

Minutes of the St Anne's College MCR Committee Meeting of the 18th March 2013, held at 7:00

Present: Julia Tanner, Eamonn Maguire, Laura Ludtke, Alex Lewis, Rebecca McKavanagh, Kevin Busch, Eva-Maria Risse, Rhyannon Bartlett-Imadegawa, Zuliang Hong, Hafsa Zayyan, Samantha Seiter, James Searle

Apologies: Jennifer Li m, Octavia Cox, Christine Okoth, Jack Prescott, Ziyaad Borat, Dominic Davies

- 1) Consideration of Agenda and Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting
 - The agenda and minutes were approved unanimously by the Committee.
- 2) Matters Arising From Previous Meeting
 - a) Circulation of Committee Meeting Minutes
 - The Secretary reminded the Computer Representative of his pledge to upload the minutes of meetings online. The Computer Representative will do this as soon as possible.
 - b) RSH Committee/Representative
 - Mr Hong introduced himself to the Committee, having emailed the President in response to her advertisement of the open position of RSH Representative to the MCR. The President proposed a motion that Mr Hong be elected RSH representative, and the motion was seconded by the International Student's representative. The motion passed unanimously.
 - The President suggested that the RSH Representative should form the RSH Committee discussed at previous meetings with her support and advice. From the next academic year new RSH residents will be asked to join the committee as part of the welcome materials upon receiving a place.
- 3) EPH/RSH Action Plans Progress
 - The Secretary congratulated the Environment Officer on her success at removing the RSH bins.
 - On the subject of the toilet paper situation in EPH, the Vice-President stated that her emails had not been replied to. The President suggested that it be raised as a paper or part of a paper in Estates Committee. The Women's Officer noted that in addition the toilet lock has been problematic (to the point of injury), but the President noted that progress seems to have been made on this issue at least.
 - The Computer Representative will email Estates with support from the Vice-President to have the obsolete audiovisual equipment in EPH removed. He has begun to look at the speakers and TV but needs more time to assess the problems. The speakers appear to have a burnt out power supply. He will also purchase an Xbox, and to avoid the problem of games security will buy a model with a hard drive so games can be downloaded directly onto the machine.
 - The Secretary raised the issue of emptying the recycling bins in EPH. The Environment Officer pledged to take them out so long as the Social Secretaries did so after each EPH party, and stated that this was done acceptably after the most recent EPH party, which bodes well.
 - The Environment Officer noted that the EPH kettle was rather dirty. Ms McKavanagh will buy a kettle when she purchases new mugs and teaspoons for the kitchen.

- The President has met with the Principal and gained his permission to use some of the college's art collection in EPH. She and the Vice-President will meet with the keeper of the collection soon.
- The Academic Affairs Officer noted that Phil Kemp has begun to look into the issue of the RSH scout timetables and the extent to which they are disruptive. The President suggested that this may be an appropriate item to raise in an RSH Committee meeting.
- No progress appears to have been made on the RSH heating front.
- The Environment Officer noted that she had received requests to turn off the computers at night, and that no progress had been made in fixing the broken equipment. The President suggested that this be raised in an RSH Committee meeting.
- The International Students' Representative asked if pots/pans etc. could be passed onto for use by next year's residents instead of being discarded. Mr Lewis will head up an MCR scheme to see this through. Following a warning by the Women's Representative that these things often happen on a much larger scale than expected, the RSH Representative suggested that this year be a trial run, restricted to kitchen equipment and books.
- The International Students' Representative raised the issue of potential thievery in kitchens etc. Although some Committee members suggested that such problems, though regrettable, were inevitable and very hard to rectify in communal living situations, the President suggested that if this was something people felt strongly about then perhaps it could be very tactfully raised in a future RSH Committee meeting. The same advice was given to the International Student's Representative's complaint that she could not lock some toilet doors.
- On the matter of a sink etc. in the RSH common room, the President suggested that offering up half the costs might give the issue more traction with college.
- The Academic Affairs Officer noted that he was unable to use the laundry top-up machine in the lodge. The President suggested that he email Mark Haining, the lodge manager. The President and Secretary were highly cynical of the prospect of having a top-up machine in RSH, as only having one machine is normally written into college contracts.
- The Women's Representative noted that RSH had a severe moth problem. The President will email Phil Kemp to follow up on this matter.
- The RSH Representative will take the lead on dealing with RSH matters, though the President made it clear that this means delegating as much as it means taking on additional work, and that MCR Committee members were always available for help and support. In addition, the Secretary will update the Action Plans to reflect progress and the additional issues raised in this meeting.

4) President's Business

- a) Graduate Feedback Questionnaire (GFQ) Progress
 - The President has yet to hear from Anne Mullen about her GFQ queries, and is worried that after extensive surveying in the last month MCR members may be suffering from survey fatigue, which could affect turnout. The

Secretary suggested that to allow Anne Mullen time to respond, give time after the recent surveying and avoid the vacation the GFQ be sent out in 0th and 1st week. The President approved this plan. The GFQ sub-committee will assist with typing up the questions into survey form.

b) Associate Membership

- The paper sent out by the president in advance was informally approved by the committee, though some committee members had reservations about allowing Associate Members to use the library. The President will make it clear that Associate Members, as members of the MCR but not the college, will not be allowed access to college facilities beyond EPH, RSH and the Hall (if possible). The President will write up a formal constitutional amendment for the next meeting.
- The International Students' Representative expressed concern that there was no regulation of Associate Members' conduct specified, which the President will look into, perhaps making Associate Members sign a contract making it clear that if they are abusive etc. to other members the MCR reserves the right to revoke membership.

c) Update on college committees

- The president related college decisions to fly the LGBTQ flag next year for LGBTQ History Month and to have patio furniture as social/informal work spaces in the summer.
- The MCR is supporting the purchase of a machine for the bar allowing students to pay for purchases using their bod cards. The Treasurer has approved an expenditure of £1000, and the MCR may receive a dividend if the machine boosts bar turnout, to be decided by college. There were no formal or informal objections to the expenditure.
- At this point the general matter of bar attendance was raised. The President noted that JCR events had led to attendance rises, and that perhaps the MCR should try the same approach. The International Students' Representative asked about inviting large groups of students, and in response the President suggested that she email the Bar Manager.

d) College Video

- The Vice-President is heading up the creation of new promotional videos for the college alongside the JCR. She will have a brainstorming session in the next few weeks, with the aim of having a script and locations by the beginning of Trinity.

e) Committee Workshops

- The College Registrar has offered to run a workshop to help MCR Committee members utilise college committees more effectively. Following enthusiasm from the Committee, the President will arrange a workshop soon and will ensure that one takes place as part of the Committee handover process.

5) Treasurer Business (presented by the Secretary in the Treasurer's absence)

a) Punts

- The MCR will have its own punt for the season and also share a punt with the JCR during Trinity term. The Secretary will lead administration, making it

clear that he will use his power of discretion over the timetable if members use unfair block booking strategies.

- b) Grant increase update/Trinity budget
 - Though nothing has been formally approved, the college Treasurer seems fairly keen to approve a £3000 a year grant increase if the Treasurer can provide expenditure figures from the previous two terms justifying a demand for the increase. The Secretary encouraged members to stick to their budgets by avoiding underspend as well as overspend to maximise the benefits available to MCR members.
 - The President raised a vote on the Trinity term budget, which passed unanimously.
 - c) Treasurer locker
 - To avoid the problem of unsecure cash payments, the Treasurer will purchase a locker to be kept in the Lodge or the EPH foyer, where members can deposit cash payments.
 - d) JCR joint expenditure
 - The MCR has as agreed given £31 towards a joint condom machine and £80 towards careers week expenditure.
 - The President asked if the careers week had been successful, to which the Academic Affairs Officer responded in the affirmative. The Environment Officer noted the success of the JCR 'fudging' scheme, though Ms McKavanagh noted that such a scheme would not be sustainable in the MCR as some pigeon holes are checked rarely and JCR members cannot easily reach the pigeon holes to deposit fudge. The Academic Affairs Officer asked if any Committee members felt that the week could be improved, to which the Women's Representative suggested more in the way of public policy and third sector sessions would be useful and the International Students' Representative noted that there wasn't a law session.
- 6) Positive Growth Mindset Course
- Ms McKavanagh revealed that a former Science Discussion Group speaker had offered to give some free positive growth mindset sessions if his travel expenses were covered. Most committee members were cynical about the proposal (and the International Students' Representative suggested that she knew someone who would do it for free and did not require expenses), but Ms McKavanagh stated that members had asked for more welfare provision and that this seemed like a cheap way to attempt something new. The Environment Officer suggested that the possibility of such a course be raised in one of the President's bulletin emails to gauge interest, to the informal approval of the committee.
 - This led into a discussion raised by the Computer Officer as to the effectiveness of the bulletin emails and the Committee's ability to track read response rates. The Women's Officer noted that the Committee's social media communication was much easier to track, and the President will hold a general MCR meeting next term to allow for greater communication and dialogue between the Committee and the MCR itself.
- 7) Cowley Road Carnival EPH Party

- This has been delayed to next term. Ms Zayyan suggested that it be held as the first party of term to maximise takings. The Secretary will email Paddy Andelic and the Charities Representative to facilitate the event's organisation.
- The President also noted that the Social Secretaries were currently compiling the termcard for Trinity and that any ideas for events should be emailed to them soon. The Computer Representative suggested a May Day party, and the Environment Representative raised the possibility of a pyjama night, though both should email the Social Secretaries to formalise these conjectures.

8) Environmental Lottery

- The Vice-President picked a winner, who turned out to be the Women's Representative. The ideas brought up through the lottery and brief committee responses were as follows:
 - Turning computers off at night. The President suggested that a sign could be put up encouraging those who were last to leave a computer room turn them off.
 - Putting up a sign to clarify RSH recycling. The committee was in favour.
 - Library heaters should be turned down or off when unnecessary. The President recommended that the Environment Officer email David Smith.
 - Donations to carbon offset charities. The Committee were not in favour.
 - Signs stating EPH electricity consumption levels. These were approved by the committee.
 - Motion-sensitive lights in RSH computer room. Phil Kemp should be emailed.
 - Banning smoking in college. This was thought to be perhaps too radical, though it was suggested that the smoking point near EPH could be moved so that access didn't require walking through it. Martin Jackson will be emailed.
 - Lights to be turned off in computer room. The President noted that the porters already take care of this.
 - Computerising the Grey Book. OUSU is already running a campaign on this.
- The Environment Officer will undertake the tasks noted above.

9) Any other business

- The RSH Representative asked if anyone would like to join him on the RSH Committee, a request which the Academic Affairs Officer accepted.