

# St. Catherine's Middle Common Room

## Open Meeting Minutes

Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020, 7pm

Online

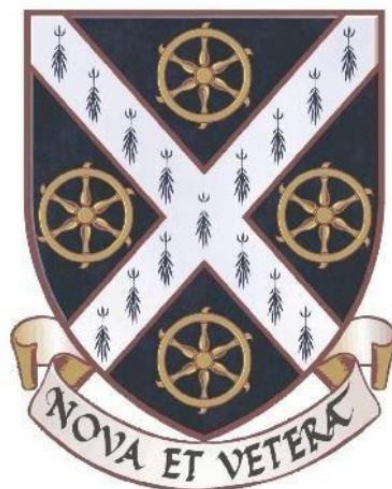
**In attendance:** 30 members total (quorum was reached)

### **Executive Committee Present:**

Chloe, Co-President (Chair)

Henrique, Co-President (Minutes, in the absence of Secretary)

Edward, Treasurer



## **1. Approving minutes from last meeting's minutes**

No concerns were raised about minutes from the last Open Meeting (OM). Minutes were approved.

## **2. Discussion about Elections**

Chair mentioned nominations for elections would be opened the following week, and more information would follow through email. Multiple roles were available, including 3 Social Secretaries, Secretary, 2 Co-Presidents and Bar Manager (as part of the Executive Committee of the MCR). Co-Presidents usually run together, but members were encouraged to contact the current Co-Presidents in case they couldn't find a running partner.

With regards to MCR Committee, the Chair mentioned the following positions were opened:

- a) Environment Rep;
- b) Female Welfare Rep (part of the Welfare Sub-Committee);
- c) Sports Officer;
- d) LGBTQIA+ Officer (part of the Welfare Sub-Committee),
- e) 4<sup>th</sup> year Rep;
- f) Catz House Rep;
- g) Oxford University Student Union (OUSU) Rep,
- h) Academic Officer.

The Chair indicates that details for each of these roles can be found on the Constitution available on the website. Furthermore, members are encouraged to contact the Presidents, who can provide personal experience of the role, or help to get in touch with the last active officer for each positions.

Running for a position involves submitting a manifesto (1 page). In 2 weeks time, the MCR will be allowed to ask questions to each candidate and nomination, and consequently vote on electing individuals to each role.

## **3. Motion: "MCR subsidies for College stash"**

Neither writer nor seconders of the motion were present. Chair subsequently brought motion into the floor on their behalf.

The Chair presented the motion, and introduced the Treasurer as this concerned the financial stability and situation of the MCR. The Treasurer mentioned that under current circumstances, the MCR was experiencing a lack of income, with College being the sole revenue-generating source at the moment. They further elaborate that the MCR cannot possibly have the funds to pay for stash for everyone of its members, although some discussion was possible around whether the MCR should subsidise members.

The Treasurer clarified subsidies for each student would not amount to more than £1 or £2. A couple of members commented that it would be a good idea to have stash, even if every MCR member would have to pay for themselves. Chair mentioned that the MCR constitution allows for the provision of an officer in charge of organising stash for the MCR, "stash rep", although it was currently vacant. The Treasurer further indicated that the current amount of money available to spent per student was less than £5 each term.

Comments were raised by members about bar prices, and potentially using stash as a way to fund the MCR, an approach opposite to that of the motion brought forward. Chair proceeded to clarify that stash is ordered from an external manufacturer, and the values quoted from the manufacturer are provided to the members, so there is no profit for the MCR.

A member questioned who is Stash Rep, and whether discounts could be applied to particular items, e.g. facemask or lanyard. The chair responded by mentioning the Stash Rep position was currently vacant and saying that lanyards were standard practice by the MCR a few years ago. Chair further mentioned that she'd approach the JCR about it.

How to run for positions was asked. Chair explained the process. Furthermore, Chair commented that any volunteer is appreciated and that members don't need to be in an official position to help with organising events.

Motion does not pass.

#### **4. Motion: “Mandating MCR Committee to organise socials twice a week”**

Writer of the motion presented it to the attendees. Chair mentions logistics issues including who should be in charge of organising the socials, as well as how would payments occur. Further questions about where to organise the events.

Writer clarified proposition to use MCR and JCR Bar for use, not outside pubs or bars. Minute taker inquired about a precise statement of the motion. Chair indicated Graduate Centre currently only allowed 40 people total over all three floors. Furthermore, payment remains an issue.

Another members asks how would sign-ups be taken, first-come-first-served? Chair mentions that's a possibility, as well as what's been currently done so far in the term.

Motion changed to “MCR Committee to run socials every two weeks in the MCR, insofar as guidelines (college and government) allow, insofar as payments can be sorted, until restrictions start easing.”

Motion passes after voting.

#### **5. Motion: “Organising Academic Presentation events”**

III: Isavella second motion:

Isavella presents the motion. 5-min presentation of thesis to non-expert audience. Minor discussion about online vs in person event. Online seems to be easiest, upon further communication with presidents and Dean.

This role falls within remit of the Academic Officer, and it's difficult to ask the MCR Committee to do everything when there is not enough volunteers. Chair suggests volunteers can make a huge difference, and they have access to the Zoom MCR Committee account can be used for hosting events. Motion passes after voting.