

Churchill College Termly General Meeting (TGM) Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held in the Sandy Ashmore Room, on 29th January 2013

Agenda

1. Apologies: Carl Sequeira
 2. Confirmation of minutes from previous meeting (online at - http://mcr.chu.cam.ac.uk/?page_id=223)
 3. Ratification of modifications to the Churchill Student Federation - <http://mcr.chu.cam.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Churchill-Student-Federation.pdf>
 4. Questions to the committee
 5. Hustings
 6. Upcoming events: Academic seminar, Superbowl Party, PowerPoint Karaoke
 7. Conference on everything - Abstracts, Speaker: Helen Czerski, "Bubbles and Everyday Physics"
 8. Any other business
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1. People present: committee (apologies from Carl) + candidates plus other members of the MCR.
2. Christopher Berry noted that the date on website from previous minutes is wrong, otherwise no objections to previous TGM minutes.
3. Unanimous ratification of changes to Churchill Student Federation document.
4. No questions to the committee.
5. Hustings
 - a. Presidential candidate – Jordan Ramsey.
 - i. Jordan introduces herself. She is a PhD student, previously bar sec: organised rota. Main platform, representing people of the MCR. Also run diverse events to attract as many people as possible. Decorate the Sandy Ashmore room. Continue the work of previous committee.
 - b. General Secretary candidates – Karthik Nilakant (KN) and Dave Roche (DR).
 - i. DR loses coin toss (tails never fails, except in this case). KN goes first.
 - ii. KN: Serving for a year as men's welfare. Responsible with Lorna Ayton for freshers, set up parenting scheme, organised all the events. Lots of communication in doing freshers week. Gen sec involves communication, ensuring that everyone gets the information they need. Make use of all the tools available- social media. Plans to present people's views to college on college council. Make sure to vote.

iii. DR: Currently internal soc sec, main responsibility guest night, done 3- believes them to be successful. Been involved in organising other events including pub crawl. Gen sec more organisational role. Believes he already has experience dealing with college from guest night.

iv. Questions

Felix Nissen: Why do you want to be General Secretary?

DR: Stay involved in the mcr, make the most of the opportunity.

KN: Wishes to address his problems and be involved in the MCR as opposed to complain and do nothing.

Christopher Berry: Give example of an event you did well and one you did badly.

KN: BBQ- difficult due to the complexity, ordered the correct food and everyone happy. Ceilidh didn't go well, paid £500 advertised to hill colleges but only 20 turned up. In future plug it better or possibly combine it with other events

DR: First Guest night didn't go well, due to initially advertising the wrong theme and then not being able to attend. More recent guest nights much better.

c. Treasurer candidates – Mike Vella (MV) and Adam Wilkinson (AW).

i. MV wins coin toss. MV goes first.

ii. MV: Current treasurer. Previous to that was men's welfare. Enjoys being on committee. Greatest achievement, negotiated that the MCR receives a fixed amount (10.5% of funding available for all societies) of funding from college every year, as opposed to previously having to negotiate with college and JCR. Claims a lot more money than previously as well as better JCR relations as the MCR/JCR are not fighting over funds. Intends to reduce the amount of cash and cheques handled by the mcr, believes we can use technology and set up an online gateway to pay for events. Believes we can focus on increasing transparency.

AW: 2nd year phd student. Lived in a college community for 5 years. Believes a fair distribution is important. Will manage accounts well. Plans to maximise money we receive. Prefer not to subsidise trips for a few but instead pay for events that everyone participates in. Also want to use MCR funds for travel grant not only for phds but also masters. Use mcr funds to encourage people to come to formal and to get people into a routine of socialising in the mcr, by either providing pre/post dinner drinks or subsidising formal hall.

iii. Questions

Felix Nissen: What ideas do you have for spending public money (Money that can't be used for drinks)

AW: Additional money for travel grants, spend money on more food for conference on everything

MV: He tries to take a hands off approach, make a budget then leave it to the committee to spend the money. Believes it leads to smoother running.

Jacqui Poon: If a travel grant was to be created, who should allocate money for travel grants?

MV: Doesn't believe we can- college would be upset as they already give money. Claims the college travel funds are underused. Says we have strict rules on how we can spend money. If we did create one, the MCR committee should decide but he doesn't like the idea of students deciding as it could be political.

AW: At his previous college, the grants were voted on by the entire common room.

- d. Other candidates introduce themselves, as they are non-executive and uncontested, they are now elected. Elections for executive will open Wednesday at noon, close Friday at noon. Question about who to contact regarding rents, HC responded to email her or new President.
 - i. Bar treasurer - Alexis Kaminski and Electra Panagoulia (running jointly)
 - ii. Families' Rep - Lorna Ayton
 - iii. Women's Welfare - Jess Walsh
 - iv. Men's Welfare - Karolis Misiunas
 - v. External Social Secretary - Tim Roberts
 - vi. Internal Social Secretary - Jacquelyne Poon
6. Upcoming events
- a. Academic seminar – tomorrow (Jan 30th), Jacqui Poon will be giving a talk.
 - b. Superbowl Party. Sunday, Feb 3rd at 22:00. Will be US themed snacks.
 - c. PowerPoint Karaoke. Feb 10th – Yvonne will email out more information.
7. Conference on everything
- a. Keynote speaker Helen Czerski, plans to give general talk about "Bubbles and Everyday Physics", abstract will be sent out.
 - b. Yvonne asked that people please send in abstracts. Conference is on 27/4/13 (Saturday).
8. Any other business
- a) Elizabeth Wagemann and Laura Loyola - What is college policy on wolfson flat rent increase? HC: no policy but they're oversubscribed so no pressure to reduce rent. Apparently too many couples but families are not willing to pay for the maisonettes (possibly finding something cheaper). Suggestion that people investigate other rents to compare.
 - b) Nassos A.- Will be a university wide green week feb/march- possibly organise something.
 - c) Sam R. - Table football, should we get a better one? The floor believes we should consider this again at a later date.
 - d) New chef, please provide comments: formal hall portions too small (numbers poorly calculated, i.e. some people weren't served the starter), online menus don't match, too much use of quorn for vegetarian meals.