

MCR EXEC MEETING: 07.02.10

PRESENT:

CC: Chris Crabtree

DC: Dave Clark

BW: Becky Wright

SL: Sinead Lee

EK: Liz Kynaston

CC: Can everyone check the MCR exec pigeon hole regularly.

Can we have the minutes from the last meeting?

The MCR is still a mess and people are leaving the lights on.

BW: I have spoken to the culprits and asked them to tidy the MCR- it seems to be sorted.

SL: It was disgusting in there. They have been leaving the latch on the door nearest Elvet West.

CC: We could get Pete to change the doors round so that the door with a latch is on the other side.

BW: Yep.

CC: There are a small number of people monopolising the MCR- they use it until late and no-one will feel that they can ask them to leave.

BW: I don't know what else we can do apart from have a booking system where people email me if they want to use the MCR in an evening.

DC: They're adults- we shouldn't have to nag them like parents.

SL: We should send an email out about the mess and say that if people don't clear it up consoles will be banned.

CC: The problem is the sheer amount of stuff in the MCR- lots of it doesn't even belong to current MCR members. How about a clear out?

SL: We can say that everyone should come and collect their stuff by the Saturday of PGN and that we'll throw anything left in the bin.

BW: We can take any leftover consoles to a charity shop.

SL: They can take everything back afterwards. We can also say that they should clear food and kitchen equipment and the netballs in there.

BW: I'll send an email out about not leaving the door off the latch, turning the lights off, removing stuff by the 27th and binning or sending to a charity stuff anything that isn't MCR property.

SL: We could use the MCR for something on Barfest- maybe as a chill-out room.

BW: We could charge £2 on the door.

SL: And provide soft drinks.

CC: Would you advertise? You might not get £2 per person if not but if you do you might get loads of people.

BW: It depends what the MCR member think. I'll send an email.

CC: When you send the email can you also remind people not to give the MCR door code to other people. I'll get onto Alex about the list of paid MCR members- it should be that everyone on the mailing list has paid.

BW: MCR Prescomm enjoyed the BNP discussions- they sent a lot of long emails. The MCR rep at Aidan's is concerned that the DSU are not concerned about MCR welfare. The DSU consulted the MCRs for their opinion about the DSU coming to Durham but the MCRs weren't part of the actual action and the Aidan's Rep said they were concerned about how the DSU looks after Postgrads. They suggested that if 1 Junior DSU Rep was a postgrad, that would increase the proportion of council that were postgrads- although that wouldn't change the number in Joint Committee. But it's a problem as everything's not standardised.

CC: It seems a good idea to have more postgrad representatives.

BW: Grey is the only independent MCR without a Welfare Officer. I was sceptical about the idea and wasn't sure that it was appropriate as we only have 60 people but at the meeting I was convinced that maybe it was a good idea, especially if we get more students and more international students in the next few years, to help them settle in.

My proposition is that for the time being we don't set up a new position, as that would be overkill but I want to write a welfare role into the President's job so that future presidents looking at the role will be expecting to have to do some welfare. If the number of postgrads increases later and welfare is taking up a larger part of the president's role, we could create a role.

DC: Welfare is included by implication in the president's role. Julie and the JCR Welfare system are in place- the president's role is to direct people to them.

BW: I just don't know if you would want to chat to the JCR Welfare Team as a postgrad- it's a very different experience.

CC: If it was formalised as part of the president's role, would they have to have welfare training? Otherwise you're inviting people to speak to someone that hasn't been trained.

BW: They could be trained as part of the JCR Welfare Team training

SL: Is it worth sending an email out to the MCR now saying that if you have welfare issues, these are the people to get in touch with? Just for people that don't know.

DC: All postgrads should have a tutor.

BW: I felt like everyone was quite dismissive of the MCR at the SS meeting.

CC: We need to make ourselves more obvious to college.

BW: But we do loads of stuff.

CC: We should do an academic presentation, which is something that college would recognise.

DC: The MCR should get involved in the arrangements for All College Guest Night and invite people back to the MCR afterwards. Most years the MCR and SCR have a croquet match.

CC: Maybe we should leave the curtains of the MCR open so it looks more welcoming.

DC: Maybe give staff members a courteous invite to chocolate night and keg night. We're our own body anyway.

BW: At Hatfield they were mentioning that they have students from the MCR helping students from the JCR- Andy Sparrow seemed keen on the idea.

DC: If we did it, we would have to make it very clear that this it was an alternative to the tutor system and not trying to replace it.

SL: It's something we can think about for the future.

CC: We need to get the list of paid MCR members from Alex.

CC: The next MCR meeting will be on the 7th March- there's nothing that we need to do at the meeting according to the constitution so we need to come up with some business.

BW: If I wanted to introduce welfare into the president's role, what proportion of the MCR do we need at the meeting?

CC: Normally changes like that are made when the President and Chair look over the constitution in the summer.