

## Agenda

1. Present members
2. Update on MCR Activities (Jordan)
3. Magazine / Newspaper Subscriptions (Karthik)
4. Hustings
  1. Bar Treasurers:
    1. Hugo Wioland / Arthur Zielinski
    2. Antoni Wrobel / Mateusz Zelazny
  2. President - Jacquelyne Poon
  3. General Secretary - Alexis Kaminski
  4. Treasurer - Karolis Misiunas
5. Introductions To New Officers
6. AOB

## Minutes

1. Present: Jacqui, Alexis, Ahmed, Natalie, Arthur, Kent, Hugo, Electra, Jordan, Eli, Mike Kang, David Driver, Karolis, Vahe, Kc, Mike Vella, Jenny, Sonke, Barbora, Dave Roche
2. MCR Activities - See attached paper below
3. Magazine / Newspaper Subscriptions. These are typically reviewed every Lent term.
  - a. Current subscriptions include New Scientist, Glamour, Time, Nature, PC Gamer, Economist, Fortune. Of these, only Fortune was singled out as being "low interest".
  - b. Suggestions for new subscriptions: Wired, Science
  - c. There didn't appear to be much interest in newspapers from the MCR. The new committee may wish to convey this to the JCR, who are looking to subscribe to some new papers.
4. Hustings
  - a. Bar Treasurer
    - i. Hugo / Arthur - Arthur is a 1st year chemistry student. He's working on the bar rota and helping Mike with equipment activities. Has a few ideas for new tastings and infusions. Hugo promises to wear a black beret every Tuesday in the bar if elected.
    - ii. Antoni and Mateusz were absent from the meeting without apology. The following questions were therefore directed to Hugo / Arthur only.
    - iii. Jordan - any ideas for tastings? We'll start with a whisky tasting (in conjunction with Eli). Also infusions tastings.
    - iv. What about brewing such as cider? Hugo: that's certainly a possibility.
    - v. Jacqui - how comfortable are you with managing bar finances? Hugo was vice president of the cocktails society, and organises vege bags at the moment, so has some experience in this sort of thing.
  - b. President - Jacqui
    - i. Jacqui is a plant sciences PhD student. Has experience working with the college as internal social secretary. She is easy-going and always has a smile on her face. She will respond quickly to emails.
    - ii. Jordan - anything in particular you'd like to accomplish? Jacqui wants to

simplify the accommodation application / prioritisation process. Also wants to publish a lot more information on rooms, making this available via the website and/or handbook..

- iii. Vahe: Finances for extra curricular activities. Are these underused? Not the conference grants but the small grants. Need to keep up the advertising. Previously MPhils weren't allowed but this has now been opened up.
  - c. Secretary - Alexis
    - i. Has been bar treasurer. Her main aim is to open up communication lines. She and Jacqui make a strong pairing for representing the MCR on college committees.
    - ii. Plans for continued use of social media? Alexis would basically continue to make use of the various tools available such as the MCR page and the Facebook group. She would continue the practice of closing off the group at the end of the academic year. She also recognises that social media is not universally used, so other channels of communication must also feature.
  - d. Karolis - Treasurer
    - i. Karolis has been men's welfare officer. His main aim as treasurer is to improve reporting to make the accounts more transparent.
    - ii. Vahe: What can be made more transparent? Basically the public accounts are audited by the college and the budget is approved by the CCRFC
    - iii. Hugo. Can the process for requesting funds from the MCR for events and projects be made simpler? For projects / societies that extend outside of the scope of the MCR, funding applications should go to college. However, the MCR could also advertise the fact that ad-hoc funding is available for events / initiatives.
    - iv. At this point, there were various questions not directed at Karolis that are not minuted here.
5. Questions for existing / outgoing committee members
- a. Will there be a general handover meeting? Officers will meet / discuss handover matters individually with their successors.
6. Introductions to New Officers
- a. Women's welfare: Natalie and Barbora reinforced the points they made in their manifesto. Alexis asked if they lived in college - Barbora lives in the Wolfson flats currently.
  - b. Men's welfare: Vahe has been actively involved as a participant in MCR activities, and is keen to help organise events such as freshers' week. Karthik asked what his thoughts were on the condom dispenser idea - he would have to discuss it further with the existing welfare team and with college.
  - c. Internal Social: David and Kc. Both introduced themselves. Were looking forward to organising the guest nights. Kc has also been working Olivia Argentesi in the college, developing the college's social media presence.
  - d. Families Rep: Ahmed El Mezeini. Taking over from Lorna who he thinks did a great job. Wants to promote more interaction between families and the rest of the MCR.
  - e. External Social: Hannah Stern, not present at meeting due to being overseas.
7. AOB
- a. Mike: Proposal for condom dispenser
    - i. CUSU has indicated that many colleges have purchased dispensers to make CUSU-supplied condoms available to students free of charge in a secure,

trackable manner. However, these dispensers are relatively expensive at £300-£400. The question of location is also an open point - if the dispensers were placed in the main college bathrooms, access would need to be made available for men and women, which necessitates two dispensers. This issue would need to be investigated by the new welfare team in conjunction with the JCR and college.

- b. Planned events in the near future
  - i. Whisky tasting - end of Feb
  - ii. Superbowl party - Kent is organising.
  - iii. There are some SCR seminars organised, in addition to the standard MCR seminars - Sonke / Jan will send out an email.

### **MCR Committee Activities (LT 2014)**

#### 1.) Graduate student accommodation survey: update

**Background:** Every year the MCR (President and Secretary) and TAS office allocate rooms to continuing students (largely 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year PhD students; MPhil students transferring to PhD). Last year more than half of students applying were turned down from the rooms ballot. In addition, the University will increase the number of graduate students admitted (2% increase each year), meaning that the accommodation problem may grow in years to come. The MCR sought to explore this and other issues relating to College accommodation in its graduate accommodation survey conducted last year (ET 2013). We asked a number of questions related to room quality and price; use of College services; and sense of community and participation in the MCR. More details found on MCR webpage/minutes from MT 2013 TGM.

- a. Preparation of a strategic plan for graduate student accommodation (<http://mcr.chu.cam.ac.uk/useful-stuff/graduate-housing-strategy/>) and making electronic College Council and Governing Body minutes available to students (to be made accessible end of LT 2014).
- b. Abolishing the CFC for students living out and rolling CFC into rent for those living in (completed - see minutes from the open meeting here: <http://mcr.chu.cam.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/EGM3-Dec-2013.pdf> ).
- c. Simplified rooms ballot for Advanced Students: 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> year students to be offered guaranteed accommodation (in progress).
- d. Renovation of the MCR and adjoining TV room (in progress; small working party to be set up).

We are waiting on the Senior Tutor for remaining action points.

#### 2.) Michaelmas term elections

- a. Elected Academic Officers; Bar Secretary; Computing Officer; Equipment Officer; First Year Reps; Environment Officer
- b. Great initiatives from new committee members!

#### 3.) Conference on Everything: new format finalised by Jan & Sonke with help from the Master.

#### 4.) Rents and charges for the coming year: to be discussed with the Bursar and exec from incoming/outgoing committee in late February; room ballot usually in April.

5.) Events

- a. MT2013: a number of events including Guest Night; Christmas Party
- b. Start of LT 2014: Refreshers' Events; MECH Bop; Burns' Night

Jordan Ramsey  
**MCR President**