

Open Meeting Minutes – 21st October 2018

MCR

Charles Lockwood

Phone: 07811871932 • E-Mail: cel51@cam.ac.uk

Attendance

Present: Yuning, Richard, Monica, Amy, Charles, Ingrid, Claire, Philip, Luis, Guy, Tirza, Maria, AJ, John, Harry, Sean, Mary, Josh, Harry Gibbins (JCR President)

Women's and Novice's Hours in the College Gym

- *Due to the sensitive nature of the proceeding discussion, pseudonyms will be used throughout.*
- Jim, a representative of the JCR, presented himself to members of the MCR in order to propose a trial of a women's hour and a novice's hour in the college gym. The proposed trial would take place in Lent Term and would constitute one hour per week for each group. Jim recalled how, when the JCR Committee had proposed a women's hour in 2016, the MCR had effectively vetoed the measure in spite of overwhelming support amongst members of the JCR. The resultant fallout made its way into the national media, causing much bad blood.
- Gary explained how, following the debate in 2016, notices had been erected in the gym to discourage 'Gymtimidators' engaging in behaviour liable to make other gym users feel uncomfortable.
- Judith argued that, regardless of whether Gymtimidative behaviour occurred, some members could feel uncomfortable as a result of uncertainty regarding whether they were executing exercises correctly. Gary suggested that the novices' hour could be attractive to such individuals. He wondered whether a buddying system, whereby more experienced users (of the gym) trained novices, could be established.
- Clarissa and Roger wondered what the logistics of these measures would be. Albert conjectured that it might not be possible to prevent college members using the college's communal facilities at a time of their choosing. Gerald suggested that, although it was not feasible to establish a formal disciplinary mechanism, the committees would have to rely on the good manners of members to adhere to the advisory provisions. Dorothy argued that there was a case for holding the hours at the weekend. Francis suggested that holding the novices' hour at a time when a lot of college sport was occurring might be sensible.
- Gerald noted that most of the discussion had concerned the logistics of the matter and there were no great objections to the principle of womens' and novices' hours.
- Members voted unanimously to approve the trials in Lent Term.

General Business

- Charles informed the committee that the following fourth-year undergraduates had applied to join the MCR: Maria Chukanova, Tom Higgins Toon, Georgia Harris, Elliot Wilde, Matt Escott, Zosia Staniaszek, Jack Entwistle, Diya Rayan, Charlie Stone, Katie Archibald, Rohit Gupta, Alice MacLeod, Matthew Sheasby, Markos Loizou, Katy Cross, Max Quastel. Richard questioned whether they ought to contribute to the MCR through an MCR charge. Yuning suggested that this could be discussed with College. The fourth-year undergraduates election was approved unanimously.
- Yuning presented this term's President's Report. Permission has been granted to hold the 2019 Annual Dinner on the 14th June. Yuning noted that the committee had spent a lot of time complaining to Chris, the Operations Manager; however, he would declare the MCR's approval of the designs for the



refurbishment of the college bar. Claire had complained to the Accommodation Committee about the poor condition of some rooms in the graduate hostels. The Committee reported that they were preparing a new website, which would hopefully include photographs of these rooms, allowing MCR members to better informed choices in the ballot. Ingrid's push for freezers to be permitted in the gyms in Cripps Court was proving fruitless.

- Richard presented the Treasurer's Report. He declared that the MCR accounts showed a surplus of around £3,000. Yuning suggested that the surplus could be used to fund a one-off purchase. Suggestions included a games console or the cleaning of the carpets and furniture in the common room. Josh suggested that garden furniture could be purchased for Cripps Court lawn. Yuning wondered what the college's rule were *vis-à-vis* events on Cripps lawn.

Specific Business

- Guy proposed a motion to eliminate plastic straws from the college bar. He quoted some statistics illustrating the egregious environmental impact of these straws. He argued that if a popular chain of pubs could survive without them, so could Selwyn bar. Yuning declared his resolve to raise the matter with Sotos, the college bar manager. The motion was passed unanimously.
- There ensues another lengthy discussion of the laundry refurbishment and concomitant price inflation. Yuning explained to members that college had updated the old contract with Circuit early to avoid prolonging the life of the decrepit old machines and had managed to negotiate a small discount. They had also tightened the wording of the contract to ensure that it is incumbent upon Circuit to tend to broken down machines within twenty-four hours. The MCR are in discussions with the porters to establish a notification mechanism whereby students would inform the porters' lodge of any breakdowns. Claire raised the issue of problems with the facilities at 29 Grange Road. Ingrid resolved to send Yuning a summary of the problems at 29. When the issue of subsidy was raised with the College Council, their response was to declare that only education shall be subsidized. They were, however, more open to the idea of transferring some of the burden to the facilities charge. There was a backlash among some members present against this socialistic measure, as they argued that those who used the facilities most should pay more for them.
- Yuning informed members that he had removed any mention of the Prevent policy from the MCR's policies and standing orders.
- Yuning suggested that the events held at Selwyn for the last LGBT History Month could be repeated and funding provided for them. It was also suggested that events could take place for black history month.
- Guy declared the food quality at Selwyn to be 'dire'. Philip feared that the feedback forms had disappeared from outside the entrance of hall. Members discussed the possibility of a vegetarian MCR dinner or evening in hall.