



MCR General Meeting Minutes
Sunday 4th November, 12pm, MCR

Matters arising from previous meeting

President's report

Report back from JCC

Associate membership – currently takes a long time to process associate membership, often a whole term. It's not well understood what causes this delay, and was discussed what can be done to make the process faster, especially for spouses living in the Nelson St flats who could do with being granted an access card for college site access. It was agreed to look into where the delay in processing applications arises and try and streamline this.

It was agreed to set up a working group to overhaul the graduate accommodation agreement in conjunction with Philippa Tarver the Assistant Bursar. In particular there are issues with privacy points.

JCC said that as the issue of summer internet access was on the computing committee's agenda for later in the week (see below), it didn't need discussing.

Report back from Computing Committee

Graduate summer internet access – students living in college accommodation over the summer and are transferring between courses are waiting on a replacement BOD card and cannot be granted internet access. It was decided at a JCC meeting last year that they should be given access to the college's conference network during the summer. This issue has appeared on a number of JCC agendas now. This didn't happen yet again this year. The item was on the agenda for computing committee, but was pushed back to next term's meeting as it was not deemed an important issue.

Motions

1) The MCR notes that:

Internet connectivity in 42 Nelson Street (Worcester owned graduate student housing) has a number of problems, including:

- 1) There is only a single Ethernet jack per flat, despite the fact that the flats are supposed to have at least two people.
- 2) The layout of the flats is such that the Ethernet jack is in the living room, not the study. This is clearly

non-ideal.

3) The flats are also set up so that there are NO power sockets near the Ethernet jack, or even any power sockets in the living room at all. This forces residents to run wires and extension cords through the kitchen to the sitting room, which looks terrible and poses a safety hazard.

The MCR proposes that:

Worcester IT installs a wireless network for 42 Nelson Street as it will immensely increase the residents' quality of life as well as increase the property value of the building. Additionally, installing a wireless network will be cheaper than installing more Ethernet jacks.

Proposed: Abigail Novick

Seconded: Blake Armstrong

Suspect it will be difficult to convince college to install wireless. Rolling out wireless access for all grad accommodation would be great but it's not going to happen. Suggest splitting this into two motions: one supporting wireless provision in general, and a separate one requesting Ethernet jacks to be installed asap in the Nelson Street flats.

College IT department are not replying to emails, Abby has purchased a router but is not allowed to plug it in. They will claim there are security issues and you can't control who's accessing the college's internet provision, even by encryption. How do OWL/Eduroam get around it then? Should be ok if it's encrypted. College are paranoid.

There is a rumour that College IT is understaffed, so can't/won't make any changes.

There's an online version of the maintenance book coming.

Motion: The MCR proposes to request that college install wireless internet across the graduate accommodation: for 15, against 0, abstentions 3.

Motion: The MCR proposes that Worcester IT installs a second Ethernet access point in 42 Nelson Street asap. For 12, against 0, abstentions 3.

2) The MCR notes that:

The edible garden doesn't have a regular source of funding from the MCR, but has been funded on an ad hoc basis. This makes it difficult to plan

The MCR proposes to:

Provide the edible garden with a grant of £50 per term, to be reviewed annually. The grant could be given in the form of reimbursement for receipts. This will be matched or more than matched by the JCR.

Proposed: Gabriel Roberts

Seconded: Adrian Duncan

The people running the edible garden spend money on things like tools, seeds, woodchips. So far this has been money out of Lizzie's pocket, which she then claims back with receipts from the MCR and JCR, which have been funding the Edible garden on an ad hoc basis. Suggest having an available budget for the edible garden team of £50 a term, in return for receipts, and review how it's worked in Michaelmas next year. What happens if the money is not spent? The money only gets paid in return for receipts, so if it's not spent it stays in the MCR account. How would you split it? Is money available? Yes. Already funded on an ad hoc basis, this is just letting the edible garden team know there's money available to them.

For 13, against 0, abstentions 2.

3) The MCR notes that:

- 1) There are currently three people who'd like to be social secretaries, but only two social secretary positions on the MCR committee.
- 2) Increasing the number of social secretaries requires a change to the MCR Constitution

The MCR proposes to:

Change Article IIA clause 1.3. in the constitution from *Two social secretaries, preferably with interests different from each other* to *Two or three social secretaries, preferably with interests different from each other.*

Proposed: Gabriel Roberts

Seconded: Karim Sutton

How is it working now? Karim was elected as a social secretary but helped cover the bar manager job. Since Ronnie and Jason were both elected, Karim got moved so technically he's the bar manager but he doesn't want to do this, he wants to be a social secretary. Do they need the third? This year, yes, already having difficulty finding people to cover social events (eg cocktail nights). Is it working? Yes.

For 12, against 1, abstentions 2.

4) The MCR notes that:

There is a bookshelf at the top of the stairs in the MCR which has a limited selection of quite technical books, which are not widely borrowed.

The MCR proposes to:

Turn the bookshelf into a fiction library, donating any unsuitable books to either the college library or a charity shop.

Proposed: Peter Humphreys

Seconded: Simon Park

Why get rid of any of them? Some are very technical and unlikely to ever be borrowed. It will just become a dumping ground. We could just keep them. How will it work? Honesty policy, people just borrow a book/DVD then return it when they're finished. A need for a clear out.

For 10, against 0, abstentions 5.

5) The MCR notes that:

A decision to purchase a running machine jointly with the JCR for the gym was made last year and has been agreed by the appropriate college committees.

The MCR proposes to:

Agree to part-fund the purchase in conjunction with the JCR.

Proposed: Peter Humphreys

Seconded: Simon Park

JCR asked for treadmill in gym. MCR agreed last year to contribute to its purchase jointly with the JCR. How much do treadmills cost? Looking at about £3000.

Where will it go? Ergs are moving to the shed gym. There is just one erg in the main gym at the moment. We can decide to not to contribute to it.

Treadmills break a lot, there's a lot of maintenance. We have no say in what they decide to buy. If we're giving money, we should get a say in what they buy.

How many people would actually use it? It's a lot of money. Probably looking at a contribution of £300-400. Don't want to give more than £450. Future MCR people will use it, as an example look at the coffee machine Antonis purchased for the MCR, it's used loads now.

Why not run round a park? Better for your joints. Treadmills are quite big, the gym is already quite cramped. Don't have to fund it. Space not a problem, the garden committee have already looked at that, they'll've sorted that there's space.

Why are JCR making decisions about the gym? MCR members annoyed that they moved the ergs without consulting us. MCR members feel they can't go to JCR meetings and vote against JCR motion because rowers are better than other human beings. JCR don't care about what MCR want, this has been an issue for last couple of years.

Don't like funding for running machine instead of internet for Nelson Street flats. Treadmill will come from Garden fund, not the same as college IT's funding. Couldn't use the money to fund internet access over a treadmill. Likewise the MCR budget should in no way ever be used to fund the provision of internet access in college.

Usually MCR has money leftover for this kind of thing. Change motion so it's not a blank cheque. Proportionate donation relative to our budget or the number of MCR students?

MCR agrees to pay up to £300 in consideration of other factors and what JCR contribute? Too fluffy.

Amended motion: The MCR agrees to part fund the purchase of a treadmill for the gym in conjunction with the JCR, contributing up to 10% of the cost, or £300, whichever is lower.

For: 11 Against, 0, Abstentions 4.

Matters for discussion

(Kitchens renovations)

Fund raising for scholarship.

Match funding scheme, ditchley challenge, concept donors have put money together to encourage grads to get involved with fund raising. They'll match any amount raised up to £2500 per common room. Does anyone have any ideas for funding. Who would get the scholarship? A grad student, from Worcester. Are ppl keen to have an event where. Could fund a fee remission. A lot of ppl get fees paid but no living expenses. Is it sustainable? No it is one off. Can we not tie it down? So ppl who have money tied to other places, can we not do that. Small amounts tied to be spent on one thing. Could have a rolling thing. Could it be spread a bit

further, there are lots of people who could benefit. EG conferences in the UK. We could set up a As Medic there's not one specific course so can't get academic expenses, college are getting tighter on releasing funds. If everyone puts in £10 and gets £10 out it doesn't matter.

More visible to have a scholarship for one person. How do we decide how someone gets the scholarship?

Worcester give Martin Senior Scholarship to one person with no funding (full) then £100 to other ppl who already have full funding. Takes away from impact if just combine it into another scholarship. It's a good idea.

Any other business

Where is Cath Fraser? Think she's ill.

Emails about battels have been received but nothing in pidges, should we have received a second bill? Not yet.