

**MCR Committee, St. Catharine's College**  
**Meeting held on Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Annabel Taylor (AT – Co-president), Sophie McManus (SM – Co-president), Charlotte Kenealy (CK – Welfare Officer), Souradip Mookerjee (SdM - Computer Officer), Sarah Paris (SP - Education Officer), Marcus Fantham (MF – Social Secretary).

**Absence with apologies:** Katrin Daehn (KD – Green Officer), Terry Wu (TW – Formal Hall Officer), Danilo Cardim (DC - Secretary), Geoffroy Dolphin (GD – Treasurer), Frances St George-Hyslop (FSH – Social Secretary), Michael Rivera (MR - Food and Drink Officer)

The meeting was called to order and chaired by Annabel Taylor and Sophie McManus. The meeting was minuted by Annabel Taylor.

53	<p><b>Co-presidents' report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bike purge: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AT has the details of the bike charity the JCR used and has purchased red luggage tags to put on bikes, students will be given 2 weeks to remove these before the bikes are taken.</li> <li>• SP, SM and CK took tags for each main graduate residence, however SP &amp; MF suggested waiting until Easter term to do the bike purge, as people may be on holiday and not be able to remove the tag on their bike.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Accommodation charges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AT, SM, SP and GD have negotiated a 4.5% increase in graduate rental fees for this year, this is CPI + 2.9% down from the Bursar's proposed total 6.1% (CPI + 4.5%)</li> <li>• Wanting to spread out the increases by graduate quality, SP has drawn up a proposal of increases, for example increasing the difference in costs between old and new Russell Street to 5%. These were circulated for the committees opinions.</li> <li>• CK raised the fact that Russell Street old rooms are a lot nicer since refurbishment, however she thinks SP's proposed prices are fair.</li> <li>• MF does not think that rental should be increased above CPI at all and this is something that had been discussed with the Bursar, however the 4.5% has been agreed.</li> <li>• Present committee members had no issues with SP's proposed increases, these will be circulated to the rest of the MCR by AT before the rental questionnaire closes to give students the opportunity to change their minds on their room choice.</li> <li>• SM and AT discussed the hardship fund and that this is proposed to have a title change to reflect its use for rental assistance without a stigma in applying. CK supported this change and SP said it's been historically undersubscribed, however this change will not be immediate. This will be included in a transcript of the rental negotiations to the Bursar by AT.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SP noted the need for historical info on graduate rental negotiations, as well as other aspects of the committee. SM has raised this with CUSU, who are planning to introduce an annual return for committee reporting. Our own handover will be discussed with DC in future.</li> <li>• SP also mentioned that we will include advice to ask the Bursar next year for an itemised spending list of how our rents were used, to inform future negotiations.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Small Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AT reported that there will be a meeting regarding this within the next month and the Bursar will report back asap.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Intro of Souradip: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AT and SM welcomed SdM as the new computer officer and MF offered to send him access details for the MCR website.</li> <li>• Everyone present expressed their views on the college website and how much it needs a revamp, SdM will be working on this for the next few months. AT also asked for the previous meeting minutes to be uploaded, which SdM will ask DC for.</li> <li>• SdM has also offered to help implement a graduate room database with descriptions and photographs, however AT advised that students are unlikely to want their rooms to be viewed over Easter term with exams and deadlines. Again, we will advise the next committee to do so.</li> <li>• AT raised the fact that SdM will not be a Computer Officer for very long before the new committee will be elected – to look into the Constitution to see if his term is limited by the committee year or personally for time on the committee.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
54	<p><b>Social Secretaries' report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Events for next term <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MF listed the planned events for next term and discussed options for a jazz or funk band with wine, cheese and cocktails. Decision made to have a wine and cheese night early on in Easter term (booked by MR in the SCR) and then a cocktails and jazz night, hiring the funk band who have contacted FSH for a bop after Midsummer formal instead.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Easter bop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MF mentioned the lack of attendance at the St Patrick's Bop, as there was not a formal beforehand. Committee decided to cancel the Easter bop and instead just tell grads that the bar is open later.</li> <li>• Eurovision bop suggested by CK in May – agreed by committee, ideally with fancy dress.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
55	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Education Officer's report</b> Drop ins <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drop-ins are stopping over Easter break, but will resume in term time.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Mini seminars <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SP asked for volunteers for mini-seminars for next term and asked again that committee members please attend (AT/SdM have)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
56	<p><b>Welfare Officer's report</b></p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welfare events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CK would like to plan some welfare events for next term, as Easter term will be stressful with deadlines and exams.</li> <li>• MF mentioned that FSH has already planned a destress event with icecream.</li> <li>• SP suggested bringing her dog into College, as he is a registered petting dog – AT and CK to look into permission/risk assessments for this.</li> <li>• CK also may put colouring books out in the MCR for between welfare events.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
57	<p><b>Notes for next meeting for absent committee members:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Secretary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next meeting to ask DC about a handover document for the next committee (with input from each officer)</li> <li>• Newsletter to restart in Easter term</li> </ul> </li> <li>- External Officer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CK has been asked by a member of GU to raise the point that AB is not attending GU meetings. AB was also not in attendance tonight, without apologies.</li> <li>• We would like representation at these meetings, so AT will email AB and check that she is okay to attend future CUSU/GU meetings and CK to attend in her absence.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Treasurer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AT mentioned that GD is in the process of replacing the lost MCR bank card, SP raised that she has outstanding refunds so AT will ask GD if these need to be sent from her personal account and refunded (as AT is already set up as a payee).</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Green Officer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hopefully KD will still be planning to hand out icecream to the MCR separately to the planned Green Event – to ask about both next meeting.</li> <li>• SM mentioned that KD is getting more active in the allotment group, which CK said is great for welfare as well.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Formal Hall Officer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SP raised the issue TW had this week with the Formal Hall booking, which was not resolved quickly, to ask TW next meeting if he needs help (from AB if needed)</li> <li>• AT passed on a message from TW that he is planning to hold weekly formals in Easter term and not reduce them to bi-weekly as previously thought. This is due to wanting more flexibility for swaps to attend, who supplement our income and so warrant the weekly formals.</li> <li>• To ask TW to move formal on the week of the 13<sup>th</sup> May to Saturday night for the Eurovision bop.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Food &amp; Drink Officer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AT passed on the message from MR to ask for volunteers to help with predrinks on the 8<sup>th</sup> April – AT/SM are busy, GD/SP are</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

	attending, but SP cannot commit to help. Also for committee members not to cancel helping at last minute (AT guilty of this).	
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