



HUGHES HALL
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

MCR Committee
Tue, 1 September 2020, 12pm
E-meeting

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Present: N Gorringe (President & Equality and LGBT+ Officer); A Vasileva (Secretary); B Low (Academic Affairs Officer); Z Rehman (Social Secretary); B Williams (Social Secretary); C van Eijk (Male and Non-binary Welfare Officer); J Navani (Accommodation Officer); M Tang (IT and Infrastructure Officer); O Kranse (Green and Ethical Affairs Officer)

Absent: H Zhou (Vice President); K Bartsch (Treasurer); R Hosking (Female and Non-binary Welfare Officer); A Johnsen (Equality and BAME Officer); E Mensah (Sports and Societies Officer);

I. Introduction

Declaration of Members' Interest

No declaration was received.

II. Standing Actions

III. Items

III.A. Summary of roles and "MCR Tutor" role – progress update.

Ms N Gorringe has emailed Dr Bill Irish to ask if he is interested to become an MCR tutor. She is currently awaiting response.

Actions:

- Ms Gorrington to give some time to Dr Bill Irish to respond and then ask other fellows if they are interested in becoming the MCR Tutor.
- MCR members to send a summary of their roles to Ms Gorrington

III.B. Postgraduate wellbeing webinar – ran by Cambridge alum, combines CBT and research workplace.

Cambridge Alum have go in touch with Ms Gorrington to find out if Hughes students are interested in a Cognitive Behavioral Therapy webinar for postgraduate students. The webinar would involve a 45-minute lecture and 15-minute discussion (Q&A). Cost would be £200. Ms Gorrington asked for the opinion of the MCR members. Overall consensus was that the webinar would be too expensive. The MCR is hoping to provide free welfare webinars to Hughes students. Furthermore, the timing of the webinar was agreed to be not appropriate as it would be held before some students have started.

Action:

- N/A

III.C. College family - update.

Ms Gorrington has sent out an email telling students about the college family scheme and asked if students want to participate.

Action:

- N/A

III.D. Student newspaper – discuss this being started.

Ms Gorrington reported that senior members from the college and new students have asked about the creation of a student newspaper. The MCR members expressed their concerns regarding too much or too little information being published alongside the presence of the College newspaper and the Hughesletter.

It was proposed that household experiences in the form of pictures, video, texts can be collected from students and shared on the college social media platforms.

Action:

- Ms Gorrington to report to college the idea of household experiences being shared on social media and seek their opinion.

III.E. Welcome pack – share ideas.

Ms Gorringe proposed the idea of creating welcome packs to households. Welcome packs are to include mental health support resources for students, a few individual things that each student can have and also some common household items.

Suggestions of what the packs could include:

- Individual - Hughes hall branded things (bags, post cards, pens), online game memberships and tokens.
- Shared - Board games, cards, dominoes, origami paper etc.

Action:

- Ms Gorringe to explore what items can be included in the packs depending on availability and prices.
- Discuss idea of hireable sports equipment for households to take out and create a policy for quarantining and distribution.

III.F. Freshers event planning – risk assessment, how are events going to run, update on what we can reasonably do.

Ms Gorringe reported that the MCR bar will not be open for the foreseeable future. It was suggested that the space can be used as a games room until the bar can reopen. The MCR President also reported that the Garden Lecture Theater is to be converted into a café.

Ms Gorringe highlighted the importance of creating a risk assessment for Freshers that is to be flexible to changes in government and college rules.

The MCR members had a discussion about what the safest but also most social to carry out Freshers events is.

MCR to create a risk assessment for each event.

MCR to have a meeting with college to properly understand the limitations that college is putting on us.

Action:

- MCR to create a risk assessment for each event.
- MCR to have a meeting with the College to properly understand the limitations that are to be put on events.

III.G. Student “warden” idea – more people to help host events and be around for new students.

Ms Gorringer suggested that having student 'wardens' for Freshers could be useful if not enough MCR members are available to host events.

Action:

- All MCR members to send their availability to the MCR social secretaries.
- Once availability is known, review the idea of student wardens.

III.H. Update on accommodation matching.

Mr J Navani reported that there is a Facebook group of 45 Hughes students looking for accommodation. The aim is to match people based on their course and help them to find accommodation if they haven't managed to secure any within college. Mr Navani is trying to help match students but this is proving challenging.

The college is also getting in touch with private halls to see if there is accommodation available for students there.

Action:

- N/A