



HUGHES HALL
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

MCR Committee
Mon, 22 June 2020, 2pm
E-meeting

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Present: A Entwistle-Thompson (President); H Zhou (Vice President); A Vasileva (Secretary); K Bartsch (Treasurer); Z Rehman (Social Secretary); B Williams (Social Secretary); R Hosking (Female and Non-binary Welfare Officer); N Gorringe (Equality and LGBT+ Officer); J Navani (Accommodation Officer); M Tang (IT and Infrastructure Officer); O Kranse (Green and Ethical Affairs Officer)

Absent: B Low (Academic Affairs Officer); E Mensah (Sports and Societies Officer)

I. Introduction

Declaration of Members' Interest

No declaration was received.

II. Standing Actions

II.A. MCR members need to add a short biography to MCR website.

Ongoing.

Action: Ms Z Rehman and Mr B Williams to send their biographies to Mr M Tang.

II.B. Begin creating a calendar with potential events for both plan A and plan B

Ongoing.

II.C. Ms Z Rehman and Mr B Williams to get in touch with the previous social secretaries for access to plans for freshers 2019

Ongoing.

III. Items

III.A. President Position

Ms A Entwistle-Thompson informed the MCR members that she considered stepping down from her role as MCR President due to recent unpleasant events that have taken place. It has currently been decided for Ms Entwistle-Thompson to take a break from her duties over the next couple of months and to reevaluate her decision at the beginning of Michaelmas.

III.B. Recovery Task Force Update

The College has a recovery task force with three strands – academic, community and spaces strands. Each strand has an MCR member participating.

Spaces strand update from form Ms N Gorringe:

- Working on determining the capacity of different flats in College to ensure social distancing.
- It is unlikely that flats will be in their full capacity.
- There is a new policy for allocating accommodation to account for COVID.
- Tutors and fellows would likely work remotely during Michaelmas, providing extra study and social rooms for students.
- All rooms including the library will be under a booking system.
- Hand-sanitation stands to be introduced in college.
- Student-focused groups for feedback to be created.
- Need for more laundry facilities for some households to be addressed.
- Temporary structures to be introduced on-site; to be used for social events and studying.
- Temporary structures to be used for making a cafeteria and potentially holding “informal” Formal Dinners.
- Non-continuing students currently storing their belongings in College, might have to pay fees in the future.
- Toilets and bathrooms – change to paper towels.
- Introduction of gender-neutral toilets in the temporary structures and potentially other College buildings.
- The gym will remain closed.

Community strand update from form Ms Entwistle-Thompson:

Ms Entwistle-Thompson reported that the MCR and College are well. We need to ensure we continue working on building better communication between the College, the MCR and the student body.

Initiative for College fellows and other members to organize online talks for students over the summer. Ms Entwistle-Thompson emphasized the importance of those talks being advertised to incoming students aswell.

Action:

- MCR to explore options of purchasing outdoors sports equipment that students can hire and use.

III.C. Equality & BAME Officer Update

Mr Andre Johnsen is running for the position of Equality & BAME Officer. Mr Johnson will have a meeting with BAME students or anyone else who wishes to join and ask questions at 2PM on Tue 23rd of June. Elections will open at 10am on Fri 26th of June.

A similar process is to be held when a student runs for the Welfare Male & Non-Binary Officer position.

III.D. Freshers Planning

The College has offered to help the MCR members with organizing Freshers' this year. Mr Williams and Ms Rehman reported that they have had a meeting to discuss their plans for Freshers'. The social secretaries will create two social calendars according to plan A & plan B. Plan A will involve mainly outdoor activities to allow for social distancing. These could include a barbeque, garden party, outdoor sports events, plant sales, trips around Cambridge. Plan B would mainly involve online events such as quizzes on discord, Netflix Party film nights and online Sip & Paint variations. All events need to comply with COVID rules within the College.

Actions:

- Mr Williams and Ms Rehman to create a Freshers' calendar for plan A and plan B by Friday, 3rd of July.
- Share the plan A and plan B calendars with College staff members for more input.

III.E. "Thank you Hughes Hall" Media Project

Ms Gorringe reported that the Recovery Task Force is organizing a project to ensure that incoming students feel safe to come to Hughes Hall.

III.F. Accommodation Price Increase

Students need to be made aware that accommodation prices have only gone up by the same amount as inflation. Kitchen Fixed Charges are added to the accommodation price rather than being charged separately as in previous years.

III.G. OyoGo London, Student Stretch

Mr J Navani advised the MCR members about a yoga studio which partners with different Colleges and Universities to provide virtual yoga classes for students.

Action:

- Mr Navani to discuss pricing with Ms Entwistle-Thompson.

The next meeting will take place on 6 July 2020, at 1pm, as an e-meeting.