**GENERAL MEETING**

**ST EDMUND HALL MCR**

**MCR, 18:30PM 8th May 2019**

Quarum met: 17

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

1. Reports from the MCR Committee

Apologies: Agata Rumianek, George Hadley, Tereza Pusca

Absent: Oliver Chen (with late apologies), Charlie Clarke-Williams (special circumstances)

**President**: Ronnie (RMG) thanked all those that attended or participated in the College’s “Access Hall Area” event at the weekend. The Principal estimated that over 1000 people visited the Hall over the course of the weekend.

At the previous GM, the MCR mandated the MCR President to enquire if any of the college’s employees were on the Oxford Living Wage and if not, how many employees were on the National Living Wage. Last term Ronnie emailed the domestic bursar who informed him that no one on the college’s books are on Oxford Living Wage, as all staff get free meals in college as part of their contract, which in effect tops up their wages. The Domestic Bursar passed RMG onto the HR manager to inform him of numbers of staff on the National Living Wage, but this request was denied upon the fact that the number of employees which are on this salary are so small, the information could be made to identify them, which would be a breach of privacy. A Freedom of Information request may be lodged to try and get the information but this may also be denied based on privacy reasons of the individuals concerned. At today’s GPBC meeting, RMG again asked the Domestic Bursar, Principal and Finance Bursar about this issue, and was informed that college won’t disclose the exact number of staff on the National Living Wage or have any plans to switch to the Oxford Living Wage, as there is only a “handful” of staff on this wage, who then move onto a different salary after a probation period. RMG enquired what handful meant and was informed that this meant at least less than ten. Some students asked RMG there were only a handful of employees on this wage then how much difference could it make and that it might make college seemed more “attractive”. RMG said he wasn’t mandated to persuade college to change course, nor did he think it would be at all positively received within college admin as they were very firm in their stance.

RMG informed the meeting of the latest information from Professor Karma Nabulsi’s report to the Principal on Equality and Discrimination. Prof Nabulsi gave the report to the Principal in TT Week 0. This is slightly later than originally intended as she has had to do considerable work on the report and asked for the following to be read out to the JCR and MCR common rooms.

“As Senior Harassment Officer I am writing a report on the College’s status in light of concerns raised by students about the published letter the Chaplain signed, and on the views this letter contains, with recommendations. This report is for the Principal in the first instance, and the Senior College Officers responsible.

So to update the common rooms on how their concerns are being addressed, here is the process the report follows, the regulations it draws on, and the approach it is informed by.

1. As Senior Harassment Officer, taking the issue very seriously, the report follows appropriate due diligence, especially given the nature of the concerns, and will review the College’s responsibilities here. These responsibilities include: our statutory requirements as a public institution under the Equalities Act legislation, especially the Public Sector Duty (PSED) which regulates our obligation to providing welfare equally and without discrimination, and to actively eliminate discrimination.

1. It therefore will comprehensively evaluate whether the College is discriminating in its provision, drawing on technical published advice, case law, best practice, legal experts, (discrimination lawyers  on protected characteristics and public sector duties); Equality Challenge Unit advisors, Oxford’s Equality Unit (EDU); rights lawyers, the Equality Commission, and other distinguished experts. This issue touches on a quite complex combination of statutory law, common law (our general duty of care), and contract law (employer/ employee and student contract/College).

1. The report will also be informed by our College policies (the published Equalities Provisions and our EA Action Plan); as well as College Statutes, guidelines, and handbooks.

1. It will make a number of recommendations for required action.”

RMG said he has not been allowed to see the recommendations or the full report as it is still in the confidential stage but hopes to be able to see some or most of it before the next GM and, if possible, will try and share what he can with the MCR. He is unsure of the exact recommendations but Prof Nabulsi said her recommendations were quite clear and it will be up to the Principal to decide whether to enact these recommendations.

**Vice-President**: The photographer for the MCR Trinity Dinner has been booked and paid for. Tereza will be trying to arrange the changing of the photographs in the MCR.

**Stewards:** The Stewards hoped everyone enjoyed the Welcome Back party and informed us that relationships with the decanal team remain good. Coming up this term we have exchange dinners with Brasenose, Worcester and Oriel, whilst we have a wine and cheese exchange with Corpus Christi and Magdalen’s Liquid Lounge on Friday. Later on in the term we will have Trinity Dinner and the NSE Garden Party.

**Welfare:** Agata has been attending several of the meetings with Ronnie regarding the Chaplain issue.

Jake, the big fluffy welfare dog, will be visiting NSE common room this Saturday at 3pm for pets and cuddles.

**Academic Rep:** Sam has organized the last Academic Seminar to be in Week 6 with Dr Priestland and will be in contact about it soon.

**NSE Rep:** George has cleaned out the NSE cupboard, with help from Ronnie and Freddie. This is the first time it has been tidied in five years. The fridge has broken and should not be used in the future, as food gets forgotten about in there.

**Sports Rep:** Ben informed that there is the rugby Cuppers final this weekend and that he has given the bow-tie orders in. We also have Summer VIIIs coming up, along with Hockey Cuppers final.

1. Nominations for Guest Membership

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Ordinary Member** | **Guest Member** |
| Sarah Rosanowski | Suzanne Bezstarosti |
| Rassin Lababidi | Martin Fellermeyer |

Suzanne Bezstarosti was elected as Guest Member, no objections or abstentions.

Martin Fellermeyer was elected as Guest Member, no objections or abstentions.

1. Motions

**3.1 M1 Torpids Blade Motion**

Proposed: Benjamin Evans Seconded: Marc Ewenz Rocher

SEHBC M1 won blades in Torpids with 7 MCR members a part of the crew. It is proposed for the MCR to pay £135 for half of a blade (split with the JCR).

Speaking in support of the motion, Ben said it was the first time in ten years that the M1 have won blades at Torpids.

Questions were asked how the MCR would pay for the blade, as the JCR have already rejected paying for their half. Ben said the JCR motion lost by a single vote and that he would find a way to pay for the other half, either by going back to the JCR, friends of the boat club, or by asking the team to contribute £10 each. A further question was asked querying whether we really needed to put yet another blade up and whether that it is a good enough use of MCR money. A friendly amendment was adopted which read “That the MCR will pay £135 if an old blade is used and that the JCR or equivalent can also fund the second half. If not, the MCR would pay up to £100.

The motion was put to a vote.

For: 7

Against: 8

Abstentions: 0

The motion failed.

**3.2 Support Student BBQ Motion**

Proposed: Edward Baker Seconded: Mike Coughlan

The MCR Notes:

Last year the JCR wholly supported a BBQ that raised over a thousand pounds for the bone cancer research trust, approximately tripling the investment of the JCR.

The MCR believes that:

It would be wholly appropriate for the money raised at this year’s Summer Eights to be donated to Bone Cancer Research Trust.

The MCR resolves to:

Donate £200 of food from for the BBQ on the Saturday of summer eights. This means that all money taken in on the day can go straight to Bone Cancer Research Trust.

The RO raised a point of order that as this motion was only sent in after the agenda had initially been sent out, the rules were quite clear that it should not have been added to the amended agenda and should not be debated. Edward Baker (proposing the motion) countered that since the Vice-President sent out the agenda with only 24 hours notice before the GM, rather than the 48 hours as noted in our constitution, then the entire GM should not happen, yet we are allowing it to. RMG cautioned against letting late motions which ask for significant portions of money being added to the agenda late, as this can quickly deplete the MCR’s reserve if left unchecked.

It was decided to let the motion be voted on, due to the inconsistency of the agenda timing.

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

The motion passed.

The meeting closed at 19.03