



HUGHES HALL
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

MCR Committee
Wed, 16 October 2020, 5pm
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); A Johnsen (Equality and BAME Officer); M Tang (IT and Infrastructure Officer); O Kranse (Green and Ethical Affairs Officer); J Navani (Accommodation Officer);

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

I. Introduction

Declaration of Members' Interest

No declaration was received.

II. Standing Actions

III. Items

III.A. Communication and media.

Ms N Gorringe informed the MCR committee that there is a new communications manager at Hughes. Ms Gorringe wanted to re-evaluate what the MCR committee is happy to post on out social media outlets and email.

The new communication manager had asked if the MCR committee would be happy to publicise the Hughes Hall COVID rules on our social media and Ms Gorringe asked for everyone's opinion. There was a consensus that this should not be MCR's responsibility to do and it could lead to confusion amongst students as to who creates those rules. The MCR committee also agreed that we will continue using social media to mainly share social events and talks organised by the College and university. If MCR committee is asked to advertise any

external events that do not seem directly relevant to Hughes student, they are to check with the rest of the committee before posting.

Actions:

- Review the use of the MCR Instagram page at a later date.

III.B. Bootcamp

Ms Gorringer has been in contact with a trainer running bootcamps. The MCR committee thought that this would be a great thing to get a subscription for. The bootcamp will take place every Wednesday morning at 8am with a maximum of 30 people allowed to participate. The bootcamp would consist of cardio, strength exercises and HIIT. Each session will last 45 minutes and the location (either Fenner's ground or Jesus Green) is to be confirmed. Students can pay £3 per session or £16 for all 8 sessions per term.

Actions:

- Ms Gorringer is waiting for a confirmation of the location and will then create a sign-up form for students.

III.C. Catering

Dine in household idea proposed by the Hughes Hall chef – David. Students will be able to pre-order a meal for their household and pick up a tray with food that they can finish cooking at home as well as deserts and a bottle of wine. For your household, pick up a tray, finish cooking it, get desert, wine and you have a meal. The MCR committee agreed that this seems like a good idea to try out.

Ms Z Rehman shared feedback from students about the increase in price for meals in the dining hall as well as set sides being included within the meal instead of students getting a choice. Furthermore, there are concerns being raised regarding how much plastic is being used and the importance of looking into reusable containers for students to pick up food in.

Actions:

- Mr M Tang to raise the problems regarding price, lack of choice of sides for meals, smaller portions and considering using reusable containers with the housing committee.

III.D. Define the MCR

Ms Gorringer shared concerns that there is too much workload on some of the MCR members and a lot of pressure put on the MCR committee by the college. Ms Gorringer wanted to hear the MCR committee's opinions on where we stand in respect to the student body and the college.

Mr O Kranse suggested that there needs to be improved communication between the MCR committee and the college to ensure that the college and the MCR committee have a shared understanding of what the responsibility of each officer is.

Ms Z Rehman shared her concerns about students thinking that the MCR committee is responsible for creating certain rules that are created and enforced by the college. Ms Rehman said that it is important to make it clear what the officers' roles entail.

The committee agreed that the college needs to set the boundaries of where we stand in the relationships between students and the college, so that we can advocate for students as much as possible without creating a false impression in front of the student body of how much we can achieve.

Mr A Johnsen suggested that our roles are important for empowering students to voice their concerns and facilitate their discussion with the college instead of facilitating the college in creating rules and enforcing them.

Mr C van Eijk proposed that in the future we should come back to MCR committee meetings and vote on things the college asks us to do before individual officers make a decision on behalf of the student body.

Actions:

- Ms Gorrington to report this back to college to ensure that our opinions on what the MCR and the college do match.

III.E. Bike sale

Ms Gorrington reported that there are 20 left over bikes that need minor repair and 20 which need more work done to be safe to use. The MCR president proposed organising a raffle where people get tickets for the bikes. The committee agreed that raffle tickets are to be £30 for better bikes and £15 for the bikes that need more work done. Charity that will receive the money from the raffle is to be confirmed. Bikes will be randomly distributed between students.

Actions:

- Ms Gorrington is waiting on a confirmation about the available bikes from the head porter, and will then advertise the raffle to students.

III.F. Household packs

Need to be given out. Some people to help out to give them out in the evening times.

Actions:

- Nikki to pop a post on slack and people to help her out distribute them.

III.G. Equality and LGBTQ+ Officer and Subcommittee advertising

Ms Gorrington asked the MCR officers to begin advertising subcommittee roles. Ms Gorrington also announced that she is going to be advertising the Equality and LGBTQ+ Officer role for someone else to take up.

Actions:

- MCR officers to write a summary of what the subcommittee roles will entail and advertise them to students.
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III.H. Welcome events

The welcome events are for new and old students who are invited to attend in households. The college would like an MCR committee member or a continuing student to give a short speech about their experience at Hughes hall.

Actions:

- Mr H Zhou is looking for willing individuals to give these 5-10min speeches.

III.I. MCR Budget

Ms Gorringe advised that the MCR budget has been agreed on and the committee needs to consider what costs we might be expecting. Ms Gorringe said that it is expected that sports and societies expenditure goes up and they might require more support. The MCR president proposed that a COVID budget could be created with left-over money from last year to support societies who might need it most. Ms Gorringe also proposed that she would like to increase the equality budget for this year. Punting budget might also need to increase this year.

Actions:

- MCR committee to consider the best ways for re-distributing the MCR budget this year.

III.J. College counselling update

Ms R Hosking and Mr van Eijk attended a meeting with Dr Corrine Roughly, the deputy senior tutor for welfare. Mr van Eijk shared the proposals for a college counsellor that arose in the meeting asked for feedback on them from the MCR committee.

Mr van Eijk emphasised on the 4 principles they had when considering the options:

- Capacity to self-refer
- Sessions in college, face to face if possible
- Shorter waiting times than offered by the University Counselling service
- Access to a BAME counsellor

The options presented were as follows:

1 – JHD service – outsourced external body. Students can get referred through Maria Gloag (college nurse) or Dr Corinne Roughley. Probably the best option as it would help get someone in college quite fast.

2 – University Counselling Service also proposed that they can help however, this is option is very expensive and does not seem feasible at the moment.

3 – Hiring a Hughes hall counsellor.

The welfare officers believe it is important to eventually get a Hughes hall on-site counsellor, however this would take a long time to organise. The MCR committee agreed that for the time

being the best option would be getting a counsellor from the JHD service as it would happen relatively fast.

In the long term it is important to pursue the idea of hiring a Hughes hall counsellor.

Actions:

- Ms Gorringe to relay the MCR committee's opinion on this to Dr C Roughley.

III.K. Establishing a data-sharing channel with the college for anonymized COVID test results

Mr van Eijk informed the committee that welfare officers from other colleges have said that the student bodies from their colleges are hearing a lot more from about COVID statistics within their respective college each week.

He suggested that it is important to share more information with the Hughes hall student body, for example, the number of positive tests each week. Ms Gorringe agreed that it is important to be aware of the incidence within the Hughes hall community and this will also prove helpful with deciding on what type of events to organise.

Actions:

- Ms Gorringe to bring this up with the college on Monday.

III.L. Updating the MCR website

Mr van Eijk advised that the version of the constitution on the MCR website is not the most up-to-date version.

Ms Gorringe suggested that it is important to start adding a description of events that we have hosted on the MCR website in order to publicise and keep a record of what has been happening. Ms Gorringe also suggested that the risk assessment form for society meetings during the pandemic needs to be uploaded on the MCR website.

Actions:

- Mr M Tang to update the constitution on the MCR website.
- Mr M Tang to add COVID risk assessment for societies' meetings on the MCR website.

III.M. MCR constitutional amendments looking into a liability scheme & updating motion of no confidence procedures

Mr van Eijk informed the committee that the current constitution has a few issues including no liability scheme.

Actions:

- MCR members interested in being involved in re-writing the constitution to organize a meeting with Philip Johnston, the Hughes Hall senior tutor.
- Changes to the constitution to be advertised during a general meeting later in the term.

III.N. Proposing constitutional subcommittees

The committee is notified that the respective officers are looking for subcommittees.

Actions:

- N/A

III.O. Plant Sale Feedback

Mr K Bartsch shared a summary of the plant sale:

- 104 plants ordered
- 102 sold at the same price as purchased
- $\frac{3}{4}$ of the plants were pre-reserved through the online google form
- The rest were sold on the day by word of mouth

Actions:

- N/A