



St Anne's College
MCR General Meeting
Week 5, TT2020, Wednesday 27 May 2020

Venue: Zoom (meeting ID: 819 8052 5570)

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Minutes
3. President's Business
 1. College and MCR Response to COVID19: Report
 2. TT2020 arrangements and outstanding issues
 3. MCR General Meetings Trinity Term Format
 4. Rents Negotiations 2020/2011
4. Reports from the Committee
5. TT2020 Issues and Planning Ahead
 1. Committee
 2. Social and Welfare Activities
 3. Online Logistics
 4. Fresher's Week Planning
6. MCR Website Update
 1. Planned improvements
 2. Minutes of MCR meetings
 3. Moving to the main St Anne's website
7. Ball Subsidies Project Motion
8. MCR Charity Donation
9. Next Meeting

MCR Meeting 27 May 2020 – President's Business

1. COVID-19 College and MCR response over the Easter Vacation

Initially, communication with College has been somewhat difficult as they were themselves trying to figure out the best course of action. I have been in touch with them regularly throughout March and the Committee has raised concerns about their communication and policy regarding international students. Unfortunately, many decisions were taken in haste and College hasn't always explain its rationale for these decisions, which made initially made it difficult for the Committee to form an appropriate response and support our students.

1.1. Accommodation

RSH and EPH

39 graduate students were moved to en-suite rooms in Ruth Deech Building (RDB). Catering was reduced to hot lunch, bagged breakfast, a packed evening meal (only available to students staying in College).

This decision was made possible by moving first the undergraduates who were residing in this building by the 22nd of March. Meanwhile, two flats at RSH fell ill with COVID-19, and self-isolated for 14 days. College reported that none of these students were seriously ill. This prompted the rapid move of our postgraduate students to RDB.

The Committee was not made aware of this situation before the decision was taken to move our postgrads to RDB, which is why we were unable to communicate about its rationale. As of April 21st, 36 graduate students are still in residence.

In terms of arrangements for RSH and EPH residents who moved out of their accommodation, refunds will be given (both voluntarily and at request of the college). There will be no charges for keys that were not returned. £250 will be charged to those who have left their belongings in their rooms, but the actual costs will be tracked, and bills will be adjusted. This is to cover the mailing and delivery costs.

Castle Mill and 6 St John St

The University has waived the final three months of tenancy, but there is a possibility of liability for rent payments between the time students vacated their accommodation and the start of May.

1.2. MCR and other college facilities

The MCR was closed on Apr 8 without notice. Other college facilities (e.g. the gym, libraries except Tim Gardam) were closed at the beginning of the lockdown.

1.3. College response

- Extension of the Dean of Welfare's and nurse's hours
- Academic Office and Disability Advisor helped with requesting deadline extensions – college has been quite supportive
- St Anne's COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund (IT equipment, bursaries, welfare, access to essential books and resources) - **reminder: hardship funds can be requested by getting in touch with college treasurer John Ford**
- Library set up postal books service. Books currently on loan bulk-renewed until June 17 (unless outstanding fines). Fines for Easter vac and start of TT will be waived

- (Incoming graduates: made more offers in expectation of fewer graduates taking up their offers)

1.4. MCR Committee response

- Cancellation of the last MCR meeting of the term, the MCR dinner and the end-of-term party
- Cleaning and hygiene products in the MCR
- MCR Emergency Fund – **reminder: the Google form is on the FB group and has been circulated by email. We can help with emergency travel expenses, urgent living costs or cost of IT equipment when appropriate.**
- Centralised COVID-19 resources
- Discord channel
- Anonymous feedback form
- College emergency meetings online
- PresCom meetings and exchange with other MCRs

I wanted to thank everyone in the Committee for their work during these times. Even if you feel you haven't contributed much, taking the time to attend meetings, reply to emails, and give your thoughts about what would be the best forward has been incredibly helpful.

2. TT2020 Arrangements and Issues

2.1. College and academic arrangements

College follows university guidelines

- Students wishing to suspend are expected to continue as normal
- No travel grants this year
- Year group celebrations will be organised when safe to do so
- Ball cancellation

2.2. MCR

- Take-home exams and dissertation arrangements (e.g. Access to IT equipment: in discussion with IT manager for monitors and keyboards)
- Online events (cfr. Social secs and welfare reps)
- Continuation of emergency initiatives (e.g. emergency fund)
- MCR meetings online

2.3. Outstanding issues

I wanted to flag two issues that will require our attention in the coming weeks:

- Fresher's Week planning – see agenda of this meeting
- Return to Oxford – you've probably seen today's communication from the university about the reopening of some university buildings, so at this point there's not much to be said because the situation is just starting to evolve but I just wanted to flag that this is something we'll need to follow. If you have any views on this, please share them with the Committee!

3. Annual rental increase negotiations

- Every year college increases their rents for the upcoming year; we re-negotiate the rate every year (usually it's around 2.5-3%) in coordination with the JCR
- This year: national calls for rents freeze (no increase), recommendations from SU point towards rents freeze; the uni has already decided that their own rate on their own properties would be 4.57%
- Ongoing negotiations: proposal of college is higher than in normal years – JCR pres and I are going to make a counter offer which makes the case for a rents freeze in the hope of bringing the rate down as much as we can.

Wed 27 May 6pm to 8pm, MCR meeting

Attendance:

Lise, Zhen, Nicole, Esteban, Daniel, Jessica, Lena, Virginia, Alex, Ron (Matthew), Abbey, Meredith

Recorder: Zhen

1. Covid update by Lise + rent negotiation
 - a. College response and policy
 - i. Rushing moving people from EPH and RSH to RDB
 - ii. Belonging in RSH/EPH
 1. Charge £250 or actual cost per person
 - iii. College hardship fund also applies to Covid related things
 - iv. MCR emergency fund
 - v. Ball postponed next term
 - vi. No travel grants this year, move the money to emergency fund
 - b. Rent negotiation
 - i. Proposed rent increases more than usual, going to try to lower the rate
 1. Index: 4.2%
 2. Lost money due to rent lost
2. Fresher's week planning
 - a. Need the schedule
 - b. University has not made a decision of how Michaelmas is going to look like
 - i. Assumption: graduates going to attend lectures and social events in person
 - ii. Helen said: plan for an ordinary Fresher's week, but make sure there is a contingency plan
 - c. People in general think the Fresher's week is not going to be normal.
3. Committee reports
 - a. Jess (social)
 - i. Planning daily lunch and twice weekly evening
 1. Attendance very low (0-2 people)
 - ii. Cut down activities, 2 lunch per week, 1 evening events
 1. Attendance still very low
 2. Try to increase Facebook presence
 3. Hesitate to organize things with other colleges
 - a. Worry about low interest and low attendance
 4. Zhen suggests drink/food voucher
 - a. Virginia suggests virtual activities together (or paid for)
 - b. Abbey thinks conversion rate might be problematic
 5. Daniel
 - a. Zoom fatigue
 6. Virginia
 - a. People have had set routines
 7. Nicole

- a. MCR as a social space may be a bit uncertain in this uncertain situation
 - 8. Esteban
 - a. I would be interested but personally don't follow the Facebook pages
 - 9. Lena
 - a. Lots of work, already using lunch as a break from work
 - b. Lena (LGBTQ)
 - i. Worry about attendance
 - c. Virginia
 - i. 3 weeks left before summer anyway... make some commitments?
- 4. Next meeting
 - a. Week 7
- 5. Interim committee
 - a. Usually people find their own successors
 - b. And this will be responsible for the Fresher's week and Michaelmas term
- 6. Future of social secretary role
 - a. One person who has the role for a year (more institutional knowledge)
 - b. Change others to termly commitment
- 7. Keyboard emergency fund, redefine the purpose of emergency fund?
 - a. To be discussed in week 7 meeting
- 8. Charity donation?
 - a. To be discussed in Slack



St Anne's College
MCR Motions – General Meeting
Week 7, TT2020, Wednesday 10 June 2020

Motion: This MCR should financially support St Anne's postgraduate students who experience financial hardship, through providing subsidies for St Anne's ball tickets.

Proposed by: Lise Cazzoli

Seconded by: Nicole Eichert

This MCR notes that:

- The large majority of applications to the College hardship funds are postgraduate students. In 2019/2020, the number of applications has doubled (source: John Ford, College Treasurer)
- Oxford college balls (non-commemoration balls) often cost around £100 for a non-dining ticket
- St Anne's College Ball Committee sold tickets to St. Anne's students at a price of £85 (non-dining) in Hilary Term 2020
- The 2020 St Anne's Ball has been postponed to Trinity Term 2021 due to COVID-19
- In Michaelmas Term 2020, St Anne's JCR passed a motion to provide subsidies to students in receipt of bursaries
- The College Treasury doesn't have access to the funding date of postgraduate students beyond Year 1 (source: John Ford, College Treasurer), which makes it difficult to determine *a priori* who would be most in need

This MCR believes that:

- The ball should be an inclusive event for all members of St Anne's to celebrate and enjoy
- A £85 ticket price could be prohibitive for students experiencing financial hardship
- The MCR should be a community that supports its members and should strive to include all members in college events

This MCR therefore resolves to:

- Set up a Ball Subsidies Scheme that will subsidise 50% of the ticket prices of postgraduate students who are the most in need. These students will be selected through questionnaire.
- Mandate the MCR Committee to create such a questionnaire and present it for approval to the next AGM in MT2020
- Mandate the MCR Treasurer to make a proposal re the amount that can be spent on such a scheme during the next AGM in MT2020