

Selwyn College MCR Committee Meeting 22nd June 2015

11 present: Apologies from Michael, Jan and Heidi who could not attend. Meeting opened at 20:10.

7 items in agenda

Minutes

1) Logistics of the annual dinner

All the MCR committee members volunteered to help setting up the garden party and the MCR dinner. In particular, the different tasks to take care of will be distributed as it follows:

- Nathalie and Corinna will prepare the invitations for the dinner and sign the table cards, which they will place, with the support of Joshua, on the table before the dinner.
- Max and Angelo will take care of getting food from Aldi.
- Joshua, Afnan and Will will help setting up the decorations for the garden party.
- Afnan and Harvey will help with drinks for the garden party.
- Corinna will take care of slicing fruit for the garden party.
- All the MCR committee members will help cleaning after the garden party and the dinner.

Joshua will send out a detailed itinerary before the event to the entire Committee to remind of the tasks listed above. The presentation of the MCR awards will happen after the photos and before the dinner. A maximum expense of £100 will be made by the MCR for the annual dinner MCR awards.

2) 2015/2016 room balloting

Angelo has been in touch with the Fellow for rooms (Dr James Moultrie) who has been quite slow in getting back on this matter. After several unanswered emails and one meeting postponed by Dr Moultrie, Angelo has managed to schedule a meeting with Dr Moultrie for Tuesday, June 23rd at 2.30 PM to discuss the details about the 2015/2016 graduate room ballot.

- At the end of the meeting with Dr Moultrie, Angelo will send an email with the complete list of rooms available for the ballot and the form to enter the ballot.
- Angelo will also specify in the spread sheet with the list of rooms which rooms College plan to refurbish next year, in order to allow MCR members make an informed choice.
- MCR members will be asked to state via email to Angelo and Dr James Moultrie whether they would like to keep their room for next year by virtue of the gents' agreement.

Since the gents' agreement is voluntary and not compulsory for any MCR member, the MCR committee think that there is no need for it to be approved in an Open meeting and they vote for keeping the agreement for next academic year. The MCR committee also agrees that the will of keeping the same room for the next academic year by virtue of the gents' agreement can be simply stated via email to the MCR vice-president or using the appropriate form to enter the graduate ballot for rooms.

3) Report from Josh and the Treasurer of the Governing Body meeting

Joshua and Max attended this meeting with other representatives of the College governing body. Several issues were discussed including the recent changes made to the MCR constitution, the

status of college fellow benefactors, the construction of new college facilities including a new library and an auditorium, and a change to the usual time for College council meetings.

- Joshua summarized to the College governing body the recent changes to the MCR constitutions made with the support on the Dean, and he received general consensus on them.
- College are going to receive about 5 million pounds for the refurbishment of Ann's Court plus additional funding for building a new library and an auditorium.
- College intend to demolish the currently existing library and prolong the gate nearby till the main College entrance. New accommodation facilities will be built between the existing library site and the main college entrance.
- The new College library represents a major priority for College and it will be equipped with several facilities including rooms with smart TVs, common areas with drinks and snacks etc.
- A College benefactor must donate more than £1 million to be eligible for the status of College fellow benefactor, in addition to be an outstanding person for merits. During the meeting, it was discussed how College should behave if a fellow benefactor turns out not to be a good character thus discrediting College's reputation. Nevertheless, general consensus on the most appropriate action to take in such a case was not reached.
- The current time for the Council meetings (5.10 PM) was said to be discriminatory for women with childcare duties. For this reason, the meeting time has been changed to lunch time for future College Council meetings.

During the next Building and Estate Committee or College Council meeting, Joshua will ask for dedicated space for graduate students inside the new library.

4) Newmarket racing meeting

The arrangements for the MCR trip to the Newmarket racing event on July 25th have been discussed. Plans on how to encourage participation in the event and increase general interest from MCR members were also made.

Harvey has set up a facebook page for this event in order to get an estimate on the number of participants. At the moment, the cost for the bus ticket is about £10 and the ticket price range for the racing is £12-£19.

- The MCR committee agree on subsidizing the cost of the transportation and a fixed amount of the main ticket.
- The MCR committee agree that £200 should be the maximum MCR expense for this (with a £15 maximum cap per person).
- Harvey will encourage participation and also specify that the MCR will significantly subsidize the cost for participation in the event.

5) WIP talk in July

Plans for the future WIP talks were discussed. Joshua also mentioned that similar talks are currently organized by the SCR (these talks also involve College alumni in addition to fellows) and the current Master is going to invite the MCR to participate in these events. Afnan and Harvey suggest to advertise, also with support from College, one special talk from a College Fellow per term, while encouraging more participation from MCR members and alumni in future WIP sessions. Milan proposes to organize a MCR symposium in Autumn right after the fresher's month with both posters and talks. Nathalie also suggests to open a new position on the committee as career officer who can serve as a link to develop connections between current MCR members and recent graduates or alumni.

- The next WIP talk will take place at the end of July (this would give about one-month notice to speakers) with the same current format (one talk from a student and another from a College Fellow).
- The MCR committee support the idea of Milan to organize a symposium and Joshua will ask MCR members (and in particular MCR committee members) to contribute to this event with a short talk or a poster.

6) Answer to CUSU and Sky meeting

Max has kept on investigating whether a disaffiliation from CUSU would be advantageous or not for the MCR. He has also been in touch with other Colleges who have disaffiliated mainly because they had problems in receiving help from CUSU. Max has also tried to contact the CUSU president several times also to ask more detailed information about rent cost statistics across different Colleges – which CUSU should take care of collecting – but he received no reply.

According to Max's findings on this matter, the main advantages deriving from affiliation with CUSU include training of MCR members, voting right in CUSU meetings, free pregnancy tests, use of CUSU online service for MCR elections, access to Sky TV at a discounted charity rate. In case of disaffiliation from CUSU of the MCR, individual students would not lose their affiliation.

- The MCR committee don't see any of the above-mentioned as a major advantage to stay affiliated with CUSU, especially considering their lack of interest and professionalism in addressing emails or requests coming from students.
- Max claims that it saves us money staying affiliated with CUSU only if it true that we cannot get in an alternative way the same Sky TV subscription at the charity rate which we currently enjoy. CUSU claim that this subscription would cost about £5000/year if we disaffiliated from them.
- The MCR committee will ask College (e.g. via the Dean) whether it is possible to get the same Sky TV subscription exploiting the charitable status of College. Similarly, it will be investigated how much Alex in the bar is currently pay for his Sky TV subscription.

7) MCR contribution to College website

Will attended recently an IT meeting, in which the College IT officer explained that 80% of the College network has currently been provided with new hotspots to ensure better signal coverage. The Master also recently suggested that it would be nice if the MCR can contribute towards improving the College website.

- Joshua suggests that pics from the MCR website can be used as advertisement on the College website.
- Nathalie will also help to advertise the MCR on the College website using pictures from a couple of recent College events including the MCR annual dinner.
- Will offered to buy a new plugin to transfer pictures from the MCR website to the college website.

Other business

Corinna is going to leave College and the MCR Committee in July. She tried to get College to fix the coffee machine and she would like someone to look after this and place the order for coffee for the MCR when she leaves. Harvey volunteered to do this once Corinna leaves.

Margaret will also leave College and the MCR Committee in July. She will ask the JCR welfare officer how they normally get pregnancy tests and condoms and let the Committee know before leaving.

Josh will send an email around the MCR later this summer stating which positions (including Margaret's and Corinna's positions) are going to be re-opened.

Meeting adjourned: 21:50