

MCR Termly General Meeting (Minutes).

6pm, Memorial Room, 7th February

Present: Sarah, Miles, Iris, Guillaume, Drew, Tim, Dan I-W, Dan N, Charlie, Hamza, Joe, Kathryn, Andre, Ed, Bill, Nicole.

1. President's Business.

Tim: Pizza is ordered! We have to get this done within an hour.

Things I need to say. College committees. Rent negotiation soon: JCR proposed that we have a rent committee, although I don't know exactly what it'd entail. Hopefully as few people involved as possible! Don't want more committees, but it would be good to have MCR reps. I'll pass it out to the committee, but if anyone else is interested, get in touch.

From college. Remind MCR members that all room bookings should go via the Conference Office. There will 'soon' be an online booking system.

Email today from Sue saying the stools in the MCR are broken. They may get replaced, but that will be later approved in a committee meeting.

I've had a request to consider takeaway cups for the MCR. Haven't priced it up yet. Are people interested? My initial concern is that it's a waste, and that it could increase our coffee consumption which may twist the budget a little. Any really strong opinions?

Nicole: I like the idea.

Charlie: If we did get them and didn't want to encourage waste, would probably have to get some more mugs/cups.

Andre: Get some general mugs?

Tim: I'll be emailing about Presidential Nominations for next year soon, and then Committee Positions will be sent out early next term. The email will explain everything. If anyone's interested, get in touch and I can chat to you about what the role entails. An honest opinion!

Tim: Art Fund! College have earmarked £20,000 from next year, every year, to put towards a budget where students can request to fund speakers, talks. This will be distributed by the Senior Tutor and one other fellow. Hasn't quite gone through Governing Body yet, but this is what the Arts Fund will become, maybe the 'Queen's Fund'.

Miles: I didn't know anything about the Arts Fund before this. Is there a place where all this information is?

Tim: It's part of the proposal that all of these little budgets would come together.

Miles: Would that be well-advertised?

Tim: I think that would be the idea.

2. Treasurer's Business.

Miles: Committees. The Bursary wants to make a change to the way tuition fees are collected, but it's been agreed that it won't affect any current members.

Budget. Still don't know exactly how much we've spent because college hasn't battelled us yet, but it only affects two numbers. We came in roughly (depending on Bursary) under-budget (just!) last term, so I'll create something, send it to Dan, and we can put it up on the website. A lot of money spent on alcohol last term, but the idea was that the money would be spent this term – hopefully less expenditure on alcohol this term! About £600/£750 of what I'm calling 'miscellaneous spending', e.g. cinema scheme, which seemed to have its intended effect. The MCR contributed £250 to the MT EOTE at the request of the JCR. A couple of MCR repairs: things for the Wii, Tim fixed the sound. Altogether, under budget – and we'll get slightly more money this term (c. £4700), because the honorary members should have appeared on your battels.

New committee member, Hamza! Has a budget of about £100 to spend on board-game related activities.

Dan I-W: What's the change to tuition fees?

Miles: Want to change it for self-funding graduate students and overseas undergrad students, they want to change from annual to termly payments, with an option to apply to pay termly if you have a good reason. It'll be discussed at the next Student Funding Committee Meeting (I think) what exactly a 'good reason' is.

Dan I-W: Thanks, Miles!

3. Motions.

Queen's Magazine.

Bill: I don't know how many colleges have magazines or publications, but I think it would be great to do it. My feeling about Queen's is that there's a pretty broad cross-section of disciplines, and I think it would be cool to find a way to put them in conversation. Other magazines seem to be discipline-specific. It might behove us provide a less formal format for discussion—some more formal, some less—that allows conversation. I haven't decided entirely yet, but we could have themed issues. Maybe two a year, maybe print (depending on time/effort/money), maybe electronic. If we're not getting a huge amount of submissions, the theme might help! The Egyptian name (Thoth/Jehuti) is because of Queen's Egyptology focus; includes Classics/English/Drama.

Ed: [Contributes Egyptology knowledge.]

Bill: Thoth/Jehuti is a god that transgresses from literature and art to science and geometry, so ties everything together quite nicely.

Guillaume: How did you come up with the idea? Have you heard people wanting it, or is it a person project?

Bill: I was researching some Egyptian things and thought it would be cool to have a magazine. So I asked someone how I might go about doing that, and they sent me to Sarah.

Sarah: [Is not an expert on how to make a magazine.]

Guillaume: But not Egyptian focused?

Bill: No! But I feel grad students have a habit of talking about their own thing, but not necessarily about everyone else's things. Creating a space where people can talk about similar things but cross-disciplinary was attractive to me.

Miles: Initial readership: at first Queen's, then other students. If this ends up going out to other people, would college potentially have to have some kind of say in this?

Tim: If it was being distributed outside of college with the college name associated with it, it would have to go through the Dean, I'd imagine.

Bill: It could be an asset! Someone said that the JCR might get a chance to see grad work, and maybe even to publish before leaving college.

Tim: Have you spoken to people in the JCR?

Bill: Not really.

Tim: Nicole, do you think that this would be well received?

Nicole: Not sure. The Queen's JCR doesn't have something similar at the moment, which could be a good thing, but uni-wide I'm not sure if people are thinking about that kind of thing.

Charlie: Does the Queen's Rambler still exist?

Sarah: It does, but it's solely creative writing so this goes beyond that.

Charlie: I think JCR could be interested if it's interdisciplinary without looking too formidable from an undergrad perspective.

Guillaume: Would there be rules? Can you publish anything? Is there a format? Would it be reviewed? A length? e.g. 2 A4 pages.

Bill: That's sort of an administrative decision, what kind of editorial board, and that would depend on how many contributors/how much interest there would be. We wouldn't want to be turning things away completely! Can give constructive criticism. There would probably be stuff that we wouldn't want to publish, or if we have a lot of submissions there would be a cut off.

Guillaume: It's not clear what exactly this is trying to do at the moment. Would there be a committee?

Bill: Yes, there should be. I thought about it as including quite a broad range of genres—sports, academics, etc.—but I think you're asking if things should be excluded in principle?

Guillaume: I'm not quite sure where you want to go, if it's something academic and serious, or if it's something fairly chilled.

Bill: I think that should be left up to the people who want to contribute. My thought was somewhere in between.

Miles: Can you elaborate on the amount that you're asking for?

Bill: I have no idea. If we want to print, it'll cost more. If you're getting people together to put ideas around etc, then that's more of a social thing.

Miles: I'm wary of us saying 'go ahead, we'll end up paying for it' and then ending up spending £500.

Tim: In terms of publicity, JCR/MCR mailing lists are free. Snacks etc., £15/£20. Printing, no idea. Could just try for digital. Do a few printed and see what it's like, what the reaction is, then go from there.

Guillaume: I think we'd only need a couple of copies in the MCR/JCR, so £100 is a bit much.

Kathryn: There might be other places in college that you'd be able to get money from if it got bigger, e.g. the OM office.

Charlie: The legendary Arts Fund!

Dan I-W: I edited an undergrad magazine and for about 400 copies it was about £100 a term; that was in York and was about seven years ago. Sorry!

Dan N: I feel like maybe we need more information to actually decide on it.

Miles: If we agree the amount then that's the amount and another motion could come asking for me.

Tim: You say you want to create a platform for discussion. Isn't that the point of the QCS? This is something that the Provost has spoken to me about to fund perhaps more than twice a term, but these things take time to organise.

Kathryn: We could probably get more in, so we'd probably get more people willing to come.

Sarah: Not everyone wants to come talk.

Andre: You could have a QCS subject discussed in the magazine. What level would this be?

Bill: All different levels. Wouldn't want to discourage e.g. undergrads from writing things that aren't even in their subject area, but we could also publish high-quality things.

Charlie: Assume that £100 is an initial upper limit?

Tim: In principle, do we think that this idea should be investigated further?

For: 15

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Tim: I'd propose an amendment to give £25/£30 to hold an event, maybe in the MCR, to get people to come and chat if they're interested in taking part/being editors.

Kathryn: I can also see if we can sneak it in under QCS and get some money from there, too.

Tim: £25. It's to gauge interest. I assume you'd like to be on the editorial board, Bill?

Bill: Probably.

Tim: £25 for this initial introductory event.

For: 15

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

4. AOB.

Charlie: This morning the JCR Welfare/Entz put up a really nice idea on the JCR Facebook page, a scheme where you can pidge roses to people, anonymously or with your name if you like. I thought this was a really nice idea, and thought the MCR could ask to be included for a small contribution. Don't yet know how much that would cost—the JCR hasn't responded yet—but if we were to give any money out of the Welfare Budget to go towards this, how would I go about doing that? Andre?

Andre: I would delegate to the committee!

Guillaume: The idea is that the MCR/JCR covers the whole cost and it's at no expense to the student?

Charlie: Yes, but I'm sure people would be responsible and wouldn't send hundreds of roses! Would we have to vote? Or could we just do it?

Miles: We have a Welfare Budget that just goes towards supplying the drawer. Not all of the money was used last term; will you use a similar amount this term?

Andre: Probably less.

Charlie: Would you be happy for me to dip into that fund?

Andre: Sure.

Tim: Does the JCR-MCR Liaison not have a budget?

Miles: No. I can just give JCR-MCR a budget? Another £100 budget?

Tim: This to pass, with the budget to be approved by the committee. £30, probably less.

For: 15

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Miles: You all have the same budget as last term. Guillaume, you came it at about £930 out of £950.

Dan I-W: Can we have more Xbox controllers?

Miles: Last term Andre bought a bunch of stuff for the Wii.

Dan I-W: They're like £20 each.

Tim: I'll look into it, and we can pass it through a committee meeting.

Nicole: Can I borrow the MCR on Saturday for the Women's Brunch? Do I have to book a room?

Tim: Yes, that's fine.

Nicole: Can JCR members come up?

Tim: They won't be able to swipe in, but you can let them in and it'll be fine.