

Royal College of Science Union

Minutes of the 2nd meeting of the Science Challenge Committee

Held at 12:00 on 6th November 2014 at the RCSU Office (Sherfield 214D)

PRESENT:

- Serena Yuen – RCSU President (SY)
- James Badman – RCSU Honorary Junior Treasurer (JB)
- Philip Kent – RCSU Honorary Secretary (PK)
- Jonas de Beukelaer – RCSU Web Communications Officer (JdB)
- June Gan – RCSU Science Challenge Chair (JG)

APOLOGIES:

- Frederik Piech – RCSU Publicity Officer (FP)

ABSENT:

None

OBSERVERS:

None

Meeting opened at 12:00.

A. CHAIR'S WELCOME

RECEIVED: This item was verbally presented by JG.

NOTED:

1. JG welcomed everyone to the meeting.

B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING OF THE SCIENCE CHALLENGE COMMITTEE

RECEIVED: This item was verbally presented by JG.

RESOLVED:

- a. To pass the minutes.

C. MATTERS ARISING

RECEIVED: This item was verbally presented by JG.

NOTED:

2. Judges have been contacted and most obtained.
3. Everyone was thanked for being prompt at updating the Dropbox.
4. The venue for the Final is now booked.
5. PK has purchased the picture for the Science Challenge publicity materials.

D. TREASURER'S BUSINESS AND SC BUDGET

RECEIVED: This item was verbally presented by JB.

NOTED:

6. The Science Challenge is not to over-spend its overall budget. If one component is to overspend then other components must make up for it.
7. Sponsorship should still be found if possible. The RCSA have not provided any money this year, however if money is to be provided then it will be in a similar format to last year.
8. Imperial Hub is currently applying for funding to pay for its prize.

ACTION: SY to arrange meeting with RCSA.

E. JUDGES

RECEIVED: This item was verbally presented by JG.

NOTED:

9. The Science Challenge currently has three judges: Philip Moriarty as Video Judge; Mun Keet Looi from the Wellcome Trust as an Essay Judge; and Imperial Hub as an Essay Judge, represented by Ruth Whincup.
10. Lord Winston has not been able to secure any judges so far however is chasing up a contact at Queen Mary's.
11. JG has emailed an agent who represents four people however no reply has been received yet.
12. Ben Goldacre and Simon Singh have both said no, however Simon Singh may be interested in guest speaking in another year. Alice Roberts has also said no.
13. Melvin Bragg and Giles Newton both have wished to defer to next year.
14. Going forward, an external judge is likely no longer possible as Security need a list of judges by Monday, so internal judges should now be contacted. Examples could include Steve Cowley or Sue Gibson (also as a speaker).
15. Is it desired that FoNS speak? If no, it was thought to not be a huge issue but a guest speaker is necessary.
16. A non-FoNS judge was suggested as an interesting way to branch out the competition.
17. Imperial judges were deemed the best way forward.

ACTION: JG to produce list of Imperial judges by Friday.

F. WEBSITE

RECEIVED: This item was verbally presented by JG.

NOTED:

18. JG wished to formally apologise to JdB for the late notice.
19. PK and JG has set up the workflow side of the website, so only content and theme now needs updating.
20. Schools can be notified once the website is open.

ACTION: JG to send content to JdB.

G. PUBLICITY

RECEIVED: This item was verbally presented by JG with demonstrations.

NOTED:

21. The artwork samples were demonstrated from Dropbox.
22. Each piece of artwork was checked in turn.
23. The A4/A3 poster was noted to need a QR code, replace tinyurl with actual URL, replace RCS with RCSU, miscellaneous wording and sizing alterations, addition of All Faculties Welcome box, and the prize pot confirming before its been published.
24. TeachFirst are yet to pay and so potentially shouldn't be included just yet.
25. It was noted there was no needed for the IC logo.
26. The cover photo is too tall for Facebook but otherwise good, with the above amendments made.
27. It was suggested this could be used as a TV image.
28. The roller banner needs simplification to be used in all cases.
29. Two version were seen, the first with two cells was preferred.
30. The banner needs to be an InDesign document for correct printing.

ACTION: PK to InDesign the banner.

H. LAUNCH PROGRESS

RECEIVED: This item was verbally presented by JG.

NOTED:

31. Most work has now been completed. JG is preparing the PowerPoint.
32. Enquiries as to Swipecard Access and a few final invites have been made.
33. The President and Provost are still to be invited.
34. Two Heads of Department have said no.
35. Speeches are due to begin at 7:30 PM.

ACTION: JG to invite Alice Gast and James Stirling.

I. GUEST SPEAKER

RECEIVED: This item was verbally presented by JG.

NOTED:

36. Dame Julia Higgins has not yet replied.
37. Other speakers are needed as fallbacks.

ACTION: JG to continue chasing up.

J. PRIZE IDEAS

RECEIVED: This item was verbally presented by JG.

NOTED:

38. Going abroad is not an option due to financial constraints.
39. Professional flight simulator is as potential option.
40. It was argued is there a need for a large prize if there is already a large cash prize?
41. One option is an internship, all expenses paid, at the House of Lords.

K. PUBLICITY TACTICS

RECEIVED: This item was verbally presented by JG.

NOTED:

- 42. Posters can only go up 2 weeks in advance, however Facebook publicity can commence ASAP.
- 43. Television screens and tills around College can be set up too.
- 44. TV screens require 1080p (HD) in both portrait and landscape. Tills require 1024x768 resolution.
- 45. Other publicity sources can include the ICU President's email, Felix in both print and web, departmental emails.

ACTION: SY to talk to other faculties.
ACTION: JG to talk to departmental officers to send out lists.
ACTION: PK to arrange adverts on TVs.
ACTION: PK to arrange adverts in Felix.
ACTION: FP to put up posters.

L. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 46. David Nutt (former Government advisor) could be a potential guest speaker or judge.

Meeting closed at 13:10.