

**St. Catharine's College MCR Lent Term Open Meeting
19 February, 2007**

Present—Dan, Justin, Ali, Paul, Liz, Richard, Rosie, John, Amy, Martina, Patrick Flack
Apologies—Roy

1. Sudan Divestment

Patrick Flack, who has been working in conjunction with Joe Piper, brought forth a proposal for St. Catharine's College to examine its commingled holdings to ensure that they do not contain offending companies in breach of Sudan Divestment UK and Sudan Divestment Task Force guidelines. The authors of this proposal are seeking the support of the MCR in asking the college to examine its holdings in trust in addition to publicizing the fact that it is reviewing any new investments, as well as its current financial holdings, as a step towards divestment from companies linked to the Darfur genocide. Finally, the proposal also asks that the college not make any new investments in companies linked to the genocide in Darfur by Sudan Divestment UK and make a public statement to this effect.

The paper is going to the governing body regardless of MCR/JCR support so it is now a college issue. That said, it is now important that the MCR take a position on the issue. MCR members present agreed that will potentially not cost the college anything to take these steps and will ultimately result in good press for the college as a whole, especially if there are a number of other educational institutions following suit. Those in attendance agreed that this action would not be followed by an onslaught of similar requests because this is a uniquely terrible situation that the college can do something about.

2. South African Fund for Education (SAFE) Scheme

A member of the JCR has raised a proposal for each member of college to contribute £1 to SAFE. This would be accomplished by putting an extra charge on everyone's college bill, with the option to opt out of this extra fee. So far the JCR has agreed to take part and the senior bursar seems happy for this effort to move ahead and they have therefore asked for support from the MCR. Richard, Dan and Patrick voiced concerns about this blanket charge as there is a strong possibility that many other charities would request the same. Instead, an opt-in would on the whole prove a more agreeable scheme to the MCR in conjunction with fund-raising activities throughout the year. The majority of those in attendance agreed to support an opt-in scheme.

[action: Dan to email SAFE representative of this decision.]

3. Disaffiliation During the Course of Graduate Study

A situation recently arose in which a member of the MCR expressed a desire to disaffiliate themselves but it was discovered that there are no such provisions for doing so in the charter. Section three of the charter [please note that this is currently incorrectly numbered] states that disaffiliation may take place within the first 10 days of an MCR

member taking up their place at St. Catharine's College. If this is done the graduate must still pay an "affiliation fee," because the college must still provide the same services as the MCR.

The proposed rewrite of this section of the charter is as follows: "If disaffiliation from the MCR is requested after the ten-day notice period (paragraph 3.2), the member must submit this request in writing to the Graduate Tutors and MCR co-Presidents. Members exercising this right will not be disadvantaged with regard to the provision of services, and charging as per paragraph 3.5 will apply."

All present were in favour of this motion.

[action: Dan to speak to the Graduate Tutors regarding this amendment to move forth with changing the charter.]

4. Other Points of Business

Patrick asked if the committee could think about organizing a social activity at South Green Lodge for the near future. Good weather is required for this as the event will take place largely outdoors so this will likely be undertaken in spring. A garden party and a walk to Grantchester were proposed.

MCR Committee Meeting

1. Action Points from Last Meeting

The online booking page for formals is still outstanding, though it seems that this project is near completion. Our potential paintballing trip is still in the air and depends on getting in touch with Magdalene's social secretary. Football team funding has been worked out with Sidney Sussex and all that is left to be done is for the Sidney treasurer to be contacted by the team regarding payment. The Lent term film series is sorted out but for the rental of the Tarantino films.

[action: Rosie to rent Tarantino films closer to the dates.]

Richard looked at the cost of *The Economist* and found that a personal subscription for one year is issued at a cost of £75. As this is a good price for a magazine with broad appeal we will subscribe in addition to the *New Scientist*.

[action: Richard to obtain subscription to *The Economist*.]

2. Oxford Exchange

The Oxford Exchange has been set for Friday the 23rd of March to the 24th. Fifteen places have been reserved in college accommodations. Rooms will be available at a cost of £20-25 and they will plan a dinner outing on Friday night. On Saturday they will be giving a tour of Oxford in the morning and a tour of their college in the afternoon after which we will return to Cambridge. The bus costs £7.50 return.

Dan is now the liaison with Ralph but will be unable to participate in the trip. That weekend someone in attendance will need to act as the Cambridge contact.

Currently we need to investigate how many MCR members are interested in attending and then we need to advertise.

[action: Rosie to send an email regarding interest in this trip.]

[action: Dan to send Rosie details.]

3. Easter Formal

The band Half Way There wants to know if we are still interested in hiring them for the Easter Formal. The minimum amount they are willing to accept is £400 for this event, which is the same as was given to Casa del Funk. We are presently unaware of their sound so we should do some investigating before committing.

[action: Dan to ask if the band has a website or a recording that we could listen to prior to booking.]

The bar has been booked and a late license confirmed. The bar staff also know that we are having a band in so these details are all set. Dan suggested that a St. Patrick's Day theme would be appropriate, simple and most likely well received. A charity collection like the one held at Christmas is also something to think about.

4. Linton Zoo Trip

Members of the MCR committee agreed to postpone the Linton Zoo Trip until next term.

5. Pancake Day

A pancake cook-off will take place at Russell street tomorrow night, the 20th between 8 and 10pm. Liz has been designated head chef and has secured a failsafe recipe.

[action: Rosie to buy pancake ingredients, toppings, and plates.]

[action: Rosie to send a reminder email tomorrow morning.]

6. Other Business

Richard has been looking into his proposed MCR holiday this summer. Looking at Tallin, Estonia as an example he discovered that flights in mid-week during July will cost between £60-70. Accommodations in a hotel will work out to approximately £23 for a double occupancy or £30 for single. In a hostel beds would work out to £10 per person. Dan asked if there were perhaps insurance issues that would require college approval so this will need to be investigated.

Dan asked if the website could be tidied up. In particular the events page should be updated. Ali has also been thinking about changing and updating the green page.

[action: Paul and Ali to update the MCR website and the green page respectively.]

The next MCR committee meeting will be held on 6 March 2007.