

Agenda for MCR Open Meeting 21 November 2004

- I. Call to Order
- II. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising: no new matters arising.
- III. Officer Reports
 - a. Co-President #1 (Lauren): in college-construction: Firstly, small announcement coming Monday, there have been complaints from staircase 15 because of roof work early in the morning (if they did it at night and it rained you'd have water in your room), and the smell from the tar. College is looking into getting exhaust fans to place at the base of the staircases. Complaints, see Lauren, but please be flexible. Secondly, roofs are caving because of the roof work (poor Maria Banks). If your roof caves, please see and notify accommodation (email James Bennett), NOT the lodge (but only if you don't want to stay in your room); MCR lighting – wiring is faulty on the river side because we don't have “earth cables” available. College is working to sort out the problem, assuring us that it is giving this issue “top priority”. David motions (for next meeting) to sue Arnie Jacobsen for the crappy design of the building; state of the MCR incl. review of coffee/tea/toast policy. Are we happy? Sorry for going two days without coffee. One more thing: laundry facilities may be updated over the winter vac.
 - b. Co-President (Avi): New washer and dryers are on the way. No more (i.e. additional units) coming, but they are replacing the broken ones. They will be Girovend operated; £1600 compensation approved for people in the new block (120 quid per person). They may renovate one room at the base of a staircase for washing, but the concern is noise pollution. Other option is a laundrette service for college students (currently in discussion); Guest Dinner – port/sherry, table extension; feedback on the alcohol? Generally good. Table extended twice this term at cost 50p per place but filled each time. Only issue is that a lot of places were filled by guests at extra cost to MCR members; reports from Academic Committee – yoga next week, spots available Thurs 2-5, Friday 9:30-12:30, see/email Avi. 2 graduate conferences coming in H and T term with college paying for reception at each; alumni and fellowship to be invited to TT conference for community and academic networking. Finally, there is a 125 quid research grant for every graduate in college; application process is through Cressida (send her an email and she will send you the details), motion coming to expand grant to include books. Finally, we now have access to the JCR video library, so email Lauren or Avi for access to the videos.
 - c. Treasurer: state of MCR funds; financial review of MCR Entz. Basically, Rachele has been working closely with account and the finances are in good hands. We are in the black and doing well.
 - d. Social Secretary: review of social events thus far; looking ahead to the end of

term/next term. Halloween party went well. However we have new rules: we can no longer have a party that size again with another college because of safety regulation (big thing is 300 new capacity limit). We also need more security; Potential Christmas party in 9th week. MCR to be decorated next Friday after Thanksgiving.

- e. Secretary: review of Art Appreciation evening. Went very well. Big thanks to David for organizing the event and to Lauren and Ronan for picking up the nibbles.
 - f. Publicity Officer: update on status of new website. We now have our own web server, serving up absolutely nothing. New address coming soon with new site to be set up for the start of next term. New computer is being fixed and should be back shortly.
 - g. Standing committee reports; 4th year committee; 4th years doing okay; big issue is certain individuals monopolizing the TV when 4th years (others) come down to watch something. This isn't the first time this complaint has been raised. Next meeting we could revise the television rules? We could limit the number of times you can book out the TV during the term. But the reality (may be) that this is an individual problem. Tamara motions to send individuals to the Dean, and asks Sallie to broach the issue. (We don't have a rule, but the Dean can take away television privileges). We could also change/enact a bylaw about television guidelines to be debated at next open meeting at start of Hilary Term; bar committee and stock monitor fine (nothing to report); IT committee reports nothing to report; Welfare Officer to attend meeting on Wednesday.
- IV. Constitutional Amendment (we don't have quorum). But college's language is flexible. However, we cannot give input into the choice of the Tutor for Graduates.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP OF THE MIDDLE COMMON ROOM

c) Associate members shall be:

- i. former ordinary members who are approved by the MCR Committee
- ii. any person engaged in study or research in Oxford, typically but not exclusively at an institution associated with the University of Oxford, not reading for an Oxford degree, who is considered to have the equivalent of the status of a Senior Student as defined in the Examination Regulations, upon application in writing to the Committee. The Committee's decision on membership, made following discussion with the Tutor for Graduates, shall be reported to the next Open Meeting. By majority voting, an Open Meeting shall have the right to reject a proposal for Associate Membership. Associate Membership shall commence after the Open Meeting at which the proposal has been presented and not rejected.

The duration of the membership of an Associate Member shall be defined by the

Committee and included in the proposal made to an Open Meeting. No Associate Membership shall be longer than three years.

V. Motions:

- a. The Committee moves to open a discussion to review current policy regarding MCR email lists. David motions to discuss the issue now and perhaps suggest a bylaw at the next open meeting to regulate a new policy/revise the current policy. Basically, not many people (potentially 4-5 according to Dan) have unsubscribed from the list because of the debate. Currently, social pressure usually regulates use of the mailing lists effectively. Concern less about people mistakenly misusing the list and more about conscious abuses; bylaws should reflect this. **Motion to write up a bylaw for next open meeting passes.**
- b. The Committee moves that the MCR support a Graduate Committee proposal to have books, photocopying and other research expenses included in those for which the £125 research grant can be used (currently being brought to Governing Body via the Academic Policy Committee). **Motion passes unanimously.**
- c. *Amended* motion to move the furniture nearest the TV (the two sofas) to be put at a parallel to the TV be more TV-viewing friendly for a period of two weeks until the end of term, after which the furniture will be put back as it was. The MCR will revisit the issue at the next open meeting in Hilary Term to discuss the pilot furniture arrangement. Motioned by Tamara, seconded by Erik. *2nd amendment* to try two different furniture arrangements during the last two weeks of term. **Motion passes with 10 for, 0 against, and 5 abstentions.**
- d. *Amended* motion to investigating getting additional space heaters for the MCR. Motioned by Tamara, seconded by Erik. **Motion passes unanimously.**
- e. Motion to have washing and drying facilities for MCR only. Motioned by Tamara, seconded by Erik. **Motion fails.** *Amended* motions 1) we feel the college should investigate the possibility for offering a laundry service. **Motion passes unanimously;** 2) The MCR motions that it finds the current laundrette situation unacceptable and demands that college remedy the situation. **Motion passes unanimously.**
- f. Motion to organize a Christmas party in the MCR with all of the college scouts and porters. Motioned by Alessandro, seconded by Markos. There is already a party planned by college on behalf of the staff. **Alessandro withdraws the motion** in light of this fact.
- f. Afghan student recently admitted to St. Johns. Home Office is not going to renew the student's visa and is trying to send the student back because to Afghanistan because it is now "safe". Lauren motions for the MCR to endorse statement on behalf of Azhim and with the amended clause that the Co-Presidents write to the relevant authorities on behalf of Azhim pursuant to the provisions of the statement

if such authorities are not already involved. There is concern about the MCR taking a political stance and, more specifically, that if it acts in this one case, it might be compelled to act similarly in the future. Discussion about amending the motion to remove the overly political rhetoric, but concern that removing this language could weaken the impact that it could have on immigration officials. Decision to leave the motion as is, with individual members encouraged to vote their conscience on the matter. **Motion passes with 16 for, 0 against and 3 abstentions.**