

MINUTES OF OGM –Tuesday 18th June at 9pm

Alex Kelsall, MCR President:

Here commences our summer OGM, where I will outline to you briefly the constitutional changes we intend to make in order to ensure continuity, democracy and overall success for Grey MCR going forward.

The proposed changes are actually very small because the constitution is already set up to have two sets of elections, one in the summer term (i.e. now) and one in the Michaelmas term in October, at the Annual General Meeting. But clearly the constitution hasn't always been adhered to in the past due to a lack of exec members so the basic proposal is:

This ensures that there will be continuity from one year to the next (with two elected officers already in place come the October AGM) without damaging the legitimacy that the majority of exec members will be elected in the October by the people whom they are elected to serve, rather than by MCR members many of which will be leaving Durham soon after the summer election. It also gives new students the opportunity to stand for most positions on the exec.

The other change you may have noticed is that the role of Chairman has not been mentioned and instead, there will be a Vice President.

Under the proposed changes, the chairing of meetings will now be the responsibility of the President (and the VP in their absence). The VP will be responsible for assisting the President in carrying out his/her duties – i.e. coordinating activities, attending meetings (in the President's absence) and will also assist the Social Secretary with the organisation of social events. Finally, they will have role as the liaison with the JCR welfare officers.

The idea being that the VP will be a more enhanced role than the Chairman, supporting the work of both the President and the Social Secretary. The other exec roles remain largely the same, with any changes within the constitution being largely for aesthetic purpose rather than changing the nature of any role.

An additional reform worth highlighting is the ability of the exec committee to suspend a fellow exec member by unanimous vote, which one hopes will operate as an appropriate sanction against exec members who are failing to fulfil their duties/brought their office in to disrepute. They will have an opportunity to appeal through an OGM, and may on a vote be reinstated to the position. We think this is a fair and appropriate sanction, to prevent anyone coasting all year once elected, to the detriment of MCR members.

I don't wish to take up any more with this, the amended constitution will be sent around via email tomorrow – with a similar summary of the changes as I've outlined this evening. The vote to ratify the amended constitution will go live upon that email being sent out (9pm this evening and members will simply be asked to reply to said email with an 'accept amendment' or 'reject amendment'.

The amendments can only be ratified if they receive 2/3 majority support with a quorum of 25% or greater of the membership. So please, it will literally take you 5 seconds – please vote! Voting will close at 6pm on Wednesday. The result will be announced immediately after via email/fb and if the

amendments are carried successfully the plan is to open nominations for Treasurer and VP immediately so that the hustings for these roles can take place at the summer BBQ on Friday.

I therefore ask that anyone considering running for these roles to prepare the 100 word manifesto for Friday and send me an email by 6pm Thursday. In the event that the amendments do not carry we will still run the husting for the Treasurer's office as that office currently remains vacant.

I understand this means that OGMs have been wading in and what should be social time, but these are the unfortunate realities of trying to get the house in order so that for future years, executive committees will be elected with ease and continuity will be ensured for the benefit of the MCR.

Any Questions?

(No questions were raised)

This brings us to the end of our OGM; we will now have the award ceremony!