

MCR Committee meeting

12/5/2016

Apologies

- Alex, Grace, Xiaokun, Izzie, Josie, Tessa, Aditi
- Andreas/Wen = may be late

Next meeting: Tuesday 17th 6.30pm

New treasurer: WELCOME ANDREAS! (*Andreas was elected. President and former Treasurer will do the handover within the week.*)

General

- **MCR Liaison meeting 11th May - outcomes**
  - 1) accommodation - 4th years and graduate preferences in Battcock Lodge
  - 2) Clarity of the bursary during rent negotiations
  - 3) catering facilities charge being added to rent, meaning that graduates living in college accommodation pay £300-400 more per year, which is likely to drive graduates out of college in search of cheaper accommodation. It has been voiced that the spread of the catering charge was fairer in the previous years. Related is the severe underuse of catering facilities by graduates, usually only 10 people per day, and whilst most of those do live in college those that live out and still come regularly are getting a much better deal.
  - 4) Little cheap housing for graduates with the loss of Devonshire Road and Parkside - in the ballot always the cheapest rooms go first
  - 5) As a result of the general trend in recent years increased cost of living in college and there being no central place where they live, there is concern that the "community" of the MCR is disappearing, particularly PhD student moving out as soon as their 2nd year. This means there is less continuity year to year and especially having keen people (preferably older students) to run for senior positions of the MCR committee seems unlikely.
  - 6) Explanation of what may happen as a result of Dick & Jane retiring, will the structure if things change?
  - 7) Party Booking Forms - some have voiced the opinion that these are too bureaucratic, and it would benefit the MCR community to be a little more spontaneous when opening

the bar, are there any alternatives to investigate?

- 8) Would it be possible to get a card machine for the MCR bar, like the one in the butterfield? Running a cash bar is difficult in terms of change, arithmetic and may be considered dangerous with ~£200 in plain sight - Jane has already got onto this, suggesting that a credit card machine may be easier than a college card machine...
- RUNNING THE BUTTERFIELD

Communications

<absent>

International

<absent>

Treasurer (nicky on behalf of Andreas)

- *Andreas was elected. President and former Treasurer have done the handover, so technically ready to go.*
- *Have you RSVPed to Grad proceeding dinner (10th May), Jane & Guy meeting (11th May)?*
- *Report from buildings & environment*

President

- Reoport from GPC
- Linked MCR & DCAC constitutions
- Lockers going forward
- MCR door in a few weeks earlier than the expected 29th Aug
- **Fill out rota deadline = Wednesday, otherwise it will be fileld by Ed & Nicky**
- **3 questions deadline = Sunday action everyone - think up 3 questions by Sunday to ask the MCR, similar to a satisfaction survey. Focused on how to be more inclusive**
- Online Questionnaire to try to address inclusion in the MCR, with Amazon Gift card rewards.
  - How often do you engage with MCR events?
  - If never, why?
  - Events preferences/suggestions
  - *How can we make the MCR more inclusive?*

Vice-President

- Rota

- ALTERNATIVE PROSPECTUS - Ed has separated out last years version between the current committee and asked everyone to check certain parts - most people have: Alex, Tessa, Max, Nicky, Gabe, Izzie, Grace. People who still need to do this: Aditi, Wen, Josie, Charlotte
  - Xaiokun has done a painting for the front cover, the dining hall, what does everyone think - I think it's great and many thanks to Xaiokun!
  - Ed Will put all the edits together into one document this weekend
  - We would suggest that this is then looked over by Nicky & Ed this weekend too, then Josie to make it look pretty and try to have it ready for meeting with Jane & Guy on the 11th
- Punting card disappeared and now found - Jade Chislett has returned it today (verified). Can we keep a tighter eye on this, the porters new about it for a week or more, but no one else did until Tom C went to sign it out and couldn't. We need to tell the porters to contact us about such things.
  - Should Jade be banned from using it? It is certainly in the instructions that he could be banned, and it certainly prevented at least John M, Tom C and Jordan R from taking it out, should there be a response? **Ed will Clarify that the porter's need to tell us ASAP. Ban Jade for 1 month. Nicky will send email clarifying the rules regards fining.**
  - Should we get a second punt? It seems clear that the first has been very well used over winter even so a second seems likely to be a good investment. Any related ideas? **Consensus of yes let's get another one - Ed will ask Georgina, Andreas and Nicky**
- To Nicky: DCAC should pay a free to punting companies that gives all students half off punting (not including the MCR punting card), there has been a report of MCR members going to go punting and being forced to pay full price (rather than half). Can the President please ask the DCAC president what the situation is with that? Has the DCAC treasurer paid that bill etcetc? **Action: Ed contacted JCR president, no response, Nicky will email him and treasurer this week.**
- Affiliate application of **Ilse Geraedts**, she is a clinical neuroscientist on a placement at the Univeristy, dutch. She will be here until August 2016. Any problems, otherwise I shall accept it? **No objections - Nicky will email Ellie to accept.**
- **Suggestions from the MCR:**
  - 90s night - soc secs
  - Herbal teas - amenities
- **Email Andy to verify the booking for catering at the garden party and enquire as to different food?**

## Welfare & Education

- **Seminar Night was great - well done to all 3 speakers**
- Dogs for exam de-stress, Sun 22nd may, this came up at GPC, was there any problem with signing the party form or any problem noted? Shared with pembroke. MCR only at the moment, but will likely have a booking form and if not a great deal of interest then will invite the JCR.
  - **A block of the paddock has been booked (and the JCR underneath the butterfield as back up) by charlotte..**
  - **Who is invited? Initially book people in because the company want to know how many in**

advance. If there aren't very many bookings, then maybe advertise to JCR/staff.

Tending to limit the number of people at the request of the company. She will book in a google sheet, with timeslots for people.

## Bar, Sports, Amenities

- Restock this weekend - include crisps etc for game of thrones Fri, Sat & Sun - will discuss.
- Get **coffee machine serviced**:
  - **Gabe will ask Sarah hardiman**
- New alcohol pricing, re-discussion, is the complete proposal ready yet? **No**. If so we can vote on it. → too cheap? Some of committee think it's too cheap, but others think it's a good incentive to come along on Friday. This review is not yet finished, so wait for a final set, for deciding, then open meeting.
  - The profit margin of the college bar aims for 60%, but at bar committee it was revealed they never make 60%. More like 52%
  - Alex asks whether the treasurer can predict how much profit the bar needs to make in order for MCR to remain solvent? **Action - Nicky will look into this himself**
- Noted that the stocking the bar should be small volumes of mixers e.g. juice from last year ~20 cartons, now out of date. Already started with lemonade & ginger beer, continue with juices.
- Card machine: came up at liaison meeting, Jane said that a credit card machine would be quicker to put in vs a uni card machine, which must be done by IT. General consensus is that we would prefer uni card to credit for "bad vibe" and cost reasons:
  - Cost of card machine - is it worth us getting a credit card machine? We think not.
  - People don't have cash, so they go to the butterfield
  - Would be good for very busy events
  - Easier for bar tenders
  - **Action: Nicky will ask IT tomorrow to put it on their list and investigate the cost. Aim to be in place by fresher's week alongside the new price plan.**
- Butterfield: **bar officers will email Wendy to organise a meeting about taking over the butterfield, to ask**:
  - **How many/who can we have trained?**
  - **Can the current bar people move the bar stock out of the way before we leave.**
- Amenities (Ed will ask Sarah about all of these):
  - New fridge lock now completely broken action Nicky & bar officers will need to email Sarah Hardiman
  - Alex suggests that the dishwasher should be replaced.
  - Matriculation photo for MCR has arrived - Aditi will put on distro to get it put up.

- Ants in MCR distro report to Sarah and Dick
- Sound system for the projector
- Card machine as discussed above - Nicky will ask IT about it.

#### Social Secretaries

- Game of Thrones screenings on Mondays - Max is advertising every week and getting food (thank to Gabriel for doing it this week - budget for food and open bar briefly. **Episode 2 was a smaller group of people, but £5 per week is not a large cost so may as well continue**)
- *MCR/JCR committees meet and greet -- dinner with counterparts?*
- **Superformal - update 1 or 2, in term or outside. Not set in stone, will be discussed in a separate sub-committee. Grace will ask JCR president for Friday formal tickets - initial idea is May 13th. Also Max has asked Jane Passey about continuing formals after Easter term - 1 per week with minimum 30 people**
- Punts for trinity fireworks - 13th of June
  - **3 punts booked (32 people),**
  - **Max has booked a 3rd punt, although no deposit paid yet, will verify when this is done - Max & Andreas**
  - **Final decision on price for Downing students.**
- DAY OUTING
  - London excursion - matinee / play
  - Punting to Granchester
- Garden Party – **theme reasonably decided upon**
- \*Mphil Graduation Farewell Dinner/Event (summer)
  - Free formal (living in college)
- Facebook events, promotion, advertisement?
- Everyone needs to help run these events.

#### Environmental

- *STUDENT SWITCH OFF CAMPAIGN, 2 more things need doing in 1.5 week deadline*
- Botanical garden visit - organised by Dick for Wednesday 4th May. **Wen will post on Facebook.**
- What do people in other colleges do?
- *JCR green officer*
- **Ed will ask Rob Beardwell why Wen cannot email pgs@Dow.cam.ac.uk**

#### Equal Opportunities

- What do people in other colleges do? Action by Xiaokun - she will ask other colleges
- Ed and Nicky asked her to have one sizeable event before she leaves on her field trip.
- Ideas:
  - Speaker night for opportunities
  - Film night e.g. racial equality might be good.

#### Amenities - discuss next week

- Table cloth
- Speakers
- Table Tennis
- Suggestions?

#### General

- Fill out rota
- Online Questionnaire with Amazon Gift card rewards.
  - How often do you engage with MCR events?
  - If never, why?
  - Events preferences/suggestions
  - *How can we make the MCR more inclusive?*
  - Any other comments/suggestions?