

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

March 1st, 2022 – 7PM, MCR

Committee Members Present:

Co-Presidents: Lucy Bartel and Sam Atwal

Social Secretaries: Jeremy Sontchi, Dorothy Chirwa

Bar Manager: Anthony Rajecki-Doyle

IT Officer: Hashan Punchihewa

Women's* Welfare Rep: Arunima Cheruvathoor

LGBTQ+ Welfare Rep: Indy Sobol

Academic Officer: Tomajin Morikawa

Merchandise Officer: Sophie Weeden

Environmental Rep: Joey Grostern

Minutes Taken by Jeremy Sontchi

A. MINUTES

Meeting opened at: 7:02

1. Elections of the Social Secretary Position

Nomination: Ilayada Karadag

Seconders: Brittany O'Duffy, Kan Li

IK: 4th Year DPhil, rows. Would like to arrange some parties as a last farewell.

Experience from rowing activities, was in committee 1st and 2nd years. Wants to host garden party, maybe also karaoke night.

ARD: Where is garden party hosted?

IK: MCR Garden, has also been held by gym.

VOTE: Ilayda elected

2. Allocation of Graduate Scholarship Money

Continuation of discussion from previous open meeting. Have returned with more concrete options for the use of money. Explanation of options as laid out in MCR communications (1 time normal scholarship, 1 time scholarship for current students, increase of Light fellowship).

JS: Increasing light fellowship would be used by college office as advocacy for permanently increasing value of light fellowship going forward (and MCR would be added to names of donors)

IK: Difference between 1 and 2 is whether incoming students can apply or only current students

Voting: 14 for option 1, 9(10 with pierre) for option 2, 18 for option 3. Option 3 passes, making the second vote moot.

3. Motion: Requesting Hall to remove pre-booking limitations for lunch and Saturday Scaf

Presenter: Anthony Rajecki-Doyle

Secunder: Jeremy Sontchi

ARD: Didn't exist pre-covid. 30 tickets available on night for hall. If worried about food waste, give it away.

Pierre: Pre-book for hall helps with staffing concern, but scaf works well.

IK: Already do it for breakfast and now do it for M-F scaf.

ARD: Creates animosity between serving staff and students.

Pierre: Earlier breakfast would be nice, would start new motion rather than modifying this motion.

ARD: Post-breakfast buttery

IK/Pierre/PG: As graduate students, we have variable schedules, particularly with lab, and can utilize hall with less monetary and food waste.

Motion passes

4. Motion: St. Catherine's College Commitment to net-zero by 2030

Presenter: Joey Grostern

Secunder: Aryan D'Rozario

JG: Climate change is bad. Uni has committed to net-zero by 2050. College has not engaged on carbon. Could be easy PR win. Propose JCR/MCR Environment Reps negotiate with college, including carbon audit. Also suggest that college hire sustainability officer. College should also share more information with MCR/JCR environmental officers and presidents.

IK: Does JCR have environmental rep?

JG: Yes, two of them. For environmental and charities. Also exists an environmental committee.

LB: Is this feasible?

JG: Believes Kersti to be in support and JCR is also in the process of planning a similar motion.

PG: Aside from carbon audit, what else do you hope for college to do?

JG: Reducing carbon footprint, maybe through reducing use of consumables, reduction of combustion vehicles. Would also like to start negotiation and get college to begin thinking about this issue, which they are currently not doing.

Motion passes

5. Motion: Donate 50 pounds to Ukrainian charity “Voices of Children”

Presenter: Felice Wallner

Secunder: Anthony RajECKI-Doyle

LB: Can only give 50 pounds to charities at any one open meeting.

Pierre: Can I propose a change to increase that cap?

Guillaume: Issues at Queen’s with no charitable cap allowing MCR budget to be used up very quickly.

Motion passed

B. AOB

1. MCR Condemns Vladimir Putin’s Aggression in Ukraine and States Solidarity with all Students and Faculty Impacted by the Invasion

Presenter: Aryan D’Rozario

Secunder: Arunima Cheruvathoor

ARD: Emergency action motion condemning Putin and expressing support for Ukrainian and Eastern European students and faculty. The full resolution will now be read in full (APPEND AFTER MEETING).

Expressed support for Ukraine, condemns UK, expresses support for Russian students, realizing that they are not responsible. Requests that college flies flag od Ukraine.

Pierre: Can college make political statement by flying flag?

DC: Yes

PG: How will this be publicized?

ADR: MCR website

Guillaume: Condemning UK government raises an issue of not being representative of MCR.

ADR: Condemning UK inaction, specifically on question of issuing visas.

Motion passes

JG: Going to environment committee on Thursday, please bring any issues with him before meeting.

AC: Communication/inactivity issues with SCAR

DC: Dom and sub fusc tickets announced/released.

PG: Art or decorations in MCR?

LB: Propose as motion in open meeting.

Meeting adjourned: ~8 PM