Bursar’s Presentation/MCR Open Meeting 24 November 2016

Bursar’s Presentation

* Bursar’s biographical details
* What does a bursar do?
  + Everything in the college that is not academic!
  + Finances (£8m income/expenditure; £55m investments)
  + Management of college estates: refurbishment and maintenance issues; Edwards endowment has helped look after college buildings
  + Catering/conferences
    - The college allows the use of their facilities outside term time to raise money
  + HR: over 100 staff in the college
  + IT: supports infrastructure
  + Porters
  + Wider university roles: 70 committees requiring bursar representation
* College finances
  + £8m income, £8m expenditure
  + College is a charity, not out to make a profit
  + Need to have a surplus, because we have borrowed funds to repay (like loans from bank, unforeseen maintenance problems)
  + College collects tuition, pays it to the university, who gives a portion back
  + Endowment income: free money, comes from £55m investments college hold
    - Cannot spend the £55m; can only spend the income from that money
  + Everything runs at a loss, education is subsidized; vast amount of money goes to educational costs for undergrads/grads (more indirect for graduates)
* Benefits to students
  + Most of the subsidies, scholarships, and awards go to undergraduates because there is more of them (but the larger single awards probably go to graduates)
* Student catering and conferencing
* Commercial catering and conferencing income
  + About £1m of commercial activity per year
  + Important to make sure this activity doesn’t get in the way of student life
* Questions?
  + How are the rents figured out?
    - Costs related to accommodation: recovery of the costs of building things, maintenance, staff
    - We are a poorer college, and cannot afford to charge little compared to the richer colleges with more money to subsidize
    - Amount chosen for rent is based on what the bursar feels right
* Green matters
  + Food: allergens, religious observance, preferences and choice
  + Waste: in the college, beyond the college
  + Energy: procurement and usage
  + Investment: socially responsible investment, fossil fuels
    - Chose organization CCLA: manager’s view to socially responsible investing, has a well-developed ethical strategy
    - Fossil fuels: divestment from fossil fuels is not the right thing, because the college would no longer have a say/any influence in the actions of fossil fuel organizations, use shareholder stake to influence company decisions

Open Meeting

* Constitutional changes
  + Give general member positions the possibility to specialize, and have this reflected in their title (this will be beneficial); does not have to be specified before the election—AMENDMENT PASSED
  + Sub-committees for committee positions may also be instituted—NOT PASSED
* Social secretary matters
  + Organizing winter wonderland party, outdoor barbecue Sunday 18 December (potentially at St. Edmunds)
    - Sausages, sourkraut, hot chocolate, pretzels
    - Ticketing, charging people?
  + Social with Fitz, free drinks at 8:00pm
  + Swaps
    - Two swaps next term already arranged (Clare, Pembroke)
    - Downside: only 10 people allowed
    - The pre-warnings are good when signups are released
  + Low-key events like games night
  + Bop
    - Requires ticket purchases not exceeding £5 (could possibly offer a free drink with ticket)
    - DJ will do exciting things with Dome
    - Need help! Can ask JCR, also would like volunteers; Tapoka volunteered
    - Please invite outsiders
    - 25th February
  + Trip to varsity match (rugby); not extremely popular
  + Welcome-back breakfast/tea (mad hatter’s tea party?)
  + Would like to have an event focusing on the art
* Green Officer/Green Team
  + Bursar chat
    - Clarified how the recycling works: all the recycling goes to the same bin; it’s our task to bring the recycling outside but the cleaners have been doing it
  + Green officer email to the graduates about recycling
  + Compost: trying to sort it out with the Chris Pope/Bursar
  + Funmi will continue the Edible Garden project; it is not a specifically college event
  + Waste event in MCR: we should have recycling in the MCR to recycle (bags have to be clear)
  + Vegan/vegetarian options at formal: to publish in advance would be extremely difficult because changes are made on the day
    - Might do an all-vegetarian formal, regional/seasonal food formal
    - Represents a big logistical problem
    - Meat-free Mondays? Stopped buying beef/lamb
    - Keep respectful interactions in mind—we are not entitled to formals!
* The new MCR website
  + Updated links, rethought the kind of information on the website
  + The calendar on the website makes it easy to see events/export to your own calendar
  + Booking the MCR (Zoe is working on this)
  + Website could be a bit more lively
  + Website photoshoot on 2-3 December
  + Committee information: what we are up to
  + MCR blog: if you would like to be an MCR blogger, contact Lisa
  + Things that should be on the website?
    - Photo tour for prospective students
    - Possible photo competition
    - More photos of the interior, seeing what it will be like
    - Profile of the graduate community
* Sarah will be arranging events for people who don’t live in college, about the rental market
* Zoe has sent an email about a series of talks about professional experiences, based on our college grads