

AGENDA

GENERAL MEETING

ST. EDMUND HALL MCR

MCR, 7pm 19 October 2016

Apologies: None

Reports from MCR Committee Members

Nominations for Guest Membership

The following individuals have been put forward as nominees for Guest Membership of the St. Edmund Hall MCR:

<u>Ordinary Member</u>	<u>Nominated member</u>
Olivia Payne	James King
Ryan Daniels	Alessandro Raveane
Ryan Daniels	Serena Aneli
Ryan Daniels	Marie Wong
Kelly Bridges	Andres Alvarez
Sarah-Lea Effert	Nils Hohenstein
Jennifer Bunselmeier	Angela Fluegel
Jennifer Bunselmeier	Timo Buelters
Ritwika Sengupta	Gemma Robson
Anthony Mahira	Naomi Wangari
Jarryd Brogden	Athena Kitching
Toby St Clere Smithe	Linda Briggs
Laura Brace Rochford	Devin Rochford
John Logan	Emily Grey
Amelia Huggan	Ashley Rogers
George Spill	Rebecca Preece
Melissa Bedard	Evie Foster
Alexander Fischer	James Cook
Linde Wester	Federico Pulverenti
Linde Wester	Emma Powel

Nominations of Independent Officer/Chair

The following individuals have been nominated to stand as independent officer/chair for 2017. Nomination are made by the President and voted in by majority vote:

Beatrice Tyrrell

Motion to amend the MCR constitution

Brought forward by: MCR committee

Presented by: Linde Wester

The motion has been brought forward to amend the constitution of the MCR to reflect two minor changes:

To extended job description of Academic rep to include : Addition of the point "Academic Representative: point 5.8.(g) Administering the MCR 50th Anniversary Grant, in liaison with the tutor for graduates, the MCR president and the treasurer."

This has been through a committee meeting without objection. The changes will be voted on in the next General Meeting. Amendments shall be subject to the subsequent approval of the Governing body.

Motion to Maintain the Atmosphere of the MCR

Brought forward by: Will Harvey and Zafar Khurshid

Presented by:

The proponents of this Motion recognize the invaluable work that the MCR Committee and Refurbishment Team have done for, and on behalf of, the members of the MCR. We welcome a spirit of improvement and advancement in the space and life of the MCR, however, it is hoped that improvements to the MCR space would appropriately honour the spirit and atmosphere of the MCR.

The St. Edmund Hall MCR, while not being the most spacious or well equipped, has always maintained a warm and friendly environment. This comes through from its members, but also the common room at NSE, and particularly, the College site. It is hoped that future refurbishments will not change that atmosphere.

We would like acknowledge the efforts by the MCR Committee inviting members to participate in the decision making regarding these refurbishments, and thus the MCR Committee and Refurbishment Team may be frustrated by the nature of some of the comments herein. However, it is hoped that the MCR Committee and Refurbishment Team will recognize that the MCR is a space fondly remembered and often visited by former members as well. Persons who are enthusiastic to remain in touch with the College and their former colleagues. It is hoped that this

MCR, and future incarnations, will thus note the importance of maintaining some continuity in the space of the MCR.

In particular, we are somewhat troubled by the following developments:

- The removal of the pins from the map located in the MCR – This act, while seemingly insignificant, seems to send the message that the past generations, even if not many, who left their mark in the MCR by placing their pins have already been forgotten. While it may not be missed by many, the few who have taken notice and those that visit may not be so much in favour of what little they left behind of themselves in the MCR being so summarily disposed of.
- The placement of a large flat screen TV in the MCR as a digital notice board – While this may have seemed like a convenient way to display notices has it not further limited the wall space available in the MCR? To this regard, could the Vice-President please clarify whether this TV will completely obviate the need for a notice board? Or will a soft board still be available for notices?

We understand that many of the changes made are not reversible, or at least not immediately so. Also that for many it may not be desired by the larger body to revert to the prior setup. It is only hoped that future changes will be less disruptive to the atmosphere and sense of community of the MCR space.

Where rectifications can be made, and may be welcomed by members present, it is hoped they will be – For example, could the MCR contact past members through the College development office (at least for say the past 3 years, which I believe is the duration for which the Map has been the MCR) and attempt to replicate their pins?

Finally, before putting forward the motion the proponents would like to emphasize once again the following:

- This MCR Committee and the Refurbishment Team have worked tirelessly through the summer to provide the MCR will a better space and better utilities. For this they should be and are thanked.
- We applaud the spirit behind each of the measures taken, even where we do not support their execution.
- We thank the MCR for its continued work as our elected representatives and for the time and space to share our concerns here.

The Motion is now put forward thus:

The MCR Committee and Refurbishment Team will make efforts in the future, and advise future MCR Committees also, to take heed of the atmosphere and ambience of the MCR and do their best to maintain the same in the future.

Motion to purchase a Karaoke Machine for NSE

Brought forward by: Welfare Team

Presented by:

In previous years the MCR has purchased a pool table, ping pong table, TV, a wii, and speakers for the NSE Common Room. We think a Karaoke Machine would be a great addition to many MCR events and it will make the NSE common room attractive to a more diverse group of students. In the long term run it also allows welfare to put on karaoke nights without great spendings.

Amazon currently offers a good looking Karaoke Machine for GBP 84.99 with a great lists of songs from singers and bands like ABBA, The Beatles, Katy Perry, Bruno Mars and songs like Wrecking ball, Let it go, Royals and many more.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/B00GOFCIKU/ref=ox_sc_act_title_1?ie=UTF8&psc=1&smid=A2VA0SQXAO7QN3

Motion to shorten the fireplace bench

Brought forward by: MCR committee

Presented by: Ryan Daniels

As part of the refurbishments to the MCR, the committee would like to try to free up some space in the MCR.

The seating around the fire place in the MCR has been identified as a possible avenue. The bench takes up space during events when there are many people, particularly if people are standing.

We propose to have the bench shortened so that it fits more snugly against the fireplace. We would like to consider having it split into three separate sections that can be moved around independently.

Failing that (if the college's maintenance team says its not possible), we propose to have the bench replaced with several short, portable cushioned stools which can be moved and stored out of the way during events.

OTHER BUSINESS

Items for Discussion

A Platform for Academic Writing

Brought forward by: MCR committee

Presented by: Trent Taylor/Tim Donnison

Academic writing may take many forms during the course of one's degree. Writing opportunities range from the presentation of papers and consistent chapter writing in humanities, to abstract and manuscript preparation in science degrees. Most current opportunities only allow for limited writing styles and directed towards a specialist audience.

The ability to write for a non-specialist audience is looked on favourably on by University departments and enables graduate students to develop a well-rounded writing and editing skillset. For example, public writing in the Medical Science Division (MSD) is considered a good avenue for public engagement – a practice that is encouraged when all MSD students enroll. Current writing opportunities for a non-specialist audience are few and far between. Those that exist are often not easily accessible or promoted to those who wish to write about their research in Lehman's Terms.

Proposal

1. An online platform that enables MCR members to write about their work for a non-specialist audience (word length TBD but approximately 500-1000 words);
2. The content may include current or past research taken by a member of the Hall. Entries would aim to answer questions such as: *Why is my research important? What impact does my research have on the general public? Or What does my research contribute to my field?* These may take the form of 'bigger picture', proof of principle or conceptual articles.
3. An editor or team of editors (depending on demand) to oversee the submission, editing and publishing of the articles. Possibility to meet with the author to ensure accuracy of the article yet retain its accessibility, if necessary.
4. A new article is released regularly subject to the number of articles submitted. This can be during term only or out of term-time too;
5. The MCR writing platform can be linked to the biennial Research Expo to further promote the academic outlook of the Hall, and to the social media accounts of the college to reach a wider audience, particularly current and potential students.
6. The online platform may take the following forms:
 - a. A page on the MCR website;
 - b. A page on the College website;
 - c. An independent website (URL), linked to current MCR/College website;
 - d. A combination of the above.
7. Prize
 - a. Ticket to extra curricular achievements dinner
 - b. Monetary prize of 500,- pounds
 - c. Notice on the college website, social media and in Teddy Hall Magazine.

8. Selection procedure
 - a. Committee: A group of 3 or 5 people consisting of college staff and academics. For instance: a porter, SCR members, College communication officer.

APPENDIX I

Amendment to the MCR Constitution: Change to job description academic representative

5.8 Academic Representative

The Academic Representative represents the academic interests of the MCR. The office is a non-executive position that reports directly to the President. The Academic Representative shall be elected in accordance with Standing Orders and shall hold office from 5th week of Michaelmas Term until 10th week of Trinity Term.

The Academic Representative's duties include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Attending Academic Committee and Library Committee;
- (b) Discussing any graduate students' academic concerns that might arise with the Tutor for Graduates, and meeting with them on a regular basis;
- (c) Soliciting volunteers from the MCR for academic events at their own discretion, including the Termly Graduate Seminars;
- (d) Encouraging the academic participation of the graduate community in college;
- (e) Being involved in the formulation and implementation of Collegiate structures to ensure MCR academic community, such as disbursement of College funds for convening MCR/SCR seminars, and organising events jointly with the SCR;
- (f) Liaising with the JCR Academic Affairs Officer or Representative on academic matters and issues affecting MCR and JCR members.
- (g) Administering the MCR 50th Anniversary Grant, in liaison with the tutor for grads, the MCR president and the treasurer.