



Grey College MCR

Executive Committee Meeting

22/10/2014

Minutes

In attendance: Andrew Plygawko (**AP**, President), Ben Daniel-Thorpe (**BDT**, Vice-President), Yanxin Xie (**YX**, Treasurer), Craig Fisher (**CF**, Secretary), Laura Braun (**LB**, Social Secretary), James Collinson (**JC**, Postgraduate Tutor).

No apologies received, all present.

1. **Outgoing Treasurer's Business**

- **JC** discussed how MCR finances would work after merger with JCR.
- MCR funds will be transferred to new subaccount under JCR, more meetings with JCR regarding finance are upcoming.
- From January 1st 2015 MCR may only spend MCR fee money on events/items in line with the JCR's charitable objectives, make use of current financial freedom and invest in things for the MCR without regard to charitable objectives.
- After merger MCR will be able to apply to JCR infrastructure budget for larger repairs/upgrades/developments.
- Treasurer will set MCR budget with JCR FACSO to come into effect on 1st January 2015.
- **AP** - Met with college Vice-Master Peter Swift who suggested possibility of investing perhaps £2,000 of the current ~£6,000 MCR funds into the college trust hardship funds for the benefit of postgrad scholarship (travel, conferences etc.).
- **CF** - Having discussed with the JCR, as a charity we would be unable to keep a sum of money set aside for no reason. An investment into hardship fund would be a good way to put money aside for the benefit of MCR members.
- **JC** - We owe the JCR money (yet to receive invoice for Grey Day, some formals etc.) so total sum of MCR funds will be less than it currently is.
- **AP**, **BDT** and **YX** filled in paperwork to become signatories on MCR bank account.

2. President's Business

- **AP** - Met with Peter Swift, will meet with Nick Klein (JCR President), Will Hockedy (JCR FACSO) and **YX** to discuss merger.
- **AP** - DSU rep- will MCR need to add a representative to the DSU to the MCR exec? **CF** - No, the old system was that each common room had a representative to the DSU but this changed a couple of years ago to one per college. James Crickmore was elected by the JCR with no MCR input. Both James and Dan Slavin (DSU President) have said this should not be the case though this issue should automatically be resolved with the merger of the two common rooms.
- **AP** - OGM, need to elect Web Editor, 4th Year Rep and another Social Sec.
CF - Did not elect these positions at AGM at beginning of term because we had no 4th year members at the time.
BDT - Will these positions be filled? Social Sec. not open to 4th years. **AP** - Hard to rewrite constitution to allow 4th years to run. **CF** - Perhaps form social committee? Anyone can join committee to assist social sec.(s) in their duty without having to commit so much time/effort. Not elected exec members therefore no change in constitution. See how elections go.
AP - When is OGM? **CF** - Whenever the president decides. **AP** - Soon- 6.30pm Thursday 30th October, before pumpkin carving event. **CF** - Send me any agenda items other than election hustings.
- **JC** to **CF** - As secretary, are you on JCR mailing list? **CF** - No, will email JCR to get me added to mailing list.
- **LB** to **JC** - Can we send emails to PG mailing list? **JC** - Should be able to, I'll check. You can email postmaster@durham.ac.uk to check.
- **CF** - Need to get Christy (ex Web Editor) to give new exec members admin access to website (to set up formal booking etc.). Need to check 4th year mailing list has been updated and use it and the MCR mailing list (not PGIN and PGout).
- **AP** - After merger will 4th years automatically become MCR members?
JC/CF - Currently no, 4th years pay nothing to JCR for their 4th year and pay £15 to MCR for membership. In future everyone will pay £47 (or adjusted amount).

AP - Will this lose MCR identity? How many 4th years are there?

LB - Can we get them to choose MCR or JCR? **CF** - No, everyone will be JCR members anyway since MCR becomes subsidiary of JCR.

BDT - Can 4th years choose where their cut of the fee goes? **All** - Maybe.

AP - Can we keep the MCR Postgrad only or will any JCR member be able to join?

JC - MCR won't pass final vote on new constitution if it's a bad deal.

- **AP** - MCR representation in college (college council meetings etc.). Who represents the MCR at these meetings?

CF - Constitution says President's role is to represent the MCR.

AP - It's a lot of work. Split it up; Vice-President on JCR rep committee, Treasurer on JCR finance committee. Get a rep on every committee and share the work out.

JC - Will also get welfare reps. **CF** - Held referenda before summer on the addition of welfare reps to the MCR exec and a vote on whether to swap the election times of the President and Vice-President to coincide with all the other MCRs, to allow our President to attend training course over summer and give the MCR more continuity. Elections before the summer would limit applicants to PhD students, as is the case now with VP and Treasurer. Referenda were unsuccessful since there were not enough votes to reach quorum and change anything.

JC - Only have a few PhD students each year. May not work if only PhD students are eligible to run for President.

AP - Don't like uncontended elections.

CF - All elections this year were after the summer and were still all uncontended except for one.

3. **Outgoing President's Business**

- **CF** - **JC** to handover to **YX**. **JC** - Will hand over documents, MCR wash fob, netbook etc.
- **YX** - When do we collect MCR fees? **JC** - Is done automatically by college. Will get payment beginning of next year. People can opt out by letting the MCR treasurer and Lynn Wood know.
- **CF** - JCR had a referendum on their DSO/charity referendum after 3 years when most of the students who voted in the original referendum had left. We need a referendum too and most our members leave after 1 year (too often?).
AP - Every 2 years? **All** - Yes

BDT - When do we decide this? **CF** - When we write the new constitution.

BDT - When do we do that? **CF** - Soon. Have upcoming JCR trustee meeting and JCR needs budget soon.

- **CF** - College council meeting soon. **CF** and **AP** to write President's report. **JC** to do treasurer's report.
- **CF** - Set date for next meeting. Provisionally 19th November.
- **CF** - Want to take action points. Found this made exec more accountable and efficient last year.

Action Points

- **CF** to have hand over meeting with **AP, BDT** to be present.
- **JC** to hand over to **YX**.
- **CF** to have social sec hand over meeting with **LB** and future elected social sec.
- **CF** to announce OGM and exec positions that are opening.
- **CF** to get Christy to add new exec to website admin access.
- **AP** to send out welcome to MCR and mention MCR netbook.
- **CF** to get exec members to confirm they are available on date of next exec meeting.
- **CF** to email JCR to get Secretary added to mailing list.
- **CF, AP** and **JC** to write college council reports.