**GENERAL MEETING**

**ST EDMUND HALL MCR**

**MCR Zoom, 7PM 27th January 2021**

Meeting Minutes

Committee present: Ben White (BW, President), Julia Carver (JC, Vice President), Thijs van der Plas (TVP, Steward), Fernando Jimenez-Gallardo (FJG, Steward), Andrew Gibson (AG, Treasurer), Yana Lishkova (YL, IT Officer), Julie Hechler (JH, Welfare)

Absent: Raggy Ravichandran (RR, Welfare); David Cruz-Walma (Sports Rep)

Quorum met: 14 in meeting

1. **Approval of minutes of last MCR General Meeting (Michaelmas 2020)**

Approved.

1. **Reports from MCR Committee Members**

Ben (President):

* As you all know, there are not many MCR people in Oxford at the moment; due to COVID situation
* While very few people are here, we as the Committee would like to renovate the MCR (room) so it can be upgraded for us all to use.

Julia (VP):

* Still hoping to receive more bear memes for my weekly Notices to share some Teddy spirit,
* In general, please share if you have any news that you would like circulated.

Thijs (Steward):

* Not much to report, as we cannot organize any in-person events, so we’ll look to do two or three online events this term, and we will update you with emails in the coming weeks.

Andrew (Treasurer):

* We are not charging people for the membership fee this term, so please let me know if you still have an MCR membership fee, and we will sort this out
* I will let you know regarding our potential MCR spending budget next GM, as I am awaiting details from college
* And I am now on the MCR bank account

Julie (Welfare):

* Raggy and I are currently speaking to people on an individual basis
* We’ll be tackling food support once international students come back
* Currently we are planning some type of virtual book exchange

Raggy (Welfare): Apologies that I cannot come, unfortunately I had to take up a lab slot tonight.

Caine (Academic Rep):

* I am in the process of planning the academic seminar, I will let you know more details once it has been planned

Yana (IT Rep):

* I have finished working on the mailing lists, and will now be working on putting the meeting minutes on the website
* If anyone wants to do something or has some trouble with IT, I’m here to help

Will (NSE Rep):

* I will continue to address any NSE-related accommodation issues
* Currently planning a substitute for the Sunday brunch, normally the responsibility of the NSE rep, but this cannot be done due to COVID
* I will update you all on this in the next few days over the MCR FB page

Sally (Access Rep): Nothing to report

**3. Nominations for Guest Membership**

No nominations for guest membership have occurred at this time (currently suspended due to COVID).

1. **Motions for Discussion**

Motion title: **MCR Commitment to the Development of The Sustainability Strategy**

Proposed by: Melissa Penagos

Seconded by: Darin Hussein

Currently, we are now developing the Sustainability Strategy for Teddy Hall. In our strategy (2019-2029) we have a stated aim to be recognised as one of “the greenest and most environmentally sustainable colleges in Oxford”. I would like to:

1. Tell about the strategy and receive any other ideas that the MCR wants to include in the proposal.
2. The motion in support of the following aims at college:
3. Commitment to carbon and biodiversity targets which are at least as ambitious as those in the new University strategy.
4. Development of a formal sustainability strategy which describes how the targets will be achieved.
5. Development of a system of monitoring and transparent annual reporting of carbon emissions.
6. Setting up a designated sustainability position or sustainability fellow, and a sustainability working group that takes responsibility for progress.
7. Additionally, as the Environmental Rep I would like to request 100 £ for doing a contest of “the Best wildlife photography”.

This campaign will encourage the students to be aware of the species we have in the area and will increase the contact with nature. When we are aware of what we have, we can conserve it.

The 100 pounds will be divided: 50 for the first place, 30 for second place and 20 for the third place.

*Questions/Commentary:*

Melissa: One of the main movements in the university right now is to achieve net-zero carbon in Oxford. I am very open for ideas to take to the Committee (such as increasing the meatless day in the college), so if you have anything you would like to consider, please email me. Our goal is mainly to turn the energy system into a sustainable one, to become the most green college in Oxford. The motion I proposed here is that the MCR approves and shows its commitment towards the carbon and biodiversity goals we have for th ecollege. This [photography] contest would be to promote the connection between nature and ourselves being here.

Ben: This sounds really good, I’m really on board. When would this competition take place?

Melissa: I was thinking of doing it for this term, so people get the photo request Week 6, I was envisaging during lockdown.

Ronnie: That sounds great, run it whenever you like, and I’m sure you’ll be able to get the money. I know we have had little sub-committees in the past, and maybe get Julia to send an email for this, and I know college takes it quite seriously, too.

**Vote:** Passed (unanimously)

**MCR Support for End the Eating Disorder Crisis Campaign**

Proposed by: Izzy Creed

Seconded by: Ben Fernando

\*Short description of the motion proposed, including relevant background information, applicability to the MCR, and funds required\*

**MCR notes**:

1. The campaign letters can be read at the links here:
   * [Letter to the Vice Chancellor](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1F3RptE2NM3uAx0HLqa40-wyiMbJ-iSSzyx2JXjI72ss/mobilebasic):
   * [Letter to Members of Parliament](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-yRQBCnUnLDY6wX9xYMl4YhlA0EybtyClhwimW2eA6g/mobilebasic):
2. A survey in 2016 by Oxford SU showed that 5% of students at Oxford University had an Eating Disorder.  This suggests that a staggering 1,200 students at Oxford University could currently suffer from an Eating Disorder.
3. Eating Disorders are serious mental health conditions, with Anorexia Nervosa having the highest mortality rate of any mental illness.
4. Cotswold House, the local tertiary referral centre for adult Eating Disorder care covering three counties, has been forced, due to a lack of resources, to only accept referrals for severe or extreme Anorexia Nervosa (AN) or Bulimia Nervosa (BN) (classified by DSM-5 diagnostic criteria). Even those patients whose referrals are accepted are likely to face **long waiting times - increasing from 12 months to 25 months over the last year alone.** The physical criteria for an individual to be accepted for a referral to Cotswold House eating disorder treatment is the same criteria *below* which a student fails the Fitness to Study guidelines.

**This MCR believes**

* The mental health of the student population must be prioritised
* Everyone with an Eating Disorder has the right to treatment regardless of how physically sick they are or their socio-economic status.
* The University should fill the gap between the counselling service and NHS provisions, to prevent students getting to the point they are no longer fit to study at Oxford.
* The University should lead the way as a world-leading institution to better education for our medical students on Eating Disorders and contribute to saving lives in the process.

**This MCR resolves:**

* For the MCR President to get all MCR committee members to sign both our open letters to the University and Members of Parliament (MPs).

*Commentary:*

Izzy: I’ve been campaigning for a while about the lack of ED services in general, but not with much success. But myself and a few other undergraduates here have set up a campaign to reach out to the Vice Chancellor. Unfortunately, 5% of Oxford students suffer from an eating disorder. With the current stage of the NHS, hospitals have stopped taking referrals, and if anyone does get support at this time, these are students below fitness to study criteria—so people fit to study at Oxford cannot get treatment at the NHS. So drastic action needs to be taken to stop that, as lives are at risk. We’ve come up with letters to MPs and the Vice Chancellors to address the crisis. Our ask is to sign the letters and support the campaign, and we have a meeting with the Vice Chancellor in March. Any support with it would be much appreciated. It’s an issue that means a lot to me. There are generally students at the University at the moment who are in a very bad place. If you have any questions, please just ask.

Ronnie: Thanks very much Izzy; definitely a very important topic, and there is a lot of people affected by it.

Ben: Hi Izzy, this is a really great movement, and I’m up for signing the petitions and the letters. I’m really impressed with all of the work you have done. The only thing I would like to say about the motion you have submitted is the wording. The way it’s worded would mean that I would have to force the MCR Committee members to sign these letters regardless of what their personal opinions would be. If it’s okay, I would like to propose an amendment to the motion, but I would be happy to also sign the letters immediately. My amendment is that I would like to propose that I would sign the letters on behalf of the University as a whole.

Izzy: Yeah, I would definitely not like you to force people to sign the letter; it was not my intention.

Ronnie: That does make sense: If the Friendly Amendment were to read, “For the MCR President to sign both open letters on behalf of the MCR,” that would work. Proceeding on this basis, we’ll vote:

Vote: Passed (unanimously).

1. **Any other business**

* **Next GM is in Week 7 of Hillary Term 2021.**

Meeting closed: 7:34 pm.