

# MINUTES

## GENERAL MEETING

### ST. EDMUND HALL MCR

5:45 PM, 2nd March 2016

#### **Apologies:**

Alice Bloch

Linde Wester

Nidi Tapoulal

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*The Minutes from the last General Meeting were approved without any objections (20 Votes)*

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#### **Reports from MCR Committee Members**

##### **President**

- The GPBC had no objection to naming the MCR Punt Mrs. Brown, as was decided by a vote at the General Meeting; they also had no objections to placing a plaque on the MCR Utilities Cupboard in honour of Julie McCann.
- The MCR will soon be sent information regarding a Porters' Formal Hall, which shall be co-hosted by the JCR-MCR in Trinity Term.
- The JCR-MCR will jointly host an All Staff Party in Trinity Term for the entire College staff.
- Assurances have been given by the St. Catz President that Sebastian the Bear, who is currently absent from the MCR, will be returned at the St. Catz exchange on Friday, i.e. 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2016.

##### **Vice-President**

- Nothing new to report.

##### **Treasurer**

- The following allocations were made from the MCR Charity Fund, based on motions passed at the last General Meeting of Michaelmas Term
  - i. £250 to Age UK
  - ii. £250 to Type 1 International
- As there was a surplus in the Charity Fund for the Term, 3 charities were presented to the MCR and funds were allocated to them as per the proportion of votes received via an online poll, as follows:
  - i. Prostate Cancer UK - £60.42 (based on 11.4% of the votes polled)
  - ii. The Good Night Out campaign - £157.58 (based on 28.6% of the votes polled)
  - iii. Alzheimer's Society - £318 (based on 60% of the votes polled)

### **Stewards** (Update given by Alex Blakes)

- Stewards hosted two very successful events since the last General Meeting – the Cake & Cocktails Party, and a Beer Tasting.

### **Welfare**

- Welfare Massages during 5<sup>th</sup> Week were as popular as ever; they were completely booked out, despite the fact that the duration was increased to 2 days.
- There will soon be a new biscuit tin and biccy box in the MCR for people to enjoy biscuits and donate their change towards purchasing the same, respectively.
- Peer Support continues on Tuesdays at 7:00pm in the Welfare Room.
- The Welfairy scheme is now underway for people to send welfare treats to friends and fellow MCR members; members have already begun to utilize the scheme.
- The Welfare Team, along with members of the JCR, are re-starting the ‘Teddy Etc.’ group – a forum for various issues, including feminism, racism, etc; they are due to have their first meeting next week.
- Zumba and Yoga classes will continue during the Easter Break.

### **IT**

- Currently designing an MCR Survey, which will serve as a general feedback survey about the MCR, College Accommodation, Welfare, etc; the survey will be finalized and sent out soon.

### **NSE Rep**

- Nothing new to report

### **Academic Rep** (Update given by Pip Coore/Zafar Khurshid, as Alice Bloch was no able to attend)

- The Academic Committee has taken the decision that the Postgraduate Schools Dinner will be hosted sometime during 9<sup>th</sup> Week; the Committee wished to remind students that if they book on they should every effort to attend as it is unfair to others if they do not.

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***At this time the Returning officer added that nominations will open early next term for MCR Committee elections.***

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### **Motion to Support the Oxford Students Refugee Campaign**

Erica Aiazzi was in attendance to speak in favour of the motion. She offered updates on the campaign since the related motion was passed at the second General Meeting of the MCR during Michaelmas Term. A document highlighting the same was attached with the Agenda.

It was clarified that the Scholarship will fund the study of those who have already secured a place at the University, rather than offering places specifically for refugee students.

The question was raised as to what would be the status of applicants who are granted asylum status while applicants for the scholarship. Erica clarified that this matter had not yet been addressed by the campaign committee, but would be taken up at their next meeting.

It was clarified that there will be a Board/Panel to look into cases that are not clear-cut regarding the refugee status of applicants; said Board/Panel will aim to include experts in the field to consider such cases on a case-by-case basis.

While the aim will be to allocate gathered funds to the fullest every year, where they are not they will accumulate interest in the fund and be carried over for the next calendar year.

**Votes cast as follows:**

Yay 20

Nay 0

Abstaining 1

**Result: Motion passes**

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

Beatrice Tyrrell asks the MCR to donate **£500** to Oxford Hands-On Science (OxHOS)

It was clarified that the project covers a broad range of sciences. While the long-term impact on children is hard to gauge, it is hoped that it will inculcate an interest at a young age; as part of trying to gauge this interest feedback is sourced from participants, schools, parents, etc.

**Votes cast as follows:**

Yay 22

Nay 0

Abstaining 0

**Result: Motion passes**

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Tonia Thomas asks the MCR to donate **£500** for her BHF fundraising campaign

Tonia has currently raised 1200£ out of her pledge of 2000£.

Pip Coore raises the point that we should make a greater effort to align our support for BHF, i.e. to highlight our support/participation with their cause, through social media for instance.

It has been requested that Tonia carry some Teddy Hall stash to take a picture at the top of Mt. Kilimanjaro.

**Votes cast as follows:**

Yay 21

Nay 0

Abstaining 1

**Result: Motion passes**

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

It is clarified that the University guidelines are referred to in document to the extent of defining harassment, rather than prescribing action to be taken.

As the document attached was drafted on the basis of the discussion conducted in the General Meeting during Week 2 of Hilary Term, it was felt that no further discussion was necessary and that the motion could be voted on, as is.

**Votes cast as follows:**

Yay 16

Nay 2

Abstaining 4

**Result: Motion passes**

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