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Minutes of the
DCAC Open Meeting
Tuesday 28th April 2009 - 7pm

Prepared for:
Downing JCR committee 2008/09

Prepared by:
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I. Present

Katie Marshall (DCAC/JCR President), Katie Brown (JCR Vice President), Matt Halford (JCR Treasurer), Brett Kennedy (MCR co-President), Davy Kurniawan (MCR Treasurer)

II. Apologies

Camila Aguirre (MCR co-President 08-09)

III. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

- Minutes approved by unanimous vote.

IV. DCAC President's Report

- An update on the state of the Ball was given, stating how it is going well and is on schedule, with far greater than expected ticket sales.
- The issue with slow DCAC reimbursements has now been dealt with thanks to Matt, and also everyone was reminded that the DCAC depreciation fund is available for investment in college equipment that will last for more than a few years, such as sports kit.
- The DCAC is currently looking into improving the gym, with card access and adding in more equipment such as free weights.

V. DCAC Motions

a) TV Room Renovation

- The general consensus was that the TV room has a lot of potential, but is underused as it is currently not that nice. There was much debate over the vagueness of the motion and what exactly renovate would mean. The vote was in the end cast to see if the DCAC wanted a large renovation, with the specifics to be clarified at a later date.

VOTE:

49 in favour

0 against

1 abstention

50 votes cast therefore quorum was reached

MOTION PASSED

b) DVD player for TV room

- While there is a large renovation planned, the idea of this motion was to add some functionality to the TV room as soon as possible, by purchasing a DVD player for the room using money from the DCAC depreciation fund. There was some discussion of the presence of a DVD player possibly causing conflict, but this was generally dismissed. The issue of possible theft was also brought up, and so mechanisms for securing the equipment should be looked into.

VOTE:

46 in favour

2 against

5 abstentions

53 votes cast therefore quorum was reached

MOTION PASSED

c) Set Top Box for TV room

- As above, the idea of this motion was to add some functionality to the TV room by getting a working set top box. It was pointed out that it will be necessary to have one for the TV to work at all when the switchover to digital TV happens. It was also pointed out that there are currently 2 set top boxes in the room, but without functioning remotes. The vote was then cast such that those in favour were in favour of getting a working set top box either by purchasing a new one or purchasing/fixing/finding remote controls for the current ones.

VOTE:

46 in favour

1 against

8 abstentions

55 votes cast therefore quorum was reached

MOTION PASSED

d) Downing Horticultural Society

- Some students wish to set up a horticultural society for all to join, and affiliate it with DCAC. After speaking to the Domus Bursar about it, he has said that he already has in mind some land that could be used. The society would only request around £5-10 for seeds and gardening tools.

VOTE:

52 in favour

0 against

1 abstention

53 votes cast therefore quorum was reached

MOTION PASSED

e) Bar Proposal for Higher Administration Charge

- The current bar agreement with DCAC affiliated societies, is a 5% administration charge. It was argued that this is not a fair representation of the service provided, with all purchasing, cocktail tasting, refrigeration and transport of alcohol done by the bar. Arguing against the motion, it was said that not all those services are needed or asked for, yet college forces societies to buy alcohol through the bar and let the bar only have control of it at all times. From this it was argued that why then should they have to pay

more when they have no competition to turn to, it is basically societies subsidising the bar. It was conceded that it may well be in effect societies subsidising the bar, but it was then asked if that is such a bad thing. The increase in cost will be small for individual societies but the total gain to the bar could well help it to break even and keep the bar in student hands.

VOTE:

32 in favour

14 against

9 abstentions

52 votes cast therefore quorum was reached

MOTION PASSED

All motions can be found in full in the appendix.

VI. Any other business

- No other business

Appendix

A1. Motion - TV Room Renovation

Proposed by Rachel Easton

Seconded by Anthony Hitchin

-The JCR notes that:

- The state of the TV room is poor, very poor indeed.

-The JCR believes that:

- We would benefit greatly if it were renovated. Alas!

A2. Motion - DVD player for TV Room

Proposed by Andrew Featherstone

Seconded by Pete Roth

-The JCR notes that:

- There isn't a DVD player in the TV room located on S staircase.

-The JCR believes that:

- Purchasing a DVD player would improve the communal facilities in College.

-The JCR resolves that:

- An inexpensive DVD player and necessary cabling should be purchased and installed in the TV room before the end of full term.

A3. Motion - Set Top Box for TV Room

Proposed by Andrew Featherstone

Seconded by Pete Roth

-The JCR notes that:

- The two set-top boxes in the TV room located on S staircase don't have functioning remote controls and neither can be fully operated from the box itself.

-The JCR believes that:

- A single replacement box would be inexpensive and improve the communal facilities in college.

-The JCR resolves that:

- An inexpensive set-top box for watching FreeView channels and necessary cabling should be purchased and installed in the TV room before the end of full term.

A4. Motion - Downing College Horticultural Society

Proposed by Jack Rivlin

Seconded by Patrick Sheriff

-The DCAC notes that:

- Downing College Horticultural Society has been informally formed by members of the DCAC.
- Downing College Horticultural Society allows all members of College to enjoy the growing and consumption of fruit and vegetables.

-The DCAC believes that:

- Affiliation to the DCAC would allow the Downing College Horticultural Society to pursue its aims of bringing the joys of horticulture to more students in the College and allow them to apply for funding to buy packets of seeds and gardening tools.

-The DCAC motions to:

- Formally establish the Downing College Horticultural Society as a DCAC affiliated society.
- Seek to provide the Downing College Horticultural Society with some funding if available for this year (since budget has already been set), with normal applications occurring in subsequent years.

A5. Motion - Bar Proposal for Higher Administration Charge

Proposed by Craig Sawyer

Seconded by Mark Piper

-The JCR believes that:

- The current agreement between the JCR Bar and DCAC Affiliated Societies of a 5% Administration Charge on all beverages and other supplies is not a fair representation of the true value of the service provided.

-The JCR resolves that:

- It should be increased to 10% in order that it may be brought into line with the more recent MCR agreement and act to support the Bar more fairly.