

St Catherine's College MCR Open Meeting

held on Sunday Week 2 Hilary Term, 23 January 2011

Call to order: 20.15hrs

Executive Committee Present: Christoph Haase, Theresa Kevorkian, Hugh Taylor, Conor Fleming, Tara Mills, Joachim Steinberg

Total MCR members: 21

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

2. Matters Arising

No matter arising.

3. Motions

3.1 Re-affiliation with Oxford University Student Union

This MCR notes

1. That the University has agreed to OUSU's proposals to change OUSU's funding model to end affiliation fees.
2. That OUSU is now being funded via a block grant from the University.
3. That there is now no financial cost of affiliation, and that services previously available only to students from affiliated common rooms, such as free entry to the Freshers Fair and copies of the Oxford Student newspaper and OUSU's publications, are available to all common rooms and Oxford students.
4. That whilst all students can now receive OUSU's services, only affiliated common rooms have votes at OUSU Council. Disaffiliated common rooms do not have votes in OUSU Council.
5. That issues discussed and voted on at OUSU Council in the last year include, among other things, opposition to fees for 4th year DPhil students, graduate accommodation, the quality of teaching, the marking of students work, the funding of undergraduate higher education, cuts to education funding and a range of issues relating to how OUSU itself works.
6. That it will continue to observe and evaluate OUSU's involvement in matters relevant to graduate students at Oxford University and its funding structure.

This MCR believes

1. That this MCR should have votes in OUSU Council so its representatives can vote on the issues discussed, some of which are outlined in Common Room notes above.
2. That this MCR should affiliate to OUSU.

This MCR resolves

1. To affiliate to OUSU with immediate effect.
2. To mandate the MCR President to inform the OUSU President of the passing of this motion.

Suggested by: Christoph Haase

Seconded by: Theresa Kevorkian

Christoph summarised the points to do with this motion as per the agenda. David Barclay, the OUSU president, gave some reasons to re-affiliate to OUSU and gave some information about the way that OUSU is funded and what OUSU is doing for us. Additional funding via colleges will be discussed at the Conference of Colleges this term and it is possible that the college will start to pay towards OUSU. It was noted that OUSU has been clear that they want the colleges to be clearly a different entity, and the colleges should not be asking Common Rooms for money to help them to give funding to OUSU. Should this happen, College would be breaking currently informal agreements and that we should of course let OUSU know if this happens.

For: 20

Against: 1

Abstain: -

Motion passes

3.2 Acquisition of a Projector and a Stand

This MCR allocates a maximum amount of £600 in order to acquire a projector and a corresponding stand. The primary purpose of the projector shall be its usage at the Graduate Seminar Series.

Suggested by: Christoph Haase

Seconded by: Theresa Kevorkian

Tara mentioned the surplus money that the MCR currently has and how the MCR should spend individuals' fees when they are still in college. The money we spend should benefit the MCR in many different ways.

The interest was raised as to how many people in the MCR this idea would benefit. It was noted that the projector can be used for the graduate seminar series and screening films and anything else that members would like. The projector would be kept in the MCR storage room and be made available upon request. It was suggested that when we look for a projector we will get one that will last a long time and has a long bulb life.

For: 15

Against: 2

Abstain: 3

Motion passes

3.3 On-Line Booking for College Facilities

This MCR believes that an on-line booking system for College music, sports and punting facilities will increase the level of convenience for all members of the College. This MCR mandates its Co-Presidents to lobby for setting up a working group in College investigating the technical and practical feasibility of such a system.

Suggested by: Christoph Haase
Seconded by: Theresa Kevorkian

For: 15
Against: 1
Abstain: 2
Motion passes

4 Associate Membership Requests

4.1 Gabrielle de Lassus

"I am Gabrielle de Lassus, a 26 years-girl from the EPHE-Sorbone (Paris, France). I am in my second year of doctorate (Art History). I will be in Oxford between January and June 2011 for six months at the MFO (Maison Française d'Oxford).

The MFO sent me an e-mail to tell me to contact you in order to ask you the permission to become an associate member at the Middle Common Room of St.Catherine's College. Many residents of the MFO were associates at the Middle Common Room of St. Catherine's College by the past and today as well. I would really appreciate to join it in order to be fully integrated with the Oxford life, to meet people and have social activities with interesting people. I am doing my thesis on British Art in 19th century: it is very important for me to have a full contact with English and international cultures and to create links with people from the well-known and welcoming St Catherine's College MCR. Moreover I am not attached with any another Middle Common Room in Oxford."

4.2 Eric Kerfoot

"I recently finished my DPhil in Computing at Oxford where I was a member of St Catz for 5 years. Currently I'm living in London working as a post-doc with King's College. I'm applying for associate MCR membership so I can continue my social involvement with the MCR and all the Catz people I've met over the years."

All associate membership requests were approved uncontested.

5. Other Business

Dmitri raised a request to change or rotate the pizza suppliers for Sunday night pizza.

Meeting finishes 21.00hrs.