

BA Committee Meeting
1 November 2018
8pm, BA Rooms

Present: Pooneh (Catering), Isabel (President), Reece (Treasurer), Hans (Computing), Stephen (Welfare),
Annalise (Secretary – taking minutes), Thomas (Liaison), Christoph (Sports), Lukas (Ents)

Apologies: Steffi, Marcel, Parwana (belated)

Absent without apologies: Jake

Meeting opened 8.06pm

Meeting closed at 10.56pm.

1. Matters carried over from previous meetings

i) Matriculation Dinner changes

The committee discussed the changes to the Fresher's Week dinner schedule, specifically the combining of the Welcome Dinner and Matriculation feast to one "Graduate Matriculation and Welcome Dinner". The committee will prepare feedback to take to the Liaison Committee as the new solution caused difficulties. We cannot go back to the previous system – for space reasons the College will split the Matriculation Feast. Undergrads still get separate Welcome and Matriculation dinners. However, if we advocate for separate dinners, our Matriculation Dinner will have very low numbers. The BA Committee is also concerned about how this change was communicated to us by College. Moving to the first Saturday also made having moved our matriculation photo to the day of the Matriculation Feast redundant as having a photo with no matriculation context caused confusion.

ii) Advertisements, communications, and consequently email policy

We have received feedback about the number of emails we send. There are different views on the usefulness of different frequencies of communication (both among the committee and members of the BA Society). One of the biggest question is whether, if we sent an overview, what would happen to reminder emails. Via discussion, it was decided that we should trial reducing our emails by at least 50%. The committee held two votes: 1. Should we trial moving to a system where we send an overview email and then additional reminders as required for special notices, event sign-up reminders, and irregular free events? (Passed 8 for and 1 against). 2. Should we send the bulletin once weekly on Mondays or twice weekly on Monday and Thursday? (3 votes for Monday only, 6 votes for twice-weekly).

iii) Supervisor formal

The committee was asked whether a formal could be organised for students to invite their supervisors. This already exists for third year PhD students. Designating a random formal as one to which students were encouraged to invite their supervisors might put pressure on students to pay for their supervisor's tickets. Committee decided that at this time we do not want to re-create something that already exists for 3rd year PhDs.

iv) BA Rooms Cleaning - Particularly the oven situation

The BA Committee has not received further feedback about the dirty oven, but will send a reminder to all BAs to be respectful of the BA kitchen and all who use it.

v) Green bins in Newton Road

The committee was asked to discuss the recent removal of green bins in Newton Road. The result was that this was the result of a decision taken by college over 5 years ago. In the short term we will continue advocating for responsible waste solutions but cannot overrule college/Bidwell's decisions. Decision was taken to postpone discussion over whether the BA Society could launch an education campaign to promote using bins responsibly before advocating in favour of green waste solutions to Fresher's week 2019 planning meeting.

vi) Bike workshop

Committee discussed whether bike workshop will be repeated this year after lack of success in previous year. It would also be desirable to consider how we could educate for safety and following the road rules. To be discussed in relation to Lent events and 2019 Freshers' Week planning.

vii) Club Nights for BAs

Discussion re organising club nights using a similar model to that adopted by TCSU. Feeling was that people want something specifically for BAs, but that this could be bulk-organised with TCSU if they are amenable. Isabel will liaise with Molly and/or explore organising similar arrangements for a Friday.

2. Organising First Year Rep Elections

The Committee agreed that First Year Rep elections will be organised in accordance with the constitution before the end of Michaelmas term.

3. Michaelmas Rota –

The committee discussed the fair internal allocation of rota slots for regular events.

4. Grad Pub Quiz - someone needs to be responsible for this event.

The first regular BA Pub Quiz will be held at the end of November. Secretary to take responsibility for creating a list of duties so that we can avoid future cancellations.

5. Following on from 1.i - Preparation of Report on Freshers Week

Committee to start preparing thoughts and feedback for College.

6. Bike storage for BAs

Committee has been asked whether it is possible to advocate for bike storage in College for BAs and/or improved security in Portugal Street housing. Committee will prepare feedback to take to the College Liaison Committee.

7. Graduate Accommodation

BA Society consistently receives feedback regarding allocation of housing and other concerns. Committee will prepare feedback to take to the College Liaison Committee.

8. BA Interests to be represented at Liaison meeting

Committee to work together to create detailed list of BA concerns to be raised at Liaison meeting.

9. Associate and Affiliate Membership of BA Society & Exceptional cases – BA Dinner tickets

The committee was asked by a student to consider whether we would grant membership (and particularly dinner ticket purchasing rights) to undergraduate members of College who had chosen to spend a year

away that was not a mandated part of their course. Our constitution specifies who is entitled to Associate status. Committee decided that we will not at this time explore constitutional change to allow discretionary granting of membership to individuals as that is a question for an Open Meeting and not a Committee Meeting.

11. Procedure for events scheduled after term-card finalised

BA Committee agreed an internal procedure for dealing with instances where clashing events are added to the term card after it is finalised.

12. General point: Could we please add times to the next term-card?

The committee resolved not to add times to the term card itself but to try to revive the former Google Calendar.

13. Weekly BA Party Playlist: Google Form for song requests?

The committee is not happy with BAs touching their personal devices when asked not to. The computing officer will explore a tech-driven solution to this problem and we will discuss.

14. Sports Funds for Parkrun?

The committee discussed Park Run subsidies and transport options. For this term, the subsidised taxis will remain but a group cycle option will be added. In future terms, the charging model may need to be revisited to ensure a fair and reasonable allocation of the sporting budget.

15. Do we want to sell BA Stash? (Our jackets but without personalised names)

BA Society will respond to requests for informal stash by trying to organise jackets based on freshers' week stash to be sold at-cost to BAs. Secretary will approach College for permission before we proceed as we wish to include the College crest on the stash.

16. BA Dinner Ticket Bookings

Societies cannot book BA dinner tickets. Any college member wishing to explore group dining options should consult the White Book and discuss private dining options with College.

BA Dinner guest tickets to remain at one, opening up to two if >50 tickets (rather than >80 tickets) are left upon catering officer's review.

To be reviewed again at next committee meeting.

17. Should we just have a regular (monthly) meeting?

The secretary proposed the committee trial having a regular monthly meeting so that we are better able to plan our time, rather than always polling and ending up with very long agendas. The Committee agreed to this trial.

18. BA Feedback form

The committee agreed to trial an (anonymous) online feedback form. The Computing Officer will integrate this into the website. We will not accept offensive complains or personal attacks.

19. AOB

- i. The Ents officers advise that the Clare swap has been postponed because Clare no longer has a formal on the date they promised. Decision was taken to postpone to a later date.