

# St Catherine's College Middle Common Room

## Open Meeting Minutes

Sunday May 12<sup>th</sup> 2019  
at 1930 in the MCR

### **In attendance:**

32 MCR members in total

### **Executive Committee Members Present:**

Vivek Kothari – Co-President (Meeting Chair)

Mireia Garcès de Marcilla Musté – Co-President

Chloe Colson – Secretary

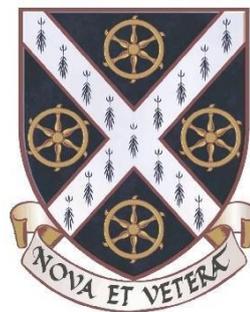
Eilish Gibson – Bar Manager

Nadine Jawad – Treasurer

Anya Wasserman – Social Secretary

Luyao Zheng – Social Secretary

Federico Zilic de Arcos – Social Secretary



Minutes taken by MCR Secretary, Chloe Colson

## **I. Approval of minutes from previous meeting**

Minutes approved, no matters arising.

## **II. Upcoming elections**

The next Open Meeting will be held on **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June** and we will hold elections for some Executive Committee positions that will be opening up before summer:

- IT officer
- 1 Social Secretary

Regular Committee positions that will be opened up in Michaelmas 2019 were also presented:

- Welfare Officers (both male and female)
- Tea and Biscuit Officer

## **III. Vote in of two new associate members**

Evgenia Laznik and Alexander Bowmer were both approved for associate membership by a show of hands.

## **IV. College accommodation prices**

Vivek brought up the upcoming rise in College rent prices., whereby there will be a 3.5% raise in the coming year. This is related to the new graduate rooms (78 of them), the need to pay more staff at liveable wage and the new Graduate Centre that has increased Catz' insurance evaluation by £12.5 million. Maintenance costs will therefore also see an increase (that is estimated to be about 0.3-0.5% higher than the university-wide average).

The new rooms will be charged at the same price as rooms in Catz House or in old quad (though rooms in old quad may be reserved for undergraduates starting from Michaelmas 2019).

Vivek pointed out that all the price increases “factor in Brexit risk which raises the inflationary index”.

For more information, MCR members are encouraged to contact Vivek ([vivek.kothari@stcatz.ox.ac.uk](mailto:vivek.kothari@stcatz.ox.ac.uk)) who has access to the latest proposals from the House Bursar.

## **V. Motion: charitable contribution to oxford research in English**

Motion brought forward by Carina Rampelt, who emphasised the opportunity the journal provides for students in English and other disciplines to discover academic publishing. While the current

issue does not contain any work from a Catz graduate, Carina is herself very involved as a member of the board and she knows several English students at Catz that are interested in sending pieces in to be potentially published.

The aim is for this to be a one time donation of £50, that would help in ensuring the latest edition of the journal is published after an unexpected cut in funding. The board is planning to develop a new subscription model by the end of summer 2019, which would enable the maintenance of the paper without further funds being necessarily required.

The motion passed unanimously.

Vivek used this opportunity to remind the MCR that, while we do not have an official Charity Officer like the JCR, there is a process by which anyone can obtain up to £50 for a charitable cause (subject to MCR approval, of course).

## **VI. AOB**

Meeting closes at 19.54.