

## MCR MEETING

Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> Week, Hilary Term  
February 1<sup>st</sup> 2011

Upper MCR  
8.15pm  
MINUTES

Present:

Jonathan Williams, President  
Oren Margolis, Vice President  
Scott Culligan, Treasurer  
Carina Foster, Secretary  
Emma O'Brien, Social Secretary to the Dean  
Stephanie Dobrowolski, Social Secretary  
Edward Owen, Male Welfare  
Helen Chadwick, Women's Welfare  
Daniel Martins, Sports Representative  
Michael Streatfield, Webmaster

**Meeting opened at 8.20pm**

### **1. Committee reports**

**JON:**

- The MCR has a category of membership for post-doc members. There are 15 of these positions available. Currently membership is granted for 2 years, and is then renewable for a further 2 years. However, it is possible for these positions to be taken by post-doc members who are not active in the MCR community and do not use the facilities available. This is a waste of a place and we would like to avoid this happening. The Senior Tutor approves the new policy that the Committee has asked for. This involves granting membership for 1 year in the first instance. This is renewable for a further 3 years, however there will be a re-application process. The Senior Tutor will write to the post-doc members and ask them to summarise their engagement with the MCR and the College. The Senior Tutor will then use this, together with advice from the MCR Committee, to decide whether to grant the renewal. This new policy will take immediate effect, and will apply to current post-doc members.
- The new Accommodation Policy is awaiting Governing Body approval in 4<sup>th</sup> week, and will take immediate effect. Graduate students out of fee liability will be able to enter accommodation ballots with everyone else. There will be 12 rooms available as variable lease flats in 121 Woodstock Road for those who have to complete fieldwork / do not require accommodation for a full year. The minimum lease time will be 1 week, and can then be rented daily thereafter. The ballots begin in 5<sup>th</sup> week this term and will be finished by the end of 8<sup>th</sup> week. Accommodation charges will be decided and announced before the ballots begin. There will be separate graduate and undergraduate ballots. Hugh Price House has been reserved as graduate housing, as requested in the last MCR meeting.
- Rent negotiations will be taking place in the next week. College want to increase rent by 8.5% again this year. This seems unreasonable, particularly considering that 39 College rooms were empty at the beginning of this year,

likely due to the increase in rent last year. The Committee will push for a rent freeze on the Ship Street houses, as the proposed increase will take them to over £21 per night, which is unreasonably high for accommodation that is in relatively poor condition, compared to the rest of the College.

**OREN:**

- There will be a Food Committee meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> Feb. Oren will be raising the issue of the new policy additional £2 charged for bringing a guest to lunch. If anyone has anything else they would like Oren to discuss at this meeting, please let him know.
- Over the Easter holidays the cracks in the Upper MCR walls will be repaired, and the walls repainted. This may involve the room being closed for several days.
- There is a motion coming up regarding having artwork commissioned for the Upper MCR. It is proposed to ask an undergraduate artist at Jesus, who has already produced some work for the College, to paint 4 panels. Each panel will represent one of the four higher arts of the medieval University curriculum. Oren showed a sketch of the Chapel organ, which will be the basis for the Music panel.

**SCOTT:**

The whisky bar has been restocked. After formal hall on Thursday there will be a re-opening.

**CARINA:**

- The new MCR Committee will be elected this term. If you are interested in any of the positions, their responsibilities are outlined on the MCR website. Feel free to contact the current Committee member if you have any questions.
- Nominations for President open on 25<sup>th</sup> February and close on the 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Hustings for President will take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March and the election on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Nominations for the other Committee positions open on the 4<sup>th</sup> of March, and close on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Hustings will take place on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March and elections on the 10<sup>th</sup>.
- The new Committee will take over on the 1<sup>st</sup> April

**EMMA:**

There is an ice skating outing on Friday. Guest dinner will be on the 24<sup>th</sup> Feb. The sign up will be going up soon. There will be 2<sup>nd</sup> desserts and port.

**HELEN:**

There is a free welfare brunch on this Sunday. This will be Helen's last one.

**ED:**

- The JCR offers some really good welfare support. As all MCR members are also JCR members, do use these if you like.
- OUSU have a good new welfare resource on their website.
- Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) has symptoms that many people probably suffer from. Symptoms can be relieved by the use of a light therapy device. There will be one available for MCR members to borrow. Get in touch with Megan, the College Chaplain, or Ed if you would like to know more.

**MICHAEL:**

Please do use and comment on/ add to the MCR website. There will be a delay in seeing your comments, as they need to be moderated to avoid getting lots of SPAM.

**Hannah:**

The next brunch will be a week on Sunday.

**Honorary members introduced themselves.**

3 visiting students from America, would love to be invited to lunch at Jesus. They are just here for HT on an exchange studying Law.

Daivy Babel is from France. He is the French lecteur at Jesus and Oriel (teaches French language) and is doing a DPhil with University of Paris. He is based at each College for one year, and so was based at Oriel last year, and Jesus now. He is a member of Oriel SCR and MCR and Jesus SCR.

**2. 2011 Census**

The Home Bursar has asked Jon to highlight this. The census happens every 10 years and is used to calculate local authority funding. It is a legal requirement that everyone must fill in the census. It is meant to take place on the 27<sup>th</sup> March, but has been brought forward to 4-7<sup>th</sup> March for Oxford due to our short terms. The College would like everyone to fill in the census. If all students fill it in for living here, Oxford will get more funding, so we will all benefit. You can also fill in it while at home, that is OK.

**3. Constitutional changes**

These changes were discussed at the last MCR meeting. The proposed changes are available on the MCR website.

*Proposed by:* Carina Foster

*Seconded by:* Oren Margolis

Jon read out and explained each change. Here were questions regarding:

The MCR newsletter: *will this now be a semi-official committee position? What if it isn't going to last?* We have set up funding for the newsletter for the long term, and need to show College that we're committed to this long term. The editor will not hold a Committee position, it is a sub-committee. The editors will be selected by the MCRCommittee.

F/A/A

26/0/0

Motion passed

**4. MCR bike lights**

This MCR notes that:

- i. We have available for MCR members to borrow a number of bicycles. There aren't any lights for them.
- ii. You really shouldn't cycle at night without lights, full stop.

This MCR therefore resolves to:

- (i) Purchase two sets of bicycle lights, of the same sort which the JCR have acquired for use. They cost £20 per pair, are extremely bright and very easily attachable and removable.
- (ii) Make these lights available for those borrowing MCR bicycles.
- (iii) Make these lights available on their own for those who find themselves accidentally without their own bike lights.

*Proposed by:* Edward Owen

*Seconded by:* Daniel Mendes de Oliveira Martins

The lights will be kept in the lodge and people will be required to hand in their bod card to borrow the lights. The lights are only for temporary use.

F/A/Ab

25/0/1

Motion passed

## **5. Art work**

This MCR moves to:

i) commission from Michael Clapton, artist, a painting entitled 'The Quadrivium', a work in four panels depicting the four higher arts of the medieval university curriculum (namely Arithmetic, Geometry, Music and Astronomy) in the life of Jesus College, to be hung on the south wall of the Upper MCR,

and

ii) pay Michael Clapton £1000 from the MCR savings for this work.

*Proposed:* Oren Margolis

*Seconded:* Stephanie Dobrowolski

- ***Could the mannequin Danielle be incorporated into one of the panels?*** Oren said he is going to let the artist choose the composition. It was noted that the MCR did not vote to replace the mannequin, so this could be taken as a sign that they don't want it in the painting.
- The panels should be done by July.
- ***Will we get to see sketches of the other panels before they're done?*** Oren agreed that he could try to display the sketches when they are ready
- It was mentioned that we don't want the paintings to be too serious. Oren agreed and has told the artist this. There are some interesting plans for the 'geometry' panel to incorporate life at the boat house.
- ***Does this vote mean all 4 panels are being approved by the MCR, without seeing sketches for the others?*** Yes, this vote commits us to all 4.

F/A/Ab

23/2/1

Motion passed

## **6. MCR Membership for Academic Staff**

The MCR understands its Constitution to allow only Jesus College students to hold full MCR membership. The MCR therefore does not recognise the membership of those

members of academic staff who are not themselves also students at Jesus College, and who have been promised "free" full membership of the MCR in the further particulars of their contracts.

The MCR therefore offers:

With respect to those members of academic staff who have already been offered "free" MCR membership, to grant them all privileges enjoyed by full MCR members, with the exception of voting rights and the ability to stand for office, on the condition that the College pays MCR subscriptions for the staff members and allows them to be batted for MCR events. This solution should be seen as temporary and should not apply to future hires.

*Proposed:* Jon Williams

*Seconded:* Oren Margolis

- It was stressed that this wasn't a personal issue, and should not become one, though it did relate to the next motion. Daivy Babel, the French lecturer was promised in his contract Full MCR membership. He is not a student here, he is a member of academic staff, and is a member of the SCR.
- The position of the MCR Committee is that the MCR Constitution does NOT allow this type of membership. However, the Home Bursar believes that it does. We think that his interpretation is not in the "spirit of the rules" and is too loose an interpretation of the Constitution. With his interpretation any member of staff at Jesus, including the Chaplain (DPhil student at Exeter) or scouts who are taking an Open University course, would be allowed Full MCR membership.
- Our main issue is that College are promising FREE MCR membership, apparently at our expense. The Committee has been given no indication that the College will pay the subscription charge. All other MCR members pay full subscriptions.
- As a Full Member, lecturers and equivalent members of academic staff would be able to run for office and vote in meetings and elections, even though they are not a student at Jesus College.
- It is proposed that we should make the outlined exception above IF the College arrange for subscriptions to be paid, and for billing to be possible via battels.
- If this motion is passed, the MCR is instructing the MCR Committee not to recognise any member of academic staff, who is not a student at the College, as an MCR member.
  - It was pointed out that a similar situation recently occurred in the JCR, where the College expect the students to compromise financially due to a mistake on their part. We don't want to allow this to continue, where the College make contracts and then expect students to compromise to fulfil them.
  - The MCR Committee does not like the fact that we have to override our Constitution to fix this situation. However, in this situation it is the right thing to do. We are unhappy with how the Home Bursar has 'read' our Constitution. The College has promised to make Daivy a Full MCR member and it is not his fault that they were wrong to do this. The best way to deal with this is the above compromise. We will make him a semi-full MCR member if College will make arrangements to pay for this.
  - Post doc members have a separate category of membership. They can vote, but not stand for office.

- We have had no feedback from College since stating our position on this matter. We do not know how they are going to react and whether or not they will pay the subscriptions. It may lead to a deterioration of our relationship with College.

F/A/Ab

24/0/2

Motion passed

## **7. Honorary Membership**

a) There are three visiting students from Columbia University, New York taking the Masters in Law and Finance course and staying in Jesus College accommodation for this term. They are Brendan Hamill, Michael Papadakis, and Jeremy Delman and are recommended for honorary MCR membership by the Senior Tutor.

This MCR therefore proposes to:

Bestow honorary membership upon Brendan Hamill, Michael Papadakis, and Jeremy Delman for the duration of Hilary Term 2011.

*Proposed:* Carina Foster

*Seconded:* Oren Margolis

F/A/Ab

26/0/0

Motion passed

b) Daivy Babel is employed as a lecturer here in Jesus College and he is a member of Oriel College MCR and SCR.

This MCR therefore proposes to:

Bestow honorary membership upon Daivy for the duration of his employment with Jesus College (June 2011).

*Proposed:* Carina Foster

*Seconded:* Oren Margolis

- The MCR is a safe haven for students, they should be able to talk about their tutors/classes/work etc. Students taught by lecturers may not be happy to have them as part of this community. Their application process is not the same as for a student.
- He could be an asset to the MCR, he sounds like he would be an active member (from his stated interests), but would he be eligible to take part in teams at both Jesus and Oriel?
- If College won't pay for his membership, would we still like him to have honorary membership? This may take the pressure off of College to rectify the financial situation and gives Daivy a foot in the door, he would be able to attend some events.
- We don't want to discriminate against Daivy as this is not a personal issue. The money is more the issue, which is a mistake on the part of the College, and the fact that they are trying to get us to bear the financial burden.
- Some people expressed a problem with a person being able to have membership of more than one MCR.

F/A/Ab  
4/15/6  
Motion NOT passed

**8. AOB**

**Meeting closed at 9.08 pm**