



HUGHES HALL
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

MCR Committee
Wednesday, 15 May 2019, 8pm
Pfeiffer Room

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Present: A Entwistle-Thompson (President); C Kazamias (Vice President); PS Perillo (Secretary); I Yu (Academic Affairs Officer); PR Librizzi (Social Secretary); N van der Steen (Social Secretary); R Hosking (Female Welfare Officer); M Egle (Male Welfare Officer); J Deokiesingh (Equality Officer); K Bartsch (Accommodation Officer); M Tang (IT and Infrastructure Officer); L Collas (Green and Ethical Affairs Officer)

Apologies for Absence: A Kölle (Treasurer); A Gablier (Sports and Societies Officer)

I. Introduction

Declaration of Members' Interest

No declaration was received.

II. Standing Actions

The standing actions from the MCR Committee Meeting of 1 May 2019 were discussed. Updates thereon are found in **Annex A**.

III. Standing Items

III.A. Male Welfare Officer Appointment

Ms A Entwistle-Thompson opened the relevant unfilled positions for application, pursuant to Article 8.9 of the Hughes Hall MCR Constitution. The Committee received two (2) applications from Mr M Egle and Mr Z Wang, who were both invited to attend the 15 May 2019 meeting to have the opportunity to discuss their plans and ideas. Prior to the meeting, Ms Entwistle-Thompson circulated the candidates' manifestos / plans for the coming academic year. Both applicants introduced themselves in turn and summarised their plans for the coming year.

The Committee was given the opportunity to ask questions. Ms L Collas inquired about the cost and feasibility of the proposal to have an in-house counselor, and whether funding is available from the University. Mr K Bartsch inquired whether there would be enough demand for an in-house counselor within College. Ms Collas clarified that at University level, there is a very high demand for counselors. It was noted during discussions that between eight (8) and ten (10) colleges have in-house counselors. It was also noted that having an in-house counselor at College during officer hours would be a good investment.

Ten (10) members of the MCR Committee participated in the appointment process, which was led by Ms Entwistle-Thompson and was done by secret ballot. Mr Egle received six (6) votes, whereas Mr Wang received four (4) votes. Mr Egle was accordingly appointed by the MCR Committee as the 2019–2020 Male Welfare Officer. An updated list of Committee Members is attached as **Annex B**.

III.B. MCR Roles over the Exam Period

Ms Entwistle-Thompson noted that Committee members who are taking exams this Easter Term would need time to revise and prepare. She has accordingly informed the Committee that she will not be physically available during this period. She will, however, make herself available and reachable electronically via email and through the Committee's WhatsApp group. She advised that relevant events, such as tea and cakes would continue to take place.

Ms Entwistle-Thompson also proposed arranging a formal dinner or another social event after the exams for the Committee members to help with teambuilding for the Committee. This was very well received by the Committee. Ms Entwistle-Thompson will be in touch after the exams to schedule and arrange the event.

III.C. Photo Session (MCR Committee, and Sports and Societies)

Ms Collas brought up the idea of having a photo session for Hughes Hall societies and sports teams, as well as the MCR Committee. During the discussions, it was noted that this could be done at the beginning of the academic year and would be a task that the Sports and Societies Officer could take on. A suggestion was made to request Ms C Taylor, the College's Social Media Specialist, to undertake the photo session. After the deliberation, the Committee members present agreed to push through with the proposed photo session. Ms A Gablier, as Sports and Societies Officer, will be asked to lead the project and start preparations prior to the Michaelmas term.

Action:

The MCR Committee, through the Sports and Societies Officer, will undertake the photo session project for the MCR Committee and the College's societies and sports teams. Ms

Gablier will inquire with Ms (Corinna) Taylor, the College's Social Media Specialist (social.media@hughes.cam.ac.uk), if they could collaborate on this project.

III.D. Welfare: Sanitary Products (Menstrual Cups)

Ms Collas mentioned that the College commenced providing free sanitary products last year, particularly tampons and sanitary pads. She recommended adding or switching some of these sanitary products to menstrual cups, which would lower the waste product and would consequently, be a more environmentally friendly alternative. Ms PR Librizzi, as former Female Welfare Officer, noted that College acquired the sanitary products directly, and suggested discussing this matter further with Mrs K Smart (Head of Domestic Operations) and Ms J Fricker or Ms M Dinning (Accommodation / Housekeeping Officers). It was resolved that Ms Collas and Ms R Hosking will discuss this matter further.

III.E. Green Events

Film Night

Ms Collas reported that the film night organised by the Green Impact Team is all set. The David Attenborough documentary, *Climate Change - The Facts*, will be held on Thursday, 23 May 2019, at 7pm at the Pfeiffer Room. Ms Collas encouraged everyone to come to the event.

May Ball Dress Swap

Ms Collas sought to brainstorm on the feasibility of undertaking a May Ball dress swap project. The idea is for participants to donate the dress/es that they no longer want. In return, they can pick a dress that has also been donated by another participant. During the brainstorming session, concerns were brought about the kinds of dresses that participants would donate, which may drastically vary especially in terms of quality. Ms Entwistle-Thompson noted that it is up to Ms Collas whether she would like to push through with this project now, or wait for the next year. Ms Collas will decide but it looks likely that this will be a plan for next year's May Week.

Bike Donation

Ms I Yu mentioned that per Mr J Aveling (Head Porter), students, especially those who are finishing their programmes, can donate their bikes to College which, in turn would give them to the incoming students by ballot. It was further mentioned that Mr Aveling will contact Ms Collas regarding this project.

Green Impact Award

Ms Collas happily reported that College received the Silver Green Impact Award for 2018–19. The University awards the Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze Green Impact

Awards to Cambridge Colleges, Faculties, Departments and Offices based on a multitude (over 100 actions) of standards that it has set for each category. The College, with the help of the Green and Ethical Affairs Officer and the Green Impact Team, will aim for the Gold award next year. The Awarding Ceremony will be held in June. Further information about the University's Green Impact Awards can be found on <https://www.environment.admin.cam.ac.uk/green-impact>.

Food Waste at the College Dining Hall

Mr N van der Steen noted that there is a lot of food waste at the College Dining Hall. It will be recalled that College has previously launched an extensive survey covering a wide array of issues, including catering. During the recently held House Committee Meeting, it was additionally noted that one of the negative feedbacks received was small food portion, which may have been discouraging students from eating at hall. These were identified as problems for which College must find a way to encourage students to come eat at hall to avoid food waste. Mr Perillo suggested earmarking a part of the Kitchen Fixed Charge (KFC) (without increasing the KFC) into credits loaded into the students' cards, which they could use to purchase food at hall, a form of consumable amount. This could incentivise students to come eat at hall, and also mitigate discontentment with the KFC.

III.F. Academic Affairs Officer's Events

Speakers' Events for the Next Academic Year

Ms Yu met with Mrs A Nicholson (Programmes Manager) to discuss plans to organise networking and speaking events for the next academic year. Ms Yu requested the College's Development Office to advertise these events at the end of Easter Term. Ms Yu will also recruit members for the Academic Affairs Subcommittee in Michaelmas Term.

Selwyn College Lunch

Ms Yu informed the Committee that College sponsored a lunch event at Selwyn College last Lent Term, which was geared towards Hughes Hall social science students who are mostly based at Sidgwick Site. Ms Yu reported that College proposes to reduce the per person budget from £5 to £3 per person to accommodate more students.

MCR Academic Page Update

Ms Yu inquired whether anyone on the Committee recalls having received an email regarding academic events, to which the response was mostly in the negative. Ms Yu is considering creating an academic calendar on the MCR website which could be regularly advertised on the College Facebook Group to remind students of the academic-related events at College. Ms Entwistle-Thompson pointed out that not many people know about the MCR website. It was suggested that the regular update on the College Facebook Group regarding academic-related events published on the MCR website would also help

advertise the website more. It was further suggested by Mr J Deokiesingh that MCR events in general could be pinned as an announcement on the College Facebook Group, which could easily be edited to add new events or delete past ones.

Hughes LinkedIn Group Advertising

Ms Yu also pointed out that College has an official LinkedIn group, which she will seek to advertise in due course.

The Hat Club

Ms Yu noted that she is organising 'The Hat Club', a student-led academic club where students meet and informally present their ideas on their thesis or course project. The Hat Club events will commence this summer. Ms Yu clarified that this is envisioned to run once every two (2) weeks. But this may change depending on the demand. Ms Collas requested for a special green session.

III.G. Cambridge University's Inquiry on Historical Links to Slavery¹

Mr Deokiesingh discussed that the University is embarking on a two-year investigation on its involvement on slavery. One of the criticisms is that colleges are not being investigated or do not participate in such investigation. He thus proposes to ask the College to issue a statement of its commitment to this investigation. Mr Deokiesingh reported that he has spoken to Dr C Roughley (Deputy Senior Tutor and Disability Equality Officer) about this matter, who admitted that the proposal could be challenging. Ms Entwistle-Thompson noted that it is best for Mr Deokiesingh to continue discussions with College directly. She invited other Committee members to give their ideas and other suggestions to Mr Deokiesingh regarding this matter.

III.H. Equality Officer's Events

Black History Month Formal

Mr Deokiesingh sought to clarify how to get approval for arranging the Black History Month Formal Hall. Ms Entwistle-Thompson clarified that College is happy with student-led themed formal hall events, such as the recently held Diwali Formal organised by Mr N Dutt-Sundaraj, former Social Secretary, unless the event is deemed contentious. Mr Deokiesingh may coordinate with the Social Secretaries if he so wishes, or can undertake the event independently. Ms Librizzi advised Mr Deokiesingh to get in touch with Mr Dutt Sundaraj to seek his insights regarding who to contact, as well as the process and timeline in planning a formal hall. Mr PS Perillo advised Mr Deokiesingh to reach out to

¹ 'Cambridge University launches inquiry into historical links to slavery' (University of Cambridge) <www.cam.ac.uk/news/cambridge-university-launches-inquiry-into-historical-links-to-slavery> accessed 11 May 2019; Sally Weale, 'Cambridge university to study how it profited from colonial slavery' (*The Guardian*, 30 April 2019) <www.theguardian.com/education/2019/apr/30/cambridge-university-study-how-it-profited-colonial-slavery> accessed 11 May 2019.

Mrs Smart (domestic.operations@hughes.cam.ac.uk) or Mr S Risley (Food and Beverage Manager, f&b.manager@hughes.cam.ac.uk) for further information on organising a themed formal hall.

Flying of Transgender Flag for Transgender Awareness Week

Ms Entwistle-Thompson noted that College is generally amicable with activities being organised by the Committee. Mr Deokiesingh will confirm and liaise directly with College regarding flying the transgender flag for Transgender Awareness Week in November.

Hughes Art Weekend

Mr Deokiesingh proposed organising a Hughes Art Weekend. He and the Social Secretaries will collaborate and discuss this project further.

III.I. Subcommittees Clarification

Mr Deokiesingh sought to clarify subcommittee membership. It was explained that he is welcome to invite students to join the subcommittee that he chairs anytime (Welfare and Equality).² However, the intention behind waiting for the new cohort who will be arriving in Michaelmas Term before electing the five (5) representatives mandated by the Hughes Hall MCR Constitution, would be to give new students, especially those who are in a one-year programme, the opportunity to participate in subcommittees.

III.J. Social Secretaries' Events

Formal Hall Swap

The Pembroke formal hall swap this term has been cancelled and will be moved to the following term. Ms Librizzi will coordinate with her counterpart at Pembroke College in due course to organise the swap.

The Jesus formal hall swap will push through this term. Students from Jesus College will be coming to Hughes Hall on 4 June 2019. Students from Hughes Hall will go to Jesus College on 5 June 2019. Mr van der Steen volunteered to host the swap on 4 June 2019 and lead the Hughes Hall contingent to Jesus College on 5 June 2019, unless anyone else from the Committee is interested to do so.

Eurovision Event

² Taking into consideration the five (5) representatives who sit on the Welfare and Equality Subcommittee and who shall be elected at the start of Michaelmas Term under Article 7.3 of the Hughes Hall MCR Constitution. These five (5) representatives are: +1 and Families Representative, Mature Representative, One-year Students' Representative, Disabled Students' Representative and Minority Ethnic Representative.

Ms. Librizzi provided an update and noted that the licence extension for the Eurovision event will be until 12:30am. College, through the Conference Office, advised that an event will take place at the Pfeiffer Room until 5pm. Although, College does not see this as causing any delay in setting up the MCR Clubroom for the Eurovision event. Ms Librizzi encouraged the Committee members to come to the event.

Summer Garden Party

Ms Librizzi shared updates on the 19 June Garden Party. She noted that Nanna Mexico is a catering option for the event at £8 per person. Ms Collas suggested discussing this further with the company, as they can offer discounts and other offers. Aromi was also suggested as a potential caterer for the event. The rate was pegged roughly at £1.50 per portion, with a suggestion that the organisers might consider having two (2) portions per person as the portions are generally small. Ms Librizzi also informed the Committee that the Social Secretaries will ask the assistance of Mrs Smart in ordering alcohol directly with the College's wholesaler.

The Social Secretaries are also keen to have a face-painting booth at the event, similar to the previous year as it has been successful. This is budgeted at £190 for four (4) hours. They are also keen at hiring a bouncy castle, similar to the previous year, and has budgeted £150 for this purpose. Ms Librizzi has contacted a former student's band to check their availability to play at the event, and to ask for a quote. Mr van der Steen will also ask for a quote from the jazz group that performed at the Hughes Hall Jazz Night for two (2) sets.

A question was asked as to how many people are expected at the event, as identifying the number would help with ordering the right amount of food. Two suggestions were made to answer this question: (1) inquire from the former Social Secretaries regarding the numbers from last year; or (2) ask the students to sign up to gauge the number of participants.

It was clarified that there will be no charge for the event. But the Committee is free to ask for donations for a charity of its choice.

Pub Quiz

Ms Librizzi has already identified a quizmaster for the 13 June 2019 Pub Quiz.

Potluck

The Potluck date is tentatively scheduled on 21 June 2019, roughly a week after the May Ball and after the Garden Party. Ms Librizzi advised that she will not be in Cambridge from 21 May 2019 until Mid-June.

III.K. Summer Storage Update

Mr Perillo provided an update on the 2019 summer storage. The College, through Mr J Horwood (Facilities Manager), has already circulated the announcement regarding summer storage on 14 May 2019 via email, which included a link to the College webpage containing the 2019 Hughes Hall Summer Storage Policy and the online form (<https://www.hughes.cam.ac.uk/student-centre/practical/accommodation/>). Questions or clarifications regarding summer storage must be directed to Mr Aveling who is in charge of the process.

Ms Collas and Mr Bartsch shared the positive feedback received at the House Committee Meeting, also held earlier on 15 May 2019, regarding the former Accommodation Officer's Report.

III.L. Other Matters

Freshers' Events

Ms Entwistle-Thompson informed the Committee that College will provide accommodation for the Committee members in September during the time when they are preparing and working for Freshers' Events. She also encouraged everyone to think of ideas and activities for the Freshers' Week prior to the next meeting where this will be the main agenda item.

Events for Ramadan

Ms Collas informed the Committee that a student has reached out to her to ask if there will be any events for Ramadan. Mr Deokiesingh offered to lead the planning of such event. Mr Perillo offered to assist.

The next meeting will take place on 13 June 2019, at 7pm, at the Pfeiffer Room.



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**Minutes of the Meeting
Annex A**

Standing Actions

1. Committee members will upload their plans and proposals on their respective folders in the MCR Committee's Google Drive.

June 2019.

2. The meeting schedules will need to be identified, finalised and announced to the MCR Committee.

June 2019.

3. Ms Entwistle-Thompson will reopen the nominations for the Vice President position and spearhead the next Hustings taking place on 8 May 2019 at 8pm.

Completed.

4. Ms Kölle will provide the budget and a rough estimate / percentage of how the budget will be used and allocated for the year. This will be uploaded on the Treasurer folder of the MCR Committee Google Drive.

June 2019.

5. Committee members will submit their budget proposals in the procedure outlined above. Committee members will also provide updates on how much as been spent within their budget and information on whether a reallocation of the budget is necessary. Finally, Committee members will also upload the necessary receipts and/or invoices on the Google Drive.

Committee members concerned are advised to liaise directly with Ms Kölle.

6. Upon the inquiry of Mr Deokiesingh, Ms Entwistle-Thompson will consult Mrs Espley on the process of seeking corporate sponsorship.

June 2019.

7. Mr van der Steen will inquire from the University's Music Department regarding hiring of a drum kit.

June 2019.

8. Ms Hosking will acquire the condom machine and tokens.

Ms Hosking will confirm and consult directly with Ms Kölle.

9. Ms Hosking will include crockery acquisition in her budget and activity proposal. This will be uploaded on the relevant folder of the MCR Committee Google Drive as part of the standing actions under II.A.

Completed.

10. Mr Deokiesingh will submit a proposal containing the budget and planned activities in celebration of Black History Month. This will be uploaded on the relevant folder of the MCR Committee Google Drive as part of the standing actions under II.A.

September 2019.

11. Mr Deokiesingh will also look into getting approval from College regarding flying the transgender flag in November.

Ms Entwistle-Thompson noted that College is generally amicable with activities being organised by the Committee. Mr Deokiesingh will confirm and liaise directly with College regarding flying the transgender flag for Transgender Awareness Week in November.

12. Ms Librizzi will propose a date on when to hold the potluck event.

Tentatively on 21 June 2019.



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**Minutes of the Meeting
Annex B**

**MCR Committee
(as of 15 May 2019)**

1. President: Alexandra Entwistle-Thompson (ae418)
2. Vice President: Constantinos Kazamias (ck560)
3. Secretary: Patrick Simon Perillo (psp27)
4. Treasurer: Anna Kölle (amk98)
5. Academic Affairs Officer: Irene Yu (jy382)
6. Social Secretary: Paulina Rose Librizzi (prl41)
7. Social Secretary: Nicolai van der Steen (nhjv2)
8. Female Welfare Officer: Rachel Hosking (rh730)
9. Male Welfare Officer: Marco Egle (me417)¹
10. Equality Officer: Jenson Deokiesingh (jjad2)
11. Accommodation Officer: Kilian Bartsch (kpb30)²
12. Sports and Societies Officer: Alexandra Gablier (ag2006)
13. IT and Infrastructure Officer: Michael Tang (cit27)
14. Green and Ethical Affairs Officer: Lydia Collas (lc591)

Unfilled Position:

1. LGBT+ Officer

¹ Appointed at the MCR Committee Meeting of 15 May 2019 pursuant to Article 8.9 of the Hughes Hall MCR Constitution.

² Appointed at the MCR Committee Meeting of 1 May 2019 pursuant to Article 8.9 of the Hughes Hall MCR Constitution.