

03.06.2007 MCR Open Meeting - Minutes

0. Attendance
1. Minutes from the previous meeting
2. Report from the president
3. Report from the Treasurer
4. Report from the Secretary
5. Motions

0. Attendance

10 Transfer votes, 13 members present – quorum reached.

1. Motions from the previous meeting

Minutes of the previous open meeting was not sent to the current committee.

2. Report from the president

It was announced to the floor that due to refurbishment work of Bernard Sunley building commencing on August 2007, the MCR is to temporary relocated to Private Dining Room next to the JCR. The president noted that other possibilities such as the Music Room were not as suitable as the PDR, on accessibility and logistical grounds. The president added that after the MCR returns to its current location, its access will be through the garden and not the main entrance to Bernard Sunley building.

3. Report from the treasurer

The treasurer reported the figure that MCR currently holds in its account. According to the treasurer, the MCR currently holds about £1200 in its account, and waiting for £300 worth cheque to be cashed. By the end of the term, the MCR has to pay £380 for OUSU membership.

4. Report from the secretary

The technical error that phased out the weekly social newsletter was explained, and the positions swap-over within the executive committee was announced in light of the following Motion 4.

5. Motions

All motions were made public in the morning of the day this Open Meeting has taken place. Transfer votes were collected via email by the secretary and the president. All invalid votes (email sent only to the secretary or the president) were not counted. For motions amended during the meeting, all transfer votes were excluded from the final vote.

St. Catherine's College MCR, Motion Sheet

OPEN MEETING: 03.06.2007, 20:00 @ Catz MCR

MOTION 1:

Catz MCR withdraws from OUSU from Michaelmas 2007

Suggested by: Tomasz Mazur

Seconded by: Anna Winestein

Main discussions were done from financial point of view. According to the treasurer, the membership costs £1200 annually, but the only benefit the MCR receives is free Fresher's Fair tickets. It was also noted that there were 0 Catz MCR members using OUSU Welfare service. There were proposals of providing or subsidising Fresher's Fair ticket from the floor. (numbers in parenthesis indicates the number of transfer votes)

FOR: (5) + 12 = 17

ABSTAIN: (1) + 0 = 1

AGAINST (4) + 0 = 4

MOTION PASSED

Action: St. Catherine's College MCR is to disaffiliate from OUSU, and the committees to start the process of doing so.

MOTION 2:

We hold the MCR garden party in conjunction with two or perhaps more other college MCRs and spend up to £1000 on this joint event. If the joint event doesn't take place, we spend up to £1500 on the MCR garden party

ANS: We normally spend more than a grand on our non co-party. just for info.

Suggested by: Anna Winestein

Seconded by: Yuki Hanyu

The president announced that LMH is definitely doing the event and Catz MCR has received a permission from Trinity College to use the sports ground for this event. A possibility of Trinity and perhaps one more college joining this even was also announced.

Regarding this "blueprint" of the said event, there were concerns form the floor that such joint event may become too large-scale and there might be a legal problem with serving alcohol (maximum allowed = 500) and safety i.e. the availability of qualified first-aiders. There was another concern on the nature of the event itself; MCR garden party is the last chance to socialise with friends from college, and not an event to meet new people of other colleges. The social secretary announced a separate CatzMCR-only BBQ event scheduled on Sunday of 9th week (the first day of 9th wk).

There were no objections on the money spent on this event.

FOR (6) + 12 = 18

ABSTAIN (0) + 0 = 0

AGAINST (4) + 0 = 4

MOTION PASSED

Action: The current committees to hold the events as announced.

MOTION 3:

To replace article II of the constitution with the text on the sheet attached

(below is the content of the sheet attached)

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP OF THE MIDDLE COMMON ROOM

1. Delete

e) All Ordinary and Associate Members of the MCR as defined in (b) and(c) shall pay subscriptions to be collected via the College, unless a member decides to pt out of MCR membership. In that case, he/she will write to the MCR President before the end of the first week of Michaelmas term of the year in which they wish to opt out. He/she shall then cease to be a member of the MCR, and will no longer be entitled to vote or stand in MCR elections or to participate in MCR meetings.

and replace with

e) All Ordinary of the MCR as define din (b) shall pay subscriptions to be collected via the College, unless a member decides to opt out of MCR membership. In that case, he/she will write to the MCR President before the end of the first week of Michaelmas term of the year in which they wish to opt out. He/she shall then cease to be a member of the MCR, and will no longer be entitled to vote or stand in MCR elections or to participate in MCR meetings.

2. Add

f) All Associate Members of the MCR as defined in © shall pay subscriptions directly to the MCR.

3. Change last two clauses from (f) and (g) to (g) and (h)

Suggested by: Tomasz Mazur

Seconded by: Amrit Lota

The president informed the floor that the motion was proposed from the college side to ensure their incomes, and this constitutional change does not affect the MCR in any substantial way.

FOR (6) + 13 = 19

ABSTAIN (3) + 0 = 3

AGAINST (1) + 0 = 1

MOTION PASSED

Action: The constitution to be amended.

MOTION 4:

The committee proposes to elect Yuki Hanyu as the MCR secretary. The committee proposes to elect Hanna Winiarska as a social secretary from MT07.

Suggested by: Tomasz Mazur

Seconded by: Nabeel Alsindi

Due to some circumstances the current secretary was in, it was found that she cannot fulfil her duties as an MCR Secretary next academic year. Therefore, it was proposed that Yuki Hanyu (social secretary) is to take her position while the position of social secretary to be filled by Hanna Winiarska.

The president pointed out that this motion contains two parts, and votes were taken for each. For the position of new secretary:

FOR (10) + 13 = 23

ABSTAIN (0) + 0 = 0

AGAINST (0) + 0 = 0

MOTION PASSED

For the position of new social secretary:

FOR (10) + 13 = 23

ABSTAIN (0) + 0 = 0

AGAINST (0) + 0 = 0

MOTION PASSED

Action: New committees to take the position and fulfil its responsibilities.

MOTION 5:

The MCR reviews its magazine and newspaper subscriptions, including 'NewScientist'.

Suggested by: Yuki Hanyu

Seconded by: Anna Winestein

It was pointed out by the floor that NewScientist is available in the library. Also, it was noted that all magazine subscriptions were stopped in the previous open meeting based on an observation that "nobody actually reads them". There was another voice stating that this motion does not carry any substantial meaning.

Treasurer presented a mail from the publisher of NewScientist, and the motion was amended to "The MCR decides not to renew the "New Scientist" subscription." and votes were taken

FOR: 9

ABSTAIN: 0

AGAINST: 4

MOTION AMENDED AND PASSED

Action: No action – the subscription will automatically be discontinued.

MOTION 6:

The MCR bar to be operated as an open bar during licensed hours as per the college regulations during term and drinks signed out by persons in a bar log book.

Suggested by: Roheet

Seconded by: Jessica Feinstein

At the beginning of the discussion, the president disclosed an email from the dean, which states that this motion has a legal problem, as it may lead to thefts and unauthorised alcohol sales. The president added that MCR motions relating to sales of alcohol must go through the college governing body and this motion would not pass that stage.

Meanwhile, one MCR member on the floor pointed out that such system in Holywell Manor is operational, and the same can occur on Catz MCR. Another MCR member expressed her dissatisfaction on the current state of MCR bar stating, “the bar is never open and this place is just dead”. The discussion reached a consensus that there should ideally be a bar committee looking after the bar refrigerator and make it available, ideally, every evening. The president said that the current committee members do not have enough “labour force” to implement this, and is unfair to add more responsibilities to the current committees once being elected.

In light of this, the motion was amended to read “The MCR bar to be operated as an open bar during licensed hours as per the college regulations during term and drinks signed out by persons in a bar log book. This is provided the Governing Body agrees and a suitable Bar Committee is elected to be responsible for the operation of an open bar.”

FOR 8

ABSTAIN 1

AGAINST 4

MOTION AMENDED AND PASSED

Action: The motion to be passed on to the college governing body, and the MCR is to recruit volunteers to work in the bar.

MOTION 7:

Drinks on Movie nights/poker/game nights to be sponsored by the MCR. The drinks tab to remain at up to 15/night(This was passed by the previous committee so if the policy is to continue Kindly strike this out of the agenda)

Suggested by: Roheet

Seconded by: James Alex Russell

The president pointed out a possibility that this motion can be used in a way that anybody can “organise something” with a specific intention of obtaining free drinks. The president also noted that “poker night” would attract only specific limited people and sponsoring drinks to these cliques are not fair. There was a complaint from the floor about the inactivity of MCR, saying that not many social events are being planned. The motion was amended to read:

“Drinks on official MCR Movie nights/poker/game nights that are advertised on the mailing list and practically available to the whole of MCR to be sponsored by the MCR. The drinks tab to

remain at up to 15/night (with maximum one drink per person).”

FOR 10

ABSTAIN 3

AGAINST 0

MOTION AMENDED AND PASSED

Action: The social secretaries to plan more social events

MOTION 8:

In the event that motion 6 is defeated, all MCR committee members living on campus be provided with the bar key and be available to dispense drinks on movie/poker/game nights.

Suggested by: Roheet

Seconded by: Mathias Rufino

This motion was taken down as motion 6 was not defeated.

MOTION 9:

MCR facilities (bar/access to garden/toast/beverages) to be made available following closure at Trinity term for up to end of July. Closure following Michaelmas and Hilary terms exempt from this motion.

Suggested by: Roheet

Seconded by: Jessica Feinstein

An MCR member on the floor pointed out the overlap of this motion with motion 6. A social secretary suggested the use of a small, periodically re-stocked fridge to serve free but limited amount of soft drinks and milk. The motion was amended to read “MCR facilities (toast and beverages) to be made available following closure at Trinity term for up to end of July. Closure following Michelmas and Hilary terms exempt from this motion. It has been noted that bar cannot be accessible outside term time and the garden access is already provided by signing out the key from the lodge.”

FOR (9) + 12 = 21

ABSTAIN (1) + 0 = 1

AGAINST (1) + 0 = 1

MOTION AMENDED AND PASSED

Action: One or more MCR committees to be made available until the end of July to open the bar and serve drinks.

MOTION 10:

Purchase of the MCR pool cues and Bridge (for the snooker table) exclusively for use by MCR members.

Suggested by: Roheet

Seconded by: Mathias Rufino

A member on the floor noted that this motion was already passed in the previous open meeting, but simply was not implemented. The motion was amended to read “Roheet is to purchase pool cues and bridge and the MCR reimburses for the cost” and votes were taken.

FOR 12

ABSTAIN 0

AGAINST 0

MOTION AMENDED AND PASSED

Action: MCR is to reimburse Roheet for his purchase of MCR pool cues and bridge.

MOTION 11:

Reinstitution of weekly social emails informing members of the weekly events roster both in and out of the college.

Suggested by: Roheet

Seconded by: Jessica Feinstein

The motion was found irrelevant as the cause was only a technological problem that was now solved.