

Selwyn College MCR Open Meeting 26th October

Agenda

- 1) Voting in new members of the MCR:
 - a. Anahita Pradhan – 4th Year MEng Engineer
 - b. Nikolina Skandali-Kwstopoulou - 2nd Year PhD Neuroscientist
- 2) Proposal to bring back Friday drinks event
- 3) Theme for the next MCR dinner + Christmas Date
- 4) Discussion of 'noise complaints' made to the Dean, and action to be taken

Minutes

Meeting opened: 19.30

15 Members in attendance

- 1) Voting in new members.

Neither Anahita nor Nikolina could not be present due to visiting family and illness (respectively), however the vote proceeded ahead as normal. Both Anahita and Nikolina were voted in unanimously by the MCR members present, with no abstentions.
- 2) Bringing back Friday drinks event.

This proposal was not discussed due to the proposer not being present.
- 3) Theme for the next MCR dinner + Christmas Date.
 - a. Members voted in favour of next MCR dinner (15th Nov) being themed (14/15). We will create spreadsheet for suggestions from the MCR, and conduct a poll for the desired theme.
 - b. The Christmas Dinner is on Saturday 6th December, which is the night after the Selwyn Snowball. However, the weekends either side are fully booked. Will look into doing a midweek dinner instead.
 - i. **N.B. Have emailed catering about this, and it is not possible. Therefore, the date will have to stay as Saturday 6th December.**
- 4) Discussion of 'noise complaints' to the Dean, and action to be taken
 - A complaint was made by a Fellow of the College following a Welcome Drinks event in the first week of Freshers' Month due to noise from the MCR at 12.30 AM.
 - A complaint was made by a Fellow of the College following the MCR Bop on Friday the 10th October. This complaint was made to the Porters because several students moved from the Diamond to the MCR following the Bop. However the Porter on duty came round and stated that no noise could be heard from the MCR Common Room outside the building.
 - A complaint was made by a student about noise made by the MCR.

Everyone present at the meeting agreed that we ought to be polite and reasonable, respecting neighbouring students and fellows around the MCR and Diamond. However, we believe that it is not possible to plan for all occasions where there might be more than 10 students present in the MCR at any one time, as we have

well over 200 graduate students all entitled to use the MCR at any given time. Furthermore, it is perhaps unreasonable to retrospectively consider events where 10 or more students are present as a 'party', as there are several occasions where this will not be the case, such as our Film Nights or MCR Breakfasts, where noise may be made.

We are taking several steps to minimise disruptiveness, and have communicated with members present at recent events to keep noise levels down and to look after communal space, as well as sending MCR-wide emails requesting that any music should be kept to a minimum and to respect neighbouring students and fellows. Any further suggestions from the MCR are welcome. These communications have been met with mostly positive replies. However, we have received complaints from MCR members about complaints surrounding planned and legitimate Bop events, including the shutting down of a Bop considerably early. Consequently, there are perhaps areas where clearer guidance from College may be offered so we can ensure we are meeting the required standards demanded by College. These are as follows:

- We have requested that a noise meter be set up in the Diamond so we can quantitatively monitor noise levels, and guidance from the College at what constitutes a reasonable level of noise may be offered. A noise metre is already available (located in the Diamond), but it is yet to be set up. Perhaps this can be programmed so that an acceptable noise level cannot be exceeded during bops. We are still exploring this issue.
- We have requested a checklist from College for cleaning responsibilities for the Diamond to ensure that everything is cleaned appropriately and is left in an acceptable manner. However, we have received no complaints regarding mess following the last Bop, so we are assuming that our current practices are to an acceptable standard. A checklist would be useful here for greater clarity.
- Whether events in the MCR where 10 or more people are present (such as the MCR breakfasts or watching a movie) can be retrospectively labelled a party at the College's discretion. This is not covered sufficiently in Section 4.12.1 of the Postgraduate Student Guide.
- What should be done in the case of an unplanned gathering of students in the MCR who may bring their own alcohol: whether this constitutes a 'party', and what retrospective action can be taken, if any, against the MCR or individuals. Again, this is not covered sufficiently in Section 4.12.1 of the Postgraduate Student Guide.

We also are going to ask the JCR Committee about noise complaints to determine if they have received similar complaints following their Bops. However, we noted at the meeting that the Junior Combination Room is located in the Cellars of Anne's Court, implying that disturbing levels of noise are unlikely to be a problem for the JCR.

We urge all our members to be mindful in their general behaviour in the MCR and the potential impact it may have on students and fellows in Cripps.

Any Other Business?

- Djelal Osman: We need more cutlery for the MCR, as well as tea towels. The MCR Common Room Officer (Will Drazin) will be notified about this.
- Jessica Santi: International Drinks Event – can we tie this in with the Pot Luck Dinner? Members in agreement.
- Karaoke at Bops? Potentially, but we need to focus on keeping noise levels to an acceptable level before we explore this option.

Meeting adjourned: 20.01