



Grey

MCR

MINUTES OF THE MCR OGM MEETING HELD ON February 12th 2006

Present: Alex Nutton, Annabel Saunders (Social Secs), Pete Calvert (President), Gareth Hamilton, Andy Wilson (4th Year Rep), Becky Rigby, Christine Locock (Secretary), Pete Swift (Treasurer), Dave Clark (Website Editor).

Apologies: Iain Devlin.

Matters arising

None

Constitution Changes

Iain Devlin's comments by proxy (sent in by email):

4.5 Not sure if position of chair is really necessary but if so I believe election for this position should be held separately to the main exec elections, probably before the summer.

11.2 I think reducing the required return to 25% is too much. The thinking behind the original 50% figure was that it would force the executive to actively advertise changes to membership. In light of the increased membership I feel a figure of 33% would be appropriate and should allow the MCR to function smoothly without sacrificing the executive responsibility.

It was generally agreed that the position of Chair was necessary but that the election of the Chair in Summer was a good idea, as the Chair would then already be in place for the AGM and the elections of the next year's exec.

Amendment to be made to Section 6: The Chair will be elected in the Summer term OGM for the following academic year; in the event of the out-going Chair standing for re-election, the current MCR President can preside [instead of “a member of the outgoing exec”]

Voting return needed for elections:

Pete and Andy: Quorums for constitution changes and for exec elections should be the same. If we have the constitution quorum at 33% the exec election voting quorum should also be at 33%. Given the low turn-out at general meetings it may be difficult to reach a quorum of 33% of members voting. Therefore the proposed change should be kept to 25%

It was generally agreed to keep the proposed change for minimum return on votes on constitution changes at 25% of MCR members.

Pete C: Any other comments?

Gareth: Section 3.5 [application for membership by 3rd years in their 4th year at Durham] talks about being considered on an “individual basis” – how individual will that be?



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Annabel: Each case will be brought forward at an exec meeting – it will not be decided by one person.

Gareth: It would be good to lay down some form of criteria for this.

Pete C: This would be very difficult to put in place. I can't really see anyone being refused however unless any major objections to their joining are raised.

Pete Swift pointed out some changes [in blue] that will need to be made to section 6 of the constitution if the Chair is to be elected in the Summer:

6.1 Hustings for the elections of the executive committee and ex-officio positions take place in the AGM, held annually at the start of the Michælmass Term, **with the exception of hustings for elections for the position of Chair, which will be held at the Summer term OGM.**

6.2 All nominations must be in the possession of the President more than twenty-four hours in advance of the AGM, **or, in the case of nominations for Chair, twenty-four hours in advance of the Summer term OGM.**

6.3 Order of voting **at the AGM** is; President, Treasurer, Secretary, Social Secretary, **Chair**, Fourth Year Representative, Website Designer.

6.5 In the event that the outgoing **Chair** is standing for re-election then **the current President** must be appointed to chair the period of the position's hustings and questions.

Voting incentive for upcoming constitution change (which still needs a two thirds majority of at least 50% of membership to go ahead): Prize of a bottle of wine offered to a voter picked at random.

Anything to buy for the MCR?

Dave: Posters

Annabel: Personalised ceiling tiles for presidents/exec members.

Pete C: Where is the phoenix which is supposed to be in Phoenix room (aka MCR)?

Dave: Rumour has it that it is currently to be located in the Bursar's office.

Annabel : Photos of events rather than posters – pick nicest photos to be blown up and put on walls.

Pete C: Board games.

Annabel: We also want to create a scrap book of social events so that people can look back and see the kind of stuff we've done this year.

Andy: What about the bin mentioned in exec meeting? [In the last MCR exec meeting it was decided to try and get a bigger bin for the MCR as the present one is constantly overflowing]

Pete C: It's a work in progress, I looked for one at Tesco's but it was a choice between a huge one or a tiny one.



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AOB

Annabel: Plans for future social events – Murder mystery – you can get them for any number of guests, not just five to ten. Alex and I have been to one and it wasn't naff at all, it was really good fun.

Becky: The ones for lots of people can be difficult.

Annabel: It would make it easier if the character sheets were sent to people in advance so that they can read about their roles and prepare a bit more and “get into character”.

Annabel: Also for the Summer term: Browns boats hiring and a picnic along the river before the Undergrads leave. Also a curry night.

Pete C: Bar quiz 5th March, 8.30 in Bar

Pete C: We have an MCR notice board in stairwell outside bar – any ideas for what can go on it?

Annabel: Photos.

Dave: Social calendar, exec “mug shots”.

Annabel: Everything has to look fun because we *are* fun!!!

Annabel: Who will be in charge of looking after the board?

Alex: Pete [Calvert]

Andy: I went to a whiskey tasting event run by the Whiskey Appreciation Society on Friday night – there were a few MCR members there who asked if such a thing might take place in MCR?

Annabel: It could potentially could be fitted in next term. The remaining social events for this term are the keg night, drinks at the Master's house, MCR table at the JCR President's Guest Night, MCR quiz in the bar, **CHOCOLATE** event.

Dave: What about a barbecue next term?

Christine: Good plan.

Pete: Meeting finished at 8.11pm.