

Minutes of ECSU Executive Meeting Lent V

Held on 15 February 2009 at 5pm
Old Court Museum



In attendance: Seb Yoe, James Rees, Kate Davies, Dana Khoriaty, Jess Thompson, Toto Reissland-Burghart, Giulia Lindsay, Amélie Lavenir, Laura Parker, Lucy Loong, Jessica Waters, Joe Bristow, Zoë Plant, Luke Montague, Zing Tsjeng

Apologies from: James Pattinson, Rhiannon Evans, Peter Dyson, Ben Spurgen, Harry Wyatt

Absent: Tom Rodriguez-Perez

1. Recap session

Seb said that Halfway Hall went well, but that someone had been sick, raising the issue of wine at formal hall. This will be brought up at the Master and Tutors' Committee meeting this week, however Seb did not believe the rules regarding wine will change.

Jess W said the code of conduct will be on the website this evening. An email will also be sent round to alert people to this.

Laura reminded the meeting about the comedy event on 24 February. Anyone can take part, including students from outside of college. It will be held in the Old Library due to issues with the Queen's Building and alcohol licensing. Each person will receive one glass of free wine; the second will cost 80p.

2. ECSU Updates

The executive was reminded that these updates will go into next week's ROAR. Seb will write a short introduction for the section.

All the text for this should be sent to Toto (tkmr2) in time for next week's edition.

3. ECSU Rooms Database

Luke brought up the fact that many people, especially first years, are not aware that there is an on-line searchable rooms database with comments for each room. He also mentioned that the room comments had not been updated for a few years.

Luke will send out an email reminding everyone that this database exists; he will also remind all second and third years to add comments to the database about their current room.

Jess W will try and make the link to the rooms database more obvious on the website, perhaps by adding it to the news items on the front page.

The discussion moved on to the subject of room tours, where a year group is asked to be in their rooms one afternoon to allow others to have a look round them. These have happened in previous years, but it was not clear whether it was ECSU or the college that had organised it. The consensus was that there should be two separate days for first and second years.

Next Saturday (21 Feb) will be the open day for second years and the following Saturday (28 Feb) will be for first years. This will be advertised in this week's ROAR and a map will be included so that first years can easily find the out-of-college accommodation.

It was mentioned that, rather than putting a copy of ROAR into each pigeon hole, there could be a pile from which people can pick up an issue. This was dismissed, as it was decided that people might not pick up an issue and miss out on important information.

4. International Reps

Lucy informed the meeting that Emmanuel is one of very few colleges not to have a rep for international students. Although there are international subject parents, these are not particularly accessible during the summer and before the start of Michaelmas term, which is when international students arrive. International students often have different questions and worries than home students, such as setting up a bank account.

The question of whether to have an elected rep with voting rights on ECSU was debated, and it was decided that the rep probably should not have voting rights, as they would only be elected by a small body of students in the college. Instead, it was suggested that candidates for the post could apply to ECSU, which would then pick a suitable candidate. They would be eligible to attend ECSU meetings but not vote. However, before any action is taken, the previous and current LBGT reps will be asked to attend the next executive meeting, in order that the committee can better find out how the system of un-elected reps works.

Zing will give Luke the email addresses of these reps; he will then invite them to attend next meeting.

5. Catering Survey

Kate informed the meeting that she would be attending a catering meeting later this week. She also wanted to know if there was already a half-finished catering survey from last year, so that it could be used for a survey this year.

Jess W will find out if there is already a template for the survey on the website.

The idea of having a suggestions / comments box for food in hall was suggested, however catering have previously dismissed this as they claim there is nowhere suitable to put the box. It was suggested the box could go in the post room. However, it was pointed out that this has happened in previous years, and many comments were unsuitable for publication or contained no constructive criticism. Instead, a list of meals will be put on the catering survey: students will be able to rate each dish on a scale of 1 to 5.

'Pennying' at formal was discussed. Catering take the issue extremely seriously, as pennies left in glasses can damage the dishwasher.

*Students will need to be reminded that, should a penny be put in their glass, they should make sure it does **not** remain there when they leave the meal.*

Suggestions for improvements to catering were discussed, including having jugs of water on the tables and vegetables being taken away before the main course finishes. The issue of food containing cheese was also raised. Changing the times of meals was discussed, but any change in this was deemed unrealistic, as it would involve changes in staff rotas and working times.

Kate will bring these suggestions up at her meeting with the catering staff.

6. CUSU Elections

Lucy will speak to the previous ECSU External Officer about how to handle the CUSU elections as Emmanuel's returning officer. Online voting will be available for these elections on the 2nd and 3rd of March, with voting in all colleges taking place on the 4th of March. Seb wondered whether we could use their online voting system for our ECSU elections, as the previous executive had passed a motion at an Open Meeting stating that online voting would be available in future.

Jess W will talk to the previous Communications Officer about this.

There will be no hustings at Emmanuel due to poor attendance at last year's hustings.

Lucy will, however, distribute a list of the other hustings taking place across Cambridge.

7. Universtity Challenge

Zing mentioned that she will soon be organising the tryouts for our University Challenge team.

These will take place on 28 February in the bar. Zing will speak to the previous year's organiser to find out exactly how it worked.

The meeting closed at 17:55.

Next meeting: 22 February at 5pm

Distribution: Executive Members, college archives, ECSU website