



Meeting Minutes

Monday 14th of September 2023

- Paula Teeuwen

Committee members present in person:

Praharsh Babu, Co-president
Samuel Stark, Treasurer
Kim Ngan Luu Hoang, BME Officer
Jessica van de Grint, Food and Drink Officer
Anna Dowd, Accommodation Officer
Yorgos Chatziavgerinos, LGBTQ+ Officer

Committee members present online:

Paula Teeuwen, Secretary
Tatjana Schmidt, Formal Hall Officer
William Lan, Welfare Officer

Start 18.36

The committee present in person notes the nice new MCR.

PT notes that she has difficulty hearing some committee members as she is joining from a Starbucks in London. She will try her best to make complete minutes the best she can.

Time commitment Fresher week

The committee discusses what time commitments everyone can make during Freshers week. PB mentions he will be in Cambridge and can join evenings and weekends. However, he won't have much time due to doctor job applications (20 sept – 4 oct). Other members mention their availability too and will add to the excel sheet what events they would like to join. William, Jessica, and Paula are available most of the week. College family dinners are 5 and 12 October. PT notes she cannot join the second as she has a surgery earlier that day.

College Accountants meeting

SS talks about the college accountants meeting. It was noted that college now contributes 30 pounds per FTE (full-time equivalent) student, however it was not clear what was meant by that. Besides that, it was not clear why there was an

adjustment in their contribution. SS notes that he wants clarification and that he might need to argue this with college further. For example, full term should be okt-june, not including the summer months as all events are during that time. SS will write a nice email outlining what he needs clarified.

Freshers week

PB asks the committee whether we want to give rewards for people helping out during the week. SS notes that we can increase the number of Jack's gelato coins to include people helping besides those that won the pubquiz. Last year 375 pounds was spent on tokens, which could be increased this year.

PB also asks whether everyone is on board with getting recognisable items for the MCR members during Freshers week. Last year it may not have been clear who was committee and thus who new students could direct questions to. The committee talks about potential items, such as hats, lanyards or sashes. It is noted that the items should neither be too embarrassing (such as sashes) or too expensive (such as shirts). The items could be stored in MCR lockers and reused next years.

Welcome Master

PB notes that we want to organise an event to welcome the new Master with the committee. This could be done the week before Freshers week.

Bar meeting

The scheduled bar meeting will be rescheduled to a new day.

Yoga

WL gives updates about the Yoga lessons that the MCR provides. He notes that the role is now transferred to him. He notes that the previous instructor left and recommended a new instructor named Monica. He has already met with her and talked to her about scheduling. The sessions will be run on Wednesdays from 18.00-19.00 in the Ramsden room, with the first one on October 11th. The first week students are expected to still be busy with moving in and getting acquainted with the city. Her suggestion for the pricing was 75 pounds per session, however she was open for discussion. Last year the pricing was 60 pounds per session, so we could ask her if she can match this or possibly 65 pounds. TS mentions that last time she went about 15 students were present. PB notes that the price is split with the JCR, however the full price is for the MCR if we continue sessions outside term-time when undergraduates are not here. The committee agrees to schedule one MCR-only yoga session after term ends. The committee discusses whether the time should be moved to 18.30 so students can eat beforehand in hall or take a take-out box of food from hall. It is noted that it is not recommended to eat before yoga, however some students might prefer this (combining dinner with yoga lowers the barrier to go).

Opting out of MCR membership

The committee talks about the option for students to opt out or partially opt out of MCR membership. For example this may be applicable for students who are not here for all terms.

Removing membership

The committee discusses the issue of potentially removing a member from the MCR. Parts of this conversation are redacted due to the sensitivity of the matter. Conversations are being had with Mary to see what college can do. One of the students affected is willing to speak to the MCR when she is back in Cambridge for graduation. As this may be too late, it is potentially better to have this conversation earlier online. Another student is willing to file a formal complaint. When the MCR knows more about the situation it is expected that it is more capable of taking action.

The MCR discusses that it thinks it is important that the student who is showing problematic behaviour is aware of this and is willing to change. The committee isn't sure whether this is the case as the student is still relatively involved with MCR-related activities. It is still unclear what college can do for us, however the committee will have conversations about this with them. For example, the MCR could talk to Dr Hend Hanafy (Catz fellow in Law) or with the Uni Harassment and Violence Support on how to navigate the situation and how to protect past/future affected students without having legal issues. Important is that more investigation is needed and that the matter is resolved fairly for all parties.

An MCR member walked into the room and nicely left when they noted an MCR meeting was taking place. <3

PT and PB note that it is an option to have the student that has shown problematic behaviour follow obligatory welfare courses in order to stay associated with the MCR. The committee notes that we need a policy on MCR events in case the student is indeed removed. KNLH mentions that we could potentially introduce a zero tolerance policy for the MCR, similar to Fitz. We could make the consent and racial equality workshop mandatory for all college parents and Freshers from now on and emphasise that this is due to recent events.

PT left the meeting at 19.30 and the minute-taking was taken over by WL.