

St Catharine's College MCR meeting minutes, 13th of May 2021

Present:

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

Apologies from:

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

Proposed student-run bar

- College are considering student-run times in the bar from Michaelmas
- An MCR student should be bar manager
- Pay would be £10.50 per hour, 6–12 pm
- Possible to e.g. have shorter hours on weekdays
- A bar committee would be required including college input
- On special occasions the bar would be run by staff
- College would vet candidates, either from the MCR or JCR
- The bar manager needs to be personally licensed, at a cost of £65. Unclear if college would cover this.
- Suggestion: Need a backup plan for if there's insufficient interest from students in staffing – to be raised with college at CCC meeting
- This does potentially lead to a risk that students will have to bear more risk regarding the bar

- Some other colleges have student-run bars. Could be useful to ask for their experiences
- Another suggestion: have a non-student bar manager to start with, together with student staff

Proposed switch to upay for formals

- We've considered this in the past
- Cons of upay raised in the past:
 - Can only cancel by emailing Martin, and can only modify by cancelling first
 - No support for free-text dietary requirements
 - No support for seating requests
 - Can't restrict to MCR only – JCR members can book on too
 - Can't host swaps
 - No free formals for formal hall officer and food & drinks officer
 - No ability for MCR to set prices
 - Harder for formal hall officers to help with booking issues
 - College can use our system
- Counter-arguments:
 - There is a comment field that allows for free text e.g. dietary requirements and seating requests
 - We can't see JCR formals on the upay system, so perhaps it's changed
 - Can cancel online now
 - Current system can have issues with lots of back-and-forth communication if things change (though college can access our system)
- Newer issues:
 - Current system is blocking 4th-years from MCR formals
- Conclusions
 - Can try upay but can always switch back
 - Need discussion with college
 - Things may have changed over the years

Proposed increase in formal price

- College's suggested prices:
 - Option 1: no cheese, £13
 - Option 2: cheese, £14
 - Option 3: cheese plus two glasses of wine, £17.50
- MCR subsidies and vegetarian options would make it cheaper, guest prices are higher
- Suggestion: could option 3 be optional on top of a standard option 2, but communal cheese would be hard to re-implement if it's at extra cost
- Cambridge average is around £12.50, so option 3 is very pricey
- Might be worth sorting this when restrictions are going to change

Social events in May/June

- Midsummer Dinner: can do it any time from 21th June
 - Need to prepare of if restrictions are held on for longer, e.g. provisional late 26th June with July backup date
 - Cèilidh band?
- Could do a Google sheet with sign-ups for less-formal events e.g. a pub trip
- Could do a bop once restrictions are eased
- We have financial reserves

Elections for 2021/22

- Needs plenty of notice so as to give candidates time to prepare

Accommodation ballot

- This has taken place.
- Possibility that more rooms may open up in September