

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

February 6, 2022 – 7PM, MCR Ainsworth Graduate Center  
Committee Members Present

Co-Presidents: Lucy Bartel

Secretary: Felice Wallner

Social Secretaries: Jeremy Sontchi

Treasurer: Benjamin Wagenvoort

Women's\* Welfare Rep: Arunima Cheruvathoor

Environmental Rep: Joey Grostern

Catz House Rep: Anthony Rajecki-Doyle

Tea and Biscuits Officer: Jialing Chen

Minutes Taken by Felice Wallner

## A. MINUTES

Meeting opened 19:45

### 1. Motion: Food for Committee Meetings

LB: We are asking for 25 pounds for snack for committee meetings because it would allow for a greater flexibility when scheduling meetings throughout the day

Vote: in person, email and MS Teams vote: Motion passes with unanimous majority

### 2. Motion: MCR graduate scholarship fund

Rationale: In 2012, the MCR at the time voted to instate a Graduate Scholar Fund, funded by members of the MCR through a £15 charge added to their Hilary Term battels. Students were charged the amount to their battels and had the option of sending an email or following a link to opt-out of paying, the scholarship has been awarded to two students since 2012 and most people have been opting out. There is currently £7,500 in the fund. If the scholarship is to cease, we need to decide an

alternate recipient fund, which needs to be a current scholarship. The Academic Registrar has recommended the Reach Oxford Scholarship.

LB: Open discussion – Do we still want to keep this scholarship?

- We feel that the scholarship is not extremely successful and the feeling is that students should not be funding other students' studies and rather college should be helping fund scholarships for fellow students
- VK: alternative proposal: voluntarily giving away what is left on Upay funds at the end of the year, possibility for an MCR hardship fund to be approved on a need's-based scheme
- JG: it does seem interesting to give the possibility of securing the scholarship at the time of study beginnings, when most students have funding secured
- ARD: money seems to be extracted from students by college with little knowledge on how it is allocated
- JS: this money should not go to anything else than a scholarship, as previous graduates paid this money believing it will go to a scholarship fund, so alternative proposal should be an alternative scholarship for MCR members

Decision: Vote on Issue 1, Redraft Issue 2 with new proposals after liaising with college and resubmit

Vote: in person, email and MS Teams vote: majority for discontinuing scholarship

### 3. Free wine at Black Tie Formals:

Wine used to be offered free of charge at the Black Tie MCR Formals in Week 1 and 8, do we want to reinstate this?

- JG: not a big fan as someone who does not go to formals
- VK: many MCR members prefer not to drink alcohol and would not benefit from this motion, would there be a non-alcoholic alternative?
- JS: Juice could be made available
- FW: MCR has the opportunity to purchase nicer wine and subsidize if we do not mass order for all guests

Vote: In person, MS Teams and email: 9 votes in favor, 9 votes against, one abstain, motion decline \* (*this motion was revoted on later in the meeting, as the constitution states that tied motions must be put up for vote at the end of a meeting and counted by a different committee member*)

### 4. By-election:

Vacant position of MCR Bar Manager, Anthony Rajacki-Doyle nominated,  
Seconders: Esteban Echeverry and Zhiqing Wang

- JG: Will you be both Catz House Rep and Bar Manager?
- ARD: I will continue supporting the interest of Catz House students but will officially be Bar Manager

- VK: How many people have been bar trained so far?  
LB: approximately eight students

Vote: In person, MS Teams and email: unanimous majority for electing Anthony Rajecki-Doyle as MCR Bar Manager

*\* Reopening voting for the Free Wine Motion:*

BW: in order to break the tie there must be a second voting later in the meeting, if that is still a tie then the meeting chair must decide

Revote counted by FW: In person, MS Teams and email: 10 votes in favor, 9 votes against, motion passed

Meeting adjourned 20:42