

St Catherine's College Executive Committee

Open Meeting

Sunday, 22nd February 2015

Present: 35

Executive Officers Present: Carla Verdi, Francesco Ferroni, Jan Vonk, John Kenny and Serkan Birgel.

1. Minutes from Open Meeting 15th February 2015

1.1. Matters arising from minutes - None

2. Approval of Application for MCR membership:

2.1. Leo Mehr

Leo is a visiting student from Cornell doing Computer Science and would like to join the MCR.

Questions:

- What's favourite animal: A Lemur.
- If your membership application is approved, will you come to the Tea Hive? Maybe.

Membership approved by show of hands.

3. Discussion on Hall Proposals to Introduce a Booking System for Formal Hall:

The issue was introduced by John and Serkan. The JCR have arranged to have a trial in Week 7 where you will need to sign up for formal hall in advance in order to attend. Thoughts and comments from the floor were welcomed. The majority of those present were against the idea of this compulsory sign-up trial and a sign-up overall, though there were calls for more information and some dissenting views.

Main points in Against trial/sign-up:

- If the JCR is also against having a long-term sign-up, then agreeing to trial is not in line with achieving this aim.
- The MCR is much smaller and has a more regular sized number that attend hall. Therefore it is more predictable and there is less food wastage likely to come it.
- Not going ahead with the trial does not mean that we don't respect the JCR's decision to go ahead with it, but that we could aim at getting an exemption for us due to our different circumstances.
- There is also a welfare element to this as signing-up might discourage graduates from coming to dinner, and for graduates can often be the only part of contact with others from the college during the day.

- Even if there may be merit to the proposal, we should have been consulted by both the JCR and hall before any decision was made as opposed to when an agreement had already been reached.

Main points for trial/sign-up:

- We should show solidarity with the JCR - better to have a unified approach than a divided approach.
- It is unfair that there should be a different treatment for the JCR and MCR as we are all members of the one college.
- The vast majority of other colleges have sign-up for their evening meals so we are the outlier.
- By opting out, does that mean that we agree that food should be wasted?

Other points:

- As a compromise, if we intended bringing guests for dinner and knew in advance they were coming we could notify hall.
- More details are needed as to what the exact nature of the waste problem is.

4. AOB

- None.