

BA Committee Meeting

27 Feb 2017

In attendance:

Filip Szczypiński (FS)

Ravi Solanki (RS)

Rory Little (RL)

James Manton (JM)

Olia Zadvorna (OZ)

Eszter Pos (EP)

Mark Burrell (MB)

Olivia Tidswell (OT)

Rory Little (RL)

Brieuc Lehmann (BL)

Sofia Taylor (ST)

Apologies from:

Rozi Vófély (RV) – *arrived 4.a.x.2*

Lydia Heinrichs (LH)

Actionables (Actioned by RS from Minutes)

- 1.1 – FS, MB, and RV will discuss academic opportunities for Freshers' Week
- 1.2 – FS will investigate opportunities for after-party as part of Freshers' Week
- 2.1 – FS will help judge running dinner in coordination with MB
- 3.1 – BL and RS will send draft proposal for Trinity Forum to BA Society members for feedback and for ultimate decision regarding support
- 4.1 – ST will implement survey regarding group seating at formals
- 4.2 – ST will implement a 30% cap of group bookings for relevant formals
- 5.1 – FS and RV will allow societies to book BA rooms
- 5.2 – JM will chase computing department regarding setup of the tablet
- 7.1 – EP and RV will coordinate with MB to attend future mental health workshops
- 7.2 – MB will liaise with TCSU to arrange for puppy day in Easter term
- 8.1 – RL will arrange with ST a paired swap with King's, with individual Trinity members paired with King's members
- 9.1 – RT will consider means to re-engage with Christ Church, Oxford
- 10.1 – individuals interested in the BASoc+ idea will attend the TCSU+ introduction meeting and report back during the next committee meeting

Minutes (Minuted by RS)

1. Freshers Week
 - a. FS: Dean requests BA committee members join the Freshers' Week (FW) planning committee
 - b. MB: Deadline to submit FW proposal is March 11
 - c. FS: Need draft by March 9
 - d. BL: Maybe first year reps can send out feedback form

- i. FS: Maybe ask freshers' what events what they attend
 - ii. MB: Could ask parents alone
 - e. MB: Would an academic event be of interest?
 - i. FS: Could be good for freshers to present what research they hope to do
 - ii. BL: Maybe do something within week 3-4
 - iii. MB: Could do fellows' research talks or senior PhD students speaking
 - iv. FS: What's the aim?
 - v. ST: Creating a network of Bas
 - vi. MB: Welfare rather than academic
 - vii. BL: Academic speed-dating
 - viii. MB: Attendance of BA academic events is poor – hosting during FW may help
 - ix. MB: May go down well to do an academic event
 - x. RL: Could be past research
 - xi. RT: Not all PhD students
 - xii. MB: Could it be a chance to bring more fellows in?
 - 1. FS: Fellows could speak about their lifestyle
 - 2. MB: Could also ask questions around mental welfare
 - 3. EP: Would be useful for FW
 - 4. JM: But is that even useful given the Fellows that would speak?
 - 5. RT: Would Winstanley be a good venue or would students feel as if they are in a lecture
 - xiii. FS: Would be good to have something academic – FS, MB, RV can speak to discuss further
 - 1. FS: Could do a marquee but Fellows don't like it
 - 2. FS: BA Society and TCSU is charged for marquee, but we allocate costs in budget proposal
 - f. ST: A proper after-party may be good
 - i. FS: Ideal time – after the wine tasting
 - g. FS: Having more events at marquee are better
2. Food Committee Issues
 - a. ST: Delayed discussing running dinner for now
 - b. MB: Could anyone help judge running dinner?
 - c. FS: Me
 - d. MB: Event scheduled during third Thursday of March
 - e. FS: Mar 17 is Commemoration Feast for Committee members
 - f. ST: New head chef, John, has started next week
 - g. FS: Goal of new head chef is to make new more healthy food
 - h. ST: May be a move toward grains and healthier foods due to rising costs
 - i. BL: Vegetarian chef's choice would be great
3. Trinity Forum Symposium
 - a. BL: RS and BL thought it would be nice to organize symposium between BAs and post-docs to encourage collaboration
 - i. Hopefully happen in May with whole-day of talks
 - ii. Buffet lunch and dinner in Hall included, if not paid then subsidised

- iii. College will have a marquee in May so either marquee or talks in Winstanley
 - iv. Hope to submit proposal to College by next Monday so to get an answer by the end of the term
- b. FS: Is it a BA Society event or a personal initiative?
- c. BL: It is a personal initiative and acting as BA Society members rather than committee members
- d. FS: Would be better with the College if it is a BA Society and Post-Doc Society thing rather than a random event
- e. RS: Trinity Forum in collaboration with the BA Society and Post-Doc Society
- f. ST: What happens next?
- g. BL: First event is science forum
- h. FS: May be better to have arts and science forum together instead of a separate science forum
- i. FS: Seminar attendance is also very poor
- j. ST: But a different format
- k. FS: TCSS also struggles with attendance
- l. BL: Incentive to present here is different to incentive to present to undergrads – goal is to build an academic network
- m. OT: Could be a good way to learn about new techniques
- n. EP: Could just do it through department – might be different if interdisciplinary
- o. FS: All of science is communication and sharing – can't find people for fellows research talks and BA seminars but it's a very important part of research
- p. EP: It's a frightening environment for speakers to do that
- q. RL: Blind dating idea could work
- r. MB: What day?
- s. BL: Saturday
- t. MB: How many people?
- u. BL: 150
- v. MB: Budget?
- w. BL: 10k
- x. JM: What does it buy you?
- y. BL: Tea, coffee, lunch, and dinner
- z. OZ: Is it free for speakers?
- aa. BL: Haven't decided that yet
- bb. ST: People would be interested in one-minute talks
- cc. FS: Turnout is poor for TCSS events
- dd. RS: Very recent thing – we need to think about all of this now
- ee. FS: It should be a joint venture between BA Society and Post-Doc
- ff. ST: Does it matter if it's supported by the BA Society and Post-Doc or part of it
- gg. MB: What happens if people don't show up or the places aren't filled?
- hh. FS: How much is there for the BA to lose?
- ii. ST: If it's not run by the BA Society, then it's not an issue
- jj. FS: Still a credibility risk if the BA Society doesn't support it
- kk. MB: There are lots of other things as well – TCSS, TMS, Humanities Forum, departmental stuff

- i. Networking jargon puts me off
 - ll. RS: Does the BA Society want to be involved and if so, in what manner?
 - mm. FS: I think the Post-Doc society wants to be involved and the Grad Tutor is involved – then you are inadvertently involved through the BA Society
 - i. RS: We can do it when we aren't in the committee
 - ii. EP: It is a bit different with the style of talks
 - iii. ST: The risk to the BA Society is minimal
 - iv. MB: The only people who we would be worried about it would be College
 - v. JM: It is a third of the BA Society budget
 - vi. OT: But the College wants to host these kinds of events
 - vii. JM: But it'll all merge into their heads
 - viii. MB: College will compare this to TCSS and TMS – any plans for less money?
 - ix. BL: To reduce the risk it is an event on behalf of the Trinity Forum in collaboration with BA and Post-Doc Societies
 - 1. One way to reduce costs is through a subsidized dinner
 - x. OT: Thought about how to arrange the event?
 - 1. BL: Not yet
 - xi. FS: Should speak with TCSU Senior Treasurer – could be co-funded through the ACC – would help diversify funding, possibly through Rose Eddington Fund
 - xii. RS: May hope to form a Trinity Forum Society
 - 1. FS: Don't do that
 - xiii. FS: This does not affect the BA Society's funding in anyway
 - xiv. ST: There is expertise within the Committee on catering and liaison and it may be helpful – but if not desired that's ok
 - 1. BL: We're aware of putting additional pressure on committee members
 - 2. RS: Don't want to add pressure to the roles
 - xv. FS: Best way is BA Society is supporting through organisation rather than funding
 - 1. Can meet separately to discuss funding
 - nn. FS: Support initiative through a proposal?
 - i. ST: Let it wait a little bit
 - ii. BL: Hard deadline – next Monday
 - iii. FS: Speak to Rozi to get support
 - oo. FS: Either BA Society supports in advance of the Council or after the fact, or a more formalized show of support
 - i. BL: Proposal draft can be sent to committee by Friday
 - ii. FS: No financial liability
4. BA Dinners and Group Seating
 - a. ST: A survey will be implemented and we'll decide
 - i. RL: Too many group bookings the prior week
 - ii. FS: Could be a fixed number of groups
 - iii. RS: Or a fixed group of people
 - iv. RS: Survey necessary?

- v. FS: College has requested a survey
- vi. FS: Dean is very against group seating and encourages formation of cliques
- vii. ST: Group bookings help with the new system of entering hall and the associated queuing
- viii. JM: Maybe people could queue inside the hall
- ix. FS: Could propose to liaison committee
- x. FS: Why sit in a group – College’s perspective is to meet other people from Trinity, not to enjoy a dinner with your friends
 - 1. ST: But then attendance at dinners has reduced – but also, encouraging people to attend is necessary for any interaction
 - 2. FS: Is it in College’s aim to fill the hall?

[RV ENTERS]

- 3. RV: What are the statistics
 - 4. ST: Frequently attendance has increased beyond 150
 - 5. FS: How many are guest tickets? Background – a sub-committee has been set-up to analyse BA Dinners – about a 100k subsidy per annum
 - 6. RV: What’s the point of the dinners to the College?
 - 7. FS: College is trying to figure it out
 - 8. BL: There is an issue with Partners of BAs
 - 9. FS: The spouse tickets has been abolished
 - 10. RV: Could do staggered prices
 - 11. ST: Upay doesn’t allow it
 - 12. RS: What do we want?
 - 13. ST: What do we think we should fight for?
 - 14. RV: We might want to do something to brake some cliques and friends
 - 15. EP: But then attendance fell significantly
 - 16. RV: Might be due to ticketing system but also it being something new
 - 17. EP: Could do a total number of guest limitations over a term?
 - 18. FS: Easy to get around guest restrictions
 - 19. ST: Changes aren’t actually significant when we introduced high Eptable seating
 - 20. OT: Most people don’t know the dinner is subsidised
 - 21. MB: Not going to decide anything tonight
 - 22. Semi-consensus: 30% seats for group bookings, with balloting if necessary
5. Society Usage of BA Rooms
- a. FS: Do we have an opinion?
 - b. RV: Do we have issues with societies booking the TV room or kitchens?
 - c. FS: College has told us it’s not our job to police the policies of the room – there’s not much we can do
 - d. ST: Should we let the boat club host crew pasta in the BA Rooms?

- e. JM: The calendar is completely accessible online to anyone!
 - f. FS: Was annoyed earlier because housekeeping emails kept being received
 - g. ST: Bookings might be made clear on the tablet
 - h. RS: Guess that relates to the tablet?
 - i. JM: Computer office has delayed set-up of the tablet – team is away
 - i. When they do tablet, they will also do television and Xbox
6. Garden Party
- a. FS: 25th June from 4-6pm – Sunday after May Ball
7. Mental Health Workshops
- a. MB: First went well – want to run two additional workshops
 - b. MB: Need people to attend additional workshops
 - i. EP and RV happy to help
 - c. MB: Contacted TCSU re puppy day – Saturday 3-4 weeks into Easter
 - i. RS: Sooner you know the better
 - ii. RL: Maybe we should have rats as well
 - iii. MB: TCSU will come up with possible dates for the event
 - d. BL: Any feedback from mental health workshops?
 - i. MB: Some people want some more structure
8. King's College Swap at Trinity
- a. RL: Want to come on 15th of March
 - b. ST: Might want to pair it up – we could try a 'proper' swap with BA members hosting the King's members
 - c. MB: Issue re going to King's quite late
 - d. RL: Going to King's 15th June
 - e. FS: College only agrees to 15 guests per swap
9. Oxford Swap
- a. LH (Through RV): Swapping with Magdalen, Oxford on 5th May for an overnight stay
 - b. RT: Should we send a letter of discontent to Christ Church?
10. BASoc+?
- a. ST: Could be a good idea for BA Society
 - b. ST: Would be opportunity for us to get help
 - c. RS: What's there incentive?
 - d. ST: People do express interest and they're happy to do something, e.g. people over holidays
 - e. RV: How would that work? What if something goes wrong during the event?
 - f. ST: Get extra resources for events and loosen the load
 - g. BL: Would there be any harm?
 - h. RV: As long as committee members are involved that's ok
 - i. FS: For some events, people might not be interested, but for others like brunch they would be
 - j. FS: Whoever is serious about the idea then they should go to the TCSU+ meeting
11. Constitution
- a. JM gives overview of updates to constitution revisions