



Murray Edwards College Student Union 2019-20 Committee Meeting

Easter, Week 3

Date: 12/05/19

Time: 4pm

Location: JCR

Present: Allison, Emily, Sophie E, Natasha, Inaya, Becca, Zoe, Teta, Naomi, Cynthia, Georgina, +4 college members for open meeting

Apologies: Natalie, Anna, Beth, Francesca, Cecilia

1. Making Access a Liberation Role

There were not enough people present for the open meeting to make quorum so we were unable to vote to change the constitution. However, we discussed how the change would be worded. Class act until recently had 6 strands. However, last week CUSU dropped the 6 strands and instead not simply says 'identifies as a class act background.' This was the consensus for the new wording of the constitution if the vote at the next open meeting is successful. People said don't worry about being too generic as the wording 'self-identifies' is the same as other liberation roles.

2. Community business

Working on the bar – applications will be done over summer and there will be training for all bar staff at the beginning of Michaelmas term.

3. Use of bar for Tea@3

Catering have requested that all recycling be placed in the big black bin.

(Action – everyone)

4. College communications

Allison told us how she met with Lexi – the new head of communications for college. She is very open to student feedback. She wants to work towards creating a centralised platform for college resources, for instance, dome menus, a calendar, room booking forms, info on the room ballet etc. She also wants to introduce a newsletter. Initial thoughts on ways to improve college communications: no emails from staff past working hours, such as really late at night. Give at least 1 week minimum notice before any changes have been confirmed such as rent increases. Have avenues other than the JCR for student concerns. Other ongoing frustrations with college communications: when discussing finances and other issues, college should be mindful of the language used. The JCR along with the MCR will put together guidelines in order for communications to improve without people having to feel marginalised or needing to personally hold college accountable. It was felt that college needs to figure out where the line between professional and personal is. JCR will figure out WITH students where the communication issues are. There are also issues with communication between staff – students are having to be the middle men and ferry messages. Students also are not being given the same answer by all the staff.

(Action – JCR: make communication guidelines)



5. AOB

The hand over formal can be claimed for. If you want to check the rest of the budget for the year, ask Naomi.

Undergraduate Liaison Committee items for agenda:

- Accommodation dates for the JCR over freshers' week
- Accessibility around college
 - Hearing loops in rooms such as the Froud Room, JCR, VSR
 - Providing information about accessibility
 - Disabled changing space in college
- Rent survey
 - Unrepresentative of what was discussed at the rent workshop
 - It was wrongly implied that the JCR were involved with the making of the survey – there were 2 members of the JCR that attended the rent workshop as students, rather than JCR officers and it is thought maybe this was misunderstood
 - It was felt that there needed clarification for why they needed to ask some of the questions and why others weren't asked.
 - The apology regarding the initial survey sent out did not seem satisfactory as it seemed to imply that the problem was with the students' interpretation, rather than a problem with the questions in the survey
 - The JCR would like the results of the survey to be shared with the JCR, otherwise it seems like data is being taken from the students
 - There is a lack of transparency with what is going to happen with the results of the survey.
 - Students weren't happy about the survey. College should have thought harder about what they were asking and the JCR should have been consulted before hand to review the survey. It should not have been said that the JCR were involved.
- CCLA – ethical investments

CUSU council – the google form trying to gather students views on CUSU council votes has had very low responses. It was agreed that instead of this, the JCR will discuss the main topics each time before CUSU council so that Emily and Allison are able to vote on behalf of the student body of college, rather than personal views.

Freshers T-shirts – have more than one size to choose from