

MCR General Meeting 20/10/2019

Quorate number of members present. Chaired by Richard Baker, minutes by Rory Hennell James.

Introductions by Richard.

Minutes from 02/03/2019 approved without vote.

MCR improvements reports:

- TV room is nicer and has new carpet – Thanks to Daffy
- Thanks to Giulia for cleaning fridge
- Request to keep things tidy and clean

Matters arising from the minutes

Meat-free Mondays were approved of in the survey last time. Will remain for evening meals on Mondays, may be expanded to lunch but need to consult with staff and Fellows. Justin was sad about this (sarcastically).

Decision to stop serving breakfast has been reversed.

Associate membership is now online – thanks to Daffy, Rory and Jona. Associate membership for one term is now an option.

JCR want to set up bike-borrowing scheme, Stephen doesn't think we should get involved. No one raised any objection.

New Provost

College has appointed someone to help find a new Provost, will be interested in talking to MCR. Stephen confirms students will be involved in interviews at least a bit. Matteo suggests we should advise on wording of adverts. Stephen says they have been told to look wider than usual – potentially non-academic. Current question is how do we want to interact with the recruiter.

Justin suggests another EGM or other forum to meet with this person and discuss. Can we ask the MCR for three words to describe what we want. Johann points out words without morals are ambiguous. Matteo suggests a document describing what we want. Gil-Ad suggests functional over aspirational – what do we expect from our Provost in terms of Pastoral, welfare, engagement with MCR. Justin suggests giving them information about what the MCR is and what it represents – new person probably won't be from Oxbridge.

Stephen says discussion will be part of unreserved business at GB so MCR/JCR reps will see what the fellows are saying (was agreed by Interim Provost).

Motion 1 – Price hikes in bar

Richard read the motion.

Justin explains the motion further – the bar is a place to drink alcohol socially and in public. Argues there is a benefit to bar staff moderating students' intake. The Dean team has recently tried to reduce excessive drinking by students by increasing prices and removing strong drinks. Justin suggests that this actually drives people away from the bar to drink in their rooms where they drink

the same amount without supervision. In his experience working in the bar the bar staff have always been able to keep people from getting dangerously drunk. Justin suggests that the Home Bursar has got rid of discounted drinks for staff to try and make a profit, which should not be the aim of the College Bar.

Gil-Ad brings up the law about “irresponsible promotions”, suggests that in the context of the bar they are not irresponsible. Justin agrees, accepts that at least at special events discounts may not be appropriate.

The bar makes a loss but not a huge one.

???: Having the bar in College helps create a good community space accessible to people on lower incomes. Staff wages are not brilliant, also the discount helps appreciate the staff.

Stephen – Stings were banned by GB, unlikely to be overturned. Price changes were from the Home Bursar. Maybe we should accept the loss of the Sting but ask for price changes to be overdone

Motion amended to remove references to be Stings passed by overwhelming majority.

Avishek asks what the process for asking for changes is. Justin/Stephen explains that we would take it to JCC where senior JCR/MCR people meet with College.

Amended motion passed 29 in favour, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

Motion 2: changes to committee positions

Richard reads out motion.

Stephen – we need to actually define committee positions in the constitution. Learning and assessment is a big part of students’ college experience – OUSU et al have lots of campaigns, we should have someone appointed to Education Officer to advocate for these issues.

Justin – Education officer is new, these jobs are normally done by President. Stephen – this will continue if the role is unfilled.

Johann – does this need to go to GB. Stephen – no, appendices just go to JCC.

Motion passed 29 in favour, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

Hustings:

Secretary – candidates Lisa Plag and Clara Baudet.

- Lisa – Masters in Computer Science. Met lots of people in Freshers, wants to get involved in committee to support decision making and running the MCR.
- Clara – also enjoyed the Freshers events. Has lots of free time due to 4 contact hours per week.
- Stephen explains election procedure

Women’s Welfare – Candidates Alexandra Lovelock and Nsuku Nxumalo

- Nsuku – wants every woman in Worcester to feel College/Oxford is a safe space. Has experience with mentoring.
 - Justin asks about training. Yes she had some training in her role at previous university.

Equal opportunities – Candidate Johann Go

- Johann – has had this role before. Wants to champion diversity in the MCR, lots of events planned with other diversity reps.
- As it's a by-election and uncontested, Stephen moves for a vote now. Elected unanimously.

Accommodation and Food – no candidates.

- Stephen explains the role from the constitution. Works with rest of committee on survey, represents students to college about prices, quality etc.
- Elliot Smith nominates himself – eats a lot in college so has a vested interest in food quality/price.
- Move to vote, elected unanimously.

Social Secretary (2 positions) – Candidates Noah Cashian, Lauren Bolz, Jochem Nilsen

- Lauren – has proven to be reasonably social. Was social sec equivalent at co-ed fraternity in undergrad.
- Jochem – surprised to be able to run so early in the year. Thinks the MCR as a social space and for events is great. Ran events for a sports club and for a charity in the past.
- Noah – previous experience as an ents officer in undergrad. Impressed by number of social events going on, wants to help continue this.

Sports officer – no candidates

- No one nominates themselves, role will remain unfilled.

Arts officer – candidate Kevin Zang

- Believes art is important and can be unappreciated in college. Wants to create a space for us to appreciate each other's artistic efforts and have fun together.
- No other candidates, Kevin is elected unanimously.

Disabilities Rep – Yohance Osborne

- Not present to host, elected unanimously without hustings

Justin points out the inconsistency between elected uncontested positions at the meeting and contested positions online.

Any other business

Gil-Ad reports that Worcester MCR is performing better than expected socially.

Hans notes that he will be asking committee members for headshots for the website.

No other business, meeting adjourned.