

MCR Committee Meeting.
13th October, 6pm, Memorial Room.
Minutes.

Present: Sarah, Dan N, Iris, Nicole, Miles, Guillaume, Tim, Drew.

Apologies: Kathryn, Joe.

1. Freshers' Week Spending.

Miles: Spent so much money at the Cape got the deposit back. Bar any mystery welfare tea, we have about £20 left over from FW.

Tim: So we overspent slightly on the initial budget?

Miles: Yeah. Could fluctuate slightly because still haven't got all of Andre's receipts back.

Tim: Me, too. But it's small.

Miles: Just wanted to say everyone kept to their budget. Cape seems like a good place.

Guillaume: Do you want everything at once or e.g. once a week? (i.e. receipts)

Miles: Whatever works for you. Just bear in mind that the MCR bank account has a £1000 withdrawal limit per day.

2. Speakers in the MCR.

Miles: Something Joe told me about. Apparently there's a problem with one of the speakers in the MCR. It crackles and drops out etc.

Tim: The amp is currently just a home speaker amp. The two wires are just inserted and screwed tight, so they move, then there's interference and it crackles. We need to solder it.

Drew: New sound system?

Tim: That needs to be budgeted up etc.

Miles: If we do go for a new sound system, we wouldn't have to raise money for it. We can take money from the second account to refurbish the MCR.

Guillaume: Are the speakers good?

Tim: They're not great, but it's the wiring that's dodgy. We could find a temporary fix online.

Guillaume: Could we buy new wires?

Tim: We need a splitter.

Guillaume: Buy two splitters and new wires. Could be what, £40-50? Could be an improvement.

[Lights flicker repeatedly. Sarah: Ghosts!]

Miles: Would we have to clear anything through college?

Tim: We'd just be replacing it, so no.

Guillaume: Who's good with speakers?

Tim: I know loads of people who aren't in Oxford. I'll speak to them, see what they say. It's basically the same as my Dad's. It's the using four speakers rather than two that's the issue.

Dan: Doesn't college have someone who can do it?

Tim: Got to try to find the right person.

Nicole: IT office?

Tim / Guillaume: They're really busy at the moment, so maybe not!

Tim: I'll look into that.

3. Puppy Welfare Scheme

Tim: Forwarded an email from the college office about a scheme from an OM, offering to bring a dog into college for students to play with as a way to boost welfare. An initial trial, then optional extra sessions afterwards. The dogs are all poodle breeds, so they're hypoallergenic!

Guillaume: There are hypoallergenic dogs?

Sarah: [Talks allergies.]

Tim: The only cost for an initial trial would be transport from London, e.g. return ticket or petrol.

Drew: So she just brings a dog and we play with it?

Tim: Yep!

Iris: We'd book the dog?

Tim: See who's interested, then maybe do bookings

Drew: Is it okay with the college for us to have the dog in the MCR?

Tim: They forwarded us the email, so presumably!

Sarah: The OM also offered to deep clean the carpets if needs be.

Drew: How much after the trial?

Sarah: £55 per session, but cheaper with block booking.

Drew: Nothing wrong with doing the trial!

Tim: Check how she plans to travel, check that's okay.

Guillaume: Could be cheaper to block book with the JCR.

Tim: Need to confirm some stuff with her, then check with college. Maybe another room would be better than the MCR, e.g. the OTR. So is the agreement that we look into the trial?

All: Yes.

4. Presidential Business.

Tim: Honorary members. Emma Day, sponsored by Drew Holland. Tessa van Henten, sponsored by Guillaume Matthews. Mara Willems, sponsored by Guillaume Matthews. Fleur Smith, sponsored by Hannah Street.

Tim: Application for honorary membership. Jo Cousins, sponsored by Marcus Fender.

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstention: 0

Miles: A question about people who don't want to sponsor their honorary member any more.

Tim: There are people who aren't in Oxford anymore. Could we vote for them not to pay the £9 sub?

Sarah: Are you suggesting that they remain HM but their sponsor just doesn't pay?

Tim: Yep. So they don't have to pay the £9, the TV license etc.

Miles: Not sure that they pay the TV license.

Guillaume: They might want to. It contributes to the MCR.

Drew: It's a bit odd if people just want to come to college for the weekend or something.

Guillaume: Could we swap sponsors?

Tim: Maybe?

Guillaume: Someone shouldn't lose their honorary membership just because they've broken up with someone.

Dan N: Why are we going after people?

Tim: We're not. People can get in touch with me.

Miles: Is it agreed between the HM and their sponsor that the HM will pay?

Tim: I stay out of that, just make it clear that the subs will be paid to the sponsor's batells.

Guillaume: Is it clear on the batells statement what it is?

Drew: I don't think it is.

Tim: The kitchen don't like them buying food.

Drew: Emma tried to buy food, managed to do it, but then we both got emails from the kitchen complaining about it. Emma could still be in the system from last year, maybe.

Guillaume: I remember an HM coming to breakfast etc. last year.

Tim: Yeah, Grace. I've got in touch with her, and she says that she's bought food with her Bod card without the kitchens complaining.

Guillaume: I have two HMs. For guest dinners, I need to take them as my guests, but I only have three guests. If they both want to come together, this takes up two of my guests, so only one of them can bring a guest because my three spots are filled. It's not great.

Tim: A problem with the meal booking system. Last year it wouldn't've made a difference. They're not going to give HMs Single Sign on details.

Guillaume: I haven't seen someone booking on online yet without being on the list I've sent. If anyone is honest, I can just ask to increase the number of guests on the website.

Tim: I'll bring this up with the college office, see what Joyce thinks. HMs should be allowed to eat in hall, even book on for evening meals. Back to should we charge HMs who aren't here. There will be two: Margot and Astrid.

Dan: Why aren't we charging them?

Tim: They're not engaging with the MCR.

Dan: They're not here because they don't want to be here. Can't we just cancel the membership? I feel like if they have the membership, they should be charged.

Drew / Sarah: It's a symbolic thing.

Miles: There's also one member of the MCR who has asked not to be charged MCR subs but wasn't to retain his MCR status (because he's in Germany). Keeping him on as a member but not charging him seems legit.

Guillaume: If it's just two or three members it seems perfectly fine, but if other people hear that and say "I'm only coming once, so could I just not pay?"

Dan: I agree. I don't know why we're trying to give to people for free, unless it's an exceptional case.

Tim: It depends on how you understand 'Honorary'.

Dan: Does the constitution say anything about this?

Tim: No. Just "members with voting rights". Very vague.

Guillaume: It would be nice for those not in Oxford to not pay, but they still should pay.

Dan: If you have membership, you pay for it.

Iris: The money we pay is paid for our use of the MCR.

Drew: We don't spend any money on them.

Dan: Why do they care?

Drew / Sarah: Symbol, sentimental reasons.

Tim: I've had college asking me why we have so many and what the point of them.

Iris: Seems unfair to charge people who aren't in the country.

Miles: Could get in touch with people who aren't in the country and ask.

Tim: Feel that revoking membership is unfair.

Drew: I'll sponsor Taylor Swift to be an HM.

Sarah: I will shut that down.

Miles: We get a batells statement pretty soon. On that statement, the only things on it is vac spending and MCR subs. We're going to find out then if people still want to sponsor these people. We don't have a lot of time to make a decision.

Dan: If we want to change things, then we should not charge any HMs at all. Unless it's an exceptional case and then we can vote on it individually.

Tim: The committee always has the choice to not charge someone according to their circumstances. There's never been this number of HMs before.

Guillaume: Wouldn't people just stay forever if it was free?

Tim: It expires every year.

Drew: Who cares how many there are?

Guillaume: It's a lot of paperwork. Ask Tim!

Drew: Tim, do you care?

Tim: Well, there's a lot of emails. A lot of online polls.

Drew: We're not spending anything.

Tim: I see HM as extending an invitation to people inviting them to join our college academic community.

Dan: If we make it free, everyone will want it!

Tim: That's not what's happening. The committee is voting on special cases where HM subs might not be charged.

Guillaume: Let's take it on a case by case basis.

Tim: Vote on the three cases: Michael de la Bedoyere, Margot Parmenter/Ellya Kawecki, Astrid Maes/Drew Holland.

In favour of Michael not being charged MCR subs during his year abroad.

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 1

In favour of not charging Ellya, Margot's sponsor, for her honorary membership for this term; this is an extraordinary circumstance, not setting a precedent.

For: 4

Against: 1

Abstain: 2

Tim: Maybe Drew should leave the room?

Drew: I'll close my eyes. [Closes his eyes.]

In favour of not charging Drew, Astrid's sponsor, for her honorary membership for this term; this is an extraordinary circumstance, not setting a precedent.

For: 3

Against: 1

Abstain: 3

Tim: Next, request from the decanal team to be added to the list of people who have rights to send emails to the MCR mailing list. Basically, Eleri has to cancel her Aldate's breakfast but could only email the Aldate's mailing list, so a load of people turned up to her kitchen when she wasn't there and the scouts got quite upset.

Dan: I think we should just update the website and let people know that way, not allow other people access to our mailing list.

Miles: Who has access?

Tim: Just junior deans. This may have been avoided now, because the JDs are pestering IT to keep the building mailing lists up to date. Eleri had to email me and then I had to send the email out, by which time it was too late.

Dan: I think they should have to come through us. We shouldn't let everyone have access to the mailing list.

Tim: It's not Eleri Watson or Matt Tompkins posting, it's the Decanal Team posting to the mailing list.

Guillaume: The IT staff don't really keep the building lists updated.

Tim: They should keep these things updated, but this is the failsafe in case they don't.

Guillaume: It's an emergency measure?

Tim: Yep.

To add the Decanal Team email address to the 'White List' (i.e. they can send out emails to the general mailing list).

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Tim: Termly General Meeting date.

Nicole: With the college or just us?

Tim: Just us. Only place where constitutional motions can take place.

Miles: Only place where non-committee members can vote.

Tim: Had a request from a member who wants to propose a motion which has a deadline of the 17th November. I was thinking 4th week, which is then two weeks before this thing. Can't do Mondays because of guest dinner. Friday isn't a great day.

Guillaume: I'm not here on Thursday and Friday.

Tim: I was thinking Wednesdays? People are usually free for Bakeoff, so they could come to a meeting.

Sarah: That could just be because it's Bakeoff!

[Some discussion about Bakeoff.]

Tim: Wednesday 2nd November?

Sarah: I have Library Committee, but that should be over by e.g. 6pm.

Tim: Do pizza at the meeting to get more people to come?

Guillaume: Does that work?

All: It does for the JCR!

Nicole: They made cake last year! People voted for it.

Tim: Money. About £150 for pizza at the last event. Do it on a Tuesday, do Dominos 2-for-Tuesdays. 1st November?

Sarah: All Saints Gaudy.

Tim: Push to 8th?

Nicole: That's the US Election Night?

Miles: Pre-Election Night party, Drew?

Drew: Our politics, then less important politics!

Tim: 8th November, 6pm!

[General conversation about JCR Liaison.]

Tim: Two other things. I've been to a couple of committees, everyone's loving us. Simon Aldridge is "singing our praises", Kathryn's got us free drinks. The term card will be online soon. Keep the Google Drive updated. Going to run a digital term card, because I don't want to get emails complaining that the paper copy is wrong.

Dan: Send me changes ASAP so I can keep the website up to date.

Guillaume: Someone's told me that they were very keen about the wine tasting, but there was no alert about when the sign up sheet was going out so they missed it. Do that in advance?

Tim: We can ask Kathryn to do that.

Dan: For QCS?

Tim: Wine tasting. College is keen for more wine tastings, because they want to get rid of a bunch of wine. Also, you may have seen the report that graduates wouldn't be in Aldate's; now the committee has changed its mind, and they're going to recommend that graduates remain in Aldate's.

Drew: Well done, Tim!

Tim: This is just the recommendation of the Academic Committee, not the Finance Committee.

[Miles and Tim have a tutor friend on the Finance Committee, who apparently wants to buy houses.]

Tim: Well done for FW, we all did great. If anyone at any point feels like their job roles are too much, then let me know and we can shift job roles around. Want to make job roles fairly flexible.

[Tim runs away to a fancy dinner.]