

Minutes of the MCR Committee Meeting 17/11/2012

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies

Christian Ku, Martin Sedlak, Davide Cavaliere, Lara Diaz de Grenu, Amy Thomas, Andrew Walls, Lorenz Fenk, Marcus Tan, Erling Amble

Present

Ben Goldberg (Chair), Stefano Gogioso (Secretary), Omar Shamayleh, Günel Mehdiyeva, Nelly Olova, Stefano Salvatore, Eugenio Cocchi, John Kattirtzi (external)

2. MCR Consitution Subcommittee (Ben + Stefano G), see Appendix (a)

(2.1) Jobs specs

John explains the need for an Ethical affairs subcommittee. Ideas he treated as welfare officer included fairtrade, charity collection, green energy (getting solar panels, which colleges have solar panels, etc): there are lots of different areas and it was hard to follow everything properly (e.g. moving charity collection is something that is hard to do alone). Also coming up with ideas required brainstorming.

Nelly integrates by quoting charity collections (putting boxes in kitchens, put signs around, etc). Meetings are a lot more this year: CUSU does 2-3 per term, there is green committees, there are a number of extra training meetings; for one person it is indeed too much. There are wiki pages, advertising to keep alive, etc. Doing it properly requires a lot of work.

Stefano G admits that, conditional to it being clear that the subcommittee would be small and that constitution said that attendind a majority of those meetings is a job requirement. Stefano S raises the potential problem of the subcommittee ending up doing the job of the officers.

Stefano S proposes all MCR members to be allowed a subcommittee.

Vote: *Social, Welfare, Ethical affairs to be allowed to form and administer subcommittees (which would not be part of the MCR)*

Result: everybody in favor

Action: Stefano G and Ben to work on adding this to the MCR constitution

John proposes adding more flexible points to an appendix that can be . Stefano S raises that it will need to be in the constitution what exactly can be put in the appendix (e.g. minor role specs).

Action: Nelly and John to propose some additional job specifications for Ethical affairs.

John and Stefano S ask the point in not having Academic Officer in Academic committee: Stefano G explains that, while LRC presence of Academic Officer is required by College, we don't want to tie the hands of the MCR in who they are sending to layer 2 committees (House, Finance and Academic). John and Stefano S reply that they see the position as minor: it is explained that it simply replaces the Undergrad and PhD Reps with a more unified one. A point is made that people should not be elected under the heading of "you should be in the committee"

Action: Academic Officer to organise the academic evening.

(2.2) Identification of the committee

Stefano S and Günel point out that they would feel demoted. Stefano G explains you need a mechanism to hold major positions accountable. Stefano S and Günel oppose the restriction of room privileges, Stefano G explains that the reason behind it is that we need an accountability mechanism (Executive vs. Non-executive) and a mechanism to make sure that people do not apply for wrong reasons (Room privileges attract people, and should be restricted to the members who really need to be on campus, as those coincide with those that have a lot of work to do).

It is pointed out that room privileges could coincide with other forms of accountability, e.g. having to report regularly about their work. It is argued that Welfare Officers do not really have that important a role in college, as CUSU deals with the important stuff.

It is decided that we can decide later on who should get the room and who shouldn't, as this would not go in the Constitution in the first instance.

Vote: *should May Ball President and Bar Manager be in the committee?*

Result: All in favor of scrapping them

Action: for Stefano G and Ben to add to the appendix: it is proposed that Bar Manager is constitutionally part of the Social committee; resident DJ and technical people should be involved in the Social committee as well.

Vote: *should there be a distinction between executive and non-executive committee?*

Result: Stefano G in favor of a distinction, all other against

Action: every present except Stefano G to come up with at least a couple of proposals of accountability mechanism alternative to the executive/non-executive distinction

Action: Ben and Stefano G to make sure "Executive committee" heading goes out of the MCR Constitution

[[Omar leaves the meeting]]

(2.3) Creation of new positions

Vote: *do we agree with the new procedure?*

Result: all agree

(2.4) Election processes

Stefano S proposes a window, after MCR elections, to give people the possibility of joining, and coopting after that. Stefano G defends the principle that coopting is not transparent enough. Ben points out that elections are better to involve students.

Vote: *do we agree with the new ad-interim policy?*

Result: all agree

Action: Stefano G and Ben to produce by next Committee meetings a version of the Constitution Change proposal that includes the amendments voted in this meeting.

Nelly states that External Social Secretary should be elected in Lent as the swaps are organized in September, Stefano S points out that Off-campus officer should be elected in Lent to help people with housing during the summer.

Action: Stefano G to make the process more clear.

(2.5) Appointment of May Ball president

Action: Stefano G and Ben to add the proviso that if we don't find one we keep on advertising throughout Easter term, check again for candidates in week 8, and then continue advertising throughout Summer and check again for candidates in October. Putting it as a recommended practice

Vote: *do we want to appoint the May Ball President in Easter term?*

Result: All in favor except Günel

Stefano S raises the possibility of continuing to advertise in summer. Ben explains his discomfort with having to discuss this via email when a lot of people don't check their emails regularly.

Ben argues the point that it makes sense for the election of May Ball President to be a very formal process, as they will have to liaise heavily with college. MCR, past May Balls and College will all have equal voting rights of this, while keeping the electorate small enough for a professional discussion to be carried on feasibly.

[[Günel leaves the meeting]]

Stefano S proposes to increase from 6 to 9 people. Ben and Stefano S agree to this. As a consequence it is proposed that the representatives shall be from the previous 2 May Balls and shall include the May Ball Presidents if possible, or other members in some order.

John suggests we talk to Bursar and Domestic Bursar.

10. Coca Cola machine relocation (Stefano S)

Stefano S reports having spoken to the Coke machine guy and DJ James, and it turns out in the next fire inspection it will be considered as a fire hazard, as it is under a wooden stair. In case of relocation DJ James would want to have a MCR-agreed repositioning of the machine. Stefano S reports having proposed to be moved to the library. Ben strongly opposes not having it in the MCR bar and everybody agrees. The option of placing it in front of the MCR cupboard is discarded.

Vote: *do we agree to propose for the Coke machine to be moved in front of the library (where the lockers are), where it would be used and still not visible to the meeting rooms?*

Result: all agree

The meeting is adjourned. Next MCR committee meeting will be Saturday 24 Nov 2012.

3. Report on College fees (Ben + Stefano G)

4. Report to the committee regarding the new Disciplinary Policy (Ben + Stefano G)

5. Ask the External social secretaries whether it would be possible to increase the number of formal swaps (Stefano G)

6. Report to the committee regarding the current situation with Fenner's boiler, firewall, network structure, internet charges (Ben + Stefano G)

7. Brunch on Sunday (Nelly)

8. GU Constitution Update - College Fee Increase Issue (Ben?)

Would like the above to be discussed at the next council meeting, to work out where we stand as an MCR. Will read into it nearer the time and work out some propositions to vote on.

<https://docs.google.com/file/d/0Bzfs3-o0fljaaFFYT1FRRHB1N2M/edit>

9. Soup kettle (Ben)

Purchase of a soup kettle to dispense mulled wine. Think it would be really nice thing to have in the bar + tea and cakes around christmas time for Hughes moving forward. As ever, the will of the committee shall be final.

[http://www.nisbets.co.uk/Buffalo%20Soup%20Kettle%20\(Black\)-/L715/ProductDetail.raction?cm_mmc=Active%20point-_-Product%20group-_-April%20Sale%202012-_-Promotion](http://www.nisbets.co.uk/Buffalo%20Soup%20Kettle%20(Black)-/L715/ProductDetail.raction?cm_mmc=Active%20point-_-Product%20group-_-April%20Sale%202012-_-Promotion)

11. Items to be discussed in College Committees

For LR Committee: change the default printer to the big one and remove the small one as it jams/breaks all the time.

12. Report from College Council of 15 Nov 2012

- MCR to find out what SLAs the other colleges have in place for IT.
- MCR to find explore the possibility of creating a system of weekend internet maintenance services pooled between many colleges. Speak to Stefano S to use CUSU and GU.
- MCR to inform students that managed cluster machines are available on other sites in case the LRC ones are down.