

**St Catherine's College Middle Common Room  
Executive Committee**

**Open Meeting  
Sunday, 10 May 2015**

Present: 40

Executive Officers Present: Peter Forsyth, Elizabeth Smethurst, Alice Wang, Carla Verdi,  
Julian Malisano, Moctar Kane, William Beuckelaers

**1. Minutes from previous meeting (22 February 2015)**

No matters arising from the minutes.

**2. Approval of Application for MCR membership**

(i) Benjamin Baron.

Ben is currently a member of the JCR. He would like to join the MCR because he has been active with a number of MCR events, is an honorary tea hive member and is friends with a number of people in the MCR.

Questions:

- Will he come to tea hive more? Answer: Yes
- If he was a combination of two animals, what would he be? Answer: Mixture between an eagle and panda.
- Would he rather lose his left hand or eat jelly for every meal for the rest of his life? Answer: Probably jelly.

Motion carried and membership approved by show of hands.

**3. Proposed amendment to the MCR Constitution**

Motion passed to correct a loophole (as a result of what is essentially a typographical error) in the current MCR Constitution. The error allows the co-presidency/executive committee to co-opt members to the Regular Committee when there are two candidates for a single position, without an election.

The approved version of the relevant section – Article V, (e) – reads:

Ordinary MCR members may be co-opted onto the Committee provided that there are no more than five co-opted members and provided that these positions are advertised at Open Meetings. *If two or more applications are received for any such regular position*, then an election shall be held in the ordinary manner as for the Executive Officers of the MCR, at an Open Meeting by a show of hands or by a poll to be conducted through the official MCR email list. Votes cast by email shall be sent to both the Secretary and the Co-Presidents and shall be received no later than midnight on the seventh day after the announcement of the election by email.

#### 4. Discussion on the Booking System for Formal Hall

The MCR has been asked to consider a system where members will register their intention of attending hall on any given day of the week.

The main discussion points raised were as follows:

- The sign up system was negotiated by the JCR and set to last from last Michaelmas term to the next Michaelmas term. The JCR has implemented it since the end of Michaelmas and it started off well, although the numbers have since dwindled.
- Concern was expressed regarding the lack of incentive for people to sign up and use the system. Elizabeth noted that the voluntary system requires little effort from MCR members and will help the kitchen plan in terms of food and staffing. The incentive is that the alternative measure is worse, which is compulsory sign ups.
- It was pointed out that the MCR has a relatively steady attendance at Hall – if this becomes obvious through the trial system, then this data could be used to extrapolate attendance rates in the future.
- The system is very unlikely to lead to a compulsory sign up system, as the Master does not support a compulsory system. There has been no suggestion that this would lead to a full compulsory sign up system.
- Sign ups are currently taken through the MCR website (same system as the one on the JCR website), and you need to be set up as a registered user. You can indicate your intention to attend Hall across the week.
- There are some members of the MCR that are in favour of implementing a compulsory system.

Overall, the MCR is in favour of the sign up trial to be implemented for the same length of time as the JCR.

Motion passed.

**5. Applications open for the Tea and Biscuits Officer**

Applications are open for the Tea and Biscuits Officer. Nominations should be made to Alice (jingjing.wang@stcatz.ox.ac.uk) by the end of third week (midnight Saturday 16th May) in the usual way, as defined in our constitution.

**6. AOB**

None.