MCR General Meeting HT W7 7pm

* Quorum met: 12+
* Last GM’s Minutes: Minutes approved.

1. Reports from MCR Committee Members:

* President:

The President and the Welfare Team have met with college officials (The Principal, Vice-Principal and the Senior Tutor) along with the JCR representatives, putting a range of MCR views forwards, whilst MCR Welfare also met with the Dean and raised the issue at the College Welfare and Care Committee. The steps taken are that an external secular councilor is to be arranged with the money already being raised, the title of Senior Welfare Officer judged to be misleading and hence to be changed to College Welfare Officer, external Chaplains to be arranged for people to contact when needed. MCR Welfare had a meeting with the Chaplain, the Chaplain expressing he was sorry and saying signing was a mistake. The Chaplain asks the MCR to contact him with suggestions as to what can be done to rectify the situation. The President and MCR Welfare also met with Professor Karma Nabulsi, the Senior Harassment Advisor, where the joint role of chaplaincy and welfare was discussed. The Senior Harassment Advisor is putting a report together for college and the report will be brought to the Principal and Governing Body at a future date. The MCR is working with the Senior Harassment Advisor on the report. The Senior Harassment Advisor calls upon MCR members to get in touch if they wish so. MCR members suggested for the Chaplain to apologize in open letter, other suggestions being for college to pursue a path of either getting the Chaplain to publicly state a different opinion or to remove him from the welfare post. The MCR letter is to be sent at the end of this week, based on an anonymous survey. MCR members requested for the letter to state ‘significant amount of MCR members’ rather than ‘majority of MCR members’ when stating who this letter was supported by. The President requested to keep the Chaplaincy issue confidential for now.

The President had a meeting with the Senior Tutor as college received request from the Saiid Business School for St Edmund Hall to take on 40 associate students on a part time non-matriculated diploma course at the business school. The Senior Tutor said the MCR may gain approximately 3000 GBP in exchange for associate membership of the students. Feedback from colleges who already do this is fairly positive, the only presence of the student is the welcome dinner but there is a problem re potential overflow in bar or formal sign ups. MCR feedback will be given to the Senior Tutor.

Re Access Hall Areas event please refer to Ronnie’s email sent out on Tuesday for more information. It is a showcase event, if MCR members want to contribute please contact the President or Blanche Delany in College.

* VP: The VP is working on executing the past motions re getting blade and photos hung up in MCR. For any other VP activity, please refer to the notices.
* Treasurer: The finances look good. Reminder re blues fund application deadline this Friday.
* Academic Rep (in absence): The Academic Seminar was held last night with the Principal in attendance. The MCR 50th anniversary grant applicants will be notified soon.
* Welfare: The dog session will be held this Sunday. Reminder re mind your head events this week, including some with free hot chocolate and popcorns. Reminder to check Facebook for further updates from welfare. Zuma is cancelled this week.
* Social Secs: The Cambridge Exchange away leg was a success and Fitzwilliam are keen to repeat it next year. The End Of Term Party will take place Saturday Week 8. Reminder to make sure to sign up to events and to respect the sign up system.
* Sport Rep (in absence): New gym equipment to be bought for the gym and the gym is to be reorganized in an efficient way. Stash is still open to be signed up for. The last gym induction was yesterday.
* IT Rep: The website is still up and running. The server will be moved at some stage with the MCR to be notified accordingly.
* NSE Rep (in absence): This Sunday is the last brunch.

1. Approval of guest members: Josefine Lochen’s guest member Eveliina Hanski approved, no abstention or objections.
2. Motion for the MCR to state its support for St Edmund Hall to pay the Oxford Living Wage:

* The MCR has resolved to accept the below motion, a proposed amendment was rejected by the MCR.
* Members suggested to reach out to college to clarify finances and JCR opinion.
* Amendment tabled by Mark Baker: If the MCR choses to support this motion, the MCR will inform college that it is willing to put any funds from the diploma associated students towards financing this motion.
* Vote on amendment: 5 in favour, 9 against, 9 abstentions – the amendment fails
* Vote on motion: 14 in favour, 4 against, 5 abstentions – the motion passes

Motion:

Motion for the MCR to state its support for St Edmund Hall to pay the Oxford Living Wage

This MCR notes:

1. that the current National Living Wage (set by the Living Wage Foundation) is £9.
2. that the cost of living in Oxford is significantly more expensive than the national average.
3. that Oxford City Council has implemented the Oxford Living Wage as a minimum wage for its employees.
4. that the figure calculated for the Oxford Living Wage is £10.02, and it is set at 95 percent of the London Living Wage.
5. that St Edmund Hall has not set the Oxford Living Wage as a minimum wage for its workers.

This MCR believes:

1. that as a matter of principle, we should take an interest in the lives of those who work for the university, which provide our education and, should they have concerns about their work, be prepared to stand by them in advocating change.
2. that employees within the University and Colleges should be paid a Living Wage.
3. that there is both moral and economic case in favour of the Living Wage.

This MCR resolves:

1. to support the Oxford Living Wage Campaign and to mandate the MCR President to inform the bursar of the MCR’s support for St Edmund Hall to set the Oxford Living Wage as a minimum pay for its workers.

* GM adjourned at 20:25