

Agenda – 7th March 2018

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MCR

Attendance

- Present: Yuning, Charles, Richard, Donato, Harold, Amy F, Catherine D, AJ, Oscar, Philip, Julia, Trishant, Haynes, Tabea.

Votes, Policies and Standing Orders

- The renaming of the Green Officer role as Sustainability Officer was approved unanimously.
- The co-option of Donato as Sustainability Officer and Tuli as Dinners Officer was approved unanimously.
- Fourth-year undergraduates Christina Ayriss, Adam Parkins and Clement Moylan were proposed for MCR membership by Anna Lippert, Richard Wang and Harold Nieuwboer respectively. All were voted in unanimously.
- Yuning drew attendees' attention to the MCR Standing Orders. He highlighted the expenditure policies, including a limit of £30.00 per month on committee activities, which would roll over if unused. AJ noted that the Prevent initiative had incited a lot of controversy with regard to the issue of racial profiling and a student movement against it was prominent. Yuning noted that the College were inclined to take a liberal stance with regard to issues of freedom of speech. Although attendees were on the whole supportive of the aims of the initiative, it was agreed that explicit reference to Prevent be removed from the standing orders. All the standing orders were subsequently approved.
- Yuning introduced the MCR's informal expenses policies, which, among other things, allows students to be reimbursed for emergency journeys to Addenbrooke's as well as for bicycle helmets and lights. The policies were approved.
- Richard informed attendees about the on going debate vis-à-vis the nebulously named 'Personal Development Fund'. The committee had wondered whether it should be transformed into something akin to an MCR Societies Fund. However, there were a number of questions regarding what sort of activities would be eligible and whether the fund might duplicate other sources of college funding. Yuning suggested that another policy should be presented before the next open meeting.
- Yuning introduced the new policy on swaps. Following unprecedented demand for tickets to the swaps in Lent Term, a number of complaints had been made about the inequitable nature of present arrangements. In future, there will be no first-come-first-served tickets and preference will be given to those who have not already attended a previous swap. Questions were raised about how long your 'previous attendee' status will last.



General Business

- Yuning encouraged attendees to read his President's Report, which he had circulated via email. He highlighted the section on the new guest policy for formal halls, noting that Janet (the Dean) had speculated about limiting each attendee to half a bottle of wine.
- Richard presented his report on the MCR's finances, noting that the highest item of expenditure was 'Ents and Decs', followed by drinks, welfare (including the MCR Brunch and punt card), magazine subscriptions and biscuits. Donato wondered where the MCR Charge on our College Bill goes. Richard promised to make an enquiry on this matter.

Specific Business

- The Committee had decided not to use the 'MCR logo' on future stash orders. Instead, the sweatshirts or hoodies will have the College crest and personalized names embroidered on them.
- It will be difficult to get an air conditioning unit installed in the MCR. Change wondered whether the MCR should purchase a fan instead, only to be told by a number of scientists that they in fact raised the temperature of the room. Charles remained convinced of the merits of a fan.
- There was a lengthy discussion of the laundry service. Catherine was very hostile towards the Circuit company. Yuning informed attendees that new machines would soon be installed with a pre-paid card system. He said he was talking with CUSU regarding price comparability. Amy offered to enquire on this matter.
- The news that the minimum meals charge would soon be abolished was welcomed.
- Oscar Hughes introduces a motion calling on the College to divest from fossil fuels, noting that the College, despite being cautious of exposure to fossil fuel companies, nevertheless had some investments in them. CUSU, Regent House and the Selwyn JCR had already passed motions in this vein. Donato suggested that it would send a positive signal, even if it made little material impact on the carbon companies. A number of attendees were uncomfortable, however, with the MCR taking up such wider political questions. AJ, in spite of being very pro-divestment, suggested that there was a danger that students may feel that the MCR was becoming more distant from their day-to-day concerns. It was agreed that MCR members would be consulted on the issue before any further action was taken.
- Yuning informed attendees of plans for an MCR Survey and asked whether they had any issues that they thought ought to be included. Most of the ensuing discussion centred around food and catering. Yuning noted that there were plans in place to redesign the server and Borradaile Room, which should be completed by next Michaelmas. The bar will also be redesigned, but that is a longer-term prospect. Food and drink may in future be available throughout the day.
- When asked if there was any further business, requests were made for new pool cues and a vending machine for the MCR.