

St Catherine's College Middle Common Room

Open Meeting Minutes

Sunday June 9th 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

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. Election of Executive Committee Members

Candidates

IT Officer: Nantas Nardelli

Seconders: Priyanka Bawa, Jakob K ppler

Social Secretary: James Ayre

Seconders: Kan Li and Carina Rampelt

All candidates were unopposed and duly elected.

III. Election of Regular Committee Members

Candidates:

Welfare Officer: Wolfgang Stockinger

Seconders Ikuya Aizawa, James Ayre

Candidate was unopposed and duly elected.

IV. Vote in of a new associate members

Viviana Macarelli

Viviana was unable to attend, but Chloe Colson presented read out a short introduction Viviana wrote about herself. She was voted it.

V. Discussion: Guest Dinner Sign-up Procedure

John initiated a discussion regarding the current guest dinner sign up procedure, and highlighted a few issues he thinks should be addressed. Namely the fact that the guest list is no longer being put up on Mondays at 12 pm, but on Wednesdays at 12 pm. Since the cancellation deadline is currently set at Wednesday 8 pm, John believes this does not leave sufficient time for people to cancel or make plans to attend if there are spaces made available.

MCR members were in general agreement with John's observations. We note several points made:

- The initial list should come out on Mondays to leave enough time for people to change and/or make plans.
- Some members find that the 6h sign-up window on Sundays from 5-11 pm is too short as well as ill-timed, e.g. those who have work on Sunday evenings for example are not able to sign up on time.
- The cancellation deadline should be slightly earlier on Wednesday afternoon in order to allow social secs enough time to release the final list and forward it to hall.

This discussion led to the proposal of an official motion by Phil, which was seconded by Matthew Fay and Mireia Garcés de Marcilla Musté.

The MCR proposes that the sign-up window begin at 12pm on the Saturday prior to the dinner and close at 11pm on the Sunday. The initial list will be released by 12 pm on Mondays with cancellations being possible until 5 pm on Wednesdays. This will come into effect from Michaelmas 2019.

The motion passed unanimously.

VI. AOB

Food for the MCR

Caitlin Jones was wondering if it would be possible to get some MCR money in order to purchase different foods, other than biscuits, for the MCR (e.g. cereal, bread, granola bars, etc.). Vivek clarified that this is not something that needs to be passed as a motion and that it is entirely in the remit of tea and biscuit officers: they may use the money they are allocated for any type of snacks that MCR members could want. Carina committed to sending a poll in a week's time (once her dissertation has been handed in) to gather information about what people may want so that she can go ahead and make the desired purchases.

Men's/Women's Welfare Reps

Vivek initiated a discussion on whether MCR members think that we should remove the “men's”, “women's” welfare rep titles, calling them just welfare reps. Some people are having issue with these terms being too binary, and that we should maybe think of adding extra welfare reps with other distinct titles to ensure everyone feels adequately represented. This can be complicated – finding representative individuals willing to run etc.

One idea was to make the LGBTQ rep an official welfare rep (although Kan Li, the current LGBTQ rep is already welfare trained), at which point it would make sense to keep the original Men's /Women's Title. It was noted that many MCR members thought the titles were “Male”, “Female”, which was deemed less appropriate than “Men's”, “Women's”, that people found less issue with.

Mireia brought up the point that, while the welfare officers are currently delimited as Mens and Womens, anyone should feel comfortable speaking to whichever officer they feel most comfortable speaking to, regardless of the gender they identify as, their sexual orientation or any other possible influential factor.

Matt and Emma emphasized the need to train more peer supporters – if we can get more people happily willing to do this, it would make a considerable difference. The work is extremely rewarding and peer supporters make a significant contribution to the community.

Vivek introduced the idea of creating an anonymous online platform on which MCR members can freely share their thoughts about this topic, from simply expressing their opinion to making suggestions about what they think is the best way forward.

John Kenny mentioned that counselling services have a rainbow peer service and that they do provide posters that contain information on who one can speak to, and where these individuals can be found etc. If we put up some of these posters in the MCR, it could facilitate members' ability to get help even outside the College, from people who they may feel are better suited to help in their situation.

Although many ideas were discussed, there was no definite consensus on the best way to move forward. It was decided that more information from a greater MCR population needs to be gathered in order to make the most informed decision possible. Two possible motions for Michaelmas 2019 are: 1) the LGBTQ officer shall receive the same welfare training as welfare officers, thus essentially making this officer a welfare officer, and 2) decision of the change or lack thereof of the welfare officer titles.

Motion: Naming the New Graduate Centre after Roger Ainsworth

Mireia put forward this motion stating that the MCR supports the general College that the new Graduate Centre should be named after Roger Ainsworth, with the emphasis on Roger. He was known as Roger at Catz and we should therefore ensure his first name is duly represented. The JCR have passed a similar motion at their last Open Meeting, and Mireia believes it would be good to show our support for this so that Governing Body follow the general wishes.

The motion was seconded by Phil Earp and Chloe Colson.

The motion passed unanimously.

Emma's Birthday

As a final AOB matter, Anya asked us to sing a wonderful happy birthday to Emma! Happy Birthday once again, Emma, if you read these minutes, the MCR hopes you had a lovely time.

Meeting closes: 20.35