

Minutes for the MCR Exec Meeting 15/3/16

Present: President SF, VP SG, Sec HP, Soc Sec RP, 4th Year Rep HS, Web Editor MK, Postgrad Tutor CF, Welfare Officer AF, Treasurer VC

Action Points:

- Web Editor to add Reps Officer to exec mailing list
- Social Secs to compile calendar of events for next term and, if possible, over the break

1. Apologies

Ana Maria (Joint Welfare Officer) is unable to attend; Katy Bennett (Soc Sec) was also unable to attend.

Abi Finch (Joint Welfare Officer) and Vincent Chan (Treasurer) will be joining the meeting part way through.

2. Announcements

There were no announcements.

3. Reports of Officers: All exec members present gave a short report

1. President:

Inter-MCR formal – liaise with other colleges to move our formal earlier in the year for next year.

Presidents' committee have been liaising about accommodation fees – MCR

Presidents have written a letter but there has been no formal response yet.

2. Treasurer:

Review of finances: Last quarter had budget of £1005 but only spent 50%. As of today, MCR has spent about £1000, mainly on technological products, some on reimbursement to Social Secs. Two exceptional cases of spending – deposit for booking and projector bulb – cost £200 which was not anticipated. This year we

anticipate spending up to the budget rate, with the potential to spend more as we have quite a lot of reserve.

We will soon be receiving bank statements so can do full reports and keep informed about budget.

Discussed putting Peter Swift or similar down as contact to prevent inaccessibility of account when Treasurer moves on from Grey.

3. Web Editor: Has installed projector and sound system to improve technical facilities in the MCR. JCR's new website should be here at the end of this term/ start of next term and MK will liaise about moving content over. Discussed positives of our formal and voting systems over the JCR's and potential for moving this over (Grey is the only college that doesn't use the university's system).
4. Postgrad Tutor – Research Seminars have been successful and a one-day event may be planned if we can get some funding.
5. Secretary had lots of useful things to report, as usual.
6. RP – Newcastle trip, Chinese New Year (busiest we have seen the MCR), dinner – successful term for socials.
7. HS reported that some more fourth years have been using the MCR which is good; he will continue to develop liaisons with the Mature Students' rep.
8. Welfare Report from Ana Maria, who was unable to attend:
 - i. Drop-in sessions are scheduled once a week (college welfare room), including Easter holiday. The welfare board is now up in the MCR room and includes info about welfare support available at Grey, MCR drop-in timetable, JCR drop-in timetable, useful leaflets and nice postcards.
Action Points for Welfare:
 - An email will be sent at the beginning of each month with the monthly MCR welfare drop-in timetable (and a poster will be designed for this)
 - WOs will liaise with the new JCR welfare officers to see how to use the anonymous online service

- The welfare board will be continually updated

9. Agenda Items

1) Meeting and Event Attendance

Current meeting attendance and problems with communication were discussed.

Whether MCR members should attend JCR meetings was discussed; concerns and disputes among the committee about our roles and responsibilities were raised.

2) Future Events Plan

Keg night is being discussed.

We want to organise more activities outside Durham – Sunderland Air Show and Wet and Wild were discussed.

Aiming to do something every couple of weeks over the next term and the summer to keep activities on the go.

Action Point: Put together a calendar for next term and get events lined up and advertised in advance. Methods of advertising were discussed.

3) Motion for Discussion – emendations to the Constitution

- i. Discussed the role of VP/Treasurer/Sec. This year, we have good links with the JCR so the workload for these positions has been reduced. A suggestion was made to combine what VP and Treasurer do, with the Secretary taking on an overseeing position.

- This was seen as a problem by some members of the committee who felt that the VP is a necessary safety net for if the President is unable to carry out duties. It was felt that the Treasurer often may not be comfortable in taking on the role of President as the roles are conceptually quite different.

- One of the problems is defining the role of VP as distinct from the President and giving the VP responsibilities – whether there is a problem with current duties was discussed.
 - CF suggested that the Constitution could be more specific in regards to the VP's duties, giving examples of what the VP *might* be expected to do (e.g. attend meetings for the President, step in if the President is unavailable, or if Sec/Treasurer etc cannot be present for particular meetings/events).
 - The problem of involving the VP in a deputising role when VP might not be informed of the issue was discussed and the potential for VP/President meetings to keep abreast of current issues was recommended and accepted.
- ii. Discussed election of Welfare Positions in relation to whether a male and female representative should be chosen. It was decided that it is important to be clear on how the election is working (e.g. whether all candidates are competing for the same position), but this could be decided on the discretion of the committee etc. An amendment was voted on and accepted as 'overwhelming' (HS).
 - iii. Discussed quorum – it was decided we do not need to increase it necessarily, but that we should continue to monitor the situation. A possibility would be changing to a number of people rather than a percentage. A proposal was made and accepted to change quorum to 15 people (including the Exec).
 - iv. HS suggested amending role title to Fourth Year and Mature Students' Rep.

- v. AP - web editor to add reps officer to mailing list.
- vi. *Ex officio* term discussed – technically should be term for Postgrad Tutor, JCR Reps Officer and JCR President – this will be reorganised in the Constitution.
- vii. A move was made for the Welfare Officers to be made Exec positions.
- viii. With the emendations agreed upon in the meeting, it was decided the Constitution changes will be brought to the OGM.

10. Any other business

There was no other business.