

St Edmund Hall MCR General Meeting
7pm Wednesday 24th January, 2018
General Meeting Minutes

Independent Chair Theresa Scharbert standing in for Ryan Daniels opened the meeting at 7:05pm. Quorum was met with 16 members present.

Committee Reports

President: Reminded the MCR that the current Principal, Professor Keith Gull CBE is retiring at the end of the academic year and that interviews for the new principal are currently ongoing. MCR and JCR executives have been invited to take part in the interview process. The process is expected to remain ongoing into Trinity Term.

Vice-President: Notified the MCR that nominations for Charities Fund shall open in week six, and that the vote to settle allocation of funds shall take place during the second General Meeting of Hilary Term in week seven. Discussions also remain ongoing with the JCR and Development Office regarding the creation of an investment fund for Teddy Hall students who have an interest in investment banking and finance. Offered a further reminder that anyone who wishes to advertise an event or initiative is welcome to do so through the weekly mailers.

Stewards: Acknowledged success of the Burns Night supper and anticipate another smoothly run event – the Hearne Dinner coming up shortly. Some spare spots have opened up on this dinner, and anyone wishing to go should approach the stewards. A reminder was put to the MCR that the Teddy Hall talent show shall also take place on the same day as the Hearne Dinner. Exchange dinners with Merton and Jesus college shall take place later in the term.

Treasurer: Apologies

Welfare: Apologies

Sports Rep: MCR members are invited to notify the Sports Rep about any results that involve MCR members so that they can be included in the weekly sports round ups. An email shall also follow with Blues Fund and Gym Induction information.

NSE Rep: The Sunday brunches are continuing as normal. Saturday 10th February is also earmarked for an MCR party taking place at NSE – more information to follow.

Academic Rep: Apologies.

Environmental Rep: An instruction sheet will be drawn up for the charger box in the MCR. Motion brought forward to be discussed later.

Nominations for Guest Membership:

The following guest memberships were unanimously approved without abstention:

Ordinary Member	Guest Member
Ronald Guthrie	Melissa Charlton
Theresa Scharbert	Gloria Kutscher

Both were questioned on their baking skills and whether or not they can row. Melissa Charlton has been known to bake good banana bread.

Motion to Purchase Board Games for the MCR

Motion brought forward by: Ronald Guthrie and Kusal Lokuge

Motion presented by: Ronald Guthrie and Kusal Lokuge.

The motion: Compared to other Colleges, Teddy Hall MCR has very few board games and those that we do have are ageing. To promote interaction and increase involvement between members of the MCR community, a variety of popular board games should be bought and stored in the MCR in College for future use. £150-200 (subject to availability of funds in the MCR budget) would buy several new, high quality board games along with some second hand ones we can get our hands on. Suggestions of board games would be made welcome by the community to the committee."

Following short discussion, an amended motion was presented to reduce the expenditure on MCR board games to £100 following advice from the Treasurer. The amended motion passed unanimously.

Motion to Support Divestment from Fossil Fuels

Brought forward by: Elana Sulakshana.

Seconded by: Maren Fichter

Presented by: Elana Sulakshana

The Environmental Rep said that discussions were taking place with the domestic bursar about what can be done to reduce carbon footprint at the college level, and that the presenters and seconders were here to seek support from the student body. A question was raised over how what percentage of St Edmund Hall's holdings were invested in fossil fuel companies, to which no clear answer was given, as colleges tend not to reveal their portfolios. Those present were reminded of the figure of 3% which applied to the university aggregate portfolio.

When questioned over which companies would likely be subject to this, the answer according to the Carbon Underground top 200 list.

A debate then followed over the how effective it would be to remove conscientious shareholders from major oil and gas companies, and whether the lack of shareholder engagement and possible shareholder activism would deliver a suitable outcome. A

point of objection as raised about the state-owned competitors to the likes of BP and Shell – whereas BP and Shell do conduct investment and resources into developing sustainable energy, their competitors – Gazprom and the China National Petroleum Corporation CNPC do not. A reduction in investment into BP/Shell would serve to strengthen the hand of the more environmentally unfriendly competitors – thereby resulting in a worse situation for the environment than before. Debate continued back and forth.

The idea of the motion, regardless of the actual size of the colleges investment, was to send a signal to the world that a more sustainable future is desired.

When brought to a vote, the results were as follows:

Against: 3

For: 8

Abstentions: 4

Motion passed.

Any Other Business:

None

Meeting adjourned: 19:35