



HUGHES HALL
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

MCR Committee
Sunday, 19 January 2020, 5pm
Maletin Room

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Present: A Entwistle-Thompson (President); PS Perillo (Secretary); PR Librizzi (Social Secretary); N van der Steen (Social Secretary); R Hosking (Female Welfare Officer); M Egle (Male Welfare Officer); N Gorringe (LGBT+ Welfare Officer); A Gablier (Sports and Societies Officer); K Bartsch (Accommodation Officer); M Tang (IT and Infrastructure Officer); L Collas (Green and Ethical Affairs Officer); Z Zuo (Equality Officer's Representative)

Apologies for Absence: C Kazamias (Vice President); A Kölle (Treasurer); I Yu (Academic Affairs Officer); J Deokiesingh (Equality Officer)

I. Introduction

Declaration of Members' Interest

No declaration was received.

II. Standing Items

Ms A Entwistle-Thompson opened the meeting by thanking everyone for their attendance in Michaelmas Term, and encouraged everyone to continue and/or improve their attendance record for Lent Term.

II.A. LGBTQ+ Awareness Week (11–18 February 2020)

Ms N Gorringe informed the MCR Committee that the LGBTQ+ Awareness Week will be done in collaboration with the newly created Hughes Hall Interdisciplinary Politics Society. The events for the LGBTQ+ Awareness Week will include an LGBTQ+-themed discussion, a panel event, a formal hall, Glitterbomb night, film/documentary screening and potentially another social event. The rainbow flag will also be flown in February. This will be coordinated with Mr J Horwood, the College's Facilities Manager. Ms

Gorringe hopes to invite speakers for the panel event, including those coming from other cities. Ms Entwistle-Thompson suggested that Ms Gorringe speak with Dr C Roughley, the College's Disability Equality Officer, about these events.

II.B. Welfare-Related Matter

II.B.1. Acquisition of Personal Protection Alarms

Ms Gorringe informed the Committee of an ongoing discussion with Dr Roughley and the Cambridge University Students' Union (CUSU) regarding the acquisition of the personal protection alarms. She noted that the alarms used to be provided by CUSU in the past but that this is no longer the case at present. The current feasible proposition is for the College to acquire its own alarms and leave them at the Porters' Lodge where students may borrow them.

II.B.2. Welfare Books at the Library

Ms Gorringe encouraged everyone to advertise and increase awareness about welfare books available at the library. She also reminded the Committee that the College has an annual budget for acquiring new books. The College is acquiring more mindfulness-related books. But the College Librarian also suggested acquiring more LGBTQ+-related books.

Ms R Hosking suggested promoting one book from the College Library every month, i.e. a book of the month. The MCR Committee supported this proposition. This will potentially be combined with the Book Club being set up at the College through the MCR.

II.B.3. Coffee Machine Project

Mr M Egle will follow up with Mrs V Espley, the College's Bursar, regarding the acquisition of a coffee machine.

II.B.4. Silent Library Space with Large Screen Computers

Ms Hosking clarified that the College is considering replacing the space they took from the College Library and turned into the IT Office at a future time. She noted, however, that this is a longer term plan rather than an immediate project. Mr Egle clarified that Mrs Espley agreed to look into providing temporary rooms as silent rooms in the meantime. Ms L Collas also suggested using the seminars rooms, which are open for students to use during the day.

II.B.5. Welfare-Academic Survey

Mr Egle mentioned that he would like to undertake a survey in collaboration with the Academic Affairs Officer to get a better idea about student welfare as well as student feedback on the welfare events.

Ms Entwistle-Thompson suggested combining this with the major survey that the College is organising, which would combine the efforts of both the College and the MCR, and allow for a more efficient and effective way of gathering feedback and helpful information. Ms Entwistle-Thompson will meet with Mrs Espley and will inform her that the MCR Welfare and Academic Affairs Officers would like to collaborate. She advised Mr Egle to send sample questions to her, which she could discuss with Mrs Espley in their upcoming meeting while the final set of questions is underway.

II.C. Social and Entertainment Matters

II.C.1. Cooking Event with Dining Hall Staff

Mr Egle sought the Committee's feedback regarding the cooking event that the Welfare and Equality Subcommittee is proposing to organise with the dining hall staff. Some Committee members shared their concerns regarding health and safety issues surrounding the proposed activity. Another option was suggested, i.e. a 'come dine with me' type of activity, where students will prepare and share food they prepared, preferably a dish from their home country. This could be done on a rotation basis among students. And the mechanics for the activity could be ironed out in due course.

II.C.2. Organising Cultural Events

The Welfare and Equality Subcommittee plans to organise a number of cultural events in the upcoming months, including a Lunar New Year activity and some religious events.

For the upcoming Lunar New Year (25 January 2020), Ms A Gablier suggested a potluck-type event. Several Committee members supported this suggestion. Ms PR Librizzi also suggested holding a dragon-making activity. With respect to venue, Ms Entwistle-Thompson recommended booking the MCR Bar/Clubroom, the Pfeiffer Room and/or the Maletin Room for the event. Finally, it was also suggested that the Welfare Officers collaborate with Mr J Deokiesingh as the MCR Equality Officer, on these activities, or with Mr Z Zuo as the Equality Officer's Representative.

Ms Hosking also proposed extending dining hall hours during religious periods such as during fasting days as in the case of Ramadan, which starts on 23 April 2020. Ms Entwistle-Thompson will discuss this matter with Mrs Espley.

II.C.3. LGBTQ+ Mixer Event

Ms Gorringe informed the Committee that the LGBTQ+ Officers of various MCRs at Cambridge University would like to organise an LGBTQ+ mega mixer this year at Hughes Hall, similar to the successfully held LGBTQ+ Mega Mixer at Hughes Hall last year. This is tentatively scheduled at the beginning of February to coincide with the LGBTQ+ History Month. Several colleges and the Graduate Union (GU) will financially contribute to this event.

II.C.4. Running of Future BOPs for the Academic Year

Ms Librizzi sought the Committee's insight on how many BOPs they will suggest the next Social Secretaries will run, particularly for the remainder of the academic year. For context, she noted that the Social Secretaries have some savings from previous BOPs for the academic year owing to such BOPs being run under budget. The savings can be augmented and used to organise more social events. The Social Secretaries are also pondering how much funding to leave the next Social Secretaries who will start their role in Easter Term. It was suggested to assume that the incoming Social Secretaries will organise at least one BOP. Accordingly, the current Social Secretaries were advised to leave funds that could cover at least one BOP.

II.C.5. Music Night

The Social Secretaries are planning to host 1–2 music nights with proper hired bands. The first music night for the term is scheduled on 31 January 2020.

II.C.6. Formal Swap

The Social Secretaries have been in contact with Lucy Cavendish and Gonville and Caius Colleges regarding a potential super formal. This event will be themed and will potentially have some form of entertainment as well as more courses than a regular formal hall. It was further noted that St. Edmund's College might join this collaboration, and that the event will probably be done at Hughes Hall.

II.C.7. Linacre College Trip

Mr N van der Steen updated the Committee about the upcoming Linacre College trip. A maximum of 18 Hughes Hall students will be joining the annual trip to Hughes Hall's sister college at Oxford University this term. Mr van der Steen mentioned that the transportation for the event has already been sorted out, with the rest of the planning still ongoing.

II.C.8. Other Events for the Term

The Social Secretaries also noted that other events for the term will include the weekly pub quiz and the Week 5 sip and paint event.

II.D. Financial Matters

II.D.1. Welfare Budget

Mr Egle requested for Ms A Kölle¹ to provide details regarding the remaining budget of the Welfare Officers. Ms Entwistle-Thompson provided this piece of information to the

¹ Absent.

Welfare Officers. She advised the Welfare Officers to get in touch with Ms Kölle directly regarding similar requests.

II.D.2. Formal Swap Fund Transfers

Ms Librizzi shared a spreadsheet which presented the payments and transfers for the ongoing formal swaps for the term, noting that she would like the Committee to be privy to such information.

III. Other Matters and Reminders

III.A. Photo Session

The Hughes Hall Sports and Societies Photo Session organised by Ms Gablier will be happening on Sunday, 26 January 2020. The MCR Committee will also have a time slot for a photo session. This is tentatively set at 14:45. Ms Entwistle-Thompson encouraged everyone to come to the MCR Committee's photo session.

III.B. MCR Open Meeting

The MCR Open Meeting for Lent Term will be moved to February. This is due to the January College Council Meeting being postponed to February. Ms Entwistle-Thompson found it more prudent to have the updates from the College Council in first before the MCR Open Meeting takes place. This will hopefully make the Open Meeting more productive and worthwhile, as the MCR President and the MCR Committee as a whole would be able to share information on matters that have been recently discussed and/or approved by the College Council.

III.C. Tai Chi Sessions

Mr Z Zuo is currently gauging the demand for tai chi classes. He will determine the frequency and scheduling of future tai chi sessions, and will report back to the Committee in due course.

The next meeting will take place on 2 February 2020, at 5pm, at the Maletin Room.²

² The 2 February 2020 meeting was postponed to 16 February 2020, as no agenda item was tabled by members of the MCR Committee.