

## JCR Meeting 3 – 17<sup>th</sup> February 2019

### Present

Ellie Brain (President), Emily Insanally (Vice President), Becky Reilly, Alex Burns, Henry Sainsbury, Daniel Ellis, Alexandra Nikolin, Cerian Craske, Priya Kaler, Poppy Blackshaw, Emily Baker-Thurston, Ben Tudor, Ben Bristow, Duessa Bandeen, Harriet Bradnock, Caolan McConnaughie, Zayn Richards, George Richmond, Rob Watts, Irene Jessel, Marc Foxhall, Justin Yu, Leon Reason, Finn Manders, Iona Mac, Connor Dwyer

### Apologies

Dmitry Bashtanov, Andrew Salkeld, Dan Carter, Yaron Bernstein

Note: The President made all points recorded in these minutes, except for those stated otherwise.

***Please note: these minutes do not use direct quotes, but instead accurate representations of the contributions made by JCR members.***

***For the specific content of CUSU Motions, please follow this link:***

***<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/4nu12apduy7s3q9/AACHns4RoOwp7K-fxOqjy18Ya?dl=0>***

### 1. Round The Room

**President** – Has been involved in rent negotiations (see item 2); Dean meeting with aim to make a list of rules of what students can be deaned for; discussion with Senior Tutor for better counselling service; lobbying for rooms for disabled access to be no extra charge than other rooms; complaints have been received about JCR surveys so President asks if they can be proof-read by her before publication; notice of JCR swap at Jesus College in March

**Ents** – Henry gave thanks to all who have helped with recent events. More events are coming up including Family Pub Quiz (hosted by Becky), and Fitz Sessions next Friday (hosted by Ben Tudor)

**Charities** – Have hosted the charity pub quiz night - £60 was raised

**Disabilities and Mental Health** – Starting ‘Drink and Draw’ very soon; Held meeting with Daniel Carter (Website Officer) for section on the website; Drop-in sessions continue

**Women and NB** – Continue to invite speakers for the International Women’s Day formal

**Ethical** – Meetings have been held with housekeeping about recycling in college and compost scheme (especially for college houses).

**Education** – College Education Committee meeting to take place on Wednesday

**Target and Access** – Social hosted on 16<sup>th</sup> Feb (Finn); Looking into improving access for estranged students (Zayn)

**Clubs and Societies** – Reviewing Sports Awards applications

**International** – Joint karaoke event with the Anglo-Japanese Society on 28<sup>th</sup> February; Initiating working with other International Officers, especially those of Hill Colleges

**Publications** – Meeting Development Office to give old photos and archive material for Goat Post

**BAME** – Hosted first discussion group; BME survey; Looking into BME/LGBT collaboration

**Welfare** – Messages to come in Week 6 (Du vessa); Valentines cookies a success (Du vessa); Fitz Tutorial survey is ready to go out (George)

**Vice President** - Housing Ballot is now underway; working on website improvements for Housing Ballot with Dan Carter (Website Officer); reminder email about Housing Ballot to be sent out; Request to please contact Emily (Vice-President) if you have any questions about the Housing Ballot

## 2. Rent Update

College wanted 5% rent increase annually over next 5 years. We have brought this down to 3.5% for this next year. This is not as low as we like, but the best we can do.

Minimum Meals Charge will fall a little bit, and also Kitchen Fixed Charge will not rise this year.

Affordable rent policy follows NUS guidelines.

Half of third year rooms will be taken down a rent band, meanwhile first year blocks A, B and C will rise one band (about £4 a week).

Changes to rent for 124 Huntingdon Road and 77 Oxford Road. L Block shall also be changing rent.

R Block is to receive college's sincere apology for lack of renovation.

Price list to be out in the next couple of weeks, awaiting bursar approval.

## 3. Family Trees

**Henry (Ents)** – asks if anyone would be interested in creating a trace-back of Fitz college families by using the wedding book and possibly digitalising it?

**Emily (VP)** – Notes this could take time but could be a good project

Wide agreement this is a good idea for when people have time to do it.

## 4. Ents Environmental Guidelines

**Alexandra (Ethical)** – Ethical Affairs have created environmental guideline policies centred around events. Want JCR Executives to approve relevant policies from it for their committees' work (Ents has already approved it).

**Ethical** - Meeting with the bar for trialling paper cups instead of plastic, and Ents should definitely be using paper cups as per the guidelines.

**Ethical** ask can everyone on the JCR please read the guidelines before next meeting so we can discuss if there are any questions/issues.

## 5. JMA Technical Equipment

This agenda item has been moved to the next meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March due to unavoidable absence of Dmitry (Technical Officer)

## 6. Religious Emails

**Henry (Ents)** - Complaints have been made about the Chaplain sending out explicitly Christian emails to all students, regardless of beliefs or none. There is currently no opt-out or opt-in system to his emails. We must remember he has a welfare role too.

**George (Welfare)** – Happy to bring this up with him.

**Dan Ellis (Disabilities/Mental Health)/Duessa (Welfare)** – Suggested maybe a sign up at societies fair, or sign-up to mailing list.

## 7. Laundry

(This discussion comes in light of issues surrounding the removal of students' clothes from washing and drying machines against their will – please note comments below *are not* exact quotes, but representations of the debate and points made by individuals)

**Irene (Food and Beverages)** – Students should set a timer and pick it up on time to prevent this.

**Emily Baker-Thurston (Ents)** – If you have genuine reason to not pick it up straight away, perhaps leave a note?

**Alexandra (Ethical)** – The use of a note could excuse leaving laundry for a very long time.

**Duessa (Welfare)** – Other colleges use launderable bags (where you place your clothes in a bag and they are washed in the bag), so students would then only be removing a bag not the individual clothes.

**President** – Notes it is important to discuss this topic in terms of people who are uncomfortable or irritated, and also on cultural and religious grounds.

**George (Welfare)** – We could maybe make a form to have people voice their complaints?

**President** – The JCR has had too many forms recently, it could be better to have anonymous emails sent?

**Duessa (Welfare)** – Notes that this is a welfare issue. Maybe the initial debate shouldn't have been on Official Fitz Group as the debate got confrontational.

**President** – If something is reported on Official Fitz, it can get removed.

**Alexandra (Ethical)** – Put up a very clear poster that you should set a timer and use a bag. This isn't clear as a rule or etiquette sometimes.

**Marc (T&A)** – If we can get laundry bags, they should be available to anyone.

(A further discussion was had as to whether we subsidise the price of launderable bags for all students, but make them free for those with religious/cultural concerns on this issue)

**President** - We should see how much money we can get first, and then have discussions on creating rules fitting around that.

**President** – Action to be taken is to post on Official Fitz Group about this and get posters to say to set a timer and bring a washing bag. We will then move forward with launderable bag idea. The poster will also make clear complaints procedure will be to email JCR.

## 8. Scholar's Ballot

Fitzwilliam is one of only 7 Cambridge Colleges which still have the Scholar's Ballot. It is noted that very few people use it.

**Finn (T&A)** – It looks bad to potential applicants to have this as it appears old fashioned and that students are pressured to get a first.

**Poppy (Education)** – It is on the agenda for the Education Committee. Poppy asks how many people have used the scholar's ballot?

**Emily (VP)** – Will find out the figures for this.

**Irene (Food and Beverages)** – Makes point it could act as an incentive to work hard for some people

**Duessa (Welfare)** – Argues you can work hard and still not get a first, so it is not an indicator of intelligence or hard work.

**Ben Bristow (Charities)** – If the college wishes to incentivise scholar's benefits, it should be more clear to students what these benefits are.

**Becky (Ents)** – Highlights that MML scholars but don't the benefit of the scholar's ballot due to year abroad.

**Leon (Publications)** – Not all firsts are equal either due to exams mattering in some years and not others across different tripos.

**George (Welfare)** – Apparently students are more likely to get firsts in science/math's courses than written subjects due to subjectivity.

**Emily Baker-Thurston (Ents)** – A system based on firsts doesn't take into account how tough people's years could have been. It could make people split from friends etc

**Caolan (Societies)** – Asks about organ scholars and JCR President also being raised in the ballot. Do we want to scrap all scholars, or consider them separately to academic scholar ballot?

**Vote** – Does the JCR believe the Scholar's Ballot should be abolished at Fitzwilliam?

For – 23

Against – 2

Abstain – 1

The motion carries.

## **9 – CUSU Motions**

### *Proposed Ordinary Policy Motion 6a – Motion to resolve international applicant access difficulty*

**Caolan (Societies)** – Do we maybe need to consider people living a long way away from Cambridge within Britain? This can also be very expensive.

**Emily Baker-Thurston (Ents)** – Agrees with this. Has had the difficulty of train times back to Devon, with interview ended up taking 5 days away from home. Fitz only covered when staying in Fitz, so accrued cost of hotels and travel.

**Finn (T&A)** – For applicants who would be bursary students, believes there is a scheme to pay for it.

No amendment to be put forward by the JCR with regards to domestic students issues since this is a specifically international student campaign. An alternative motion for support for domestic students attending interviews could be put forward.

Vote on Motion 6a:

For – 25

Against – 0

Abstain – 0

The motion carries unanimously.

### *Proposed Ordinary Motion 6b – Motion to resolve inter-college discrepancy in international student vacation storage and accommodation provision*

**President** – Storage for students is not just an international issue, domestic students can need it too. Indicates she is happy to write up an amendment or separate motion to consider them. Asks that we either approve this and propose entirely new motion on this at future council, or amend this motion.

**Finn (T&A)** – Maybe the JCR should also deal with this on a Fitz level (for example, finding a room that could be used as storage over holidays?).

**Alexandra (Ethical)** – spoke to Stephen Sawiak, who has suggested that students could store things in friends' rooms?

**President** – Asks if the JCR vote on this (and have new motion from us), or propose an amendment to it?

**Connor (Secretary)** – As this is a motion proposed by iCUSU, it should remain as it is and a new motion proposed

The room agreed we want to vote on the motion as it is, then make a new motion

Vote on motion 6b:

For – 25

Against – 0

Abstain – 0

The motion carries unanimously.

*Proposed Standing Order Changes 7a – Democracy Review*

Two proposals have been put forward to reform CUSU's structure in order to optimise its democratic functioning. The following is a debate and vote on whether to adopt Proposal A, Proposal B, or to reject both.

**President** – There will be a vote on one proposal over the other, we shall then vote on whether we support the winner of the initial vote.

**President** – Claims she thinks Proposal B would sway CUSU Council even further away from MCR since often MCR don't turn up in same numbers as JCR.

**Duversa (Welfare)** – We should make voting representatives of colleges proportionate to the balance between undergraduates and post-graduates in each college, as opposed to just 2 votes each to JCR/MCR.

Vote to support Proposal A over Proposal B:

For – 23

Against – 0

Abstain – 2

The motion carries.

**Finn (T&A)** - Made point of highlighting the importance of having Part-Time Execs separate to Sabbatical Officers in elections.

**Dan Ellis (Disabilities/Mental Health)** – Asks is there a way to make an amendment to make voting based proportionate upon undergraduate/post-graduate split?

**President** - This has come up before among CUSU as you get 2 votes and colleges can decide how to split them

Vote to change CUSU structure to that of Proposal A:

For – 0

Against – 18

Abstain – 7

The motion fails.

**AOB**

**Henry (Ents)** – Notes there is a proposal to the GPC to pay stewards in some way.

Meeting adjourned 18:03