Members of the 2018-2019 Committee

President: Daniel Antón-García  
Vice President: Yuri Im  
Secretary: Hattie Stacey  
Treasurer: Maxim Kuvshinov  
Academic Affairs Officer: Anna Kölle  
Social Secretary: Nikhil Dutt Sundaraj  
Social Secretary: Emma Silvester  
Welfare Officer (Female): Paulina Rose Librizzi  
Welfare Officer (Male): Andrea Di Antonio  
LGBT* Welfare Officer: Charles Su  
Equality Officer: Irene Yu  
Accommodation Officer: Patrick Simon Perillo  
Sports and Societies Officer: Connor O’Pray  
IT and Infrastructure Officer: Harry Holkham  
Green and Ethical Affairs Officer: James Che

We would also like to acknowledge the work of our bar manager, Elena Bidash.

AGM & Elections of the 2019-2020 Committee

We held our annual general meeting on the 3rd of March, where several minor constitutional changes were approved by the student body. These include the addition of an article regarding the sustainability of the activities carried out by the MCR, a more comprehensive definition of the role of subcommittees and an increase in the notice period required for general meetings. The constitution can be found here: https://mcr.hughes.cam.ac.uk/bureaucracy/

We are currently in the process of electing a new MCR Committee for 2019-2020. Several positions remain unfilled. A second round of elections will accordingly be held in April. This is the case for most years and we have already seen interest on some of the currently vacant positions. I therefore remain confident that a good committee will be in place for next year.

This year's handover formal hall will take place on the 26th of April 2019 and we look forward to welcoming the new MCR Committee.
2018-2019 Report

After a successful May Ball, student garden party and end of year celebrations, we focused on working with College on the refurbishment of the social spaces at the Margaret Wileman Building. During the summer period, all the social spaces were redecorated and new furniture was purchased—a change that has been praised by both current students and alumni. Work continued during the Christmas break with the addition of a new audio-visual equipment in the bar and the installation of a kitchen where the old post room was located, which both students and college staff can take advantage of. These changes would have not been possible without the help of John Horwood, Paul Blaxill and Paul Parrish.

Patrick, our MCR Accommodation Officer, with the help of the porters’ team, invested a lot of time and energy to help students with summer storage, which is especially crucial for students living overseas. We have been working closely with Victoria Espley and Kathryn Smart on ensuring there is a right balance when allocating summer accommodation to different groups, and we have secured onsite rooms for students in all price bands. Talks with Alastair Lockhart have resulted in some changes on the accommodation allocation policy, to ensure fairness for mid-year entrants and a right balance of new and continuing students onsite. Furthermore, 12-month accommodation contracts will be offered as a new option alongside the current 9-month (with option to extend accommodation to the summer) contract. This will be especially beneficial for students staying over the summer, who will not have to change rooms during the summer period. Finally, after running a survey amongst PhD students, College has approved for a limited number rooms to be allocated for 4th year PhD students (currently accommodation is only provided for 3 years only). This system will be trailed and reviewed over the coming years.

Patrick and I have been involved in the initial stages of implementing a new software platform for managing accommodation and we both look forward to seeing the benefits this will bring to both the student body and the college staff.

We have been working with College on academic events that were started over the last few years, such as welcome drinks for subject areas and three-minute thesis competition. A series of monthly lunches at Sidgwick Site started last term, with 42 people attending, and future iterations will include an academic aspect. We would like to thank Alison Nicholson for all of her work during the academic year. We have also recently been in touch with several alumni to organise talks, with a conversation with alumnus, Sonali Pathiran, on equality in Wall Street companies happening last March. The Development Team has been extremely helpful in getting alumni in touch with us for the organisation of these talks and I hope that both teams will work closer in the coming years to expand the number of networking events at our college.

We have maintained a regular number of social events throughout the year, starting with almost 30 events during Freshers’ month. BOPs, themed formals (Diwali, Pink and LGBT+), wine and cheese, and pizza nights have all been well attended this year. We have been in touch with other colleges and organised several events together, such as formal and bar swaps, joint BAME brunch and the annual swap with Linacre College, Oxford. All these events have had a high demand, which showcases the interest of our students in exploring all the opportunities that we can offer outside our College. Finally, we are looking at expanding the range of music events that we host at Hughes, with a Jazz event organised by Nicolai van der Steen in March and an upcoming techno event being organised by Yuri Im and the Cambridge University German Society.

This has also been a busy year for a lot of sports and societies. It has been 2 years since our Boat Club’s partnership with Lucy Cavendish College ended. This notwithstanding, and for the first time, we are very proud to have two women boats rowing in the Bumps. Our College Football Team won the MCR Championship and is currently in the knockout stage of the Champions Cup. Badminton
has also consolidated its place in the 4th Division out of 8, after going up two divisions last year and remains popular with an attendance of 20-40 people in each of its weekly session. The Hughes Hall Law Society successfully organised its annual Mooting Competition throughout Michaelmas and Lent, which culminated in the final round being held at the UK Supreme Court. Furthermore, Hughes Hall Feminist Society has organised well-attended events during Michaelmas and Lent, some of which included conversations with invited speakers.

James, our MCR Green and Ethical Affairs Officer, has been working very closely with students from the Hughes Hall Green Impact Team and the college staff, and Hughes Hall will soon be awarded the Bronze Green Impact Award. Given the activity and drive of the students, I am positive that we will be able to obtain further awards in this category over the coming years. Several events have been organised throughout the year to raise awareness, with Green Week being the highlight during the month of January. All events were well attended and popular amongst students from the whole university.

The MCR Welfare Team has been quite active as well. In addition to very well attended tea and cakes days, we also hosted a Therapy Dogs Day for the first time. Over fifty students attended and the volunteers from Therapy Dogs Nationwide expressed a willingness to come back in the future, so hopefully this event will happen again. As of December 2018, we have also started offering free sanitary products in all publicly accessible restrooms. None of this would be possible without the advice and support of Kathryn Smart, Corinne Roughley, and Maria Gloag, and we thank them sincerely for that.

Finally, I have been working with College on the dining hall. We have been working on improving the logistics of formal halls, publishing menus beforehand and offering a wider range of non-alcoholic beverages. We have also been improving the labelling of food items during everyday dining, to increase the transparency of the service. Along with the Bursar, we have reviewed the Kitchen Fixed Charge (KFC), and it will remain frozen at the current level for 2019/2020 (no increase), and it will be waived for all students in private accommodation and in Swirles Court. College is also committed to work with the student body on improving the service provided by the Catering Team at the dining hall, and if possible, lowering of the KFC in future years. This proposed change was approved by College Council last term.

We would really like to thank all of the different departments in College for their support and openness during discussions. On a personal note, I would like to thank Victoria Espley and Philip Johnston for all their effort and for the provision of coffee during our fortnightly 8:45 am meetings.

Daniel Antón-García
MCR President