

MCR Committee Meeting Minutes

8 pm, 13th February 2006
MCR, St Catharine's College

Present: Tom Law (chair)
Patrick Flack
Regina Sachers
Lizzie Perdeaux
Robin Cassady-Cain
Poobalasantharam Iyngaran
Jo Alcindor

Absent with apologies: Felicia Yap
Hiroki Shin
Michael Harfoot
Paul Smith
Richard Meeson

Absent: Rebecca Gallagher

1. Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes

There were no comments on the minutes of the previous meeting.

2. CUSU Cards

A number of MCR members have been asking that they be issued with CUSU cards, having misplaced the ones issued at the start of the year. In the absence of the Welfare Officer, discussion of this matter was postponed until the next meeting.

3. Gift for Kitchen Staff

In recognition of the extremely good job done by the kitchen & serving staff at recent formals – in particular the Hellenic Event – it was suggested that we give them a gift of some sort. Robin observed that in the past we have given them a large gift after Mid-Summer Dinner, and it was felt that this would suffice.

4. Upcoming Events

4.1 Graduate Quiz

As it was very well received in Freshers' Week, Tom suggested that we organize another Graduate Quiz. Jo suggested that we could hold it at a restaurant but it was felt that while this was an excellent idea, the cost might deter people from attending what would otherwise be a free event. Instead we decided to hold it in the Ramsden Room, with Regina booking it for the 12th March (if available). Iyngaran will organize

prizes. Tom & Patrick will write the quiz. Refreshments etc will be provided but can be obtained closer to the date.

4.2 Shrove Tuesday

This year Shrove Tuesday falls on 27th February. As in previous years, it was decided to hold our Pancake Day events in a kitchen at Russell Street. Regina kindly offered the services of her kitchen, and also to organize ingredients and do the cooking. A starting time of 8pm was decided on.

4.3 St Patrick's Day

The Paws & Claws Society have suggested holding a St Patrick's Day Event. It was felt that this was an excellent idea, and one which the MCR should follow up, if P&C decide on something else. Various ideas were suggested, including a formal hall or a pub/club night, but it was felt it'd be good to do something more unusual. Regina will contact other MCR social reps to see what they are doing and whether they'd be interested in a joint event.

4.4 Milton Brewery Trip

One of the MCR members has suggested that we organize a trip to the Milton Brewery. They do tours and provide beer as part of the ticket price. The cost would be £15 per head, and we would need to guarantee 15 people attending. There was broad support for the idea, but we felt that we needed more information – for instance on whether a weekend visit was an option and how much of a subsidy (if any) would be needed. Tom will therefore contact the person who made the suggestion for more details.

4.5 Amalgamated Societies

A request has been received from the College AmalSoc for help with their next event, on 21st February. It would be good if everyone who's planning to attend could arrive early to help move chairs etc. Regina, Tom & Patrick all volunteered to do so.

4.6 Easter Dinner

Our final set-piece event of the year will be Easter Dinner, on 31st March. In the past we have used an Easter theme, but it was suggested that this doesn't leave a lot of interesting things to do, and another theme would be more interesting. A few suggestions were made, but no conclusive decisions reached.

Last year we had karaoke in the bar afterwards, which was very unsuccessful. It was therefore suggested that we hire a band, as at Christmas. Various options were discussed, and Lizzie will contact a friend's band to see how much it would cost. Regina will also ask other MCR reps to see if they can recommend anyone.

Finally, Catz Oxford have been invited to join us for Easter Dinner and it is hoped that they will be made very welcome by MCR members.

5. Budget

Tom requested that a termly budget report be prepared to show what we've spent and what we've got left to use. Jo agreed that this was a good idea, but said that it would not be possible until about a month after the end of each term.

6. Computer Business

6.1 Website

The committee profiles on the MCR website are still not completed. If you have not done one please do so ASAP. Currently missing are profiles for Felicia, Regina, Iyngaran, Lizzie & Rebs.

Other parts of the website have been updated, with photos from Christmas Dinner and a calendar.

6.2 Wireless Internet

The wireless internet connection in the MCR seems to be running without problems.

7. AOB

7.1 Social Secretaries' Event

Regina reported that some of the MCR Social Secretaries were organizing a social event to get to know each other and share ideas. It was felt that it was a very good idea and that Regina & Iyngaran should attend. Concerns were raised that this would overlap with Paws & Claws, but it was agreed that this would be complementary, rather than treading on their toes.

7.2 Committee Meal

Regina suggested that we hold a Committee meal at the end of term – possibly after Easter Dinner.

7.3 Smoking at Russell Street

Regina asked that a reminder be sent out that smoking in college accommodation, particularly in Russell Street, is both anti-social and forbidden. Patrick will include it in the next bulletin.

7.4 Scudamores

Jo reported that the new JCR Treasurer has asked that we contribute to the college's membership of the Scudamore discount punting scheme. It was agreed that this was a good idea, but efforts should be made to publicize this to the membership. Tom suggested that one way would be to run a punting trip when the weather improves.

7.5 MCR Television

Jo is looking into getting satellite television for the MCR. She will speak to the JCR about the deal they have for their TV.

7.6 Second-Hand Gown Sale

Jo suggested that we hold a second-hand gown sale to get rid of the number of gowns we currently have in storage. It was agreed that this would be a very good idea. The most obvious times of year would be in early October & early January, before the two Matriculation dinners, but as these two have passed this year we will hold it with the quiz.

7.7 Graduate Awards Scheme

Robin reported that the graduate tutors had been asking about the graduate awards scheme. This caused some confusion, as the MCR had been under the impression that the administration of this scheme would be carried out by the graduate tutors themselves, as we do not have the authority to award college prizes. Patrick will contact the tutors to discuss this, and also will pass on details of the final paper passed by Governing Body to Robin.

7.8 Second-Year PhD Dinner

Patrick reported that the Senior Tutor had advised that 2nd-year PhD students should have been invited to Commemoration Dinner in Michaelmas Term. Due to an administrative oversight this did not happen, and therefore he has suggested that they be invited to the Graduation Dinner at the end of Easter Term. It was agreed that this was not an ideal solution, but was the best option nonetheless.

7.9 Poker Night

Patrick suggested holding a poker night in the MCR. Jo suggested that we could hire a poker teacher, possibly from a university society, to show people the strategy of the game. There were some concerns raised about how popular such an event would be. Patrick will look into this further.