



**Worcester College Middle Common Room
1st General Meeting
May 28th 2006**

The President of the MCR, Tom Marshall, welcomed all MCR Members to the first General Meeting of the MCR in Trinity Term 2006 and at 8.00pm called the meeting to order.

The first item in on the agenda was the annual rent increase. The President read past figures and announced the rent increase for this year to be 3.74% and a provisional 5.5% for the upcoming year. Members at the meeting were told that the JCR had already approved these figures and the President encouraged Members equally to approve these figures as Worcester College still features as one of the colleges with the lowest rents in college accommodation. The floor was than opened for discussion. The question was asked whether it was already decided where graduates were to be housed next year during the new accommodation building phase in the college. The President responded that besides the Franks building which was certainly to house graduates next year, options were still being discussed at college authority level but that he would keep Members informed.

The motion to approve the rent increase was then posed and unanimously approved.

The next item on the agenda was the proposed refurbishment of the MCR. The President provided the present Members with the available options. Either a complete refurbishment could be aimed at and a proposal submitted to college, no refurbishment could be undertaken until it was to become clear whether the MCR would continue to be housed in its current building and location at the ground floor, or a step by step refurbishment could be undertaken in which furniture would be exchanged and added over the next years. The also told members present that the college had expressed concern as to the durability that was required of new furniture. The floor was then opened to discussion.

The question was asked why a relocation of the MCR could present problems to buying new furniture, as furniture could be easily moved. The President responded that this did not per se prohibit the furniture being moved with the MCR but that once a new MCR would be provided; furniture could then be bought according to the new location. A date of relocation was as yet however not yet set and the move taking place at all was also by no means a certainty.

Concern was expressed as to the durability requirement of the furniture. The President in agreement with the Sub-dean informed the Members that furniture such as manufactured by IKEA only had an expected life-time of approximately 1 year with the constant use that could be expected to be made of it in a place like the MCR. As a contrary example the leather seating in the College Bar was given which after 1 year of constant use was still in excellent condition but obviously was acquired at a much higher price.

Further questions were asked about the need for further shelving units above the MCR Bar. The President agreed that such shelving was necessary and that he would take this back to the College for approval.

The President then posed the motion that furniture would be acquired on a piece by piece basis and in return this furniture was to be of high quality and high durability rather than a complete refurbishment of the MCR. The motion was carried without objections. The President also announced that he was going to ask the college for a new and quieter fridge behind the bar. He further told the members of his commitment to do some self-renovation during the summer within the MCR such as painting the walls.

After these points on the agenda, the floor was opened for general discussion by the President. The question was asked when the next Guest Night Dinner was going to take place and the President responded that this was set for the Friday of 8th week.

The next question that was raised was confusion that had resulted from an email send by the Bar Manager Fintan Fairmichael about the requirements of signing guests in on the formal hall dinner sheets in the Buttery when tickets were purchased. The President apologised for the confusion and explained that guests needed to be signed in by name only on occasions were dinner events were of such nature that approval by the Dean was required. These included end of term guest night dinners for example. Otherwise purchasing tickets for guests and signing them in as "guest" on the dinner sheet without a specific name provided was sufficient.

After clarification of the issue, the President reminded the members of date of the MCR Garden Party. The President also said he was going to look into the provision of printed invites for MCR Members. This raised a question by members on the policy of guests for the Garden Party. The President responded that guests were probably welcome but that tickets for these were not subsidised. Tickets were to be purchased from the Buttery.

The President asked whether there were any further questions.

The President thanked everyone for coming and called the meeting adjourned.