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

Sunday January 22nd 2023, 7 pm, Ainsworth Graduate Center Top Floor

Committee Members Present:

Co-President: Felice Wallner

Co-President: Jeremy Sontchi

Secretary: Laurence Peinturier

Treasurer: Maximilian Langefeld

Social Secretary: Michael Hinz

Men's Welfare Rep: Juan Sandoval-Valencia

Catz House Rep: Katy Degtiareva

Minutes taken by Laurence Peinturier

## A. MINUTES
### Meeting opened at 7:20 pm
### 1. Approval of minutes from previous meeting

Meeting of November 13th 2022: https://mcr.stcatz.ox.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Open-Meeting-November-13-2022-1.pdf
Minutes approved

### 2. Motion: Creating a new regular committee position: Bar Co-Manager

Motion proposed by: Felice Wallner

Motion seconded by: Hannah Geddes

Synopsis:

The role of bar manager is sometimes very laborious, which is why having two people share the role could be beneficial.

This MCR notes:

- There is a difference between regular and executive committee positions

- Bar manager is an exec committee position, regular committee positions can be created by passing a motion

This MCR believes:

- Having two students on the role of bar manager would be helpful for running the bar

This MCR resolves:

- To create a regular committee position for bar co-manager

**Motion called to vote: passed with a majority (34 for, 2 abstain)**

3. **MCR Committee Elections**
   i. **Executive Committee**
      1. *Social Secretary*

Candidate: Katy Degtiareva

Seconders: Juyon M Lee and Cameron Doyle

- Katy: You might remember me as the Catz House rep, or being behind the bar, or for the fun BBQ event we did last term at Catz House! I want to get involved more, I have already helped with a lot of the past MCR events, and I really want to help our 2 other social secs because they have a lot of work on their plate! And good news, I am staying next year!
- Felice: Will you keep the role of Catz House Rep as well?
- Katy: Yes! I can easily manage both
- Jeremy: How is your handwriting lol?
- Katy: Perfect.

      2. *Bar Manager*

Candidate: Juyon M Lee

Seconders: Isabel Ahme and Katy Degtiareva

*Hannah (candidate for Bar Co-Manager) and Juyon went on stage together*

- Hannah: I am doing a master in refugee studies, and I live on site. I have really been enjoying socials at our Catz MCR so far, I want to foster a safe environment for the MCR bar.

- Juyon: I am doing a one-year master's in computer science, and I live in Catz House. One of my goals is to pull more of Catz House people to the MCR by working with the bar. I know how important the sense of community is, and I believe the bar can help highlight that. Also, I want to get creative for drinks!
- Felice: What's your favourite drink to drink?
- Juyon: Soju cocktails!
- Jeremy: Unfortunately, our bar supplier does not have soju ☹
- Juyon: well then, my next favourite drink is vodka redbull ☺ Because it has everything you need.
- Hannah: I'm a big coffee fan, so I'd have to go with espresso martini!

### ii.  Regular Committee

#### 1. Bar Co-Manager

Candidate: Hannah Geddes
Seconders: Juan Sandoval and Paula Dornbusch

See notes above

#### 2. Environmental Rep

Candidate: William Walker VI
Seconders: Margaret Lim and Pauline Thibaut

- William: I have a background in sustainability (undergrad), and currently doing a master in that field as well. As we all know, Catz is quite low ranking on environmental standards. I believe there are solutions, and we have an opportunity to work on community engagement, food truck with fresh produces for example, and lots of other stuff to do!
- Jeremy: if you had to name the first program that we could implement, us the MCR, as a first step for sustainability, what would it be?
- William: I know there has been talks about food trucks with fresh produce.
- Adam: Do you see this role as more of a diplomatic position vis-à-vis the College?
- William: My goal would be to focus on community within the college and then maybe collaborate with other colleges.
- Felice: Environmental rep is the most unthankful job on committee ☺ College do a lot of things for sustainability, but they don't advertise it,

hence why the low ranking. How do you feel about sitting at meetings with College and approach this sustainability issue?

- William: It's all about community and education, as long as we are focusing on this, we should be doing great.

### 3. Academic Officer

Candidate: Joanna Kramer

Seconders: Brittany O'Duffy and Livia Yeung

- Joanna: I study internet at the internet institute. I don't live on site, but I am very happy about all the events we've had at the MCR. It would be good to create an interdisciplinary community, bring people from all fields together; we could have mini ted talks, thesis presentations, pairing with faculties etc to organize events!
- Felice: One the ideas we've had was to have a public speaking workshop. Do you have any ideas on how to approach this?
- Joanna: Not specifically right now, but I would be interested in organizing academic related events in more unconventional spaces for example, to encourage people to come!

### 4. Digital Officer

Candidate: Arunima Cheruvathoor

Seconders: John F. Kainer and Katherine Elizabeth Aizlewood

- Arunima: I am a 2nd year MPhil, and I was the Women's welfare officer last year. Honestly you guys are lucky to not be eating my waffles anymore ahaha. I live in Catz house. I have great experience working in digital media management, I am actually doing digital media analysis for my studies. I believe the issue that the Catz MCR faces is visibility for events. Social media will really help for that.
- Sarah: Do you have experience regarding accessibility for social media?
- Arunima: Insta seems to be the main social media that the MCR uses right now. But Insta is not accessibility friendly. We could have a volume description of what the image shows for example etc.
- Sarah: I can help you work on that!
- Felice: Should we focus more on Insta stories or Insta post in your opinion?
- Arunima: Stories for sure!
- Felice: What about TikTok for the MCR?
- Arunima: To be discussed…

### iii. Voting on Elections

**The votes were counted by secret ballot by Laurence Peinturier and Felice Wallner, both in person and online. All candidates have been elected with a majority.**

### 4. Motion: Expanding the ballot for Friday guest dinners

Motion proposed by: Michael Hinz

Motion seconded by: Laurence Peinturier

Discussion:

- Michael: There has been complaints about guest dinners seating availability, we had a meeting with College about it; there will be no expansion of seating for now unfortunately. We can only reallocate. One idea is to expand the number of seats in the ballot. Because we have noticed that a lot of people cancel their guest dinner because they could not get their guests in. At the moment, there are 15 seats in the ballot (and 12 when it is an exchange dinner); the goal would be to double these numbers. And we would reduce the number of guests from 3 to 2 just to make sure that people can bring at least 2 guests rather than none. It would also help increase diversity in the people being able to come. And also, it would help release stress to have to be there sharp at 4 pm on Sundays to sign up.

- Ebony: Is this a trial or complete change?

- Michael: Complete change for Hilary and we can re-evaluate at the end of term, and maybe propose another motion if changes need to be made.

- Laurence: When will the motion be effective?

- Michael: Starting HT week 3

- Jeremy: Guest dinners are overly subscribed; we always have double demand every time. We discussed the possibility of adding a second guest dinner in the week, but College said that it would not happen anytime soon.

**Motion called to vote: passed with a majority (35 for, 1 abstain)**

### 5. Motion: Furniture Purchases – Motion for Expenses over 1000 pounds

Motion proposed by: Felice Wallner

Motion seconded by: Maximilian Langefeld

Discussion:

- Felice: The MCR was built shortly before the pandemic hit. Then covid hit and College didn't really have time to think about furniture properly. It took quite a while. And changing furniture costs a lot of money. According to constitution, any expense over 1000 pounds needs to be approved during open meeting. Hence why it is important that you guys vote on it. Once we get measurements and design ideas, we'll get back to the MCR with a form to ask for ideas, color choices etc. You will have decision options. And if you want to get even more involved in the decisions, don't hesitate to reach out to us!

- Juan: Do we have an upper budget limit?

- Felice: Basically, it's based on how much we have. There is an upper budget in a sense that we need to be sensible. College will also contribute to a part of the furniture purchase if need be.

- Jeremy: based on previous discussions, up to 15000 pounds is the reasonable amount. Not the entirety will be paid from the MCR account. But we still need to spend our surplus as requested by College. And College is willing to help carry some of the cost.

- Hannah: Will you have the environmental officer involved in the furniture purchase to make it more sustainable?

- Felice: Yes of course, we were actually thinking of going with vegan leather for example.

- Ebony: Will the space be cosier and more Catz specific?

- Felice: Definitely cosier! Cushions, couches, leather style. And something that matches with the wooden doors in the MCR. And we will try to make it more student focused with pictures etc.

- Laurence/Felice: Should we paint the ceiling lol?? ☺

**Motion called to vote: passed with a majority (31 for, 5 abstain)**

### 6. Approval of Associate and Honorary MCR Members

The MCR has the option of giving membership to Alumni, Visiting students and spouses of current students. Applicants must contact the Secretary for this. Associate and Honorary Members must be approved by the MCR in an Open Meeting. Two applications need to be approved:

- Eduardo Chazan - HT-TT 2023
- Nga Hing MARK - HT-TT 2023

**Voting on approval: passed unanimously**

**Meeting closed: 7:58 pm**