

St Catharine's College MCR meeting minutes, 15th of January 2021

Present:

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

Non-MCR member present:

Nicola Robert, Catz Bursar

College financial plan

Presentation from Nicki:

- College's unrestricted liquid reserves had been declining for some time before the pandemic.
- The pandemic has exacerbated this, and they could run out within two years at this rate.
- College does have other reserves they can look into, and a good donor base.
- Conference staff bonuses cancelled in 2020/21, in addition to various other expenses having been curtailed and a hiring freeze.
- Decision still pending on college's use of £22k of the £27k MCR reserves.
- Aim is for recovery by June 2023, and to avoid redundancies.

Answers to questions posed to Nicki:

- Facilities charge is not involved in this.

- Ongoing reviews of spending to cut long-term deficit.
- It is hard to get headline figures on losses and balances due to complex accounting
- College doesn't want to borrow more given their large loans for the construction project.
- They'd like to avoid damaging relations with students if practical.
- Suggestion: we match the JCR's contributions.
- There's a slight risk that if we don't contribute we could worsen potential redundancies, but these are thought to be unlikely.

Sunday the 17th of January

Owing running out of time with lots of remaining agenda items, we reconvened. The following committee members were present:

Beth Cooper, women's and non-binary officer
Than Dar, black, minority and ethnic student officer
Aisling O'Kane, education officer
Felix von Horstig, food and drink officer
Anna Hutchinson, social secretary
Polly Machin, social secretary
Souradip Mookerjee, co-president
Eilidh Rivers, fourth year officer
Callum Watson, secretary

Plans for social events this term

- Coffee mornings – regular
- Escape rooms
- Board game night
- Thinking of a virtual speed-dating/friendship event for Valentine's day.

Planning for later in the year?

- Hoping that by June or July we should be able to do a big event in person.
- Or could do something with more social distancing if necessary.

- Formals are definitely cancelled this term, but they could end up being possible in the summer.

Plans for welfare events this term

- Yoga – we have enough funds.
- Possibility of requiring extra support this term.

Nominations for Community Spirit Award

- There's a call for nominations for someone who's really helped Catz's community.

Pink week

- Begins on the 1st of February.
- Drink and Draw.
- Bingo and Quiz, perhaps with randomly-assigned breakout rooms.
- Turn Cam Pink: Lighting up the boathouse.

Womens' & Non-Binary items

- Free wellness event – good turnout with sign-ups.
- Sanitary products – there's another order in.

BME events

- Chinese New Year (Fri 12th Feb) takeaway night? Could be hard due to not many people being in Cambridge.
- Planning ahead for Ramadan next term – can we arrange takeaway meals available to collect later in the evenings for iftar?

Other items

- We should do a poll to work out how many people are in Cambridge.
- Possibility of takeaways from hall.
- Constitutional changes still need to be formally approved by the college.
- We should work out our plans on long-term improvements to the MCR.