**GENERAL MEETING**

**ST EDMUND HALL MCR**

**MCR, 7PM 23rd October 2019**

Present: President (FS), Vice President (HS), Stewards (BW, RS), Welfare (KM, HB), Treasurer (AG), Sports rep (BE), IT officer (JH)

Absent: none

Quorum reached: 12+ (31)

1. **Approval of minutes of last MCR General Meeting**

*Approved*

1. **Nomination of Independent Chair**

The following individual(s) have been nominated to stand as independent chair for the academic year 2019/20. Nominations are made by the President and voted in by majority vote:

Ronald Guthrie

*Approved*

1. **Matters Arising**

Change to the standing orders of the MCR through the charity fund constitution

Proposed by: Benjamin Fernando

Seconded: Hannah Sharpe

* Amending the rules of the charity fund to reflect the requirements of the college as a charity, and to ensure that the correct money is dealt with and distributed efficiently.
* RG: Friendly amendments suggested –
	+ change text from ‘part of the MCR Standing Orders’ to ‘Part of the MCR Bylaws’, point 4.1
	+ Point 4.3, remove/amend if necessary as the Charity Fund Constitution is a bylaw and not part of the Constitution, so it doesn’t need to go through governing body for changes.

Motion passed by majority vote

**Reports from MCR Officers**

* **President**
	+ Freshers week review being sent out to freshers by college, please fill in and return to any committee member for feedback.
	+ Joint JCR/MCR budget. The MCR is asking college for a joint JCR and MCR budget for events over summer and Easter. However currently stalled by college but is in progress to allow for more vacation events for postgrads/undergrads present in college over the holidays.
	+ Ancillary committee positions – FS will send an email tomorrow regarding ancillary committee positions. This will involve unelected positions (Charities officer, 2x ancillary stewards, diversity and equalities officer (to help organize diversity and equalities week), LGBTQ+ rep)
		- There will be MCR elections in two weeks for elected positions, which will include NSE rep, Academic rep, sports rep. We encourage new freshers to run for these positions on the committee.
	+ College’s environmental strategy – new strategy for the next 10 years from college, aim to become the most environmentally friendly college in Oxford. Developed by Jeremy Sigmon, who has done a survey and collated the results together and they will be released next week. Anyone who is keen to help please contact Jeremy or Freddie.
	+ College has approved our Halloween bop 2 weeks on Saturday
* **Vice President**
	+ Thank you to everyone who helped move the punt
	+ Please send more events and announcements to be included in the weekly notices
* **Stewards**
	+ Events
		- Term card is released – please keep an eye on it and on the online calendar.
		- Next formal release is on Friday (25/10).
		- Feast of St Edmund on 22/11. This is free for all new freshers, but spaces are limited. An email invitation will be sent by college.
* **Welfare**
	+ Up-coming events
		- RuPauls drag race in NSE common room
		- Sunday – drawings from Life coach 1-4:30pm
* **Sports rep**
	+ Last gym inductions on Tuesday evening. Sign up is broken so just turn up
	+ More stash on the way in the next email
	+ Blues fund will be released soon
* **Treasurer**
	+ Remember to fill in the form to opt out from certain charges e.g. charities charge on your battels.
* **IT rep**
	+ Online calendar has events up, please check it regularly for changes.
	+ Green think tank – set up on the way. Let JH know If you are interested.
	+ BW to JH – when is the charging box being fixed? JH: in contact with college
* Academic – there are currently careers service events going on

**5. Nominations for Guest Membership**

The following individuals have been put forward as nominees for Guest Membership of the St Edmund Hall MCR:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Ordinary Member** | **Guest Member** |
| Agata Rumianek | Carolina Guzman Holst |
| Paul Shields | Maria Bazhenova |
| Lena Fuldauer  | Sofie Heij |
| Benjamin White | Silvia Castro Torres |
| Xavier Roy | Sarah Halmarson |
| Benjamin Evans | Michael Goode |
| Michal Krassowski | Karoline Krassowska  |
| Linnea Bartlett Stewart | Austin Irvin Sherman |
| Frederik Soerensen | Eveliina Hanski |
| Linde Hesse | Youp Suurmeijer |

Carolina Guzman Holst was elected a guest member, with no objections or abstentions.

Maria Bazhenova was elected a guest member, with no objections or abstentions.

Sofie Heij was elected a guest member, with no objections or abstentions

Silvia Castro Torres was elected a guest member, with no objections or abstentions

Sarah Halmarson was elected a guest member, with no objections or abstentions

Michael Goode was elected a guest member, with no objections or abstentions

Karoline Krassowska was elected a guest member, with no objections or abstentions

Linnea Bartlett Steward and Austin Irvin Sherman were not present, so election could not take place

Eveliina Hanski was elected a guest member, with no objections or abstentions

Youp Suurmeijer was elected a guest member, with no objections or abstentions

1. **Motions for discussion**

Washing machines at NSE

There are around 140 students living in college accommodation at NSE who share three washing machines (and three dryers) located in 17 Norham Gardens. Generally, everyone is eager to do their laundry at the weekend because of academic commitments during the week. Still, it is sometimes hard to get hold of washing machine even on a weekday – and almost impossible on a weekend.

We, as the residents of NSE accommodation, believe that our community would strongly benefit from an additional washing machine. This would help to disperse the number of people using one machine and thus not create a rush and sense of competition when wanting to do laundry.

At the start of last week, this text has been circulated as a petition – which was then reported to college. The accommodation officer told us that there would not be any physical room to install one (which I highly doubt) and that no one has complained before (which doesn’t mean it’s not an issue).

We would like to ask the MCR if they are able to help us support this request.

Proposed by: Lea Pfeffermann

Seconded by: Lukas Lehner

Comments were discussed surrounding the current quality of washing facilities at the NSE site, as well as the facilities provided in general for graduate students.

* **FS** – has already asked college about this matter, and also was told that there is no space for more washing machines
* **HB –** this was brought up amongst MCR members last year, as well as the quality of the kitchen facilities. It points towards an overall disparity in the quality of living accommodation for graduates on the NSE site, and can lead to conflict/disagreements in the future, and also more mess in the kitchens.
* **BE –** Teddy hall was bottom of the Times’ list of Oxbridge for accommodation
* This is the first time the problem has been officially raised with college.
* People are having to wait a long time for washing machines to become available, and there are frequently dryers which are not being used at all. This sentiment was shared with many people living on the NSE site.
* **FS** – Could the MCR find a solution which can be taken to college, to suggest changes to the current set up?
* Suggestions –
	+ There could be more washers in the washing room, or fewer dryers and more washing machines.
	+ Washing machines could be installed in the kitchens
	+ The machines could be monitored to find the usage and frequency of people who do not get to use them. This could be taken on by Welfare and NSE rep.

Amendment proposed by Frederik Soerensen: The MCR approves for the committee to approach college about whether they have exhausted options for installing washing machines in 17 and 24 Norham Gardens.

Amendment approved

Objections: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion passed.

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Purchase of Board Games for the MCR

Proposed by: The MCR Committee

* Too few board games currently for the MCR, and none in the NSE common room
* Aim: To purchase board games for the MCR and NSE site. Input from the MCR about which board games to buy, with the final decision to be approved by the treasurer.
* Fulfils the spending requirements of the MCR on non-alcoholic events and purchases
* Up to £400 (~150% of a big event for the MCR). The previous amount spent was £200.
* JH: Important to spend money on something which can be social but that doesn’t involve alcohol.
* Please nominate ideas for board games to Freddie Soerensen.

Objections: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion passed

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Meat free Mondays

Proposed by: The MCR Committee

* The JCR passed motion last week to approach college about introducing Meat Free Mondays in college, on the grounds of environmental impact.

Comments

* The current motion states just evening dinners, but this can be amended. Could consider asking for more than one day
* The JCR motion had a clause to increase the quality of the veggie meals overall, as well as introducing meat-free Monday.
* There are currently 1xmeat 2xveggie options on two days a week, and the remaining days are 2xmeat, 1xveggie option.
	+ Not certain which day Monday falls on
* Concerns were raised that a Meat Free Monday/increased vegetarian options would push people towards the meat options. This could be counteracted by improving the quality of the vegetarian food.
* Chef has a book for suggestions on the table – constructive criticism can be left there. This can be used proactively by members of the MCR to suggest meals they would like.

Amendment – **BE** Proposed same JCR amendment – Meat free Mondays, with an improvement in the quality and variety of vegetarian food, which will be assessed over a two week long period.

* Several MCR members were not in favour of the amendment. Comments were made that it would be insulting to chef, and the meat free Monday motion is enough to implement action towards improving the vegetarian food.
	+ There are also two separate requests being proposed in this amended motion. This is less likely to be taken well by college and the chef and would be more unified to present a single request.

Vote on amendment proposed by **BE.**

Favour: 0

Against: 28

Abstain: 6

Amendment fails

Friendly amendment: Meat free Mondays for the whole day, and not just the evening meal

Vote on friendly-amended motion:

Favour: 25

Against: 0

Abstain: 5

Motion passes

This will be taken to Domestic committee tomorrow (24/10) by Frederik Soerensen

1. **Any other business**
* Alumni are graduating on the day of the MCR bop- can they attend the Halloween bop
	+ BW will check – Guest members are allowed but uncertain about guests.
* Debate in Equalities week about private schools, see Welfare for more information.
* Next meeting: Wednesday 7th week

Meeting closed: 20:18