

St. Catharine's College MCR Committee Meeting
23 April, 2007

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

1. Purchase of Barbeques

Dan raised the point that there are too few barbeques for the residences at present. Russell Street is missing one, but aside from that each residence should have one. He informed us that there had been a request last autumn for two barbeques to be in operation at Russell Street, however this was decided unnecessary by the committee.

We are now in need of a volunteer (or volunteers) with a vehicle to pick up one barbeque from Home Base or Argos. Dan offered to accompany whoever may come forward. This should be taken care of sooner rather than later as the weather has been so fine in recent weeks.

[action: one or more committee members needed to help Dan purchase a barbeque and drop it off at Russell street.]

2. Agenda for Monday's Lunch with the Graduate Tutors

This meeting is meant to be informal, but in any case we will want to keep the following points in mind. Several residence issues were raised. At Whichcote House the internet continues to be a problem as new residents in the next academic year will find the same problems outstanding from this year. Paul is to attend a meeting for the computer committee on Friday and should know a bit more about potential solutions after this date. In addition, Whichcote residents have long been aware of a group of teenagers loitering in the car park area during their lunch hour. These persons are especially undesirable on college property as they leave a great amount of litter each week.

Liz asked if there would be a way to improve the one common space in the house, as it is very dingy and under furnished, and thus unused. She pointed out that there are no electrical sockets in the room which makes the operation of TVs or radios difficult. Finally, she also pointed out that those persons living in "medium" sized rooms are paying the same amount per term as those in "small" rooms, while graduates in "large" rooms are indeed charged more for the privilege.

Roy reminded us that the problem with the washing machines at South Green Lodge has not been solved as of yet. They have been looked at and are still not in operation.

Liz then brought up the question of discrepancies between rents at various residences. The residents of Whichcote House and Assisi House are paying higher rent because these buildings are only leased to the college. When the leases run out for both houses in September 2008 the question of having sufficient college accommodation for graduates will also come into play. It is important to us that both rent increases and assured graduate accommodation are addressed this term. The Russell Street annex is one proposed solution to the problem of space; however this will prove very costly and only provide 22 new rooms for graduates.

Redecoration of the MCR has long been in discussion but does not look any closer to being accomplished. It is likely that Marina will herself bring this point up because she believes the room to be in a poor state. We are asking that the carpets are replaced and the walls repainted.

3. Purchase of a Croquet Set

John asked if the MCR might acquire a croquet set for shared use between the residences. This could probably be purchased for a pretty low price and then the outstanding question would be how to establish a sharing system between the residences. When prices have been obtained we can discuss at a subsequent meeting how practical this scheme may be.

[action: John to look into prices of a croquet set.]

4. Other Business

Martina reminded us that a replacement clock is still needed in the MCR to replace the one that went missing over the Chinese New Year event. This can potentially be added to the shopping list when the barbeque is purchased.

Roy reminded us that Russell Street's airbed still has a slow leak and will require either a patch or a replacement.

[action: Amy to check Whichcote's airbed box for a spare patch.]

Dan wanted to briefly discuss the Eurovision song contest. He pointed out that we are going to need to approach volunteers soon if we are to have people provide some European-themed snacks for this event. We should ask people to volunteer between now and the next meeting. Liz said that she would assist in this process.

[action: Rosie and Liz to liaise regarding snacks for the Eurovision event.]

*****The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 9 May*****