St Catherine’s College Middle Common Room

Open Meeting  
Agenda

Sunday 02/02/2025  
at 19:30 in the MCR



MCR Secretary, Max Hall

21 in attendance in person at beginning.

25 in attendance at conclusion.

# Approval of minutes from previous meeting.

Joao: sorry about the pizza.

Max: minutes should have been uploaded onto the main website, if anyone has any issues

# Reminder about coffee machine hygiene.

Joao: milk steamer constantly dirty, please clean it afterwards, if people do not clean it will have to be removed and it is very annoying to have to constantly clean it.

# Budgetary update.

Joao: last term Harry Juan and I wanted to understand budget, what was going on with budget situation. There was college mis-accounting, £13,000 was initially owed however this was found to be incorrect. If anyone has any suggestions for what to do with the money, we have then please do suggest. This money comes in part from our student fees, so

Max: if the purchase is above £500, we need to certify that decision in an open meeting.

Catz house rep: someone from Catz house wants us to have a printer there.

Joao: we could talk about this and get it accepted, possibly something college could do anyway.

# Catz Ball update.

Joao: has been very complicated because of the RAAC situation, we tried to do something joint with Keble, but this did not pan out, now we are looking at something like 800 people, so if anyone has any questions do just let us know and we can pass these questions on to the relevant people.

# Motions.

# Motion to propose installing mirrors or purchasing mobile mirrors for the Catz gym squash courts.

Felice Warner: Motion: Installing mirrors or purchasing mobile mirrors for the Catz gym squash courts

Seconders: Juan Sandoval Valencia and Emma Somos

Felice: This MCR notes that the Squash Courts have evolved to be used for more than just playing squash, and that several Catz students are members of dance and dance sport societies and utilize the squash courts for their training.

This MCR proposes to ask college in Student Liaison Committee to purchase one set of mirrors (sport style installed, or foldable and mobile) for the purpose of using in the squash courts.

Background: Precedent for this has been set when a couple of years ago, the JCR put forth a proposal and passed in their Open Meeting for a basketball hoop to be installed in one of the squash courts, which was welcomed by student liaison committee and implemented.

Previous master always very keen on this

Max: there is a flyer on the door saying it should be used for squash only?

Felice: it is a bookable space that can be used for anything, although the sign says the weights cannot be taken in, but lots of societies

Joao: which committee would this be best to take to, how can we

Felice: this is not something that would always need to be a motion, it could just go to SLC, however it carries greater weight when it has been taken by a

Joao: SLC is sometimes not a good space for this sort of thing, any idea how much this will cost?

Felice: estimate from the vendors for professional dance studios are around £500 per mirror.

Joao: where would the mirrors be stored?

Felice: the ones in Iffley can be put away by another protective wall, or we can purchase mirrors on wheels that can be put behind where the ping pong tables are etc.

Motion passes with 21 in favour, and 1 abstention.

# Motion to support OxUnBoxed through a collaborative event or a one-off donation to go towards the non-profit’s stock spending.

Proposed by Olivia Bianchi, seconded by Beatrix Stark, Sofia Hernandez.

Olivia Bianchi: OxUnBoxed is a refill shop in the Covered Market, a registered Non-Profit, and

entirely volunteer-run. It aims to provide healthy, sustainable, plastic-free products at affordable prices.

The shop was originally founded by students, for students, which is why it provides a 20% discount on all products for any student with a valid ID.

The climate crisis is one of the biggest threats to humanity, and we should all aim to play a part in mitigating the effects of plastic pollution and climate change.

This MCR believes that:

A thriving city centre requires support for local businesses, particularly those that are volunteer-run and offer community events.

This cause is worthy of support, as many St Catherine students are already greatly benefitting from the 20% student discount.

Its public involvement will draw attention to the shop’s existence, enabling more St Catherine students to shop or even volunteer with OxUnboxed, thus benefitting both the climate and the local Oxford student and resident community.

It is crucial to support OxUnBoxed as the only shop of its kind in central Oxford; without it, students aiming to reduce their consumption of plastic waste would have no real agency to do so.

This MCR resolves to:

Either Donate £XY to OxUnBoxed, which will support the shop in maintaining and expanding its range, at the relatively low prices it strives to uphold. Or organise a workshop / event together with the MCR Committee’s Environment Officer.

Max: currently constitutionally bound to only donate £50 to external organisations

Olivia: I am currently on committee of OxUnBoxed, they are currently facing financial difficulties, however, provide significant support to many students, however a lot of shops like OxUnBoxed are closing down, the Covered Market has extended the lease, however, need to continue supporting: have reached out to many MCR/JCRs, and can run events such as upcycling events, and how to use these sorts of shops.

Joao: would £50 be a useful donation.

Olivia: yes! Typical customer spends circa £4 so would be very useful.

Juan: what sort of events would be useful?

Olivia: here to see if anyone has any ideas or wants to work, had some MCR members from other colleges, can run upcycling events and information events.

Esme: is there a way of getting MCR members to incentivise?

Olivia: Baliol have a voucher of £300 at the start of the year, so we could do something along these lines.

Juan: would be really useful to undertake some events together and see if we can work something out?

Olivia: is it necessary to change the motion to emphasise just the donation?

Max: not strictly speaking necessary, as collaborations can just follow from the motion.

Joao: worth speaking to both welfare and to the social secs as well as the environmental rep.

Motion passes with 22 in favour, 1 against, 2 abstentions.

# AOB

Felice: two years ago, the MCR paid for headspace for 200 students, and some of us were charged again today, would the MCR consider funding this.

Juan: so was I, and possibly we

Matthew: are week one and eight black tie?

Member: graduate research fund, would it be accepted above the current number?

Max: this is unlikely, the amount above the current number would be

Juan: We are currently exploring whether these numbers can be increased this year, and we believe that we can enter dialogue about possibly increasing these grants (also the sports grant) to be more in line with inflation and other metrics.

Sam: can you claim money back for college sport?

Juan: I think it is for those representing the university.

Max: there seems to be a lot of washing machines that are off or not working in the laundry room, is anyone responsible for dealing with these?

Joao: this is mainly an issue with college maintenance,

Melody: I tried to get vitamin D tablets, but the nurse said people could overdose, could people buy it themselves and charge to college?

Juan: I veto this, as long as the tablets are fat soluble people can overdose, and we do not want to be responsible.

Max: on the safes for the MCR, any progress?

Joao: meeting with college tomorrow to deal with this, and we are looking to put some more in.

Max: residents of Oxford can vote in council elections, please register to vote.

Juan: there is a point we wanted to bring up, which we forgot to agenda, it is an authorisation to make a purchase over £500, we are trying to be more economical over what we buy and how we store things for parties and other such events, we would like budget to purchase £800 worth of lights.

Juan: they are lights that circulate/connect to the

Joao: how much did we pay for renting them?

Max: costs about £100 to rent the equivalent lights for the bop.

Felice: we have circa six sets of light that we had, saw them in June 2023, did the JCR have them? Are they in any of the student storage spaces?

Max: do we have a set of these lights in college somewhere?

Juan: yes, but lots of things have gone missing, so we are not sure.

Will: will the existing set of lights emerge?

Juan: we cannot really say but it is not impossible, however we feel that

Esme: given history of things going missing, how can we make sure that these things do not go missing?

Juan: I think we should only buy if it can be stored in a safe place?

Joe: we have shot past the £300 light? How can we ensure safety of these given history of things going missing?

Juan: the £800 one facilitates better events, however when we have better storage systems, we can have these lights safely stored and they will be a better option, we can rent them out to other colleges if needed and having them readily available is better

Juan: the cost of the lights?

Max: the cost of the more expensive lights are £860.

Juan: this proceeds on the condition that we will discuss with college the safety of the lights.

Vote does not pass, 3 in favour, 13 against, 9 abstentions.