



Motions for the MCR General Meeting

To be held: 17th November 2010

Sofa Motion

The MCR notes that:

- The MCR does not currently own a sofa in the lounge.
- A sofa would be a popular and indispensable 'bottom facilitator'.
- Any such sofa would need to be durable, although often these are prohibitively expensive.
- Some cheaper sofa wholesalers (such as DFS) offer sofas with free replaceable covers. This both doubles the life-span of the sofa, and then allows it to be further extended at a relatively minor cost given the lack of necessity to replace the entire sofa frame.

The MCR resolves to:

1. Release up to £650 for the purchase of a new sofa for the lounge.

Proposed By: Jamie Frost

Seconded By: Jack Wright

Committee-Based Motions

Please find attached an Annex indicating all the proposed changes to the MCR Constitution, pertaining to the issues below. In addition to these major changes, some of the descriptions of the other committee positions have been updated to clarify or extend their role in the context of evolving circumstances (e.g. for the IT Rep to maintain the MCR website).

a) VP Motion

The MCR notes that:

- The constitution currently has no provision for scenarios where the MCR President is either absent or for some other reason cannot fulfil their duties. This is particularly key for college meetings (such as JDC and JCC) where the MCR requires a clear representative.
- The roles of Treasurer and Secretary are such that they constitute a particularly prominent role in key decision making, reflected by their representation on the JDC and JCC committees.
- It is standard practice for other JCRs and MCRs to either have an 'executive

committee' (i.e. President, Treasurer and Secretary) or recognise their roles in directly supporting the President.

The MCR resolves to:

1. Modify the Treasurer position to 'VP & Treasurer'.
2. Modify the Secretary position to 'VP & Secretary'.
3. Stipulate in the constitution the contingency plan in cases of the President's absence/resignation.

Proposed By: Jamie Frost

Seconded By: John Pearson

b) Arts Rep

The MCR notes that:

- The arts have not featured very prominently in the MCR in the past.
- The MCR compromises of many talented musicians, artists and actors, but there is no (publicised) platform for these talents to be shared in a collegiate setting.
- There are a number of activities of cultural merit that occur around the university, but there is no unified source to help people assimilate this information.
- Someone with responsibility over the arts could organise events such as open mic nights in the bar, theatre/concert trips, recitals and improve collaboration with the Worcester Music Society.
- An Arts Rep position has been discussed in the past, but was brushed away on the basis that it could be incorporated into the Social Secretaries' duties. However, there is already enough of a burden on the Social Secretaries, and promoting the arts requires a more specialist interest. In addition, creation of a formal position is required to ensure the promotion of arts is not contingent on the fluctuating particular set of interests of the other committee members in a given year.

The MCR resolves to:

1. Create an Arts Rep position.
2. The new position would formally come into effect under the next committee, with elections held as normal in Hilary Term. In the meantime, our current Charities Rep Samantha could continue to informally organise events which promote the arts.

Proposed By: Jamie Frost

Seconded By: Samantha Fernando

c) Accommodation & Food Rep

The MCR notes that:

- The MCR is planning to organise an annual Student Accommodation Survey for

- the end of Michaelmas Term each year, in collaboration with the college.
- This would require liaising with the Domestic Bursar and Accommodation manager to collate and pass on issues with housing, inadequate furniture or cleaning.
 - The creation of a new Accommodation Rep position is supported by the existing Domestic Bursar, and has already been approved in the Joint Domestic Committee.
 - The MCR currently has a large amount of contact with the Domestic Bursar and Catering Manager on issues of food.

The MCR resolves to:

- Create an 'Accommodation & Food Rep' or 'Domestic Rep' position on the committee. Such a person would be responsible for conducting the Student Accommodation Survey, acting as a point of contact through the year for housing issues, and also represent the MCR on issues of food provision.
- Conduct an election as soon as possible to fill the position in time for the upcoming survey.

Proposed By: Jamie Frost
Seconded By: Laith Tapper

d) Reallocation of OUSU duties

The MCR notes that:

- OUSU represents an important body for liaising with the university on behalf of students, as well as issues of wider national interest.
- The OUSU Rep position has been unfilled for a long time, despite a by-election.
- While historically the OUSU Rep has been the main point of contact with OUSU, more recently the primary link is via the President (as President Committee Meetings) and the Welfare Rep. The practical necessity of the position has therefore been extensively depreciated.
- Creating the Accommodation & Food Rep and/or Arts Rep positions ideally requires removing another position on the committee to maintain its size.
- The removal of the OUSU Rep position has been discussed with the OUSU Graduate Officer in order to avoid potential conflict, who agrees with the practical value of such a decision and is adequately assured that there is no secondary motive involved.

The MCR resolves to:

1. Disband the existing OUSU Rep position on the committee.
2. Augment the (VP &) Secretary's duties to represent the MCR on the OUSU Council Meetings, feeding back at General Meetings.

Proposed By: Jamie Frost
Seconded By: Tomi Johnson

e) Recognition of 'Officer' positions

The MCR notes that:

- There are some roles that are integral to the life of the MCR, although don't represent an extensive enough responsibility to merit creating committee positions for them.
- In particular, these roles are Franks Society Organiser and Film Club Organiser.
- Especially in the case of the former, this is a position that must be filled, but there is no such provision in the constitution.

The MCR resolves to:

1. Recognise in the constitution the existence of the two 'Officer' positions.
2. Stipulate that these positions may be filled without formal elections, and at any time.

Proposed By: Jamie Frost

Seconded By: Jenny Appel

f) Coffee Machine Motion

The MCR notes that:

- The MCR currently lacks an espresso machine in its physical plant.
- Every respectable Oxford MCR has a decent espresso machine for its members to use.
- The college buttery has sadly decided against purchasing their very substantial espresso machine, relegating MCR members to pay £2+ in town for a decent cup of joe.
- The purchase cost of an espresso machine could be offset with a nominal surcharge (~ 50-60 p) per cup to MCR members for its first few terms of use, after which time the charge could be reduced (~10-20 p) to cover operating costs.
- As is done in other MCRs, usage could be billed termly and tracked using a tally log, thereby obviating the need for an unlocked cash box in the MCR.

The MCR resolves to:

- Set aside up to £750 for the purchase of a new espresso machine for the MCR.
- Delegate responsibility for the upkeep of said machine to the proposed Food and Accommodations representative.

Proposed By: Corey Johnson

Seconded By: Antonios Kouroutakis

Annex – Modified Constitution

Additions indicating in bold, deletions indicated in struck-through text.

A. Composition of Committee and Responsibilities of Elected Officers

1. The Committee shall consist of the following:

- a) A President who
 - i) convenes committee meetings and general meetings; and
 - ii) represents the interests of the MCR to the College, the University and OUSU;
- b) A **VP &** Treasurer who
 - i) maintains MCR accounts in co-operation with the College Bursar and College Accountant; **and**
 - ii) **represents the MCR at Joint Consultative and Joint Domestic Committee meetings;**
 - iii) **jointly serves as acting President in case of the President's absence; and**
- c) A **VP &** Secretary who
 - i) records the minutes of committee meetings and distributes them to Officers in a timely fashion;
 - ii) records the minutes of general meetings and publishes them within five days; and
 - iii) conducts the annual committee elections unless a candidate therein; and
 - iv) **represents the MCR at Joint Consultative and Joint Domestic Committee meetings; and**
 - v) **jointly serves as acting President in case of the President's absence;**
- d) A Welfare Officer who
 - i) ~~organises charity donations;~~
 - ii) represents the MCR to the OUSU Welfare Committee **and the College's Joint Welfare Committee;** and
 - iii) addresses MCR members' welfare and security concerns;
- e) Two Social Secretaries, preferably with interests different from one another, who organise MCR social events and publish a term card describing them;
- f) A Computer Officer who
 - i) arranges for the acquisition and maintenance of MCR computing ~~and photocopying~~ equipment and supplies in liaison with the College IT department, **and;**
 - ii) **represents the MCR on the IT Standing Committee; and**
 - iii) **is responsible for the maintenance and purchase of electrical equipment in the MCR, and;**
 - iv) **maintains the MCR website;**

2. In addition, based on need and availability, the following positions may also be filled:

- g) A Sports Officer who organises MCR sports teams and events;
- h) ~~an OUSU Representative who represents the interests of the MCR to OUSU;~~

- i) an Environment Officer who undertakes and organises, independently or in conjunction with a Junior Common Room Representative, projects for the benefit of the environment;
- j) a Bar Manager who purchases supplies for and organises the MCR Bar in conjunction with the Social Secretaries;
- k) **an Accommodation and Food Rep, who**
 - i) **conducts the annual student accommodation towards the start of the academic year, and**
 - ii) **acts as a point of contact to channel students' issues with accommodation to the College, and**
 - iii) **liaises with the catering department of issues of food policy and provision;**
- l) **an Arts Rep, who**
 - i) **in conjunction with the social secretaries organises events of artistic, cultural and musical merit; and**
 - ii) **is responsible for paintings and pictures in the MCR;**
- m) **a Charities Rep, who organises charity donations and promotes charitable causes; and**
- n) ~~Any other positions approved at a General Meeting [removed because by definition, if a position is approved at a GM, it should be added to the constitution].~~

3. In addition, there are a number of 'Officer' positions who contribute to the life of the MCR, but do not serve on the committee. Such positions may be freely filled by the committee without formal elections. These consist of the following:

- a) **A Franks Society Organiser who organises speakers for the Franks Society and liaises with college to provide a venue and food.**
- b) **A Film Club Organiser who organises MCR film nights.**