Meeting Minutes
Monday 21st August 2023

- Yorgos Chatziavgerinos

Committee members present in person:
Sam Ryan, Co-president (SR)
Samuel Stark, Treasurer (SS, he/him)

Committee members present online:
Praharsh Babu, Co-president (PB)
William Lan, Welfare Officer (WL)
Jessica van de Grint, Food and Drink Officer (JG)
Anna Dowd, Accommodation Officer (AD)
Kim Ngan Luu Hoang, BME Officer (KL, she/he/they)
Yorgos Chatziavgerinos, LGBTQ+ Officer (YC, he/him)

18.01 Start

SR starts the meeting by saying that the focus for today should be creating the rough timetable for Freshers' Week. He then proceeds to ask if there are any updates about other matters from the committee before we proceed with Freshers' Week.

Budgeting
SS has some questions about budgeting. Last year some money wasn't allocated at all to certain roles, such as for Green Officer and BAME. He wonders what he should allocate to them this year. KL should let SS know of any events that might require funding.
KL responds that for Black History Month, MCR might prepare some welfare kits with the JCR, but there are no thoughts about the funding yet.
PB adds that last year they sent Google forms asking members how much they needed for their initiatives – we could repeat it this year: ask people what they would like to do this year and submit a budget, then work out what we could offer.

Yoga
SR responds to a question about who should run yoga. During the last few years, it was run by the welfare officer. Sam (the person who ran it) is in his final year, it's worth it to chat with him.

WL responds that he is trying to get in touch with him, but he hasn't responded to the emails yet. SR will contact him directly if he doesn't respond. In the past, they separated the roles (welfare-yoga).

PB thinks that since yoga gets funding from the MCR, it should be under the MCR committee.

Consent, Racial Equality, and Active Bystander Workshops

KL responds to YC's question about the workshops. The consent workshop will be done externally and will be split into three different sessions. The racial equality workshop will be done externally as well.

Active bystander workshops could include a short session about pronouns as well. YC could help too. He says that he is happy with a brief mention of LGBTQ+ matters now – perhaps he will organise a more extensive event later on in the term because there are already three workshops.

Billing

PB has a meeting with the college, he is going to discuss billing and focus on things such as having a standing order, transparency about what the college is going to give, etc. SS will add a few things he has in mind as well.

Freshers' Week

PB starts by presenting a detailed schedule he has prepared.

College Tours and Tea

He thinks that college tours are useful on freshers' day and wonders whether we should make tours and tea one event. SR and JG think the events work well together. AD suggests that it might be better to have the event later because students will need to pick up their keys. PB offers to move it down to 14:00 and combine the events. JG highlights that there might be a problem if freshers are asked to move in on Sunday not on Saturday. SR responds that the term of residence starts on Saturday. PB encourages AD to send an email to the college to double-check.

Icebreakers, Pub Quiz and Bar

YC suggests making sure that the icebreakers are a group activity to make interaction easier, especially for students that are more introverted and shier. SR suggests adding a pub quiz and PB recommends making it Cambridge-themed.

PB presents a complication to this event: JCR has booked the bar for Saturday; we might have to use McGrath and think of alternative events. JG suggests reaching out to Martin to ask if we can get drinks served at McGrath for icebreakers. PB responds that we can use the budget to buy drinks, or we could even do our own drinks. However, we might need a license to sell drinks ourselves. AD wonders if there is a way to give the drinks through the bar for the stock exchange. SS says that we are receiving payment directly through the machine for the stock exchange, so it might not be possible. JG suggests using the square code reader from MCR (KL used it for Gender Recognition Fund charity bake sale). KL says it was for charity, it's not certain if it'd work for the stock exchange, and Sam agrees that he is not sure if the college would be okay with a

stock exchange type of transaction. PB says that we can ask Martin or perhaps we can give them tokens and JG recommends monopoly money. SR wonders if we are allowed to open the door from McGrath to the bar.
PB suggests leaving icebreakers planning for later so that we know first which space will be available.

Botanical Gardens and Fitzwilliam Museum
SS points out that some students might not have their student IDs yet, so they will not be able to enter the botanical gardens; Fitz might be a better option.
PB adds that for the town tours, there could be one group for each site (humanities, north Cambridge, etc.).

Board Games
In the evening, PB thinks we should have something wholesome, like board games. JG underlines that we might need more room for more groups. AD suggests using McGrath – it might be a bit more social in one big space with different tables. PB will ask Mary if it is available.

After matriculation
SR says there is usually a garden party after matriculation – will check the calendar/email to see if it's been added.

Family formal
SR starts the discussion about the family formals, saying that last year there was one on the second Thursday – the first two formals of the year were family formals. PB points out that the consent workshop might overlap with the family formal if we put it on Thursday. Last year, we had two family formals, one in Freshers' Week and one after. We should keep Thursdays for family formals and make sure to split people from consent workshops accordingly so that there is no overlap in attendance. SR highlights that parents need to be in communication with the children to make sure that it happens correctly. Tanja (Formal Hall Officer) and Sam to discuss with Martin about booking and seating plans. JG suggests signing up for the workshop and the formal on the same page.
KL says that the consent workshop has a limit on how many people can attend. Sam specifies that seating arrangements were difficult to organise last year, but it might be worth it to plan it and discuss it with Tanja when she emails Martin.

Wine and Cheese
PB asks what day would work for wine and cheese and SR suggests Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday.

Pub quiz, pub crawl, film night
JG suggests moving the pub quiz to Monday evening and doing it with the college family.
SR suggests a film for Wednesday.

PB suggests Thursday for Lola's club night. Last year, it was easy to plan it because Sidney-Sussex social officer reached out. SR says that this year, they also looking at dates to book an intercollegiate event.

Where is the Chicken?
PB insists that this year we should organize a "Where is the chicken?" game - SR and PB to dress up as chickens.

Theatre
PB also suggests an event in the ADC theatre, perhaps with Footlights and improv. He suggests putting it down for Friday because of the many good seats. SR says that ADC is also open to doing an event after Freshers' Week.

Pub crawl, karaoke, botanical gardens
PB suggests putting the pub crawl on Monday, whereas JG agrees with keeping karaoke for Saturday.
PB says that we can have the botanical gardens on the second weekend.

Duck walk and trip to Ely
SR adds that the chaplain could be open to doing a duck walk on any day for the MCR and JG adds that it would be easier for freshers to participate later if introduced to the event when the term starts.
PB also suggests a trip to Ely for Sunday 8th – might be a nice half-day. SS points out that Ely trip would have to be in-between services in the cathedral. PB then asks if it would be better to do an Ely trip on Saturday and karaoke in the evening.

Societies Squash
PB offers to check with JCR when societies squash is (a freshers' fair for Catz) because some people might want to be involved.

LBGTQ+ swap with Peterhouse
YC informs the MCR that the Peterhouse LGBTQ+ rep has reached out to him to organize a predrinks event on Tuesday at Peterhouse and then head to Glitterbomb. He may organize a social in our MCR before the predrinks so that LGBTQ+ students get to know each other or combine it with Wine and Cheese.

Subsidising family formals
SS asks whether we should pay for the whole family formal or subsidise it. PB thinks that it's better to have more variety this year than one expensive event. We decide to subsidise for the children (make their ticket around 5 pounds) and pay for the parents to save money, as only a quarter would be parents, according to SR.
PB then inquires how we could collect the money. SR will chat with Martin about logistics, students might have to pay us, then the college will bill the full price. PB agrees and asks SS if he would be okay with keeping track of who has paid. SS wonders if we could use a QR code. PB responds that some students might not have

bank accounts set up yet and might need to pay in cash. We should have an account for transfer and a member of the committee should accept cash.

SR adds that with a seating plan, we'll know who is a child and who is a parent and see who has paid on a spreadsheet.

PB proposes that it makes it easier for Tanja if we have a question about college parents in the form for the consent workshop.

Misconduct and harassment policies

After finishing the discussion about Freshers' Week, the committee moves on to discuss our approach to harassment and misconduct and how we might affect MCR policy. KL starts the discussion by wondering whether we can exclude students who violated the code of conduct from future MCR events. SR points out that we need a formal complaint for the College to take action. KL says MCR and College are separate entities and wonders if a [redacted] may be enough. PB wonders whether the college is aware of a [redacted] because he tried to talk about it, but the college said that without more they can't take it further. SR doesn't know if the college has an [redacted], to his knowledge there is no official complaint filed. KL encourages the committee to ensure that we do something as a student body. SS presents some technical difficulties we should consider: how can we do it in terms of execution? If the student shows up or makes a fuss about it, how should we handle it in practice? PB responds that while for Freshers' Week, it is easy because the events are meant for freshers, for future MCR events it is difficult to monitor. PB is himself not fully aware of what has transpired with the student. [redacted] SR says that the college will take action only if they have a formal complaint or if the student has been deaned. SS inquires if there is a way to expel someone from the MCR. SR answers that there isn't; the only measures available are college notices and Dean notices, which can enforce drinking bans or being refused access to certain places. He will talk with the college about it. PB brings to our attention the risk of creating a policy that will facilitate vendettas or exclusion. SS concludes that if the college has a [redacted], it might be easier to impose a formal measure. PB asks KL to send an email to Peter Wothers and include presidents to see what can be done.

Vote for raising the charge:

All members present voted in favour of raising the MCR charge to 15 pounds.

SS asked to include this note: we shouldn't do this every year, only in exceptional circumstances, "in 15 years or if the economy screws us again" (verbatim)

Final Points:

JG offers to direct people from the freshers' chat to a new Catz chat.

PB says that SS should be added to the website as treasurer, SS to ask Tom.

Next Meeting:
- harassment procedure
- fight for the bar
- who is available for which events in Freshers' Week
- finalise events

19:40 Meeting ends