



Royal College of Science Union

Minutes of the 1st meeting of the General Committee

To be held at 18:30 on 25th October 2018 in RCSU Office (Sherfield 214D)

Attendants:

- Michael McGill - RCSU President (MM)
- Sulaimaan Mughal - RCSU Honorary Junior Treasurer (SM)
- Kaifeng Wei - RCSU Honorary Secretary, Clerk (KW)
- Rohan Kamath - RCSU Vice-President (Activities) (RK)
- Shervin Sabeghi - RCSU Vice-President (Welfare and Wellbeing) (SS)
- Tim Marley - PhySoc Department Rep(TM)
- Kathryn Plummer - Broadsheet Editor(KP)
- Michaela Flegrová - RCSU Vice-President (Education) (MF)
- Yizhou Yu - RCSU Vice-President (Operations) (YY)
- Yixuan Wang- Science Challenge Chair(YW)
- Junrui Wang - RAG Champion(JW)
- Seoyeon Lee -Biology Department Rep-Welfare (SL)
- Albert Muljono -Biology Department Rep-Academic (AM)
- Ivan Tang -RCSU Web Communication Officer(IT)
- Isabel Esain Garcia - BiochemSoc Department Rep-Academic(IEG)
- Catalina Costenco - BiochemSoc Department Rep-Welfare(CC)

Apologies and absentees: Many

Meeting starts at 18: 50

Chair: MM

Clerk: KW

A. President's Welcome

a. Introduction of new officers(Kathryn, Yixuan, and Junrui(who arrived late))

b. Importance of Slack

- Everyone should be able to access and use it as it's our main channel of communication;
- Aside: Change of Shervin's title: from VPWW to VPW, and 'Wellbeing' will be dropped(motion passed after voting)

c. Goals for the year

- The lack of students' awareness of RCSU needs to be changed

d. One-to-One meetings with all officers

- Potentially one-to-one should take place next week, a Google poll will be set up to arrange meetings.

B. Reports from Executive Officers

a. President: extra grant including £5000 from the faculty will be re-distributed, and spending proposals should be submitted

i. Update from Exec meeting

b. Treasurer:

i. Update from Clubs & Socs meeting: Positive outlook on the Clubs and Socs side with regards to sponsorship(especially for MathSoc),

- ChemSoc is organizing events including CV workshop and Christmas Dinner regularly. They are looking into organizing Christmas Dinner with BioSoc, whose funding is still an issue;
- PhySoc has been getting sponsorship and organizing events successfully despite the withdrawal of J.P.Morgan's sponsorship;

- Financial balance is around £5000 at the moment without grant; the loss from the lack of tickets sales for autumn ball and trampolining was reduced using strategies such as firesale and negotiation with the venue.

c. VPA

i. Update from Ents meeting

- Freshers events' review

ii. Freshers - What went well/badly

- Pub crawl was a success with good turn-out;
- Poor communication with the venue was experienced for Autumn ball organization;
- More social events(Curry nights) are to come;
- Lessons from past 'failures'(such as PhySoc's recent curry night with low turn-out): avoid Friday nights, early start, and finding good venues, and most importantly, the publicity.
- An inspiration for events and branding is Free Pizza at Queen's Lawn. Slight modification might be involved such as individual stalls for different faculties,
- Branding-wise, Isabelle suggested introduction of the Union and the Department's roles on the first day. As many RCSU representatives as possible should be allocated at different departments to increase visibility, which could start this year.
- The week from 5th-9th Nov would be a good time for committee members to introduce themselves during lectures to the freshers.
- Ethics of Autumn Ball are questioned, but we are looking to give back to the students by offering discount to early-bird tickets' holders for Ravel's ticket sale.

d. VPE&VPWW(VPW)

i. Update from Academic meeting

- Dep training will be held on 5th Nov, and it should be advertised in advance.
- Many positions in the election are expected to be filled up.
- A survey regarding personal tutoring will be sent out this weekend.

e. VPO

i. Update from Ops meeting

- Discussion with new SciChal has taken place and planning is ongoing.
- Likewise for Broadsheet.
- RK suggests breakdown of Broadsheet sections especially in the digital version.
- Broadsheets could be left in the library cafe for people to read, potentially in proper magazine stands.

C. A.O.B

a. Vice President (Welfare and Wellbeing) name change

- Done in the beginning, changed to VPW

b. Publicity

- Mistakes made: late start for publicity, poor planning of RCSU booklet ordering.
- Suggestions: better publicity on facebook groups, changing of printing company, including RCSU booklets in freshers' goodie boxes might be difficult.
- there could be a clearer events' timetable for freshers through coordination with dep socs, and clashes of events could be avoided.

c. Engagement levels

- Engagement levels could be improved by early events' planning; incentives should be given to committee members in the form of free drinks and/or free entry.

Meeting ends at 20:23