

MCR General Meeting
Monday 22nd January (2nd week, Hilary Term)
Upper MCR, 8:00 pm

MINUTES

25 people

1. Committee Reports and Notices

President

- **General**

- VP Caro's MCR Refurbishment proposal was fully approved by College! Brava!
- Committee approved Postdoctoral Membership of Dr. Tomas Malinauskas (Wellcome trust Centre for Human Genetics, Division of Structural Biology)
- OFO free bike sharing trial will commence in middle of February (20 bikes at Barts, 20 bikes at Stevens Close, 10 bikes in College bike shed). [College will be offering bike storage in Fellow's Garden.](#)
- Hall Charge Motion discussions with College in progress (see revised motion)

- **Committee**

- New Equality Officer MCR committee position approved at last GM; how much to increase yearly payment from College to be discussed at upcoming ACC Meeting on 24.1.18. Officially be included in constitution soon. Already put in paper to increase budget
- Committee perks proposed by College: free dinner for select MCR Committee members once a week on Wednesday or Friday
 - DACC currently proposes awarding this to: President, Vice President, Social Secretary to the Dean, Female & Male Welfare Reps
 - [DACC did a survey about perks given to MCR/JCR Committee members in other colleges and most do give some perks](#)
 - The same positions in the JCR (which is also their Executive Committee) will also get free dinners
 - Should we try to change this to bi-weekly free dinner for every Committee member? [Yes, this will be discussed in a meeting on Wednesday](#)
- Presidential Hustings will take place on 12.2.17 – If you are interested in finding out more about the role, drop me an email and I can meet with you to chat about it
- Committee Hustings will take place on 19.2.17 – to find out more about any Committee role, either the current role holder(s) or myself can provide guidance
- [Please get in touch with anyone in the current MCR Committee if you are interested in running for a position for the next committee.](#)

- College is placing great emphasis on the graduate community and plan to increase it by 40% over the next few years. Also aims to build a stronger research/graduate cohort.
- **College Academic Committee**
 - Support to 4th year DPhils: increasing number of writing-up scholarships, continuing Graduate Fund for 4th year DPhils outside fee liability, seed support for new projects – to be consolidated February 7th
 - Increasing number of Graduate Scholarships (£900 + high table dining rights) from 4 to 10 per year – to be officially approved February 7th
 - Will be confirmed before end of this term, update in next General meeting.
 - MCR Research Symposium will resume in Trinity 2018
- **Development Office**
 - Career Networking Symposium will feature: Judge, Science Senior Investigator, 2 Entrepreneurs, Early Career Arts Fellow, patent attorney, manager in pharmaceutical industry – details to follow shortly; drinks and canapés will be served after the talks; opportunity to network with speakers
 - Sign ups will be sent out soon. Event will be held in the Ship Street Center.
 - Oxford Foundry Entrepreneurship interactive workshop will take place in Trinity 2018
 - Email was sent out last term. The event will be held at the Oxford Foundry. It will be interactive and not lecture based.
 - NGH: plan to break ground fall 2018
 - Planning application to be submitted by the end of this month and will be accessible to everyone later on. More involvement of MCR Committee and rest of the MCR after that.

Vice President

- Vice President is also the Green Rep
- End of Term Event: May be a St Patrick's Day event later this term.

Treasurer

- Nothing to report.

Secretary

- Hustings for the MCR Committee will take place later this term in Weeks 5 and 6.

Welfare

- Chris and Cristina will meet with College on the last day of January. This would also be an opportunity to apply for extra funding for welfare initiatives. College has been very generous to the JCR. Please email regarding any welfare issues or if you have any ideas to get extra funding for by the end of next week.

IT

- Screening of The Room.
- Will figure out what's wrong with the coffee machine.
- Internet disconnects at around 1am in the Ship Street accommodation. Di will email Matthew.

Sports

- Yoga instructor has retired and the Wednesday evening sessions are no longer running. Currently looking for a replacement. Rob and Max are organizing sessions

at Barts on Sundays (10.30am – 11am). People will most likely have to bring their own mats.

Social Secretaries

- Check emails for the termcard and more information on events. The MCR now has fob access to the bar.

First Year Reps

- Board Games organized every week.
- Semi-regular ice skating: May use the budget to subsidize the first time (£5 for student night). Thursdays starting at 8pm until 10.30pm. Currently planned for Week 5, 7 and 8.
- Star Trek Discovery: New episodes every Monday night. Informal screening in the Bunker. Could get a projector in the future (email the events manager).

2. Hall Charge Motion 2

The MCR notes that:

- (1) Hall Charge Motion 1 was approved by the MCR
- (2) An initial meeting took place with College Estates Bursar (Stuart Woodward), DACC (Ruedi Baumann), and MCR representatives to discuss:
 - 1) Structure/analysis of College Catering income and costs
 - Hall charge is the only element of fixed income
 - 2) Possibility of a Refundable Hall Charge: keep the Hall Charge, but change its nature such that it could be either completely or partially refundable
 - This scheme also encourages dining in Hall
 - Concern from College: variable income, risk
 - 3) Possible changes to current Hall Charge and general catering to still achieve zero-sum:
 - I. Adjust Hall Charge within the MCR only such that people who live on-site pay a bit less, and those living off-site pay a bit more.
 - Profile of Hall Charge for HT2018 (courtesy of Rudi Makishti – College Accountant)

HT2018 Hall Charge	PG STUDENT		UG STUDENT		TOTAL	
	Count	Amount	Count	Amount	Count	Amount
Hall Charge Live In	53	£3,895	107	£7,863	160	£11,758
Hall Charge Live Out	150	£5,513	210	£7,645	360	£13,158
Grand Total	203	£9,407	317	£15,509	520	£24,916

- Possible changes

Location	Current Hall Charge	Potential Change 1	Potential Change 2
On-site	£73.49	£64.30 (12.5% ↓)	£59.92 (18.5% ↓)
Off-site	£36.75	£40.00 (8.8% ↑)	£41.54 (13% ↑)

II. Decrease the Hall Charge, or remove it entirely while increasing the prices of all meals, or perhaps only formals

- This would involve discussion with the JCR, and eventually the rest of College

2) Numbers and scenarios for the College Accountant to provide for our next meeting with Estates Bursar and DACC

- By how much would meal prices go up if Hall Charge goes down?

The MCR therefore resolves to:

(1) Have a vote on whether the MCR would:

- Be happy to simply re-shuffle the Hall Charge in some way to bridge the disparity between on- and off-site prices
- Favour a Refundable Hall Charge whilst increasing overall prices of food, or formals only

*** With the understanding that A. can be settled within the MCR, but B. requires discussions with College Finance, Governing Body, and JCR, which would take a longer time to actualise

(2) Proceed with at least one further meeting with Estates Bursar and DACC to:

- Review calculations by the College Accountant on how much food prices or formal prices would have to increase with varying decreases in Hall Charge in MCR and JCR
- Hone in on the result from our vote to specifically discuss whether and how we can achieve what the MCR favours for changing the Hall Charge setup

Proposed: Daniel Schwennicke

Seconded: Di Hu

Minutes

Q: Disagree with the statement. Why would you punish more people living off-site by increasing the Hall Charge for them and only benefiting a fewer number of people on-site? Most people off-site are DPhil students and may be working in a lab. Mealtimes in hall don't fit into the DPhil schedule.

A: The on-site Hall Charge is 100% more than the off-site charge. This was an arbitrary decision (Estates Bursar), which is why it's not 50-50 but we would like to bridge the gap. Also it is only a small increase for people living off-site.

Q: Also, rent at Ship Street is higher.

A: Rent is charged separately. Freshers had the option to live on Ship Street or elsewhere.

Hall Charge was apparently deterring people from eating in Hall so increasing prices of food would have the same effect.

Q: Is any increase in food prices also applicable to the JCR?

A: Yes.

It is unfair to increase prices for the JCR since first years living on-site have no kitchens and have no choice but to eat in Hall.

Q: If the Hall Charge is refundable, would the amount be £10 or half? Would it be a considerable amount?

A: If the Hall Charge is refundable, then we would have to pay a certain amount and as long as you eat that amount of money, you won't need to pay extra.

Q: Did College say where the money from the Hall Charge goes? Wages, food?

A: It does not all go to food. Hall is heavily subsidized.

Other colleges are slightly more expensive and people do not go to Hall regularly. We are already getting a good deal.

JCR will not be opposed to increasing formal prices and decreasing the Hall Charge since it does not affect first hall. But formal might become very expensive.

Q: We need more specific figures from College.

A: Will meet with College to get more specific figures and communicate the general sentiment. Updates will be provided in the next General Meeting.

MOTION FAILS

(Proposer was absent and the motion was not adopted by another MCR member at the meeting)