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Minutes of the
DCAC Open Meeting
Monday 2nd October 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)

III. DCAC President's/Treasurer's Report

- Matt has sent round the proposed DCAC budget, the 08/09 budget was miscalculated (overestimated) so it is based upon the 07/08 one. This is why funding to some societies (eg. Danby) has been slightly cut.
- Dora (Women's football team captain) brought up the fact that she did not get funding for kit, matt said this could come out the depreciation fund.
- The budget was approved by unanimous vote.

IV. Heating Times

- Due to the government's carbon reduction commitment, Downing, like many other institutions is required to reduce its emissions in three categories: Gas used on site, indirect emissions (eg. electricity) and those due to transport of staff.
- At the moment college is behind targets and is doing everything it can to meet them to avoid a hefty fine. As part of this initiative, the time heating is on for is due to be cut. Currently it is on when it is deemed to be cold from 7am to 11am and again from 2pm to 10:30pm, College wants to cut this by three hours and the DCAC needs to decide when we would least mind the cuts.
- There are other measures being taken such as heating to the offices and all fellows' rooms being switched off at weekends, and other known problems with heating in certain accommodation will be sorted. There is not much of a budget for insulation, but some temporary solutions will be installed if necessary.
- Two options for morning and evening heating times were given to try out (subject to change if they aren't working out). 8am to 10am in the morning and 3:30pm to 10:30pm in the evening were the times unanimously voted for:

Morning	Evening
44 for 8-10	44 for 3:30-10:30
3 for 8:30-10:30	5 for 2:30-9:30
4 abstentions	2 abstentions

V. Relocation of gym

- The current gym is situated in the Singer building but can no longer stay there due to planning restrictions (and it is an inconvenient location anyway with little room for equipment). College are going to relocate it to where the squash courts are, the DCAC has to decide whether it would like to keep a court or use both for the gym.

- They are currently being used for storage of building materials and are not in great condition, also they are not full size so may not be able to be used in league matches - however one could still be useful for practice.
- At the moment the squash club gets free practices paid for by College at Kelsey Ker-ridge, however on review of this it appeared that the benefit was only really being used by two postgraduates so College is going to stop paying for this. However, any money needed for practices and matches can be applied for from the DCAC just like basketball and other sports.
- With a bigger gym, the chance for new equipment comes in, and this could potentially be bought using the DCAC depreciation fund.
- A vote was taken, and unanimously it was decided that having a larger gym would be more beneficial to most people:

39 for gym in 2 courts

8 for gym in 1 court

4 abstentions

VI. DCAC Motions

a) Downing Dance Society

- A new dance society has been created that wishes to affiliate with DCAC, doing different dances each week, this week it was “thriller” and there are plans for irish dancing, beginner ballet and many more. There are currently about 35-40 members but more people are getting keen every day. They would look to apply for a minimal amount of funding from DCAC.

VOTE:

52 in favour

0 against

0 abstentions

52 votes cast therefore quorum was reached

MOTION PASSED

b) Ball charity donation increase

- The ball was financially very successful making a profit in the region of £10,000 of which most would get passed on to the next ball. Currently £1200 of this is due to be donated to the Great Ormond Street Hospital, but the motion states that it is believed that this could be increased to £2000 without any detriment to future balls.

VOTE:

52 in favour

0 against

0 abstentions

52 votes cast therefore quorum was reached

MOTION PASSED

c) Whisky Society

- A new whisky society for people who appreciate whisky or would just like to try it wants to be established and affiliated with DCAC. They would apply for a small budget that would not go to towards purchase of alcohol.

VOTE:

38 in favour

3 against

7 abstentions

48 votes cast therefore quorum was reached

MOTION PASSED

d) Paddock Lighting

- The motion states how it would be safer in College if the paddock was better lit at night - for example there have been cases of homeless people sneaking past the porters and sleeping in the grounds.
- However there are already lights there which seem to be well covered, also college is trying to save lots of energy and would have to get very specific types of lights - and there could possibly be planning permission issues with installing new ones.
- As such, the motion was unanimously voted to be amended to general if the DCAC is generally dissatisfied with the state of lighting on the paddock so that this can be presented to College and they can do what they can.

VOTE:

36 in favour

6 against

4 abstentions

46 votes cast therefore quorum was reached

MOTION PASSED

All motions can be found in full in the appendix.

VII. Any other business

- No other business

Appendix

A1. Motion - Dance Society

Proposed by Erin Young

Seconded by Sophie Allweis

-The DCAC notes that:

- There is no dance society at Downing College; there has been a lot of interest in forming a dance society.

-The DCAC believes that:

- Affiliation to the DCAC would allow a dance society to give Downing students a fun and sociable opportunity for exercise. It would also allow the society to apply for funding for equipment.

-The DCAC resolves that:

- The Downing Dance Club should be formally established as a DCAC affiliated society.

A2. Motion - Ball charity donation increase

Proposed by Andrew Featherstone

Seconded by Qiming Liu

-The DCAC notes that:

- The 2009 May Ball was financially very successful.

-The DCAC believes that:

- The charity donation to the Great Ormond Street Hospital could be increased without detriment to the success of future balls.

-The DCAC resolves to:

- Increase the donation to ~£2000.

A3. Motion - Whisky Society

Proposed by Brett Kennedy

Seconded by Davy Kurniawan

-The DCAC notes that:

- There exists numerous members of DCAC, both graduates and undergraduates, who enjoy and appreciate fine whisky.

-The DCAC believes that:

- The establishment of the Downing College Whisky Appreciation Society will provide a platform for such DCAC members to meet and explore their interest.
- The establishment of the Downing College Whisky Appreciation Society will help disseminate knowledge about whisky to non-whisky drinkers.

-The DCAC resolves that:

- The Downing College Whisky Appreciation Society be formally affiliated to DCAC.
- The Downing College Whisky Appreciation Society may apply for DCAC funding for this academic year (2009/10) provided that such monies are not to be used for the provision of alcohol.

A4. Motion - Paddock lighting

Proposed by Sophie Allweis

Seconded by Erin Young

-The JCR notes that:

- Many students have expressed that they would feel safer if the area of trees at end of the paddock was better lit at night.

-The JCR believes that:

- There is no reasonable justification for this motion having been rejected in the past. Lights would not have to interfere with the space on the paddock, but just be around the trees. Even though college security is very good and any attack of course extremely unlikely, the front gates are open until midnight, by which time it is pitch black, the porters could easily miss someone coming in if they were busy, and it is possible to get into college through some of the side gates of houses on Lensfield road.

-The JCR Resolves that:

- College would be safer with lights around the trees on the paddock and that this is of great enough importance to justify the small resulting expense.