



# Meeting Minutes

## Monday 7<sup>th</sup> of August 2023

- Paula Teeuwen

### **Committee members present in person:**

Praharsh Babu, Co-president  
Sam Ryan, Co-president  
Paula Teeuwen, Secretary  
Samuel Stark, Treasurer  
Tatjana Schmidt, Formal Hall Officer  
Jessica van de Grint, Food and Drink Officer  
Anna Dowd, Accommodation Officer (+ boyfriend)

### **Committee members present online:**

Yorgos Chatziavgerinos, LGBTQ+ Officer

### **Others present**

Tobia, former Accommodation Officer and lead to renewing the MCR

### **18.10**

Sam starts the meeting.

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### **Cost of living**

Praharsh (PB) has sent the results of the cost of living survey to the master. He mentions that the results of the survey seemed to include a gross underestimation of the spending. This underestimation was corrected, leading to a 15000 pound minimum estimation to live. PB shows the email to the MCR committee, which contains a breakdown of the costs and an estimation of what the costs will likely be next year. The Master will send the results to the senior tutor and bursar. SR notes that we should keep following up on the matter, especially since the master will finish soon. We should again push the matter to the new master if we don't see a lot of progress. PB notes that we will meet the new master together with the MCR committee.

### **Social secretaries**

PB talks to the committee about how to solve the problem of having no social secretaries. The committee brain storms about potential students who may be interested to only help with Fresher's week, without committing to the whole year. Last year it was a big strain on

other members as there were no social secretaries then either and everyone was filling it up where possible.

### **Freshers week**

Last year we were late with booking rooms for Freshers week, which led to the JCR booking all available rooms. It was frustrating to the JCR that we still got some of the rooms assigned to us. This year the MCR plans to discuss with the JCR prior and make preliminary time tables. SR was talking to Maty about the active bystander workshop.

### **Renovation MCR**

Tobia has been working on the MCR renovation and notes that there is a slight issue with financing. He notes that he is talking to Peter Wothers about how much the college will contribute as it may be smaller than initially thought due to a miscommunication. PB notes that 10 months ago an agreement was made where the MCR will pay half and the college will pay half. However, the breakdown of these costs were not clear. The half of college would include labour such as painting and moving, however college now notes that it will only include materials such as paint, carpets, floors, lights, cupboards and curtains. At this point in time, the new lights were already installed. The MCR themselves would pay for the sofas, speakers and chairs in full. College will buy the sofas for us and deduct it from our college account. PB mentions that we have two accounts, one managed by the committee and one managed by college. As we initially thought everything would be 50/50, we budgeted 20K for the renovation, with 10K for us. Now we might go 2-2.5K over budget. This is still possible while keeping a good reserve and it does not mean less budget for the rest of the year. PB asks the committee whether we want to cut our budget or overspend a little. For example, we could take less sofas and take more lounge chairs. If we overspend more, there will be less reserve for the rest of the year to spend for example on a new coffee machine or a punt. The committee talks about the decision and notes that the sofas will be used in the upcoming 10 years and everyone in the MCR will benefit from it. Everyone votes in favour of going 2-2.5K over budget. Everyone agrees that the sofas are important. Tobia will still talk with Peter Wothers about whether we can get slightly more from college.

During the conversation, Jessica mentions that the coffee machine is not broken and we don't need to buy a new one. She mentions where the key is and suggests that the MCR committee should learn how to fix it so that members don't do it themselves.

### **Membership fees**

PB notes that currently the membership fees are 39 pounds per student and college gives 22.50 per student. It is noted that budgeting is difficult since we only hear very late how many students join the college and how many opt out. Opting out means no access to the MCR room, MCR activities and no reduced price for formals. PB notes that the expected number is about 250 new students. This year 109 students matriculated (not including students joining in January). PT notes that there are probably some rules for increasing the membership fees. For example, we should explain to members why we would choose to do it, what our budget is and what this means for them. As we were thinking about changing the constitution anyway, we could add a clause about membership fees.

**Action:** PB will ask college about whether we can do it and how we should go about this.

Tobia notes that we could also ask college to increase their contribution too. This hasn't been increased in years, despite the high inflation. The college prices on food and accommodation also went up. We could ask college whether they are willing to match our increase in membership fees.

**Action:** SS talk to college accountants about budget and membership fees.

### **Bank**

SS notes that Tobia still needs 800 pounds reimbursed, however he does not have access to our account yet. He notes that Barclays is being difficult on top of some ethical considerations. PB notes that a few years ago it was suggested to change banks, however there were some difficulties too. Livia has been treasurer for three years already, so at that point transferring accounts to a new treasurer wasn't necessary. The committee brainstorms about other banks to go to for our account.

**Action:** Samuel will look at alternative banks and their benefits. He will also ask college if they are fine with us moving banks.

Praharsh leaves the meeting at 18.51, including the committee members that joined online.

### **Introduction MCR**

JG notes that Kat Steer sent an email to some members of the MCR about recording a short video to post in the postgraduate prospectus. The goal is to introduce new students to what the MCR does. Some committee members note they did not get the email (treasurer and secretary). It was noted that only certain roles were invited.

### **New ideas**

JG asks the committee whether she should run new ideas with MCR before discussing it with college. Everyone agrees that discussing with the MCR first is the best. JG mentions that she is thinking about offering members branded merchandise related to food, such as coffee cups, take-away boxes to incentivize bringing their own reusable stuff. SR notes that we should probably need to take surveys so we can order in bulk (cheaper). He notes that JG can still talk about this with college to see what they think about this idea.

**Action:** Jessica will do more investigation

### **Summer events**

SR talks with the committee about events for the end of August or beginning of September, such as a wine/cheese event or picnic. He notes that it is difficult to organise events without a social secretary. AD notes that she is available to help out if needed as her role doesn't take up much time at the moment.

### **Freshers week**

The committee continues talking about Freshers week. PB notes that matriculation is on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, which will conclude in a garden party. SR notes that it is really a concrete party, not a garden party. It is noted that we could ask the new Master whether we could use the Masters' Garden instead. The old one kept bees, which is why we couldn't use it before. JG notes that she has added a time table to the drive. TS notes that she met with Mary to talk

about the consent workshops. Next meeting a definitive agenda will be made, including a plan on what committee members are responsible for which event.

**Action:** Sam/Praharsh will send a form for members to become college parents during Freshers week. Send a separate email to ask for members who are willing to help out at events during freshers week.

PT notes that not all past committee members are on the website. She also asks about how to upload the minutes to the drive?

**Action:** PT will talk to Tom.

Meeting ends at 19.21