



HUGHES HALL
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

MCR Committee
Fri, 19 February 2021, 5pm
E-meeting

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Present: N Gorringe (President & Equality and LGBT+ Officer); H Zhou (Vice President); A Vasileva (Secretary); B Low (Academic Affairs Officer); B Williams (Social Secretary); J Rawles (Equality & LGBTQ+ Officer); M Tang (IT and Infrastructure Officer); O Kranse (Green and Ethical Affairs Officer); J Navani (Accommodation Officer);

Absent: K Bartsch (Treasurer); Z Rehman (Social Secretary); E Mensah (Sports and Societies Officer); R Hosking (Female and Non-binary Welfare Officer); C van Eijk (Male and Non-binary Welfare Officer); A Johnsen (Equality and BAME Officer);

I. Introduction

Declaration of Members' Interest

No declaration was received.

II. Standing Actions

III. Items

III.A. AGM and MCR Committee Elections – planning, hustings, elections.

Ms N Gorringe expressed concerns that making changes to the constitution discussed previously would not pass due to difficulties of meeting quorum. It is unlikely that we will hit quorum at an AGM at the moment online.

Ms J Rawles asked for a summary of the discussed changes.

Ms Gorringe summarised:

- Increased representation on MCR committee to represent 1-year students. The officer would be elected in October each year.

- A communications officer to handle messages from college and to communicate to students.
- Addition of a liability clause which is currently not present.
- Rewording of the whole constitution to make it more continuous.

Mr B Williams reported that online turnout to social events has been very low so it is unlikely that the AGM can meet quorum.

Ms Gorringe said that the AGM is to be held on the 1st of March.

Hustings for the new committee to be held the following week. A few current members expressed interest in reapplying for committee.

Actions:

- Mr H Zhou to organize online voting for Hustings.
- Mr B Low to help with drafting changes to the constitution and ask Mr C van Eijk for help.

III.B. Panel Event for LGBTQ+ History Month – arranging captions.

Ms J Rawles has arranged a panel event on Thursday as the main event organised for LGBTQ+ history month. The event is promoting welfare of LGBTQ+ community within Hughes Hall.

Ms Rawles shared that she wants the event to be as accessible as possible for people with disabilities and she would like to have closed captions for the event.

Ms Gorringe suggested asking the student body for a student volunteer to write live captions in exchange for a monetary prize.

Ms J Rawles consulted the MCR committee for what an appropriate amount of money is to pay the panellists.

Actions: N/A

III.C. Disability training with SU.

Ms J Rawles shared that she will attend a training on disability with the student union to find out more about running events that are more accessible for students with disabilities.

She wanted to make the rest of the committee aware of the training available.

Actions:

- Ms Rawles to post the training link on slack.

III.D. Updating the MCR Website.

Mr M Tang asked for feedback and suggestions for improving the MCR website. He proposed to narrow down the content on the MCR website to what students will find most useful. He highlighted that it is important for the website to be a point of reference for new students. Creating a particular page with guidance for new students would be very valuable.

Mr Tang shared that the sports & societies page is very out of date and needs to be updated. Mr Tang also suggested that taking some posts from Facebook and Instagram and adding them to the MCR page could increase engagement with the MCR website.

The social calendar on the MCR website also needs to be kept up to date.

Ms Rawles shared that some new students had not seen the Facebook page, so keeping the MCR website up to date would be very useful.

Actions:

- All MCR committee officers to suggest useful information to be added on the website for new students.
- Society heads to be contacted about keeping up their pages up to date.

III.E. Items to be raised in the next House Committee Meeting.

Mr Tang received a complaint from a student regarding internet connection problem in college houses. The housing committee explained to Mr Tang that there are a few reasons behind this, including WiFi congestion with other nearby networks.

Mr Tang expressed his concerns that the complaints were dismissed by the housing committee. He will bring up the issue in the next housing committee and push for a better solution.

The MCR committee agreed that more needs to be done and that the colleges needs to provide an in-place procedure of what students should do if this is to occur again.

The college should also provide adequate compensation if a student needs to purchase more mobile data.

Actions:

- Mr Tang to bring up all of these points in the next housing committee on March the 10th.
- Mr Tang to advice the student who sent the complaint to contact Mrs Victoria Espley (Bursar).
- Mr Tang to send out a survey in order to find out how many students are affected by WiFi connection issues.