

Minutes for the MCR General Meeting on Friday, May 8, 2015

Meeting Begins at 8:43

Absent: Ceren, Kris, Alexandria, Stefan

Committee Reports and Notices:

- Matt:
 - We can now eat and sit on the grass because it is Trinity Term. This is a privilege, not a right
- Karan and Thomas
 - Wine missing from the MCR, email has been sent out to the college. No one has yet come forward
 - Cocktail party with Merton, will keep posted. 4th week Saturday with New College and Merton starting in New College gardens and around 9pm moving to Merton. Emails will be sent out sometime in the coming week looking for interest, cost depending on how many people are interested.
- Jack and Allison
 - email for sexual health products and locker keys. OUSU is selling feminine hygiene products without the luxury taxes. Allison will let everyone know when they are available.
- Jack and Yosiane
 - brunch coming up this term

Motions:

Newspapers

- Taking a re-vote on the last time that the motion was presented because there wasn't quorum last time.
- Perhaps the MCR should avoid papers published and owned by Murdoch
- Magazines are safe and will not be touched, it is only the newspapers that will be affected
- The SCR has offered to give us their newspapers and therefore we will not need to order them.
- There are a minority of people who read the newspapers in the MCR
- Which ever periodicals/newspapers that we keep we will make sure that they are delivered
- They are all online anyway
- The Times and the Financial Times are expensive, and a group subscription for the online version is more than the MCR is willing to spend

Motion passed with vast majority voted in favor of getting rid of the newspapers that are under utilized

Junior Scholarship Membership

- The motion, increasing the per person contribution from 3.90GBP to 4.30GBP. This is in line with inflation.
- The JCR had a similar motion that was also passed today
- This is an opt-out scholarship
- Perhaps some money should be given to MCR scholarships and charities rather than only JCR scholarships. It is perhaps important in involving the MCR more in participating in the scholarship. There should be an equal amount of ownership and pride. The MCR has shown an equal amount of commitment as the JCR and therefore we should all be involved. There are some members of the MCR who have paid for people who are opting out.
- More information should be given about the scholarship—we should know what we are donating to. Verity (JCR president) notes that there will be a discussion group in Week 5 about the scholarship and what it does. It's been a while since it was set up so it's important to have information about.

Motion passes with a vast majority in favor of increasing the opt-out contribution.

Inter-faith provisions

- Other faiths aside from Christianity are marginalized. The JCR has provided for other faiths
- The MCR should provide for the religious needs of its members.
- Louise in the JCR has proposed a similar motion. This motion would involve taking the money from the MCR budget.
- Megan has a religious library, which has many religious items that people don't know about.
- It is unclear if MCR members have requested the religious items in question.
- It's only 40 GBP rather than 60GBP.
- Which faiths get how much money? It is based on the members of the college?
- Approximate costs—it should cover whatever people ask for. Megan says that she is happy to use the welfare budget to cover costs if there is a lot of demand.
- If there is a huge real demand, then 40GBP won't cover it.
- There is the suggestion to send out an email to college asking what would be required by member of the college
 - We should do research for the MCR. We are currently using the information from the JCR.
 - The JCR are happy to extend use of such items to the MCR, according to Verity
 - Karan notes that there are people of the MCR who have asked for things like Muslim prayer mats that are not available in college
- Suggestion to hold religious items in the room near the Nurse's room
- We should care for past, present, and future members of the MCR not just the people who are here currently.
- We have the funds to provide for this.

Vast majority in favor of providing money to inter-faith provisions

Any other business

- Verity Sherwin notes that there will be an event in Week 5 about the JCR scholarship. The current holder is in her second year and we need to think about what will happen to the scholarship when she leaves. If you have thoughts about what you would like to happen, you should bring those thoughts to the meeting
 - Honorary members might be happy to contribute.
 - It is important to check your battels carefully if you have chosen to opt-out—email Verity, not the accounts office to correct a mistake.
 - There was a development office meeting this week—the college as a whole had a very low opt-out rate, which is really positive. It's the students' donations that makes the entire scholarship possible, otherwise it wouldn't happen at all. If anyone feels passionately, email Verity a little quote about what it means to you for good press —she will send an email to remind people about it
 - Jesus is currently the only college that has this type of scholarship where the students have complete control over it. There was a similar program at Teddy Hall but it has fallen out of use. Jessie notes that it would nice to have an MCR scholarship of a similar variety
- There will be an open-mic night this term if any one is interested. If people are up for it, it would be possible to combine with the JCR for a joint event.