

Minutes of the MCR Committee Meeting 21 Feb 2013

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies

Christian Ku, Lizzy Cole, Lorenz Fenk, Andrew Walls, Piran Kidambi

Present

Ben Goldberg (Chair), Stefano Gogioso (Secretary), Stefano Salvatore, Lara Diaz de Grenu Ballestrero, Earling Amble, Amy Thomas, Angelo Mussita, Eugenio Cocchi

Unjustified absentees

Gunel Mehdiyeva, Miranda Abild

2. Additional constitutional amendments

2.1 Committee approves that the role of RAG rep should go in the constitution under the duties of the Ethical Affairs officer. Approval from MCR members to be done via electronic vote.

2.2 Committee rejects (5 against, 3 in favour) the idea of changing MCR to another name. Action for Ben: send a poll investigating whether the student body wants a change.

2.3 Committee approves (7 in favour, 1 against) amendments to change the approval mechanism of constitutional change from general meeting to electronic vote (in a form to be articulated at a later stage).

2.4 Committee approves that items in the appendix of the constitution can be amended by vote of the MCR committee.

3. Discussion of committee room privileges

College have informally suggested they are thinking of spreading the committee through the buildings, aiming to move them away from Wollaston in order to increase committee presence. Resolve on committee's stance on this issue. As well as this, confirm roles that will get committee room privileges.

Committee rejects the position of college, on the basis that people in the MCR would be forced to choose potentially suboptimal accommodation in order to be present on campus. Furthermore a cap on the number of accommodation places in specific building would result in frictions within the MCR committee.

Committee approves limiting the room privileges to MCR committee, excluding subcommittee.

4. New committee integration document

In order to better prepare the incoming committee for the roles they are to take on, I would like each Officer to write up a job spec covering 1) the key duties of the role, with any relevant instructions and advice, 2) what they did in the previous year - what worked and did not, 3) what they would advise to be done with role in the previous year and any specific changes.

Committee agrees to do this.

5. Charity Bop

Lorenz has been in contact with the African Society at Hughes who would like us to put on a charity bop at some point in either Lent or Easter. Are we comfortable with the idea of using a bop for charity purposes? If so, shall we have this be an annual thing? Suggestion (if so): have it as first bop in Easter term every year.

It is expected that the African Society will help set up and clean after, as well as help out with the publicity of it. Committee approves unanimously.

6. Green week

An in house Hughes Hall switch off campaign (building v building perhaps?), with a green formal (ethically sourced, vegetarian) and a green bop (money to a green charity).

Committee enthusiastically approves the idea.

7. Swaps issue

Other MCRs make money from their swap guests. It is understood that students are giving up seats to guests and therefore a higher rate is charged, the dividend going to the MCR. Should Hughes (which presently charges the same) do likewise? Was raised in House Committee.

Committee agrees to support this idea if and only if the additional money goes in full to the MCR.

8. Sky TV in the Pfeiffer Room

We can now have Sky installed for £1000 per year in the Pfeiffer Room should we so choose. Is this 1) economically viable and 2) if so, something that would enhance college life? Committee need to advise on whether we make request to college to have it installed and what we can support financially.

Christian has confirmed that the MCR could withstand the economic costs of the Sky TV.

Committee has mixed feelings, due to the fact that it would become a constant reason for people to hang around in the Pfeiffer room and watch sports games. It is noted that the room is empty most of the time, and that any other event would take priority. With the given provisos, committee agrees in full.

9. Common room for the new Gresham Road building

Committee to decide it's view on a common room in the proposed new Gresham Road Building based on two hypothetical situations (1) with path, (2) without path. 'What is the hierarchy of preferences: common room, gym, music room?'

Committee agrees that gym is the highest priority, as the university gym will be moved to west Cambridge.

10. Year-dependent room privileges for undergrads

Room privileges for undergraduates according to the year you are in (e.g. chancellors for first years, centenary for second years, Wollaston and Fenners for third years).

Committee agrees to final year preference, but not to first and second year preferences.

12. How to reward subcommittee members?

Committee agrees to give a free formal for them at the end, with the proviso that it will not be an explicit incentive (looks cheapish).

13. Presidential idea: welcome/goodbye drinks

13.1 A part of the budget allocated to buy drinks at the bar for Lent and Easter term arrivals and those who have finished writing up their PhDs. A way of welcoming and congratulating students whose key moments can often pass the college by, I feel. [A stable figure topped up every year in the budget].

Committee enthusiastically agrees. Action for Stefano S: create a new "Hughes Finished Up Writing Cocktail".

13.2 Alongside this fund for new students (to be used only by the President), there should be a fund created for questionnaires (to give incentives to people to respond).

Committee agrees.

14. Peter Richards Award

Candidates: John Kattirtzi, John Walker, Davide Cavaliere

Committee votes for John Kattirtzi.

15. Oscars at handover hall: prizes?

Stefano S points out that it was a huge failure 2 years ago: we can do it but it has to be done properly.