

St Catharine's College MCR meeting minutes, 2nd of September 2020

Present:

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

Apologies from:

Aisling O'Kane, education officer
Charlotte Guffick, welfare officer
Nadene Dermody, green officer
Dora Robinson, green officer

Freshers' week:

Anna and **Polly** would feel uncomfortable doing any events even if outside. At one point considered getting a big marquee but big events can't be done. Maybe do family events and virtual events.

Beth: Would feel uncomfortable doing in person events.

Felix: We are still having formals so could maybe also do some small events.

Jess: Matriculation dinner will be the only formal in freshers' week, and will be done in multiple sittings to reduce numbers.

Anna: The people who run formals are very thorough in what they do so it's likely to be relatively safe.

Jess: Queens' are basically just planning on doing a garden party, but they're not sure if it'll be allowed even if distanced.

Alex: The advice changes on the 1st of October.

Alex: Why's there so much uncertainty on the number of new students?

Jess: We have 96 confirmed new students and 35 still to confirm, and the deadline is on the 8th. We need this information soon for making families, as students are arriving from the 6th given the need for quarantine. There will be quite a lot of people quarantining. The guidelines say that they will have to minimise their use of communal spaces. If anyone gets symptoms their whole household will have to quarantine.

Jess: We have 88 rooms and at least 96 new grads, and fourth-year undergrads will be in grad accommodation. Previously college said the fourth-years would be living privately.

Polly: College will be doing some sort of welcome. We can do a virtual tour

too.

Souradip: We could do a script to go around with.

Polly: We were thinking of maybe having three or four people going round filming.

Anna: Could meet on the 14th.

Jess: We could get Colin to show the library and Ally to show the chapel.

Frey: If it's a Monday the girls' choir will be in the chapel. Could be nice to see them if allowed.

Jess: We'd need permission if we were filming children.

Frey: They start at 4:30.

Callum: We might have to ask college to let us into rooms that are currently locked.

Jess: I have an SLR camera we could use.

Souradip: I have one too.

Anna: So meet on Monday the 14th at 5?

Jess: Normally Colin is away on Mondays.

Polly: Maybe we can do the bits of talking to people on the Tuesday.

Anna: Callum can you give us some college facts?

Callum: Yes.

Polly: We're thinking of delivering wine and cheese to each household. Might be a bit more expensive than last year. Much less of a logistical nightmare than bringing people in to a place in shifts.

Souradip: Could do a group call in breakout rooms.

Beth: In Russell Street could groups sit on the grass at the same time?

Polly: They wouldn't be allowed to form a large group.

Anna: What do we do with people in private households?

Jess: Could have them meet in the McGrath if there's not too many.

Polly: We were also thinking of doing a quiz if people aren't too bored of quizzes.

Polly: Could do family picnics. Could maybe use main court if it's about to have a big tent on it.

Jess: Family sizes are likely to have about 3 children per parent. Could maybe pair up and have two parents and six-ish children per family. It's a bit more effort if a child is quarantining so we'll make sure each affected parent agrees to have a quarantining child.

Jess: Latest confirmed date of arrival is 9th of October, so the last of them should be out of quarantining by the 23rd. There may be others who are yet to confirm their date of arrival.

Felix: Would it be worth grouping quarantining people together in the same family so they have someone to chat to?

Jess: Maybe group families based on arrival time and/or time of end of quarantine. And there will be some grouping based on subject.

Bikes:

Callum: We didn't manage to get the angle grinder to cut D-locks at the last purge.

Jess: Maintenance should be able to help when the time.

Callum: I can have another go in e.g. November.

Jess: Might be best waiting until mid-November at the earliest given the current disruption.

Consent workshop:

Beth: Chloe from CUSU is running training for consent workshops. It might be worth us trying.

Jess: It's important, but we've not actually done one in the MCR before.

Beth: Might be hard to get people to attend if it's online.

Beth: It's around the 25th.

Jess: Beth, could you and Charlotte maybe attend that.

Frey: I can attend too.

Frey: People might feel less safe if it's online, given that others may overhear.

Posters:

Beth: We should refresh posters around the main site. Are we allowed?

Jess: I think you can. There'll be places in the MCR, toilets, and on the Woodlark stairs.

Jess: Actually the MCR is locked now.

Jess: A sign on the door says maximum capacity is 15.

Nathaniel: We could tally on the door when people go in and out.

Callum: My department's tried a virtual version of this and a lot of people forget to sign out.

Jess: College will be the ones that have to implement this anyway.

Freshers' pack:

Jess: Freshers' pack is almost done. Should be ready by around the 10th of September.

Polly: There are still things we don't know about e.g. the logistics of the matriculation dinner.

Anna: I've asked for details about matriculation dinner and should know by the 9th. Having a meeting with the dean.

Jess: We need to send the freshers' pack ourselves so as to ensure it's clear the students have put lots of effort into it.

Photocollage:

Jess: It's now done. [**Jess** shares her screen to show the photocollage]

[general sounds of being impressed come from the committee]

Seminars:

Message from **Aisling:** I've put out a call for speakers for the Grads' and Fellows' Seminars in Michaelmas. If you know of anyone who would like to give a talk or you think should give a talk, give them a nudge and tell them to get in touch - Cheers! Sorry I can't make the meeting - I've meetings all day/eve!

Quizzes:

Jess: I could do these on Thursday evenings. Could anyone else run some of them?

Callum: I'd be happy to help but am away for part of September.

Catering:

Jess: We'll hear from Martin next week.

Hoodies:

Jess: Would be nice to have these by freshers' week. What colours would be good?

Callum: Colours of the Catz flag?

Jess: Would people wear that?

Frey: Last years' looked good.

Jess: Light colour, burgundy wheel then?

Jess: Shall we just do first names?

Other items:

Jess: Do we have enough money?

Alex: Probably, but it would be nice to know how many people we have.

Alex: We could in theory cancel the newspaper subscriptions, but they're annual.

Moritz: Could maybe try an online subscription.

Jess: We also don't know how many returning students we have, because we don't know who's graduated.

Souradip: I think we've covered everything brought up at the last meeting, except college-themed masks are still pending.