

UCS Committee 2013-2014
Colony Meeting Room 1
26.10.2013

Present

- Harry Peto
- Jenny Boddy
- Ollie Russell
- Robin Elliott
- Cleodie Swire
- Fingal Plumpton
- Aimee Hesketh
- Clare Lewis
- Rebecca Harris
- Dylan Pritchard
- Kiri Koumi

1. Oriel Exchange (Harry)

- **Objective:** Inform the committee about the arrangements for the upcoming Oriel Exchange.
- **Discussion:**
 - a) Harry will let people know whether they have a place on the exchange this weekend. 18 pairs applied to go on the exchange.
 - b) Oriel will be paid one sum by the UCS for this exchange (individuals will pay the UCS). The same procedure will apply for the return exchange in Lent.
 - c) Payment needs to be in early, ideally by this Wednesday.
- **Action:** Harry will conduct the ballot to determine who goes on the exchange this weekend. He will then send out a final email to them informing them about the final costs of the trip and how payment will be sought. The deadline for payment will be 30/10/13

2. Vegetarian Formal (Cleodie)

- **Objective:** Discuss dates for a vegetarian formal
- **Discussion:**
 - a) The head of the catering department is happy to run a vegetarian formal this term.
 - b) The UCS is meant to run two vegetarian formal per term.
 - c) Only vegetarian food will be served at the formal.
 - d) In order to do two vegetarian formals this term, one formal would need to take place in the next fortnight. It is likely that there will have already been significant bookings for the dates in the next fortnight. It would be unfair to impose a vegetarian formal on people that have already booked and haven't chosen vegetarian food.
 - e) Need to ensure that any dates for vegetarian formal do not clash with dates for Christmas formal

- **Action:** Cleodie and Fingal will look for dates this term where nobody has already booked formal. They will also make enquiries as to the dates of Christmas formals to ensure that they do not pick a date which clashes. Next term there will be two vegetarian formals organised.
- 3. Charity Status of the UCS (Ollie)**
 - **Objective:** Inform the committee about the Bursar's suggestion that the UCS seek charitable status
 - **Discussion:**
 - a) The new Bursar thinks that the UCS may need to register as a charity. He thinks this because the UCS currently has a gross income which is over £10,000 per year.
 - b) If the UCS income is over £25,000 exact accounts will need to be published and the UCS would need to employ an accountant to do them.
 - c) Currently the UCS is getting the benefits of being a charity; it may have to register charitable status to retain these benefits.
 - d) Constitution needs to be checked for compatibility with charity status.
 - **Action:** The Bursar will be making further enquiries into whether the UCS needs to seek charity status including discussing the subject with the former bursar.
- 4. Blurred Lines (Harry)**
 - **Objective:** Decide whether an open meeting needs to be held to discuss the possibility of setting a political policy of banning the song 'Blurred Lines' from being played in Cellars.
 - **Discussion:**
 - a) There has been discussion on the Clare Women's Discussion Facebook Group about whether or not Clare should take a political stand on the song Blurred Lines and ban it from being played in Cellars. The song has attracted controversy because of its link to rape culture.
 - b) Strong views were expressed on the facebook both in support of a ban and against a ban. It was felt, therefore, that it would be inappropriate for the UCS exec to take a decision before a) arranging an open meeting on the topic and b) if requested allowing the discussion to be taken to a referendum.
 - c) The issue of 'triggering' was raised. This is the possibility of the song leading victims of rape/ sexual assault to mentally revisit their attack. If an instance of this occurred it was deemed that it would be appropriate for the committee to insist that the song was banned.
 - d) The open meeting was proposed because it was felt that all of the student body should be consulted if the UCS were to take a political stand with regard to the song.
 - e) It was proposed that the open meeting should be either directly before or after an open meeting on reform of the balloting system.
 - f) 11 committee members voted in favour of holding an open meeting, 0 voted against and 1 abstained.
 - **Action:** Harry will book a room for an open meeting to be held on the topic in the next two weeks.
- 5. Buttery Feedback (Cleodie)**
 - **Objective:** Ask the committee for recommendations to be included on the buttery questionnaire.

- **Discussion:**
 - a) Could add in a question regarding extending the time that buttry is open.
 - b) This could lead to an increase in food charges or KFC.
 - c) Unlikely to be popular with the catering team.
- 6. Pool Table (Kiri)**
 - **Objective:** Provide feedback from Kiri's investigations into replacing the pool table
 - **Discussion:**
 - a) A new pool table would cost approximately £11000
 - b) The current pool table, although damaged is not in need of urgently being replaced.
 - c) Suggestion that the UCS could offer to replace the pool table at the end of the year if there is money in the UCS budget which is spare.
 - d) The Bar have a box of cue tips which can be used when playing pool
- 7. Auditing (Ollie)**
 - **Objective:** Inform the committee about the Bursar's desire for the UCS to be audited
 - **Discussion:**
 - a) Auditing is where someone checks an organisations accounts and inventory to ensure that everything adds up.
 - b) The bursar would like to audit Clare Ents and the bar.
 - c) Clare Ents will be audited one year, the bar will be audited the next and the year after no group will be audited. This cycle will be repeated.
 - d) Any individual interested in auditing from a career perspective will be allowed to shadow the auditor whilst they complete the audit.
 - **Action:** The UCS exec were happy for the bursar to extend his audits to Clare Ents and the Bar. The bursar will be informed that the committee are happy.
- 8. MCR (Harry)**
 - **Objective:** Clarify the UCS position on graduate students using the Hepple Room
 - **Discussion:**
 - a) In Easter term it was agreed that graduate students would be allowed to use the Hepple Room if they desperately needed access to a printer in old court.
 - b) There have been reports of graduate students regularly using the Hepple Room as a place to relax. There have also been complaints that undergraduate students have been unable to access the computers in the Hepple Room because they are being used by graduates.
 - c) The committee are unhappy about the amount of graduate use of the Hepple Room and unless the use drops to the agreed terms between the UCS and the MCR the UCS will take moves to stop graduate access to the room.
 - d) Discussion was also held about whether or not to have an honesty box in the LCR for graduates to use when they get an LCR coffee. It was decided that not enough graduates used the LCR to warrant an honesty box.
 - **Action:** Harry will email the MCR President asking him to send out an email to graduates telling them only to use the Hepple Room if they are in urgent need of a printer. If this email is not sent out and a drop in graduate usage is not seen then action will be taken to block graduate card access to the Hepple Room.
- 9. Network Platforms (Kiri)**
 - **Objective:** Clarify the UCS position on using network platforms such as Agora
 - **Discussion:**

- a) A number of committee members have received emails from network platform companies claiming that they can offer a service which makes it easier to run the JCR.
 - b) The emails detailing what a network platform is are unclear.
 - c) Currently all members of the JCR are ignoring the emails.
- **Action:** The 2013-2014 exec will not use any network platform service.

10. Matters Arising

- **Christmas formal-** Christmas formal will be publicised by both the UCS exec and the catering team this year.
- **Ballot-** Robin has received some feedback on the proposed changes to the balloting system. He would like the UCS to hold an open meeting to discuss the changes. This open meeting will coincide with the meeting on blurred lines.
- **4th year rep-** there has been one response to Kiri's email asking for applications for the 4th year rep position. An email to 4th years will be sent out informing them that an online election will take place this Thursday
- **BOP-** the rota for the 27/10/13 bop is currently being drawn up. Most of the committee will be working the bop except Fingal and Dylan who have other commitments at the bop.