

MCR Meeting 7th March 2011 18:00 B2

Present: Aaron, Adam, Sarah, Sophie C, Sophie W, Victoria

Absent: Daniel, Marc, Melodie, Ollie, Owen

Agenda:

1. Dining Hall booking / payment progress update
2. Living Wage
3. College rents update
4. St Patrick's Day Events
5. Easter Formal
6. Midsummer Dinner

1. Dining Hall booking / payment progress update

Meeting will be organized with **SOPHIE, MELODIE, AARON**, the kitchen staff and Dr Oliver about changing the rules on formal hall tickets. Large groups that come to formal hall will be subsidized less. It was suggested that guests of any graduates (>8 people) will still be subsidized to a certain extent however visiting societies will not be eligible for this. **AARON** and **SOPHIE** will write up set of proposals to take to the meeting.

2. Living Wage

Charlie Cadwald (JCR committee member) attended the college consultant committee meeting and put forward the following motion. The 'Living Wage' campaign which intends is to try and raise basic pay for university paid employees. It is a campaign across all colleges and is supported by CUSU. Simon Summers (senior bursar) has refused the motion due to the immense financial burden on the college and also because St Catherine's provides extra support to its employees which, financially, increases the wage to over the proposed value in the Living Wage campaign.

MCR passes motion that we support living wage. We understand, according to Simon Summers, that the college provides this standard of care when all total wage packages are considered.

SOPHIE W will email Charlie Cadwald and Simon Summers.

3. College rents update

Simon Summers has proposed a 7% increase in St Catherine's ensuite accommodation (currently 8% below the whole of Cambridge average) and a 5% increase in bedsit accommodation (i.e. South Green Lodge which is currently average price in Cambridge). Simon Summers has told the committee that there can be some flexibility in where the increase comes from (i.e. could both have an increase of 6%) but the total increase must be by this amount.

The committee must also consider how the new accommodation in Barton Rd next year will be priced, i.e. all the same price as Russell St, slightly more expensive than Russell St as the rooms are bigger, if the 3 rooms in the basement should be priced cheaper. Should students having to leave Warkworth St get priority at Barton Road?

If Barton Rd accommodation is scaled then should all accommodation be scaled? **SOPHIE** and **AARON** will assess the variability in all St Catherine's rooms for scaling.

The **MCR** believes that the price increase is too high. Inflation is much lower than the % increase suggested and student grants never increase throughout our courses. It was also suggested that private house sharing can be much cheaper than university accommodation.

It was suggested that **OWEN** will go to meeting with Simon Summers as a CUSU representative. **OWEN** will get in touch with CUSU for help and advice.

To ensure a smooth transition from Warkworth St to Barton Rd a poll will be sent to all Warkworth St inhabitants asking when they plan to leave. As the college would like Warkworth St to be empty by July (before student's contracts end) it was suggested that they be transferred to Barton Rd with their old contract and rent still valid.

It was decided that Barton Rd will not have cupboard locks in the kitchen. The **MCR** must decide whether the rooms should either have extra storage space or a small coffee table and chairs. Any views / ideas should be emailed to the presidents.

4. St Patrick's Day Events

Friday 16th, swap with Queens and Fitz. Some members of the **MCR** must be around to help with the clean-up at the end of the event. All decorations etc are sorted by the GU. **ADAM** will send out an email stating any specific jobs that the committee must do.

5. Easter Formal

Thursday 12th April. No rooms free to book on any Saturday in April so there will just be a formal dinner and no bop. A club night afterwards will be organized by **ADAM** and **VICTORIA** - Guest list event?

6. Midsummer Dinner

23rd May Saturday. **VICTORIA** will put together a google doc to allow the **MCR** to brainstorm ideas e.g. theme, band etc. Contact details for bands etc should be uploaded.

Currently hall and Ramsden booked. The SCR and some other surrounding rooms will be booked as well. Is there a budget limitation? **VICTORIA** to email **DAN** to find out.

AOB:

Open meeting. 19th Monday 18:00. **AARON** will announce it via email to graduates.

Meeting finished at 19:00. Notes were taken by the Secretary.