

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

Sunday March 5th 2023, 7 pm, Ainsworth Graduate Center Top Floor

Committee Members Present:

Co-President: Felice Wallner

Co-President: Jeremy Sontchi

Secretary: Laurence Peinturier

Social Secretary: Michael Hinz

Social Secretary: Vaibhav Mahajan

Social Secretary: Katy Degtiareva

Treasurer: Maximilian Langefeld

Co-Bar Manager: Hannah Geddes

LGBTQ+ Welfare Rep: Philomena Leahy

Digital Rep: Arunima Cheruvathoor

Minutes Taken by Laurence Peinturier

A. MINUTES

1. Approval of minutes from previous meeting

- Meeting of January 22, 2023: <https://mcr.stcatz.ox.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Open-Meeting-Minutes-22-01-2023.pdf>
- Minutes approved

2. Info from the Committee

- MCR Purchases: New TV, gaming console, karaoke machine.
 - o Purchase over the Easter vacations
- Philomena Leahy, LGBTQ+ Welfare Rep, to transition her role to Women's Welfare Rep.

3. MCR Committee Elections

i. Regular Committee - LGBTQ+ Welfare Rep

Sunny Pydugadu

Seconders: Shreyoshee Bandyopadhyay and Karan Savara

Discussion:

- *Sunny: Hi I'm Sunny, first year DPhil student. I really want to join the MCR committee. Mena has been incredible; she's introduced me to so many ideas already. It would be nice to increase opportunities for the LGBTQ+ society to have more events and create more space for discussions. In the future, I would like to organize more events for the College.*
- *Jeremy: any ideas for events?*
- *Sunny: we started the karaoke nights; I will continue this! I will also add more movie nights. And get more involved with Oxford LGBTQ+ society, drinks with other colleges etc, and with the society itself.*
- *Jeremy: what would be your first choice for a movie night*
- *Sunny: call me by your name!!*

The vote was counted by Laurence Peinturier and Jeremy Sontchi, both in person and online. Sunny Pydugadu as LGBTQ+ Welfare Rep has been elected unanimously.

4. Motion: Supporting the UCU (University and Colleges Union) Strikes

Motion proposed by: Laurence Peinturier

Motion seconded by: Felice Wallner

The MCR notes that:

- Academic staff at the University of Oxford in the University and Colleges Union are going on strike for 18 days during Hilary term 2023;
- They are doing so because they believe they are not being fairly treated by the University.

The MCR believes that:

- Academic staff deserve fair compensation for their labour;
- Both students and staff suffer from staff's current unfair working conditions;
- Student support in the dispute will help the UCU come to a quicker resolution with the University.

The MCR resolves to:

- Support academic staff at the University of Oxford in the University and Colleges Union through their period of industrial action.
- Donate £50 to the Oxford UCU Hardship Fund.

Discussion:

- *Karan: How are we interacting with them? And who does it involve?*
- *Jeremy: We can negotiate outcomes and solutions to class cancellations etc for example. It involves profs, staff, postgrads who are teaching etc.*
- *Jeremy: I agree with the motion except the last part which is donating 50 pounds. Catz is a charity; Worried about the fact that we are a charity donating to another charity.*
- *Hannah: We could discuss other donations to another charity as well if we are only allowed one donation per Open Meeting.*
- *Web: Are we voting for both items of the motion together?*
- *Jeremy: yes*

Motion called to vote: passed with a majority (17 for, 3 no, 1 abstain)

B. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Update on Gym Renovation

- *Jeremy: It is in progress; we have had multiple meetings with Inge and Jamie. We have been chasing up as much as we can. Can't give more details than this unfortunately.*
- *Jeremy: Max and Pier went to the gym with Jamie to investigate and show what needed to be improved and Jamie had to come up with a proposal.*
- *Rosario: Is it possible to move some of the equipment upstairs closer to each other? There is currently no space to put a mat; if we simply moved some of the equipment closer to each other we could have space to put a mat.*
- *Jeremy: We can raise this at our next meeting with the home bursar.*
- *Pier: it's also about safety.*
- *Karan: Gym renovation situation; is it just the MCR working on that or JCR as well?*
- *Jeremy: MCR Motion during Michaelmas was independent, and then we let the JCR know. And now JCR is involved in the other discussions.*

2. Catz House Common Room

- *Katy: Just checking on Catz House access key? Inge said 2 weeks ago that it would ready very soon. Any updates from Jamie?*
- *Jeremy: We have not had any more meetings since last time. But it's on the agenda every time we meet with College.*
- *Web: Is there any plan to bring old MCR TV to Catz house if we replace it?*

- Max: I sent out an email to Inge, she's yet to respond. Still trying to figure it out.

3. MCR Furniture

- Jeremy: We contracted some commercial furniture suppliers!! Yayy!! They will get back to us soon with options!

Meeting adjourned – 7:27 pm