

# ***St Catherine's College MCR Open Meeting***

held on Sunday Week 7 Hilary Term, 27 February 2011

**Call to order:** 20.15hrs

**Executive Committee Present:** Christoph Haase, Theresa Kevorkian, Hugh Taylor, Conor Fleming, Tara Mills, Joachim Steinberg, Christina Fuhr, Kate Hodgkinson

**Total MCR members:** 25

## **1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

## **2. Matters Arising**

### **2.1. Changes to International Student Visa**

Christoph informed the MCR that the Government is expected to announce its plans for International Student Visas after March 16.

### **2.2. Graduate Continuation Charges**

Christoph gave an update on the university's proposal on continuation charges. Currently, the university is proposing to charge DPhil students that run into their fourth year £500 per term. Colleges are proposing to charge further £100 on top of that each term.

### **2.3. Damages Caused to the MCR During the Ball**

Theresa informed the MCR that a solution had been found that allowed to avoid replacing the fridges. Moreover, the Ball President had agreed to reimburse the MCR with £200 for the stolen beverages. However, the payment had not yet been received.

## **3. Domestic Charges**

Theresa informed the MCR that rents for rooms in College are going to increase by 4.38% from Michaelmas 2011 onwards. It was noted that College had made a 1% loss over the last year and that inflation is expected to be around 3% over the course of the year. Moreover, food prices are going to increase by 2-8%. Theresa added that the negotiations for Catz house and the Bath street properties have not yet been finished.

## **4. Online Booking of Sports and Music Facilities**

Christoph reported that the College IT Manager is making progress with a College-wide resource booking system. Bookings for the music house and the squash room can soon be made on-line.

## 5. Motions

### 5.1. Acquisition of a Cricket Set

This MCR notes

1. Team sports bring a positive contribution to the general life in the MCR.
2. Sports equipment can be reused by future MCR generations.
3. A substantial number of MCR members have expressed their wish to join an MCR cricket team in Trinity Term.

This MCR believes

1. That this MCR should provide financial support for the acquisition of a cricket set.

This MCR resolves

1. To provide a maximum of £300 for the acquisition of a cricket set.

**Suggested by:** Joachim Steinberg

**Seconded by:** James Anderson

Jake told the MCR that he had received a lot of responses from MCR members who were interested in joining a College cricket team. It was noted that funding could also be obtained from the College's Clubs and Societies fund. In order to be able to acquire the equipment soon, Jake would use the money provided by the MCR and then seek for a reimbursement from the Clubs and Societies fund at the beginning of next term.

**For:** 25

**Against:** 0

**Abstain:** 0

**Motion passes.**

### 5.2. Usage of Recycled Paper in College

This MCR notes

1. 2011 is the United Nations International Year of Forests.
2. Most scientists agree that deforestation has a significant negative impact on the earth's climate.
3. Recycling paper is an insufficient contribution for preventing deforestation if there is no demand for recycled paper.
4. There seems to be a lot of non-recycled paper consumed in College.

This MCR believes

1. That recycled paper should be the default choice in College.
2. That showing pro-activeness in environmental issues will have a positive impact on the College's public perception.

This MCR resolves

1. To mandate its presidents to ask College for setting up a working group with the aim to make recycled paper the default choice in College.

**Suggested by:** Kate Hodgkinson

**Seconded by:** Christoph Haase

Kate gave some information regarding the environmental impact of deforestation. It was suggested to get the JCR environmental representative involved in this discussion as well. Moreover, it was noted that the price for recycled paper might be slightly higher than the price of non-recycled paper. Some MCR members raised concerns about the fact that at this point the financial impact of introducing recycled paper in College was not clear. Although they would in principle support improving College's environmental impact, the motion was at this point too widely phrased which would not allow them to support it. Kate agreed to withdraw the motion, collect more information regarding the financial aspects and bring forward a new motion at an upcoming Open Meeting.

**Motion dropped.**

## **6. MCR Committee Elections**

**Bar Manager:** Theresa Kevorkian

**Votes in favour:** 23

**RON:** 1

**Social Secretary:** Kate Hodgkinson

**Votes in favour:** 24

**RON:** 0

## **7. Other Business**

No other business.

**Meeting finishes 21.15hrs.**