

## Minutes of Churchill College MCR Termly General Meeting - Michaelmas 2014

Date: 4 November 2014, 7:30pm

Location: Sandy Ashmore Room

1. Attendance:
  - Present: Jacquelyne Poon, Alexis Kaminski, Arthur Zielinski, Electra Panagoulia, Hugo Wioland, Matic Horvat, Karolis Misiunas (left early), Jordan Ramsey, David Driver, Vahe Tshitoyan, Barbora Janulikova
  - Apologies: Kent Griffith, KC Raghavendra, Hannah Stern, Ahmed El Mezeini
  - Absent:
2. Confirmation of minutes - Easter 2014 TGM
  - The minutes from the Easter 2014 TGM were confirmed.
3. Summary of MCR Activities (Jacquelyne Poon)
  - MCR events in the past term have included:
    - Freshers' Week, which seemed to go well and has had positive feedback overall.
    - Academic seminars, which are currently alternating between MCR and SCR speakers. There has been pretty good turnout for these.
    - We have a group going down to the Guy Fawkes festivities tomorrow evening, led by KC.
  - Other MCR activities in the past term include:
    - The first part of the MCR refurbishments were completed, resulting in the installation of the new kitchenette in the TV room. A separate hot water boiler independent of the bar is already installed. New chairs have also been ordered in. The idea is that we will see how we feel about the updated TV room, and then communicate to the Bursar what other changes we might like to see.
    - A major cleanup of the MCR space was done over the summer before Freshers' Week. As a note, please don't leave your stuff behind in the MCR when you leave in the summer!
  - Other notes:
    - We have a new foosball table courtesy of the MCR bar.
    - The deadline for small grants applications for extracurricular activities is coming up on Nov. 15, 2014.
4. Report on MCR Finances (Karolis Misiunas)
  - The MCR Treasurer (Karolis) had to leave just before this section. However, he directed people to <http://mcr.chu.cam.ac.uk/useful-stuff/mcr-finances/>, where details of the overall MCR budget can be found.
  - Questions were asked regarding the difference between the public and private accounts, and where the money comes from. The public account is where money from college (via CCRFC) goes, and we are limited as to what we can spend it on. The private account contains money that we make from

events, and we are much more flexible in what we can spend it on (e.g. Guest Nights and other events).

- We were also asked as to whether the MCR has any corporate sponsorship. The answer at present is no, and this hasn't been discussed in recent times.

## 5. Hustings

- Computing officer

- Sam Ainsworth

1. Sam is a first year compsci PhD student. He has been involved with every other college computing positions, and wants to “catch them all”.
2. As JCR computing officer, he got the first working JCR website in a couple of years.
3. He also spent some time as college webmaster and has been on the college computing committee, and knows everyone in the computing office.
4. He has also been the ChuMS webmaster for 3 years.
5. He is pretty good on committees, and got quite a lot done while on the JCR and ChuMS committees.
6. He wouldn't plan to change the website completely as he likes the current website. However, a bit of an update might be in store as the current layout is a little bit cluttered.
7. He would like to change the anonymous contact forms from being based on google to something on the website, and would maybe like to introduce an automated parenting system similar to that of the JCR.

- Diana Popescu (Diana was unable to make it to the hustings, but sent in the following blurb to be read aloud in her absence.)

1. Hi everyone!

I am sorry for not being able to attend the meeting.

I am running for the Computing Officer position. I am a first-year PhD student in Computer Science in the Networking and Operating Systems Group at the Computer Laboratory. I previously studied in Switzerland for my master's degree and in Romania for my bachelor's degree and I also did a few internships at various companies.

The MCR website and mailing list are very important communication channels which provide MCR students with information about what is happening in our college. This is why ensuring their reliability is a priority for me. Also, I am open to suggestions about improvements to the website's usability and accessibility.

- Questions:

- Jordan pointed out that while Sam had mentioned things he'd like to do with website, Matic had some nice projects on the go as well. Would he be willing to carry those out?
  1. Sam's response was yes, absolutely. In the past, he had gotten the previous webmaster's design up and running for the JCR, and is happy to continue with existing projects.
- Vahe commented that one problem we have is with payments for freshers' week, signups, organization for freshers week - could you come up with some sort of user interface to get this set up, help out welfare officers?
  1. Sam's response was that that shouldn't be too much work, could do Raven authenticated form on website, retrieve information, update, etc. He felt he should have time to do that.
- Max Bremer asked whether as computing support officer, could [the candidates] answer questions of students trying to use computer system?
  1. Sam replied that the JCR operated "informal computing advice", and assumed the same for MCR (basic computing setup etc.). He also pointed out that with college now having wifi, this should help with some of the past computing issues.

#### 6. Introduction to New Officers

- Academic officer - Amanda Chen and Courtney Vaughn
  - Courtney is an MPhil student in the CRUK research institute, and Amanda is an MPhil student in Biotechnology/Chem Engineering.
  - They would like to carry on new tradition of SCR/MCR seminars.
  - They would also like to add in a discussion series with science, ethics & society (e.g. show movie like Gattaca etc. first, discuss science-related topics afterwards) maybe once a month.
  - They want to add in fun professional development things like random powerpoint challenge to work on presentation skills.
- Bar secretary - Ali Jones (Ali was away but sent in a blurb to be read aloud in her absence.)
  - Dear friends!  
I am running for the shared role of bar secretary. Most of you know me as a long-time bartender, hostess of whiskey tastings, and generally very active MCR member. In my role as bar-secretary, I would continue this engagement in the MCR community, and help our beloved vicious penguin run as smoothly as possible.  
I'm sure many of you also know me as a responsible and mature organizer, who has single handedly managed multi-million dollar genetics labs for half a decade, worked in human resources at Canada's best university, organized and hosted international

conferences in three countries, and run import companies in Bangkok. If you didn't know that, then be aware that I am supremely responsible, well organized, great at managing staff, and still a whole lot of fun. I can ensure that your bar is always well staffed, and will liaise with the college on all administrative matters professionally, promptly, and personably.

I'm currently off being a prof in Finland, but I'll be back in Cambridge November 12 for keeps!

I have an excellent working relationship with fellow toque-wearing, maple syrup-drinking Canadian Arthur, and a close familial relationship with my beret-wearing college dad Hugo. Together, we will be a dream team of alcoholic awesomeness, and work to ensure that your favorite watering hole is staffed with only the finest of penguin defenders.

While the secretary's job is to staff the bar, I also want to work closely with the bar treasurers, and explore the idea of new alcohol tastings, and the idea of a "drink of the month" club, where you all get the chance to sample a fine new type of alcohol, be it whisky, gin, or something even more delicious. I also want to work closely with Hugo and his replacement to continue cultivating new blends and new infusions, available only at your own vicious penguin.

I look forward to hosting you in the Vicious Penguin soon!

Ali Jones

- Environment officer - Tiantian Chen
  - Tiantian is a new MPhil student in Sociology.
  - Her previous experience includes human rights work. She interned at the White House on foreign policy.
  - This year she is focusing on challenging environmental protection positions (e.g. environmentally friendly behaviours and eco-friendly lifestyles).
  - She would like to take some action on eco-friendly life around college.
  - She feels that the current recycling scheme is very effective. She would like to work with CUSU on campaigns like Go Green and Switch Off. She would also like to add some interesting and diverse activities to turn waste into something of value and incorporate social media and games into environmental protection campaigns.
- Equipment officer - Zhi Jin
  - first year PhD in maths, spent last year in another college, some MCR involvement though not on committee
  - seen previous TGMs, people concerned with system for equipment
  - update system for unreturned equipment
- First year representative - Alisha Kasam and James Mackovjak (last-minute volunteers)

- The position of first-year representative is in charge of coffee machine, organizing the Christmas party, input into freshers handbook.
- Alisha and James (who loves Christmas and coffee) are both MPhil students in Energy Technologies.

7. Any Other Business

- No other business was raised at this time.

Next TGM: date TBA, but will be for the Lent elections in late January.