point triggered the further discussion below about the tidiness of the LCR.
 - d) It was suggested that buying more mugs would reduce the problem of cups not being clean for use. Against this point it was argued that having a limited number of mugs provided an incentive for people to wash up. There was support for this point.
 - **Action:** For the time being there will not be a switch to recyclable cups, nor will more mugs be bought.
 - **Problem:** In the course of the above discussion, the general issue as to the tidiness of the LCR was raised. It was felt by all that some action needed to be taken to improve the state that the room is left in by the student body.
 - **Discussion**
 - a) A range of measures for dealing with people not leaving the LCR in the state that they found it in were tabled. They included: increasing the number of signs reminding people to tidy up; banning people who repeatedly left the room in a mess; an honesty box; and a college rota for tidying the LCR.
 - b) The suggestion of putting up signs around the LCR, especially on the door and coffee tables, gathered the most support.
 - **Action:** The Services Officer will look into creating signs to put around the LCR.
- 5. **Subject Reps (Aimee)**
 - **Objective:** Select subject representatives for contested subjects.

- **Discussion:** Many of the committee had not had the chance to read the blurbs of the candidates putting themselves forward. They did not feel like they were in a position to make a selection.
 - **Action:** A vote by email will take place by midnight of 04/05/13. Emails will be sent to the Academic Affairs Officer.
6. **Constitutional Amendments (Harry/ Ben)**
- **Proposition:** Renaming the Welfare Officer and Women's Officer roles as 'Welfare and Men's Officer', 'Welfare and Women's Officer'.
 - **Discussion:**
 - a) The committee agreed in the previous meeting that the roles should be renamed. Further discussion was sought as to the precise naming of the roles and the opinions of the current Welfare and Women's Officers.
 - b) There needs to be a consistent male presence in the welfare role. Up until last year, the Welfare Officer role has been female dominated. The applicants for the welfare team this year are also mainly female. Recognition was shown that some welfare issues could require a male welfare officer.
 - c) Concerns were raised that the symmetry of the proposed names would limit the difference in the roles with regard to the feminism aspect of the proposed 'Welfare and Women's Officer'. Conversely, it was argued that the symmetry in the roles promoted equality- the chief aspect of feminism.
 - d) The current Women's Officer is happy to take on a large welfare role this year with regard to the proposed change in the role. However, she felt that she had been elected as a Women's Officer and not a welfare Officer so she will approach the role from two dimensions.
 - e) Support was given to the creation of an optional non-voting 'Women's Rep' to sit below the Welfare and Women's Officer. They would, if appointed by the Women's Officer, have a direct interest in promoting feminism within college.
 - f) There was discussion as to how an amendment would be tabled. Nothing conclusive was decided.
7. **Marriage Formal (Rebecca)**
- Arrangements for the Marriage Formal were confirmed. Responsibility was given to Rebecca and Ollie to finalise details.
8. **Garden Party (Rebecca)**
- There will not be a UCS Garden Party in May Week 2013.
 - The possibility of an unofficial event was discussed.
9. **Website (Jenny/ Kiri)**
- **Feedback system for Formal Hall-** the idea of an online system for rating the standard of food in formal hall was raised. It seemed to gather support.
 - **Facebook Page-** A motion for creating a UCS facebook page was tabled. Concerns about spam were felt to outweigh the benefits increased communication. There will not be a UCS page. 9 votes against the page, 2 votes in favour, 1 abstention.
 - **Clareification Online-** It was suggested that the issues of Clareification could be added to the UCS website. Concerns about privacy were raised. The editor of Clareification, Matt Hempstead, will be invited to next week's meeting to discuss the issue further.

- **Updating Interview Accounts-** The interview accounts published on the UCS website are out of date. It was agreed that the new subject reps would be asked to provide a testimony of their interviews to be published on the website. Aimee will organise this.
 - **Home Page-** Everyone supported having news and calendar sections on the UCS homepage. An alumni section was also tabled. There will be further discussion as to content of this section.
 - **Profiles-** UCS exec members will update their profile information. It will include a few lines about their individual interests as well as the role.
10. **Creative Writing Society (Ollie)**
- **Proposition:** To fund the new creative writing society on a speech by speech basis.
 - **Discussion:** This specific issue raised wider issues about funding for speech based societies. This will be discussed with the financial tutor and as a separate point at an executive meeting.
11. **Minutes (Jenny)**
- **Objective:** Ascertain the executive's position regarding reserved and unreserved minutes.
 - **Discussion:**
 - a) It was felt that the executive must be as open as is possible in publishing the minutes of their meetings.
 - b) Issues pertaining to individual members of college or societies will not be disclosed.
 - c) If a member of the exec tabling an issue to be put on the agenda feels that it is particularly contentious or meets the criteria above, they can request that the issue be put in reserved minutes. They will have to justify this request and the committee must vote to support non-disclosure.
 - **Action:** Minutes will be published in the weekly bulletin.
12. **Matters Arising**
- **Charity Officer-** It was expressed that a member of college wished to address the executive with a view to creating a voting Charity Officer position on the UCS Committee. They will be invited to make a presentation to the committee at next week's meeting. All of the committee were in favour of allowing this person to make their presentation.
 - **Clareification Online-** The editor of Clareification will be invited to next week's committee meeting.
 - **The financial situation of a College Society.**
 - **Website.**

Meeting Concluded