

## **MCR Committee Meeting (Minutes).**

### **16<sup>th</sup> May, 6pm, OTR.**

Present: Tim, Miles, Sarah, David, Archna, Drew, Ed, Dan N, Charlie, Rosie, Andre, Joe, Iris, Adam, Guillaume, Hamza

Drew: David, go away!

#### **Presidential Business.**

Tim: Memorial Room. In the graduate open evening, the Provost said that the graduates would be able to use the MR until the end of TT, but this isn't what the GB minutes say. Discussing this with college, which is why we're in this room.

Ed: It's a nice room.

Tim: Probably nothing with happen.

Tim: Rent negotiations. The increase will now be 2% instead of 3%.

[Applause, mainly from Joe and Sarah.]

Tim: However, food costs are going up because they were frozen last year. Going up 5%; a compounded effect by the freeze from last year, and because the buyer for college says that their prices are going to go up by 5%. Maybe not such a big issue for graduates; the lower rent rise saves us more money.

Joe: Are they going to increase staff pay proportionally to the food rise?

Tim: That's reserved business. The 2% increase. Stipend is going up by 1.8%. Student loans going up by 2.5%.

#### **Treasurer's Business.**

Miles: How are we going to use the leftover money from last term? About £2000 left over. Some options: continue to do the summer punt scheme, but the MCR pays for it instead of a levy (£720); we could remove the party charges for this term, inc. the party that's just happened (c. £500); last year the JCR's punt scheme didn't raise enough money, so if that happens this term we could share some of our money; putting a subsidy into Summer Dinner for e.g. drinks provisions.

Guillaume: There will only currently be one glass of cava per person at the drinks reception. We could get two glasses if some money was given; also after-dinner port. Maybe an extra £2/300. We're currently only getting one glass of white and one glass of white at dinner.

[General agreement that there should be more.]

Guillaume: If you give me a number, I can see what I can do. Let's say £100 on the reception, then maybe £50-£60 for more port, then maybe £200-£300. Including corkage from college.

Tim: Also some nice non-alcoholic drinks?

Guillaume: Maybe a £50 for that.

Joe: Quite a lot of things like that currently in the cupboards in the MCR.

Sarah: So maybe £500? Out of a surplus of £2000.

Miles: Any guests?

Guillaume: The Provost and his wife, and the new chaplain. 3 x £37.

Tim/Sarah: 3 is fine.

Tim: Proposal to spend £500 on Summer Dinner.

[No disagreement.]

Passes.

Miles: Free parties?

Joe: They'll then cost us more because more people will come.

Drew/Adam: Don't think that more people will come!

Joe: We'd then be spending more money to subsidise people drinking...

Andre: Shall we buy a new games console?

Guillaume: Keep it? Stick it in the emergency fund for next year? Give more to charity?

Tim: The speakers would come out of a different account. We might want a better sound system.

Someone in the MCR might know!

Guillaume: Someone in the JCR might know!

[Joe expresses disapproval.]

Miles: Punt scheme as a motion at the AGM?

### **Motions.**

#### 1. Oxford Society for Women in Medicine / Oxford Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Centre

Rosie: I'm asking for money! As a medic, we encounter people who have experienced sexual violence in our jobs, but medical school doesn't provide training for this. There's a training day on Saturday with OSARCC and some doctors from the hospital. Dealing with medical/legal issues, which are obviously important for doctors. £200, because OSARCC have asked for a donation directly to the charity of £800.

Miles: How much have you got so far?

Rosie: £200 from the JCR; Wadham gave us £200; Merton gave us £200; medical school gave us £100.

Andre: Do we have the money to spare?

Miles: Yes. About £700 of unassigned budget.

Rosie: A direct donation to OSARCC.

General consensus: Passes.

Tim: There will be a charity levy in the next few weeks, so if you want more you can propose it there.

Miles: How do I transfer the money?

Rosie: I'll give you the details!

#### 2. Motion for Free Movement of Bags.

Adam: The new library policy sucks! It's annoying, and I don't think it solves anything. Doesn't seem to prevent 'nests'; that currently seems worse than ever. I don't see any reason why this policy has done any good, and I think it's quite annoying.

Charlie: I spoke to the librarians the other. On 'nesting', the bag policy isn't for 'nesting', that's rather the clear-desk policy (9.30 and 5.30 clearings each day). Most of the nests exist because people are there all day, hence there's no chance to clear them. The bag policy thing wasn't designed for the 'nesting'; it's to stop people taking food in, to prevent general library clutter, to protect the expensive old books (it's a standard security procedure in some other libraries). It protects the students, as well, say if an expensive old book went missing, it can be clear. The signal I get from the librarians is that it isn't going to change. It would be better to do a positive thing, e.g. ask for more lockers somewhere else in college rather than trying to get them to reverse the bag policy.

Sarah: I'd like to add that it's actually been a GB decision that was confirmed at GB twice, so it's not going to change!

Charlie: There could be more lockers!

Adam: It's just really annoying having to take your stuff out of your bag.

Charlie: They're getting better quality plastic bags!

Adam: I've seen undergrads eating, so it's not changing. I'm not going to pay attention to it!

Sarah: I'd like to point out that quite a few members of the MCR have been ignoring this rule, and, speaking to the librarians, they find it quite disrespectful. It makes more work for them, and it is quite rude. I'd encourage all MCR members to please follow the rules, even though the rules are annoying, they are in place for a reason.

Charlie: You can take in handbags!

Adam: What's a handbag?!

Iris: Could there be a middle ground? There's no old books in the LL. Could there be locks on the lockers? It feels pretty unsafe.

Charlie: If we get more lockers in college, then maybe they'd have locks?

Adam: I would prefer, if there's spare space in the college, there'd be a MCR study space.

Tim: The current plan for the Peet is to redevelop the beer cellar and Peet into a canteen type area that would be open all day. The Tunnel and the Law Library are the current empty spaces.

Adam: I think there's quite a good argument for an MCR study space somewhere in the college, seeing as the New Library hasn't necessarily created many more seats.

Drew: Would be quite nice to push in general for an MCR study space.

Tim: Lecture Room B is going to be free. The JCR had their eyes on it for a prayer room, but that's been rejected by GB. Lots of flux as to what's actually going to happen!

Adam: What about John Hyman's room?

Tim: Currently an SCR guest room; next year it'll probably be given to one of the new fellows.

Charlie: There's actually always been at least 20 free desks in the library (over all three floors), so there's always somewhere to work.

Tim: Is there anything to be done at Aldate's? E.g. the JCR are pushing for Cardo and Florey to be redeveloped for kitchen space, which could well happen. Can we propose to take out one of the big kitchens for a study room?

Joe: There are already big desks in the rooms, and the kitchen spaces are pretty nasty.

Tim: I can mention to the Provost that a graduate study space would be a good thing.

Adam: Where it is, they're probably going to want to enforce a no-drinks policy.

Tim: Motion?

Adam: Not much point if it's a GB decision.

Tim: Going back to what Sarah was saying, I've been asked to send out an email about visitors to the library, reminding people to make sure that you ask for permission before going upstairs. I could include in that email a note from the Committee encouraging members to leave their bags in lockers and abide by the rules, out of respect for the librarians.

[General agreement.]

General agreement that there are too many Chemists/scientists in general in Queen's.

## **AOB.**

Tim: People need to start applying for committee positions! Start encouraging people to apply.

Adam: People like food.

Joe: Can we get some food before meetings? Do we have enough money? Do we have a budget?

Miles: Yes! Read my emails!

Tim: Coming from the graduate meeting, it became very clear that people find the Long Vac very lonely for grads. Often people don't do things. I think we could try to get the old and new committee together to try to organise things. We can have parties, we can have tea and cakes etc. But hopefully there'll be two committees, so there will be less work for everyone. Also, the beer cellar being open out of term. It can be requested by conferences etc., so basically if we staff it, they'll open it – maybe once a week. Charlie is the only one who's worked there; would you talk to Sean about this? We may not be able to say for sure when it'll be open, but we can potentially book it.

Joe: Can we go when it's open for conferences?

Tim: The Dean said he'd just request that we don't go if it's a wedding!

Sarah: YES LET'S GO.

Charlie: I imagine he'll probably say that not many graduates use it?

Tim: Hopefully it would pay for itself if it's only open once a week. We can just do bottled beer rather than kegs. I'm sure we'd be able to get people to staff it. I've been asked to write a paper on alcohol culture in the JCR.

Tim: The MCR is open all-night for one night only, election night!

Adam: Suggest that we get one of the new committee members food certified, because then we can have BBQs on the sports grounds in the summer.

Andre: Talking to the Provost about graduate dinners outside of term time?

Tim: See if we could have guest dinners outside of term. Briefly spoke to the conference office about this, and it's very difficult because of the conferences held in college. First year, try to get the beer cellar open, have some BBQs etc.

Drew: Reminder: party this weekend!

Joe: There will be some fun cocktails.