

Queen's MCR General Meeting 18th May 2016

Meeting started at 8.05

Minutes taken begrudgingly by Julia (where are you Ross?)

Chair: Adam

In attendance: Anton, Daniel, Natalia, Alex, Joely, Tim, Miles, Kathryn, Drew, Iris, Andre, David, Ed, Julia, Dan

Agenda

None. Free for all.

1. Harry's motion – lab mate to become Honorary member of MCR

For: 14

Against: 0

Abstention: 0

Resolve: ~~Yay we get a new friend!~~

2. Budget

Dan says cost-saving measures (cheaper coffee, cutting newspapers, less on cava) have been successful, we are £1000 up in the budget compared to last year – now at a sustainable rate of spending.

There will be a punting scheme (9th week til mid-Sept) over summer break with 1 punt and online scheme with op-out for people staying (e.g. DPhils), and opt-in for finalists, 4th years, and students on MA programmes (approx. £5-10); Anton offered to organise for 2016. Total cost for 1 x punt = £600.

Dan to prepare a report on the years spending.

3. COFFEE

We switched coffee brands and this has ushered in a **dark age** for our roast connoisseurs; there has been much discontent.

Alex: we have spent far less on this current brand (approx. £200 less this term).

Dan: someone in the MCR said the coffee was fine. Maybe the machine is broken.

Alex: We could try a slightly more expensive brand from the supplier.

Move to keep the current coffee:

For: 12

Against: 3

Vote to buy a middle range coffee:

For: 2

Against: 13

Vote to buy the fancy shit we used to get:

For: 1

Against: 14

Resolve to: keep the current coffee and Alex to investigate whether we can have a nicer brand for cheap.

4. Pre-dinner drinks

Adam: should we bring back some form of pre-dinner drinks for guest night dinners? Cheaper drinks incl. cheaper cava and G&T; a mix of drinks (e.g. 2 bottles of cava and 2 bottle of gin) total spending would be ~£35-40 a week / £280 a term.

[At this point in the meeting a beautiful rainbow was observed by all]

Tim: have the alcohol buying trips with Shaun been successful and will this continue?

Adam: MCR can tell Shaun what to buy or, for large orders, accompany him to buy alcohol; this has been successful. Buttery has a huge mark-up on wine.

Alex: Shaun can stamp the wine to show it has been bought through him.

Dan: if we do pre-drinks, they should be cheap and subsidised.

Andre: who is Shaun?

Adam: Shaun is the licensee for the college and has the final say about alcohol purchases.

Kathryn: no one would complain with just G&T, and first-come first-serve for prosecco might be unfair – we should stick to one type of drink.

Move to bring back pre-dinner drinks for guest dinners

For: 11

Against: 1

Abstain: 3

Vote to have all Prosecco:

For: 4

Against: 7

Vote to have a mix of G&T and Prosecco:

For: 3

Against: 8

Vote to have just G+T

For: 7

Against: 4

Resolve to: bring back pre-dinner drinks and for G&T to be served. Much celebration.

5. Guest dinner ballot

Adam: Guest dinner seems to attract the same people each time and this has been raised as a problem in multiple committee meetings. If this is the largest expenditure from the MCR, this is possibly unfair. A lottery system could be introduced where the dinner is cheaper, but would be balloted and more people could attend but only once or twice a term.

Anton: priority status should stay; what happens if someone wants to bring their family?

Natalia: would guests be subsidised as well?

Adam: no.

Anton: could MCR members apply to the MCR to have their guests subsidised if they can't afford the cost?

Natalia: JCR have system for members to apply for assistance with costs of guest dinner if they have a special guest and can't afford it.

Adam: the point of this is not to create a charity system for dinners but to try and encourage more people to engage with the MCR. We could also offer 1 free dinner a year in a lottery.

Anton: this would be a large expense.

Natalia: what are the reasons for people not coming? Is it expense? Is it social – that they don't know anyone? Is it because the same people come every week?

Alex: there is usually a waiting list for dinner, but usually with the people who drop out it means people on the waiting list get the spot.

Julia: could we ballot the people who sign up?

Dan: these suggestions are quite complex and create a lot of work for the victualler.

Alex: we could just adjust the priority status so that only one guest is guaranteed.

Kathryn: what is the purpose of guest dinners? Is it to bring guests? Or is it to bring in more people from the MCR?

Natalia: could we advertise the fact that there is also a Saturday formal?

Andre: could we suggest to college for there to be an MCR formal?

Natalia: we could also ask the hall to reserve a number of spaces on the Saturday formal for the MCR?

Natalia to send out a questionnaire to gauge the feeling of the MCR with regard to guest dinners in hall.

[At this point everyone in attendance wants a drink]

6. Rent

The report on the rent survey will be reported to the MCR separately, Adam will send out the things with cat pictures.

Meeting closed at 9.15.