

MCR GENERAL MEETING  
 MONDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2018 (7<sup>TH</sup> WEEK, TRINITY TERM)  
 UPPER MCR, 8:00 PM

## Minutes

### 18 people

#### 1. Committee Reports and Notices

- MCR Committee position vacancies for:
  1. Social Secretary to the Dean
  2. Social Secretaries (up to 2)
  3. Equalities Officer
- Signup sheets will go up in the MCR starting 4.6.18

#### Minutes

- Following TT18 there will be no Social Secretaries and Equalities Officer until there are signups
  - Hustings may be held at any point, but ideally shortly after there is signup of at least 1 team for Social Sec and 1 member for Equalities Officer

#### President

- Our second blade has been put up in the MCR
- Pride flag also hung up, as we support pride in line with the College
- Protocol for disciplinary motion is being progressed at the College level before it may be added to the Constitution
- Priyav asked College to get a TV in the bar for watching the FIFA world cup – **successful**
  - Mostly for postgrads, as undergrads leave soon for summer break
  - College is buying the TV for us
  - Can invite other MCRs for joint events/exchanges
  - Could also setup projector in the MCR if there is a lot of interest
- Ensuring the MCR kitchen is more smoothly run, e.g. having washing up liquid and scourers always available, clean tea towels, regular cleaning of the coffee machine
- The welfare reps reported that the JCR gets 3 times the funding we do from the College Welfare budget, so Priyav is working toward making it more fair for the MCR

#### Vice President

- Absent, nothing to report

### Treasurer

- Finally got online banking sorted
- Debit card motion to be discussed

### Secretary

- Nothing to report secretary-wise
- Will continue termly MCR Research Symposiums, and hopefully do more Career Networking Symposiums if there is interest
- Thinking of DJ decks proposal for the Development Fund in MT18; given our expanding graduate community, this would help make events more engaging and tailored - could also motivate alumni to come back and visit

### Social Secretaries

- Please keep open mic
- Really nice working with Treasurer Luke who is prompt with reimbursements and thorough with advising on budgeting, making social sec organisation less stressful

### Welfare

- Continuing with twists and themes for welfare events
- Welfairy going well
- Planning to have picnics in the summer

### Equalities

- Planning low-cost joint events with the JCR - to be passed on to the next Equalities Officer

### IT

- Absent, nothing to report

### Sports

- Yoga at Barts is on for the rest of TT18, but the instructor is leaving next year, so we'll have to find an alternative - potentially something to go through the Development Fund (MT18)
- Looking into the possibility of getting our current speakers fixed; if not feasible, will get new speakers

### First Year Reps

- Mini golf at Westgate on Tuesday, June 12<sup>th</sup> in place of ice skating
  - 1 course will be fully subsidised and 2 courses will be subsidised to the cost of £2 as long as MCR members bring their student ID

## 2. Constitutional Motion to change the denomination of the Welfare Officer positions

- Proposed: Martina Astrid Rodda
- Seconded: Katia Carro García

### The MCR notes that:

1. The current designation of the Welfare Officer positions as Female Welfare Officer and Male Welfare Officer implies that this position should be taken up by and seen as representative of individuals identifying as either female or male, respectively;
2. This formulation implicitly excludes MCR members who identify as any non-binary gender, potentially preventing them from running for welfare positions, or at the very least not recognising their presence as part of the MCR community;
3. In a general context where the College is making steps towards being more inclusive of LGBTQ+ and especially trans identities (cf. the recent creation of both an MCR Equalities Officer and a JCR Trans Rep, as well as College and University policy) this exclusionary message is both unhelpful and unnecessary;
4. However, the two Welfare Officers should still be of different genders, as this ensures more balanced and inclusive representation.

### The MCR therefore resolves to:

1. Change the designation of the Welfare Officer positions to (collectively) 'Welfare Officers;' 'Welfare Officer 1 and 2' could be used where a distinction between individuals is required (e.g. in email addresses), although no hierarchical implication should be implied. This requires rewording of Sections IV.A and IV.D.7-8 of the Constitution, per the following proposed formulation:
  - a. IV.A: 'The general administration of the MCR shall be entrusted to an elected MCR Committee, composed of MCR Officers, acting in accordance with the Constitution and consisting of the following positions: [...] 7 and 8 Welfare Officers'
  - b. IV.D.7: 'The duties and responsibilities of the Welfare Officers primarily consist of the following:
    - D.7.1 Disseminating relevant welfare-related information to MCR members, including but not limited to information concerning health, welfare, child care, finance, scholarships, and employment.
    - D.7.2 Maintaining the system of issuance and return of locker keys.
    - D.7.3 Acting as the Oxford University Student Union (OUSU) Representative for the MCR while the MCR is affiliated, and to attend such OUSU meetings as considered appropriate to fulfil this role.
 The Welfare Officers' duties and responsibilities shall be held jointly and severally.'
  - c. IV.D.8: deleted and replaced as in (2) below.

2. Introduce an additional provision (IV.D.8) stating that 'The two Welfare Officers shall not identify as the same gender.'

This proposed constitutional change will:

1. Ensure that the Welfare Officer position is non-discriminatory in its designation and fully representative of everyone in the MCR community;
2. Introduce an explicit provision stating that Welfare Officers should not both identify as the same gender, something which is currently lacking in the Constitution.

## **Minutes**

### Introduction:

- Female and male welfare officers have the same responsibilities by the Constitution
- However, this current denomination adheres to a narrow gender binary. It raises the issue that those who do not fit within this binary cannot run. Notably, it sends the message that non-binary members of the MCR are not even considered.
- Therefore, the proposal here is to change the denomination to '**Welfare Officer**' in the MCR Constitution
- Whilst still ensuring the 2 Welfare Officers are of different gender

### Discussion:

- Currently the Constitution excludes the trans population who do not identify with either male or female. For the trans population, welfare reps are inaccessible by virtue of this fixed denomination
  - Creates discomfort, not a supportive environment where anyone can ask for help
- Welfare reps have an important role in sign posting people; any welfare officer that gets elected whichever the gender should keep this in mind
- Could involve the Equalities Officer, but the Welfare Rep role in and of itself should be open and inclusive
- Changing the denomination would go through great lengths by removing the implicit requirement for gender binary
- The Welfare Reps could run as a panel of 2 (joint signup sheet); could be referred to as Welfare Officer 1 and 2, or could pool email addresses together as one welfare email, but still provide individual contacts
  - Have the MCR Committee workout these logistics

Q: Can we have more welfare officers?

A: That would have to be a separate motion by the Constitution.

- Not a bad idea to have a welfare team
  - Potential issues with having huge numbers in committee; already having trouble with recruitment, so this is not practical any time soon

- The purpose and focus of this motion is to change the welfare denomination from something that identifies a binary gender very sharply to something that identifies nothing and is open
- This motion would be a step in the right direction to make our space more inclusive, but adding more members to the welfare team would have to be a future motion

Q: The precise change in wording in the Constitution is important; unfortunately, there may be people who are not as open-minded to the idea, and who may be uncomfortable approaching a Welfare Officer if they are a trans and/or non-binary person

A: Under the current wording of the constitution, it is already possible for a trans man or a trans woman to run as male or female welfare officer, respectively. Therefore, if this is an issue, it is not caused by this motion.

- Important to have a conversation that is opened to the wider MCR if this issue arises
- While no one should be deprived of access to MCR welfare because of their opinions, it is important to have this conversation from a place of respect towards trans people, and changing the constitution would be an important starting point
- Equalities are meant for minorities section, so would be inappropriate to have the equalities take on specified welfare roles for a minority
- The Welfare Officer should serve a representative role
- Even if the Welfare Rep may not always be a representative position, it needs to be an accessible one; a non-binary person currently reading the Constitution would not feel represented, and unfortunately literally read the current denomination as “they do not exist”
- The current proposal would make the Welfare Officer more accessible and solve future potential issues
- The ultimate wording that goes to College for approval for Constitutional change needs to be very carefully considered

### **3. Motion for Consideration of an MCR Bank Card**

- Proposed: Luke Lattanzi-Silveus
- Seconded: Priyav Shah

The MCR notes that:

1. The MCR does not have a bank card to use with the MCR bank account card reader, meaning that it is not possible to add a new payee (and therefore not possible to pay new companies/people by bank transfer).
2. MCR committee members are frequently asked to front cash, often in large quantities, to the MCR for almost all of the MCR's purchases.

The MCR therefore resolves to:

1. Acquire a card for the MCR bank account to allow use of the card reader, and with the provision that it can not be used for payments until a system of rules is worked out.
2. Discuss possible rules about how the MCR card would be used for payments and bring forward a constitutional amendment that would propose such rules at the next general meeting.

The MCR treasurer proposes the following rules, as a starting point for discussion:

1. The MCR bank card will only be used for the following:
  - (i) As the card on MCR online accounts such as Netflix or Amazon.
  - (ii) Purchases or deposits above 100 pounds made by any MCR Committee member other than the treasurer with the express permission of the MCR treasurer.
2. In order to use the card a member of the committee must:
  - (i) Obtain the permission of the treasurer for the purchase or deposit they would like to make.
  - (ii) Pick up the card from the lodge.
  - (iii) Use it to make the purchase or deposit
  - (iv) Return it to the lodge and notify the treasurer that it has been returned.
3. Failure to follow these procedures may result in disciplinary action taken by the MCR.

## **Minutes**

Introduction:

- We currently do not have a bankcard for the MCR account; this causes problems for members paying for the MCR
- Any expenditure that the MCR undertakes has to be first paid for by an MCR member; members may have to initially front a lot of money, which is not necessarily possible
- This motion would provide the ability to apply for a card at the bank in the first place
  - Getting the process started at the bank, as it takes time
  - The bank needs evidence that the MCR is on board with the idea for a bankcard application to be possible
- Can discuss the details of bankcard use and rules at the next general meeting
- Having a card will also solve the problem of adding people that can be paid through the account, as currently, members not previously paid via online banking can still only be reimbursed by checks
- In the proposal, outlined some rules for card usage, including: only used by Committee members, and for purchases and deposits over £100 (easier to keep track of) - exception: treasurer would not be allowed to use it, as the treasurer keeps tabs on other members, but would not be fair to do so for him/herself
- Have the card and card reader at the Lodge

### Discussion

- President or VP could give permission for the Treasurer to use the card and card reader at the Lodge
- Have to verify if Lodge is okay with doing this
- Still require full receipts to show that the purchase is justifiable in the first place and for transparent maintenance of our books
- If passed, this motion would allow us to start the (lengthy) process of getting the bankcard

### **4. Motion for Honorary President**

- Proposed: Priyav Shah
- Seconded: Maurice Casey

### The MCR notes that:

1. The MCR is thriving in every aspect – the space has been refurbished, the community is more interactive and impressive than ever before, and we are having more of a say within college. Furthermore, the college (which itself is flourishing with the proposed Northgate House development in the centre of Oxford) is committed to increasing our numbers and supporting us.
2. We are able to appoint Honorary members who do not have to be studying at the University.
3. The college has a Welsh connection.

### The MCR therefore resolves to:

1. Discuss the possibility of appointing a prominent Welsh personality to serve as an Honorary President of the MCR for a year-long term. The committee would propose a candidate to the MCR and, following a majority vote within the MCR, offer them the role. They would have the same rights as any other Honorary member, but their membership fees would be covered by the MCR. In return, the Honorary president would be expected to give a keynote speech at an event during the year. Their affiliation with the MCR would also raise our profile.
2. Vote on this motion to gauge the interest in this idea within the MCR. If successful, a constitutional change motion will be presented at the next general meeting.

### **Minutes**

- Appointing a Welsh personality to be Honorary President
- This individual would be a normal honorary member
- Roles: provide 1 keynote speech, maybe also attend at least 1 dinner
- Selection criteria: Committee would shortlist the applications, then have a vote amongst the MCR for the final selection. This vote would of course not be a normal online one (and therefore not be included in the minutes), but rather a secret ballot at the General Meeting (i.e. a show of hands).

- Doesn't have to be every year (could be every 2-years, or longer) and doesn't have to be Welsh every time (could alternate between Welsh and any nationality).

## 5. Motion for MCR Bunker

- Proposed: Priyav Shah
- Seconded: Caroline Nettekoven

### The MCR notes that:

1. While the JCR and MCR rooms are not bookable, the bunker may be booked by any MCR member. Undergraduate members of the college can apply to book the room as well. If booked, other MCR members will not be able to use the space or equipment within.
2. Booking the bunker requires a deposit, but is otherwise free.
3. The bunker contains a lot of expensive electronics.
4. Once Northgate House is completed, there will be about 60 more grads living on site and demand for the bunker will probably increase substantially.

### The MCR therefore resolves to:

1. Discuss whether we want to keep the system as it is (i.e. keep the bunker bookable by any member of the college, and keep it free to do so).
2. Vote on the options, and if there is a strong majority to change the current system, write up a constitutional change motion for the next general meeting.

## Minutes

Q: Do we want to keep the bunker bookable?

### Discussion:

- The reason the MCR and JCR are not bookable is to make sure members always have access to the rooms. In the case of the bunker, when it is booked, members do not have access to the bunker + the games and equipment in there.
- This been useful to ensure the space is free for a group of MCR members to get together for a specific activity, e.g. watch Star Trek, celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Russian Revolution
- Nice to have assurance that the room is going to be available
- Helps to have a chill space with a TV and gaming setup that is bookable; other College rooms that are bookable are more formal; however, could look into the possibility of asking College to fit more rooms with a TV
- Bunker is currently bookable only by MCR members via the Secretary
- This could become a problem when we have more graduates
- Better define:
  - Use of space predominantly for MCR members – **no university wide societies**
  - What would warrant the £50 deposit to be taken away?

- These definitions will be discussed at MCR Committee meetings and proposed at the next General Meeting for consideration of Constitutional change

Q: Currently the bunker is free to book (only need a £50 refundable deposit). Do we want to keep it free?

- Could have a small fee, and any money made from it has to be put back into the bunker (i.e. refurbishing it, buying more things for it etc...)
- Like the idea of it being free, plus we don't really need the money for the bunker

## 6. Honorary Membership Consideration for:

- Jannes Drechsler
- Keir Bowater
- Akhil Kumar

### Minutes

#### Jannes Drechsler

- From Frankfurt, Germany
- Doing a PhD in Germany in Private Law
- Currently a visiting student, connected with Jesus College Professor Luca Enriques
- Already participated in some MCR events as a guest, e.g. formal dinners, coffee and cake, open mic – had a great experience

Q: What is the best part about Jesus MCR for you so far?

A: The opportunity to speak and interact with such a hugely diverse group of people studying different topics - something not applicable in Frankfurt and Münster where I studied. Really enjoying these interactions.

#### Keir Bowater

- Current 4th year undergrad studying engineering, about to graduate
- Has a job lined up in Oxford organising Torpids and Summer Eights
- Would like to continue being a part of Jesus MCR and come to our events
- Can offer: rowing help, run rowing taster sessions during Freshers' Week
  - Nice to have a male member to help out for rowing, which was absent last year
- To note: He had a disciplinary infraction of the MCR at the MCR Christmas Party 2017 - he took a bottle of Baileys from the MCR and refused to return it at first; however, after a prolonged confrontation with a MCR Committee member, he returned it unopened.
  - He is incredibly sorry and will not let this happen again; also understands that any similar behaviour will result in the revocation of his Honorary Membership

#### Akhil Kumar

- Research Intern in the lab of Professor Shankar Srinivas, Jesus College Tutor in Medicine (same supervisor as Tanaya and Di)

- Has interacted with many of us already, including Peter Liu, Doruk, Raffaele, Schyan, Mark, Arjun; came to Open Mic and Wine & Cheese as a guest
- Living in Ship Street in June and July

## **7. AOB**