



Meeting Minutes

Monday 4th of March 2024

- Paula Teeuwen

Committee members present in person:

Praharsh Babu, Co-president
Sam Ryan, Co-president
Paula Teeuwen, Secretary
Samuel Stark, Treasurer
Yorgos Chatziavgerinos, LGBTQ+ Officer
Kim Ngan Luu Hoang, BAME Officer
Sohane Ines Mousseid Yahya, BAME Officer
Eddie Xiao, Education officer
Jessica van de Grint, Food and Drink Officer
Catherine Tan, Women & Non-binary officer
Andrea Isabel Ramirez Hincapie, Green Officer

Committee members present online:

Keera (Keerthana) Bathula, Social Secretary
Aycha Ates-di-Adamo, Social Secretary
Tom Willis, Computer Officer

Praharsh opens the meeting at 18.38

Rent review

Praharsh informs the committee about the rent review he attended, where a rent increase of 5.5% was proposed. The MCR disagreed and proposed an increase of 4% max. This was supported by the fact that student funding only increases 3.1% for UKRI (and most don't see increase at all). Based on that discussion the increase was lowered to 4.35%, which according to predictions made by the bursar should lead to break-even. The MCR still did not agree with this and is planning to submit a paper to argue this. The plan is to include in the paper that students are struggling and already eating into their disposable income due to increased food prices and having to work more part-time which forces them to take time out of their PhD work. On top of that, inflation was calculated to be 4% (4.2% including housing costs). Yorgos agrees in noting that it would benefit college if we have more time to focus on our PhD's. Praharsh adds that this has been said other years, however they had difficulty to argue this. Sohane asks if there is any statistics on decreased attendance of MCR members from joining activities (such as formals) compared to other years. Sam adds that the college replies with the existence of the student support fund, however argues that this fund should not be the norm for all students. Praharsh also notes that there are no rules about who

would be eligible, making it unclear for students. Sam is worried that when students are forced to live in private accommodation, that they will interact less with college and spend less money at college (food, bar etc.). Jessica agrees and adds that students might choose college accommodation quicker (and find it more worth the risk) if it is much cheaper than private. Praharsh continues by stating that in September college will be left with more empty rooms if it becomes less attractive, which will cause them to lose revenue too. Yorgos notes that the rules for part-time students is different and that some colleges offer accommodation that does include council tax. The committee rounds up the discussion with a list of ideas to include in the paper. **ACTION for Praharsh:** Add these ideas to the paper to be submitted to the governing body.

International Womens Day

Catherine informs the MCR about upcoming events in relation to International Womens day. First of all, there will be a support/affirmation wall during Tea at 3 on the 6th. On March 8th there will be an 'Embracelet' making and pebble painting event (location tbc), which will also bring back the wall mentioned earlier. Besides that, a library display is being organised, including a Cambridge women's aid panel with BGS. The latter will be held either 14th after 16.00, or 15th after 17.30, provided a room can be found. **ACTION for Catharine:** Tell them 15th is not possible due to overlapping with another event, PhD wine and cheese and PhD Welfare event. Catherine adds that she will be unable to go herself and asks the MCR committee if anyone can go? Aycha offers to help on 15th. Catherine asks Paula to promote of these events in the newsletter, Paula agrees provided Catherine sends her information in time.

Christmas Tree in the MCR

The committee discusses whether they want to get rid of the two Christmas trees in the MCR. Sam is in favour to keep the tree and to add seasonal decorations depending on festivities that are going on. Keera replies that the trees will be kept up and the decorations will be replaced with easter egg decorations. The discussion will be continued at the upcoming open meeting.

Cycle working group

Tom informs the committee about the cycle working group meeting that he attended. He notes that the bike racks in the island site basement will be repaired and that the wheel channels will be updated. On top of that, there will be a bike cull at Russell Street and South Green Lodge. He also mentions an email by the women's boat captain, to do a similar cull at the boat house. He then asks the committee who paid for the cycle maintenance facilities that are present at Russell Street (bike pump and tools). This is related to an email sent by an MCR member who urged the MCR to replace the bike pump. Tom asks whether we want to pay for this as MCR, which resulted in most MCR members shaking their heads no. It is discussed that there is a spare bike pump at Catz main site and the MCR bought a spare one to be placed at Russell Street last year. The committee agrees that the bike pump is a nice extra that the MCR is not responsible for. **ACTION:** Push college to pay for it. Kim asks Tom whether there will be a bike sale, to which Tom responds that the bikes will be given to charity to be recycled as they are in pretty bad shape. Praharsh notes that there is also too many bikes at Coleridge Road and a bike-cull could be beneficial there too.

Lent Freshers College Reimbursement

-Freshers week chasing, total amount 1030 spent. Get 515 from college, ask them for it. Sam: We can email Peter. **ACTION for Samuel.** Praharsh can send minutes of CCC where this was confirmed.

-Students not paid, 6 pounds can write off. Easier. £47 income from ticket sales. 6 pounds missing. Aycha will ditch 6 pounds.

-Scudamores offer for discount on punts. JCR +MCR pay 210 pounds for one year. Discount week-day hire of punts. 21.50 pound per hour, about half off. Paula: Bad idea, everyone is at work during the week. Jessica: If it covers freshers week it might be worth it, for punting at freshers. 130 pounds this year on punting with bulk discount. Praharsh checked, not a big discount. Conclusion we are not interested. Pre-covid pay an amount to go for free during week-day. They also have 20% general student discount. Paula: Just go to college. Sam: Or find a friend at a different college with super cheap punts. Praharsh: We can put it in general meeting to see if there are many members interested. Sam: We also should discuss with JCR. Samuel: Will ask JCR. Praharsh: Discount for self-hire craft. Samuel: Not the guided ones. **ACTION: PUT ON OPEN MEETING.** Sam: Do you want to haggle more, say this is not 50% off.

Sam: When is open meeting.

ACTION: Advertise open meeting now 18th of March 18.30.

Monday 11th deadline motions, Wednesday 13th send to everyone.

Constitution 10 days submitted to us motions.

Info about the punts sent out on Wednesday 13th as well, do later.

-Mugs that don't fit a whole drink. Jessica: People have stolen them. Actoin: Jessica buys new ones from charity shop. Note: People shouldn't bring them to the library. Sam: Sell college keep cups. Praharsh: Paper cups easier. Jessica: Sth ugly so people don't steal them. **ACTION for Jessica.** Paula: Keep cups sell so they have to buy their own. Sohane: Bring your own policy. Paula: Sign please keep them in MCR, sell them at the porters.

Praharsh scares the online attendees with his face

Email from St Peters College Oxford.

Sam informs the committee about a request from St Peters College Oxford to organise a swap with us, to which he replied that he would discuss it with the college. St Peters does not have a sister college at Cambridge, which other colleges do have. The social secretaries are happy to organise one, potentially with support from our college. Sam notes that organising swaps with our sister Worcester College (which the Master is currently working on) is difficult sometimes. Sam notes that last year the swap costs us about 300 pounds (1000 total, however formal and coach ticketed to attendees). Praharsh continues noting that attendees should pay before the event to prevent hassle. Sam notes that we could combine a Worcester/St. Peters swap on the same day and suggests to continue liaising with them and the social secs to organise something. Keera asks about the risk assessment procedure for such a swap and whether we need designated drivers and sufficient cover for gas and food for them. Praharsh notes that if we want to go by car we would need at least 5 people who are not drinking and have access to a car. Sam thinks he could come up with three people already who may be interested and mentions that a MCR expression of interest could be sent out (**ACTION for Sam**). Praharsh suggests a Google form, wher it is clear that

there is no commitment requested yet. **ACTION for Sam:** Email St Peter about what is discussed in this meeting about the swap.

Praharsh ends the meeting at 19.46.