

ST. CATHERINE'S COLLEGE MIDDLE COMMON ROOM OPEN MEETING MINUTES

25 April 2021, 7pm, Zoom

Committee Members present: Chloe Colson, Isavella Vouza, Valentina Semenova, Tobias Hurst, Aditi Agrawal, Sydelle de Souza, Ananya Sharma, Chris Jones, Elizabeth Hotz, Gabriel O'Regan, Lucy Bartel

Email votes: 13

Members present in meeting: 18

Minutes taken by Lucy Bartel, MCR Secretary

MINUTES

IV: Minutes from last meeting approved, no outstanding questions issues.

MOVIE NIGHT SOCIAL BUDGET

TH: We have an idea to offer outdoor movie nights to MCR community— would buy a projector, sound system, other paraphernalia and host in the amphitheater at the back of Catz. We could do it as often as possible. Provisional cost analysis is approx. £900, but we have discussed with the JCR and they have agreed the MCR would have ownership and priority preference with a usage booking system and they will fund half of the cost. Expense to the MCR would be about £450.

VS: MCR members would be able to check out and use the equipment for showing research videos, having group movie nights, etc. For official MCR events, we can add alcohol/refreshments and make an easy socially distanced event.

TH: Overall this would be an investment for the future.

IV: Could you please break down the equipment needed?

TH: High quality projector for outdoor lighting/space. 20ft inflatable screen; connecting cords and extensions. Technical details still being worked out with college. Potentially also a gazebo for changing weather conditions. Re the sound system: MCR is asking the college to (partly) finance a significant system for the MCR—will include speakers that can be used outside. In talks with college about this.

CC: if there's any rain planned, we won't be planning a movie night. A gazebo adds quite a bit to the budget. Especially with summer and rules relaxing to be able to meet inside, we wouldn't be having a movie night in the rain.

TH: the MCR does have some kind of gazebos but they are cumbersome and possibly not that sturdy. Not necessarily an essential piece of equipment but could be added to the budget.

CC: if we have any ideas for what this gazebo could be used for, we could do it. Should be ready for college not to want to pay for the sound system. As an MCR we wouldn't be able to afford it by ourselves. We may have to buy something cheaper if college won't help us/ adjust.

VS: some of these purchases can be made incrementally, starting with the essentials.

SS: what are the pros and cons of buying vs renting?

TH: the cost of renting would be equivalent. Also this is an investment for many years. Logistically easier for people planning the events. Might be difficult to know where to go.

CC: Also a limited number available in oxford.

SS: How do we service it? warranty/ guarantee?

TH: I'm here for another three years. That was one reason why JCR was willing to share.

CC: Can work out a sharing and upkeep agreement

VS: Good quality warranties now.

TH: Not much upkeep required

GO: Worth considering insurance for the system in case of accidental damage?

TH: if we are renting it out to people in the college, we should derive some sort of accountability plan.

AS: as long as we have a booking system and we know who took it out, we can fine them for damages.

Motion passes with majority in favour

SCAR motion

SS: we are creating a journal, college has approved, we have editorial board, planning to launch soon. Just need to secure funding. College suggested that since the MCR is underspent this year and last year, the MCR should fund us for the first 2 years. After that, college will re-evaluate and fund directly. We have JCR and SCR members involved. Trying to get intra-collegiate academic discourse, inter-disciplinary. Students can send their papers and get something published. Ed board gets to learn about the process. Win-win-win for everybody with college.

IV: sounds like an exciting opportunity!

CJ: can you run through the things that the money will be spent on.

SS: biggest expense is adobe indesign/ similar software. Want to follow DOAJ guidelines to get onto solo, so mainly digital. We would do minimal prints to have around college. Anyone else could order a private copy and pay themselves.

TH: the JCR are involved in the running of the journal but not being asked to help with money?

SS: It's mainly graduate student run so didn't seem fair to ask.

AA: how would the review/interdisciplinary thing work?

SS: 4 sections: book review, MPLS, SS, Hums; we will ask for abstracts in sections for different fields in different disciplines. The most experienced in that field would edit the paper, along with a peer review process.

AA: I imagine that process could get complicated for sciences.

SS: We are also accepting extended abstracts. Copyright would be authors' problem.

GO: on the software—there are some equally good professional software options that you can buy without a monthly cost.

SS: hard bc people mostly know Adobe so the learning curve won't be crazy. Also a good transferable skill.

IV: You have involvement already?

SS: 27 people involved total

Motion passes with majority in favour.

Charity support—4 potential candidates

See agenda for descriptions

AS: how much money do we have and can we split it?

IV: a little over £100.

LB: We had discussed using it to raise a bit more money. In a raffle for example.

TH: Raffle idea would require a lot of extra time

CC: if you had a raffle, would be worth splitting the money across charities. Could even be under a £100. We would just need to choose a charity to do a raffle for. If we generate enough money. In case we decide to donate outright, we should just give it all to one place.

IV: Do we need a separate motion?

AS: not sure how many people would engage in a raffle, especially bc it's a tough time financially for people. May not get a lot of interest this year especially.

The Marathon option won majority of votes.

AOB:

SS: We're co-hosting an academic conference with St. Hilda's

TH: process of sprucing up the MCR—fridge, smart light bulbs. Could we purchase individual lamps for the ground floor? Do people like the idea of good lighting for the new space?

IV: do people use it?

TH: study space and a place to chill out with the household

CC: general lighting—alternative to new lamps?

TH: this is more about the physical bulbs. They have lots of cool features. £600 estimate

CC: sound system before lights in terms of priorities. Previous committees have tried to get fun lights before but were turned down by college. But your lights would be normal as well. For BOPs, we have rented a light system for the evening in the past.

IV: the budget will be from the college; this is part of a larger purpose of properly outfitting the MCR

TH: final note—the MCR balcony is open!

CC: can bring drinks over from the JCR bar.

TH: JCR bar is open and can be used while the MCR one gets up and running!