



HUGHES HALL
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

MCR Committee
Wed, 13 November 2020, 9:30m
E-meeting

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Present: N Gorringe (President & Equality and LGBT+ Officer); H Zhou (Vice President); A Vasileva (Secretary); Z Rehman (Social Secretary); B Williams (Social Secretary); R Hosking (Female and Non-binary Welfare Officer); A Johnsen (Equality and BAME Officer); O Kranse (Green and Ethical Affairs Officer);

Absent: K Bartsch (Treasurer); B Low (Academic Affairs Officer); C van Eijk (Male and Non-binary Welfare Officer); M Tang (IT and Infrastructure Officer); E Mensah (Sports and Societies Officer); J Navani (Accommodation Officer);

I. Introduction

Declaration of Members' Interest

No declaration was received.

II. Standing Actions

III. Items

III.A. MCR restructuring – how the MCR committee can adapt, positive changes to the MCR committee.

Ms N Gorringe shared that she met with Mrs Victoria Espley (Bursar) and Dr Corinne Roughley (Deputy Senior Tutor) and they shared concerns over the growth of the student body, while the committee hasn't grown. This has put more pressure on the committee as now they are representing many more students.

Ms Gorringe asked for everyone's opinion on whether we need more people to join the committee. For example, having 2 vice presidents – 1 internal and 1 external.

Ms Z Rehman agreed that we need more people but also more activity from people within the committee is also necessary.

Ms R Hosking also agreed that the committee needs more people.

Mr O Kranse suggested that reducing the number of hours people do would improve the quality. He explained that he agrees that the committee needs more people in order to allow officers to focus on specific parts of their roles.

Mr H Zhou – agreed that the committee needs more people – for example, 2 vice-presidents. He explained that the current vice-president role is ill-defined. It would be beneficial to have 2 people with different roles.

Actions:

- Ongoing discussions

III.B. MCR restructuring – name changes, is “MCR” helpful?

Ms Gorringer explained that the students do not realise they are the MCR, while the officers only make up the MCR committee. Ms Gorringer asked for everyone’s opinion on changing the name from “MCR” to “Student Union”.

Mr Zhou shared his opinion that “MCR” is a good name, and “Student Union” might confuse students.

Mr Kranse suggested that we need a name that makes it clear who we are. We need to ensure that the students know they are the MCR and that the committee are representing them.

Mr Kranse suggested creating a poll on Slack and finding out everyone’s opinion on the matter.

Ms Hosking suggested that it would be useful finding out what the student body thinks about name changes.

Ms Gorringer explained that we would need to hold a general meeting with students to where they would need to vote in order to change the name.

Actions:

- Ongoing topic

III.C. Constitution changes – additions, clarifications, etc.

The MCR constitution is lacking a liability clause to protect the committee.

Dr Philip Johnson (Senior Tutor) has read through the MCR constitution and has spotted parts that need to be changed. Mr C van Eijk also shares this opinion.

Ms Gorringer suggested that the committee needs to consider certain members’ actions over the past term and potentially add a responsibility clause for committee members.

Currently members either have to resign or have vote of no confidence in order to leave the MCR committee. The number of students needed for an MCR committee member to resign is 15.

Ms Gorringer explained that if a responsibility clause was added, it would add another level of restriction for committee members. Might not be views as a positive change by some.

Mr A Johnsen explained that it is important to be held to a certain standard with the positions that committee members hold.

Actions:

- Ongoing discussion

III.D. Welfare events – discussion and plan.

Responsibility of running Tea & Cakes is to be dissolved amongst the committee.

Actions:

- Create a rota

III.E. Social events – discussion and plan.

Mr B Williams shared that organizing blind dates was problematic as not enough people signed up to be matched.

Mr Williams shared that in-person events had better success.

Mr Kranse said that the bike raffle has had a reasonable success with half of the bikes raffled away/

Actions:

- N/A