**GENERAL MEETING**

**ST EDMUND HALL MCR**

**MCR, 7PM 4th March 2020**

Present: FS, HS, JH, BW, PR, HB, AG

Apologies: KM, RS

Quorum reached : 16

Meeting started: 19:02

1. **Approval of minutes from the last GM**

*Approved*

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1. **Reports from MCR officers**

President

* Two surveys have been sent out to the MCR since the last GM
	+ Meat free Mondays and use of the chapel/ interactions with chaplain role
	+ MCR had a good response on both
	+ A report will be submitted to GB on the results of the chaplaincy survey next week, where the outcome and future of the role will be agreed upon.
	+ Meat free Monday – vast majority of JCR and MCR was in favour (74% in MCR). There is a recommendation to proceed with meat free Mondays until the kitchen observe a drop
	+ Other things done to reduce meat consumption – order of meals on menus, order of appearance of food in canteen, switch meals around so more days have two veggie/vegan options and one meat option
	+ Survey results can be circulated
	+ Question: BF – could we set the standard option as vegetarian for formal halls – reduce food waste and make swapping tickets easier?
		- Answer – this hasn’t been discussed. Points were raised that people might choose meat on a nicer formal rather than vegetarian meals. The standard of vegetarian meals is currently not good enough to allow this.
* JCR president, MCR president and president of Aularian association have discussed how to bridge the gap between these different groups.
	+ Aularian society are keen to form contacts within the association with students in the college
	+ The committee plan to invite members of the Aularian society to the NSE garden party in the summer
	+ We will also Invite some leavers from 3rd year undergrad: this will mean we have one event where JCR, MCR and Aularian society can meet.
	+ Currently, 700 Aularians volunteer to mentor students at the university, but very low take up from teddy hall students
		- This system is difficult to access because you have to go to the Careers service, and it is not highlighted well.
	+ One Aularian has offered to pay 80% of what it costs to set up system like the one run by the Careers service for teddy hall students
		- See file uploaded on FB group as an outline proposal
		- This site will be a local LinkedIn type site for students and Aularians to connect and find mentors/mentees
		- This will cost some money, roughly £4000 a year from the college (not the MCR budget)
	+ Q:BF can we prioritise things that people actually want, I don’t see the point in duplicating something that might not be used if the careers service is not well used?
		- Answer: FJG – I would definitely use if it can be accessed online, as there is a mentoring and networking side to it. This site would benefit students personally and teddy hall as a community
	+ HB: next year, we should properly advertise the careers service mentoring too
	+ JH: if this is part of a broader project to increase integration of the different communities, this would be beneficial to students
	+ FS: there is substantial evidence that teddy hall students are the worst prepared for the job market – Aularians are keen to be involved.
* AT GB in middle of February, we will now be flying the rainbow flag for all of February to mark LGBTQ+ month.

VP

* Please keep sending me events and updates to include in the weekly emails

Stewards

* The Wine tasting event has been postponed, Wine Fellow will reschedule next term.
* Go karting has also been postponed, likely until 9th week Saturday.
* Next week there is a bop at Fever on Thursday with the JCR, Friday is Liquid Lounge at Magdalen, Saturday is Easter party in the MCR
	+ There is also a bop at Christ Church on Wednesday
* Trinity Dinner will probably be Thursday of 7th week

Welfare

* Everything is going well
* Thank you to everyone who came to high tea
* Q: what happened to the sleep hygiene workshop? A: Will email back about that

Treasurer

* Everything is fine
* An email was sent about Blues fund – please apply if you play Blues sport.

NSE rep

* We are getting a coffee machine, fridge, glasses, kettle in NSE common room
* Crick road will have motion sensitive lights installed, and they will dim so they are not on all the time to save energy

Sports rep

* NSE gym updates ongoing
* We have received an email from Roger about safety and proper handling of equipment
* Hilarians Rugby game 2pm on Sunday

IT Officer

* Website is working
* Will need to update website pages and charity constitution
* FS to write Charity constitution update

Academic officer

* Two new events: tour with Uncomfortable Oxford had very positive feedback
	+ Short academic presentations were a success and will run again next term

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1. Nominations for Guest Membership

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

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| --- | --- |
| **Ordinary Member** | **Guest Member** |
| Robin De Meyere/Hannah Sharpe/Sam Weber | Simon Bergant |
| Fernando Jimenez-Gallardo | Luke Spajic  |
| Ronald Guthrie | Sarah Rosanowski |
| Vitaly Osokin | Nadezhda Osokina |

Simon Bergant is elected as a guest member with no objections and abstentions

Luke Spajic is elected as a guest member with no objections and abstentions

Sarah Rosanowski is elected as a guest member with no objections and abstentions

Nadezhda Osokina is elected as a guest member with no objections and abstentions

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1. Charities nominations

James O’Donovan nominating Elimu Health for £500. James is the founder of this charity.

Elimu Health (registered charity number: 1167165) works in rural Mukono, Uganda to help address the dire shortage of trained healthcare professionals in the region. Since 2016 we have partnered with the major NGO in the region (Omni Med) to train and maintain 1250 Community Health Workers (CHWs) across 12 districts. CHWs are lay people, who live and work in their local villages and receive training to deliver basic health services, especially those related to some of the major killers of children under 5-such as diarrhoea, malaria and pneumonia. We work closely with the Ministry of Health and the District Health Office of Mukono to ensure our efforts contribute to an overall health systems strengthening approach. With previous monies we have received from the MCR we have purchased de-worming tablets, Vitamin A tablets, sanitary pads and helped to establish an ear screening programme. We aim to use any funds raised to continue supporting 15 female CHWs trained in 2019 and train them in new areas such as addressing mental health issues such as depression, anxiety and psychosis all of which are highly prevalent but under-recognised in the local area.

Fernando Jimenez Gallardo nominating Refugee Action UK to receive **£250**.

Refugee Action (registered charity number 283660) is a small charity that provides support and advice for refugees and asylum seekers struggling with the asylum process, poverty and homelessness in the United Kingdom. They also provide practical support and guidance for people who are resettling in the UK having fled conflict and persecution, and Local Authorities who are participating in Resettlement schemes. Refugee Action supports people who leave their countries for various reasons: from women escaping from the practice of female genital mutilation to political dissidents.

Sunil Kandola nominating The Porch charity to receive £500.

The Porch (registered charity number: 1089612) is an East Oxford-based charity whose mission is to support the homeless, re-rehoused homeless and vulnerably housed people. They provide day-long support to these vulnerable people wanting to move forward with their lives, away from street-life and addiction.

The incredible, selfless and dedicated people at The Porch provide services such as welfare support, rehabilitation, mental health, counselling, therapies and addiction support. They've been running for over 30 years and are now looking to move to larger premises - this is where we need your support!

By donating to the Porch you will be helping some of the most vulnerable people in the local community.

I've been volunteering since I arrived in Oxford and have witnessed the value they provide to the community, which is why I feel strongly about their work. I am also fundraising for them (see link below) by cycling the UK Three Peaks.

Maria will send an email about voting soon

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1. Motions for discussion

Set some money to repair the pool table cues in the common room at Norham or buy new ones (£40-£70)

Proposed by: Fernando Jiménez-Gallardo

Seconded by: Ioannis Spanos

The pool cues in the common room at Norham Gardens are in a very poor state due to excessive use. Some of them do not have weights and others do not have tips. At the moment there is only one functional cue. We believe we could try to repair one or two of the other cues by replacing the tips. Alternatively, we could buy new ones. The budget for this would vary from 40 to 70 pounds

* FJG- there is only one functional cue left. It will cost £15 for a few cue tips. We also plan to buy some weights for the cues. Aim to have at least 4 repaired/functional so people can play in groups.
* Question: BW: how much would it cost to replace entirely?
	+ Answer: a lot more than repairing them.
* FS comment: the only way to replace tips is to cut off old ones and replace with new ones. The sports shop on Turl street, now closed, was able to replace them for us 2 years ago. FS asked the Union where they got their cues serviced, so they may be able to help again.

Comment from FS: for small requests to improve MCR life, don’t feel like you have to submit a motion but come talk to the committee first.

Favour: all (16)

On the funding of the St Edmund Hall Graduate Access Summer School

Proposer: Fleur MacInnes

Seconder: Ben Fernando, Jessica O’Brien

THE MCR NOTES THAT:

· Both the college and the MCR have made a commitment to improving graduate access

· The Graduate Access Summer school run last year was a success (100% positive feedback from 65 participants [citation: report available on request])

· The MCR General Meeting in Wk 7 MT expressed an interest in supporting graduate access initiatives financially but sought greater clarity of purpose

· The re-running of the Graduate Access Summer School in Easter 2020 is an ideal opportunity showcase MCR contributions to graduate access, both in-kind and financially

· Any increase in scope of this activity (e.g. travel support, more participants, etc) will require increased funding

· The college has offered £1000 for the next summer school as a ‘second pilot’, and suggested that we ought to try and match funding both now and in future rollouts

· That funds from the MCR would enable us to increase the number of participants from under-represented backgrounds and/or enable us to pay some limited travel support to those coming from afar

THE MCR BELIEVES THAT:

· In light of the MCR’s commitment to graduate access, and the college’s suggestion that matched funding be sought, we ought make a contribution to the running of the summer school

· That £500 would be an appropriate contribution, based on the amounts allocated in the last year on other MCR ‘extras’ (blades, games consoles, etc.)

THE MCR RESOLVES TO:

· Put forward £500 of MCR funds (~£8 per participant, ~£1.50 per MCR member) toward the running of the Easter 2020 Summer School

· Mandate the MCR VP and Access Officers to ensure that these funds are spent appropriately

· Mandate the MCR Access Officers to bring a report on the summer school to the GM in Wk 2 TT.

* BF: Graduate access summer school last year: hosted 65 people, who gave 100% positive feedback.
* Planning on running a similar summer school again on 15th April, which will be targeting students from non-Russell group universities to apply for PhDs.
* College have agreed to give £1000, this will pay for food, no refreshments, or travel support or other requirements
* College has encouraged us to seek funding from elsewhere – college does not want to fund this on a yearly basis
* EPSRC and other funding bodies have also been approached for money
* The summer school aims to host 100 people this year. The college will help find sustainable funding if it is a success this year
* Last year there was a big turnout from non-Russell group students
* We also got a lot of the SCR involved
* Last year there was a focus on STEM subjects and want to widen out to other subjects this year

Q: How many people from the MCR will be involved with this?

A: We would like 6 people who will step up to organise it. There are currently 2 people organising. On the day we would like 35 people (3:1), who will run mock interviews with the students. This won’t be paid but it would only be for a few hours in the afternoon.

Q; how do you select students?

A: They need to have a 1st class degree prediction and be from a non-Russell group university, in the penultimate year in undergrad, interested in post grad study, able to get a reference. This may also have to be based on subjects offered at the summer school. There is a possibility to get volunteers from other colleges.

FS comment: A few other MCRs are looking to do things like this. We could consider teaming up with other colleges to make the summer school on a bigger scale.

FS: asks BF to write him an email outlining what exactly is needed so he can send it to other MCR presidents and to the MCR.

Favour: 19

Abstentions: 1

Against: 0

Motion passes

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1. Any other business

BF: Running a campaign for abolishing graduate application fee (£75, very high), which got lots of signatures from faculty members. There will be a debate at the Sheldonian next week at 2pm on Tuesday. Please email tutors and supervisors to go and vote in favour of abolishing the fees as students can’t go unless they are registered as a lecturer. There will be a rally at 1:35/1:40 by DPhil students outside the Sheldonian. Fliers will be ready tomorrow morning – email Ben with how many you want and where you want them delivered to, and they will be sent in internal mail.

JH: A group of MCR students has been involved with an environmental project with college, working on plan to make sustainability a part of what the hall is about. If you have any ideas for sustainability projects and outreach, eg. Lectureship series, grants for sustainability, let JH know and you can have a quick chat about it.

Adjourned 20:12

Next meeting: Wk 2 TT 06/05

Nominations for next years MCR committee will open that week, hustings next week