

St Catharine's College MCR meeting minutes, 24th June 2020

Present:

Callum Watson, secretary
Jess Forsdyke, co-president
Beth Cooper, women's and non-binary officer
Souradip Mookerjee, co-president
Nathaniel Tye, computing officer
Aisling O'Kane, education officer
Anna Hutchinson, social secretary
Moritz Müller, formal hall officer
Frey Kalus, LGBTQ+ officer
Felix von Horstig, food and drink officer
Polly Machin, social secretary
Alex Eaton, treasurer
Charlotte Guffick, welfare officer
Nadene Dermody, green officer

Apologies from:

Dora Robinson, green officer

[We begin with a brief introduction of the committee members.]

[SRCF timeout crashes and so we reconvene on Microsoft teams]

[Secretary spends quite some time attempting to connect, eventually managing on a mobile app, but with unreliable audio]

Jess Forsdyke, co-president: Rent increases: We negotiated with the bursar in Lent/Easter, Catz is a bit cheaper than the Cambridge average, 3.5% increase plus £1 per day. Moving the median room cost closer to the mean.

[Secretary's audio drops out]

[Something about a 7% increase?]

Callum Watson, secretary: Request for clarification: is it 3.9% or 7%?

Jess Forsdyke, co-president: If anyone has any suggestions for how to convince them to lower this, let us know.

[Call drops and is resumed]

Returning students:

Jess Forsdyke, co-president: If returnees are to be put in single-person households, it won't be for longer than 14 days.

Charlotte Guffick, welfare officer: Where will they go back to in the end?

Jess Forsdyke, co-president: In theory their old room, but it students could eventually move into households of their choice. We have a response from an MP that says we can move back. The college's stance has been bad for welfare.

Beth Cooper, women's and non-binary officer: College tried asking for a doctor's note to prove I wasn't shielding (this would cost £30).

Freshers' week:

Jess Forsdyke, co-president: Any ideas for what we could do while maintaining social distance?

Anna Hutchinson, social secretary: Something outside if the weather is nice?

Polly Machin, social secretary: We might even be able to do a barbecue in August.

Aisling O’Kane, education officer: Could do a pub quiz with households as teams?

Yearbook:

Jess Forsdyke, co-president: Not much response for yearbook – it would be very expensive if not many of us order one.

Polly Machin, social secretary: We could put up a photo collage in the MCR in place of the midsummer dinner photo.

Wheelchair access to the MCR:

Jess Forsdyke, co-president: Catz has been called out for having stairs in the MCR. We’ll have a chat with Helen about potential alternatives.

Frey Kalus, LGBTQ+ officer: Could put a ramp in on top of the stairs.

Callum Watson, secretary: It would make it difficult to access the cloakroom.

Beth Cooper, women’s and non-binary officer: A removable one could work.

Frey Kalus, LGBTQ+ officer: The chapel uses one like that.

Jess Forsdyke, co-president: College are working to make accommodation and the hall more accessible.

Felix von Horstig, food and drink officer: Need ensure a ramp is implemented safely.

Frey Kalus, LGBTQ+ officer: At King’s they have high-visibility tape to mark them.

Redecoration of the MCR:

Jess Forsdyke, co-president: We could redecorate the MCR, as now might be a good time given it’s empty.

Felix von Horstig, food and drink officer: Do we have more details about the practicalities of the hall rebuilding?

Jess Forsdyke, co-president: OCR, SCR, hall and gym will be temporarily unavailable. Dining will be in a tent in main court, the gym will be in the Octagon, and we will have no music practice rooms.

Website:

Souradip Mookerjee, co-president: Most of this is automated.

Jess Forsdyke, co-president: Make sure we have a decent bio on the website.

Communications agenda is rushed due to time constraints.

Souradip Mookerjee, co-president: It might be nice to integrate our communications and file sharing.

Questions about roles:

Felix von Horstig, food and drink officer: Should I discuss this with my pre-

decessors?

Jess Forsdyke, co-president: There are college meetings that your predecessor should point out to you.

Moritz Müller, formal hall officer: Does the MCR get a discount or bulk prices on food and drink?

Alex Eaton, treasurer: We tend to see which supermarket is doing the best deals.

Jess Forsdyke, co-president: If you're struggling to get information from your predecessor, ask the presidents, or your non-direct predecessors.