

**AGENDA**

**GENERAL MEETING**

**ST. EDMUND HALL MCR**

**MCR, 7pm 23 November 2016**

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## Confirm the Minutes from the Previous GM

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## Reports from MCR Committee Members

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## 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>
Michael Carey	Rochelle Ellen Carey
Thomas Kittel	William Glass
Anna Huggins	Theodor Cojoianu
Benjamin Jenkins	Michelle Degli Esposti
Benjamin Jenkins	Anne Castro

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## Motion to amend the MCR constitution: Academic Rep Amendments

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Brought forward by: MCR committee

Presented by: Ryan Daniels

At the last GM we brought forward the motion to amend the constitution 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.

(h) Take an active role in the running of the biannual research expo which is to take place in ‘even years’

(i) Manage the MCR Research blog”

This has been through a committee meeting and the first round of GM without objection and subsequently the Governing Body meeting.

Further details in Appendix A.

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## Motion to amend the MCR constitution: Ordinary and Associate Membership amendments

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Brought forward by: MCR committee  
Presented by: Ryan Daniels

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The MCR Committee have noted that the Constitution contains technical or grammatical errors/language, redundant provisions, missing provisions for some committee profiles and contradictions regarding the rights to vote for associate members.

The motion to amend the constitution has been split into several motions so that each amendment can be voted on separately, following below.  
During the general meeting, all substantive changes will be read in full and voted on as per the proposed wording of the amendment.

All amendments are highlighted in the document: "Constitution updates\_20112016.pdf"  
The current version of the constitution can be found here: [http://mcr.seh.ox.ac.uk/?page\\_id=53](http://mcr.seh.ox.ac.uk/?page_id=53)

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1) Currently 4<sup>th</sup> years who opt out of JCR membership are still treated as associate members of the MCR despite having no membership in the JCR. We would like to provide the opportunity for such 4<sup>th</sup> years to be wholly part of the MCR community; including voting rights and other privileges.

As such, the MCR Committee proposes to amend the Constitution as follows:  
- Allowing 4<sup>th</sup> year undergraduates to opt in to full Ordinary member status if they do not opt into JCR membership;

Minor amendments include:

- a) Correcting technical and grammatical errors;
- b) Removal of 'full time' student restrictions on associate membership

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## Motion to amend the MCR constitution: Guest Membership amendments

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Brought forward by: MCR committee  
Presented by: Ryan Daniels

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2) We wish to clarify the rights of guest members to vote at General Meetings. There is ambiguity in some parts of the constitution but it should be stated clearly that guest members do not have the right to vote at GM.

As such, the MCR Committee proposes to amend the Constitution as follows:

- We wish to clarify that guest members do not have the right to vote at General Meetings;

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### Motion to amend the MCR constitution: Voting rights of Associate Members

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Brought forward by: MCR committee

Presented by: Ryan Daniels

3) There are inconsistencies with reference to the voting rights of the associate members. We would emphasize that Associate Members may vote in MCR NSE Representative, MCR Academic Representative and MCR Sports Representative elections.

As such, the MCR Committee proposes to amend the Constitution as follows:

- Provide clarification on the voting rights of the MCR Associate members throughout the constitution;

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### Motion to amend the MCR constitution: MCR Sports Representative description

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Brought forward by: MCR committee

Presented by: Ryan Daniels

4) Clarify the provisions pertaining to the MCR Sports Representative and their roles and responsibilities in relevant parts of the constitution;

As such, the MCR Committee proposes to amend the Constitution as follows:

- Clarify the provisions pertaining to the MCR Sports Representative and their roles and responsibilities in relevant parts of the constitution;

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### Motion to amend the MCR constitution: Election amendments

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Brought forward by: MCR committee  
Presented by: Ryan Daniels

5) The constitution still refers to a ballot system and a physical counting of votes following an election. We now use electronic voting and we would like the constitution to allow for that.

As such, the MCR Committee proposes to amend the Constitution as follows:

- Reference to an electronic ballot system in place of a physical count of votes.

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### Motion to amend the MCR Standing orders: Guest Membership regulations

*This motion, if passed, will be included in the MCR Standing-orders*

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Brought forward by: MCR committee  
Presented by: Ryan Daniels

As part of the previous motion, the MCR committee has identified a series of proposed amendments to the standing-orders of the MCR.

- a) Addition of standing-orders for regulation of Guest membership.

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### Motion to amend the MCR Standing orders: Election regulations

*This motion, if passed, will be included in the MCR Standing-orders*

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Brought forward by: MCR committee  
Presented by: Ryan Daniels

As part of the previous motion, the MCR committee has identified a series of proposed amendments to the standing-orders of the MCR.

- b) Clarification on the regulation regarding campaigning:
  - When non-compliant advertising is removed by the RO; the president and the affected candidate is to be notified.
  - Reference to other candidates should be strictly factual

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### Motion to amend the MCR Standing orders: General Meeting procedures

*This motion, if passed, will be included in the MCR Standing-orders*

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Brought forward by: MCR committee

Presented by: Ryan Daniels

As part of the previous motion, the MCR committee has identified a series of proposed amendments to the standing-orders of the MCR.

c) The constitution includes provision for a debate during the GM when a motion is discussed. Since this is not necessary and has not been used by the MCR we would amend the constitution to allow for the current means of resolving motions, which is by a series of speeches and short question-answer time followed by a vote.

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### Motion to establish Guidelines for use for the MCR map

*This motion, if passed, will be included in the MCR by-laws*

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Brought forward by: MCR committee

Presented by: Ryan Daniels

Preamble:

These guidelines were drawn up retrospectively to regulate how and when changes to the map would be made.

The overall intention of the map is to showcase the diversity of subjects studied and locations of students that frequent the Hall over the years. We recognise that maintaining the map is only a worth-while activity for the MCR if the map can represent more than 'a single and static set of cohorts', that is to say the map should be dynamic enough to accommodate new cohorts.

#### **Proposed regulations**

1. Specification of how to properly use the map should be displayed adjacent to the map and maintained as a by-law.
  2. The by-law will be voted in through a General Meeting of the MCR.
  3. The Committee/Stewards shall removes all the pins from the board at an interval of 5 years
  5. Data on origin and subject of the students in each year should be transferred to the digital map database at the beginning of that year.
  6. For the creation of the digital map, the IT officer should be consulted to ensure oversight and practicality of the task.
  7. The maintenance of the map should be performed by the Stewards.
  8. The Stewards should ensure that incoming students are aware of the purpose of the map and that they are provided the opportunity to use the map.
  9. Each pin will represent a subject in an area of the map such that if there is already a pin for that subject, there is no need to add another (to help minimize overcrowding).
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## Motion to establish Guidelines for use of the MCR digital display

*This motion, if passed, will be included in the MCR by-laws*

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Brought forward by: MCR committee

Presented by: Ryan Daniels

### Preamble:

These guidelines were drawn up at the early stage of the use of the digital display in the MCR. At present the digital display can only be used as a digital notice board and for screenings at MCR events when arranged with prior approval from the Executive Committee.

We wish to mention that the MCR is not strictly a work space, though we understand that many people do enjoy it as a work space. We have accommodated this fact into the proposed guidelines.

### **Proposed use as an Information display:**

- The use of the digital display as a digital noticeboard will be maintained by the Vice President in collaboration with the communications officer for the college.
- The Vice-President will be in charge of updating and maintaining the content of the digital display with technical assistance from the MCR IT Officer and the college IT support staff where necessary.
- Notices posted will not include sound or videos
- Content should be considerate of the present diversity and sensitivity of the MCR community
- The use of the digital display should align itself with the present MCR 'atmosphere'

### **Proposed use as an MCR stewarding and entertainment tool:**

- The MCR committee will have access to the digital display as a tool for MCR organised events held in the MCR
  - The digital display will be available for use by the MCR when approved by the Stewards and after discussion with the MCR Executive Committee.
  - The use of the digital display as an entertainment tool for the MCR should be restricted to the hours before 9am and after 6pm on weekdays but without time restriction on weekends (Friday 6pm until Monday 9am).
  - Use of the digital display should be considerate of other members in the MCR.
  - The use of the digital display would not mean that the MCR as a room is to be considered 'booked' for private use. Other MCR members would still be allowed to use the MCR and to join in on the use of the digital display.
  - Use of the digital display must be in line with college rules, including but not restricted to those regarding gatherings and noise levels.
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- The MCR does not have a television license and as such the use of the digital display as a television set is not permitted.

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## Motion to proceed with the MCR Art Rotation

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Brought forward by: MCR committee

Presented by: Ryan Daniels

We would like to begin the art rotation soon. This involves, among other things, swapping out the MCR artwork for new pieces out of the store.

Some background: College has a large collection of art work as well as a fund for the purchase of new art work. There is a catalogue of the art work in the library which showcases some of this artwork. A motion was put forward several years ago to rotate the art work once every few (3) years but this obviously requires that someone takes the initiative and we are now due for a change of 'scenery'.

There were calls for participation in the art rotation team on facebook and via the mailing list and I've included the refurb team into the decision making process. However, the decisions will need to be made by a small team of people most closely involved. A meeting was held last week to decide the overall theme of the change so that we could present it at the GM.

### **Art rotation:**

The decision was to move toward more colourful pieces. The art in the MCR is quite dark at the moment, we'd like to soften the space a bit.

In this line we've gone for several water colour and oil pieces. Listed below are the sort of pieces we were considering. We will have fewer minimalist abstract art pieces and more colour and light-related abstract work.

Isle of Harris, Rain over sea – page 7, 50x40cm

Italian scene – page 7, 50x30

Pelicans airborne, Geoffrey Arcter – page 8, 60x40

Unfold, Lucy Bell – page 11, 30x30

Untitled pieces by Sarah Cowdry, pg 15-23, mostly 30x30

SEH from Quest lane, P. A. Curtis—page 25, 20x20

Untitled (picture of a wall), John Godden – page 35, 60x50

First snow, J. Lehman – page 42,

Lourdes-Massabielle, Phillip Morsberger – page 46

The catalogue is available in the library during work hours from the librarian.

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**Other changes included in the rotation:**

1. We would like to reserve the wall space adjacent to the bar area (currently occupied by art of naked men) for art produced by the Hall.
2. We would like to proceed with mounting the photographs of the MCR in the entrance/first room.
3. We would like to digitising old MCR photos for use on the website and on the digital display.

The decisions regarding the practicalities of undertaking this art rotation will be made by the art refurb team in collaboration with Jonathan Yates (the art collection manager) and the Domestic bursar-team.

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**Motion for the MCR to support the MCR NSE community in getting a water cooler or water purifier**

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Brought forward by: MCR Committee  
Presented by: Jake White (NSE representative)

Further to Monday evening's committee meeting and our discussion, I would like to present a motion for the MCR Committee to support the NSE community in getting a water cooler or water purifier because of the foul tasting water from the cold taps at 17 Norham Gardens. I propose that this water cooler or purifier be based in the lobby area of 17 NSE (with the vending machine). This should be funded by college and should be available until such a time as the water is suitable for drinking again.

We request here that the MCR community shows support of the NSE representative approaching college for the water cooler/purifier.

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**Motion for the MCR to Purchase a Subscription to 'The Economist'**

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Brought forward by: Timo Haber  
Presented by: Timo Haber

The MCR would benefit from a subscription to The Economist since it is one of the most authoritative weekly magazines on issues such as politics, international relations and economics. Hence, it would keep members up to date with important developments

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outside of the UK and provide important background material for further discussions or potential research.

I believe the interest for this subscription is considerable as we do have a relatively large amount (compared to other MCRs) of economics students in the MCR. Furthermore, as mentioned before, this is probably suited not only to economists, but to a larger set of students in our MCR.

The cost of the subscription should be about 3 pounds per week or 145 pounds per year if we opt for the year-long subscription.

I propose there that the MCR purchase a year-long subscription to 'The Economist'.

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### Motion to Donate from the MCR Charity Fund to Support Matt's Palliative Care

Brought forward by: Edwards Baker

Second by: George Spill

This MCR notes:

1. Matt has contributed much to college through the boat club, rugby and other Extracurriculars.
2. Matt was a student here for the last 3 years and would have joined the MCR as a masters' student this year.
3. The prosthetics and mobility assistance in the NHS is limited.
4. Matt would like to do some traveling in the next few months.
5. Several MCR members have organised a fundraising event on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November, the cake sale and ergothon in college

This MCR believes:

1. A better wheelchair and or prosthetics would enable travelling and significantly improve his day to day quality of life.

This MCR resolves to:

- Donate £500 to Matt for the purpose of improving his quality of life and other costs.
- Use the MCR mail list to advertise further fundraising events.
- Bake some cakes for the fundraiser

To give this motion context I please see Matt's story below:

*My name is Matt Greenwood and I have bone cancer. If I didn't, I would just have started my 4th year at the University of Oxford studying Engineering. Instead, I have spent the last 15 weeks bedridden in hospital, enduring nearly 2 cycles of chemotherapy.*

*The cancer started in my hip and then spread to my lungs. Unfortunately, recent scans have confirmed that the chemo has not worked at all. The doctors have therefore given me 6 – 9 months left to live.*

*Previously I was very sporty, I rowed in Oxford and played rugby before that. I used to run, play squash, cycle, and get as much time outdoors as I could. One of my greatest passions was to travel as much as possible; I have been to Africa, China, and toured Europe.*

*My desire to get out of bed and make the most of the rest of my life led me to the difficult decision that I needed to have my leg amputated. Due to the spread of the disease, I had to have half of my pelvis removed. Right now I am learning how to get into a wheelchair from bed, and hopefully I will eventually stand and learn to walk with crutches.*

*It breaks my heart to have to send out this message. What I ask of everyone is to cross all our fingers for a speedy recovery, and then make the absolute most of every single minute that I have left. The support of my friends and family is all that has got me through the last 15 weeks, and I am so grateful for everyone who has been there for me. I am not just going to lie here and let cancer win; I am going to travel and party and love, and get the most I can out of the remainder of my life.*

*By donating, you are buying a better wheelchair, or crutches, or a prosthetic. You are letting me carry on my dream of travelling the world. Most importantly, you are giving me the chance to live out my life with hope, and a smile.*

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## Motion to Donate from the MCR Charity Fund to Mental Health Drama Project

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Brought forward by: Roxana Willis

Presented by: Roxana Willis

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I would like to nominate a mental health drama project for consideration for an award from the MCR Charity Fund. This is a student-led initiative, which is set up and delivered by members of St Edmund Hall.

The project builds on the successful Act for Change Healing Minds project developed by college members in 2014. Healing Minds involved creating an interactive play on postnatal depression which was performed in slum communities, leprosy society, and medical training centres in India. For more information on this project, please see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=baCXm5nYbOY>

We now hope to develop another branch of Act for Change in order to address youth mental health in the UK. The project is called Hearing Young Voices, which is a mental health public engagement project initiated by young people for young people. We attach the project proposal here for your consideration.

### **Justification for the Project**

Each year, one in four people in the UK will experience a mental health problem (Mind, 2016). Moreover, it is predicted that three children in every classroom have a diagnosable mental health disorder (Young Minds, 2016). However, access to mental health support is

limited – partly due to a lack of funding, and partly due to limited understanding of mental illness. Services dedicated to the mental health support of young persons, such as the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), are heavily overburdened, which leaves many young people without healthcare assistance. Understandably, young people are increasingly turning to self-medication in order to mitigate the short-term difficulties they experience.

Our project provides a space for young people from a range of socioeconomic backgrounds to openly discuss mental health through interactive drama exercises. This dialogue is then communicated to policymakers, youth workers, researchers, and medical practitioners with a view to influence developments in youth mental healthcare services.

### **Project Outline**

The project uses an interactive type of drama called "forum theatre" as a way for participants to explore their experiences of mental illness. Unique to this project, the plays produced will be developed, written, and performed by the participating young people. While a large part of the project will be run by student volunteers from Oxford, we are also partnering with Complementary Education Academy, Northamptonshire, which is a school for children excluded from mainstream education.

The first stage will involve working with young adults at the University of Oxford, who will take part in forum theatre training workshops. In the course of these workshops, students will discuss and explore their mental health needs and challenges. These exercises will then inform the development of an interactive play, which will be performed for young people enrolled in secondary schools previously attended by the University of Oxford student participants. In the second stage, the Oxford volunteers will work with CE Academy students to conduct similar workshops in Northamptonshire. Next, a group of student volunteers from CE Academy will have the opportunity to take part in developing an interactive play based on their experiences in the workshops. This interactive play will then be performed for young people enrolled in other schools in Northamptonshire, widening the dialogue about youth mental health. In the final stage of the project, the plays developed by the Oxford volunteers, and the CE Academy students will be refined and performed in a conference targeting researchers, charity workers, teachers, and policymakers in Northamptonshire and Oxford. In this way, the experienced voices of young people will be able to be heard and responded to.

### **Budget**

We seek to raise £10,000 for the project to take place. So far, we have secured a grant of £1,000 from the Magdalen College Trust. A donation of £500 from the St Edmund Hall MCR community would be an instrumental contribution to help us to meet our target. We will ensure that the MCR community will have an opportunity to benefit from the project, for example, by enabling MCR members to take part in the forum theatre workshops.

Thank you for considering our project for this support. Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information.

We propose that the MCR community donate £500 from the Charity Fund to the Hearing Young Voices project.

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## Motion to Donate from the MCR Charity Fund to the Sylva Wood Charity

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Brought forward by: Andrew Martin

Presented by: Ryan Daniels

Sylva Wood Charity is a Britain-wide organization that works toward forest conservation across the UK.

Some of their focus includes promoting and conducting research for the public benefit about effective sustainable forest management and the dissemination of the useful results of such research. They also work on advancing education for the public benefit in the theory and practice of sustainable forest management, supporting the development and application of sustainable forest management for the public benefit, advancing education and business enterprise in the design and production of home-grown wood products for the public benefit.

Andrew Martin works with the wood charity on some projects. They were also very willing to help the MCR with various punt repair issues, offering advice and storage space, often free of charge.

We propose to make the donation as a once off contribution (£180) toward a single forest plot and we get the regular 'benefits' of such donations as specified here:

<https://sylva.org.uk/forestfriend>

This includes the college MCR listed as a supporter on the website, a unique 'leaf key', an annual photo update on how our plot is doing, a certificate of dedication and an invitation to the annual 'Into the Woods' day.

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## Motion to Donate from the MCR Charity Fund to the British Heart Foundation

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Brought forward by: Tonia Thomas

Presented by: Tonia Thomas

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I am nominating the British Heart Foundation for the MCR charity fund. The BHF is the main heart charity in the UK, and they fund life-changing research across the University. However scientific research is very expensive, and the BHF relies primarily on public donations to fund their research. Heart disease is the leading cause of death worldwide, and new therapies for the treatment of heart failure are desperately needed (we currently have no treatments that effectively repair the heart after a heart attack). In addition to funding research, the BHF also works hard to raise awareness of the importance of leading a healthy lifestyle to prevent heart disease. 4 out of 5 heart attacks can be prevented by healthy eating and exercise, and this is something I'm focused on promoting. It's easy to think that heart disease only affects older people, but lifestyle changes need to start early to prevent the life-long damage that ends in a heart attack.

I will be cycling from London to Paris in July 2017 to raise funds for the BHF and my target is £1500, therefore I would be very grateful if the MCR could support my campaign by donating £500 from the MCR Charity Fund.

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## Items for Discussion

NONE.

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## APPENDIX I

### **Motion to amend the MCR constitution: Academic Rep Amendments**

#### **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 5<sup>th</sup> week of Michaelmas Term until 10<sup>th</sup> 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.**
- (h) **Take an active role in the running of the biannual research expo which is to take place in 'even years'**
- (i) **Manage the MCR Research blog**