

JCSU ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the OGM of the JCSU on 3rd May 2016 at 7pm in the Webb Library.

Present: the President (Daisy Eyre), the Vice-President (Ellen Parker), the Treasurer (Katherine Boucher), the Secretary (Jamie Sandall), the Services Officer (Christina Lane), the Communications Officer (George Thompson), the Green Officer (Tim Lennox), the Access Officer, (Amelia Oakley), the Welfare Officers (Joe Hamilton & Rebecca Lewis), the Women's officer (Abigail Smith), the Ents Officers (Anthony Graff & Izzy Macauslin), the LGBT+ Officer (Andy Burnett) and the Racial Equalities Officer (Ore Ogunbiyi).

1. Executive reports of actions since last OGM

AB – rainbow formal, and general welfare stuff

JS – organising meetings, setting up new societies, organised fresher's fair, helped with budget

AG/IM – started on Ents committee this term, organising bops and formals

CL – organised the garden party, met with Manciple over ongoing catering issues, overseeing move to West Court, Café to open next week, bar to move next term

TL – set up Green Soc, mostly-meet free Monday, food collections

GT – grid of faces for fresher's, weekly bulletin, work on the website

EC – n/a

KB – finalised the budget, doing receipts, looking into funding

AO – assigned college families, completed alternative agenda, access social and recruited new ambassadors

ASm – organised all the consent workshops, sending out women's bulletins, working with femsoc

EP – meeting with master, coordinating fresher's weeks, in contact with makers of university challenge to organise team

MHD – n/a

RL/JH – drop-ins, supporting welfare team, leasing with musical society about week 5 recital, welfare pone relaunched

DE – aside from official reports: dealing with NUS delegate vote and referendum on class lists – encouraged to vote in both. In last hour or so email from dean, had a meeting with senior members of the college who expressed concern about behaviour at formal. No so concerned about behaviour but apparently a small minority of people have been making the staff feel uncomfortable. Want to alert the college to these issues, encourage awareness.

Reports: fresher's week dominated the start of this term, dealing with newspapers, formal hall ticket transfer policy, been to various council and college committee meetings, JCSU garden party at the end of last year. Encourages those interested in standing for the JCSU to attend the AGM and ask the committee any questions. Quality of life survey upcoming, will go to caff frequently over the coming weeks and talk to people there

OO – event for black history month with CUSU BME campaign, liased with dean over anti-Semitism issue

2. Members' questions to the Executive

Matthew Sample – picking up on DE’s point, I understand behaviour hasn’t perhaps been appropriate to staff, but I’ve heard from a number of people that college has been much stricter. Tone of Dean’s email was a little unpleasant (permits for parties and alcohol ban). I appreciate there are problems, but formal hall is an institution in Jesus and the atmosphere has changed. Do you have anything to say in regards to that?

DE – had a challenging meeting, I love formal and I wasn’t prepared for the meeting to be about that.

Ellie Williams – why have the fellows stopped leaving?

AO – only sometimes

DE – they should be leaving still

MS – case when three people were sent out in one formal because the fellows decided to stay to the end. We spend money to go there. There is a balancing act, they do hold the cards here.

DE – I can send an email to that end

Lavinia Abele – depends how much room they have in the parlour that night for desert

DE – they started cracking down before they told anyone, which I don’t think is fair

Sophie O’Riley – been rushed out quite quickly on a number of occasions 8:40 (feels very rushed, like they’re trying to get us out as soon as possible)

DE – that is the Manciple

EP – the staff don’t get paid after 10PM which is why they move people along at 9:15

3. Junior Treasurer report on JCSU Enterprise Account

KB – CL has been looking after

CL – we basically used it to pay for the drinks and the stalls at the Garden party, used to buy/sell gowns in freshers’ week, used for ents (pub crawl tickets etc.)

4. Ordinary Motions

(a) Changing the name of the position of racial equalities officer

OO – about changing the name of my role. Reads motion. Changing provided passes through this OGM

EP – seconded?

AB – yes

Daniel Patton – when I got the email through about this I was trying to work out why you would want to change, my dad is Indian. Equalities sounds more all-encompassing. Starting with 'black' makes it seem more important. BME when search government of people say it is an outdated term. Personally I don't think we should follow if government thinks is out of date. BME doesn't necessarily include religious minorities. I don't think we should be following suit, as it doesn't do what you describe your role to be.

BME - isn't perfect, lacks nuance and lumps people who aren't white. Considering BAME. It's not black as a race black but as politically black, i.e. not being white which does include being Indian, Asian. Makes distinction between those who are white and non-white. I think it's still one up from racial equalities. Everyone has a race, ensuring 'racial equality' is a problem as my role exists for minorities within the university. The problem about not encompassing religions is valid, my initial choice was mainly for the sake of coherence. I would hope you would vote on it in light of what I'm saying now. Even if BME isn't perfect, it is a one up from racial equalities because it reminds that it is specifically for minority representation. We have a lot in common when being in a white dominated place like this.

DP – BME one level up from racial equalities. I didn't realise the point about politically black, it makes more sense. If in 5 years' time we're going to have to change again?

OO – if you have an amendment that can include religious minorities as well then do. I only would stick with BME for the sake of coherence, when I do the BME forums people from religious minorities do identify with it. If you have an amendment you should propose it.

DP – in light of that I will propose an amendment, title of role to include this religious element: Religious and minority ethnic (RME)

MS – perhaps this has raised the fact there should be a consultation with people who represent with these identities

JS – has to be passed tonight if to be in place for next election

ASm – agenda was sent out in advance, I don't know how much more you can do

AO – want to voice support for OO, makes a lot of sense in Cambridge lot of organisations set up around this term. Just with the religious element there is a religious majority, by changing you have the same issue, there is a huge minority/majority issue. Makes more sense to catch up with University, then move on

OO – as much as I agree that religion should be incorporated, that amendment doesn't go far enough to attend to the nuance. My fear is that by just saying religious, there is an implication that I am here for all religions. The religious element complicates it because, my role isn't here for certain elements

James Coxon – if you could say your name as religious and minority ethnic?

DP – any order than incorporates these terms. I agree with JC. I think religious should be encapsulated within it

JC – to clarify the role of Racial Equalities Officer, BME doesn't necessarily achieve this. People might not feel as comfortable identifying with BME

KB – definitely an openly Christian country, but certain sects to face difficulties. I think it's worth remembering there are lots of different sects

EW – what it intersects with, certain religions haven't faced oppression. UK is commonly known as a Christian country. I can't speak for all Christians, but I don't think it's a problem

SO – I don't think this role contained any religious tone beforehand, I think introducing a religious tone would change the role. If you're representing racial minorities does that necessary qualify you to represent religious minorities

OO – has come to incorporate Arab people, and in turn Muslims who are Arab. My role isn't meant to be specifically religious but a lot of the problems Muslims face is down to how religion entwines with race. There are a lot of racial implications that put them under the representation of my role

SO – it gets a bit complicated when you start you start secting off certain religions. It seems like it can get a bit exclusive in a way towards certain religions if you're going to try and group them together

DE – who on the JCSU would campaign for a prayer room. There should be a person whose job that is. I would put OO role as being for those kind of issues that are definitely religious

RL – I think there is an also an issue for Jewish students in particular, given issues in CUSU etc. there should be a person they feel they can go to

DP – assumed based on the email that religion was part of the role, perhaps it ought to be. If it is a religious matter they would go to you, this should be actively encouraged

GT – fundamentally in wanting to change from racial equalities to BME is clearly a representation role rather than ensuring equality between one and all. As it becomes a representative role, need to make sure who you're representing. In BME, minority can be quite an expansive term that can include a lot of things such a role is supposed to stand for. Clearly a description of what it stands for and does could go a long way

SO – people coming to Cambridge might see the BME officer and feel they can be represented. Racial equalities officer doesn't seem to have an importance that other issues do, I suppose it is something you could assert as part of your role rather than in your name

DE – reason for keeping as BME: term ethnic not equivalent to race. It's meaning does encompass more religious issues, culture rather than skill colour. Issue with putting religious

in the term, not a role that is designed to discuss scripture. Role is not or philosophical issues.

EP – no questions

DP – would like to amend to amendment to ‘Ethnic and religious minorities officer’

EP – vote on amendment

Yes – 29

Abstentions - 7

No – 18

EP – passes not first OGM this passes through. Vote on passing the amendment.

Yes – 39.5

Abstentions - 10

No – 0

EP – amendment passes. Will be voted on at AGM in two weeks

(b) Self-Defining Voting for the position of Racial Equalities Officer/BME Officer

EP – still called racial equalities officer for purposes of this discussion. Proposed by OO, seconded by AB. This has passed through last OGM, if it passes tonight it will become JCSU policy. Additionally, if possible can we keep this discussion confined so we can get on to the budget

OO – reads motion. standing order will go through anyway it is for the role not the name

EW – would make the point of doing something similar with the LGBT+ officer

AB – this came up in last one as well, I would be uncomfortable doing this as people come to university not necessarily identifying

DE – that had been suggested

Charlotte MacDonald – if you’re going to restrain who you vote, we voted for you because we thought you would do a great job on committee not just for specific on role. I don’t identify with minorities so I have less say on opinion on committee

OO – in the same way that ASm is only voted for by women and non-binary people she still votes on things that are not necessarily related to this. I can full-fill role on JCSU and also attend to other issues. Identifying as a woman is just as important as identifying as a minority

ASm – elected by and work for women and non-binary people in college, other functions are secondary to this

AO – because it's a representational role, its wrong to try and deny that people who identify with these issues are not better placed to pick someone to represent them. There are some people who are better placed to vote

SO – can just become a popularity contest, specific concerns can be outweighed

CM – trying to say in positive way, is this going to extent to disabled officer. If we limit it to just this one role, where does it stop?

OO – you can develop disabilities which was a main issue with EC bringing this up. It's mental you can develop it

RL – also regarding, is disability and mental health – a lot of people don't want to self-identify with the later. Shouldn't be limited to those who have diagnosed

SO – EC's role also has a function to raise awareness, and this shouldn't just be representing those who self-identify

DE – appreciate that is causes a lot of issues, there are a lot of checks and balances. Will not autocratically see other roles adopt this, doesn't mean anything for any of the other roles. It's the call of the next officer

MS – most important thing for me is not that this motion has tried to restrict ability to vote, sets a precedent about the sort of college we want to be. Nobody will be restricted from voting from this role, it's about saying this is the kind of college we want to be

EP – no more questions. Put this to a vote on role that is subject to name change

Yes – 46

Abstain – 2

No – 0

5. BUDGET

EP – not voting to pass the budget, opportunity to consult presidents and captains

KB – main change in budget this year is we have tried to add a lot more liquidity. The money not spend goes into a fund for capital expenditure, is lost to people who want to spend next year. Underspent by nearly £10,000 this money if ring-fenced can't be spent elsewhere. This year having a contingency fund. Will be a useful way for a bit of give and take, and helping set up new societies across the year. New societies, Entrepreneurial Society, Green Society, Peter Mitchell society, Pool society, Sailing Society, Radigund TV, Raising and Giving and Water Polo

EP – any questions? None?

DE – no questions then we pass it next time

CL – if you have questions please raise now

KB – can message over coming weeks if major issue

MS – raising point about the £10,000 underspent surely JCSU could have been better spent if societies hadn't asked for so much. KM worked hard for contingency fund, imagine how much larger could have been if people didn't over reach

6. Emergency motions

n/a

7. Any other business

n/a

Meeting concluded 9PM