

Minutes of an MCR General Meeting

Held on Sunday 21 February, 2010

Present: Members of the MCR Committee, members of the MCR (enough to make quorum)

- 1. Charity donations**
- 2. Charity formal**
- 3. IT report**
- 4. Committee achievements**
- 5. AOB**

1. Charity donations

The motion (Appendix 1) was passed unanimously, and as such the £5 donation on battels will be applied from Trinity Term (with opt-out by 2nd week). The old and new Charities Reps will liaise to elicit student nominations for charities to be supported.

2. Charity formal

The motion (Appendix 2) was passed unanimously, and so the charity formal will go ahead.

3. IT report

- a) Jamie reported that the online formal booking system should be available to MCR students for Michaelmas 2010 (an SCR trial will take place next term).
- b) The IT committee has asked for student feedback on a proposal to address their problem of short-staffing by stopping the support service offered for students' personal computers, since this support is offered by OUCS.

After some discussion the MCR decided to accept this, with some reservations, and only in the context of the current straitened financial circumstances. Points raised included:

- That support should still be offered for freshers, and that this should include freshers starting in the middle of the academic year.
- That this would now involve students paying for services that were previously free – however it was noted that the OUCS rates are still very favourable compared to commercial computer support.
- That support should still be available in emergency situations (e.g. computer crashing 2 hours before thesis deadline...)
- That the IT service could perhaps consider this as a temporary measure until the financial situation improves, and that this decision could be reconsidered in the future.

4. Committee Achievements

Members of the outgoing committee gave brief reports on the activity during the year, and on the achievements of the committee as a whole during this period (see Appendix 3). Kate was formally thanked as President, and the rest of the committee received the thanks of the MCR as a whole.

5. AOB

There was no other business, and so the meeting moved onto hustings. The results of the elections, held over the following 2 days, were as follows:

President: Jamie Frost - 26 votes; 'None' - 3 votes

Secretary: Tomi Johnson - 29 votes
Treasurer: John Pearson - 29 votes
Social Secretary: Antonios Kouroutakis - 29 votes; Jim Fouracre - 27 votes; 'None' - 2 votes
Sports rep: Jack Wright - 29 votes
Green rep: Laith Tapper - 29 votes
IT: Sarah Price - 29 votes
Welfare: Linda Bakkum - 28 votes; 'None' - 1 vote

APPENDIX 1

MCR Motion – Implementation of Charity Donation on battels

This MCR notes:

1. On the 11 February 2007 a motion was passed unanimously by the MCR (copied below) to introduce an opt-out charities charge on MCR battels.
2. This motion has never been implemented.
3. The MCR still believes that it is nice to give money to those less fortunate than ourselves and to other worthy causes.

This MCR resolves to

1. Introduce a maximum charge of £5 on MCR battels to go towards a termly charities budget.
2. Notify the MCR of this charge at the beginning of each term, and allow members to opt-out by Sunday 2nd week.
3. Collect nominations from members of the MCR each term of where they think the money should be allocated.
4. As a committee decide at the end of each term which charities will receive a donation, with emphasis placed on those who have a connection with the MCR, or are based locally in Oxford.

Proposed: Daniela Simone
Seconded: Jessica Goodman

MCR Motion of 2007

This MCR notes that:

1. The JCR has a voluntary charities budget, out of which they give money to local and national charities each term.
2. This is a nice thing to do as there are a lot of people less fortunate than ourselves.
3. The MCR currently does not have a provision for such generous giving to other people.
4. Recently the MCR Subscription fee of £8.40 was removed from our termly battels bill.

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3. Collect nominations from members of the MCR each term of where they think the money should be allocated.
4. As a committee decide at the end of each term which charities will receive a donation, with emphasis placed on those who have a connection with the MCR, or are based locally in Oxford.

Proposed: Tom Marshall
Seconded: Sarah Pennant

APPENDIX 2

MCR Motion - Charity formal hall

This MCR notes that:

1. The JCR have passed a motion (copied below) to have a formal hall dinner in which 1 or 2 pounds per ticket is donated to the Helen and Douglas House who provide hospice and respite care for children and young adults in Oxford.
2. The Assistant Dean has said that the dinner cannot proceed without the support of the MCR.

This MCR resolves:

1. Support the making one formal hall dinner this term or next term, where hall tickets all cost an extra one or two pounds, with this money being donated by the JCR to Helen and Douglas House.

Proposed: Daniela Simone

Seconded: Kate Beard

JCR Motion:

This JCR notes that:

- 1) Charity is good.
- 2) Helen and Douglas House, who provide hospice and respite care for children and young adults in Oxford, is a particularly good charity.
- 3) Food is good.
- 4) Worcester formals are particularly good.

This JCR resolves to:

- 1) Support making one formal this term a special charity one, with exciting decorations, colour theme and other extras, and raising the price of the ticket by £1-2 which would be donated to Helen and Douglas House.

Proposed by: Alice Crawford

Seconded by: Emily Halstead and Paul Stubley

APPENDIX 3

MCR achievements:

Improvements to graduate facilities

- Re-decoration of the MCR and improved TV (thanks to Jamie!)
- Bought a Microwave (which will move into the MCR soon)
- Bought about a review of graduate housing which achieved:
 - 1) Single-handedly got Mitchell building a new kitchen and started refurbishments, including changes to heating and cleaning (we know it isn't perfect yet and are still working on it!)
 - 2) Improved bike parking and lighting in the Worcester place and Richmond road houses
 - 3) Set up a formal process to review of graduate housing on an annual basis to ensure standards are maintained.
- Reduced graduate meal prices so they are in the same as those applied to undergrads.

Constitutional changes

- Changed associate membership policy to allow the MCR committee to have more information about those applying for associate membership
- Started looking into allowing post-docs who are allied to the college to have MCR associate membership. This is still a work in progress, but hopefully is something the next committee will take up....

Social

- Organised a successful and extended freshers week. Changes included: doing events over two weeks, drop in sessions for new students, wrote the mini-guide to Oxford and Worcester MCR.
- Started to hold events over summer. This is definitely only on an event by event basis but hopefully next year's committee can carry on!
- Ran a range of very successful social events, including 3 bops and the garden party

Sports

- A successful MCR football team, and participation of MCR members in other areas of college sport.
- A planned MCR cricket team for Trinity Term.

Charity

This year we raised £84.75 for Cancer Research UK from two bar nights and the summer holiday picnic selling the Pimms that was leftover from the garden party. We also raised £60.70 for the people of Haiti at two bar nights and the MCR quiz night this term. This money was collected along with the JCR donation.

President's achievements:

As well as 3 formal meetings a term with college, 2 MRC PresComs each term, I have also attended several Proctors meetings, and Advocacy training session (for student representation), was part of focus group for future of OUSU and represented graduate students at an event at the House of Commons (introducing the new VC to government). I was also part of group which encouraged the proctors to change the way graduations are structured (ie to allow international graduates to graduate straight after their course has ended) : this is now being changed and may be implemented in the coming year.