

# 28.10.2007 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 social secretary
5. Motions
6. Any other business

0. Attendance: 25 present + 3 email votes, quorum reached  
28.10.2007, 20:00-22:00 at Catz MCR

## 1. Minutes from the previous meeting

No questions or complaints raised

## 2. Report from the president

Roheet's open bar motions from previous open meeting were recalled by the president. The president reported that various college figures (Dean, Master, etc) are dissatisfied by these motions and the outcome of the governing committee meeting is predictable. It was also noted that all MCR motions have to go through the governing committee to become an MCR by-law. Some members took a reference of other colleges where they have an operational self-service snack/bar that one of the Roheet's motions addressed.

The floor noted very short bar opening times and pointed out that because the bar is rarely open, MCR is not standing as the social centre as it is supposed to be, (and used to be, according to some MCR members on the floor.) Several other MCR members demanded more frequent occasions of open bar.

The president reported the original intention of hiring someone for the bar, and also said that the plan turned out to be not feasible, as the MCR cannot officially hire someone, and if one insists, the bar has to be owned by the college as in the JCR. In light of this, the president emphasised the importance of having a bar committee chosen from ordinary MCR members.

The president reported the current situation regarding the SkyBox for MCR television set. It was noted that matters relating to SkyBox is handled by the company through college maintenance office, and the company is being very slow about repairing it. The floor suggested to stop payment immediately to exert leverage to the company. Another ordinary member suggested acquiring a low-cost or even free box to have some of the channels back as a temporary measure.

## 3. Report from the social secretary

One social secretary addressed generally low social activities of the MCR to date this year, such as the Dinner Out and Jazz Night on Fresher's Week. Some ordinary members pointed out that Jazz Night was not properly arranged.

The social secretary announced there is a plan of renting out a club on 8<sup>th</sup> week and do a major event in collaboration with other colleges. It was noted that by outsourcing a bop in such way, less work is required for the social committees and the cost of security, DJ and equipment can be cut down, and the legal capacity of the MCR (120 people) becomes irrelevant. In response to this, an ordinary member spoke that bops are not expensive, and it even make money from the sales of alcohol. Several ordinary members expressed dissatisfaction of low level of social activities. Another ordinary member emphasised bops as Catz MCR's reputation and the difference between clubbing and having a bop. The social secretary addressed the severe shortage of manpower (DJ etc) to carry out events, but an ordinary member stood up to do the DJ.

The date of such event was discussed shortly after. The floor noted that on 8<sup>th</sup> week, many other colleges also do bop and it is not ideal to do major event at such time. With other events such as graduation and Catz Nite in consideration, it was agreed to do a bop on 6<sup>th</sup> week and 2<sup>nd</sup> week of the coming Hilary Term. One ordinary member emphasised the importance of early advertisement.

Discussions on bar opening hours were raised again. The president re-stated that there is an acute shortage of bar committees and executive committees cannot open the bar every evening, and it is "more than welcome to stand up for a bar committee". The secretary addressed the theoretical possibility of training large number of people at once so that they can serve behind the bar. It was agreed to arrange a bar training session and get running bar committees. The president reminded that being a bar committee does not mean that he or she has to devote 3 or 4 hours every day behind the bar.

The social secretary advertised the 4th week Halloween Night.

#### 4. Report from the treasurer

The treasurer reported that the MCR is financially in a very good condition, by an excess of £2000 compared to last year. The treasurer also noted that this money can be spent for more entertainment, such as new Wii game software and bops. Several members on the floor requested to spend this excess on the 6<sup>th</sup> week bop.

#### 5. Motions

## **St. Catherine's College MCR, Motion Sheet**

**OPEN MEETING: 28.10.2007, 20:00 @ Catz MCR**

### **MOTION 1:**

The MCR proposes following simplification to the MCR guest dinner sign up and priority rules.

1. Every MCR member is allowed up to 1 guest every Friday.
2. A “first come, first served” priority rule applies during signup. Any MCR member (and his/her guest) has priority over any other MCR member (and his/her guest) who signed up at a later time. This rule applies both to the Sunday signup period and any late signups made in person in the General Office.
3. No MCR member can sign up another MCR member unless he or she signs him or her up as a guest.
4. Any member of the MCR Executive Committee and his/her guest has priority over other MCR members and their guests.

**Suggested by: Tomasz Mazur**

**Seconded by: Yuki Hanyu**

All members including the committees agreed on the constantly over-booked nature of the Guest Dinner. The president addressed that the purpose of this issue is whether to put more advantage on guests or more to MCR members for Friday Guest Dinner. The president explained that under the current rule, although MCR members are allowed up to 3 guests, it is never possible in practice, and it is often the case that people and their guest have to wait until Wednesday afternoon to know if they have got a place. The president then added that by introducing this new rule, booking system simplifies to first-come-first-serve basis and the place for at least one guest is guaranteed. One ordinary member questioned clause 4 of the motion, and the president replied that it is already implicit by clauses 1-3. Several ordinary members spoke that dinners are subsidised by the fees they pay, and it is unfair to give more advantage to non-MCR members (guests) than proper members. Another member noted that even with the introduction of this new rule, the waiting list will not disappear.

Several members on the floor spoke that the current rules governing the Guest Dinner are not well documented, and if improvements are to be made, it would be posting the rule on MCR notice board rather than just having it on the web.

One ordinary member suggested a possibility of additional MCR dinner on another weekday. Another member noted a recent activity by an ordinary member to organise such event on Thursdays.

FOR (0) + 0 = 0

AGAINST (1) + 17 = 18

ABSTAIN (2) + 8 = 10

**MOTION FAILED**

## **MOTION 2:**

We propose the following additional signup rule:

Every MCR member is allowed, once a term, to reserve guaranteed spots in advance for themselves and up to 3 guests. This is only applicable to Weeks 2-7, and not to Weeks 1 and 8.

This is not applicable to dinner visits to other colleges. There will be a maximum of 3 MCR members at any one guest dinner who are using this special right (time of application decides).

**Suggested by: Tomasz Mazur**

**Seconded by: Yuki Hanyu**

The president noted that similar rule is already in practice, but not many MCR members know about the privilege of guaranteed seats for 3 guest once a year and it is often the case that people try to use this privilege on the 8<sup>th</sup> week of Trinity term. The president addressed the case of last year, when 8 people tried to use this privilege on the 8<sup>th</sup> week Trinity Term and he had to say not to last 3 as only 5 is allowed to use the privilege at a time.

The floor spoke that it is members' problem that they do not use the privilege until last minute. The floor suggested to post up the sign-up rules as discussed prior to voting on Motion 1.

FOR (2) + 1 = 3

AGAINST (0) + 18 = 18

ABSTAIN (0) + 3 = 3

**MOTION FAILED**

### **MOTION 3:**

The MCR proposes to accept two residents of the Maison Française, Pierre Teissier and Aude Fauvel, as MCR Associate Members.

**Suggested by: Tomasz Mazur**

**Seconded by: Yuki Hanyu**

The president announced that it is rather a tradition of Catz MCR to give membership to those who lectured in Catz. One ordinary member noted that for each additional member, the MCR gains £40 subscription fee.

1 abstention

**NO OPPOSITION, MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **MOTION 4:**

This MCR purchases an approximately-650W-class domestic microwave oven and install it in the kitchen.

**Suggested by: Yuki Hanyu**

**Seconded by: Nabeel Alsindi**

The secretary reported that an ordinary member demanded the numerical cost for the implementation of this cost and until she knows the figure, she cannot vote. The president gave a rough estimate on the cost to be somewhere between £20 to £70, depending on its grade. The floor noted that the MCR used to have one.

1 abstention

**NO OPPOSITION, MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**MOTION 5:**

Open the bar for Poker Nights (one night a week)

**Suggested by: Dane van den Akker**

**Seconded by: Yuki Hanyu**

The president reminded a legal problem of sponsoring alcohol on such occasion. An ordinary member spoke that “poker nights” does not appeal to female members, and also said that if implemented, it turns into a “games night” rather than “poker night”. The importance of having bar committees were re-stated by the executive committees. Votes were taken, with a general consensus that “Poker Night” is in practice, “Games Night”.

FOR (2) + 20 = 22

AGAINST (0) + 0 = 0

ABSTAIN (0) + 3 = 3

**MOTION PASSED**

**MOTION 6:**

An amendment to Mike Pekris’s motion: whenever it says “bop” change it to “event”.

(Secretary’s note: Mike Pekris’s motion is the below Motion 7. This amendment proposes motion 7 to read “Push for a joint event with another college/society/more than one of either. It used to happen 3 years ago so why should we be deprived?”)

**Suggested by: Tomasz Mazur**

**Seconded by: Hanna Winiarska**

**MOTION RETRACTED**

**MOTION 7:**

Push for a joint bop with another college/society/more than one of either. It used to happen 3 years ago so why should we be deprived?

**Suggested by: Michael Pekris**

**Seconded by: Kaitlin Walsh**

**MOTION RETRACTED / Agreement reached elsewhere, motion deemed irrelevant**

## **MOTION 8:**

The MCR proposes the following change to the constitution:

### ARTICLE VII

Add:

"f) No motion regarding the sale of alcohol and operation of the MCR bar can be proposed".

Change:

Renumber all subsequent points within ARTICLE VII accordingly.

**Suggested by: Tomasz Mazur**

**Seconded by: Amrit Lota**

The president recalled Roheets' motion from last term, and reported that such motions give very negative impressions of the MCR.

One ordinary member expressed a dissatisfaction on the wording in the email president had sent around prior to the meeting to give digests to members about the motions. The same member opposed the motion on practicality ("such motion would be blocked by the governing committees and never implemented anyway") and principle grounds ("forbidding discussions is undemocratic").

Some members expressed concerns that this motion may forbid any changes to the way bar is operated. The president replied that this motion does not blanket-forbid all changes to the way bar is run.

FOR (1) + 1 = 2

AGAINST (1) + 20 = 21

ABSTAIN (0) + 4 = 4

**MOTION FAILED**

## 6. Any other business

The position of Publicity Officer was advertised and the names of people standing for the standing committees were called. Brief description of responsibilities for each position was given. More than 10 ordinary members stood up to take various positions.

Need for a welfare officer was discussed. Although having extra input on this aspect helps, one ordinary member stated that ultimately, welfare issues come to the junior deans.

Several possible events by academic committee were discussed. This includes "MCR Seminars" and prize draw for best presentations. It was noted that the college will be willing to help, and will be good for participants as such prizes add something in their CVs. New College's activities were taken as a reference.