



## **Minutes from the MCR General Meeting**

5pm 6<sup>th</sup> March 2011

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

### ***1. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings***

- Sofa Motion
- Committee-Based Motions
- Coffee Machine Motion

### ***2. Report back from (a) the Joint Domestic Committee, (b) the Joint Welfare Committee, (c) the Joint Consultative Committee and (d) the Computing Committee***

### ***3. Motion - Green Rep duties***

### ***4. Motion - President Committee Dinner Subsidy***

### ***5. Motion - Constitutional change***

### ***6. Motion - Electoral Constitutional Change***

### ***7. Motion - Women's Gym (related to a JCR motion)***

### ***8. Treasurer's Report***

### ***9. President's Summary of the Year***

### ***10. Hustings***

### ***11. Any Other Business***

## ***1. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings***

- **Sofa Motion**

A sofa was moved from downstairs to upstairs. People are happy with this.

- **Committee-Based Motions**

The changes to the constitution/positions have been made and implement.

- **Coffee Machine Motion**

A term on, people agreed that this was all in all a good purchase. It has got people to visit the MCR more often, and certainly is used/popular. It is up to the incoming Committee to decide on a charging policy (up until now there has been no charges) and to decide how ingredients are supplied. Jamie supplied 16 pints of milk, and this was consumed in 1 week. Over a year this would cost £96. A similar calculation for hot chocolate gives ~£200. It was pointed out that some people are drinking pints of milk on its own, so there also maybe be an issue of controlling how ingredients are used to keep supply/demand steady.

## ***2. Report back from***

### ***(a) the Joint Domestic Committee***

It was reported that the online booking system is working very well except for the issue of cancelling bookings, which should be easily fixed since it is working in the related SCR system.

The Buttery is on its way out, not enough people are using it.

MCR members will now be charged along with JCR members for late Battels payments (60 graduates did not meet the deadline this term). The fee is £10. Those who are having difficulty making payments are advised to contact the College Accountant who will make every effort to be accommodating.

There are so many deliveries to the lodge that there is not enough space to store all of the parcels. The sheer number of packages resulted in one expensive item going missing recently and the College is not insured for this. So the plan is to have a post room (possibly the Buttery) for parcel collection.

### ***(b) the Joint Welfare Committee***

College are keen for the MCR to put on events that raise the profile of equality issues. This is left as a challenge to the incoming Committee, particularly the Social Secretaries/Welfare Rep.

The JCR applied for extra money from College to supply Durex instead of Safex condoms (which they get free from OUMS) because they are cooler. This request was declined...

The MCR has now been permission to hold exchange bar nights (i.e. invite other colleges' MCRs to our bar) in the College bar, possibly including occasions outside of term time.

***(c) the Joint Consultative Committee***

At this meeting the Accommodation Survey was submitted. College seems to be taking this seriously and are already enacting on its recommendations. The College Green Group met to discuss the environmental portion of this report.

OUSU's funding situation is undergoing a change. In future it is expected that OUSU will be funded partly by the University and partly by the Colleges, but not by the individual common rooms. Worcester College have promised not pass on this cost to the MCR, something that is happening in some other colleges.

***(d) The Computing Committee***

Nothing to report. Corey Johnson was away in Stanford.

***(e) the MCR Presidents Committee***

There has been worry about College charges for 4<sup>th</sup> year (and beyond) DPhil students. Instead a new 'continuation charge' has been implemented, which will be at most half of EU fees for all students, i.e. roughly £500 a term. This is a significant improvement over the original proposals, but the new committee were advised to look out for this. 4<sup>th</sup> year charges will not affect current students.

It was reported that some colleges (including Worcester) have at some point not allowed children of college members into Hall. It has been decided that this is illegal. In addition to this it was decided that MCRs should make more of an effort to put on child-friendly events.

***3. Motion - Green Rep duties***

There was no debate on this above clarifying the motion.

Vote: 23 for; 0 against; 0 abstained.

***4. Motion - President Committee Dinner Subsidy***

Antonis raised the point that Social Secretaries have to attend many events as part of their duties. If this motion was passed then by this precedent the Social Secs should get subsidised guest night, GDC, and exchange dinner tickets. He asked where the line would be drawn.

Kate said there was usually more discussions at the dinner than at the subsequent meeting making it important to attend. Also that this meeting is only one among many that the President has to attend.

It was put forward that maybe PresCom should be asked to reduce the cost of dinners or constrain their discussion until the meeting.

Jamie pointed out that because of the number of people involved private dinners (which cost more than dinner at Hall for instance) are usually the only option.

It was confirmed that the maximum this motion could cost the MCR is £60 a year as it is in the OUSU constitution to restrict the number of meetings to 2 a term.

Vote: 16 for; 4 against; 3 abstained.

### ***5. Motion - Constitutional change***

Very little discussion occurred. All agreed to the changes to the constitution that had been distributed via email before the meeting.

Vote: 20 for; 0 against; 3 abstained.

### ***6. Motion - Electoral Constitutional Change***

It was explained that previously votes had been cast by non-anonymous email to the Elections Officer. All agreed that it is very undesirable for there to be no anonymity in an election. This year, those who wish can vote by an anonymous paper ballot, as well as by email. Next year, it is aimed to do the election online using the Oxford single sign-on service. All agreed that it was worthwhile putting the ideal of anonymity into the constitution.

Vote: 23 for, 0 against; 0 abstained.

### ***7. Motion – Women’s Gym (related to a JCR motion)***

The principle of whether we should discriminate in this way at all was questioned. Why not then designate an hour for those with weight issues, men intimidated by sports teams, etc.?

Others found it patronising towards women, and it was pointed out that it might get in the way of College rowers’ training.

Some were worried no women would participate in the scheme, leaving the gym unused in this time, but others said it was usually empty at this time anyway.

Many supported the idea, especially since it was only a trial. If the trial showed a great deal of women choosing to use the gym at these times then many would want to see the system implemented permanently.

However, most thought the motion lacked enough detail. For instance there was no mention of how the trial would be monitored, how it would be enforced and whether women sports team members would be able to use the gym at these times.

As a result the vote was split into two parts. The first was whether people agreed in principle to some scheme that restricted access to the gym to women at designated times.

Vote: 12 for; 4 against; 6 abstained.

Secondly we voted on whether this particular motion should be passed as it appeared in the agenda.

Vote: 5 for; 8 against; 9 abstained.

## ***8. Treasurer's Report***

This is given in a separate document.

In addition to this, John pointed out some findings from looking back at previous year's minutes. MCR spending in the year 93/94 was more than it was this year. Taking into account who received the membership fees back then, adjusting for the number of students, using the CPI index, it was found that in real terms the equivalent budget to 93/94 would be greater than £14,000. So, while this is not a point in time to be asking for more money from College, it should be remembered by previous years that we are due for a budget increase.

## ***9. President's Summary of the Year***

This is given in a separate document.

## ***10. Hustings***

There was a candidate running for each Committee position. The candidate and two nominators are listed below:

### **President**

Jason Lee – Liselotte Snijders, Huw Davies

### **VP and Secretary**

Huw Davies – Tomi Johnson, Emily Macgregor

### **VP and Treasurer**

Martin Evans – Liselotte Snijders, Huw Davies

### **Social Secretary (x2)**

Liselotte Snijders – Greg Simms, Martin Evans

Corey Johnson – Antonis Kouroutakis, Christopher Ku

### **Welfare Rep**

Josh Grehan – Greg Simms, Marie Manikis

### **Accommodation and Food Rep**

Marc Zentar – Tomi Johnson, John Pearson

### **Green Rep**

Jim Fouracre – Tomi Johnson, John Pearson

### **Charities Rep**

Greg Simms – Josh Grehan, Liselotte Snijders

### **Bar Manager**

Marc Haas - Jim Fouracre, Antonis Kourourtakis

### **Sports Rep**

Dan Grabarczyk – Antonis Kouroutakis, Jason Lee

### **Computing Rep**

Jamie Frost – John Pearson, Huw Davies

Each candidate spoke briefly about why they were standing for the position and why they might do the job well. A few questions were put to them. Elections began.

## ***11. Any Other Business***

No other business. Let's go home.