



Minutes from the MCR General Meeting

12:30pm 27th May 2012

Present: Members of the MCR committee, members of the MCR (not enough for quorum)

1. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings

None discussed because of low turnout.

2. President's report

Governing body - The President noted that there was little business to report. It was related that college are implementing an anti-bribery policy and during the meeting it was suggested that student rents in Worcester be brought in line with the median (both JCR and MCR) because of the college's difficult financial position and the fact that college (apparently) earns the lowest rental income per student of any college in Oxford. The President noted that rental discussions have been ongoing this term with the Bursar and were also discussed at JCC.

JCC - The president raised the issue of internet access for students arriving in Oxford for new courses when they have not yet been given a SSO account. It was noted that JCC strongly support the move to investigate this further, including investigating the possible use of the college's conference network for the students affected. It was related that the JCR petitioned the JCC to investigate the possible purchase of a treadmill for the gym as an erg has been moved from the main gym to the shed gym. Finally, the JCC recommended the abolishment of the signing-in system for guests.

Action - IT rep to raise this issue with relevant IT staff with the hope to implement a change to internet accessibility before the new academic year.

3. IT Representative's report

The principal issue discussed was that of guest night booking online. Further discussion would be taken as part of Motion 3. The IT rep related that the committee is concerned about the Worcester college name being used as part of Facebook groups, blogs, personal websites etc. They would like to control these sites more closely. One of the social secretaries also noted that the college had also raised concerns with her about positing information to Facebook groups for other events and will be meeting with college to discuss possible security issues resulting from information about events being released on the internet. It was also noted, however, that previously events run this term had only been published as part of closed groups or by official maillists, hence the likelihood that current practice had resulted in any security issues. Members present expressed their support for Facebook groups, such as the Garden Party event,

and suggested that such internet sites are a useful way to distribute information about events and to encourage good attendance.

4. Motions

It is noted that attendance was not sufficient for quorum. The following votes are merely recommendations.

Motion 1: Investigating the potential of getting college to purchase chairs and tables for outside.

It was generally thought that this is a good idea, and that college should provide this. Concerns were raised about the possible noise disturbance that this may cause.

Votes - For: 10, Against: 1, Abstentions: 0.

Motion 2: Bike Sale

Problems were raised about the legal issues surrounding the sale of the bikes. Suggested that we follow the guidelines established for previous sales by the JCR, including how people are notified of the sale (i.e. not by a single method and in good time). Given that the sale be undertaken with the guidelines set out by previous successful sales, the members present expressed their support for this.

Votes – (with the proviso that sales be carried out as per JCR guidelines) For: 11, Against: 0, Abstentions: 0.

Motion 3: Online Meal Booking

IT Rep noted that this issue had been discussed twice already at the IT committee. The committee suggested that this change was an unnecessary burden for a time-pressed staff. A spreadsheet idea (in line with the bookings for out of term lunches) was proposed by the IT rep, however, this was rejected on the basis that bookings could not be authenticated. The Dean asked whether the lodge possessed the technology to charge for meals: it does. Members expressed support for this compromise as the lodge is open 24/7 and payment could be done via the access card system. One Social Secretary noted that the Catering Manager had also suggested that the conversion to an online system would be complicated. The IT rep also wanted it to be recorded that the IT dept is short-staffed and that this should be taken into account. The general feeling was that with a move to booking in the lodge, the inconvenience of opening hours at the buttery would be resolved. Nonetheless, MCR members expressed their support for a general move to be able to complete transactions, such as Guest Dinner bookings, online and that it would support moves to achieve this in the future.

Votes – For: 0, Against: 8, Abstentions: 3.

Motion 4: Canvas bags

The green rep suggested that the provision of additional canvas bags in college accommodation was a popular suggestion during the accommodation review and that these green bags would encourage green behavior by members; an aim that the Green rep considers could be a part of the MCR's overall aims. Concerns were raised as to whether the MCR should provide bags for individuals, rather than for kitchens. Some members suggested that the MCR budget should not be used for such a purchase, which may only affect a limited number of members: either 25 individuals or only those living in college accommodation. It was suggested that the Green rep investigate the possibility of personalized bags that could be sold, rather than handed out. This seemed a popular suggestion.

No Vote.

Motion 5: Mugs

The MCR committee will buy some mugs for the MCR.

No Vote.

5. Matters for Discussion

The Green rep highlighted that the JCR currently charge on battels £7 for charity. As part of the college's Environmental Action Plan, there should be a fund for green projects that is ring fenced. The suggestion was that contributions to this fund could also be provided by way of a fixed charge on battels. It was pointed out that the particular projects that this fund would finance remains, as yet, unclear.

Opinions were expressed against the fixed charge system based on the lack of clarity as to the function this fund would serve, and that the current way of funding green projects (through the budget, or by MCR motion) seemed adequate. Strong opposition was also voiced on the basis that a green charge is unprincipled. Members expressed a dislike for 'forced donations' and it was suggested that issues, such as use of carrier bags, is not really an MCR issue.