



Lincoln College MCR  
General Meeting  
Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2016 (Trinity Term)

## Agenda

### 1. President's Welcome

- Fossil fuel investment motion update  
*Kevin: The MCR is very excited to be working with college on the fossil fuel divestment, which will be discussed with college at the Governing Body meeting at the end of term.*
- Hot drinks in library update  
*Kevin: Hot drinks will not be allowed in the library. Moreover, the administration believes that the Librarians should not be policing and are in fact doing more policing than "librarianing" at the moment. Therefore, we will not be having hot drinks, and those who do consume hot drinks will be disciplined more strictly.*
- Little Clarendon Street noise update  
*Kevin: This will be dealt with during the motion*
- College website update  
*Kevin: Adam and I are meeting with College Friday about the new College website. Please submit surveys, either paper or online.*

### 2. Treasurer's Report

- Ditchley Fund  
*Josh: Batted 5 GBP on graduation, this goes to the MCR as a gift for purchase of new MCR items. This is done as an "opt out" style battel fee. The development office is considering implementing this as an "opt in" style fee to get people used to donating in college. They would like to know how we feel about it.*  
*FR: Opt in makes us feel more generous*  
*JP: All "optional" fees should be opt out. See future motion.*  
*JK: This is about weighing financial opportunity and freedom versus ensuring donations*  
*HH: People will not donate if it is opt out.*  
*TP: People will not think of it because of all of the things going on. You will miss out on this because you will not be able to keep track. The MCR will inevitably lose money if this passes.*  
*JK: People are concerned about feeling like random things are appearing on the ballot. Besides, you are leaving college this year.*  
*AA: I think this is an example of the College (and MCR) not doing a good job of advertising what this is and what it is for. We need to make it known that this pays for important things like the Christmas tree and crochet set.*  
*Kevin: Okay, I'm calling the discussion here as it will certainly be brought up during the motion.*
- Vacation Fund

*Josh: The vacation fund is 100 GBP for anyone not on the committee to use to have an event for MCR members here for the summer. We should do our best to advertise this so that it can be used.*

- Donating to Lincoln Leavers Fund - Opt In/Opt Out

*Not in the notes, but Josh brings up the desire to have the budget put on line. Will work with Secretary to establish this webpage.*

### **3. Secretary's Report**

- Housing ballot recap

*Adam: The housing ballot causes a lot of stress for people and this year was particularly hard because of the number of people and the addition of the JCR. We are going to be revisiting and formalizing the balloting process, and we will work with College over the summer and in Michaelmas term to make sure that this happens. Look to hear more about this next year.*

- Forthcoming motion to revise and formalize housing policy

- Website report:

- 333 unique visitors this week (7/6/2016)

- 6547 page views

*The new website is being used. Email me with suggestions.*

### **4. Welfare Report**

*Jochen: The email is working well. Rose is great. We make cakes.*

*Rose: We need more people for the welfare day out, so if people know anyone, please do let us know. Also, we will be having a movie night this Saturday. It need not be welfare appropriate, but lets not show something scary like Vertigo or Scream 4.*

### **5. Social Report**

*Michael: Thanks everyone for coming to the garden party. (Kevin: Thank you guys for hosting it, everything went very well.) We will have lots of events this last week of term including the pub-crawl, so look out for that. Thanks everyone for helping us be happy people.*

### **6. Charities Rep Update**

*Beatrice: We are collecting food, clothes, and books. We want to have a student swap, where people can donate things when they leave so that future students do not need to buy them, but we need a place to store all of the stuff.*

*I am going to work with Adam to get more of the charities finance and performance on the website.*

### **7. IT Rep Update**

### **8. Academic Rep Update**

*Kevin: Heather is not present, but the MCR recognizes that the addition of Dissertea has been a great success. Thanks to Heather.*

### **9. Food Rep Update**

*Alexandra: The food survey is going well. I am going to meet with the Chef next week to talk about the suggestions. We will also discuss composting and dealing with food waste.*

*I am going to run a survey about the food at Lincoln and in Oxford, and I would like to put the results in the Freshers Guide for next year.*

#### **10. Green Rep Update**

- Bike roofs

*Holly: Maintenance is going to get us a bike pump and chain oil to keep in the bike garage.*

*Bike roofs are not going to happen because of cost and because we cannot alter many of the properties that Lincoln owns without dramatically altering them (Bear Lane) or entering a legal quagmire (Little Clarendon Street).*

#### **11. LGBTQ Rep Update**

*Alex: Cyprus is good. I meant to do a movie night but I could not do it. Things are still gay, also this meeting is great (skyping in) because all I can see is Kevin's \*\*\*.*

#### **12. First Year Rep Update**

##### **12.a ) Equality and Diversity rep**

*Elise: There are not enough categories for people to adhere to in the Lincoln College demographics survey, so we are working with college to make it more acceptable and non-discriminatory.*

##### **12.b ) Sports**

*Aruyun: The sweepstakes has raised 90 GBP for the charities team, which is great. We are hosting the France versus Romania game as well as other Euro cup games, so watch the emails for that.*

#### **13. Motions**

##### **1) Revising the Student Refugee Campaign and Battered Charities**

###### **This MCR notes that:**

1. Last term, the MCR voted in a meeting to add a £4 charge to termly battles to the Oxford Students Refugee Campaign.
2. This is the first time that the MCR has introduced a charge on battles that does not go towards a scholarship or fund affiliated with College.

###### **This MCR believes that:**

1. Adding charges to battles that are opt-out rather than opt-in means students are far less likely to opt-out of charges.
2. The vast majority of MCR students affected by the motion were not present to vote on it.
3. Allowing one charity to be battered sets a precedent for other charities and funding projects to be added to battles.

**This MCR resolves to:** revoke the termly opt-out charge for the Oxford Students Refugee Campaign. Students may still opt-in to the charge if they choose so by notifying the MCR Treasurer.

*Proposed: Leah Rand*

*Seconded: James Wakely*

Discussion begins:

*Leah: First I want to explain the rationale for this motion. I am aware of what the charity is and the great job that this charity is doing for the refugees. I am not against the MCR supporting this Charity.*

However, in order to support the charity, the MCR and JCR have added a termly battel for it in an opt-out fashion. The concerns about opt out battels:

1. Adding charities and fees in this way sets a precedent that could get out of control
2. There are many great charities that we can donate toward, but we have picked this one as special, which some people may not support
3. This is not the same as an MCR initiative because it is out of the student's pocket rather than the MCR's budget. We should not tell students how to spend their money.
4. Finally, the MCR meetings are not representative of the total MCR population, and we need to be careful when making decisions that affect the population's finances.

Floor opens

VD: This charity is supported by 38 common rooms and 11,000 students. But the fund still needs everyone to participate otherwise they will lose money, and the refugees lose out. The same argument for the Ditchley fund applies here, they will lose money. At this point, they have raised money to fund the 8 successful applicants, but they are not going to be able to do that if we don not continue to give. Also, against the argument that we are not representative for the MCR, please acknowledge the fact that there are less people here at this meeting than when we voted for this motion.

Leah: The concern here is not over the refugees, but rather over the precedent for opt out fees being added to battels.

RM: Giving to charity is not a bad precedent to set, really.

AF: This is a unique moment and requires us to act. Also, please not that the "opt in" versus "opt out" has a rather bad semantic distinction and we should think of a more positive way to frame these charges. Finally, people can indeed inform themselves about these charges by going to the meetings and by looking them up on the Internet.

TP: I voted against this motion for this very reason, but it is too late to back out now. The precedent is now set, and we need to live with that and allow people to inform themselves of it in the future and make their own decisions.

JC: This is an extremely emotional issue for all of us. I think that we should not be having the "opt in" and "opt out" debate with regards to this issue, but consider that separately in the future.

JP: We need people to know what these are, we need to have more open discussion about the fees that we are charging and tell people up front so they can decide.

HH: We do advertise that we do this.

Leah: I am more in favour of separating the opt-in opt-out debate from the issue of the refugees.

VD: This is passed, end of story.

Votes:

1 – for; 5 – abstain; 23 – against. Motion does not pass

## **2) Addressing noise issues in Little Clarendon Street**

**This MCR notes that:**

1. The Lincoln College website declares the following regarding graduate accommodation, "Rooms are graded A-D based on a number of factors. Grade A rooms are the highest quality... Rooms B-D are graded according to size, natural daylight and facilities... The MCR student body decides on the grades collectively."
2. The MCR therefore admittedly possesses the collective power to assign room grades based on factors that affect the quality of a room.
3. The Little Clarendon Street accommodation consists of 37 A and B grade rooms, the highest possible grades and thus the highest price categories.
4. The Lincoln College Student Handbook makes multiple references to the need for students to keep noise to tolerable levels and acknowledges that noise can be a very real, even dangerous, problem for members of the College community.
5. That the Lincoln College website claims that, "The College and its well wishers have invested heavily in providing high quality accommodation on the College site in the city centre... graduates are normally guaranteed accommodation of a very high standard."
6. Lincoln College appears capable of carrying out extensive renovations when necessary, as demonstrated through ongoing construction at the Nat West building near Bear Lane.

**This MCR believes that:**

1. The grade of a room (A, B, C, D) should reflect the quality of that room as accommodation for a graduate student.
2. The ongoing noise problem in Little Clarendon Street is unacceptable and has had a marked impact on members of the MCR residing there, affecting their academic performance and quality of life and forcing some to find more livable accommodation elsewhere (a disruptive and time-consuming process).
3. The ongoing noise problem in Little Clarendon Street is therefore dramatically affecting the quality of those rooms as accommodation for graduate students.
4. College administration has failed to adequately address the ongoing noise problem in Little Clarendon Street despite repeated entreaties from members of the MCR and declarations of support for those efforts from the MCR at large.
5. The MCR has a duty to ensure the quality of accommodation for all its members residing in College or University housing and must take steps to, if not eliminate the ongoing noise problem in Little Clarendon Street, then support those residents who it will affect until the issue is resolved.

**The MCR resolves to:**

1. Immediately assign all rooms in Little Clarendon Street the grade of D, until such time as the MCR Executive Committee feels the noise problem has been adequately resolved.
2. Make efforts to notify all incoming MCR members of the ongoing noise issue in Little Clarendon Street prior to their opportunity to select college accommodation, so that they have a fair chance to avoid the negative impact of those rooms.
3. Call on the administration of College to read testimonials from students regarding their negative experiences with the ongoing noise problem at Little Clarendon Street and the impact it had on their academic and personal lives.
4. Call on the administration of College to efficiently and effectively resolve the ongoing noise problem in Little Clarendon Street to the absolute best of their abilities prior to the start of Michaelmas Term 2016.
5. Request that, if the College administration is unable to adequately resolve the ongoing noise problem at Little Clarendon Street within that time frame, it provides the MCR with a detailed, informative statement explaining why it is incapable of doing so and providing its alternative plan and timeline to handle the issue.
6. Request that, if the College administration is unable to adequately resolve the ongoing noise problem at Little Clarendon Street within that time frame, it ensures that all incoming graduates who may select accommodation at Little Clarendon Street are aware of the ongoing noise problems there and the possible impact that noise may have on them if they choose to reside there.

Seconded: Jay Patel

Kevin: First I would like it to be noted that I have had a meeting with college about this issue and will read off the updates. First, Lucy and the Oxford City Council (OCC) have seen the videos and read the testimonials, and this is very helpful. However, the naming of specific individuals on Facebook is not helpful to the cause. The college is not trying to do us harm, they're working on our behalf. The type of behaviour seen recently on social media creates an adversarial relationship, which again is not helpful. I would like to address first the perceived lack of action:

1. First, Lucy is communicating with OCC on a near daily basis.
2. Joe Tripkovic has been up in LCS for noise recording well after hours, and until 2:00 AM most weekends in November.
3. In addition, OCC has been there almost every weekend lately to try to ensure that the Wine Café is following the regulations that were put in place on them in terms of the music volume. They have deemed that the music levels from the Wine Café are indeed at an acceptable level. However, they have been notified that the music volume is increasing again and will be doing more sweeps to see if the Wine Café is breaking the agreement.
4. In listening to the Wine Café, OCC is now aware that Raoul's may be operating outside of their licence agreement and they are taking action now against Raoul's.

These are the measures that have been taken so far:

1. We have informed the college that the Wine Café music is too loud.
  - a. Repeated noise measures by OCC have confirmed that it is okay.
2. The OCC have locked the volume on the Wine Café sound system so that they cannot alter it
3. We are building a case against Raoul's to file a nuisance complaint, which requires recordings from rooms that are occupied. This is on-going. This can potentially be taken to court.

Floor opens:

TP and HH: Why is this the first time that we are hearing about this. That is a fundamental communication problem.

JP: We acknowledge that this is not your fault, Kevin. College has said that we, "Need to catch them [the Wine Café]." But, for me, the problem is that the college has been too concerned with catching them [the Wine Café] and not concerned enough with helping the people that are living in the accommodation.

Tristan. I'm not opposed to being antagonistic towards College; we finance them. My primary concern is that this is totally out of hand; the video proof confirms that this is unacceptable. Our motion is the following: College needs to admit that this is not okay and to lower the price of these rooms accordingly. This would go part of the way to making amends for the pain and suffering of the 36 MCR residents of LCS. We impose a deadline of Michaelmas term for this problem to be fixed, and if it is not they must provide a timeline and a plan. You should not have to choose a room that negatively impacts your life. I am potentially open to amending the motion if it goes too far. But I would like to send a message.

JK: This decision should be unanimous. Also, my issue is with Grade D housing in this case, we might create a situation where people have to live in LCS because of their socioeconomic disadvantage, which would alienate them and be potentially discriminatory.

AS: As an aside, I had the housing brochure just for this reason, so that we could inform each other about the rooms and that way future people will know not to pick those rooms if they can avoid it. If the goal is to make sure that people know what they are getting in to. then the best way to do that is to have

*a comprehensive housing brochure that is passed down and added to as the college potentially solves the problem.*

*VD: While I am against having people discriminated for their financial situation, I do think that we should do something to send a message.*

*Kevin: I have never been involved with room pricing. The MCR already lobbied to have some downgraded to B before I got here and that passed with some success. Even if we do want to downgrade them to D, this would go to a Finance Committee and the Governing Body – inevitably we have to work with College. We cannot do this on our own.*

*KK: Past experience has confirmed that the concern of creating a situation where people are forced to live in the rooms because they are cheaper will pan out. It has happened before in other colleges. Perhaps we could suggest some kind of rebate whist the problem exists.*

*Tristan: It bothers me that College does not fix the windows and does more for the people. Considering their language about creating noise in accommodation in the Student handbook, this is profoundly hypocritical.*

*AF: College has already contributed to an adversarial relationship by not doing anything. They have demonstrated negligence and have mislead people, including me, into living in LCS knowing full well that it is too loud for people with noise issues.*

*JC: I second the issue with negligence. I feel like College has let us down.*

*JP: College needs to explain this to us eye-to-eye. They should organize a lecture or some format in order to get the message and information out to us.*

*HH: I asked to rebates earlier and it was not granted.*

*RM: I am all in favour of this in solidarity, but my room is in a location that is not effected. We should make sure that this is specifically given and targeted to those rooms that are affected.*

*Kevin: I motion to make a friendly amendment to remove point 1 on the grounds that the MCR does not want to create a situation wherein we force economically disadvantaged people to live in rooms that would be detrimental to their health. The revised amendment will appear in section II. The MCR also resolves to follow up on this in Michaelmas term.*

*The amended motion would read:*

**This MCR notes that:**

1. The Lincoln College Student Handbook makes multiple references to the need for students to keep noise to tolerable levels and acknowledges that noise can be a very real, even dangerous, problem for members of the College community.
2. That the Lincoln College website claims that, “The College and its well wishers have invested heavily in providing high quality accommodation on the College site in the city centre... graduates are normally guaranteed accommodation of a very high standard.”

**This MCR believes that:**

1. The grade of a room (A, B, C, D) should reflect the quality of that room as accommodation for a graduate

2. The ongoing noise problem in Little Clarendon Street is unacceptable and has had a marked impact on members of the MCR residing there, affecting their academic performance and quality of life and forcing some to find more livable accommodation elsewhere (a disruptive and time-consuming process).
3. The ongoing noise problem in Little Clarendon Street is therefore dramatically affecting the quality of those rooms as accommodation for graduate students.
4. College administration has failed to adequately address the ongoing noise problem in Little Clarendon Street despite repeated entreaties from members of the MCR and declarations of support for those efforts from the MCR at large.
5. The MCR has a duty to ensure the quality of accommodation for all its members residing in College or University housing and must take steps to, if not eliminate the ongoing noise problem in Little Clarendon Street, then support those residents who it will affect until the issue is resolved.

**The MCR resolves to:**

1. Call on the administration of College to read testimonials from students regarding their negative experiences with the ongoing noise problem at Little Clarendon Street and the impact it had on their academic and personal lives.
2. Call on the administration of College to efficiently and effectively resolve the ongoing noise problem in Little Clarendon Street to the absolute best of their abilities prior to the start of Michaelmas Term 2016.
3. Request that, if the College administration is unable to adequately resolve the ongoing noise problem at Little Clarendon Street within that time frame, it provides the MCR with a detailed, informative statement explaining why it is incapable of doing so and providing its alternative plan and timeline to handle the issue.
4. MCR will follow up with College in Michaelmas term and communicate progress to the constituency.
5. Request that, if the College administration is unable to adequately resolve the ongoing noise problem at Little Clarendon Street within that time frame, it ensures that all incoming graduates who may select accommodation at Little Clarendon Street are aware of the ongoing noise problems there and the possible impact that noise may have on them if they choose to reside there.

*Votes for the friendly amendment:*

*29 – for; 0 – abstain; 0 – against. Friendly Amendment Passes.*

Votes for the motion:

*29 – for; 0 – abstain; 0 – against. Motion Passes.*

**3) Diversifying the portraits in Hall**

**This MCR notes that**

1. There are 20 portraits in the Lincoln College Hall.
2. These portraits are of exceptional individuals that played a noteworthy role in the history of Lincoln College.
3. The purpose of the portraits is to celebrate stories from our past, make our values and ambitions for the future visible, and help to shape the present living and working environment for staff, students, and visitors.
4. However, there is no visible diversity in the portraits. Currently the portraits only display white men. In particular, women and people from black and minority ethnic groups are underrepresented.
5. Diversity in portraits is also being considered at a University level with the 'Diversifying Portraiture at Oxford' initiative. This initiative is supported by the Vice-Chancellor's Diversity Fund, and was set up by the Equality and Diversity Unit. The initiative aims to widen the range of people represented around the university, and to reflect and encourage its increasing inclusivity, by commissioning new portraits for its central public spaces.
6. The Lincoln College SCR has also discussed diversifying the portraits in Hall.

**This MCR believes that**

1. Increasing the diversity of the portraits in Hall would serve to widen the range of people represented within our College, welcome and value people from these currently underrepresented groups, and reflect and encourage its increasing inclusivity.
2. The contribution of staff and students from these underrepresented groups to Lincoln College should be reflected in the portraits in Hall. The College is in the ideal position to determine who the individuals are from these underrepresented groups who merit being celebrated with a portrait in Hall.

**This MCR resolves**

1. To petition College to commission new portraits of individuals with links to Lincoln College from an underrepresented group, particularly women and people from a black or ethnic minority.
2. To encourage College to ask noteworthy fellows and benefactors from underrepresented groups whether they would consider donating a portrait of themselves.

*Proposed: Elise Maes*

*Seconded: Jennifer Cassidy*

**Floor Opens**

*Elise: This is a motion meant to propose that the MCR as College to consider putting up a portrait in hall that adds diversity of race or gender. I want to note that even if the college does agree to our proposed motion, this will be a very slowly, potentially coinciding with a major anniversary (e.g. 40 years of women in college in 2019).*

*TP: St. Catherine's has been doing this and they have gone much faster.*

*Kevin: Trinity as well are putting up photographs in their Hall.*

*Elise: It is also in line with the University's initiative.*

*KK: As long as we are able to do this in a way that is tasteful and not a "token" type image, the MCR is generally in favour according to the survey.*

*JC: This will help us have a more inclusive environment.*

Votes:

28 – for; 1 – abstain; 0 – against. Motion Passes.

**4) Creation of an Academic Team**

**This MCR notes that**

1. Academic affairs play a critical role in the lives of MCR members, in some way effecting each and every member intimately
2. Before this year, academic events were underrepresented on the MCR calendar, consisting primarily of the Lord Florey talk.
3. The current academic rep has added weekly "Dissertea" events in the MCR and organised a public speaking workshops led by an SCR fellow.
4. The academic rep would like to organise more events for the coming year, including:
  - a. Monthly public speaking workshops
  - b. A weekly Dissertation Writing Group
  - c. 'Lincoln Leads' seminar colloquium in collaboration with the SCR, alumni and the JCR (already in

- d. Michaelmas bi-weekly 'training sessions'. Examples could be: how to get published session or 'so I'm going to be a doctor, now what?' session and to invite interesting people to address the MCR
- e. A Trinity 'research in progress' one-day conference open to Lincoln and Oxford students

**This MCR believes that**

1. The creation of an academic committee, in the mould of the charities committee, would allow the MCR to run these academic events.
2. Allocating more resources, i.e. wo/man-power, to academics will balance the representation of this arm of college life on the MCR committee, to match the social, sports, and diversity.

**This MCR resolves**

1. To create a new “academic team” of two- to four- additional members to support the academic rep in hosting and organising events in College.
2. Nominations for these positions will be held first in Michaelmas term 2017 and will be open to Freshers.

*Proposed: Heather Mann*

*Seconded: Adam Steel*

Floor opens:

*JA: Is it necessary? Is there enough for the academic rep to do to warrant a “team”?*

*Kevin: Do we need this? It breaks the work/play divide that we have in the MCR.*

*JC: The policies look good and they could be useful.*

*TP: This is harmless. At worst, it just adds to the bureaucracy of the MCR.*

*HH: This is opt-in*

*JK: Heather has great initiative and we should support her. Also, this give the people who already help her proper credit.*

*EG: This gives a personal support to the academics in the MCR that the department can't provide. We have safe space here to help each other.*

Vote:

27 – for; 1 – abstain; 1 – against. Motion Passes.

**14. Any Other Business**

*SI: Vacation storage. Can we get an answer about who and where?*

*Kevin: I will ask college about that*