

# **MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING**

## **ST. EDMUND HALL MCR**

**7:30 PM, 28 OCTOBER 2015**

### **Apologies:**

Tonia Thomas

Alex Blakes

---

### **Confirmation of Independent Chair**

Jessica Davidson was confirmed as the Independent Chair for the MCR for 2015-16

In her absence, Charlotte Cooper served as the Independent chair ad hoc for the General Meeting

---

### **Reports from Committee Members**

#### **President (Pip Coore)**

- Attended GPBC in Week 3 – Nothing significant to report, apart from the now completed acquisition of 24 Norham Gardens, which will serve as Graduate student housing, once it is refurbished/renovated.
- 3000<sup>th</sup> Woman Project – The President informed the MCR of developments in the Hall's planned celebration of the 3000<sup>th</sup> matriculating woman milestone, including hanging portraits of illustrious female alumni in the Hall and inviting female alumni to the 'Woman's Formal' on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2015.
- Reported to the MCR about College's decision not to replace the MCR Butler, and highlighted the plan for the role to be filled instead by regular cleaners.

#### **Vice-President**

- Attended Domestic Committee meeting in Week 2 - Nothing significant to report
- Attended Academic Committee meeting in Week 1 – Participated in a discussion regarding the Norrington Table and measures that College and the student body can take to promote an environment of commitment to academics.

#### **Steward(s) (report by Linde Wester)**

- Freshers week events and the newly introduced matriculation event were well attended – No complaints from MCR members
- Attended Domestic Committee meeting in Week 1 – Nothing significant to report

### **Treasurer**

- MCR finances are, as they now stand, in a healthy position
- The exact balance in the MCR account, as of date, is 13752.27 GBP

### **Welfare Officer(s) (report by Megan Sloan)**

- Welfare events during Freshers Week were well attended
- Welfare Team has begun planning events for student parents, with two events on the Term Card so far for Michaelmas Term.
- The Welfare Team has been approached about appointing ancillary members to support Women and Student-Parents; Details about a call for nominations will be sent to the MCR regarding a Women's, Men's and Student-Parent's Ancillary Welfare Officer.

### **IT Officer**

- Improvement have been made to the MCR website to make it more user-friendly and accessible on smartphones
- The IT Officer had begun monitoring the Stats for website traffic – A perusal of the stats thus far shows that the website has mainly been used to access information by new incoming students about College and MCR facilities
- The MCR now has a presence on Twitter - @teddyhallmcr – Members who are active on Twitter are encouraged to add the MCR
- IT officer has put up instructions for the use of the lockers in the Computer Room
- IT Officer is currently working on making online BBQ and Punt booking easier

## **Nominations for Guest Membership**

The following members were approved by unanimous vote for Guest Membership of the MCR. The members who had proposed their names will be billed accordingly.

- Alberto Merchante Gonzalez (nominated by Linde Wester)
- Nikola Yolov (nominated by Linde Wester)
- Lauren Hillbrick (nominated by John Carroll)
- Daniel Quinn (nominated by Rebecca Smith)
- Alan Nicol (nominated by Meghan Lim)
- Meir Gonen (nominated by Marc Schulman)
- Hira Naeem (nominated by Shoaib Khan)

- Alex Cockerham (nominated by David Severson)
- Patricia Anne Rattue (nominated by Kevin Rattue)
- Trent Taylor (nominated by Timothy Donnison)
- Beccy Preece (nominated by Gemma Prata)
- Tom Hole (nominated by Jeanne Marie Ryan)
- Jason Peevers (nominated by Fiona Cahill)
- Robert Chard (nominated by Pip Coore)

The point was also raised about the MCR coordinating with College to look into some form of lifetime membership for Alumni

---

### **Motion to Purchase Lamps for the NSE and MCR Computer Room**

MCR has voted to ask college to provide desk lamps for MCR Computer Room and NSE Computer Room.

Linde Wester and Zafar Khurshid will raise the issue at Domestic Committee

---

### **Motion to Amend the MCR Constitution**

The motion passed – with no objections and 1 member abstaining – to approve the proposed changes to the MCR Constitution suggested by the MCR Committee, subject to the following:

- i. Article 2.2(c) would be amended to read “members of the University pursuing a medical degree at the College who are in their 4<sup>th</sup> year of study or beyond who have completed their pre-clinical years”
- ii. The language regarding MCR Sports Representative would be amended to more clearly reflect the exact duties and responsibilities of the office, similar to the structure of clauses relating to other Committee posts.

The amended version of the Constitution will be presented again at the next General Meeting, as per the requirements of the constitution regarding amendment.

---

### **Motion to discuss action regarding sexual assaults in Oxford**

Gemma Prata has recounted an instance of sexual assault outside the nightclub ‘Plush’ and has suggested that we look at ways in which the MCR can help making nights out for its members, and others, safer. To this purpose a discussion was held to suggest measures that Gemma, with the support of the MCR, could take moving forward.

The Vice-President read out a statement from Tonia Thomas (Welfare Officer) regarding this issue, helping to highlight some of the measures taken by the MCR to support awareness and training and making suggestions moving forward.

The measures suggested were as follows:

1. Supporting the 'Good Night Out' Campaign by ensuring that it is selected as one of the charities that the MCR supports through either the Tea & Cake evenings or the 'Big Night In' charity event.
2. MCR members agree not to patronize 'Plush' as an establishment, until they make changes to their policies to ensure the safety of their customers including, but not limited to, working with the Good Night Campaign
3. The MCR Committee has emphasized that they will not be patronizing Plush/choosing it as a venue for MCR events.
4. The MCR has supported Gemma in an effort to start a petition, to be brought to the attention of College and University Societies.
5. If Gemma decides to contact newspapers regarding this issue, the MCR will support such a measure and member(s) present will do what they can do foster such efforts.

---

### **Motion to purchase an automatic Coffee Dispenser to replace filtered Coffee Machine**

It was brought to the attention of the MCR that Jayne Taylor, the Domestic Bursar, has suggested replacing the current filter coffee machine in the MCR with an automated coffee dispenser. This suggestion has been raised due to concerns about wastage.

The pros and cons of replacing the coffee machine were discussed. The former being portability and reduced wastage. The latter being maintenance issues and environmental issues.

The motion passed – by 10 votes to 3, with 7 abstentions – to discuss the possibility of replacing the coffee machine with the Domestic Bursar, subject to the following:

1. Pip Coore will clarify issues of maintenance, cleaning, servicing of the machine and supply of said automated coffee dispenser.
2. The College will provide the funds for the purchase of said automated coffee dispenser
3. The selected automated coffee dispenser will be one that will be an improvement, or at the very least not a diminishment, upon the current machine with regards to quality, ease of use and ease of maintenance.

---

### **Motion to purchase speakers for the MCR and the NSE**

The motion on the Agenda to purchase speakers for the MCR and the motion to purchase speakers for the NSE were combined and discussed together.

Pip Coore stated for the information of the MCR that the GPBC has no objections to the use of speakers in the MCR or the NSE Common Room, subject to reasonableness.

The motion passed, with 1 abstention, to spend up to 250 GBP, on the whole, on speakers for the MCR and the NSE Common Room, subject to the following:

1. Pip Coore shall clarify with the Bursar whether the College might reimburse these costs, as they may constitute improvements to College maintained; and properties.
2. Checking the existing speakers in the possession of the MCR, to ensure that the need is not already fulfilled

---

Members were thanked for their attendance and informed that the next General Meeting will take place in 7<sup>th</sup> Week.