



**Lincoln College MCR General Meeting
Monday 23 November 2009, 8.15pm**

Agenda

1. President's Welcome
2. **Motion 1: "OUSU Disaffiliation" (attachment 1)**
Proposed: Xavier Droux
Seconded: Glenn Wilkinson
3. Progress on past motions
4. Treasurer's report and presentation of the new subvention system (attachment 2)
5. **Amendments to the MCR constitution (attachment 3)**
Proposed: Xavier Droux
Seconded: George Song-Zhao
6. **Annual Review of the MCR Standing Orders**
(Standing Orders can be read online on the MCR website www.lincolnmcr.co.uk)
Proposed: Xavier Droux
Seconded: Glenn Wilkinson
7. **Motion 2: Provision of £ 350 for the Turl Street Art Festival**
Proposed: Xavier Droux
Seconded: George Song-Zhao
8. **Motion 3: Creation of an Equal Opportunities Officer position (attachment 4)**
Proposed: Kylie Murray
Seconded: Bonnie van Wilgenburg
9. **Motion 4: Purchase of a coffee machine (attachment 4)**
Proposed: Stefan Sulek
Seconded: Bipana Bantawa

10. Motion 5: MCR contribution to the Oxford University Film Foundation (attachment 4)

Proposed: Hugh Reid

Seconded: Chris Armstrong

11. Motion 6: Kitchen Charges (attachment 4)

Proposed: Tracy Underwood

Seconded: Rebekah Smith

12. Election of an Academic Rep. (attachment 5)

Joint nomination for Ruvy Ziegler and Patricia Jimenez Kwas.

Seconded: Deran Onay

Nomination for Dmitrij Lisak

Seconded: Jian Dong

13. Any other business

This MCR notes that:

1. Lincoln MCR is currently affiliated to OUSU;
2. Each student is individually affiliated to OUSU, regardless of the affiliation of the Common Room (currently, roughly 20% of the University student body belongs to disaffiliated common rooms);
3. The MCR pays an annual fee to OUSU, which would amount to 1,305.87 this current year;
4. In previous years, and notably last year, OUSU has under-performed; the lack of financial transparency, and the catastrophic financial result of last year (with a loss of £ 45'000), being the most worrying aspects;
5. 6 sabbatical officers are receiving a salary of about £ 20'000 p.y. each, and that the University contributes towards the cost of 80% of one sabbatical salary as well as the cost of OUSU offices;
6. One officers is in charge of "charities and community";
7. A disaffiliated common room loses its right to vote at OUSU council, or to put forward motions at these meetings. However, most of the business presented on the agenda of OUSU Council meetings is more closely related to Undergraduates, and this MCR has not presented any motion at OUSU Council for years.

This MCR also notes that:

1. The 2009-2010 OUSU sabbatical team seems much more efficient than the previous ones.
2. OUSU budget for the year 2009-2010 projects a small profit (by contrast to a loss of £ 45'000 last year).

This MCR therefore resolves:

1. To disaffiliate from OUSU with immediate effect
2. Send OUSU Executives an open letter, detailing the dissatisfaction with certain aspects of OUSU, but also recognising the efforts of the current sabbatical team.
3. Not to hold a re-affiliation vote during the year 2009-2010.
4. A re-affiliation vote will be possible once a year in the future, as a regular motion put forward either by the MCR committee, or by two MCR members.



Lincoln College
Middle Common Room
Oxford OX1 3DQ

DRAFT

Dear OUSU Executives,

Following the presentation of a motion at an MCR General Meeting on November 23, Lincoln College MCR has voted to disaffiliate from OUSU immediately.

This is the consequence of various problems identified by the MCR and debated at length. The financial aspect of OUSU is probably the most worrying, considering the lack of transparency in OSSL and the massive loss presented at the end of last year. The presentation of new funding proposals to the Estates Bursars' Committee last year was fundamentally wrong, and although it was rejected by the Committee, it shed some discredit on OUSU and its activities.

More recently, Conference of Colleges discussed a proposal by the former President of OUSU that he should represent the student body at Conference of Colleges. This was done without referring to or discussing this matter with the common room presidents.

Lincoln MCR also strongly wishes that the position of Charity and Community Sabbatical Officer be reconsidered. The goal in itself is laudable, but we do not believe that this is central to the concern of the students of the University. Furthermore, most common rooms already have their own charity schemes.

The MCR would like to disaffiliate, while recognising that the current OUSU sabbatical team is taking steps in the right direction. We believe that the Student Union is necessary, and that further financial and management improvements will allow the MCR, and other disaffiliated common rooms, to reconsider their position towards OUSU.

Lincoln College MCR

The Committee reviewed the Bursar's paper (*Schedule Y*) and the paper "Common Room Subventions" from the MCR and JCR.

There was general acceptance that the existing arrangement for the distribution of the College's funding of the JCR and MCR, which dated from 1992, was now inappropriate because it failed to provide adequate funding for the (expanded) MCR. Therefore revised arrangements were discussed and are now recommended for approval.

- The total amount of the subvention in any year is ultimately a matter for the College, though principles for the calculation of the total are described below and should be adhered to as far as possible.

The question of the distribution of the subvention between the two junior common rooms is one which the two junior common rooms should monitor and on which they should initiate proposals for change as appropriate; though the implementation of any arrangement for distribution must be subject to College approval (via either the Finance Committee or the Junior Relations Committee).

- The subvention should be allocated to the JCR and the MCR on a per capita basis. The JCR capitation should be defined as being the total number of JCR undergraduate members, including 4th year undergraduates. The MCR capitation should be defined as being the total number of fee-paying post-graduate students plus 4th year undergraduates (but not including 4th year undergraduate Modern Linguists) plus clinical medics (ie, 2nd BMs) plus 2nd BA students. It was noted that this formulation involved an apparent double-counting of 4th year (non- modern languages) undergraduates, but that this was justified by the extensive use made by these students of both common rooms. However, if the number of 4th year undergraduates should increase substantially from the present number, this arrangement should be reviewed. (In 2009-10 these numbers would produce 308 for the JCR capitation and 288 for the MCR capitation).
- The agreed per capita rate will be £65 for the JCR subvention and £55 for the MCR subvention. This rate will be subject to annual adjustment (see below). Based on student numbers in 2009-10 this would give subventions as follows:

JCR	£20,020
MCR	£15,840
Total	<u>£35,860</u>

It was noted that if this arrangement were to be applied in 2009-10 it would entail a contribution from the College approximately £3,900 than that for which the College had budgeted. Therefore 2009-10 should be used as a transition year from the old system in order to moderate the impact of the change to the new methodology. In 2009-10 the subventions should be as follows:

JCR	£19,146	- compared with budgeted £19,146
MCR	£14,779	- compared with budgeted £12,844
Total	<u>£33,925</u>	- compared with budgeted <u>£31,990</u>

The "£65 / £55" arrangement will therefore come into use for the first time in 2010-11.

- The per capita rates will be adjusted each year in line with changes in the flow of funds to the College from the central university via the JRAM / CFF. The percentage change, positive or negative, in the JRAM / CFF flow to the College should be applied to the per capita JCR and MCR subvention rates. It was noted that reliance on the JRAM / CFF mechanism assumed the ongoing application of a broadly unchanged JRAM / CFF methodology. If the JRAM / CFF methodology were to change materially (eg, if a component of funding were to be either withdrawn or newly introduced) calculation of the College subvention would have to be reconsidered in that year and in subsequent years.
The calculation of the per capita rates and the total subvention will be shown to the MCR and JCR executives each year in the interests of transparency.
- The subvention payment to Amalgamated Clubs is not affected by the changes described in this document. That is, the sum to be paid in 2009-10 is £22.34 per capita , as already agreed; and the number of students is the total of MCR + JCR, without any double-counting of 4th year undergraduates, ie 560.
In future years the per capita sum will be adjusted (from the £22.34 base) each year in line with changes in the flow of funds to the College from the central university via the JRAM / CFF.
- A full copy of this Minute should be kept in Bursary files and in the record books of the MCR and JCR.

The JCR and MCR were thanked and commended for their constructive response to the problem identified by the Bursar.

Amendments to the constitution:

The introduction of the new subvention system, as outlined in Attachment 2, necessitates the following amendments to the MCR Constitution:

Art. 2a:

Amend “all graduates of the University and other Universities who are members of the College and who are undertaking a definite course of advanced study or who are reading for a Final Honour School at the University”.

To read “all graduates of the University and other Universities who are members of the College and who are undertaking definite course of advanced study, or who are reading for a Final Honour School at the University, or who are reading for a second undergraduate course (e.g. 2nd BA, 2nd BM)”.

Art. 6:

Amend “The College must give the MCR a subvention each term, the amount to be at the discretion of the Governing Body”.

To read: “The College must give the MCR a subvention each term, based on a per-capita amount to be at the discretion of the Governing Body (per agreement by Governing Body, Week 5, MT09)”.

The following mistake has been noted in the Constitution and needs amendment:

Art. 3.6

Amend “A charge of £35 per term will be made for Associate Membership”.

To read: “A charge of £35 per year will be made for Associate membership, payable to the College; the MCR has the right to raise a separate fee, the amount to be at its discretion and agreed at any General Meeting”.

Motion 3: Creation of an Equal Opportunity officer position:

Lincoln's access to disabled graduate students could be improved in many ways: the MCR is currently inaccessible to those with mobility problems, and there is no wheelchair accessible accommodation either. I would like to create and stand for the position of equal Opportunities officer, as distinct from Welfare, because as a disabled graduate myself, I have experience and expertise in the area of accessibility: I work closely with the Disabilities Office and I sit on a University wide committee for Access to Buildings and Estates. Most recently I have had the doors to the Bodleian altered so that they are fully automated.

I have several ideas for ways in which College could improve access: a stairlift to the MCR for example, which several other colleges have and adjustments to the Library: adjustments which would not only benefit students with disabilities, but every single person who uses these facilities. I also want College to undertake another access audit, to highlight where changes need to be made. I currently sit on the Lincoln Equal Opps Committee, but it would be great if I could do so as an MCR representative, voicing the views of all graduates in Lincoln.

Motion 4: Purchase of a coffee machine (attachment 4)

I propose that MCR should buy an espresso machine and provide coffee on the pay as you go system. The capsule system for the coffee would be the most appropriate (one capsule 0.27-0.31 pounds). The machines are sold by Nespresso and range from 119 pounds onwards.

Motion5: MCR contribution to the Oxford University Film Foundation

This MCR notes that:

1. The Oxford University Film Foundation exists to provide a community of filmmakers in Oxford - our aim is to allow everyone with an interest in making films to do so. We help people with their projects by producing films as a society as well as offering contacts, advice and equipment for members pursuing their own projects.
2. We run a number of competitions throughout the year, with a major Cuppers festival in Hilary term. We also organise events including workshops, talks by industry professionals and screenings. We will also be starting on an OUFF production during the second half of the year.
3. In order to finance these events, we are looking for funding from college JCRs/MCRs. The Cuppers festival will be very expensive, and we will be looking for corporate sponsorship for that, but in order to pay some preliminary expenses towards this, we are looking for a small amount of money from the MCR.
4. We would like students from all over the university, as well as this college, to get involved, and the money will go towards ensuring that everyone is aware of this opportunity.

This MCR proposes that:

A grant of £30 be made to OUFF in order to help finance its activities.

Motion 6: Kitchen Charges

This MCR should campaign against a compulsory kitchen charge. The kitchen charge is unpopular, particularly amongst students who live/work some distance from the city centre. Most other Oxford colleges have no such charge for members of their MCR (see table below). Over a four year DPhil the Lincoln kitchen charge amounts to over £800, a very large sum of money for most members. In colleges such as Worcester, compulsory battels total less than £10 per term for MCR members who live out. In addition, the clause that married students may be exempt, whereas unmarried students may not, is archaic and unacceptable.

COLLEGE	COMPULSORY CHARGE
St Catz	No
Keble	No
Merton	No
St Cross	No
New	No
Worcester	No
Brasenose	No
Wolfson	No
Wadham	No
Mansfield	No
St Anne's	No
Linacre	No
University	No
St Johns	No
Somerville	No
Jesus	£55.80 per term for those living on the main College site, £27.90 for those living in College flats / private accommodation
Balliol	£18.40 per term for graduates living in, no charge for graduates living out
Exeter	~ £65 per term, compulsory for all
St Hilda's	£55 pounds per term, compulsory for all

This survey includes all colleges for which information could be ascertained via email / website access. Any bias is unintentional.

Election of an Academic Rep. (attachment 5)

Joint nomination for Ruvi Ziegler and Patricia Jimenez Kwast.

"For those who don't know us, we are Ruvi Ziegler and Patricia Jimenez Kwast, together running for the post of MCR Academic Representative, as co-representatives for the academic year 2009-10. 2009-10 is Ruvi's third year at Oxford, reading for the DPhil in law. Since last year, he has been a co-convenor of the law faculty's human rights discussion group as well as of an academic lecture series on "Israel: Historical, Political and Social Aspects". 2009-10 is Patricia's second year in Oxford, also reading for the DPhil in law. Since this year she has been a student-member of the executive committee and events coordinator of the law faculty's Oxford Pro Bono Publico. These activities have allowed us to get better acquainted with the way the university at large as well as colleges operate in handling student-run events. Taking advantage of the rich and diverse academic scene at Oxford, we will attempt to organise thought-provoking and entertaining talks for you to enjoy (and in doing so we'll of course not try to impose our legal background on you in the themes of the talks). We are very much open for any suggestions (including self-promoting ones...) and promise to be easily accessible. Thanks for your time and consideration."

Nomination for Dmitrij Lisak

"I would like to be the academic rep because I want to contribute in a useful way to the MCR. The reason why I candidate specifically as an academic rep is my experience in that field. During undergrad studies I represented the students of my course in several university committees, including the student council and the university council. While I was member of the committees we achieved several things to improve students life at Maastricht University. This included the introduction of an honours program for talented students, organizing meetings with course coordinators to give feedback about the different modules of our course and introducing a "track system" to the study in which students are able to focus on a specific field of interest from their 2nd year on. My past experience, my motivation to work with the MCR committee, and my regular contact with members of the MCR during the various events make me a suitable candidate for the academic rep. position."

Dmitrij Lisak