

Dear Provost,

I was very pleased to meet you at last during the drinks on Wednesday 9 October. On behalf of the entire MCR Committee, I would like to thank you for your entertaining and informative address to the Fresher Graduates. I would very much welcome the opportunity for us to meet again in the fairly near future SO THAT we can discuss a few aspects of Graduate life at Worcester.

Over the last few months, the MCR Committee has made a fairly wide-ranging informal review of College Graduate facilities and has drawn up something of an agenda of changes and improvements which we think would benefit the Graduate body here. It struck me as appropriate that the start of a new academic year and your recent election might serve as a useful opportunity to discuss with you some of the proposals which we would like Governing Body to consider.

So that you have an idea of the sort of issues I would like to take up with you, I set out below a summary of some of the problems we feel Graduates perceive and a few of our suggestions.

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#### Introduction

Worcester College prides itself on having excellent relations with its graduates. However, the services provided for these graduates are of a minimal nature, using guidelines laid down in the Roberts Report and yardsticks such as the least facilities provided by other colleges. I hope that this situation can be changed so that Worcester can account for, and indeed be proud of its use of the £1500 annual college fee imposed on all graduates.

#### Computers

Many graduates have lived in the "real world" where most companies accept the computer as an essential tool to improve the quality and efficiency of their employees work. It comes as an unpleasant shock and disappointment to find Worcester college can only provide 4 computers, 1 for every 30 students (alternatively 30 minutes each during a normal working day!). Their use is self limiting because of the excessive demand.

I would like to see a college room taken over (above the MCR) and used to house 8 IBM compatible computers.

#### Accommodation

Single graduates of Worcester college currently have to find their own rooms, often expensive, distant or unsuitable for study. New Worcester graduates live in the Grad Pad with small, dim rooms whose walls are thin and space is limited. They share 2 showers between 24 and are short of kitchen space.

There are plans to develop a new building. I would like to start pushing for the funds to be made available by a combination of renting Beaumont Street and energetically

appealing for sponsorship.

In the mean time, simple measures could improve the quality of living enormously. The communal areas, particularly the bathrooms need urgent redecorating, as do many of the rooms. Curtains and carpets need replacing. We would benefit enormously by having a "petty cash" account for replacing utensils in the kitchens.

#### Travel Grants

Currently there is only a limited access of graduates to travel scholarships despite the academic need to travel to conferences etc. The trustees of existing scholarship funds should be approached to see if graduates can become benefactors. Appeals for new funds and the redefining of some college capital should be commenced soon.

#### MCR/SCR Relations

Most graduates have very little chance to meet the colleges academic staff and so they miss out on the unique experience that the Oxford Collegiate system can provide. As a cosmopolitan group with varied research interests I feel that many of the SCR would enjoy joint events. Possibilities include wine tasting, concerts, Franks talks, theatre trips and dinners. I hope this year will see some more of the "Graduate Advisers" inviting their tutees to high table. I am grateful for the recent Governing Body decision to allow Paul Craig to invite 3 graduates to dine on Tuesday evenings.

I am looking forward to discussing these and any other issues with you, the MCR Committee and Paul Craig.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Morgan (MCR President)

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