Minutes for the First MCR Meeting of Michaelmas Term 2026

Friday 23rd October, 19:30pm, MCR & Microsoft Teams

(https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/3562452198436434?p=OPw2ekm55W1xkSMy28)

1. Apologies for Absence

James Hamilton (JH) - Treasurer

2. The Minutes of the Last Meeting

- Discuss laundry costs with the Principal – ACTIONED by Chloe Huang (CH).
    - Action: CH updated the College's perspective. Those present at the meeting agreed that we would like to submit a form to share our feedback and suggest improvements to the laundry facilities. Key concerns include the high cost of using the machines, the limited availability of machines that allow students to use their own detergent, and inadequate maintenance regarding cleanliness.

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Questions of Officers

None

5. MCR Announcements

Treasurer's Reports – Prepared by JH, delivered by CH.

- Bank Balance of £12,241.87 at time of meeting
- A breakdown of the forecast for spending this academic year was presented, which was circulated with the college in the run up to MIGG
- A breakdown of our sources of income was presented: Gown sales, membership levies, and university grants.
    - It was noted that we received £1,000 from the bar's excess profits to cover fresher's week so this was the first year we didn't charge
    - Also noted was that the Gown figure is incomplete as there is confusion about the number of gowns we gave out compared to how many we were paid. This will be sorted out in collaboration with the JCR
    - It was shown that membership levies have decreased from £38 to £35 for this year

6. MCR Motions

None

7. Elections, Hustings & Interviews

Vice-President

Jess Burton

Proposed by: Rebecca Oates

- Aims to support Chloe in her role and take on some of her large workload
- Did a lot of organisation and tidying of the MCR communal spaces
- Was in charge of upkeep of welfare supplies (menstrual, hygiene, sexual health supplies) last year and aims to continue to do so this year
- Introduced MCR hygiene library, where people who can't obtain hygiene products can get them, funded by the MCR, although initial stock was privately funded
- Also created hygiene product bags in the MCR kitchen that people who are struggling can take. One with and one without menstrual products. All people need to do is tick a sheet so they can be refilled
- Aims to assist in the planning of socials and general MCR upkeep
- No questions

Chair

Oskar Karitons-Ellis

Proposed by: Alishba

- Has experience in minute taking and dealing with legal documents
- Being a fresher, he says he provides a fresh perspective on the MCR
- Aims to make MCR meeting gowned and relocate them to the chapel
- Aims to introduce a rule that exec members can represent any group/society
- No questions

Social Chair

Lorna Pepperill

Proposed by: Alishba

Seconded by: Surabhi Varadarajan

- In the unique position of being in the MCR, SCR and an alumni, which will be useful for event coordination and correspondence
- Worked as a research administrator so proficient in event organising and communication

- Volunteered at Duke university and helped ran the social media for their eating disorder clinic
- Aims to host weekly MCR events to encourage livers-out and returners to engage more with the MCR. Events include bar crawls, theme nights, board games and movie nights, etc.
- Aims to run more inter-MCR events including formals, coffee mornings, and research events
- Aims to hold a graduate symposium allowing PGRs and PGTs to formally present their dissertation/research in a conference style setting
- Aims to run more events with the SCR including research talks, creative evening, informal social mixers, and wine and cheese nights
- Extending the role of social chair to include assisting the vice-president with welfare responsibilities
- Making sure the MCR is active on social media by making it a useful hub for information and spotlighting research of MCR members and giving MCR members ability to post and promote for a day
- Questions:
    - Q: Do you plan on hosting quieter events. A: Plans on running a quiet inter-MCR formal for people who may struggle with the noise levels in ordinary formals so they can experience formals in an accessible and safe way. Also quiet nights like games nights, knitting, book club
    - Q: With how quickly spaces filled up on the Michaelmas dinner, are you planning on an alternative. A: Plans to run a dinner parallel to Michaelmas dinner for people who couldn't get a place, also making sure it is properly communicated when sign-ups for formals go live

8. Any Other Business

- Jess is running a toy collection campaign for Christmas around Mary's and Durham in general, which will be advertised and is aiming for 100 donations