Hughes Hall MCR Annual Report

Members of the 2017-2018 Committee
President: Harry Holkham
Vice-President: Nicholas Langford
Secretary: Andrew Gwynne
Treasurer: Maxim Kuvshinov
Academic Affairs Officer: Yuri Im
Social Secretary: Milind Pandit
Social Secretary: Gaya Muthukumar
Welfare Officer: Annelies Baneke
Welfare Officer: Andrea Di Antonio
LGBT* Officer: Lucas Saric
Minority Ethnic Officer: Caitlyn Merry
Accommodation Officer: Josh Richman
Sports and Societies Officer: Nazhif Zaini

We would also like to acknowledge the work of our punt Admiral Connie Hantschmann, and our bar manager Elena Biddash.

Elections of the 2018-2019 Committee
We have initiated the process of electing the next committee. The election was announced on the 23\textsuperscript{rd} February, our AGM was on the 4\textsuperscript{th} March. The dealing for candidate nomination is the 9\textsuperscript{th} March. Hustings is on the 11\textsuperscript{th} March with voting opening afterwards and closing on the 16\textsuperscript{th} of March. Dr Sonia Ilie, our senior treasurer, is the returning officer.
Constitutional Changes

We held our annual general meeting on the 4th of March. We made a number of changes to the constitution. These were mostly superficial.

The LGBT+ officer is now grouped in with the Welfare officers, increasing the support to the Welfare team.

The Minority Ethnic Officer has had their name changed back to Equality Officer.

The current MCR committee has worked well with enacting the sub-committees this year. The academic, equality and social sub-committees have been formalised in the constitution.

A track changes version of the constitution is also attached.

MCR Report

The MCR is currently electing the new committee and we will be handing over on the 27th of April.

This committee has had a number of successes. It has been an enjoyable experience to work with college in relation to the refurbishment of the MCR bar, Pfeiffer Room and Combination Room. This has been a long-standing aim of the previous two committees, replacing the furniture and décor with that which will feel more homely.

We’ve had a regular social calendar, with bops (now with a larger capacity of 177 people!), wine and cheese nights and a regular pub quiz continuing through the year and had a successful Fresher’s introduction period back in September/October. The social calendar has also included a number of formal swaps with colleges including Darwin, Homerton and Sidney Sussex and the annual swap with Linacre College Oxford.

The Green and Ethical Affairs officer (Heather MacPherson), has worked with other students and the college to improve the vegan choices in the dining hall and has helped introduce more recycling bins around college.

This year, the MCR Academic Affairs Officer (Yuri) re-introduced a subcommittee by recruiting students from all five subject areas at Hughes Hall (humanities & social sciences, law, education, physical & mathematical science & engineering, medicine & biological science) to act as so-called Subject Area Representatives. These met with the Academic Affairs Officer, the Programmes Manager Alison Nicholson, and the Academic Convenor Carole Sargent, once or twice per term.

The main purpose of these meetings was to gather ideas for subject area-specific and interdisciplinary events that were hosted by our own students for our students - often even featuring our own students as speakers. This system was very successful, as it facilitated events organised by students who may have good ideas for educational events but require encouragement and support to execute them. It also enabled interdisciplinary discussion and, as a result, more efficient planning and publicity of interdisciplinary events. The subcommittee system also worked well for publicity, as students responded better to invites by their fellow students and friends. Additionally, MCR Academic Affairs Officer also had a point of reference, whenever input from a student of a specific subject area was required and could also enquire about any concerns or issues voiced by students within a subject area. Lastly, this system offered opportunities of being involved in the college, gaining experience in event-planning and in the understanding of the college workings to those students at Hughes Hall who are studying a one-year degree and struggle to be involved in the MCR or other aspects of the college otherwise.
The following educational and networking events were hosted by college and/or MCR through this academic subcommittee in Michaelmas and Lent term 2017/18:

- An event for medical students, where final-year medical students at Hughes presented their medical electives abroad.
- A unique and thought-provoking theatre performance called 'White Rabbit Red Rabbit', targeted mainly at humanities & social sciences students, but also others interested in human rights.
- An interdisciplinary medico-legal panel discussion on the recent case of Dr Bawa-Garba.
- The Hughes Hall Life Sciences Research Symposium, a large-scale conference, featuring 25 students and several fellows giving oral and poster presentations on their work in the Life Sciences, prizes and certificates and a formal dinner, supported by the President, the PHG Foundation, a long-standing partner of Hughes Hall, and others.
- Biomedical campus lunches were introduced, alongside the West Cambridge packed lunches.
- A law subject area event, hosting Dr Lionel Blackman, a solicitor well-known for his work on human rights.
- An interdisciplinary event on 'Dementia, music & architecture', which will feature one of our own students (MPhil Architecture) alongside clinicians and researchers in the field of dementia.

All of this would have been impossible without the collaboration between the MCR Academic Affairs Officer, Alison Nicholson, Carole Sargent, and the subject area representatives Basma Greef, Sheen Gurrib, Katherine Lee, Nadya Pohran, Anna Sidneva and Stasa Stankovic; as well as the support of the MCR and many other staff, such as the Conference & Catering team, of the college.

Based on these outcomes, the MCR is planning to expand this concept of subcommittees beyond academic affairs. The MCR is also hoping that the next MCR Academic Affairs Officer will continue to lead a subcommittee and ensure that Research Symposia and other events featuring our own students will take place.

There have been a number of sporting achievements this year. The Basketball team have performed strongly in their division. The Boat Club have won the Marconi cup in Lent Bumps with M1 and W1 bumping up a division each. Proving to be a formidable team and winning the Marconi cup.