

Royal College of Science Union

Minutes of the 1st Emergency Meeting of the General Committee

To be held at 18:00 on 9th January 2018 at the RCSU Office (Sherfield 214D)

Chair: Michael Edwards – RCSU President

Clerk: Michael Suarez– RCSU Honorary Secretary

Attendees:

- Michael Edwards – RCSU President (ME)
- Michael McGill – RCSU Honorary Junior Treasurer (MM)
- Michael Suarez – RCSU Honorary Secretary (MS)
- Ayush Dharap – RCSU Vice-President (Activities) (AD)
- Becky Neil – RCSU Vice-President (Operations) (BN)
- Abhijay Sood – RCSU Academic Affairs Officer (AS)
- Rohan Kamath – RCSU RAG Champion (RK)
- Shervin Sabeghi – RCSU Welfare Officer (SS)
- Pranavi Agarwal – RCSU Broadsheet Editor (PA)
- Ansh Bhatnagar – RCSU Science Challenge Chair (AB)
- Michael McGill – Maths Departmental Representative (MM)
- Michaela Flegrova – Physics Departmental Representative (MF)
- Lloyd James - Observer (LJ)

Apologies received from:

- Katerina Stavri – Chemistry Departmental Representative (KS)
- Alex Crew – RCSU Events Officer (AC)
- Oscar Scrivens – RCSU Publicity Officer (OS)

MEETING AGENDA:

A. The RCSU Governing Documents

Note from ME - The items of this agenda have been ordered in terms of the perceived difference of opinion on the development of the document.

a. **Regulation Four** - Meeting Standing Order

Noted: Clarification is needed.

Discussed: A RCSU policy Document should be written.

Resolved: This was passed unanimously

b. **Regulation Two** - Elections

Noted: The names in 2.3. and 2.4. should be corrected (AB).

Discussed: The names were corrected (ME).

Minutes
General Committee (Emergency Meeting)

Resolved: This was passed unanimously.

c. **Constitution**

Noted: A request was made that the Executive should be responsible for the final interpretation of the constitution rather than the President according to 15.4. (AB).

Discussed: It was clarified that college-wide it is policy that the president has ultimate responsibility for the society/CU and therefore it should stay the same. (LJ)

Resolved: The amendment request was dismissed.

Noted: A clarification for the “Emergency Action” in 8.4. was needed as well as the order of actions when needed. (SS) The following amendments were proposed:

8.4.2, appending: “where the committee may vote to approve or object these actions.”

8.4.2.a. creating subsection: “where a simple majority is required and the GenCom can superrule the Exec”.

Discussed: The GenCom is the sovereign body of the RCSU and decide the order of actions (LJ). The constitution should hold in all cases (AB).

Resolved: The amendment was accepted unanimously.

Noted: The amendment was proposed that in section 16.2. “Alterations to the constitutions should happen at a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority at a meeting of the GenCom.” (AB)

Discussed: The topic was raised as the current constitution was partially altered via email transfer with a two-week window for responses from GenCom members after having many minor and major meetings throughout the whole of first term (MM). It should nevertheless happen during meetings exclusively (AB).

Resolved: The amendment was accepted (7 for, 3 against, 0 abstain).

Constitution was accepted.

d. **Regulation One** - Officers and Representatives of the Union

Comment by clerk: Check that the sections overlap with the sections of the right roles as the version in the meeting and on the drive from the 2.1. seem to slightly differ.

Noted: 2.12.3. Responsibility to change the website should be in the hands of the Webmaster rather than the SciChal/ Broadsheet Chair. (AB)

Discussed: Each board head should be ultimately responsible for their section on the websites. (LJ)

Resolved: This amendment was dismissed.

Noted: 2.17.2. Insertion of “and partnership” after sponsorship for the role of SciChal Chair. (originally appending “if needed” was proposed, but dismissed) (AB)

Discussed: The necessity of the SciChal Chairs participation was highlighted by the treasurer (MM). The idea of a second SciChal Vice-Chair (PA) was dismissed due to the extra effort, but an appointed position was strongly considered (ME, AB). Future goals is to get more money from the FoNS as well as targeted partnership sponsors

Minutes
General Committee (Emergency Meeting)

for SciChal. This would then also free money up for other people's uses (MM, AB, LJ).

Resolved: This amendment passed unanimously and the creation of a policy document for the future handling of the SciChal board should be written, to clarify the roles and encourage participation of ordinary members to have "titled positions".

Noted: 2.5.1. SS complained that there is too much work for his role and that the appointment of a deputy welfare officer should be considered. (Amendment (i))

2.5.3 The amendment was proposed that the Event Officer should be part of the Welfare Board and share some of the responsibilities of the Welfare Officer (Amendment (ii) - AD)

Discussed: The Welfare Officer role currently holds more responsibilities than the AAO as it includes the whole responsibilities of events incl. Welfare Week and Sponsorships (SS). It was mentioned that the excess of work was perceived as a lot due to it being the first year of the WBRN's implementation (MM). Wellbeing DepReps should help out for the planning of Welfare Week (ME).

Resolved: Amendment (i) was rejected (2 for, 6 against, 2 abstain).

Amendment (ii) was accepted (9 for, 1 against, 0 abstain).

Extension of meeting by half an hour was passed 6 (for) to 4 (against).

Regulation passes (9 for, 1 against, 0 abstain).

e. **Regulation Three** - Composition of Committees

Noted: It was proposed to add an extra 5.2.5 OM to the colour committee.

Discussed: .

Resolved: The amendment was passed unanimously.

Noted: It was proposed to add the Events Officer to the Wellbeing Board in 8.4.

Discussed: .

Resolved: The amendment was passed unanimously.

Regulation Passes unanimously.