

St Catharine's College MCR meeting minutes, 7th of December 2020

Present:

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

Apologies from:

Frey Kalus, LGBTQ+ officer
Than Dar, black, minority and ethnic student officer

Treasurer update:

Alex: We're having another meeting to discuss the college's attempt to obtain the MCR's savings. In terms of budgets for next term please send me anything you'd like to do.

Alex: Did we do an MCR Committee photo last year and would it be possible to do one this year?

Jess: We can possibly do one in June; previously it's been done before the midsummer dinner.

Education Officer:

Aisling: We have some free slots for speakers for the fellows & graduates webinar series.

Aisling: We'll probably have to delay the symposium given many people don't like virtual conferences so much. Maybe the summer?

Souradip: Agreed.

Co-presidents:

Souradip: Catz have voted to sack the architects because of scheduling and other reasons, but the new ones will mostly keep the same designs.

Souradip: We had a meeting with Niamh over the MCR savings. We said it was the MCR's money but Nicky said it's more blurred because college have given us money in the past. We think it could be useful for longer-term project, and if we want to redo the MCR or something we need that money.

Souradip: We have a meeting on the 10th about facilities charge. Previously it

was £48 for those in college accommodation and £17 for others. It was agreed that the £48 could increase to £50 but college also increased the £17 to £50. Given the lockdown college reduced this to £25. There are many inequalities in how people can access the facilities, so it's complicated to work out what we should do.

Jess: It's much more noticeable as a bill for those of us outside college accommodation. Something like £20 might be fairer.

Souradip: It can be hard to track who uses e.g. the hall and the gym.

Aisling: College say things like 'please don't use the college for mail' then charge us irrespectively.

Dora: Would it not be fairer to e.g. charge a nominal fee for the gym, or charge a bit extra for hall.

Jess: The amount that colleges charge varies widely. Some don't charge at all; some charge a very large amount. Some force you to buy a certain amount of credit for hall.

Callum: It seems the 'facilities charge' is a bit of a petty extra on top of tuition fees. What do graduate tuition fees get spent on in college?

Nathaniel: Though compared to the cost of a gym membership they're small.

Jess: Nicky is planning on coming to our next meeting.

Souradip: It'll be to tell us about their covid recovery plan. They've made about £3.5 million in losses this year but have found some other pots of money. We've pointed that our savings are worth a lot to us but are a drop in the ocean compared to this loss.

Jess: I'm going to be away when we send out the Christmas cards. Can someone give **Souradip** a hand?

Souradip: Some of us could meet in the MCR and do it over the weekend.

Formals:

Felix: Should be similar to how it was before the latest lockdown.

Souradip: And we should do some social events in January?

Nathaniel: Could we bring our own wine to formal? There's little risk from one person pouring wine and if it's household dining we live together anyway.

Felix: It would be hard to police what can be passed around, they have lots of wine left over, and they need to justify the current higher prices.

Polly: Would be nice to get some white wine in.

Felix: Hopefully we'll be able to convince college to allow non-Catz housemates of Catz people to come to formal.

Dora: It is another one of the things that's hard for those of us in private accommodation.

Jess: College were suggesting that we could allow long-term partners of students to hold some sort of membership of the college.

Souradip: Though it does raise potential issues if a couple breaks up and an ex still has access to college. But we think in principle allowing partners is a good idea.

Green:

Dora: College has a new investment manager and policy. We discussed travel and e.g. would like to discourage flying.

Dora: We've also discussed accommodation, and re-usable tupperware.

Welfare:

Charlotte: Discussed the possibility of e.g. a Christmas dinner with Mary, but it would be very difficult with the current restrictions.

Computing:

Nathaniel: If anyone has e.g. some graphics for the liberation page, please let me know.

Souradip: Freepic can be a good source.

Women's:

Beth: We're looking into funding for sanitary products, as we're running low.

Secretary:

Callum: Sorry for not sorting out by-elections yet.

Jess: The constitutional amendments still need to go through the Governing Body anyway.