

MCR Committee Meeting Tuesday 18th October

In attendance: President SF, VP SG, Sec HP, Welfare AF, Web Editor MK, PG Mentor ML, JCR President DJ, JCR Treasurer AD, JCR Reps Officer AR

Action Points

Motion on finances and placing of money in JCR Account (subject to our agreed terms) to be brought to AGM.

ML to check if new PGs have received DJ's President's weekly email.

SF to ask Peter Swift to send emails to mature students inviting them to join the MCR again.

ML to advertise next PG research seminar to the JCR

Apologies

Ana Costea (Welfare Officer) was unable to attend the meeting

Announcements

The MCR Exec and Postgraduate Tutor Marcus Lancashire would like to note that we are very grateful to everyone who gave up their time during induction week to help out with the new postgraduates – MCR members and JCR Freps.

Reports of Officers

All officers are requested to think about preparing a handover document for the incoming officer.

Agenda Items

1. Financial Report (precursor to AGM Financial Motion) Document A
 - a. MCR Budget Document B
 - i. SF noted that the Inter-MCR formal is accounted for in our budget but in fact this did not go through the MCR account but the JCR
 - ii. SF and AD discussed the budget the MCR will be awarded this year – an amount of £16 per PG and £8 per 4th year was discussed. MK consulted the mailing lists to find that there were 94 PGs and 32 UGs opting in this year, so £1840 was calculated as the amount the MCR is projected to be given for this year.
 - b. Trust Instructions Document C
 - i. Options of whether we want to move some of our money to a different account, and whether we want this account to be in the Grey College Trust were discussed.
 - ii. DJ and AD voiced the suggestion we could place the money in the JCR account, but there were concerns about whether this money would be fully separate and whether the agreement could be misinterpreted.

1. In particular, SF and HP noted that the clause where the fund is intended for 'the maintenance and improvement of the Phoenix Room' is ambiguous, as the routine maintenance comes out of the JCR account since the merger anyway.
2. MK noted that the separation of funds for maintenance and for new equipment etc to come from Trust fund might be more conducive to planning for large purchases, but DJ noted that standardising the accounts would make more sense overall. SF observed that while standardising the accounts makes more sense, there are concerns over whether this agreement would stand and whether we would have the continuity with the change in the JCR officers each year. DJ noted the JCR receive donations they earmark for particular funds all the time, so this shouldn't be a problem.
3. The referendum on the JCR's charitable status was discussed as a potential issue with allowing all our finances to merge.
4. SF questioned what the increased amount of funds in the JCR account would allow in terms of the JCR's distribution of finances, but AD felt this would not make much difference as the money should be earmarked as separate from JCR funds anyway
5. SF proposed that we amend the wording of the document to clarify what these separate funds are to be used for (i.e. not for general maintenance)
6. The difficulties of clarifying the purpose of the fund for future Exec members (on JCR and MCR side) were discussed and it was agreed the handover needs to be clear and the document clarified in very clear words.
7. Problem of having three separate levels (normal maintenance which the JCR pays for, budgeted expenditure within the MCR budget stored in the JCR account, and the separate funds for special purchases).
8. SF clarified that we could have a clause stating the finances could be signed off by a motion of the MCR Exec committee rather than the JCR Finance Comm (for the purpose of this separate fund, as with most of the MCR funds)
9. AF raised the idea that a long-term perspective provided by the Trust is useful, as the turnover of MCR Exec/members and JCR officers will not remember

purchases made a few years ago whereas the Trust would keep a record of this over the years to keep an eye on expenditure for big purchases.

10. DJ raised the point that any changes to the VM and Master may mean a shift in how spending is agreed if the money is the Trust
 11. SF suggested we place the money in the JCR account for now, dependent on the agreement of the JCR to allow spending to be approved by MCR Exec and JCR FACSO rather than Finance Comm.
 12. SF and DJ agreed to meet imminently to discuss the proposal, make sure the details are correct and clear in time for the JCR meeting for this to be concise.
- c. Financial Policy Document D
- i. Document D has been created because as things currently stand we have no formal financial policies written down.
 - ii. AD raised some complaints about the expenditure of the previous year's expenditure in the MCR, particularly asking for money after the event of a purchase.
 - iii. SF agreed that point 2 on the new financial policies has not previously been acted on, therefore this addresses the previous problem.
 - iv. SF approved that the agreement of the exec does not have to be at a formal exec meeting
 - v. It was agreed that budgeting per head for events to prepare an approximate amount from the budget would be appropriate and acceptable.
 - vi. AF and DJ discussed how the oversight of the JCR FACSO and President would work and it was agreed a general oversight with the possibility of intervention was best
 - vii. DJ suggested adding a clause saying that every event has to be budgeted and expenditure agreed in advance (at least one day in advance before the expenditure), so that if anything is spent from the MCR funds it has been advertised as being spent so all members are invited and able to benefit from this.
- d. With the above changes made, it was agreed this motion will be brought to the MCR AGM.

Formal Call for Elections

SF proposed a formal call for elections and all were in favour.

AOB

Membership, Email Lists & Levy

ML brought up the problems with the mailing list and DJ directed us to speak to college and Isla (JCR Sec), so the problems should be resolved soon.

ML Point of Action: Check if President's weekly was received by new MCR members.

SF suggested that mature students should be on the MCR mailing list to begin with so everyone is definitely aware of it.

AP: SF to ask Peter Swift to send emails inviting mature students to join JCR again.

Problems of people (e.g. Freps) not understanding the function of the MCR (and confusing the MCR with mature students) were discussed. It was agreed we need to somehow pass on information about what the MCR is to the JCR members. AR suggested that we prepare information sheets in advance of freshers' week to be distributed to (all?) students. AR also suggested that we advertise the MCR in the JCR (e.g. with posters), while SF said it would be useful for Sarah (Mature Students' Rep) to advertise what the MCR is. (ML and MK did reiterate how much help the JCR Freps were).

MK suggested that we advertise the next research seminar to JCR members to bring to their attention what the MCR is.

AF noted that Julie thanked everyone for their support in freshers' week and noted the positive feedback she'd had from new guys.