

MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING

ST. EDMUND HALL MCR

Tuesday, 1st December 2015, 7:30 PM

Apologies:

Pip Coore
Alex Blakes
Megan Sloan
Tom Cosnahan
Nidi Tapoulal

The Independent Chair chose to rearrange the order in which some Motions were discussed, to better facilitate discussion.

Items were discussed in the order minuted.

Approval of Minutes from Last meeting

The minutes of the last General Meeting were approved without objection

Reports from MCR Committee Members

Vice-President (/Acting President)

President put Amended MCR Constitution before Governing Body, which approved, after making a few recommendations regarding the role of MCR Sports Representative.

Stewards

Stewards organised the MCR Halloween Party in the Graveyard, which was very well received.

Whiskey tasting and Wine Tasting this Term were well attended.

Exchange dinners have been popular this term.

Timo Haber has been acting as Ancillary Steward in place of Alex Blakes, who is out of the country.

Welfare Officer

Cake evenings were conducted throughout Michaelmas Term.

Nothing else to report.

Treasurer

The Treasurer has taken over the responsibilities of ensuring Members are battled for their opt-out levy to the Charity Fund, which will begin from Hillary Term 2015.

The Treasurer has also coordinated with College regarding the MCR 50th Anniversary Grant, which will be available to members of the MCR, and for which they will be battled, from Hillary Term 2015.

Nominations for Guest Membership

The following individuals were confirmed as Guest Members of the MCR

- Amadeo Agosti (nominated by Pip Coore)
- Ian J. Harvey (nominated by William J. Harvey)
- Alexandra Reza (nominated by Jessica Davidson)
- Nadescha Trudel (nominated by Tom Cosnahan)

Action Point:

The Vice-President shall contact the Porters Lodge to inform them of the new Guest Members, so that access keys may be issued to them, which shall be collected by the Ordinary Members who nominated them.

Motion to Allow Blackfriars Students to Use the College Bar

The MCR agreed to encourage College to allow Blackfriars Students access to the College Bar, with the understanding that College shall ensure that Blackfriars Students treat the College facilities with respect, and that College looks into why Blackfriars' earlier arrangement for access to another College's Bar came to an end.

Action Point:

The President shall communicate the result of this Motion to the College Office

Motion to Introduce Priority booking for Ordinary Members at Christmas and Trinity Dinners

AND

Motion to Restrict Christmas Dinner and Trinity dinner to MCR members, including MCR guest members

Since these two Motions related to the same/similar subject matter, the Independent Chair decided that the two Motions would be discussed together, and then voted on separately.

It was clarified that in the event that either Motion passed, it would not affect the bookings for the MCR Christmas dinner, but it would affect the booking policy for Trinity Dinner.

Tom Verbiest, speaking for the former Motion, clarified that the Motion was in no way an indication of any ill-will towards Guest Members of the MCR. It was only proposed to try and address a problem of demand for MCR events, which, due to the growing nature of the MCR, does not always find suitable supply.

Linde Wester, speaking for the latter Motion, clarified that the Motion was proposed in order to give an incentive for those that would like their partners/spouses/others to be able to attend MCR social events to nominate them for Guest Membership.

The first Motion, namely the “Motion to Introduce Priority booking for Ordinary Members at Christmas and Trinity Dinners” was **defeated**

The second motion, namely the “Motion to Restrict Christmas Dinner and Trinity dinner to MCR members, including MCR guest members” **passed**

Motion to Amend the MCR Constitution

The Motion to accept the Amended MCR Constitution, which was passed at the last General Meeting, passed without objection.

Action Point: The IT Officer shall make the Amended version of the Constitution available on the MCR Archives Page

Motion to Adopt Constitution for the MCR Charity Fund

The motion was passed to adopt a Constitution for the MCR Charity Fund, with immediate effect, after certain friendly amendments were accepted and reflected in the text of the document.

Action Point: The IT Officer shall make the MCR Charity Fund Constitution available on the MCR Archives Page

Motion(s) to Support the following Charities/Organizations through monies in the MCR Ultra Vires Charity Fund

1. Age UK (nominated by Alice Bloch) – In the amount of 250£
Motion passed
2. Type1 International (nominated by Rebecca Smith) – In the amount of 500£
Motion passed

Action Point:

The MCR Treasurer shall disperse the funds to the respective charities

Motion to Support Scholarships for Refugees

The Motion to support scholarships for refugees passed, as is, subject to the following:

- that the Oxford Students Refugees Council would keep the MCR informed of the progress of the efforts to successfully implement the scheme
- that MCR members would not be battled in order to fund the scheme until a future date when the Oxford Students Refugees Council could ensure that the monies would be used for the purpose provided

Action Point(s):

The MCR President shall send oxrcampaign@gmail.com an email with the header 'St. Edmund Hall' MCR supports Oxford Students Refugee Scholarships'.

The MCR President shall inform College Officers and Governing Body that this motion has been passed and ask they support the campaign as individuals and as a college body.

Motion to Provide Financial Assistance to the Teddy Hall Ball

The MCR agreed to donate 500£ to the Teddy Hall Ball Association, to match the 500£ donated by the JCR.

Action Point:

The Treasurer shall contact the Teddy Hall Ball Association to make the payment of 500£ to the same.

Other Business

The Independent Chair decided that since the "Motion to consult the MCR regarding steps that may be taken to promote an atmosphere of Academic dedication in the Hall" did not require a vote, it was not a Motion and would instead be discussed under Other Business.

With regard to this item of discussion, the following observations were made:

- The MCR agreed with the Academic Representative that measures should be taken to better inculcate an atmosphere of academics/intellectualism in the Hall.
- However, it was generally agreed that such measures should not be of a penal nature and should not attempt to force individuals to organize their priorities during their time at Oxford according to set parameters.
- The College could make efforts to foster more events/programs in a similar vein to Academic Dinners

- The College should take a look into the current College Advisors system, to see how it could better serve the academic needs of junior members
 - It was clarified that the MCR considered the issue to be one larger than simply a question of climbing higher on the “Norrington Table”; While the Rankings in said Table may have been the impetus for this discussion in the Academic Committee, the response required should be more holistic.
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