

ResExec Minutes

Tuesday 1st March 2011

Chair; Jonny Kirby, Vice President Housing and Community
Secretary; Nyssa Koring, Student development manager

In attendance by RA Committee;

Aitken, Beeches, Elgar, FOCSOC, Hunter, Jarratt, Maple, Mason, Pritchatts, Shackleton, Tennis Court, Victoria

1. Register and Apologies

Apologies received from; Emma Derbyshire, Jess Sarfas, Alice Poutney, Sam Kruber, John Hilliard, Kit Lister, Francis Bunce, Will Zealey, Oliver Smith, Peter Abrahams, Ross Babbington, Ado Eacock.

2. Blogging – Cheryl Goddard

Blogging is like keeping an online journal/diary. They should be updated frequently, kept short and use casual phrasing – as if you were talking to a friend.

Good places to start looking into a blog are; eblogger, wordpress and live journal.

Content should be conversational and have good style and voice. Look at other blogs for inspiration and remember your audience.

Make sure you have something to say and perhaps work as a team to ensure that not one person is doing it. Sometimes it's good to pick a regular date when you do your blog. Readers like frequent updates and the chance to comment – be mindful that some comments may be negative – do not delete this, but please do respond to them.

You can promote blogs through facebook, twitter, and potentially through the Guild Website.

Things to consider, not just residents will be able to see these – staff and local/national press could see them. Whilst a blog is a diary, it still falls under media law so don't be defamatory, don't use pictures without permission, or pictures of people's property. If you think it might cause trouble – it probably will so don't do it.

Any questions, contact Cheryl at c.goddard@guild.bham.ac.uk

3. Rob Hunter – March for the Alternative

Will be a large demonstration on Saturday 26th March. This is not just for students but all trade unions and is expected to be about 200,000 people strong. We will have posters soon, please do promote and get involved. The Guild have their own coaches going, but if you want to book something – go for it (do it soon, lots of coach companies will be booked that day).

4. Hustings

Candidates for VPHC and VPW introduced themselves and a hustings session was held.

5. Summer Balls

The last two RA Balls have been monitored closely and many problems have been found, including the loss of approximately £20,000 on wasted food. As a result, the Guild and the University have many concerns and we need to show off what we can do and impress people. As a result, however, we have implemented many deadlines and have some advice for you.

Proposals must be received by end of day Sunday 10th April. Please be around from the 11th April so we can contact you if we have any questions. We also recommend that you bring in proposals before then so we can give you some advice.

All contracts, transfers, and purchase orders need to be submitted/completed by lunchtime on Thursday 5th May. Again, be available from the 5th should we have any questions.

If anything is late, your Ball WILL be cancelled – this has been very close to happening in the past and it was only luck that prevented it from happening!

Please check these dates against the venues own contract deadlines.

Pick dates carefully and get the date out there as soon as the proposal is signed – or people will go home. Do not all have your events on the same day.

We need only one proposal for each Ball, however, it must include information from all the Halls such as numbers and how much you will be putting into the event.

Must include full breakdowns of costs i.e. from the venue, how much is food, how much is alcohol, how much is DJ etc, another example, for printing, we need to know how much is posters, how much is ticket printing etc.

You must include security and tech costs on your proposal. Contact tech at d.avery@guild.bham.ac.uk – they have worked at every venue in Birmingham and will be able to give you a lot of advice.

We will not be signing off after parties for summer balls, this is because we need you to make the balls the best they can be.

Consider subsidy carefully, especially against how much you are spending and how many people are going. Also consider ticket price carefully, £35 tickets last year sold poorly.

You must include all details of complimentary tickets – RA, bands, etc. We are in touch with venues so will catch you out if you sneak anyone in!

Do not go overboard, particularly with entertainment. Keep it simple but effective.

Minimum numbers will be set for you by the Guild. These numbers WILL be low, but this is where our major losses come from and this is what is threatening the future of your Balls. Therefore, you must stick to the numbers we give you or we will not sign off your event. As a result of small numbers, even large Halls will have to consider Joint events.

If you have more interest in the event, this is fine, speak to the venue (AFTER contracts are signed) about if extra people can come – if they have room, they'll generally jump at the chance as it means they will make more money.

We will set ticket selling dates for you based on proposal and contracted information – we will inform you off these as soon as we can.

This is the last chance the RA Balls have, so please go out there and wow us. If this is a success, there is a greater chance the events can happen again in the future.

6. Banter

We have had reports of people getting upset at the level of banter, remember that we're all human and you should not be upsetting people.

7. RAs and Freshers Fest

In the past, RAs have been intrinsic in the running of Freshers Fest and have had to sign codes of conduct and work very hard. The University is reviewing their Freshers Fest and would like to bring all activities together and also review the RAs involvement in the Guilds Freshers Fest package. As a result, RAs will no longer be supporting with the running of Freshers Fest.

At this stage, not all details are finalised, but we will keep you in the loop with what's going on.

8. Around the RAs

Mason – first event went well. Getting notice boards. Have a councillor coming to Mason, trialling recycling boxes. Looking at non alcoholic events – such as Aston Villa trip, go karting and boxer shorts. Also looking to do an event in Lower Rios.

Victoria – doing Cadbury world trip, pancake day event, hopefully a red nose day event. Getting hoodies. Doing BRACH and St Paddy's. Looking at Mechu and finally had a Site Manager meeting.

Maple Bank – focusing on BRACH, tickets need to be going up soon. Looking at St Paddys and a possible Newquay beach clean event. Also a curry takeaway event.

Beeches – pancake day event, pub quiz for charity, St Paddy's event, BRACH and the Beeches v Hunter event.

Tennis Court – first event went well and had a good turn out. St Paddy's and colourfest coming up. Also looking at hoodies and a world record attempt. Newsletter called TC times.

Elgar – have proposals for BRACH and St Paddy's, also a meal out and a bucket shake in Cardiff. Inter hall football event coming soon. Kit has been done and newsletter Elguardian has gone out.

Hunter – notice boards will be up soon. Had newsletter. Got Hunter v Beeches event. Pancake da event. Alton Towers, red nose day pub quiz and hoodie sales are going well.

Jarratt – doing some none alcoholic events and some alcohol events; curry, Jamhouse, st paddy's, newsletter and cinema

Shackleton – shack attack event went well, had positive feedback. Looking at Red Nose Day raffle and a meal at Mings. Would like to take a bus to the protest. Have done a survey and got a comments box. Involved in BRACH and St Paddy's. Also looking into laundry and meal plans.

Aitken/Chelwood – stairs are getting fixed. Curryoke event soon as well as St Paddy's. Newsletter. Looking at Alton Towers and a charity clothes swap event. Interested in joining up with buses for the march. May have an interesting surprise for colourfest.

Pritchatts Park – 3rd pub quiz has been held and has gone well. Got BRACH, St Paddy's and Ice Skating. Also looking into Race for Life. Got a suggestion box, no newsletter yet.

FOCSOC – see below

9. FOCSOC Presentation

FOCSOC spoke about who they are and where they're from.

They used to be a society but have been an RA for many years now. They potentially have the biggest student base out of all RAs but have a difficult time engaging them as members can feel alone as they do not have friendship bases. Looking at taking FOCSOC to them and doing events outside of Birmingham.

10. Operational Issues; St Paddys and Volunteer Time Sheets

Need all paperwork in for St Paddys or you might not be able to do it!

Don't forget to do volunteer time sheets.

11. AOB

- SpresExec – now going ahead with a 7's tournament on 1st May. This will be an inter hall tournament held at the Metchly pitches. There will be a bar and lots of publicity.
- VolExec – looking to do a joint talent show competition with all halls for Acorn charity and also the cardiac unit at Birmingham Children's Hospital.
- RA Social – unofficial social happening on 10th March, speak to Brad to get your name down
- Representation meeting happening at 2pm tomorrow – information on the facebook group.
- Computers in Student Development have been faced with some server issues from our external provider. These should be fixed shortly
- Strictly Brum Dancing is happening on the 11th March. Both the SGC(RA) and VPW are taking part.
- Guild Council is the 15th March – remember, you have to go (Presidents/Representation).