



Meeting Minutes

Monday 13th of November 2023

- Paula Teeuwen

Committee members present in person:

Sam Ryan, Co-president
Paula Teeuwen, Secretary
Jessica van de Grint, Food and Drink Officer
Samuel Stark, Treasurer
Eddie Xiao, Education officer

Committee members present online:

William Lan, Welfare Officer
Anna Dowd, Accommodation Officer
Tom Willis, Computer Officer
Kim Ngan Luu Hoang, BAME Officer
Yorgos Chatziavgerinos, LGBTQ+ Officer
Robert Hao, Green Officer
Sohane Amira, BAME Officer
Keera (Keerthana) Bathula, Social Secretary
Catherine Tan, Womens & Non-binary officer

18.38 Start

Sam starts the meeting

CCC / General Estates meeting

Sam is planning to go to these meetings and asks the committee what we should bring up. Anna notes that she might not be able to go and will get back to Sam about this. She introduces the question why people do not want to live in South Green Lodge and that the temporary accommodation manager sent out a survey on accommodation. Sam notes that in his experience his room at this location is often cold, since the room is too big for the radiator. Sam can update them on this issue.

*Tom asks for passcode to enter the zoom chat. Sam notes that there is no passcode. Eventually it was fixed and Tom entered the Zoom.

Governing Body Meeting

Samuel notes tht nothing of note happened at this meeting. He mentioned that he wore his gown and sat down somewhere. He notes that he voted yes 5 times on amendments to a document, which were not read out loud. These amendments unanimously passed. The amendments were presented in a 50 page document that Sam didn't send Samuel. The master then asked Samuel whether the MCR was doing good, after which he nodded. The master then instructed him to leave.

Coffee machine use

The MCR discusses the current problem with the coffee machine. Jessica notes she has the idea that some people take multiple coffees per day, which is technically allowed, however this creates a situation where she has to take care of it sometimes multiple times a day. Jessica also notes that it seems that some students keep using the machine even after something is wrong. Jessica mentions that she spent about 20 minutes yesterday to unblock the sink and 30 minutes cleaning the coffee machine. She does not mind taking care of the coffee machine, but that day was terrible. Besides that, she notes that we go to almost 2-3 bags of chocolate and milk powder a week, which used to be a lot less (10 boxes per term). Jessica notes that there is some overconsumption. Kim notes that this is possibly due to study groups or societies taking excessive amounts of free coffee in the MCR to drink outside the MCR, such as the library. Jessica thinks we will be OK until the end of term and will check this after the meeting.

Jessica notes that we could consider using instant coffee and chocolate powder instead of the machine for events. For example, taking coffee at the coffee/cake and Diwali event may have been too intense for the machine.

Samuel considers whether we could find more discount, if refills are expensive. Jessica notes that we could try other companies. The committee discusses that we used to have a service contract with the company in the first two years, however not anymore.

Sam notes that we could inform the MCR to keep in mind we have a fixed amount of coffee per term. This would mean that if there is overuse then there is no coffee left near end of term. Jessica agrees that the overuse is getting insane now.

Sam asks whether it is a good idea to get a small group of students we trust to help lower the load. Jessica agrees that it might be nice if there is someone else who is here a lot who knows how it works. On top of that, she notes that it may help to tell students to not pour coffee (liquid!) into the bottom tray of the machine, but rather in the sink so it won't start to smell. Anna recently sent a message to the MCR about the sink and the coffee machine, also noting that taking care of the machine is voluntarily. She notes we could send another message. Jessica notes again that she is very happy people are using the machine and even encourages it, but 3-4 a day is too much and the machine can't handle it.

MCR chair

Jessica notes that one of the arm chairs (not the one with the broken leg) will be picked up to be fixed by the company we got them from. The problem is similar to what we saw with the chair that has a leg broken, and the company agreed this fits within the warranty since there is a defect (not malicious). The pick up will be on Thursday between 3-6 and Jessica

asks whether someone can be there to facilitate. If not we could ask the porters if they could help out. Eddie and Samuel say they can help out from 3-4 and 4-6 respectively to let in the worker and point to which chair it is. Paula asks about an update for the broken chair. This also fits within the warranty and the company has delivered new legs.

On the topic of broken things, it is noted that one of the prongs of the newly bought coat rack has been broken off due to handling. Similar to the broken chair, no one has notified this to us. It could have fallen over due to a heavy coat, but students should really tell us. Jessica thinks there is no warranty for the coat rack. Sam notes that we could ask maintenance to fix it. However, Jessica notes it is not two nice pieces to be glued together.

*Sam notes that he is getting a new student card since he lost his in the MCR

** Tanya walked in around 18.57 and said hi.

PhD and Fellows Seminars

Eddie asks the MCR committee members whether anyone has signed up for the seminars, since he is still looking for presenters. The committee answers that they haven't, followed by Sam asking whether Eddie already invited any fellows. Eddie answers that he still needs to email them. He also already contacted Barbara, last years' education officer, who noted that she usually contacted fellows individually (more chance to get a reply). Sam added that Eddie should ask any fellows for the seminar in three weeks, otherwise it would be too short notice for the upcoming one. Eddie mentions that he can present for next weeks' one and that there won't be one for this week as there is one every two weeks. Sam advises Eddie to ask the MCR members whether they would prefer having the seminars in evenings or during the day. To a question from Paula, Sam replies that Wednesday afternoons are usually the most convenient afternoons for fellows and undergraduates. Paula replies that she can present in the evenings, however during the day she should be at work and can't easily leave for a seminar.

Social Sec Term Card

Keera asks the committee whether they have looked at the tentative term card and whether they think it makes more sense to push more activities/socials to later in the term instead of spreading out over the whole term. She observed that currently students have a busy time. The committee discusses this topic.

Paula leaves at 19.03 and the committee continues with the meeting for a brief moment to conclude the last discussion.

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