

KCSU Executive Committee Meeting 24/01/10 – Minutes

Present: Juan, Shayan, Rikesh, Andrew, Barnaby, Lotte, Jihye, Chad, Louisa, Hannah, Nina, Jonny, Bayu, Jade

Apologies: Jacob, Sho, Oscar, Bono

1. Week Behind/Week Ahead

Rikesh: I went to Co-op last week, then I had to make a call. Basically, it'll cost us £120 a year to be with them. If someone loses a cheque it'll cost us £12 every time. I chased up the TV licensing company, and we're paying for TV license in Garden. I'm going to call them to sort this out. I met up with outgoing/incoming KCGS treasurers to discuss financial agreement. I'm having a meeting with the treasurer, the president and Juan next week to negotiate unofficial unsigned document.

Hannah: How does this compare with Natwest?

Rikesh: I'm meeting with Cam next week. But Natwest won't charge us.

Chad: What about passing the losing a cheque fee onto the person who loses the cheque?

Tindall: Good system of providing receipts. We could say we'll pay to cancel the cheques but won't write you another one. People won't lose cheques either way.

Hannah: It'd be better to charge people the money for losing it rather than not change banks.

Juan: Currently the system of giving cheque to person is putting them in their pigeonhole.. What if someone lies and says they never got it?

Chad: You could give them to the porters?

Bayu: They don't like things like that.

Juan: We should find out current system/situation.

Lotte: Has there been any problem losing cheques?

Rikesh: People lost three last year.

Louisa: Not much point in stealing them.

Juan: This is going to come up. People will make excuses, we need to bear that in mind.

Chad: We could make the fine smaller.

Shayan: They *won't* lose cheques.

Rikesh: Not as much incentive not to lose if there's no fine.

Tindall: People will try and make excuses.

Hannah: Could they be handed out at exec meetings or something?

Rikesh: There's no point moving before the end of term, as we'd have a 2 week period of no money.

Shayan: Let's wait for the meeting with Cam.

Juan: I met with Robin Osborne. The ideal situation is to meet with catering, etc. We're meeting them next week.

Tindall: Can we clarify what we actually think about formal hall prices? Obviously everyone would love for it to be free, but that's not going to happen. What're our goals realistically? Do we want the food to remain the same and price to change, or see a change in quality?

Louisa: Price increase is significant. I'd like to see justification.

Juan: Justification = The formal hall prices were £11.50 last year. The reason for the dramatic change isn't anything to do with increase in price of food. What happened was, some of the fellows asked why they were having to pay more than students. Tutors believed that they were subsidising us by £2.50. They wondered why we weren't paying the real price. Jason said the Tutorship were subsidising us by £2.50, and also by £5 they didn't know about – under 'catering' in budget. Not something any of us knew about. So they were actually funding us by a bit more than £8.50.

Lotte: The price has increased steadily over ten years – they can't have made this same mistake every year.

Louisa: King's food is well-known for being good. Is it that much better?

Juan: One reason King's is more expensive is that other colleges don't have the same sort of service. A big part of the breakdown is paying the staff who serve us. Nobody knows exactly how this breaks down. Seems to be in everyone's interests to have clearer breakdown. Then we can ask questions about whether we want to accept drop in quality, etc. One thing to bear in mind: We had something called 'King's Suppers' in the past. They were a much cheaper buffet meal. Nobody wanted to go, and it was never sold out. It reached the point where it was 10-15 people.

Louisa: They were never comparable to a formal, it's a false comparison.

Juan: We could have something in between the two.

Tindall: So a Wednesday formal, and a Christ's-style formal on Fridays.

Hannah: Do you mean we should change Wednesday one to be like other colleges, or that we should have two?

Juan: Both of those are possible solutions which college would accommodate. They don't mind as long as money is being made. If we said we were happy to reduce quality, they'd do that.

Shayan: I suggest we wait for the breakdown.

Hannah: We should try and find breakdowns and information from other colleges.

Louisa: I've been looking at the welfare library. It's a very good resource if we restock it and have things people want to read in it. Could people think about what ought to be in it? I'll send an email

round this week. It's got some odd topics covered, and some not at all. There's a book entitled 'How to get a First'.

Juan: Have we figured out whether it's ours?

Louisa: Our books, but the library catalogue them.

Hannah: I've booked Zadie Smith for the women's dinner. There's a big panel discussion to which men are welcome, in the Keynes/Chetwynd room.

Lotte: We went to council. They want someone on the King's Parade Shop committee.

Juan: Do we get free stuff?

Lotte: I doubt it sincerely. It seems quite casual.

John: When do the new council numbers come in?

Lotte: Passed once, has to pass before governing body. But since we have to change constitution anyway, perhaps the Exam Term gov. Body. At the moment we're 4 people.

John: Regards the Shadowing scheme, CUSU aren't saying what's going on where. I don't have a clue what's going on. 8 teenagers are turning up next week, while I'm away. Joe will be around. I might need two people on call.

Lotte: Aris asked me to say that there's going to be a KCGS open meeting not this Monday but the one after.

2. Boathouse

Nina: Basically, with regards what they were saying last week about young offenders using the boathouse – they don't want to do that any more.

3. Info/Announce

Jade: Nobody seems to know what they're meant to be.

Juan: Info = stuff relevant to a group of people. Major updates go through announce.

Rikesh: We could use this as an opportunity to get people to use the website.

John: No-one seems to distinguish.

Jihye: Is Announce usually exec members?

Juan: Yeah.

Lotte: Would be nice to have a King's bulletin to summarise what's going on so people don't lose things. It's not a huge deal. Just collating general stuff.

Juan: In terms of what the Exec have been up to, this'll come in officer's reports.

Lotte: Could have folder, collect everything together, then send it out.

Tindall: About the bulletin: Presumably calendar on website is meant to do that.

Chad: None of this is relevant if there aren't set guidelines for moderating.

Jade: If there're guidelines, it needs to come from us.

Juan: I'll send the guidelines again.

4. Senior Treasurer

Juan: Senior treasurer = Cam Middleton. He knows everything. Cam's got an appointment with Engineering which is taking up a lot of time. Robin's starting to look for a replacement for him. If we don't do this before Cam leaves, it'll be bad. Rikesh, Barnaby and I are working on BOAK.

5. Standing Committee

Barnaby: Ex-officio committees are obvious. Questions remain about the Finance committee. Should it be Rikesh or Andy?

Jon: Probably Andy, because this seems to be more about pushing for ethical investment.

Juan: Probably Andy.

Barnaby: Equal Opportunities?

Hannah: Bayu, has Ria contacted you about this?

Bayu: No.

Hannah: Well I'm happy for you to do it. Perhaps consult with Ria to get some more information about this, since she sat on it last year.

Andy: In terms of Equal Opportunities, it's difficult to work out, since it comes under multiple remits. Is it possible to have one spokesperson?

Juan: With guidelines for all Standing Committee Members, something that we need to have anyways, hopefully it will be ok for one member to do it and consult with the others.

Barnaby: Use of Space Committee. Juan or Jonny?

Juan: I'm happy for Jonny to do it, provided it doesn't have to be the President's job to do it for some other reason.

Louisa: Have you clarified Development?

Juan: It's v. important, as long as person on committee is competent. Remember you're representing KCSU. President has sat on it because he's representing KCSU. Often don't have time to consult with KCSU.

Louisa: I've experience of the job. I have grown up in and out of the development office.

Juan: I know you know a lot more about that.

Juan: Mandate Barnaby to send out about King's Parade.

6. Domus:

Jonny: O staircase being taken out of action next year. They're sorting out problems. Rolling cycle of maintenance.

Rikesh: Are they not touching Bodley's next year?

Jonny: Seems not. Should be ten double beds.

Juan: I spoke with Robin about Rent Bands. Rent band 1/2s coming up next year. Market. King's has a policy of guaranteeing rent band 3. We could fight for it to be rent band 2. We're the only college that has a guarantee in place.

Tindall: Average for colleges = around £750.

John: It's difficult to compare: they have different contract lengths.

Juan: Some colleges don't use rent band system. This is ridiculous.

Jonny: In some colleges the exec assign the rent band.

Juan: I'm happy to let college do that.

Chad: Doesn't sound *that* hard. If they want that done.

Juan: They've never asked us to do this. It wouldn't really help us/students in any way.

John: We could whack up Bodley's.

Shayan: Do you get any influence?

Jonny: No.. They said it was inflexible. Inspecting 570 rooms every year a fairly large task.

Juan: When Osborne set up rent band system, he used a grad student. If we think it's a good idea to readjust, we could speak to Robin.

Jihye: So they're only putting double beds in Bodley's?

Jonny: Yeah. If people want to see a breakdown of how rooms will be next year, there's a provisional draft.

7. DVD Library

Juan: At the moment you have to go different websites, etc. Ethnic minority lesbian woman... Which library?! Louisa and I discussed this, good way to do this is to have one webpage, categorised. One is free to categorise under plural categories. Search system with limits, etc. Doesn't disadvantage any group.

John: You could type up an alphabeticised list.

Louisa: I've been speaking to Fred. Essentially there's going to be a search function on the website. Type in the title, look at alphabeticised list.

Juan: Click on thing, notification sent to whoever's library it is.

Tindall: Doesn't this end the role of all these different libraries? How do we sort out funding?

Juan: This is a good idea, doesn't disadvantage any particular group.

Lotte: Do we eventually want all the DVDs in King's Library?

Hannah: Apparently they used to. Are some still in there?

Juan: I picked them up.

Hannah: Would be easier if they were in the library.

8. Officer's Reports

Juan: Do them.

Shayan: Is this going to be a termly thing?

Juan: Considering noone's ever done this before, approaching halfway, we could do it now, then at the end near elections.

Shayan: Annual Report?

Juan: Biannual report. More publicised to students.

Bayu: Did Anna Richardson write all of it?

Juan: She asked all of us to write reports, compile them all together. Even though I'd be the one writing it, it's important to get the information.

9. AOB

Lotte: Would it be a good idea to have a general meeting to see what kind of general direction we want to go in?

Shayan: There are always the open meetings, they can always bring it up.

Juan: Open Meetings are meant to be like that, but they've become a matter of just getting money. Should be something where we show up, get direct questions etc. Good dialogue between exec members and students. Make them more open.

Tindall: If we think that's a shame, we need to set precedent. We should make sure this happens at meetings.

Louisa: I think, next time we announce open meeting, have a preamble at the beginning. Freshers don't nec know what they're about.

Chad: Procedural rubbish in the constitution.

Shayan: Structure of the agenda.

Barnaby: 'Questions to the Exec' etc.

Johnny: Three exec members a week talking about their work?

Louisa: Announce in email?

Chad: Nobody opens attachments. Put them in actual email.

Barnaby: Open meeting this week?

[general assent]

Juan: Note problems with the constitution.

Bayu: What about the working group?

Juan: I'll email out, arrange constitutional reform meeting.

Rikesh: Juan and I meeting with Jess and Tom next week. Vague central pot. Renegotiate terms.

Tindall: Are we renegotiating it because we think KCGS are fleecing us?

Rikesh: Mainly because it's unofficial and makes no sense.

Tindall: Do many members of KCGS use our facilities?

Rikesh: We give 70% of our money to this pot, they give 30%.

John: Why do they get more money?

Juan: They're just richer.

[Meeting closed]