

St Catherine's College MCR Open Meeting

Sunday, 29 May 2011

Call to order: 7.50pm

Committee present: James Anderson, Tara Mills, Joachim Steinberg (Jake), Philippe Aeberhard

MCR members present: 16

1. Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising

Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted without comments.

2. OUSU Elections and No Confidence vote

Alex Bulfin from OUSU (vice-president, access & academic affairs) came to talk to the MCR for a couple of minutes about the OUSU elections and encouraged people to get involved.

He also talked about the upcoming no-confidence motion and asked us to push the academics that we know to go to the meeting, as only members of the congregation can vote.

3. Motions

3.1 Paddling pool

a) The honourable members of the MCR hereby resolve to allocate funds for the acquisition of a paddling pool for around £50 to be placed in the MCR garden.

b) The honourable members of the MCR nominate Joshua Paul Landreneau to serve as Chief Paddling Pool Officer for the remainder of Trinity Term 2011

Proposed by Joshua Paul Landreneau

Seconded by Andrea Minea

The motion had to be struck off the agenda as Joshua was not present at the meeting; it was taken up again under Any Other Business.

3.2 Guest dinner priority rights

The MCR establishes an "advance priority right." Members wishing to use their priority right for a guest dinner may do in advance of the ordinary sign-up, provided they email the MCR presidents at least 2 weeks prior to the ordinary sign-up date for the guest dinner. No more than 3 advance priority rights can be for one guest dinner, and the presidents shall email the MCR if all have been used. No priority rights except for advanced priority rights shall be permitted at exchange dinners, provided the sign-up announcement indicates that there will be an exchange that night.

No other provisions of the priority right, including the maximum number permitted per dinner, are altered by this provision.

Proposed by Joachim Steinberg

Seconded by Joshua Paul Landreneau

Jake explained the idea of the advance priority right. It is intended to avoid having to be at a computer at 5.00pm on Sundays to sign up for a guest dinner if one wants to bring guests who visit from far away and whose visits are planned in advance. On the other hand, exchange dinners are intended for MCR members to meet people from other MCRs, therefore it should be avoided that up to 12 places are blocked for people with their guests during the normal sign-up.

It was pointed out that priority rights still cannot be used for week 1 and 8 guest dinners; also, priority rights cannot be returned, even if a member subsequently cancels their dinner spots.

For: 16

Against: 0

Motion passed.

3.3 Associate membership nomination of Joshua Morgan

I would like to nominate Joshua Morgan of the JCR for Associate Membership in the MCR on the basis of him being a true hero and inspiration to us all.

Proposed by Joachim Steinberg

Seconded by Joshua Paul Landreneau

Motion withdrawn.

3.4 MAD officer

The MCR resolves to establish a "MAD" (Music, Arts, Drama) Regular Officer. The MAD Regular Officer would be responsible for encouraging MCR members to get involved with Music, Arts and Drama and to help organise MCR concerts, theatre trips, plays, Arts Week etc.

Proposed by James Anderson

Seconded by Mark Curtis

James explained that the MCR has a lot of officers, but nobody for MAD. It was asked if this position should not rather be merged with the social secretaries' position; but the MAD officer is an additional officer that gives someone enthusiastic about MAD a chance to get involved, but if nobody wants to take up this position, then the social secretaries will absorb this role.

For: 16

Against: 0

Motion passed.

3.5 MCR donation to Japan Earthquake and Tsunami fundraiser

The MCR contributes the maximum allowable amount toward the Japan Earthquake and Tsunami fundraiser.

Proposed by Amit Gill

Seconded by Mark Curtis

The motion had to be struck off the agenda as Amit was not present at the meeting.

3.6 MCR spending rules

In any calendar week, the total amount spent by the MCR Committee shall not exceed £250.

a) Any expenditure passing this threshold shall be approved in an Open Meeting. All expenditures for the MCR bar and for MCR social events are exempt from this requirement, but instead must be approved by one of the MCR Co-presidents or the MCR treasurer.

Proposed by Tara Mills

Seconded by James Anderson

Tara and James explained that this is already MCR policy, but not in the constitution at present.

For: 16

Against: 0

Motion passed.

4. Executive committee by-elections

Bar manager (end of Trinity 2011 until end of Hilary 2012): Michael Saliba

Seconded by: Tara Mills, James Anderson

For: 16

Against: 0

Michael was appointed as bar manager.

5. Any Other Business

5.1 Paddling pool motion

The paddling pool motion was brought up again. James explained that there are several issues with getting a paddling pool; if the pool is placed in the MCR garden, it would damage both the garden and the college's aesthetic appearance (not least because there is a direct view on the MCR garden from the Wolfson library, and from Alyona's room), and therefore it is rather unlikely that the college would approve this idea.

A motion was proposed to form a PPEC ("paddling pool exploratory committee") which would "look into the matter". Proposed by Joachim Steinberg, seconded by Gerard "Jerry" Sadlier.

It was asked who would be on the committee; Jake volunteered.

For: 9

Against: 7

Motion passed.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm