

DCAC Budget Proposal

For Year End September 2006

DCAC Senior Treasurer: Dr Marijn Ford

DCAC Junior Treasurer: Emile Axelrad

DCAC President: Katrina Beechey

MCR President: Richard Wilkinson

MCR Treasurer: Saffron Wyse

Acknowledgements

The DCAC/JCR Treasurer and the DCAC Committee would particularly like to thank Jean Ewens, Kay Martin and Simon Billington, for all their help throughout the year, which has been invaluable and is greatly appreciated.

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List of defined terms used in this document
Detailed information of DCAC Income
Detailed information of DCAC Expenditure

Executive Summary

The aim of the DCAC budget is to provide for the necessary expenses of both the MCR and JCR and give financial support to the various DCAC Clubs and Societies, to the best of its abilities. This budget introduces more transparent methods of funding sports clubs and societies.

Since the last academic year we have taken the decision to remove Blues funding. This was not considered compatible with the aims of the DCAC, which are to maximise participation in all aspects of College life, rather than to support only a handful of students.

Reports

DCAC President

This year has seen the JCR and MCR working together closely – more regularly, more professionally and with more success. We have held many college-wide social events together, and this is the first year in which a formal DCAC Entertainments Society will begin operating. The DCAC is now coordinating events with Bar Committee, and underwriting and risk-managing the Downing Ball to allow it to continue. Good progress has been made by our representatives all College Committees, including successfully putting the case for extending the library opening hours to 2am.

Sports teams have been going from strength to strength. There are now 23 different Downing sports teams competing against other Colleges in various leagues and cuppers. New teams such as lacrosse and women's badminton have already become well-established, with an extremely good uptake of all sports by freshers.

Academic societies are increasingly popular. These are bringing together students of similar disciplines to dine with guest speakers and to take trips out of Cambridge to museums, churches and Parliament. History of Art students are now included in the Maitland Society; and following our campaign to "Bring a Society Back To Life", the Babel English Society is actively holding events again.

MCR President

The most important use of the MCR's money is in bringing people together. With only 40% of the graduate community living in college owned accommodation, and with those that do not necessarily living on the domus, fostering the college community takes more effort than it does in the JCR. Roughly 20% of our budget goes on social events and one of the main targets of this year's committee has been to start a weekly MCR evening (not including formal halls). The majority of the events we put on cost no money, but we do partially subsidise some of them. In the past year we have used our funding to pay for a string quartet at our mini ball and a Ceilidh band at Burns night.

We try to keep the variety of events we organise diverse to attract different members of the MCR to each event. Aside from the college funded dinners and the big occasions mentioned above, we have also put money towards events such as cheese and chocolate tastings (these were separate events!), poetry and music evenings, and movie nights. We also used our yearly funding to pay for a summer garden party.

Freshers' week is the single largest social expenditure. We put on a variety of different events during the week, ranging from pub quizzes, city tours, and international food evenings, to the rather more tiring end-of-week-event with the JCR. The only item we subsidised in freshers' week, however, was a BBQ on the first two evenings. All other events broke even.

We also spent money on various welfare classes and products. The welfare officer always has available to all MCR members a collection of condoms, rape alarms and pregnancy test kits. We put on a very well attended massage class, and in conjunction with the JCR we held a first aid course and a self-defence course.

Another large chunk of our funding goes on improving and maintaining the MCR Room on S staircase. We have a Sky subscription that includes the sports channels, which costs us about £2,500 a year. The MCR is often full during any big sporting event (often including JCR members and the occasional fellow as well). We have daily newspapers and a constant supply of free tea and coffee available. We have tried to improve and add to the MCR room this year. We have purchased a table football table, a Playstation, and are about to have the sofas re-upholstered. There are also administration costs such as paying for the software licenses for the computer in the MCR office, photocopying etc.

DCAC Investment Fund

This year the DCAC has removed all assets (£112,693.75) from the College Amalgamated Investment Fund after receiving advice that the DCAC has no powers of investment.

In Easter Term a vote of DCAC members on a variety of suggestions (solicited from both the JCR and MCR) highlighted several spending priorities for the Investment Fund. The aim was to provide sustainable assets from which students would significantly benefit.

Approximately £40,000 is being spent on several projects. Already in place is a new basketball net on the sports courts. Upgrading the Party Room infrastructure is a major and necessary expense which, when completed in January, will include an outdoor terrace and barbeque area in addition to a new 'DCAC Room' which will be open every day for all students. Other smaller purchases include a portable piano for the Jazz Band and Music Society. Approximately £8000 was used to write off losses from the last Downing Ball (Bohème).

A constitutional change to confer power of investment to the DCAC is being proposed in November 2005. Once the constitution is changed, the DCAC plans to:

1. Set aside £2000 in a high-interest bank account as a Ball Contingency Fund. This can be topped up in future if necessary but by carefully managing the Ball liabilities we do not anticipate the DCAC being financially exposed for significantly more than this amount.
2. With all remaining money (approximately £60000), repurchase investment units in the College Amalgamated Investment Fund.

DCAC Underwriting Downing Ball

Following the losses incurred by the last Ball (Bohème), the DCAC is now financially responsible for this year's Downing Ball (ÆTHERIA). The DCAC Committee is working closely with the Ball Senior Committee to ensure that the DCAC's liability is minimised, hopefully to 0.

Income

Subscriptions

All members of the JCR and MCR are members of the DCAC. The DCAC receives from College a subscription rate per member. The standard rates have increased by RPIx (2.5%) to £52.82 for both undergraduates and fee-paying postgraduates, and to £17.60 for Final year medics. In view of the boathouse-cleaning program, the rate has been further increased by approximately £6.40 for each undergraduate and postgraduate, and approximately £2.06 for each Final year Medical student.

Therefore the unified subscription rate for undergraduates and postgraduates is £59.22 and £19.66 for Final year Medical students.

DCAC Subscription income = £ 35,531.28

College Amalgamated Investment Fund and Bank Interest

The assets of the DCAC are usually held in two interest-bearing forms: a Current Account and units in the College Amalgamated Investment Fund. Currently the proceeds from the sale of the units from the Investment Fund are being held on DCAC's behalf by Downing College in a low-interest Current Account.

The Current Account interest is budgeted, as last year at £50.

2005-2006 Nominal Interest On Assets Held on DCAC's behalf By Downing College = £4,000.00

Total Interest Received = £4,050.00

Donations

The College telephone campaign led to £508.65 being donated to the DCAC specifically for LBG-related spending. This money has been ring-fenced in the budget for use by the JCR LBG Officer and MCR Equal Opportunities Officer.

Donations = £508.65

Total DCAC Income = £40,089.93

Expenditure

Fixed Expenditure

The DCAC Committee has chosen to renew its subscription to Scudamore's Punt Hire Scheme for approximately £135. This scheme entitles all members of the college to use Scudamore's punts at a 50% reduction and has been exceptionally well used in the past with many hundreds of pounds saved by Downing College students during May Week alone.

○ Scudamore's Student Punt Scheme	£135.00
○ JCR Affiliation to CUSU	£2,576.00
○ MCR Affiliation to CUSU	£414.15
○ MCR Affiliation to Grad Union	£408.00

Total Fixed Expenses = **£3533.15**

Depreciation Fund

The *Depreciation Fund* is used for the purchase of items that will be used on a long-term basis and includes kit for DCAC clubs and equipment for DCAC societies. The figure of £6000 works well for the typical DCAC spending requirements. This year a maximum of 20% of the Depreciation Fund (£1,200) will be spent on kit for sports teams, which must last for three years or more. This year the Depreciation Fund represents 15% of the DCAC Income.

Depreciation Fund = **£6,000**

It is recognized that the JCR and MCR have different financial requirements and two separate grants have been setup to allow for this. The *JCR Grant* reflects those expenses that are specifically related to the JCR and are controlled without reference to the MCR, and vice-versa. Thereby the system is balanced to some extent.

MCR Grant

The successful administration of the MCR grant by the executive enables graduate life within college to be significantly enhanced. One of the primary benefits of the grant is that the MCR room can be equipped with Sky television and other facilities for entertainment and relaxation. The costs of the Sky subscription have risen by approximately 8% this year but this increase has been absorbed by the MCR grant. The cultural society, which has a fixed income of £500 every year, offers subsidies for groups of graduates to attend concerts and theatre trips. Together with the Entertainments Budget, these areas of investment on behalf of DCAC encourage the development of a thriving graduate community within Downing.

MCR Grant = **£4,150.00**

JCR Grant

The *JCR Initiatives Fund* was successfully used over the last year. The fund enables the JCR to be flexible in dealing with arising matters such as projects, which may not have been thought up at the time of the budget, and it allows discretionary expenditure on worthy, miscellaneous, JCR causes. Applications to the fund with a value of less than £100 can be decided upon by the JCR Committee, whilst those over £100 will require a JCR Motion to be passed. The expenditure of the *JCR Initiatives Fund* is inherently difficult to anticipate but a figure of £500 is deemed appropriate.

The *JCR Officers' Expenses* budget has been raised to £300 due to the increased size and activity of the committee. This budget provides for the large number of miscellaneous expenses that usually occur during the year.

The *JCR Communications* budget covers the cost of printing and photocopying in relation to advertising and publicity within the College. In addition, this budget provides funding for the upkeep of the JCR website. This year it will remain at £500.

The *JCR Welfare* budget stays constant at £200. This is usually used to provide subsidies to self-defense classes or first-aid tuition for students.

The *JCR TV Room* continues with a budget of £500. This figure covers the cost of replacement remotes and should provide some money to further improve and furnish the room.

JCR Grant = £2,000

Entertainments Budgets

A new DCAC Entertainments Society specifically to hold large events in College that both graduates and undergraduates are likely to attend has been created this year. A grant of £550 from the MCR 04/05 budget and £450 from the JCR 05/06 budget will provide the initial start-up funds. This Society should be self-sufficient, if not profit-generating and will be responsible for staging most ents during full Term.

The DCAC Entertainments Society should purchase new ents equipment using profits generated at events during the year. However, the replacement of broken or old ents equipment should continue to be covered by the DCAC Depreciation Fund.

The MCR is also able to provide graduates, the majority of whom are resident in Cambridge throughout holidays in addition to during term-time, with social events (such as bar nights) throughout the year. This is particularly important during the long vacation when the annual mini-ball is held.

- JCR Ents Budget = **£450**
- MCR Ents Budget = **£750**
- MCR Freshers' Week = **£1,900**
- MCR Summer Mini-Ball = **£900**

All DCAC funding is conditional on it not being used to pay for or subsidise the sale of alcohol.

Overall Entertainments Spending = **£4,000**

General Expenditure

Funding for The Griffin now stands at £700 to produce three issues per year.

Total General Expenditure = **£700.00**

Societies

DCAC affiliated societies include sports clubs, drama and music societies and subject-related societies and the DCAC provides funding for all of these.

This year welcomes a transparent new system of funding sports teams and societies.

The eligible expenses for DCAC funding of sports teams has been clearly defined and no money will be used to subsidise team meals or alcohol. This is due to the limited DCAC budget and the decisions on our spending priorities. The only exceptional sports club is the Boat Club. We have taken the decision to partly cover their huge insurance costs, and so the maximum available to the Downing College Boat Club will be £2500.

We do not expect the Boathouse Cleaning charge to increase above RPIx.

Academic societies will each receive a basic grant of £200. For each undergraduate in the relevant subjects covered by the society they will receive an additional £4. For each postgraduate they will receive an additional £3 (because only about 75% of postgraduates are fee-paying). The student numbers are determined at the start of the academic year from Tutorial Office data.

Society	Subjects Covered	Undergrads.	Postgrads.	Grant
Babel	English & MML	39	7	£377
Cranworth	Law	48	5	£407
Danby	Sciences & Maths	148	153	£1,251
Lord Guildford	Classics	14	1	£259
Maitland	History, History of Art, ASNaC	24	11	£329
Mathius	Economics, Land Economy	25	20	£360
Whitby	Medicine & Veterinary Medicine	49	51	£549

The final category of funding is for the arts societies. These will receive a fixed grant and we do not recommend significant changes in the future. These amounts were based on past allocations and current spending requirements by the societies.

- Downing Dramatics Society = **£500**
- Chapel Choir = **£500**
- Music Society = **£1,000**

Total Societies Expenditure = **£18,352.34**

Total DCAC Expenditure = £39,744.17

Full details and values of DCAC Expenditure can be found in Appendix Three.

Forecasted Surplus 04/05 (Contingency)

£ 845.76

Appendix One: Defined Terms

<i>DCAC</i>	Downing College Amalgamation Club (Comprising both the MCR and JCR)
<i>RPIx</i>	Retail Price Inflation (ex. mortgage rates)
<i>Reserve Fund</i>	Fund held in current account as annual reserve
<i>College Amalgamated Investment Fund</i>	Investment portfolio of all College interests
<i>Fixed Expenditure</i>	Expenditure varying only due to inflation and external changes
<i>General Expenditure</i>	Expenditure varying with need and policy
<i>CUSU</i>	Cambridge University Student Union
<i>GU</i>	The Graduate Union
<i>MCR Cultural Society</i>	Fixed income society that supports MCR Cultural events
<i>Freshers' Week</i>	Activities for first years in the first week of Michelmas Term
<i>Boathouse Cleaning Charge</i>	Income paid to the DCAC by Downing College specifically to pay a fixed contribution towards cleaning the boathouse.

Appendix Two: DCAC Income (Detailed)

Subscriptions:

The estimated student numbers for 2005-2006 are as follows:

Undergraduates:	399
Postgraduates (ex. Final year clinical medical students):	198
Final Year Clinical Medical Students	9

Subscriptions rates are as follows:

Student Subscription:	£59.22
Final Year Clinical Medical Students:	£19.66

Thus total subscriptions are

Undergraduates:	£23,628.78
Fee-Paying Postgraduates (ex. Final Year Clinical Medical Students):	£11,725.56
Final Year Clinical Medical Students:	£176.94

Total Subscription income: £35,531.28

Interest:

Current Account Interest:	£50.00
Interest from Debtors:	£4,000.00

£4,050.00

Donations:

For LBG-related spending	£508.65
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£508.65

Total Income:

Subscriptions:	£35,531.28
Interest:	£4,050.00
Donations:	£508.65

£ 40,089.93

Appendix Three: DCAC Expenditure (Detailed)

Fixed Expenditure:

Scudamore's Punt Hire Scheme	£135.00
JCR CUSU Affiliation	£2,576.00
MCR CUSU Affiliation	£414.15
GU Subscription	£408.00
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	£ 3,533.15

Depreciation Fund (15% of Income): **£6000**

Entertainments:

JCR Entertainments	£450.00
MCR Entertainments	£750.00
MCR Freshers' Week	£1,900.00
MCR Summer Mini-Ball	£900.00
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	£ 4,000.00

JCR Grant:

JCR Communications Budget	£500.00
JCR Officers' Expenses	£300.00
JCR Welfare Budget	£200.00
JCR TV Room Budget	£500.00
JCR Initiatives Fund	£500.00
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	£ 2,000.00

MCR Grant:

MCR TV Budget	£2,850.00
MCR Facilities	£800.00
MCR Cultural Society	£500.00
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	£ 4,150.00

General Expenditure:

Griffin	£700.00
	£700.00

Grants to Societies:

Athletics Club	£131.00
Babel Society (English & Languages)	£377.00
Badminton Club	£830.00
Men's Basketball Club	£1,240.00
Women's Basketball Club	£300.00
Boat Club	£2,500.00
(Boathouse Cleaning Charge	£3,839.34)
Chapel Choir	£500.00
Cranworth Society (Law)	£407.00
Cricket Club	£395.00
Danby Society (Sciences)	£1,251.00
Dance Society	£25.00
Downing Dramatics Society	£500.00
Fairtrade Society	£15.00
Men's Association Football Club	£300.00
Women's Association Football Club	£120.00
Hockey Club	£1170.00
Lacrosse Club	£50.00
Lord Guildford Society (Classics)	£259.00
Maitland Society (History)	£329.00
Mathius Society (Economics)	£360.00
Music Society	£1,000.00
Netball Club	£160.00
Pool Club	£250.00
Men's Rugby Football Club	£550.00
Squash Club	£190.00
Table Football Club	£30.00
Tennis Club	£200.00
Whitby Society (Medicine)	£549.00
Volleyball Club	£25.00
Cuppers Contingency Fund	£500.00

£ 18,352.34

GB/05/1312
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Total Expenditure:

Fixed Expenditure	£3,533.15
Depreciation Fund	£6,000.00
Entertainments	£4,000.00
MCR Grant	£4,150.00
JCR Grant	£2,000.00
General Expenditure	£700.00
Societies	£18,352.34
LBG Fund (Donation)	£508.65

£ 39,244.17

Forecasted surplus 05/06 (Contingency): **£ 845.76**

Appendix One:
Appendix Two:
Appendix Three: