

Hughes Hall MCR Committee

MEETING 20.06.2013

MINUTES

**The meeting took place at 6.30pm on
Thursday 20 June 2013**

1. Introduction

1.1. Apologies for absence

Angelo Mussita, Nelly Olova

1.2. Present

Tobi Olasunkanmi (Chair), George Sarbu (Secretary, Co-Chair), Omar Shamayleh (Co-Chair), Stephen Hall, Ben Goldberg, Dara Djavan Khoshdel, Earl Amble, Amy Thomas, Julie Witter, Piran Kidambi, Stefano Salvatore

1.3. Unjustified absentees

2. President's Report

- The President congratulated the Committee on their mobilisation for the swap with Linacre College, which took place in Easter Term. The Committee agreed that the swap should be moved up in the calendar, preferably to Lent Term. The feasibility of this move needs to be discussed with the MCR Committee at Linacre.
- The President asked for a vote on how the Committee should operate in the following academic year. The Committee agreed that, as per the MCR Constitution, there should be regular meetings, three times per term. The President also agreed that the entire committee should have a better awareness of what is going on and that this can be achieved by making more use of the Committee's email list.
- The President announced that he is preparing a fresher's manual for students coming in next year. The Committee agreed that the manual should contain, at the very least, information about accommodation, College facilities and College calendar. St Edmund's manual will be used as a model. This manual will be relayed to all new students via the Academic Office.
- The President would like the MCR Committee to be of more assistance to the Hat Club. This is an ongoing discussion, and it will be finalised once the person responsible with organising the Hat Club gets elected.

3. Matters raised by the Committee

1. *Operational details for Freshers' Month.*

- The first new students (PGCEs) arrive in College on September 14.
- The President suggested that we construct a gender-balanced greeting team for the events

organised during Freshers' month.

- This remains an ongoing discussion. Ben Goldberg will email to the Committee, before 23 June, a plan of the events that will take place during Freshers' Month. The document will also contain a list of responsibilities, which will require distribution, according to Committee members' availability.
- Notes about Committee availability: Earl Amble, Amy Thomas and Stephen Hall will be available from September 21; Julie Witter will only be available during weekends, throughout the period.
- The Fair will take place on College Induction Day – the Saturday before Michaelmas Term starts. It will happen in the Pavilion Room.

2. *Report from the Vice-President on University Student Unions*

- The Vice-President announced that the crisis as the GU is now over, after elections held on 29 May. The GU President-elect assumed leadership sooner than stipulated by the Union's Constitution, to avert further complications.
- Stephen Hall asked the Vice-President to remind to the GU that the Hughes Hall MCR has not yet paid the membership fee for the academic year 2012-2013. The Vice-President will email the GU leadership team to clarify the situation.
- The Vice-President attended a CUSU meeting on 20 June. Trustees and an honorary life member were elected.
- The Vice President will prepare a summary about key aspects concerning the Student Unions. He will email the report to the Secretary before the end of June. The report will be placed in the "Support" section of the MCR website.

3. *Senior Treasurer's Account & MCR Bar*

- Stephen Hall announced that the Senior Treasurer's account contains a substantial amount of money, which could be used for a major improvement to College life.
- The Committee agreed that a survey prepared by Stephen should be sent out to the general student population to get their opinion on what they believe would be a good way of spending the money, and also to get their general feedback on MCR facilities. The Secretary has this survey and he will circulate it.
- Piran Kidambi suggested that we might use the money to buy a replaceable, easy to install mat for the Pavilion Room. This would be likely to get us College permission for organising future MCR events in the Pavilion Room.
- Piran also suggested we might invest in a large, dismantable structure for the Garden Lecture Green. This, however, needs discussing with College. It also requires assessment from the Treasurer on whether it would not be cheaper to rent instead.
- Earl Amble suggested that we investigate opportunities to improve the quality of accommodation in College. This will first require permission from College, as the MCR has no authority over accommodation.
- The Committee discussed the opportunity of making significant changes (including architectural) to the Bar. This comes under College authority and it will require professional input from architects and interior decorators. The MCR President will pursue this further with the College President. Earliest expected completion date is January 2014.
- Stephen announced that there will be changes to bar facilities over the summer – new paint, new vending machines, a new projector and a change in how we employ bar space for bops, with several scenarios being evaluated.

4. *End of year Budget*

- Stephen recommended that we spend our budget completely before the end of the year. He announced that there are some planned expenditures, already – a new table for table tennis and a karaoke system.
- Piran suggested we could use part of the money for courts bookings and sport kits.
- The possibility of acquiring a basketball kit will also be evaluated by the Treasurer.

- Weekly Tea & Cakes events will, as per Amy Thomas' request, employ mugs, instead of single-usage cups. Stefano announced that we could use the mug reserve in the bar (around 50 mugs). Those organising the event will also need access to the dishwasher, which is only possible after 8PM, when the bar opens.
- Individual Committee members will be able to spend this money, but refunds must be agreed beforehand with the Treasurer.

5. ***Budget Responsibilities***

- Stephen announced that he will allow Committee members to manage their own budgets.
- Sums will be set for individual Committee members, and they will manage their own expenditures.
- The Treasurer will send termly reports to individual members to let them know the remaining balance for the allotted sums.

6. ***General Responsibilities***

- The Committee discussed how everyone is expected to help with events like Freshers' fair or bops, in addition to the duties that their position in the committee dictates.
- The Committee agreed that, for bops, we should have a quota system, imposing a minimum number of tasks that each committee member should get involved with. With an estimated number of two bops per term, the quota was agreed to be roughly two bops per Committee member (either cleanups or setups). The Secretary will be responsible with keeping a record of people's involvement.
- The Committee agreed that the positions of *Off-college Officer* and *Development Officer* will not be part of the new MCR Committee, due to their tasks overlapping with those of College-employed staff.
- The position of *Social Officer* (previously responsible with helping the Social Secretary) will be replaced with a *social subcommittee*, managed by the Social Secretary.

7. ***The May Ball***

- The Committee agreed that the 2013 Hughes Hall May Ball was a success.
- The Committee agreed to postpone electing a new May Ball President until early October. Piran suggested that we might have a Committee member with a stand at the Societies' Fair to recruit people willing to get engaged with the May Ball, either as President candidates or as May Ball Committee members. The Committee acknowledges that this would have regularly been done by the May Ball President, if elected according to the Constitution.
- Omar raised the point that there is currently not enough incentive for students to get involved with the May Ball Committee. He suggested that the MCR Committee should (i) impose a rule that the May Ball Committee from the previous year be granted free Ball access during the current year, and (ii) make a recommendation to the newly elected May Ball President to arrange at least one swap with committees from other colleges (a process which should be started as soon as possible after election).
- The Committee agreed with the second point.
- On the first point, there still needs to be some discussion, as to where the money would come from – the Treasurer will have a meeting with the Bursar to get his opinion on this new policy. At this point, the consensus is that the money to accommodate the free tickets should come from the May Ball Budget.

4. **Any other business**

- The Secretary announced that the MCR Committee has been invited by the College President to attend a lunch at her house, on 4 July. The May Ball Committee and students involved with the phone campaign for the College will also be there.

- The date of the next meeting will be set by agreement of the Committee members. The Committee acknowledges that it should happen before the start of the Freshers' month.