



Agenda for the MCR General Meeting

5pm 5th June 2011

1. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings

- Green rep duties Motion
- Electoral Constitutional Change
- Women's only Gym time

2. Report back from (a) the Joint Domestic Committee, (b) the Joint Welfare Committee, (c) Rent Negotiations and (d) the Computing Committee

3. Motion – No Confidence Campaign (see articles)

The MCR notes that:

1. The Government's policy is financially chaotic and unsustainable. The Treasury budgeted for an average fee of £7500, but now more than two-thirds of Universities want to charge £9000 for some or all courses.
2. The 80% cut to the HEFCE Teaching grant will leave Universities systematically underfunded even with higher fees.
3. The academic profession in the UK has never been less attractive. The debts incurred to go through both undergraduate and postgraduate study could be as high as £87,000. Money for research is also being cut in real terms and what remains is being focused on the Government's short-term agenda. This will have a negative effect on many members of the MCR.
4. The consumer-producer relationship, which the Government policies are designed to set up will undermine the spirit of academic community which is at the heart of the ethos of Higher Education.
5. The embarrassing U-turns of recent weeks are signs of a policy in total disarray. The HE sector is too important to be thrown into chaos by half-baked ideas and rapid rethinks.
6. The licensing of for-profit institutions to award degrees and the advocacy of overseas franchising by existing Universities are a threat to the reputation of the UK University system as a whole.
7. OUSU and Oxford Academics have launched a 'No Confidence' campaign aimed at the government's Higher education policy in general, and David Willetts, the Universities Minister in particular.

This MCR resolves to:

1. Support the campaign by OUSU and Oxford Academics by declaring that it has no confidence in the Government's Higher Education policy or its Universities minister, David Willetts.

Proposed: Stew McCain

Seconded: Tomi Johnson

4. Motion – College entrance MCR noticeboard liberation

The MCR notes that:

1. There is a noticeboard headed 'MCR' next to the porters lodge
2. The MCR doesn't make use of this. It is currently used by unrelated groups.
3. There is already a (recently revitalised) noticeboard in the MCR building for MCR members to use, rendering the lodge board less useful.
4. The board next to the porters lodge is in a prominent position and could be used effectively
5. There is currently no noticeboard to advertise college/university/Oxford wide environmental issues and campaigns
6. Promoting environmental awareness is important

This MCR resolves to:

Allow the college Green Group to take over the MCR noticeboard next to the porters lodge (indefinitely or for an agreed period of time before review) in order to raise the environmental awareness of members of the college.

Proposed: Jim Fouracre

Seconded: Alex Barnard

5. Motion - Constitutional change (see attachment)

The MCR notes that:

1. Under Article II, section B.1 the wording "(s)he" is used to describe the President.
2. Under Article III, section B.2 the wording "he or she" is used to describe the VP & Secretary.

The MCR resolves to:

- a) Change the wording of both of these passages to include the singular form 'they' instead of a binary form 'he or she' or '(s)he' as per progressive academic practice.

Proposed: Huw Davies

Seconded: Emily MacGregor

6. Motion – Constitutional Change (see attachment)

The Constitution has been updated. Summaries of changes are as follows:

- a) Committee position descriptions have been updated, the Green Rep responsibilities have been added
- b) Added the following clause to Article III Part B of the constitution: All effort must be made to ensure voting is anonymous

The MCR resolves that they are happy with the changes to the constitution

Proposed: Huw Davies

Seconded: Jamie Frost

7. Opening Committee Positions

8. Treasurer's Report

9. Worcester Green Policy and action Plan discussion - led by Green Group Member

10. MCR Refurbishment Report

11. Any Other Business