

Royal College of Science Union

**Minutes of the 2nd meeting of the Operations Board**

Held at 17:00 on 17th November 2016 at the RCSU Office (Sherfield 214D)

**PRESENT:**

- Lloyd James – RCSU President (LJ)
- Griffin Farrow – RCSU Honorary Junior Treasurer (PY)
- Sina Lari – RCSU Vice-President (Operations) (SL)
- Michael Edwards – RCSU Honorary Secretary (ME)
- Kate Chandler – RCSU Welfare Officer (KC)
- Rani Mehta – RCSU Science Challenge Chair (RM)
- Zack Xiang – RCSU Web Communications Officer (ZX)

**APOLOGIES:**

- Sinziana Giju – RCSU Academic Affairs Officer (SG)
- Ben Sharpless – RCSU Broadsheet Editor (BS)

**ABSENT:**

**OBSERVERS:**

*Meeting opened at 17:05.*

**A. Approval of the Minutes of Last Meeting**

**RECEIVED:** ME presented this item.

**NOTED:**

1. No issues were raised with the minutes and there were no matters arising.

**RESOLVED:**

- a. To accept the minutes.

**B. Vice President (Operations) Report**

**RECEIVED:** SL delivered this item.

**NOTED:**

2. SL helped to draft the Consent Matters stance for the RCSU and will aid in presenting to Council on the 6th December.
3. SL raised a concern that people weren't aware of opportunities to write for Broadsheet, the Welfare drop-ins, and some of the reps in the AAO's network. LJ offered to publicise through the general newsletter for the opportunities available.
4. SL raised praise of the Biochemistry and Biology Departmental Representatives, despite initial concerns as in Point 3.
5. KC asked about the continuing animosity with Felix - LJ and SL stated that the attempt to communicate disapproval through Union Council was unsuccessful, and there are multiple cases of the Felix Editor refusing outright publication to FoNs students associated to the RCSU in any way.
6. SL perceived the Science Challenge work to be largely under control and praised RM for her hard work so far.

**RESOLVED:**

- b. To accept the report.

**C. Welfare Officer Report**

**RECEIVED:** KC delivered this section

**NOTED:**

7. The quiz and contact project has been completed - the only remaining issue is the format, whether poster, leaflet or online. LJ can arrange for printing if necessary.
8. A poster in each department could be the best option, tying an official release to BroadSheet.
9. The people offering free condoms haven't responded - KC to continue to chase.
10. As an aside - KC has been approached by multiple people who have complaints of sexual harassment from IC Rugby freshers. The DUGS of Life Sciences have been consulted, and KC is to email the ICU Rugby President to discuss and solve this issue.

**RESOLVED:**

- c. To accept the report.
- d. KC to finalise quiz and contact poster.
- e. KC to chase up 'free condoms' people as part of sexual welfare strand.
- f. KC to email ICU Rugby.

**D. AAO Meeting**

**RECEIVED:** LJ and SL delivered this item in SGs absence.

**NOTED:**

11. LJ was at the Physics SSC and the 16/11 AAO meeting, and has found the department to have a non-reactionary stance, with a will to make real and effective change.
12. The minutes of the 16/11 AAO meeting were discussed.

**RESOLVED:**

- g. To accept the report
- h. SG to report more comprehensively at next Operations Board meeting

**E. Science Challenge Report**

**RECEIVED:** RM delivered this item.

**NOTED:**

13. There are two judge confirmations as of this meeting - Helen Arney and someone from the Wellcome Trust.
14. The minutes of the 10/11 meeting were discussed.

**RESOLVED:**

- i. To accept the report.
- j. BC to arrange for a feature image for the website.
- k. SL to be invited to next SC meeting.

**F. Website Update**

**RECEIVED:** ZX and LJ delivered this item.

**NOTED:**

15. ZX needs the details before any work on the websites can commence.
16. SL made the Board aware of the new BioSoc website, and whether a BioChemSoc website exists was raised.
17. SL asked that the Science Challenge website be updated as a matter of priority. RM offered to send the relevant material when asked and when it is available to her.

**RESOLVED:**

- l. To accept the report.
- m. ZX to meet with LJ at the close of this meeting to discuss website matters.

## **G. Consent Matters Stance**

**RECEIVED:** SL, KC, and LJ led the discussion on this item.

**NOTED:**

18. GenCom have authorised the above to elaborate on the RCSU stance that has received negative coverage in the student media (Felix) and will be raised in response to the next DPW report.
19. The 'second sentence' of the stance will be as follows:
20. "We believe that, in future, a broader and transparent consultation should be sought, allowing elected student officers to have input and therefore strengthening vital student-led welfare initiatives in College and in the Union."
21. This allows, for the first time, for the full stance to be printed in the record, as follows:
22. "The Royal College of Science Union condemns the spending by College on the Consent Matters software which we believe to be a wasteful and ineffective method of informing students on the important matters of consent. We believe that, in future, a broader and transparent consultation should be sought, allowing elected student officers to have input and therefore strengthening vital student-led welfare initiatives in College and in the Union."

**RESOLVED:**

- n. To adopt the stance in Point 22 and raise to Union Council at next available opportunity.

## **H. Broadsheet**

**RECEIVED:** ME delivered this item in BSs absence.

**NOTED:**

23. BS needs a better photo for his Editorial photo.
24. The work on the next Broadsheet could start fairly soon to ensure a wider range of authors can get input into the opportunity.

**RESOLVED:**

- o. To advise BS accordingly.
- p. LJ to advise BS to start work on the next Broadsheet as soon as possible.

## **AOB**

Names for the Winter Ball were raised, but no discussion was had, beyond 'Ball' being too formal, and Party being 'office-y'.

*Meeting closed at 17:55.*