

MCR AGM Minutes 22nd October 2015

Exec Members Present:

Craig Fisher (CF) - Secretary and Acting Chair
Matthew Kirk (MK) - Web Editor

Guests Present:

Courtney Caton (CC) – JCR President

CF:

- Welcome and thanks for coming
- Our only agenda item is elections – all Exec positions are up for election and will be husted for tonight.
- After husts I will explain how voting works.

Hustings begin:

President - Stuart Flegg husts

Questions:

- Renju Mathew – What do you mean about enabling members?
- Stuart – Being president is about helping people do things, but no taking over – providing resources

Vice-President – Sarah Gray husts

Questions:

- Stuart Flegg – Do you have any policies?
 - Sarah – No, I think the MCR works pretty well already – my job is just about helping the rest of the Exec with their roles.
- Romnik Thind – Has the role changed from last year?
 - CF explains what the constitution says – quite vaguely defined role.

Treasurer – Vincent Chan husts

Questions:

- Stuart Flegg – Where would you draw the line in how much can be spent on any one thing?
 - Vincent – It's about talking to the rest of the Exec and agreeing with them – plus the obvious constraints from how much money is available.

Secretary – Hannah Piercy husts

Questions:

- Stuart Flegg – How would you reformat the MCR constitution to make it more readable?
 - Hannah – I think a different font would make it better.

Social Secretary – Katie Bennett husts

Questions:

- Renju Mathew – The 4th years arrive after all the postgrads, what would you do to try and involve them?
 - Katie – Have drinks / meals out where they can get to know all the other postgrads – just try and encourage them to come to all events.
- CF – Have you got ideas to try and get more livers-out involved in the MCR?
 - Katie – Have events not in the Phoenix Room – e.g. in town. People don't want to walk

all the way up the hill all the time.

4th Year Rep – Henry Sawczyc husts

Questions:

- CF – What do you think would get the 4th years involved?
 - Henry – They've already got friendship groups, so organise events that you can do as a group, e.g. bar crawl where each group dresses with a theme. Most of us have never been in the Phoenix Room, so I think people find it quite intimidating to venture in on their own.
- Renju Mathew – What is your current role on the JCR Exec?
 - Henry – I am the JCR Representative's Officer – my job is to represent various groups to the JCR Exec, including the MCR (I came to MCR meetings last year as an observer, but couldn't contribute).

Welfare – CF explains that the constitution doesn't actually specify that we have to have one male and one female welfare – so the Exec's interpretation is that our 3 candidates will run for the two generic welfare positions.

Ana Costea, Abigail Finch, Jay Wright hust

Questions:

- CC – Do you think it ever okay to break confidentiality?
 - Jay – Yes, if I believe there is a danger to the person / others.
 - Abigail – I agree with Jay – but I would speak to the person first, and see if there's anyone they would be happy to have know.
 - Ana – Nothing to add to what the others have said.
- Stuart Flegg – What is your favourite university support service?
 - Ana – I think Nightline does important work – it is more accessible than some of the others (you don't have to do and queue somewhere and be seen) and quick and easy to use.
 - Abigail – Currently I don't know about the university support services, but intend to find out. I always found the counselling service quite lacking in Oxford, so I hope the one here is better.
 - Jay – Like Abigail, I don't know at the moment – but at my old university they had in department help, but found this bad due to there often being a large age gap.
- Henry Sawczyc – If you were having problems, who would you turn to?
 - Abigail – I would turn to my friends, or the other welfare reps.
 - Jay – I would talk to my friends and parents – I think it is important for the welfare officers to be available as much as possible. I think I coped well with stress at undergrad, so I hope that will carry over well to my PhD.
 - Ana – Has the MCR thought about having welfare reps for the welfare reps? I would try and use my welfare training to get through any problems I was having. I also do mediation which helps me.

Web Editor – MK husts

Questions:

- Stuart Flegg – Have you prepared for the eventuality of you not being Web Editor?
 - MK – I have written an extensive handover document while procrastinating at work.

Hustings end

CF – Thanks everybody for standing for Exec positions and husting this evening. This is everything for this evening – I will send an email out this evening with the candidates manifestos, the minutes of this meeting, and a link to the website for voting. Voting will be open for 5 days, and after it closes we will email everyone with the results.

Any other business:

CC introduces herself as JCR President, says you can email her at grey.president@durham.ac.uk if you need to get in contact.

End of meeting