



Meeting Minutes

Monday 27th of November

- Paula Teeuwen

Committee members present in person:

Paula Teeuwen, Secretary

Samuel Stark, Treasurer

Jessica van de Grint, Food and Drink Officer

Catherine Tan, Womens & Non-binary officer

Eddie Xiao, Education officer

Committee members present online:

Praharsh Babu, Co-president

Robert Hao, Green Officer

Tom Willis, Computer Officer

William Lan, Welfare Officer

Anna Dowd, Accommodation Officer

The meeting is started at 18.36

College Consultancy Committee (CCC) update

Praharsh gives the committee an about the CCC meeting that he attended. The JCR had some remarks that were not relevant for the MCR. The MCR did propose funding for the lent term freshers week, where the college offered to pay for half of the costs up to 500 pounds. Praharsh also notes that there was a miscommunication regarding how much money the MCR has. The amount that college had did not include the costs of the MCR renovation yet, thus appearing as if the MCR had more funds available that it actually has.

Lent starts freshers week

The committee talks about the freshers week for lent starters, which starts on the first Saturday before lent term (13th of Jan). The social secretaries are expected to help out with his, for example by organising a wine and cheese event, ACD trip or punting (not as extensive as Michaelmas). The starting date could be reconsidered as well. Jessica notifies Praharsh that there should be information sent out to the freshers in time (based on the take-away from last freshers) (**Action**). Eddie asks how we could help, since this may be the last meeting before Freshers week. Praharsh notes that we need the social secretaries to be present for this, but also that he will not have time to help out due to exams. Jessica notes that we could ask the social secretaries to make a proposal for the events during freshers week. She proposes that we do a similar approach as last term, where everyone could add their name to each event that they can support with. The social secretaries will be leading in that case. Sam asks whether it is a good idea to do another meeting before the Freshers week and Praharsh agrees. The social secretaries will be asked about when they could have a

proposed schedule and whether they would like to organise other things such as a tour through the college (which doesn't cost any money) (**Action**). The committee agrees that on the 11th of January there will be a new meeting (with the option to join online as many will likely be on holiday).

Committee stash

Praharsh reminds the committee that the committee stash last year was distributed very late and asks the committee what they would like. Jessica mentions she likes the quarter zip sweater, Paula notes she would like a shirt. Praharsh notes that the company that sold them last year went out of business. Jessica plans to look into examples of what those could look like and what embroidery company was used last time (**Action**). The rest of the committee is asked to look into what they might like (**Action**). A small contribution will be provided by the committee.

Lent by-elections

The committee discusses the need (or no need) for by-elections after the intake of new freshers in Lent term, since it will be quite the hassle. Catherine, Andrea and Robert were co-opted (without elections) and it is unsure whether William will stop after Lent when his course ends. The committee wonders whether he needs to be a registered student if he stays, which he is willing to. Eddie notes that his crsid will be available for a while after his course ends. Will will look into this (**Action**). Praharsh asks whether everyone is ok for William to stay if he is happy to, and everyone agrees. Praharsh notes that Tom mentioned that there is no 4th year representative either, despite having asked many people about this. The committee decides that there is nothing more we can do about it and that it is a shame. Next meeting it will be brought up again to decide whether we want by-elections or not.

Meeting attendance

Praharsh remarks that many people dropped out of today's meeting at the last minute. He urges committee members to give more notice when they cannot make it. Jessica notes that it is important to receive reminders for meetings and Praharsh wonders if sending reminders on the weekend before may be better than on the day. Samuel wonders if the new committee members were told about this meeting or where to find the meeting schedule. Eddie notes that he figured it out himself, and Samuel realizes that we may have forgotten to tell them. Jessica mentions that in theory we meet every two weeks during term time. Praharsh adds that it depends on whether there is anything to discuss or update on. He also notes that everyone can add the MCR calendar to their personal calendar. Praharsh will send reminders to the committee the weekend before a meeting.

Postgraduate seminars

Eddie notes that some postgraduate seminars will be scheduled in the evening, which could be done after the MCR meeting to prevent overlap. Paula says this is a good idea, and she and Praharsh wonder what kind of food catering would be able to provide in that case (sandwiches in the evening may not be ideal). Eddie plans to send a survey to ask students when they would prefer seminars to happen.

Jacks Gelato tokens

Praharsh notes that he still has the Jacks tokens meant for the committee as a thank you for Michaelmas Freshers Week. He will distribute those asap (**Action**).

Overlapping events

Samuel noticed that this week the Christmas crafts event and the wine and cheese event are overlapping and that in general the amount of events this week was a bit much. He notes that there should be a better communication in general regarding organisation of events. Especially overlap of events with the same target audience should be prevented (such as PhD wine and cheese and seminars). Paula notes that we should tell the social secretaries to add all their events on the website calendar.

Budget Reshuffle

Samuel mentions that he is probably going to do a Budget Reshuffle, due to the organisation of several events that did not require a lot of costs. Last year for example there was an awesome gingerbread house making event that cost more money. If we have less of those big cost events this year, we will have some money left. The committee talks about potentially using this for more coffee. Jessica replies that she expects a required 100 pounds extra needed per term if we want to keep up with coffee demand. She considers buying coffee from cheaper places and whether this is possible now we don't have a service contract anymore with the coffee machine company. Samuel replies that if she knows more by the end of the week, he could shuffle some things around. He also notes that the BAME officers have been very active and could be given some more room as well. Jessica finally notes that we could also think about capping coffee consumption per term, since there is a massive increase in coffee use compared to earlier terms.

MCR wine and cheese open to all

Samuel mentions that the next Wine and Cheese event, which we made open for all MCR members (not just PhD/medics) got much less tickets sold than expected causing us to go much over budget. (30 tickets instead of 60-70 as expected). The committee discusses whether we can get a refund if the wine is already bought. The double scheduling with the crafts event could be solved by notifying people they could go to both events and switch during the evening.

Anna wonders how we will check tickets, this may be difficult. Paula suggests we could have a list with names at the entrance, where people could cross out their names when they enter. Jessica remarks that it would be fine for the committee to buy tickets too, to which Sam replies that this will not be necessary. It is also noted that we could still sell tickets at the door.

Paula and Sam talk about that there needs to be more promotion for the event. Paula will make a poster and send it out today (**Action**). Paula asks what the vibe (theme) will be for the poster, to which Samuel replies that it should have a wine-vibe.

Missing payments for Family Formal

Samuel notes that 8 people still have not paid for family formal and asks Praharsh whether we could add it to their college bill. Praharsh says it will be annoying but that he is sure they will do this for us. He also notes that he did email those people about this, and some did pay eventually. Sam suggests we could tell them that it is the last chance to pay, otherwise college will pick this up and add it to the bill including an admin fee. Praharsh concludes that we will just add the amount to their college bill.

Community Spirit Award

Praharsh mentions that he got an email about the community spirit award, which is an award to recognise above and beyond behaviour of MCR members. MCR members can nominate people to get this award and winners will then receive a letter and pin from master. This hasn't been picked up since covid and the master mentions that it is good to start back up again. Praharsh notes that unfortunately we don't have access to form and will make a new one (**Action**). He will also check how many we can nominate and will place it on the agenda for next meeting to discuss further (**Action**). The committee continues to talk about ways to recognise specific people.

Newsletter

Catherine asks Paula whether the newsletter will be sent out during the holiday, to which Paula replies that it depends on whether there is anything to notify members of. She also notes that committee members can also send a separate email outside of the newsletter if needed. Catherine mentions that it may be nice to send out Christmas cards to members and that her email does not work yet. Paula notes that she could ask Tom to help with setting this up. Tom will indeed help her (**Action**).

The meeting is closed at 19.27