

## Selwyn College MCR Committee Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Apologies from Will. 12 people present. Meeting opened at 20:24

### Agenda:

- 1) MCR Xmas dinner plans
  - 2) MCR dinner ticket prices
  - 3) Selwyn MCR does Afternoon tea & MCR Sunday Tea as Welfare Event
  - 4) Committee dinner - dates and venues
  - 5) Welfare training- Current training opportunities from CUSU/GU and Possible training opportunities from CAP
  - 6) Possible new position- Alumni Relations Officer
  - 7) College raising LGBT flag on the 1st day of February
  - 8) Swaps for next term
  - 9) MCR Christmas Tree
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- 1) The committee will hire a brass band to play either during the drinks reception or during dinner for the MCR Christmas dinner. Because the dinner may be too loud to enjoy the band, committee members agree that it would be better to have them play during the reception. The MCR must pay a minimum of £125, so it would be worthwhile to pay for a full hour. Therefore, the committee proposes to have the reception begin at 6:30 pm so that the band will play from 6:30 to 7:30 pm.
  - 2) MCR dinner tickets have been raised significantly recently and it making the dinner less accessible to MCR members. Josh proposes two options: a) subsidising the tickets, or b) establishing guest prices
    - Max argues that it would be wiser to have higher guest prices rather than subsidise the tickets. Several other colleges have a guest price and are able to offer lower priced member tickets. A proposed guest ticket price is £19.50, with £16.50 for members. However, a guest price may deter people from inviting guests, and it would also be difficult to manage because partners of A class MCR members are MCR members even though they are not in the events booking system.
    - Additionally, swap prices should be raised to help decrease the price of members' tickets.
    - Other tactics that could help with the cost would be to a) eliminate the drinks reception and serve our own drinks. B) reduce the cheese course. Heidi will contact catering to get a breakdown of the dinner costs.
    - Committee members also proposed to use the profit from the bop to pay for our own drinks reception. Additionally, Friday Night drinks could serve as a drinks reception on nights that there are dinners.

- 3) Several colleges host an afternoon tea event and both Josh and Miglè propose that Selwyn MCR should provide a similar non-alcoholic event. While Miglè was proposing a regular event, Josh thinks this should begin as a full cream tea event. This event can serve as a pilot and additional teas can be planned if it proves successful.
  - Proposed date: 29 November at 4 or 5 pm, right before Hustings at 6 pm.
  - The committee will need to purchase a selection of teas (including Earl Grey), clotted cream, scones, milk, cucumber sandwiches, tuna sandwiches, and cupcakes.
- 4) Josh proposes that the committee organise a dinner to celebrate the end of a wonderful year together. Suggestions for venues include the Punter, Cambridge Brewhouse, the Eagle and the Mill. A doodle will be created to set a date for the dinner, which may occur slightly after the end of term.
- 5) The welfare officer of CUSU and GU is the same person, and unfortunately it appears that the training is only connected to CUSU. Miglè received a strongly worded email from CUSU that welfare officers from various colleges have not attended the meetings. Miglè has told the representative that Selwyn is no longer part of CUSU and was not sure if she should attend the meetings, but has not received a reply. CAP is a private business that charges students for its services, however it is offering free training for committee members on Wednesday from 5-6 pm in St. Catherine's college. CUSU sent an email not to take their services, but the committee agrees that Miglè and future welfare officers have the freedom to choose what they would like to do- they can partake in any training if they believe it is required, and the committee will subsidise training if needed.
  - As a side note, CUSU has been employing some underhanded tactics to get our college to pay for our membership. Josh has communicated the MCR's feelings about this issue to the Bursar, and he has replied that he does not support CUSU's actions.
- 6) Milan and Heidi propose that a new position should be created to strengthen the MCR community post-graduation: the Alumni Relations Officer. They believe that this would be beneficial because of the growing number of MCR members each year. This officer would be responsible for managing the public facebook page to keep in touch with alumni, plan career events and organize dinners. Milan will write up a description of the role that Josh will circulate.
- 7) CUSU's LGBT officer has proposed that for February (LGBT month), they would ask the colleges to raise the LGBT flag on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February. Milan suggested that CUSU write a letter with the proposal, which they did not do. Milan has since spoken with the JCR LGBT officer and the JCR has agreed that if the MCR approves the proposal, the JCR and MCR would approach the

college together. Milan anticipates some hesitancy from college because many colleges only allow the Union Jack and the college flag to be raised. However, he argues that would be a positive change to display the LGBT flag this year because it will coincide with Selwyn's celebration of 40 years of women. The MCR committee approves of this plan and will work with the JCR to write a proposal. Because there is a council meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December, the committee will aim to have all the information prepared prior to that meeting.

- 8) Fitzwilliam college is confirmed for 23 January (Burns Night) for 10 tickets. St. Catherine's has also been offered 10 tickets for that evening, but has not yet confirmed. Heidi will have future dinner dates set later this week and will circulate the dates to the committee so that additional swaps can be planned. Currently, seven colleges have expressed their interest in a swap with Selwyn. To accommodate these colleges, Selwyn can host 2 colleges per MCR dinner, or invite them to some of the weekly formals.
- 9) The Christmas tree last year was provided by the Cambridge Christmas Tree Company. Will was satisfied with the company when he ordered from them last year. The cost of a 6ft tree is £65 with installation. The committee agrees to use the same company and suggests Sunday (22 November) as the date for delivery.

**Other business:**

- 1) Funky Fun House event with Trinity will take place on Saturday. Those attending can get one pre-drink at Trinity bar so they can socialise before arriving at the venue. Individuals can then get taxis from Trinity or cycle if they prefer. A total of 26 people from Selwyn are attending.
- 2) Because random people have been added to our facebook group, Afnan has changed it so that only admin can add people.

Meeting adjourned at 21:20