

JCR President Hustings Promises

Carl Martin

Experience

- *JCR Vice President, 2016*
Working along current committee, involved with organisation of housing ballot, college families and various other misc.
Currently represent Fitz at CUSU and to several working groups and committees within college – good working relationship with college staff.
- *Ticketing and Logistics Officer, Fitz Winter Ball (October to December 2016)*
Various administrative duties

Skills

- Strong administrative skills (VP – housing ballot, college families, freshers week; Ball – ticketing database)
- Good at listening and willing to take feedback and improve.
- Willingness to give it a go – “if it’s worth doing, it’s worth doing well”.

Hustings promises

Student involvement/transparency

- Instate an anonymous policy suggestion and review forum on JCR website/group so that there is engagement to encourage the JCR to go further and beyond for its students, and to be directed at all times of the year and not just during elections.
- Ensure JCR committee lives up to its hustings promises and everyone chips in to make the entire undergraduate experience great (follow up of JCR incentives to be recognised and enforced – proposed by Damiano, followed up by Fenella).

Specific:

- Make term cards a regular fixture.
- FAQ section on the JCR website for issues and queries of students in the past.
- Fortnightly summary of JCR activity at committee, college and CUSU level.
- Ensure that the JCR website and publications are up to date (full website review and information renewal).

Cost of living

- As part of the rent and accommodation review for 2017, push for more realistic KFC price increases and narrower rent bands, with an overall price increase in line with or just below current inflation levels.
- Petition that students be made aware of price changes to things, such as the buttry, by college and that students are consulted whenever prices are due to change.

Making college life easier

- Pushing to get unlimited internet within contracts (or raising the internet limits substantially).
- Make sure maintenance tickets don’t go unchecked. Set up platform for students to inform the JCR of their troubles with college so that we can act on it more quickly rather than hearing through the grapevine.

- Run open JCR meetings on issues affecting the entire student body, eg buttry prices and housing ballot.
- Liase with the VP, Senior Tutor and Accommodation Officer to ensure a rock solid housing ballot for 2017.
- Improve the student-college dialogue, help to make interaction easier, better and more regular. Review the room booking setup with a view to making it smoother and more transparent for Fitz societies and students to use.

Making college life better

- Engage with the MCR to have better interaction and overlap in cooperation/events

Katie McCoshan

Experience:

- Current JCR ents exec, doing Fresher's Week and Fitz Up - respond to issues quickly such as reduction of ents to 3 rather than 4 members and having to redistribute roles quickly over the summer. Enjoys leadership as was head girl at school
- Does geography so have the time to commit!
- Organised, enthusiastic and good at listening. The role of pres is to liaise between students and college, I feel I have a strong relationship with them already. Approachable and happy to stop and talk to people about any issues they have whenever.

What I want to do:

- Track what is happening in JCR sub-committees by informally meeting fortnightly to keep things in check, solve any issues and make sure promises are kept
- What is being discussed to be more accessible by encouraging to attend open meetings for important issues e.g. housing, and meeting minutes available online
- Keep the anonymous poll from freshers week to respond to questions and queries directly
- Try to extend buttry times in the week and café food to be available in the bar e.g. paninis
- Recent issues with TV show how often room is used so want to make an even better space - possibly of BT Sport

Jaz Stoddart

My primary areas of concern all appear to be small things because for the most part Fitz runs very well. These concerns however are:

Internet -both availability and quality, notifications when you exceed threshold values of daily use - which appears to have been lost since last year along with access to fitz acad in college for general use.

The availability of more sheltered cycle parking, including in the primary bike parks at the north and south plodges which go completely unsheltered.

Open communication on all issues that are relevant to the student body by college and JCR such as the subtle increase in buttry food prices that occurs this year that was not clearly communicated.

Matters of this kind should be brought to the attention of the student body in advance even in situations where there is no scope for negotiation.

Transparency of the proceedings of the JCR – not something new but something to be maintained.

As for my qualifications for the position. I have no current commitments outside of my studies and thus have a wealth of time available and a willingness to dedicate my time to the college. (I have experience in areas of this kind from school as a House Captain) I enjoy the formality and bureaucracy of meetings and thus will not shirk my duties. I intend to keep people to their word and as such will chase up members of the JCR to keep their election promises.

I am approachable and hopefully represent an informal and friendly face who always has time to stop and talk.

Nivvi Yalamarathi

Background:

- Has been working hard already to come up with ideas, shows dedication
- Understand the ways communication comes into college
- Knows how to put points across to college staff
- Can come in with a new fresh outlook
- Events officer for Scotts soc – ran events last year

Lots of ideas:

- suggestions/ideas box so when people are playing pool can easily put on in
- suggestions box in the buttery + make buttery time half an hour longer
- buttery portion sizes – increased sizes
- NUS – having a poll, either on facebook, separate website to vote onto
- Regular film nights (have an opportunity to talk to and interact with JCR 30 mins before the film starts)
- Ideas sub-committee: elect people to actually come up with others strategies or technological solutions to things like improving housing ballot and making Fitzmas ticketing more streamlined
- Get freshers pack out much earlier - particularly for international freshers
- College stash
- College cat
- Alumni contact portal
- Comedy night/Speakeasy in week 5
- Bouncy castle
- Ice cream in the café
- Easy access to booking extra nights in college (e.g portal on website)
- Cafe vouchers for JCR
- Access to Hoover/mop on corridors and houses

Q&A Session:

When college does something like getting rid of Fitz-acad how would you deal with it?

Nivvi – would be important to have a meeting straight away with clear communication between the students and college about why and how the situation has occurred, then discuss how to move on and get the information across to the students. Make sure steps are taken to ensure the same issue with communication doesn't occur again, important to focus on 'you shouldn't have done that, *but* also important to focus on how we move on from this point.'

Katie – seconded what Nivvi says, important that college find an alternative ASAP if they haven't done something quickly/informed us properly

Carl – everything has already been said comprehensively, would add that there are fortnightly meetings in place with the bursar and domestic bursar – essentially here it would be important to raise the lack of communication college have given and find an alternative. Key is IT to actually do their jobs.. sorting out

Katie – added in just go straight to IT and cut out the middle man

Jaz – agreed with the above, he personally keeps a folder of screenshots with internet speedm the date and time any time theres an issue with wifi within the college. He has 30/40 unanswered tickets hes ready to use to his advantage

What would you do re stolen board games situation?

Jaz – open up an amnesty, then be harsher – removal of the availability of those facilities for a period, then phase back in

Katie – agrees, potentially spam the facebook page until someone gives in

Carl – this was brought up last year within the JCR President elections and the answer was to close the JCR or take away the pool balls.. unsure if this is the tactic to take

Nivvi – hard thing to deal with as you want everyone to access, petition it, at the end of the day it is inevitable can only do your best

How would you deal with a college wide issue potentially culminating in a vote at CUSU that no one in college is responding to? You've already sent emails and posted on the facebook group and only 2 people came to your open meeting.

Katie – at the end of the day you can't force people to engage, if they aren't going to use the channels you've put forward there's much else you can do

Jaz – you take the input you've been given, however much input you've got

Nivvi – post on the facebook group/email 'this is what I'm going to say at CUSU from what ive gathered from your input', that way its clear to all how their input is being played out at university level

Carl – now that we've got a systematic group with everyone in (Official Fitz), this should be really good to ease being able to communicate within the year group

Katie – have an anonymous form where people can have input if they want

"I get so many emails and facebook posts each day that I don't check them all regularly, in fact I read like 30% of what's on Official Fitz, is there a way to get communication out more efficiently?"

Carl – if you don't want to engage with the JCR despite the fact we want to engage with you, we have open meetings every week, we email, we post and we try to be clear, if you don't want to engage there's not much you can do, difficult when you're putting on a platform for all

Nivvi – using facebook events to convey what's going on could help, could add issues into the events too, e.g. add in info to the top of a film night facebook event so that people read whats going on/at the beginning of events update them on JCR happenings

How would you deal with a situation in which a friend of yours within the JCR receives a formal complaint, how would you deal with that situation?

Katie - Pass the feedback on and reason with them

Nivvi – you're not in the role of friend you're in the role of pres

Jaz – if you cant solve the problem with reason delegate it to someone you trust like a VP who doesn't have a personal conflict of interests

Carl – have to be honest straightforward and polite as you can

How would you deal with JCR members not doing their job properly/attending meetings regularly?

Carl – we are in the process of establishing JCR perks, essentially carrot and stick, you get all of these perks if you apply on the JCR if you start not doing your job then they lessen

Katie – work on an hours based system, where people who have done the least amount of hours work more bops and events, if struggling with workload get them to delegate

Nivvi – café vouchers, if you've done a certain amount of events then you get a free hot chocolate etc., cutting back on the perks if you cannot come to the meetings

Jaz – agrees with the above

Katie and Nivvi how are you going to go about getting the budget for these extra expenses you have suggested?

Katie – redistribution of how money is given out in that way/applying for more grants if its something that really really wanted

Nivvi – looking at all the committees want, what the budget is, if its too much then prioritise the bigger events over the smaller things, reason with college why its so important and then you get what you want

What would be your leadership style, would you look to be a very visible face in Fitz and what would you do if you started getting to many facebook messages/requests from individuals?

Katie – if you're getting too many people coming to you then it shows you're approachable, if it's getting to much pass it on to someone else (e.g. welfare/disabilities officer), important to be a visible face in college though

Nivvi – having an hour each week where you sit in the café, come to me with problems, then if it's getting too much make a portal in which they can submit questions etc, reduces the workload

Carl – one of the hustings promises carl made is that he would have a ticketing and other problems platform/question sheet and you would share that responsibility with the VP, so that would solve this problem and you would remain visible

Jaz – digital platform a really good idea, however, doesn't think there was ever a time he was too busy to talk to, could implement office hours say between 8am-5pm every Sunday I'll be in a set location for example, if you have any queries, move the window around so it falls in a predictable sequences, so it doesn't coincide with any lectures etc. so people are always able to approach you

Clare JCR had an issue that got picked up by several newspapers, due to problems with emails, how would you deal with a situation like that?

Jaz – so long as it doesn't reflect badly among the college, doesn't mind bad press about himself, will either ride out the storm or respond accordingly, if it reflects badly on the college he would do everything that he could to do damage control, wouldn't want it to reflect badly upon wonderful Fitz

Nivvi – being careful not to take it personally, sending around a well-worded email explaining what actually happened so that they know the truth from your side at least

Katie – Clare issue was definitely blown out of proportion, important to set the record straight, calm the situation

Carl – exactly what everyone's said, collect information about what actually happened as far as you can, anyone in that year group/other year groups who have been affected, getting the story straight, seeing what damage has already being done then calmly being dealt with the situation, making sure college are aware of what you think at the time – going to speak to Paul C about the situation as college will be contacted as well. Want to be on the same page at all times.

Are any of you concerned that this election is more of a popularity contest but people don't know about them outside of this room?

Jaz – 'I don't have popularity so it's not a risk'

Carl – trying to disseminate in a fair way what has been said, essentially all 4 of us know what the role is, we all have similar time commitments, we want everyone to engage with what has been said, not the fault of the JCR if people are ill-informed, hard to do anything if people don't actively engage

Katie – keep emails clear and bullet pointed

Nivvi – post on the fitz group, putting ballons up in the JCR

If you didn't get pres would you run for something else?

Carl – yes, would apply for VP again, would hope that you could instil confidence in him for a second term

Katie – probably not, this and the Ents only ones she would really commit to, role of JCR President is really important to her

Nivvi – not yet sure, like being on the JCR, would really like this role yet to consider other roles

Jaz – willing to apply wherever there was space and where he thought could do a good job, has time he wants to give back