

AGENDA

GENERAL MEETING

ST. EDMUND HALL MCR

5:45 PM, 2nd March 2016

Apologies:

Reports from MCR Committee Members

Motion to Support the Oxford Students Refugee Campaign

The MCR voted last Term to support the Oxford Students Refugee Campaign, in principle, provided the MCR was updated on the developments of the campaign and were assured that the campaign had set up the infrastructure to manage and allocate the funds donated by members.

Erica Aizzi has offered an update on the campaign progress and status (please find the offered information in **Appendix I**) and now asks the MCR to vote to re-establish its support.

It is clarified that if the motion carries MCR members will be charged £4 towards their battles, on an opt-out basis, beginning from their next battles statement.

Motion(s) to Donate Monies from the MCR Charity Fund

- Beatrice Tyrrell asks the MCR to donate £500 to Oxford Hands-On Science (OxHOS)
- Tonia Thomas asks the MCR to donate £500 for her BHF fundraising campaign

More information on each of these charities has been included in **Appendix II**

Motion to Adopt MCR Guidelines on the Use of Social Media and other Online Services

Members of St. Edmund Hall, at the prompting of the Dean and the Principal, have recently been asked to review their policies for the use of member run and maintained social media and other online forums. At discussions during MCR Committee meetings, and the College Executive Committee meeting, the point

was raised that the MCR does not currently have a clear statement regarding such policies.

Following discussions with the MCR at the last General Meeting the MCR Committee has drafted a document entitled 'MCR Guidelines on the Use of Social Media and other Online Services'. It is proposed that the MCR adopt this document.

It is clarified that the motion is to adopt the document *as is*. However, minor changes will be accepted as friendly amendments during the General Meeting.

A draft document, prepared by the MCR Committee, is annexed as **APPENDIX III**.

APPENDIX I

Oxford Students Refugee Campaign – Updates

Background: The campaign aims at creating a fund to provide scholarships to students whose education has been disrupted because of war (refugees, internally displaced persons, etc.). Oxford students can contribute through a payment of 1 £ per month (4 £ per term) to be charged with the college battles. This is an opt out system. Applicants will have to go through the normal application for the university, and if they are accepted by a department they can compete for the scholarships.

Updates since December 2015

As of today, 28 common rooms have joined the campaign, which means around 9.000 students will contribute for around £ 100,000 to the fund. More common rooms are proposing the motions during these weeks.

We are now in the process of drafting a Memorandum of Understanding with the university related to:

- The use of the fund, which is entirely managed by the university. The fund will have a 4% interest rate per year. Once the Memorandum of Understanding is completed (by the end of the term), the fund will be set up.
- Eligibility criteria for potential applicants. The scholarships will be open to asylum seekers already in UK, as they are not eligible for loans. It will not be open to refugees in the UK, as they are considered as UK citizens when applying to universities and are therefore eligible for loans. It will be open to refugees, internally displaced persons and persons residing in a country at war. As Oxford university does not recognise high school diplomas in the countries that the campaign is likely to target, it can be expected that mainly applicants for post-graduate degrees will be successful.
- We are now also in the process of signing the campaign to the “give as you earn” scheme for employees at university. In addition, as soon as the fund is set up, alumni will also be contacted to offer them the possibility to contribute to the fund.
- We have started a preliminary outreach phase, contacting university professors at bachelor level in areas with a high number of refugees and the response has been enthusiastic. Moreover, programs in Oxford such as the Sudanese Program at St. Anthony’s College and the Refugee Studies Centre, as well as the university’s funding team, have offered their assistance in promoting the scholarships overseas.
- We are currently discussing with the university the possibility of waiving tuition fees, so that the money collected can be used only for living expenses of scholars, thus providing the opportunity for more candidates to benefit from the scholarships. The discussion so far has been positive, though at this point there is not a final answer. Six colleges have already expressed their interest in waiving college fees, as well as to offer

accommodation and/or food for the scholars. Although this scholarship is not college-based but university-based, scholars will be allocated to colleges that decide to waive college fees to maximise the number of potential scholars.

APPENDIX II

Supporting Information Motion(s) to Donate Monies from the MCR Charity Fund

Beatrice Tyrrell: Oxford Hands-On Science (OxHOS)

OxHOS is a new student-run society at the University, aiming to communicate the excitement of science to young people and their families around the country. We'll be taking interactive experiments into primary and secondary schools, and to public festivals and community venues, to get kids involved with science and demonstrate that it's fun and relevant for everyone. The Summer Roadshow 2016 will be taking place at Oxfordshire Science Festival, schools in Oxfordshire and schools and public events in South Wales. Our volunteers are drawn from postgraduate and undergraduate science students across the University from a broad range of disciplines – we'll be advertising soon! Teddy Hall MCR members are particularly involved in the OxHOS committee planning experiments and the Roadshow – Beatrice Tyrrell is Founder and President, Corinna Kulicke is Secretary, Megan Sloan is IT Officer, Tonia Thomas is Fundraising Officer, Christina Turner is Treasurer and Rhiannon Main is Safety Officer.

We're now looking for funding to develop a repertoire of hands-on experiments and for Roadshow costs. Colleges, Departments and national scientific organisations are being approached for support alongside the MCR.

[Please see the attached Roadshow report for more information about OxHOS]

Tonia Thomas: BHF Fundraising Campaign

I've pledged to raise £2000 for the British Heart Foundation this year, with my main challenge to climb Kilimanjaro in September.

I am covering all my own costs for the Kilimanjaro trek so 100% of the funds raised will go directly to the BHF.

I've arranged cake sales and the charity formal dinner to help me with my fundraising campaign and it's all been going very well.

It would be really great if I could get the support from the MCR charities fund to help me hit my target!

More info about my motivation for supporting the BHF can be found on my JustGiving page: www.justgiving.com/Tonia-Thomas

APPENDIX III

MCR Guidelines on the Use of Social Media and other Online Services

This MCR hereby:

- *Affirms*, that the Middle Common Room should be a safe space in all respects, both in the real world and cyberspace.
- *Recognises*, that sometimes MCR members may act in a way that is at odds with the safe and tolerant atmosphere that we hope to cultivate.
- *Understands*, that at times liabilities for the St. Edmund Hall, the MCR or individual members arise due to a disregard for the nature of social media and the ease with which communication(s), which are perceived to be private, can be accessed publically.
- *Believes*, that the MCR should maintain a balance between members' right to freedom of expression, right to privacy and duty to create a space free of harassment.

To this effect we hereby agree to adopt and adhere to the following guidelines:

1. MCR members agree to take personal responsibility for their posts, emails, comments and any other form of online communication.
2. MCR members will refrain from using any MCR or St. Edmund Hall social media/other online forums to make personal attacks or engage any form of harassment.
3. Harassment shall be understood as defined according to the University of Oxford University Policy and Procedure on Harassment, which are available at the following URL: <https://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/harassmentadvice/policyandprocedure/>
4. Only currently serving MCR Committee Members shall act as Administrators on the MCR Facebook Page.
5. At the end of every academic year, the MCR Committee will renew the Facebook group to include only current MCR students. The remaining Facebook group will then be used as an Alumni group for that year.
6. MCR members will bring to the notice of the MCR Committee any behavior that they feel is a personal attack on themselves or another member of the MCR, rather than engaging with the alleged transgressor publicly.
7. The MCR Committee will communicate the complaint to the alleged transgressor in the hopes of resolving the dispute. The alleged transgressor may be asked to remove the post at issue, if it is felt this will mitigate the situation and/or resolve the dispute.
8. If the alleged transgressor does not agree to remove the post, the MCR Committee will attempt to mediate between the concerned parties to help settle the matter. If parties are still not satisfied after the Committee's intervention, the Committee will refer the matter, on request, to the Dean of St. Edmund Hall.

9. Where any form of communication grossly and openly violates the University Guidelines, referred to above, the MCR Committee will take reasonable measures to remove or delete said communication and inform the original poster of the reason for its removal.
 10. The MCR Committee shall ensure that these guidelines shall be reviewed at the first General Meeting of the MCR of Michaelmas Term of each year.
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