

Minutes of the St Anne's College MCR Committee Meeting of the 15th January 2013, held at 7:00

Present: Laura Ludtke, James Searle, Jack Prescott, Eva-Maria Risse, Kevin Busch, Christine Okoth, Julia Tanner, Rhyannon Bartlett-Imadegawa, Jennifer Lim, Dominic Davies, Alexander Lewis, Rebecca McKavanagh, Samantha Seiter, Ziyaad Bhorat, Eamonn Maguire (late)

Apologies: Octavia Cox, Hafsa Zayyan

1. Consideration of Agenda and Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting
 - The Agenda and Minutes were approved with no objections
2. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting
 - a) Bank Handover
 - This was happening at a slower placed than planned, but the Treasurer announced that the relevant paperwork had been sent off and that the process should be complete in the next week, asking members to contact her if they had any difficulties with paying in cheques.
 - b) Amalgamated Sports Club Fund
 - The Treasurer introduced the fund, which though initially a JCR bank account may now be repurposed as a general sports account through which the MCR could make contributions to the gym and college sporting facilities and teams. The Treasurer, President and Sports Secretary are to meet with Christopher Wigg, the College Treasurer, on January 28th to discuss the matter further. The Treasurer announced an intention to email the JCR Treasurer about the scale of JCR sporting contributions.
 - c) 2012/13 Budget
 - There was some discussion as to whether to have an allowance in the budget for purchasing first aid kits, but after some discussion it was decided that this purchase could be made if necessary without having to be budgeted for, especially given that first aid kit provision is the mandate of the college nurse rather than the Committee. It was noted that in the budget expenditure was slightly over income, and that this should be noted to college. The Budget was proposed by the Environment Officer and seconded by the Academic Affairs Officer. It passed unanimously.
 - d) Termcards posted in kitchens
 - The President related that this had been done, albeit in black and white rather than colour. The President also revealed that she now has mailing list privilege control which should also make communicating social events easier.
 - e) Computerised Dinner Booking
 - As the Computer Representative had not yet arrived it was decided to table this item for later.
 - f) Canvass of MCR sports involvement
 - The Sports Secretary announced that the sports captains knew of 26 total MCR team members, and that he estimated that if all captains had replied the number would most likely be in the 30-35 range. This information will be

useful in working out a fair amount for the Committee to contribute to college sports funding.

g) Academics issues progress

- The Academic Affairs officer revealed that 3 MCR members had volunteered to assist and give feedback about academic events, and that plans were still in place for a Masters orientation session and for MCR involvement in the careers week, though exact details were yet to be finalised. The Academic Affairs Officer related that the biggest challenge in the role was finding out what students really wanted. The Environment Officer suggested international careers talks and a session for those who needed guidance on picking rather than achieving a careers goal. The President suggested that an item be put in the presidential email bulletin asking for what members wanted and that questions to this end be included in the Graduate Feedback Questionnaire.

e) Computerised Dinner Booking

- At this point the Computer Officer demonstrated the system to the Social Secretaries and Treasurer, to their approval. The Computer Officer announced that the system should be ready in the next two weeks.

h) Charities issues progress

- As it was decided that the mid-term party should be a V-Day event, with details to be discussed later in the meeting, it was decided that the Cowley Road Carnival charity fundraiser party should now be the last party of term. It was suggested that voluntary giving, with MCR members collecting donations and possibly selling cakes throughout the evening, might be a more effective tool than a compulsory donation. The Charities Representative announced that the Charity Football tournament would be in Trinity and would be organised with the assistance of the Sports Secretary.

i) International issues progress

- The International Representative confirmed that the pot luck and sake tasting had been organised. She also announced that she felt it best that the MCR not hold a Chinese New Year event as it would not be able to offer the same level of quality as the events being organised at the university level, and that it would be unconstructive to host an event in direct competition. This sentiment, once explained, was generally agreed with.

j) V-Day Event

- The Women's Officer outlined the plans for a weekend of events to celebrate V-day and hopefully promote awareness of women's issues in the college. On the 15th Feb the traditional mid-term party will be V-day themed with vagina cupcakes for sale, and on the following Sunday welfare tea will double as a group reading/performance of the Vagina Monologues, with the aforementioned cupcakes given away free as an incentive to attend. The Women's Officer will research the most efficient methods of producing or obtaining vagina cupcakes. The Secretary wittily suggested that the set of

events be dubbed the 'Vagenda Weekender', to moderate levels of amusement.

k) RSH Wardens Teas

- The President stated that she had emailed Philip Kemp about this matter but had yet to hear back. The International Representative suggested that inviting the wardens to RSH welfare teas would be more successful than organising teas in the wardens' private rooms, with general agreement from the group. The International Representative also offered to take the lead in producing posters introducing and explaining the roles of the wardens, to be put up in RSH kitchens.

l) Condom Machine Part-Purchase

- It was decided to wait until the bank handover was finished before making a contribution to the condom machine purchase. The issue of the RSH condom machine was also raised, and it was suggested that though the key to the machine appears to be lost we might be able to afford a new one. The President suggested that chlamydia testing might be an effective source of funding.

m) Library lockers costings

- The Environment Officer did general research and was also in contact with St Catherine's college, who had recently installed lockers. She was surprised at the expense necessary for a stable set of lockers. St Catherine's spent £740 on 12 lockers and used a 'put-in-a-pound' system. Committee members expressed some worries based upon their previous experience with locker systems and their failings, and in particular the issue of people taking locker keys on a permanent basis was a concern. The Environment Officer agreed to do further research to see the scale of usage and the extent of success at St Catherine's, and the President made plans to email prescom to get a more general picture.

n) Social Secretary Bank Account

- The Treasurer argued that so long as she tried her best to reimburse social secretaries as quickly as possible, the best outcome was to not to have a specific bank account for social functions as this would create a lot of paperwork. The President pointed out that as MCR account may be moved from Natwest to the Royal Bank of Scotland in the near future the paperwork involved could be even greater. This logic was generally accepted by the committee, though it was intimated that the issue could be brought up again if the Social Secretaries found the current system problematic.

3. Graduate Feedback Questionnaire

- The President noted that the Questionnaire would benefit from wider involvement in its creation and more finely tuned questions. A sub-committee to deal with the Questionnaire was formed comprising of Laura Ludtke, James Searle, Kevin Busch, Rebecca McKavanagh and Jack Prescott. The President suggested that the sub-committee should meet before her meeting with Anne Mullen in 3rd week, with the aim of administering the Questionnaire in 5th-7th week.

4. RSH Sub-Committee
 - The President stated that there were four volunteers for the committee, as well as the RSH Wardens, Philip Kemp and the President herself. The sub-committee plans to meet next week and to meet with Martin Jackson each term. The President also announced her intention to email Martin Jackson to encourage a speedier response to issues raised to him through Philip Kemp or students.
5. Problems with Cash Dinner Payments
 - The Treasurer explained that cash payments through porters or pidges often went missing. It was decided to change the wording in the payment information on the website so that cash payments to pidges are forbidden and instead should be made through direct payment into a Natwest branch. The Treasurer and Computer Representative also made plans to investigate the possibility of online transfers through a system such as Google Checkout.
 - Julian Assange protests
 - The Women's Officer explained that St Anne's had been asked to take part in the protests against Julian Assange's appearance via video-link at the Oxford Union by letter-writing and donating the cost of a Union membership to a rape prevention charity . It was decided to include a mention of the protest in a Presidential email bulletin, giving MCR members the option both to sign their names on a petition and to donate to the charity themselves.
 - Improvements to the Gym
 - The Sports Secretary is currently waiting to hear back from his JCR analogue on this issue. He also expressed plans to meet with Martin Jackson and the JCR Sports Secretary to further discuss improvements, costings and funding. The President suggested that fixing of the EPH shower could be bundled into this project given the current lack of gym showers or changing rooms.
 - 5-a-side football
 - The Sports Secretary announced that the specifics of the event had been finalised and that an email would be sent around to MCR members to communicate the details.
6. Any Other Business
 - a) MCR Photo
 - The Vice-President called for a vote on whether to investigate the merits of having a student photographer for the photo this year, which passed. The Women's Representative asked for a special effort this year to make the photo a fun contrast to the matriculation photo.
 - b) Magazine Subscriptions
 - The Treasurer asked for clarification as to how to proceed on this issue. The President suggested that some changes could be made, such as a subscription to New Scientist and the abandonment of The Week. The President stated that she would draw up a planned list of subscriptions and circulate them for approval.
 - c) EPH + RSH Action Plans

- The President requested that Committee members start thinking about the potential content of the Action Plans in advance of the next meeting, at which point the topic would be discussed more fully.

d) Next meeting

- The International Representative suggested that we meet before the mid-term party, but some members felt that this was perhaps a little too soon. The Secretary agreed to email Committee members to find a suitable date for a next meeting at some time in 4th or 5th week.