

St Catherine's College Middle Common Room

Open Meeting Minutes

Sunday 16th February, 2020
at 7pm in the MCR

In attendance:

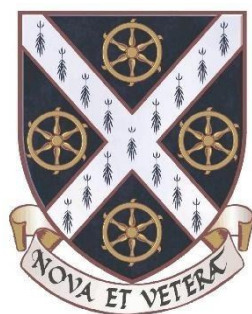
30 MCR members in total

Executive Committee Members Present:

Ben Jackman – Secretary (Chair)

Henrique Aguiar – Co-President

James Ayre – Social Secretary



I. Motion: Motion to confirm the previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed and approved without objection.

II. Motion: Motion for Amendment to the MCR Handbook

Proposed by: Frazer Martin

Seconded by: Jenith Jothi Felix and Helena Page

“Motion to insert the following into the MCR Handbook on page 18, concerning elections, based on information gathered in the LGBTQIA+ Welfare Officer questionnaire: “The voting for LGBTQIA+ Welfare Officer must occur online rather than in an open meeting, and those who do not identify as LGBTQIA+ will be asked not to vote. This is to ensure that LGBTQIA+ people are able to vote in the election without being outed in a public space, and that those who do not identify as LGBTQIA+ are not able to take part in the election.””

Phil (a former MCR Secretary) asked how we will be able to ensure integrity in voting online. Frazer said this would be through the MCR website, which would require MCR members to log in, similar to guest dinner.

Vivek asked how we will ensure only those who identify as LGBTQIA+ vote. Frazer pointed out that we cannot, but that’s the same as the current arrangements anyway (nor would it likely be appropriate for the MCR to attempt to validate such identity).

This motion was passed by a show of hands without objection.

III. Motion: Motion for Proposal to Amend Constitution (subject to full amendment procedures).

Proposed by: Frazer Martin

Seconded by: Jenith Jothi Felix and Helena Page

“Motion to insert article V.g. to the MCR Constitution, based on information gathered in the LGBTQIA+ Welfare Officer questionnaire: “The LGBTQIA+ Welfare Officer shall be responsible for affairs connected with the welfare and wellbeing of LGBTQIA+ MCR members, in conjunction with welfare officers. They shall be responsible for publicizing and distributing welfare resources specifically relating to LGBTQIA+ welfare, and shall be responsible for liaising with relevant College and University authorities on behalf of LGBTQIA+ members and for representing LGBTQIA+ members’ welfare interests and concerns. They shall organize regular events for LGBTQIA+ MCR members, and provide information on events organized by the university LGBTQ+ Society. The LGBTQIA+ Officer shall ensure that communications are delivered through all available channels, including email, and not just through Facebook groups.”

The MCR was reminded that this motion is simple to grant the MCR’s assent to such an amendment to the Constitution, and will be proposed as a formal Constitutional amendment with a group of other proposed changes to the Constitution in Trinity term.

Several questions were asked about how this particular role will operate in conjunction with the welfare officers. Frazer noted that it was difficult to speculate about how people holding future roles will act, but that he would encourage the welfare officers and LGBTQIA+ welfare officers to work closely together.

This motion was passed by a show of hands without objection.

IV. Motion: Motion to Confirm the MCR's Assent for the Planned Week 6 Hilary Term 2020 Election Arrangements

Proposed by: Ben Jackman

Seconded by: Chloe Colson and Henrique Aguiar

“The MCR confirms its assent to holding elections only for the positions of Treasurer, IT Officer, Merchandising Officer and (one) Social Secretary position in Week 6 of Hilary Term 2020.”

Several MCR members asked for clarification around the arrangements for the upcoming elections (just the four positions), and what the alternative option proposed was (electing all positions simultaneously in the upcoming elections, despite most of these positions being elected in the previous term).

Phil (a former MCR Secretary) outlined the background on why previous MCRs had chosen to elect all position simultaneously in previous years; this meant continuous service for MCR Committee members through what was usually the busiest time – Freshers week.

After discussion of the relative pros and cons of electing all positions in the upcoming elections, versus only electing the vacant positions, the motion was voted on.

This motion was passed by a show of hands without objection; one member (Peerce McManus) abstained.

V. AOB

Vivek Kothari mentioned a new Oxford society for people interested in Kung Fu and encouraged those interested to check it out.

James Ayre spoke to encourage MCR members to run for Social Secretary.

The meeting was adjourned.