

Churchill College MCR Termly General meeting

Minutes of the meeting held in the Sandy Ashmore Room, on 30th October 2012

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence: Fred, Farooq
2. Elections
 - a. First year rep: Suzanne Carter
 - b. Academic officer: Yvonne Flory
 - c. Computing officer: Steve Marsh
 - d. Equipment officer: Ben Derrett
 - e. Environment officer: Nassos Athanasopoulos
 - f. Bar secretary: Liwen Xu
3. MCR concerns
 - a. Matriculation dinner – Carl, Christopher
 - b. Mentoring scheme - Carl
 - c. Churchill federation - Hilary
4. Welfare
 - a. Kid's meals – any updates Lorna?
 - b. Northwest Cambridge accommodation consultation - Karthik
 - c. Proposed compulsory bike lights for freshers - Karthik
5. Social
 - a. Photo competition – Christopher
 - b. Alumni relations/email links – Dave
 - c. Guy Fawkes
 - d. Trip to Duxford/Ely – Yvonne
6. Any other business

1. People present: Committee + candidates (except for Liwen) + 12 other members of the MCR

2.

Hilary explains that as the positions are all contested everyone is elected unopposed. Therefore instead of hustings, people were asked to introduce themselves briefly and were all congratulated on becoming members.

Suzanne – Part III maths student. Works on the Tuesday bar shift and keen to help out.

Yvonne – 2nd year PhD in Phonetics. She was previously academic officer with Farooq. Enjoyed it last year and believes she is now ready to take on the role by herself. Encourages people to participate in the conference on everything and also tells people to get involved with the fortnightly academic seminars.

Steve – 3rd year PhD student in Computing sciences, and current computing officer. Explains his role in helping remove internet quotas, and says he is now hoping to ensure the college is completely covered by Wifi.

Ben – 1st year maths PhD. Tells us we have lots of equipment but please sign it out before you use it so we don't lose it. Keys to the cupboards ceremoniously handed over by Hilary.

Nassos – MPhil student in Environmental Design. Keen on sustainable issues, and encourages everyone to keep the grass tidy.

Liwen is not around, so Carl introduces her as an MPhil student in Genetics from Chicago. She has never really bar-tended before Cambridge, but is keen to serve the MCR as bar secretary.

People leaving the committee are thanked for their services! They shall be missed.

2.

a) Hilary reminds people of the damage that was done to the SCR following matriculation dinner. Carl reminds people to drink responsibly both at larger college events and regular social gatherings. People make a point to note that MCR members may alone not be responsible for the damage that evening, citing certain fellows who were also actively encouraging excessive drinking. Carl and Hilary note that they will take this up at College Council.

b) Carl describes that the mentoring scheme is aimed to bring the SCR and MCR closer together and provide some exposure to the wide variety of academic pursuits being engaged in within college. This is different from the pastoral care offered by tutors. Carl, Sam and Christopher are MCR reps on a working committee to redefine the future of the mentoring scheme. If anyone has thoughts please get in touch. Steve asks if the mentor has to be in the same subject area, and Carl says no, but that has historically been the way it was. Hilary and Carl both say that perhaps the most pertinent thing is ensuring those who want to be involved (on both MCR/SCR sides) are!

c) Hilary introduces the rules and procedures that join up roles jointly held between the MCR and JCR committees – the Churchill Federation. Says the JCR have asked for some changes that have been discussed and approved at a normal MCR meeting and we now need to vote this through with a 2/3rds majority at the TGM.

She briefly outlines the changes:

- LGBT renamed from LBGT. Also changed so you only run as an individual instead of in pairs.
- For both LGBT and Winston editor, it lists the potential for interaction with both committees to ensure maximum benefit.
- A section has been added about the formation of sub-committees to handle the work associated with these roles

Felix raises an objection saying that we need to ensure the 'individual' running for LGBT doesn't set against the MCR constitution which he believes lists that any role, barring the executive positions, can be held by a pair.

Christopher also explains about what the Winston is – a mainly JCR magazine that everyone can contribute to. He explains that at one time the editorial position could be a joint MCR/JCR position but that we disaffiliated as the MCR was not heavily involved and did not want to contribute financially to it.

A vote was conducted: Do people approve of the changes? Everyone was in favour except for 1 abstention.

4

a)

Catering has given us the go ahead for this, and is in the process of setting up the logistics for reducing food amounts and costs. Lorna to email Carl details when they sort it out so that he can ensure families are informed.

b)

Karthik explains that the Northwest of Cambridge is being developed as part of university expansion plans. He explains that the college has been asked if they want to commit to 10 year investments of flats for postgraduates with rental prices ~£125 and on a full year lease. Planning has gone through so the buildings will be developed. He wanted to know if people were particularly in favour of college doing this or whether money should be expended on developments on the main college site. The latter option was considered much more favourable.

c)

The Senior Tutor's concerns about a recent spate of bike accidents has led to a bit of a knee jerk reaction in which college is considering insisting that all new students buy bike lights and a high viz jacket that will be charged to the college bill. This caused a general uproar in the group with some of the main objections being:

- People forget them even if they have them, so forcing people to buy them is not going to matter.
- Some people want better bike lights than the rubbish sold cheaply by CUSU/college
- Some people don't have bikes
- The MCR also subsidises bike lights so encouraging people to buy them if they don't have them is a much less controversial option

A vote was held to find out 'who would wish to have bike lights forced on them, even if college subsidises them'? No one was in favour, 1 abstention and everyone else against.

5

a)

Last year we ran a photo competition that was a massive success. We've used these pictures in a number of things, including the fresher's guide. We'd like to repeat that this year, but there is also a photo competition associated with the Switch Off environmental campaign and it may be worth combining the two to avoid repetition. Dave protests that the Switch Off campaign is not really a photo competition, but Hilary explains that what she means is a combination of themes, to something like Sustainable energy etc. This was generally agreed to be a good idea.

At the next MCR meeting we shall decide who takes charge of this, possibly Nassos, but will have to adjust the competition deadline accordingly.

b)

No progress made on this yet!

c)

Fireworks on Midsummer common on Monday. Sam explains that it is a celebration of the failed attempt by Guy Fawkes to blow up parliament many years ago. Electra agrees to lead a group down from college, and Carl says he may assist, but is not yet certain.

d)

Yvonne has two questions about this. First she may not be able to lead this due to health reasons and would like someone to volunteer to be there in her stead or with her. Secondly she is unsure of people's preferences – Duxford or Ely. Last year Ely was preferred by the group, and as it is Remembrance Day there will be some special event on inside the cathedral. But beyond the Cathedral and tea houses, Ely hasn't got much to offer. Duxford is free on the day and is also indoors, and is a really good aircraft museum. People were asked which they favoured, and the general verdict was Duxford. Jess asked how you would get there and Carl said by bus. Ben offered to assist Yvonne.

6

a)

Sam invites people to come along to the Election Day event and encourages people to bring laptops so that there is a maximum array of newsfeeds going at the same time. He entices people with alcohol.

b)

Sam inquires about the state of the Sky Sports package. Karthik and Lorna say this was raised at house committee. Shelley was struggling to deal with them as she was not the named account holder, but this has now been changed and she will pursue matters. As it stands they are refusing to change our status because we 'are not the right kind of charity', code possibly for the fact that we've been paying the higher fee all along and they know we probably wouldn't pull the plug on it either way.

c)

Mike gives a brief overview of MCR finances. Divides money into private income and public income. Until recently we had to negotiate with college for public money each year, but recently we re-negotiated this for a fixed amount yearly. Public money is for anything of an academic or welfare nature, not food or drink which we spend on through the private account. We have ~£2000 of public money and ~£500 of private and these figures oscillate considerably during term.

If everyone wants equipment of any form, there is a form on the website (Useful Stuff – Equipment Request form) with which people can request events or equipment. The only caveat is that any event has to be open to all, although obviously some events, like the American elections, are going to interest certain parties more than other.