

Summary of Changes to Lincoln MCR Constitution TT 2008

When entering office the current MCR Executive, elected in HT 2008 was faced with operating through an outdated and unworkable constitution. Many of the provisions were better placed in Standing Orders, the Constitution was difficult to follow, had extensive unwieldy Articles and thus a Constitutional Review was immediately undertaken. The result is a new streamlined Constitution which the Executive hopes can be used a tool for best practice across the colleges of Oxford.

General Changes

- Comprehensive re-drafting.
- Re-numbering to enable easier citation and compartmentalisation of topics.
- Removal of provisions better placed in Standing Orders.

Substantive Changes

- Addition of a definition of terms in Article 1.
- Clarification of interpretive powers by the Executive in Article 1.
- Article 3(2)(b) removal of co-habiting partners which is indirectly discriminatory on grounds of nationality and provides clarification with regard to sexual orientation.
- Article 5 – incorporation of a new principle of non discrimination in line with the European Charter of Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms 2000, notably including language, birth, genetic features and membership of a national minority.
- Article 6 terminological change – from donation to subvention.
- Removal of any mention of an MCR Bar, Stationery and printing provision.
- Removal of a specific statement of a budget of MCR Entertainments. This was ambiguous and unnecessary.
- Part Four, Comprehensive changes to structure of the Committee.
- Change includes issues to be addressed by Committee members, rather than election to specific posts. This reflects the realistic position that there may be insufficient numbers of people running for posts for there to be a ‘one-person one-issue’ situation. The Constitution is sufficiently flexible for there to be a situation where each issue is dealt with by a different individual.
- Addition in Article 14 of Co-optee posts.
- There are now required to be elected at least 6 members at an election – President, Treasurer, Secretary, one male Welfare Officer, one female Welfare officer and normally two Social Secretaries.
- Article 15 – addition of an LGBTQ, Environmental and Food issues posts, Removal of OUSU.

Issues to be resolved by Governing Body

- Computing Officer, duties and payment.
- Any payment to the Computing Officer will be amalgamated into MCR Funds.

The Constitution will be accompanied by new Standing Orders. The Executive has had the New Constitution ratified in accordance with the procedure in the Old 2000 Constitution.

Further Questions? Please contact James Roffee – JamesRoffee@hotmail.com or 07828213120