



The Queen's College MCR

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MCR Committee Meeting - Memorial Room - 20/1/2016

Hilary Term 2016

by Ross Speer, MCR Secretary

Attending :

Sam

Eleri

Julia

Matilde

ADAM

Dan IW

Ani

Ross

Anton

Ellya

Natalia

Dan N

Alex

Harry

Dan IW: We're spending too much money

Overspend from last term looks to be about 200, compared to overspend at the same time last year of 1000

Just under 400 on coffee

600 on papers

400 on social spending (parties, pizza nights)

Just under 600 on victualler spending

185 on 'irregular spending' (non-consumable items)

2700 on buttery spending

Income:

About 4000 from College



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Just under 500 from parties

A 200 deficit is not terrible but we need to be in the black not the red

Guest dinners are overwhelmingly our largest expenditures

Henrik: What if we remove the MCR subsidy for guest dinners? We would get back roughly the deficit

Eleri: What about charging 10 for parties

Ani: What if we raise the MCR charge on battells (currently 9)

Ross: I am against charging more for parties. We break even on these, roughly, anyway and I don't think they should be used to subsidise other things. Cheap alcohol is good. I also don't think we should raise the already extortionate MCR charge. We should be asking for more money from the college to whom we already pay high fees. We need to check if we get less per head than other MCRs

Natalia: We could push lower for the price of guest dinner but it is worth bearing in mind the JCR formal is cheaper but not nearly as good. The JCR formal is roughly equivalent to normal dinner but you just get a soup at the beginning

Anton: I went to JCR formal and it was roughly the same as MCR formal

Alex M: I went a couple of times and I thought the quality of food was good for what was paid. I don't think the MCR dinner is twice as good despite costing twice as much.

Harry: Can we get alcohol from other sources

Dan IW: we are not allowed to bring in outside alcohol

Ross: We may be able to get it via the College from bookers instead. We should investigate this



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Dan IW: my view is that quite a narrow group go to the guest dinners, so I think we are subsidising a small portion of the MCR by thousands of pounds per term.

Harry: But the ones who go to guest dinners are the ones you see around at other MCR events. We should see the dinner as the vehicle that gets people involved in the MCR

Adam: But the dinners have always been there, and MCR attendance has gone up. There's no reason to see the dinners in that way.

Dan IW: The more we spend on guest dinners the less we spend on other social events.

Ross: how much are we talking about cutting here?

Dan IW: my estimate is for guest dinners we spend about 240 per go. 158 is alcohol

Alex M: cava is about 14 per bottle

Dan: Chocolates is about 30 a time

Julia: Maybe we can get rid of pre drinks. No other colleges seem to have this

Ross: we might be being overly drastic. If we shift out cava and replace it we will cut expenditure massively

Tim: I was bar manager at Imperial and these costs are not the going rate. We're being overcharged. Can we see the licence?

Tim: They can also buy from anywhere.

Anton: If we ask them to buy from Tesco they may be able to do so

Eleri / Julia: Can we put together a working group and draw up a plan to get a higher



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grant from college

Adam: I don't think the chocolate we get is very good but it is very expensive. Low quality big box of chocolates would be better.

Ellya: I've never seen them as a highlight of the evening

Alex M: we can get M&S chocolates for about 8.

Dan IW: Lets talk about coffee

Alex M: Andy in the JCR is looking into cheaper coffee providers

Resolutions:

Petition college for more money per MCR member (Julia)

Investigate cheaper suppliers (Tim, Alex M)

Try and change the licencing agreement

Cut pre-drinks this term from guest dinners, and revisit this next term.

Adam: We need to decide a date for elections

Adam: Call for nominations for President Friday 19th · Hustings on the 27th. Voting on the Sunday 28th.

Call for nominations for other positions 26th

Vote on March 6th

Julia:

I am concerned about having a Bowie themed bop. I would like for bop themes to be discussed in advance in future. I would suggest an 80s themed bop. If we do have a Bowie themed bop we should set up a safe space that I would be happy to organise



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Harry:

There is no where in the world right now you can go and not encounter David Bowie. There is no such thing as a safe space. This sets a dangerous precedent that someone somewhere doesn't like something and we should take action against it. If we acknowledge a problem here, then why aren't we doing more? We will never be able to do less without looking like we're sort of looking like we're taking action against those who feel concerned so we'll always end up doing more and more and more. This is something that will apply to any party. So we should not just consider Bowie but the principal behind this move.

Elerie: Offering a safe space has no effect on you. I would personally find having a safe space personally useful. I think it should be a precedent.

Harry: But you can go in for another room

Elerie: Yes, we'd be setting aside a room for this purpose. It doesn't affect anyone or their enjoyment. We're just saying some people will be potentially affected and we care for our students

Dan IW: I agree with Elerie. The precedent it commits us to is being considerate towards MCR members. I don't see the problem with that. WE're just showing due consideration for our members. That doesn't seem like a problematic precedent. We don't want to exclude people from events

Harry: but people have the free choice to go or not to

Dan IW: But some people will feel excluded, not unreasonably, about having a party themed around a statutory rapist. Lots of places are Bowie free zones. My room is a Bowie free zone. You can go most of your life Bowie free. That's a load of rubbish.

Adam: I think the suggestion of a safe space is the least of what we can do. I think that's not the real issue. If you are willing to do that, that's fine. Done, not a problem. That's not the issue though. That's damage control.



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Natalie: I didn't even know who David Bowie was so I have no personal comments or feelings. I don't see a problem with changing the theme to the 80s. I would be pro changing the theme which would include more people.

Harry: I take your point. The precedent we're talking about is not about respecting the feelings of our members. Its safe to say we do care. The precedent we would be setting is that the MCR committee should be taking action every time someone expresses a concern about the theme of a bop.

Julia: What we're proposing doesn't affect anyone

Ross: It's a good precedent to set that we consider MCR members concerns

Harry: I think we should make it clear we're not committed to taking action

Ross: We're not committing to action in any case. We're just committing to evaluate these things. And it shouldn't take a specific complaint

Harry: we can't take action every time someone is offended or finds them deeply unpleasant

Julia: can we discuss bop themes in advance

Adam: I would be very against bringing the entire committee in on the entire party theme. The social secs and I will decide the theme and run it by the welfare officers.

Ellya: Just like a filtering system effectively

Harry: Again we should discuss it, but if we're going to have a filtering system which is essentially a censorship system. I'd like to know when it happens and why so I can put an opposing case. I'm just saying the rest of us should be told at the same time.

Adam: We're not going to do that



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Natalia: We should have a safe space at every drinking event. It just seems like a generally good idea.

Harry: Can I just ask what is the difference between a safe space and coming up to the memorial room or going into the front quad

Julia: Because its booked especially for the MCR which is a non-drinking space

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Harry: There are lots of non drinking spaces in college. Like the library

Julia: Yes but we're booking something specifically for this purpose.

Harry: If all that matters is that the space is booked for us it just sounds like its posturing.

Matilde: My only concern would be booking a room and leaving it unattended

Julia: the plan is to have someone in the room

Vote to change the theme to space 80s

YES: 4 (Julia/Matilde, Ross, Ellya, Natalia)

NO: 3 (Anton, Alex M, Harry)

ABSTAIN: 1 (Dan N)