

Minutes from MCR Meeting 24/2/13

Present: Stacey-Jo Parker (Co-President), Katharine Moore (Secretary), Annie Yue Zeng (Social), Catherine Taylor (Social), Maryam Serajiantehrani (VP), Katy Hedgethorn (Social), Janja Soldo (Treasurer), Irushinie Wedage (Green Officer), Itxaso Barriuso (General), Hannah Haberkern (Computer Officer).

Apologies: Tehnuka Ilanko (Co-President), Hima Balachandran (Welfare).

1. A note on event organisation for the MCR.

The main point mentioned was that if money is required from the MCR for the event, check this is budgeted for with the treasurer (Janja). There is money in the budget for events so this shouldn't be a problem but it is important to inform the treasurer of the costs.

If students are paying for the event themselves no permission is needed from the committee, it can be organised without too much consultation.

If shared facilities are needed for an event for example the kitchens in Canning and Eliza, it would be polite to inform the members of that floor that there may be extra people in the kitchen.

Generally keep the MCR up to date with organised events.

2. GU Council – Resignation of President (Stacey)

Kings College have written to insist the president of the GU Council resigns. They are asking other colleges for support. Agreed we would support Kings in their request.

3. Events and Catering Committee Tuesday 26th February 2pm (Catherine/Stacey)

Maryam will attend the Events and Catering Committee meeting. It will mainly be a budget meeting.

4. External Relations and Budget Committee Wednesday March 6th 10am

There will be no representative from the MCR committee at this meeting.

5. Graduate Liaison Committee Thursday March 7th 8:30am

Maryam will attend the Graduate Liaison Meeting. The committee have no specific points to mention.

6. Lockers (Maryam)

As previously discussed there will be long term and short term lockers provided. College have approved money for these and allocated a space for them by the Froud room.

There is a potential problem with how to distribute the keys for the lockers when required. It was discussed keeping the keys in the MCR and having a sign out book for people to take out the keys when needed. If people fail to sign out the keys and return them, the lockers will be cleared periodically.

7. GDR (Maryam)

If any money is to be allocated to the GDR it needs to be decided by the 11th of March as this is when the budget is finalised for next year.

It was decided that no special budget was required at the moment as it is unknown how popular the room will be. It was thought better to wait to see what the demand is for the room before deciding to have it updated.

The whole block is scheduled to be refurbished in the near future.

Stacey or Maryam will send out an email to the MCR to inform them that the GDR is available for study, and that to book the room, an email to the porters is needed. The porters have the key to the room.

The room can also be booked for discussion groups.

8. Taxis Scheme (Maryam)

Every grad pays £2.80 each term for the 'taxi scheme'. The JCR were concerned with what happens with the money.

The money is supposed to be used for emergency taxis for students ie. If a student needs to go hospital.

Currently the fund is only used about 4 times a year by the JCR for emergencies.

In recent years the graduates have not have the need to use the fund. There was a suggestion that the money could be paid directly to the MCR for emergency transport funding. For example to pay for a taxi to the train station late at night if a grad is on their way to a conference etc.

It was also mentioned that people who don't live in college shouldn't have to pay towards the 'taxi scheme' as they are very unlikely to want to go into college to get a taxi in an emergency.

The idea of giving the money directly to the MCR was well received.

9. BOP Accounts (Tehnuka)

Loss of £34 so far this year.

10. Election Procedure 2013 & Open Meeting (Stacey)

Stacey suggested electing people at the start of the Easter term and to have a shadowing period to make the changeover period easier.

Stacey to organise an open meeting soon where elections will be discussed. Discussions can also include BOPS and the GDR.

11. Pictures (website and CUSU)

CUSU looking for people to send in pictures holding a blank piece of paper for the poster campaign for the upcoming elections.

A picture was taken of the MCR committee for the website.

12. AOB

- Catherine had made contact with Churchill who are organising a joint bop with Catz. They wanted to know if Murray Edwards would be interested in helping organise

The bop is happening at the GU at the beginning of next term. 25/26th of April. This is ideal timing for us as it is when a bop was planned for but due to restrictions in booking the Dome, it wasn't feasible.

Email theme suggestions to Catherine who will start communications with the other 2 colleges.

- Jelena spoke with the ME library about ordering some more DVDs. She suggested some titles and they have agreed and ordered them.
- Hannah- IT meeting- One point that was raised was generating wifi from college internet. This is not allowed as it risks abuse of the network.

GU Council

Wednesday 6 February – attended by Tehnuka

GU Constitution

There have been a lot of problems this year regarding the new constitution of the GU.

In part, this is due to discrepancies between the University's Statutes and Ordinances and the new GU constitution – as a result of which the Council Committee for the Supervision of Student Unions (CCSSU), which is the part of the University responsible for overseeing the GU and CUSU, suspended the new constitution and called in solicitors last year.

The solicitors have apparently recommended changes to the University Statutes and Ordinances, but if this is agreed to by the University Council, a number of steps will still need to be taken (including approval by Regent House, a GU referendum and approval by the Charities Commission). At GU Council, it seemed this (rather than changing the GU constitution) is the preferred course of action.

GU sabbatical elections

A GU Elections Committee was elected at the meeting. The GU executive committee recommended to Council that the GU elections committee should be able to delegate day-to-day running of GU sabbatical elections to the CUSU elections committee, as GU are low on human resources. GU Council were in support of this; CUSU have agreed. This should not affect the elections for the GU Executive Committee, only the elections for Sabbatical officers (i.e. the President; Welfare & Rights is on both CUSU and GU)

CUSU Council Lent II

Monday 11 February – attended by Tehnuka

Updates

- Mental Health week will run from 14 February

Susie, the Women's Officer, has been running Sexual Consent workshops (if it would be helpful to run one in college, get in touch with her)

CUSU has put in a bid for funding from the University that will go towards communication and Societies Fair

CUSU Elections committee will now oversee the GU sabbatical elections

Education officer: current activities include pushing for a 'U-turn' on AS abolition; making clearer/standardised information available on what to expect from a DoS; BTh degrees are wrongly categorised and not counted as an honours degree at Cambridge, so working on correcting the classification.

There was a request for more information on the EDL march, which will be emailed out by CUSU

CUSU standing orders

Changes to CUSU's Standing Orders were approved (removing electoral labels; updates to the section on the CUSU Executive to better reflect current practise; and changes to CUSU Council).

Affiliations

CUSU Council voted and agreed to continue affiliations to Cambridge Council on Voluntary Services; UK Council for International Student Affairs; and NUS.

Elections

Elections were held for TCS board members, a number of positions on the Welfare & Rights team, Membership Engagement , and Black & Minority Access Officers. Most were not contested.

Other

Council agreed to amendments to iCUSU's constitution (removing the position Academic Officer, whose responsibilities will be taken over by Welfare Officer, and incorporating an Access Co-ordinator; and changes to election structure.

CUSU congratulated Homerton on agreeing to pay all of its staff the Living Wage (CUSU voted last year to support the Living Wage campaign).