



HUGHES HALL
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

MCR Committee
Sunday, 5 January 2020, 5pm
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); M Egle (Male Welfare Officer); J Deokiesingh (Equality Officer); L Collas (Green and Ethical Affairs Officer); Z Zuo (Equality Officer's Representative)

Apologies for Absence: A Kölle (Treasurer); N van der Steen (Social Secretary); R Hosking (Female Welfare Officer); N Gorringe (LGBT+ Welfare Officer); A Gablier (Sports and Societies Officer); K Bartsch (Accommodation Officer); M Tang (IT and Infrastructure Officer)

I. Introduction

Declaration of Members' Interest

No declaration was received.

II. Standing Items

II.A. Equality Officer's Representative

Ms A Entwistle-Thompson introduced Mr Z Zuo, who will be attending the MCR Committee meetings on behalf of Mr J Deokiesingh,¹ and will assist with the Equality Officer role during the time that Mr Deokiesingh is away. Mr Deokiesingh will continue with his role and will be in charge of planning and logistics, while Mr Zuo will act as the person on the ground. Mr Zuo was welcomed by members of the MCR Committee.

II.B. Green Week 2020

¹ Mr Deokiesingh joined the MCR Committee meeting via teleconferencing.

Ms L Collas shared the events happening during the College's Green Week on 3–9 February 2020. This includes a vegan formal hall on Tuesday (4 February 2020), a panel discussion in collaboration with the College's Bridge on Wednesday (5 February 2020), a film screening on Thursday (6 February 2020), an eco-art event on Saturday (8 February 2020) that includes up-cycling items and for which the Bar staff will save bottles to be made into vases, and a clothes swap on Sunday (9 February 2020) for which the Facebook event page is already up. Ms Collas encouraged everyone to promote and help out at the events, especially for the clothes swap. Ms Collas advised Ms PR Librizzi to apprise the participants of the formal hall swap (from Pembroke College) that the menu for the 4 February 2020 formal hall would be vegan. Ms Entwistle-Thompson also informed the Committee that these events are now reflected on the MCR Calendar.

II.C. Academic Affairs Matters

II.C.1. College Family or Academic Mentorship

Ms I Yu will send an email for students to sign up for the College Family or Academic Mentorship. But she sought the Committee members' thoughts about the format and branding. Ms Yu is unsure about naming the project, College Family, as in previous years, seeing that such an activity is usually arranged at the start of Michaelmas Term, whereas the upcoming project will be rolled out in Lent Term.

Ms Entwistle-Thompson noted that it might be more ideal to have a mentorship kind of activity rather than a college family but suggested renaming it to academic support to make it sound less formal and not allude to a formal type of training.

Ms Collas shared her positive experience of having a college family, and finds having a parent or someone from the same subject matter extremely helpful. Mr PS Perillo seconded this point of view. In the end, the Committee agreed that it would be up to Ms Yu to decide on which format would be most suitable given the current situation.

II.C.2. Liaison for Climate Change Conference

Mr F-K Phillips, a PhD student at Hughes Hall, is organising a climate change conference at his Department. But he has proposed the idea of using the College as a conference venue. Ms Collas noted that she is happy to help out in the conference in principle but she would need to get further information about the event first.

II.C.3. Company Sponsorship for Datathon

One of the Academic Affairs Subcommittee members proposed the organisation of a Datathon. She inquired about how to find company sponsors for the event. Ms Entwistle-Thompson informed her that the College has no official corporate sponsorship system for such kind of event. But she advised speaking to Mrs V Espley, the College's Bursar, and Dr P Johnston, the College's Senior Tutor. It might also be helpful to inquire from Dr S

Axford, Hughes Hall's Director at Bridge, in case this is a project that his office would be interested in.

Upon clarification that the proponent would like to organise the Datathon at University level, it was suggested and agreed that discussing this matter directly with the relevant University staff is most ideal. It was also noted that the University would be more equipped with providing support to the event. such as linkages to corporate sponsorships.

II.C.4. Public Speaking Practice Group

Ms Yu will organise a Public Speaking Practice group at the beginning of Lent Term. Mr Deokiesingh also suggested having a similar practice group around the end of Lent Term or beginning of Easter Term to help Hughes Hall first year PhD students on their first year viva. Ms Yu clarified that her initial proposal is more informal, and catered more towards improving public speaking skills in general. But she is happy to organise both a general one and one that is made especially for PhD students preparing for their viva.

II.C.5. Language Exchange Social

Ms Yu will organise a Language Exchange Social in the first or second week of January 2020. The idea behind this event is to require participants to put on a nametag labelled with the language they speak so that other participants who would like to learn their language can approach them and speak to them.

II.D. Welfare-Related Matter

Without disclosing any identity and providing specific details, Ms PR Librizzi brought up a sensitive welfare-related topic, which she would like the MCR Committee to be aware of. The Committee was updated as was appropriate on the matter which will remain confidential due to its sensitive nature. Mr M Egle, Ms N Gorringe and Ms R Hosking, MCR Welfare Officers, will also be apprised of this matter and are ready to assist students as necessary.

II.E. Equality-Related Matters

II.E.1. Tai Chi Fridays

Mr Zuo offered to provide the Chinese martial arts practice of tai chi for free on Fridays from 7:30–8:30. Mr Zuo has previously taught tai chi in his universities in Beijing and the United States. Mr Zuo also offered to increase the classes depending on the demand. The Committee positively welcomed the proposal. Ms Entwistle-Thompson suggested reserving the Pavilion Room or the College Bar (MCR Clubroom) for such event, and advised informing Ms A Gablier as MCR Sports and Societies Officer. Mr Egle also suggested sending out an email and a sign up sheet to survey demand from students. Mr Deokiesingh requested that the event be advertised on the Hughes Hall Students Facebook Group.

II.E.2. Disability Discussion

Mr Deokiesingh proposed to organise a panel talk tentatively titled, 'Being a student with disability', for students with disabilities (visible and invisible) to share their experiences in Cambridge. This is tentatively being planned for the third or fourth week of Lent Term. Mr Deokiesingh would like to ideally invite a person with disability to moderate the discussion. Upon inquiry, Ms Entwistle-Thompson noted that she does not see any reason not to make the event available to other members of the University.

II.F. Social and Entertainment Matters

II.F.1. BOPs

Ms Librizzi informed the Committee that there will be two BOPs in Lent Term, scheduled on 17 January 2020 and 7 March 2020. The theme for the first BOP will be superheroes, which Mr C Kazamias favourably supported. The DJs for the event have already been booked and sorted. And a costume contest will be organised. Mr Librizzi advised the Committee that help would be needed to sort out and set up decorations. The first BOP will be advertised on the Hughes Hall Students Facebook Group. Finally, Ms Librizzi will advise Ms Entwistle-Thompson in case she needs assistance with licence extension by Friday, 10 January 2020.

II.F.2. Techno Night

Former MCR Officers, Mr D Anton-Garcia and Ms Y Im are organising the Techno Night on 15 February 2020 in partnership with the MCR Committee. The Social Secretaries are not directly involved in the planning and logistics but the event will nevertheless be promoted on the Hughes Hall Ents page. Ms Librizzi noted that last year's Techno Night, also organised by Mr Anton-Garcia and Ms Im, was fun and hopes that it will be fun again this year, especially when the event gets a lot of reach.

II.F.3. Formal Hall Swaps and Other College Matters

Ms Librizzi reminded the Committee members about the big formal hall swap happening at the beginning of February 2020. Ms Librizzi also already sent out an email regarding the three major formal hall swaps happening in Lent Term. The Social Secretaries are happy to answer questions regarding the mechanics of the formal hall swap for the term. Mr Perillo noted that the format for this term's formal hall swaps is a nice idea.

Ms Collas announced that the weekend brunches are back beginning this term.

Ms Entwistle-Thompson advised the Committee about the need to already find a board for the MCR Committee and a location for the suggestion box.

Finally, Ms Entwistle-Thompson reported that a May Ball President has already been selected. Further information will be provided in due course.

The Committee members positively received the matters discussed under this heading.

The next meeting will take place on 19 January 2020, at 5pm, at the Pfeiffer Room.