



Minutes from the MCR General Meeting

8:30pm 17th November 2010

Present: Members of the MCR committee, members of the MCR (enough for quorum)

1. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings

- MCR Buttery
- Constitutional Change for inclusion of Post Docs as Associate Members
- Sports Budget
- Sky HD
- Meatless Mondays
- HiFi system
- The MCR bar
- MCR t-shirts
- Board games
- Wii

2. Report back from the Joint Domestic Committee

3. Report back from the Computing Committee

4. Sofa Motion

5. Committee-Based Motions

- a) VP Motion
- b) Arts Rep
- c) Accommodation & Food Rep
- d) Reallocation of OUSU duties
- e) Recognition of 'Officer' positions

6. Coffee Machine Motion

7. Any Other Business

1. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings

- MCR Buttery – It was reported that there was not sufficient interest in this to warrant introducing it. An idea to keep in mind in the future.
- Constitutional Change for inclusion of Post Docs as Associate Members – It was reported that this has been implemented and has already led to 3 new associate members.
- Sports Budget – This money has been spent on a darts matt and new pool balls, among other items.
- Sky HD – Installed. It was well worth it to see England bomb out of the World Cup in slightly increased resolution.
- Meatless Mondays – The JCR voted against this which will make it difficult to implement. The majority of those present felt it was still worth pursuing.
- HiFi system – Installed.
- The MCR bar – The unofficial renaming of the bar manager to bar czar has been unofficially recognised.
- MCR t-shirts – Corey is working on this. Likely to offer a range of t-shirt types, costing between £10 and £20, with the option to customise them e.g. add names on the back.
- Board games - The MCR has purchased some. They are in the MCR.
- Wii - A few meetings ago the MCR resolved to buy a Wii, but never did. The majority of those present still felt this was a good idea.

2. Report back from the Joint Domestic Committee

Buttery - The Buttery is losing lots of money, not being used and about to lose its main function (a place to buy tickets for formal hall). Unless there is a drastic increase in the numbers using it, it will be closed. It might be turned into a dinning hall. Derek has other duties and so he won't be made redundant.

Out of term lunches – The MCR can sit with staff and serve themselves as long as they don't take things they shouldn't.

Hall prices – Associate Members to pay the same rates as Full Members living outside college, not the same rates as guests. Jamie apologised for the confusion.

3. Report back from the Computing Committee

SSO for associate members – Associate members have to be added manually to the database that lets them have a single sign on profile, which will be vital for booking formal hall tickets next term. There's no way to speed this up.

Fines for using P2P software – College are now adding a £70 admin fee to the current £50 fine for (getting caught) using P2P software.

Bandwidth – College is facing a bandwidth problem, with it being maxed out around 11pm most nights. They are not likely to purchase more bandwidth. There are currently no individual bandwidth/download/upload limits but several options are being discussed. Jamie took this opportunity to reassure everyone that he doesn't download pornographic material at 11pm.

Spotify - The JCR wants the ban on Spotify to be lifted. Currently the College not the University bans it. Those present felt that, in light of bandwidth issues, the MCR IT rep should push for Spotify to be allowed at off-peak times. This will leave the network free for Jamie at 11pm.

4. Sofa Motion

Those present were all in favour of having a sofa upstairs, but didn't feel it was worth spending £600 on since (i) we had other items we wanted to spend our budget on and (ii) it was the beginning of the MCR financial year. IJ suggested, and most agreed, that it would be better to move one of the sofas from downstairs.

Vote: 3 for; 11 against; 9 abstained.

5. Committee-Based Motions

a) VP Motion – There was very little discussion on this, everyone seemed happy with it.

Vote: 23 for; 0 against; 0 abstained.

b) Arts Rep - There was much discussion about this. It was generally agreed that there are lots of opportunities to go to or take part in arts and music events in and around Oxford and this merited an organiser to coordinate this for the MCR. However, some people pointed out that there exist mailing lists, e.g the OU Music Society mailing list, that do this anyway and MCR members could organise attending events themselves. Others pointed out that the number of arts related events/trips being spontaneously organised by MCR members didn't match the number interested, demonstrating a need for an Arts Rep. Some were opposed in principle to the idea of an Arts Rep because it would narrow the views of the MCR and it should be the responsibility of the organisations putting on events to advertise. It was questioned whether this role should be given to an Officer of the MCR or a Committee member as the motion intended. We first voted on whether there should be any position for this at all.

Vote: 21 for; 1 against; 1 abstained.

Then we voted on whether it should be an a Committee or Officer position

Vote: 7 for Committee; 9 for Officer; 7 abstained.

c) Accommodation & Food Rep – Those present agreed this would be a worthwhile position to have on the Committee as the MCR are regularly in communication with the College on matters of food and have decided to instigate an annual accommodation review. Someone is needed to coordinate all of this.

Vote: 23 for; 0 against; 0 abstained.

d) Reallocation of OUSU duties – There were some worries about whether the passing of this motion would result in OUSU meetings being unattended and also about whether other MCR members could go to OUSU meeting if they wished. Both worries were calmed: reallocation would result in all meetings being attended and any member of the MCR can go to OUSU meetings. Jamie assured the MCR that there was unequivocally no

anti-OUSU sentiment intended in the motion, and that the loss of the position was for mere pragmatic reasons to accommodate the introduction of the new position in (c).

Vote: 9 for; 2 against; 10 abstained.

e) Recognition of 'Officer' positions – There was very little discussion on this, everyone seemed happy with it.

Vote: 20 for; 0 against; 1 abstained.

6. Coffee Machine Motion

A hot topic (excuse the pun if there is one). There was a lot of debate over whether we needed a coffee machine, if so how much should be spent, how much should be charged per coffee and how much of the cost of the machine the MCR should try and recoup from sales. There was a series of votes. Firstly on whether we should buy a coffee machine at all.

Vote: 10 for; 1 against; 9 abstained.

We voted on whether people should pay for coffee.

Vote: 20 for; 0 against; 0 abstained.

There was some debate about how much we should spend, including some examples from other colleges' MCRs and how well they have served the MCR. We then voted on whether we should spend up to £500.

Vote: 10 for; 0 against; 9 abstained.

We then discussed whether we should aim to recoup some of the cost of the machine through sales. This was voted on.

Vote: 7 for; 6 against; 6 abstained.

It was left to the Committee to decide on the exact amount to charge for coffee and how much to recoup.

7. Any Other Business

Brown Review – Jamie explained his previous reticence on this issue. He reported that there was no plan for graduate fees in this review, but that savage cuts in the teaching budget for Arts and Humanities in particular would affect both undergrads and grads alike.

4th year fees – Currently there are no college fees to be paid by 4th year DPhil students, however they are thinking of introducing a fee of £500 per term, which might not be covered by some students' funding.