

St Catherine's College Executive Committee

Open Meeting

Sunday, 9th November 2014

Members Present: 49

Executive Committee Present: Alex Barbaro, Carla Verdi, Emma Osborn, Jan Vonk, John Kenny, Martin Garthwaite, Pete Forsyth and Stephanie Ørum.

1. Minutes from Open Meeting 26th October

1.1. Matters arising from minutes – None.

2. Elections

2.1. MCR Social Secretary:

Election being held to fill the spot left vacant by Alex Barbaro. A round of applause was given to Alex for his excellent work.

2.1.1. Candidates:

2.1.1.1. Birgel, Serkan (seconded by Ella Gunn, Jill Hanley and Matt Smith)

2.1.1.1.1. 1st year DPhil student in Geography of the Environment. Disadvantages of him becoming the new Social Secretary include the fact that he is new, not 100% sure how the MCR works and that, even though he has been to many socials before, he has never held a Social Secretary position. Advantages of him becoming the Social Secretary though are that he is very social, being to most of the events in Freshers' Week, is bar trained meaning he has experience of manning the bar and that, being in the first year of his DPhil, does not have much of a workload and so can dedicate more time. Policies that he would like to push forward include developing the gaming corner where you currently have consoles without games and games without consoles, putting in place a fortnightly board games night in the MCR and, as a lot of us are overseas graduates, organize some day trips to places like Leeds, Brighton and Stonehenge.

2.1.1.2. Buziek, Lisa (seconded by Martin Garthwaite and John Kenny)

2.1.1.2.1. Here for a year to study for a Diploma in Legal Studies. When she arrived she was immediately fascinated by everything, but the part that really convinced her were the people she met. The sense of community at St. Catherine's is what makes her enjoy the place and she would like to contribute to this with her time and energy. As an Erasmus student, she is supposed to have a lot of this to spare. Having done something comparable in Germany, she also has prior experience and has a good idea what she is getting herself into. One of her ideas is to organise music-related socials. In addition, she thinks that she would fit

in well with the other two Social Secretaries to make a good team and would be really grateful to have the opportunity.

2.1.1.3. Malisano, Julian (seconded by Alex Barbaro and Martin Garthwaite)

2.1.1.3.1. First year DPhil in material sciences. Wants to make the place more fun and, as we have a great grad community, he can take advantage of the good spirit that everyone has to organise some good events. Think that we can do a lot both inside the bar and out including barbeques in the summer, inter-college paintball, midnight tea gatherings (and get bigger selection of teas). and introducing juices into Welfare brunches. Another idea is to have a stock market day/evening where as more people buy popular drinks they go up in price but drinks people don't buy go cheaper. He also agrees with Serkan about having a bus trip or a weekend away. He also has prior experience at a similar role from being Social Secretary of Queensland University Boxing Club and also the engineering society. Overall, would hope to organise fun stuff that everyone could enjoy.

2.1.1.4. Søggaard, Pernille (seconded by Martin Garthwaite and Stephanie Ørum)

2.1.1.4.1. Pernille unable to be here, so note read out on her behalf by Stephanie Ørum. She was part of the freshers' committee which she really enjoyed, both in terms of meeting everyone and the advance planning and logistics. Would love to continue taking an active part in organising events that makes the Catz MCR the open, fun and friendly environment it is. As a second year DPhil student, she is also more settled, has the time and energy to put a lot of work into the role and, having been part of Catz for a year, is familiar with our traditions and events and how it works so could step into committee relatively easily. She is keen on organising fun and creative events and promoting Catz to make sure that it is renowned among other colleges for amazing events and a welcoming atmosphere.

2.1.2. Questions and Comments:

2.1.2.1. To Julian: Already being the Sports and Leisure Officer, what is different from what you are doing now that you would do with the Social Secretary position?

2.1.2.1.1. Would give more weight to throw around. Has already organised events beyond scope of position and is overall really keen.

2.1.2.2. Pete Forsyth to everyone: Did anyone ask Alex what he currently does and what role they would be filling in?

2.1.2.2.1. Serkan: He mainly deals with formal dinners and film nights, so would be a nice position to fill though at the same time not an easy job.

2.1.2.3. Carla Verdi to everyone: The BOP is happening in two weeks. Are all of you able to help with it?

2.1.2.3.1. All answer yes. Carla responds that is crucial in how she votes.

- 2.1.2.4. Ben Abraham to everyone: If you were a combination of two animals, what would they be and why:
 - 2.1.2.4.1. Julian: A Sloth and an axolotl: Slow and out of ordinary.
 - 2.1.2.4.2. Serkan: A Meerkat and a lion: Social and has a good heart.
 - 2.1.2.4.3. Lisa: Dragon and butterfly. Pretty cool and strong.
 - 2.1.2.5. Moctar Kané: No one talks about pizza?
 - 2.1.2.5.1. Fears allayed.
 - 2.1.2.6. To all: Specify a favorite coach trip in UK:
 - 2.1.2.6.1. Serkan: Brighton: close and interesting.
 - 2.1.2.6.2. Lisa: Bath.
 - 2.1.2.6.3. Julian: Maybe Scotland for weekend or a Castle trip.
 - 2.1.2.7. To all: Favourite coach model?
 - 2.1.2.7.1. Serkan: Anything with airconditioning!
 - 2.1.2.8. To all: Would you keep free biscuits and tea.
 - 2.1.2.8.1. All have already made efforts to do so.
- 2.2. Bar Officers:
- 2.2.1. Call for Candidates as no one has put themselves forward:
 - 2.2.1.1. Wojciech Kozłowski – Previous Bar Manager and would like to get involved again. Voted in by a majority through show of hands.
- 2.3. Ballot papers handed out for Social Secretary election and counting gets underway while AOB is being conducted. Serkan elected on first count with an overall majority.

3. AOB:

3.1 Cooking Facilities Motion

3.1.1 Motion presented by Stephanie Ørum:

This MCR notes that:

The Pantries are at present are too small to allow more than 1 person to easily cook at any one time. As kitchens are usually shared between 10 students and most people wish to cook at around the same times of day, this severely limits the opportunities students have to cater for themselves. Staircases 1-16 lack any communal eating areas. This results in people eating at their desks where they work and completely prevents communal meals. The range of cooking appliances in staircases 1-16 are very limited. Most people do not use baths regularly. Baths take up a large amount of space. Currently most staircases have one fridge per floor

This MCR believes that:

The state of cooking facilities in the staircases 1-16 is inadequate. Communal cooking and meals are important socially and culturally, allowing people share their different styles and tastes in food. The availability of ovens and freezers would massively increase the type of food students could buy and range of meals students could prepare. The current allocation of fridges is inadequate. 1 fridge shared between 10 student's results in very poor hygiene and leads to disputes. There is simply not enough refrigeration space for the demands of students.

Personal fridge's in rooms would reduce the stress communal fridges are put under resulting in better hygiene and would massively expand refrigeration provision.

This MCR resolves to:

Lobby college to remodel the pantries in staircases 1-16 so as to create larger kitchens with kitchen tables for communal eating wherever possible. Lobby college for the immediate expansion of available cooking appliances so as to ensure that each staircase has access to at least one oven and freezer. Lobby college to provide mini fridges in every student room. Allow the President to accept the loss of baths from staircases to provide space for the proposed remodelling of staircases 1-16

3.1.2 Questions and Comments:

3.1.2.1 Emma Osborn: Should not get rid of toilets if getting with of baths. Need to highlight that.

3.1.2.2 Sebastian Koa: Difficult to see where you would get the extra space from.

3.1.2.3 Emily Raynor: Would this not be difficult with St Catherine's being a listed building? Martin Garthwaite: Some room for internal redesigns.

3.1.2.3 Pete Forsyth: Has there been a rough estimate of how much this would cost? Stephanie Ørum: The Bursar has looked at this. There is however a worry that it could discourage people from going to hall.

3.1.2.4 Emma Osborn: Could there be an in-between measure? Stephanie Ørum: There has already been compromise between what the JCR is advocating and what has been included in our motion.

3.1.3 Motion passed a majority by a show of hands.

3.2 Ski Trip Information:

Martin Garthwaite presented information on the annual MCR Ski-Trip.