



HUGHES HALL
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

MCR Committee
Tuesday, 22 October 2019, 5pm
Maletin Room

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Present: A Entwistle-Thompson (President); C Kazamias (Vice President); PS Perillo (Secretary); A Kölle (Treasurer); PR Librizzi (Social Secretary); N van der Steen (Social Secretary); R Hosking (Female Welfare Officer); M Egle (Male Welfare Officer); J Deokiesingh (Equality Officer); A Gablier (Sports and Societies Officer); M Tang (IT and Infrastructure Officer); L Collas (Green and Ethical Affairs Officer)

Apologies for Absence: I Yu (Academic Affairs Officer); K Bartsch (Accommodation Officer)

I. Introduction

I.A. Declaration of Members' Interest

No declaration was received.

I.B. Freshers' Week

Ms A Entwistle-Thomson thanked everyone for the success of the Freshers' Week, especially the Social Secretaries as well as the Sports and Societies Officer.

II. Standing Actions

II.A. Photo Session (Sports and Societies)

Ms A Gablier will begin working on this project and anticipates updating the MCR Committee in November 2019. Ms L Collas will discuss potential suppliers / photographers with Ms Gablier.

II.B. Recovery of £2,000 from the Graduate Union

Ms Entwistle-Thompson has sent the Graduate Union (GU) an email regarding this matter. She has, however, received a vague response from the GU. Ms Entwistle-Thompson will follow up with the GU once she has fully recovered from being ill. Ms Collas reiterated her observation in the previous meeting that based on the GU website, fees are no longer collected from the colleges' MCRs.

II.C. Scheduling of Future MCR Committee Meetings

Ms Entwistle-Thompson proposed to have a provisional schedule of MCR Committee Meetings for Lent Term, which she will circulate in due course. The proposal received no objections.

III. Standing Items

III.A. Open Meeting

Ms Entwistle-Thompson further discussed the open meeting for Michaelmas Term. It is tentatively scheduled on the fifth week (week of 10–16 November 2019). It is proposed that the open meeting be held after the Sunday Tea and Cakes. The date is yet to be confirmed.

III.B. CUSU Representation and Voting

Mr C Kazamias, who represents the MCR Committee in meetings of the Cambridge University Student Union (CUSU), explained that MCR representatives vote on motions submitted before CUSU. There is currently no policy as to how the Hughes Hall MCR representative to CUSU should vote on such motions. Mr Kazamias thus seeks guidance to ensure that he is able to vote based on the opinion of the MCR Committee and not based on his own personal opinion. Mr Kazamias proposed to share the CUSU agenda to the MCR Committee ahead of time and flag the Committee about any potentially controversial item via the Committee's Slack. Upon Ms Gablier's inquiry, it was clarified that the agenda is usually circulated 3–4 days prior to the meeting. It was also further clarified that the CUSU representatives meet once every two weeks during term time.

III.C. Hughesletter

Mr PS Perillo encouraged everyone on the Committee to use the Hughesletter when circulating announcements. He also encouraged Committee members to encourage everyone within their respective sub-committees and circle of friends to make good use of the Hughesletter.

III.D. Upcoming Hughes Hall House Committee

Mr M Tang mentioned that the Hughes Hall House Committee is scheduled to meet very soon. He encouraged everyone on the Committee to bring any matter relating to accommodation, infrastructure, facilities and the like, to please let him or the other MCR

Committee members on the House Committee know at their earliest convenience. Ms A Kölle mentioned the recurring heating problem in on-site accommodation. Mr Perillo also noted that College has put back the chocolates for the formal halls but that it does not seem to be consistently provided. It will be recalled that College removed the mint chocolates in formal halls without reducing the ticket cost paid by students. Finally, Ms Entwistle-Thompson advised that the Tupperware for the College's dining project has already arrived. This is meant to be used by students who wish to take food away from the Dining Hall. It is reusable and thus, more environmentally friendly. Ms Entwistle-Thompson will provide further information about this project in due course.

III.E. Hughes Hall Punt Club

III.E.1. Membership of Alumni

It was discussed and agreed by the Committee members, upon inquiry, that membership to the Punt Club is limited only to current members of the College, and thus excludes alumni. Ms Entwistle-Thompson also clarified that there is no life membership to the Punt Club.

III.E.2. Clarification of Membership Rules

The use of punts by Punt Club members has always been an issue considering that there are only limited slots that are available to current members at any given time. It was thus imperative for the Committee members to further clarify the parameters surrounding the use of punts by members of the Punt Club. Mr Tang clarified that in the current rules, a member can only book a maximum of one punt per day, and any additional punt reservation by the same member that violates this rule can be cancelled by the IT and Infrastructure Officer.

It was proposed for purposes of fairness and considering that slots for punting are limited, that members of the Punt Club can only book a maximum of two punt slots per month, and that sanctions for no-shows will be strictly implemented. Regarding the strike policy, Ms Collas and Ms Entwistle-Thompson proposed to give the member a warning for the first strike/violation, a month's suspension of the use of the punts for the second strike/violation, and termination of membership without re-application for the third strike/violation.

All Committee members present in the meeting voted in favour of the aforementioned proposals.

Action:

Mr Tang was tasked to draft the rules reflecting the rules approved by the MCR Committee.

III.F. Other IT and Infrastructure Matters

III.F.1. Redistribution of College Paintings

Last year, College offered for students to loan paintings to hang in their rooms. Mr Tang was asked by College to chase students who have loaned paintings last year and to ask them to return the paintings. Based on the College's tally, there are still six paintings that need to be returned. Mr Tang has asked help from the MCR Committee to help him remind the students concerned. It was noted that the College also shares half of the responsibility and thus must do their part to chase after the students concerned.

Mr Tang inquired whether the loaning of paintings should be done again this year. Ms Collas proposed that if this were to be done again this year, that College should directly manage the loan of the paintings. Members of the MCR Committee supported this proposal. Ms Entwistle-Thompson will discuss this matter further with Mrs V Espley, the College's Bursar and inquire whether the College would like to loan paintings again. Mr Tang suggested requiring a deposit if College would like to loan paintings again.

III.F.2. Maintenance of MCR Barbecue

Mr Tang noted that the MCR barbecue was at some point found in one of the yards. It was inquired if there is any way that the barbecue could be better maintained and managed. Mr N van der Steen suggested reaching out to the College's Maintenance Team. They might be able to help and perhaps cover the barbecue with a tarp or some other cover.

III.F.3. Promotion of MCR Website

Mr Tang asked members of the MCR Committee to promote the Hughes Hall MCR website. He suggested the promotion of the website and the inclusion of the website's link in every Committee members post on the Hughes Hall Students Facebook Group. Mr PS Perillo also noted that the MCR website is advertised in every Hughesletter.

III.F.4. Access Rights to the MCR Cupboard

Mr J Deokiesingh informed the Committee that he saw two people use another person's card to access the MCR cupboard and rummage through the items there during the recent BOP. Ms Entwistle-Thompson impressed upon the Committee members not to share their card to any non-Committee member. Mr Tang inquired if the DJ can have access to the cupboard. Ms PR Librizzi clarified that that is only possible if the DJ is accompanied by a Committee member, and further mentioned that members of the orchestra have access. Ms Entwistle-Thompson will check with the IT Office and get the list of people with access to the MCR cupboard.

III.F.5. Creation of Hughes Hall PhD Group

The proposal to create a Hughes Hall PhD Facebook Group did not have any objections.

Action:

Mr Tang was tasked to create the Hughes Hall PhD Facebook Group.

III.F.6. Sound System in the Pfeiffer Room

It was mentioned that there is no microphone in the Pfeiffer Room. A suggestion was made for the MCR to either buy a microphone or ask College to do so. Ms Entwistle-Thompson will check the MCR cupboard first to see if the MCR already owns a microphone. The MCR is also meant to have an HDMI adopter. But this is not in the MCR cupboard. It was suggested that the MCR could purchase one if the HDMI adopter could no longer be found.

III.F.7. Inventory of Equipment under Administration of the MCR Committee

It was pointed out that the MCR Committee would need to have an inventory of its items and property. This can be done during the cleaning of the MCR cupboard.

III.G. Proposition to organise another Berlin-Bound Event

Mr Kazamias inquired about organising another Berlin-Bound event, similar to last year's, which was organised by Mr D Anton-Garcia and Ms Y Im together with the German Society. Ms Entwistle-Thompson mentioned that such event will be happening and will be organised by Mr Anton-Garcia in February 2020. Ms Kölle also noted that the German Society will be organising a similar event in Easter Term.

III.H. Summer Storage Review

Mr K Bartsch updated the Committee *in absentia* that the review of the summer storage system will be undertaken in a meeting between Mrs Espley and him.

III.I College Parents

Ms Entwistle-Thompson updated the Committee that the College Parents system will need to be sorted soon. She noted that she, Ms I Yu, Mr Bartsch and Mr J Deokiesingh will create a Slack group for this purpose.

III.J. Social and Entertainment Matters

III.J.1. Pub Quiz

The Pub Quiz which will be happening on 24 October 2019, is now all sorted by Mr van der Steen.

III.J.2. Halloween BOP

Ms Librizzi and Mr van der Steen will need 5–6 people to set up for the 1 November 2019 Halloween BOP. Ms Librizzi also noted a need to better handle the cleanup post-BOP, particularly in making sure to take care of the decorations and the furniture when moving them.

III.J.3. Christmas BOP

Ms Librizzi mentioned that the MCR Committee will be partnering with RAG (Racing and Giving Charity). RAG is happy to bring the DJ. Ms Librizzi noted that the MCR Committee will need a volunteer who can help coordinate with RAG; Ms Collas expressed interest. Ms Entwistle-Thompson is also happy to assist.

III.J.4. Music / DJ for Themed BOPs

It was noted that the music and DJ did not work out in the last BOP. Ms Gablier also mentioned that songs did not match or had nothing to do with each other. It was also mentioned, however, that some participants do not care very much about the music, but more of the experience. In any case, it was noted that the BOP still went well and the bar had the second highest sales. Mr Tang and Ms Hosking also noted that the students were very happy and grateful for the Freshers' Week events. Either way, the Committee was asked whether to better coordinate with the DJ especially for themed BOPs or whether the Committee should decide on a playlist and pass it on to the DJ. Ms Librizzi mentioned that there will be a different DJ for the upcoming BOP who is more experienced than previously hired DJ.

III.K. Welfare Matters

III.K.1. Global Health / Period Poverty Formal Hall

Ms Hosking shared the suggestion by College to wrap the global health and period poverty formal hall together. There is no date yet for this event and Ms Hosking will still need to discuss this event with College in greater detail. Ms Entwistle-Thompson advised that there is no need to rush the planning of this event, and that it could be done (and better) the following term in case there is not enough time to plan the event this term. On another note related to this theme, Ms Hosking sought for suggestions and ideas that could follow Tea and Cakes.

III.K.2. Welfare Messages

Ms Hosking announced that welfare messages will be happening on the fifth week of the term.

III.K.3. Mindfulness Sessions

Regarding the proposed independent mindfulness sessions, it was suggested that the Welfare Officers inquire with College first. Otherwise, the Committee will have to discuss how to fund this project.