

Minutes of the MCR Meeting - 30th October 2019

Worcester college

Present: Stephen, Rory, Gil-Ad, Tom, Giulia, Jochem (invited), Johann, Hans, Lauren, Kevin, Noah, Yohance, James, Clara

I) Introductory remarks

Giulia is going to talk with the Provost to see if the college can implement a program for women (developing skills, networking) like they have at St John's (they have 2 meetings per term).

II) Items for discussion

1) The Grace

The motion went in slightly amends, 48% opposed the motion completely, 18% agreed with it (Stephen prefers not to make the results public). The motion was amended to say we should have a calendar of grace, used in order to 1) keep the tradition going, 2) take away the vagueness, so that people know what they are attending, 3) allow for the inclusion of other texts such as poems, other religious texts, etc.

2) College bar pricing

The college bar is under a lot of scrutiny, and we should be careful because it could risk losing its license; after that it would be nearly impossible to have it back.

3) Regulating MCR bar attendance

Gil-Ad proposed that bar nights attendance at the MCR should be limited to MCR members and 2 guests (the capacity of the MCR is 90 people). Rory asked if we should try to make this regulation formal. For Lauren; it is incumbent on the inviter to control his/her friend. The question of the enforcement of this decision remains problematic: Rory reminded everyone that the last time the MCR tried to enforce it, it didn't really work. For Stephan, we should not hesitate to get the Porter to come down to the MCR, although an episode like last Friday is unlikely to happen again.

⇒ The vote in favour of inviting 2 guests at the discretion of the inviter was unanimous.

4) Provost's Election

Stephen explained that companies have been appointed: they are coming on the 6th, 7th or 12th of November to talk to everybody. A student body is going to be formed to consult everyone in the MCR as widely as possible. Surveys should be used; they will send us an app for this. The aim is to have a variety of MCR people represented, from different subjects. There will also be a student interview panel. It was noted that

between 3 and 5 people are needed. Gil-Ad, Giulia and Johann volunteered to go: they should give Stephen their availabilities.

5) E-mail account for committee members

All members are now in the mailing list of the MCR committee. Things should be published both in the mailing list and on the Facebook group. Also, it would be better if everybody could use their account to send mails and not just receiving them.

6) Referendum on standing in hall

JCR is not happy that the MCR can vote on their motions. Gil-Ad said we should not vote for JCR-related matters, and Tom said it depended if the motion affected us. The JCR is the student's union for Worcester college, hence we are all automatically JCR members, Rory clarified. MCR members are allowed to vote, but we can agree that we don't, unless it affects us.

⇒ It was acknowledged that standing was not compulsory.

7) Items to discuss at JCC

The JCC is the big college meeting where the MCR controls the agenda. People who will be present are: President, Finance Sec, VP Sec, Provost, Senior Tutors.

- One issue regards DPhil students who submit their thesis but are currently being charged continuation fees by the college until they pass the *viva*. They do not pay university continuation fees, but when it comes to college fees, the regulation is unclear, and open to interpretation.
- Tom also mentioned the accommodation problem in Nelson Street. The maintenance is really bad: the college does not tell students what items they should bring, how the heating works, and they are given notice a week beforehand. Besides, they are often international students who come from far away. Overall, the accommodation office is really uncommunicative. This is all the more embarrassing when we are hosting Visiting Fellows. Rory added that accommodations issues had already been raised with the former Provost, who talked about making a review of the entire housing situation. To be continued.
- The opening hours of the Student Office are not very convenient for students, from 10.00 am to 12.00 pm and from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm. According to Lauren, this has changed.

8) Daffy's Tupperware idea

Currently, when meals are taken away in hall, the staff provides the students with a card/plastic disposable container. The aim would be to use reusable containers, and Giulia said it would be better to bring our own container, that we would wash ourselves. College have been happy to fill Tupperware's in the past.

9) Deleting one of the MCR Facebook pages

Gil-Ad would like to retire the MCR fresher's page to avoid double posting every event. Members of this page should be informed that they can join the other MCR group. Nevertheless, the fresher group could be used to post things just for freshers, Rory said. Stephen said we should think about creating a new MCR page every year, strictly for current members.

III) Matters arising not somehow on the agenda

- a) *Brunch*: Giulia is currently buying food for brunch; we should 1) adjust what is bought to what people want, 2) think about what we want to cook.
- b) *Coffee machine*: Johann asked if a new grinder for coffee should be purchased. It was noted that it was also possible to buy grinded coffee directly.
- c) *Oxfam*: will happen on the the 1rst of December, Giulia said we can have the room next to the Nash.
- d) *The code of conduct*
 - ⇒ The committee unanimously agreed to creating a code of conduct for committee to govern the conduct of its members and ensuring everyone is treated with respect.
- e) *OX-MAS*: Giulia proposed to make a secret Santa; and Johann asked if there was anybody staying at Oxford for Christmas.

IV) Items for note/ reference

- If you want to spend the MCR money, please give Rory the receipts. If you want to organise something with the college and spend the MCR fund, e-mail him.
- It would be nice if each committee member volunteered for one bar night and one brunch. Use the link to sign up to rota.
- The paintings on the walls of the MCR TV room are being returned: Kevin was asked to make an expedition to the college archive to acquire new ones. Large paintings are preferable, because the wall behind them may not be painted.