

MCR GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, 7th Week, Michaelmas Term
March 2nd 2010

Upper MCR
8:15 pm

MCR Formal Hall at 7:15 pm to precede meeting.

MINUTES

Meeting opened at 8.15pm

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
Michael Streatfield, Computing Officer
Hannah Arnold, First Year Representative

Apologies:

Daniel Martins, Sports Representative

1. Committee Reports

JON:

- We passed a motion at the last MCR meeting regarding MCR membership for academic staff. College has now agreed to pay the subscriptions for any current staff members that were promised MCR membership in their contracts, and have accepted that these members will not have voting rights or be able to stand for office. We still need to come to an agreement over what will happen for future employees.
- Student representation in College has recently been changed. The MCR used to have representation only at SLC (Student Liaison Committee) meetings. Over the last year the MCR has got representation at both Governing Body and Academic Committee meetings. College have now reviewed how students are represented across College and proposed to abolish SLC and instead give us representation on all the major College committees. At our request they have agreed to keep one SLC meeting per term, where we can submit papers, and have MCR representatives on the four major College committees.
- Jon has asked to introduce a booking system for use of the squash courts.

OREN:

- He has attended a food committee meeting where he tried to get clarification over how many guests we are allowed to bring to formal hall. The answer was that large groups of guests are not what formal hall is designed for, but they will continue to be flexible. They did not actually state what number of guests would count as very large.
- In the past Oren has agreed with College to only provide sustainable fish. However cod made a return 2 weeks ago.
- The End of Term Event is taking place at the Ultimate Picture Palace next Thursday evening. There will be lots to eat and drink and it will be a good party.

SCOTT:

- Scott has forecasted the accounts for the end of this term and it looks like there will be approximately a £3000 surplus. This is in part due to the following: the OUSU subscription charge has been lifted (£1200), we have more MCR members than last year, so a greater subscriptions income (£1000), and the budgeted societies funds has (as usual) not been fully spent, however it must be budgeted for as it could be used.

CARINA:

- Elections for MCR President will be happening tomorrow, Thursday, in the upper-MCR from 12-2pm and 5.30-7.30pm.
- Nominations for the other committee positions will be open from Thursday until Monday. Hustings will take place at the MCR meeting on Tuesday next week (8th), and the elections on the following Thursday (10th March).

EMMA:

- Sign up for the EOT event as spaces are going fast. The film choice has yet to be decided. Each person can sign up one guest.
- St Peters exchange tomorrow
- Next Tuesday there will be pancakes at the MCR meeting as it is Shrove Tuesday.
- Emma and Steph are producing a 'handover' book that will be very helpful for the next social secretaries.

ED:

- He attended a Health and Safety meeting. It was raised that the Turl Street bike sheds are in a poor and sometimes dangerous condition. If anyone has noticed anything there that could be fixed/made more safe, please let Ed know so that he can formulate a plan to fix it up.

MICHAEL:

- Many people have asked about getting wireless internet access in college accommodation. College will provide hubs, but they require a £100 refundable deposit. They are quite valuable, and you would not be able to use a different router as these are not standard routers and there is a complicated log on system. The wireless connections won't be as fast as plugging into the network. It shouldn't be necessary to have one per flat, it could be one per building, but the connection would be slower the more people that use it. So if you would like to get wireless access you need to contact the IT guys to get one of these routers. Hopefully if people contact them asking for these it will speed up the process.

HANNNAH:

- There will be another MCR brunch next week
- She is considering getting some MCR stash made, any ideas are welcome.

2. Honorary membership

This MCR notes that Felix Pinkert, a visiting DPhil student from St Andrews, is working under the supervision of Krister Bykvist, and is visiting the faculty of philosophy this term. He would like to be involved with the MCR during his time in Oxford.

We therefore propose to bestow honorary MCR membership upon him for this term.

Proposed: Carina Foster

Seconded: Oren Margolis

NB: He is here until the end of Trinity Term, so would be an honorary member until then

He was very friendly at dinner.

32/0/0

Motion Passed

3. Guest nights

The MCR notes that the termly guest nights in College are a highlight on the social calendar. The MCR further notes that Jesus College has a long list of distinguished alumni who should be celebrated for their accomplishments. MCR guest nights present an opportunity to pay homage to these esteemed previous members as well as provide a glimpse of our proud history to guests from other colleges.

The MCR therefore proposes that each guest night include a very brief (~ 5 - 10 min) oration on a selected alumnus. This can be performed in hall during dessert or coffee by an MCR volunteer(ed) member who has some connection the alumnus (e.g. field of study, nationality, political aspiration, genetic). Orations are encouraged to be creative and also to include the entire hall when practical (e.g. in verse or song). A copy of the oration can be added to a file and stored in the MCR (along with an electronic copy).

Proposed: Stephanie Dobrowolski

Seconded: Michael Streatfield

- Either someone would volunteer to talk, or someone would be volunteered.
- It will probably be necessary to designate someone to organise finding the speakers. As the event itself is organised by the social secretaries, they could be responsible for this.
- Could also speak about infamous alumni as well as famous ones.

19/2/7

Motion passed

4. Hustings for MCR President

Hannah is running for 3 reasons:

1. She thinks that she will enjoy it, as she has enjoyed being on the committee this year. She would like to be the 'face' of the MCR to College, and knows that this is an important role.
2. She feels like she has really benefitted from the MCR community and would like to give back.
3. She thinks she would be good at it. Having been on the committee already she has some idea of things work and run. She also has experience of sitting on committees and being in leadership roles. She comes to a lot of MCR events and knows quite a lot of people. She thinks that she is approachable.

Questions:

- ***Which qualities of the current MCR President, Jon Williams, do you most admire?***
She was asked this question before, and will give the same answer: Jon was the first person who spoke to her when she first came to Jesus MCR. He is a very friendly and welcoming person.
- ***You have been on the committee and seen how Jon has acted as President. Is there anything you would do differently?***
Jon has been a good role model; he is very organised and prepared. She would like to live up to his standard.
- ***If elected, will you resign as first year representative?***
There still needs to be a first year rep, and she would be happy to continue with the role. It's not too much of a time commitment, so thinks she would be able to continue with it in addition to being MCR President.
- ***Can you tell us about your research and what your time commitments are like?***
Her supervisor is very flexible, for example she has been able to take time away from work to take part in Torpids this week. Her project is computational, so she doesn't need to worry too much about working at specific times.

5. AOB

- Torpids is on this week. Come down to the river and support Jesus, it will stop us getting bumped. Times of races will be emailed around and are also available on facebook.
- There is an MCR football match on Saturday at Barts at 10.30am, come and support.
- Old boys rugby match on Saturday.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm