

## JCR Meeting – October 19<sup>th</sup> 2019

### Present

Ellie Brain (President), Andrew Salkeld, Connor Dwyer, Duessa Bandeen, Apriya Millan, Finn Manders, George Richmond, Poppy Blackshaw, Justin Yu, Marc Foxhall, Ben Tudor, Cerian Craske, Priya Kaler, Caolan McConnaughie, Zayn Richards, Harriet Bradnock, Alexandra Nikolin, Dmitry Bashtanov, Daniel Ellis, Daniel Carter, Ben Bristow

### Apologies

Henry Sainsbury, Emily Baker-Thurston, Iona Mac, Irene Jessel

Note: The President made all points recorded in these minutes, except for those stated otherwise. Minutes are not direct quotations from those present, unless stated.

### **1. Round The Room (Freshers Week Feedback)**

President: Will be looking into how the JCR can seek further support from Porters and College staff with events set-up and moving equipment. This is unpaid and unrewarded work for students and JCR members currently. Freshers' Week changes shall be debated and voted on in next week's meeting since Henry Sainsbury has sent apologies to this meeting.

Andrew – Workshops should be held earlier in the week rather than at weekend to ensure maximum attendance and fewer clashes.

Harriet – Notes that environment workshops were a success

Alexandra – Notes that the compost scheme has been a success

Daniel Carter – Suggests that Staircase Dinners should either be much better organised or scrapped altogether since they rarely happen. Also suggests that Societies Fair email should be sent to Graduate students as well as undergraduate since some societies overlap between the two.

Caolan – Gown Sale and Freshers Fair should be in separate space as it made the room hectic. Also asks that Sports Societies should send the Sports and Societies role holder dates of their trials during and around Freshers Week so that they can be advertised. Use college parents system to help with practical things such as support in cooking, using college facilities etc.

Daniel Ellis – Must double check that dates of events in Freshers Week do not clash with religious events and days

Justin – Notes he underspent on Freshers Week and as such will spend more this term

Cerian – Need to make it clearer that workshops are compulsory, and we have to find out who is not attending and ensure they do.

Zayn – We need to make sure there are more events for non-drinkers

Dmitry – Responds and adds that we should also not make the bar crawl and board games night on the same day since it creates a clear separation between drinkers and non-drinkers when, in fact, both are welcome at each event.

George – Need to be more organised in getting welfare packs out

Marc – Consider moving mixer events (eg. those for BME, Class Act, LGBT+, etc) to the week after Freshers Week since there is overload of events in that week and clashes of events, as such mixer events are poorly attended.

Duessa – Notes laundry drop-in sessions have been successful and popular. Suggests that cooking drop-ins could be useful next year.

## **2. Liberation Officers**

Rensa (guest) – Has been looking through JMA Standing Orders and notes that the JCR has been operating in contravention of some Standing Orders.

The first is Standing Order 4o, which means that roles can only be filled by one member.

Andrew – This rule has only been applied to the Executive Committee. Joint role holders have existed in the Full Committee for past few years.

A vote to change Standing Order 4o to allow for joint role holders was taken:

The motion passed unanimously

Rensa (guest) – Notes that in the Standing Orders, the number of Executive Committee members must remain constant, but the JCR can change how many Sub-Committee Officers there are, with only a two-thirds majority of the JCR Executive required. If the JCR wishes to create a new Liberation Officer before the upcoming elections, this should be discussed quickly.

Poppy – Notes this could be useful in recruiting Freshers' Reps under the Ents Sub-Committee

Rensa (guest) – Proposes changing the Standing Orders to lay down as a set rule that the Welfare Sub-Committee Liberation Officer roles should only be held by members who self-identify to the community their role represents. Furthermore, suggests that only those who self-identify with the community of their relevant Liberation Officer(s) should be eligible to vote for them, as opposed to the entire student body.

Duessa – Argues that this shouldn't be made a Standing Order since self-identifying on such a large platform may 'out' people or alienate some from running.

Finn – Notes that she would rather that no one run than having the role represented by someone who does not belong to the role's community.

Dmitry – Notes that if made a Standing Order, we must ensure it applies to by-elections too

Andrew – questions how self-identification is to be pleased in candidacy and voting

President – notes that it would not be policed, since that is the nature of self-identification

Ben Tudor – Notes that self-identification is based on trust in these circumstances

Andrew – Responds by suggesting that if it cannot be policed, then it cannot be a rule, but only guidance. Only the Returning Officer or JMA could possibly enforce.

Caolan – Suggests that once the JCR Executive is elected, if there are no candidates for a Liberation role, then the Executive must decide what to do with the role.

Daniel Carter/President – Both suggest the Welfare Executive member shall be in charge until a by-election

Duversa – Highlights this could lead to misrepresentation for a while

Justin – Says that International Officer role could be managed by a non-international student for a time, since someone needs to run Freshers Week in the role

Vote - On whether Liberation Officer candidates in the elections hereafter must self-identify in the community of the role they seek to represent?

For – 18

Against – 2

Abstain - 2

The motion passes; JMA Standing Orders shall be altered to reflect these changes

Wordings of Standing Order alterations and a discussion on voting for Liberation Officers shall be discussed at the next JCR meeting.

Duversa/Finn – Propose that the Class Act Officer is incorporated into the Target and Access Sub-Committee

Vote – To place the Class Act Officer in the Target and Access Sub-Committee

Passed Unanimously

### **3. Treasurer Time**

Andrew – Currently running a £60 loss but should break even soon. A reason for this is selling gowns cheaper than in previous years. If any extras are needed by JCR Officers, they can request extra funds. Encourages JCR Officers to spend to their budget.

### **4. Winter Wonderland**

Winter Wonderland is an alternative to a ball. It is expected to happen this year, but it isn't in fact a regular event.

We have about £600 (down from £2000 for the previous one) to spend. Call for ideas

Alexandra – Notes the event must follow Environmental Guidelines

Caolan – Will work with FCMS to get music acts

## **5. JCR Funding 2020**

The MCR gets double the budget of the JCR, and Fitzwilliam JCR has a budget only a tenth of the average JCR. It is worth noting that St Johns JCR receive 32x as much funding per student than Fitzwilliam.

We have to make a strong case for a larger budget; President asks the JCR members for ideas of how they could benefit from a larger budget. Ideas from around the room were as follows:

Another Technical Officer to support events

More moon cups

Additional speakers for FemSoc

More events for International students

Ability to incentivise room donations for the shadowing scheme

Further JCR incentives to work

Return of Puppy Therapy

Further recycling bins, compost bins, and a speaker for Green Formal

Mental health speakers

Expansion of Goat Post printing

Improvements to the JCR room

More social events

Sanitary bins provision

Invest in Bops

Free STI tests

Poppy – we should ask for double our current budget as a minimum

Caolan – Notes to the room that the argument made against further JCR funding is that the JMA pays for college facilities such as the free gym, which is used overwhelmingly by undergraduates.

Andrew – Will be bringing to the JCR meeting of the 26<sup>th</sup> October proposals to take control of JCR bank account.

## **6. Role of Tutors**

Poppy – We don't know how Tutors are trained. We need to find out and then assess if this is good enough.

Duessa – Suggests Tutors should act as career advisors too and advertise extra courses that students can take

President – Will put up an online form to submit suggestions and complaints about the Tutor system to be put forward to the Senior Tutor

George – Notes to the room that Tutors get only one compulsory training session with voluntary sessions held throughout the year. We do not know the quality or take-up of these sessions.

#### **7. College Committee Timings**

College hold committee meetings outside of term time which raises concern about JCR members attendance and cost of attendance.

President will raise the changing of committee dates or the possibility of covering costs of travel and accommodation for students invited to attend.

#### **8. Life Coach**

(This agenda item was removed)

#### **9. Chapel Opening Hours**

It was unanimously agreed by those in the room to insist on 24 hour opening of the Chapel

#### **10. D,E,F Refurbishment**

Notes that the refurbishment of staircases D, E and F is to take place this coming summer. 9-person corridors shall become 7-person to accommodate new, larger social space.

We need to think about what to do to counter the loss of rooms, and also an open call for suggestions on what should be in the refurbished corridors and rooms.

#### **11. Air Hockey Table and Football Table**

(Agenda item deferred to next meeting)

#### **12. AOB**

Poppy – People who got firsts last year were promised £175 cash and £175 deduction from college bill have not received their deduction in this college bill, but shall do in the next college bill

President – wish to restart 'Fitz Crush Friday'

Duversa – Offers to take this on

Daniel Carter – Looking for feedback on the new website design.