

JCSU COMMITTEE 2017

Minutes of a meeting of the JCSU Committee held at 20:00 on 31st January 2017 in Study Centre Room 5.

MINUTES

Present: the President (Katherine Boucher), the Vice-President (Vicky Taylor), the Treasurer (Kirsty McKnight), the Secretary (Max Bowling), the Services Officer (Olivia Argent), the Communications Officer (Caspar Ramsay), the Access Officer (Matthew Kevin Sample), the Green Officer (Lili Bidwell), the Ents Officers (Ollie Brown and Mary Kiernan), the Women's Officer (Alex Rowe), the Welfare Officers (Holly Hamilton and Cormac Devlin), the LGBT+ Officer (Holly Bracewell), the International Officer (Nikhil Dwivedi) and the Ethnic and Religious Minorities Officer (Heval Turel)

Absent: the Mental Health and Disabilities Officer (Sophie O'Reilly)

Committee reports of actions since last meeting:

- KB:** Attended College Council meeting, in which she presented a proposal to display the Rainbow Flag on College gates and to light up the chimney in rainbow colours. At this meeting also seconded Fellows' concerns about Prevent legislation and argued against 1st year results contributing to degree classifications. Attended CUSU Council on 23rd Jan, voting in favour of the NSS boycott and in favour of Unconscious Bias training. Met to discuss the accommodation problem of a shortage of rooms, agreed to a trial of combining the 4th years with the graduate ballot, continued to defend accommodation for 4th years in college. Met boat club to discuss finances.
- VT:** Attended student accommodation meeting. Distributed remaining stash from last term. Corrected issues with JCSU stash order. Continued planning Halfway Hall. Met with Dr Julian Huppert to discuss student involvement in Intellectual Forum.
- KM:** Sorted all Excel documents for this year's budget. Met with boat club to discuss their finance options. Signed off on cheques. Investigated newspapers in college. Sent invoices for hockey club and stash.
- MB:** Co-hosted bar quiz on 21st Jan. In process of sorting Grid of Faces. Attended CUSU council meeting on 23rd January as a proxy for VT. Organised rota for JCR.
- OA:** Set up a meeting with Domestic Bursar and LB to discuss ideas for Caff forum / improving Caff menus. Had a meeting with IT to discuss Wifi problems. Sent a survey to students about college Wifi. Attended student accommodation meeting.
- CR:** Attended Communications committee. Sent out emails. Dealt with student complaints. Referred people on to contacts from the bulletin opportunities.
- MKS:** Running CUSU Shadowing Scheme in college. Organised a family formal for new exchange students. Met with members of JCSU to discuss intersectional aspects of widening participation. Met with SLO to complete handover, plan North East Access Tour and discuss projects for coming year.
- LB:** Wrote and sent out Green bulletin. Had GreenSoc meeting. Organised Streetbite shifts. Organised meeting with OA about Caff food. Spoke to IT about Ecosia search browser. Started organising Green formal. Looked into ideas for Green welfare cake.
- OB/MK:** Talked to Duncan and DJ about a new sound system for the bop rooms, liaising with Ed Clarke to find best options. Continued to sell tickets behind the bar via Duncan for club nights. Spoke to Ethan Axelrod about hosting an LGBT+ Party in the Brewery Room.

- AR: Attended CUSU Women's Officer training. Held first Jesus Women's Forum. Dealt with an allegation of sexual harassment. Sent out Women's bulletins. Planned International Women's Day formal with Domestic Bursar. Been in contact with Senior Tutor regarding sexual harassment policy review. Restocked sanitary products. Organised trips to WomCam events.
- HH/CD: Attended CUSU welfare training. Met college counsellor. Hosted drop-in. Planned next welfare cake. Wrote a bulletin and planned events for the rest of term. In process of redoing Peer2Peer display in library. CD met Domestic Bursar to discuss reusable cups in bar, condom machine, quiz machine, coat rack, team photos, student art. HH wrote and co-hosted bar quiz on 30th Jan.
- SO: Sent out mental health bulletin. Done shifts on the welfare phone. Organised 'mind unwind' for Saturday 4th Feb. Wrote and co-hosted bar quiz on 30th Jan. Started organising student art wall for the bar. Emailed about counselling service. Met with Richard Birkett to discuss disability provision/representation in college. Promoted 'Student Minds' event. Supported students who have asked for support/advice.
- HB: Attended welfare training. Set up 'Coming Out Comments' Survey which has been made into a poster for LGBT+ History month. Met with Dean of Chapel to sort out the chapel event and organise a further chapel event. Met with other LGBT+ officers to discuss joint events. Met with JCSU members to discuss intersectionality of roles. Discussed the lending of flags and bunting with CUSU.
- ND: Organised a welcome event for American exchange students. Contacted other international officers to organise cross-college formals. Planning to hold themed formal this term. Consulted on a possible foreign film night.
- HT: Done shifts on the welfare phone. Currently looking into whether there is demand for a halal staircase.

1. Suggestion form report by OA

N/A

2. Matters arising

(a) Emails sent out by JCSU

CR: Has received a number of complaints from students about too many emails being sent out by the JCSU. Suggests a rota for when bulletins go out. Otherwise if inboxes are overloaded with JCSU emails, people will not read them, which dilutes important issues.

MKS: Notes that the bar quiz email is important, especially to clarify time/location.

MK: Often did not read the various bulletins last year and suggests it might be similar for a lot of students.

CR: Made notes on how often / when various JCSU Committee members want to send an email bulletin round.

MKS: Important to remember that still at start of term when email overloading tends to occur, with briefings of societies/events starting up. Should try not to be too rash.

CR: Instead of bulletins, perhaps a term-card for social events (especially Ents and Welfare events), with maybe a calendar on the JCSU website.

MK: A coherent term-card published on social media would be helpful.

HH: Emails are important to remind people about things going on, e.g. Welfare Cake and quiz.

MB: Asked how many complaints there have been.

CR: 4 complaints so far.

AR: Requested feedback from Committee about Women's bulletin, in particular if it was too dense. (Response was no)

KB: Suggested staggering when emails are sent round, but otherwise no major issues to address. Importance of effective communication with student body, Committee does not believe current volume of emails is excessive.

MKS: Though perhaps more coordination among Committee members when sending emails would still be desirable.

(b) Boat club financing

KB: Raised two issues. The first concerns whether the JCSU should give the boat club its funds after the budget has been approved. This suggestion came from the boat club because of the inconvenience of having to go through multiple layers of bureaucracy when trying to provide payments to suppliers. The second concerns allowing the boat club to keep excess funds (money left unspent from their budget) and roll that over to future years, WITH the proviso that the JCSU has ultimate control over this money and can request it back whenever it needs to.

KM: Noted that the boat club lost some suppliers because of time delays with maintenance. There is a new head boat person at end of this term, hence the proposals relate to the budget at the end of this year.

KB: Would these changes need to be put to an OGM?

MKS: Makes sense for the boat club to have that money if they need it, especially if time is crucial sometimes. Possible future conflict between JCSU and boat club if the JCSU needs to take back some of the money. Seems advisable to say yes to give the boat club the money to spend, but not to take the money back into JCSU control at end would be dangerous.

KB: Bursar and boat club finance person are both at Jesus for the long-term, so it is clear to them that it is JCSU money. No prospect of reneging on commitment in future years.

KM: Key issue is to cover their maintenance costs, which are extremely variable because it depends whenever boats break.

CD: Perhaps the boat club should need to make a special request, e.g. if it spends less one year and wants to spend more the next year.

VT: Asked why the funding should be coming from the JCSU.

KB/LB: JCSU funds maintenance of boat club.

KB: JCSU pays for transport to events, maintenance, etc.

CR: Is it in the JCSU's interest to hide how the money is spent?

ND: Should go through an OGM for transparency reasons.

MKS: It is money that belongs to everyone in college, as much as it belongs to the JCSU and boat club.

KM: Rob Shepherd (boat club finance officer) is going to prepare a report of the boat club (more transparency regarding where the money comes from and goes). JCSU can ask for a report at any time.

LB: Boat club has legitimate adults looking over finances, different from other societies.

All Committee members present voted in favour of the first issue (passing the JCSU budget-approved money into the hands of the boat club for ease of use). The second issue was not supported. The Committee noted that it could be brought to an OGM if the boat club wanted to push it.

(c) Newspapers

KM: Clarified where newspapers are currently put in college (mainly Marshall Room and West Court Café), and asked the Committee for their thoughts on where the best location for them would be. Also asked which newspapers the JCSU currently subscribes to (Guardian, Telegraph, Times, Financial Times, TCS, Varsity).

KB: Noted that there was a survey last year, in which Daisy asked similar questions. Could find out what the responses to that survey were.

VT: If the newspapers are put in the West Court Café, then payment should not be solely from JCSU because people other than students would use them in there. Also raised the point about online newspapers. Possibility of JCSU funding of these.

MK: Is there a demand for this? Might need to elicit responses from more students.

AR: The university subscribes to lots of newspapers/magazines, so could maybe tap into that.

MB: Online newspapers are not particularly cheap to subscribe to either.

MKS: Cost reductions possible by altering newspapers we buy, e.g. i instead of Guardian.

KM: Happy to look into it further.

(d) Bike chains

MKS: Bike was stolen from Chimney over Christmas holidays. Having spoken to Porters, this was one of 6-8 bikes that were stolen over Christmas break. Lots of chains put into the floor of wall have been cut away but not replaced.

KB: JCSU not expected to pay for it.

MK: Useful to remind people to put bikes somewhere in college, not in the Chimney, during holidays.

OB: Better locking system, one every 5 metres or so currently.

MKS: Happy to take lead on it and follow it up, presumably with Porters.

e) Grid of Faces

MB: Wanted to work out another time to do the last few photos for this. Agreed time of half 1 on Saturday.

f) Social events

MB: Useful to have document containing all social events planned by the JCSU – can be given to Duncan and DJ to allow them to work out when to open the Brewery Room / downstairs bar.

MKS: A GoogleDoc might be a good way to organise this.

g) Eduroam

OA: Had a meeting with IT on Friday who were aware that there were problems, but thought they were resolved. IT are happy to look into any remaining issues. Plenty of survey responses.

h) Green search engine

LB: Spoke about Ecosia, an environmentally-friendly search engine in which all money from ads goes to planting trees. Has used it last few months and reported that it was fine. Spoke with Damian in IT about getting it set as default search engine in Kwok. Asked Committee if people would be keen / what the best way to go about doing it would be.

KB: If lots of people object, then could go to an OGM. Otherwise, an email should suffice.

3. Any other business

a) Feedback on West Court Café / Bar

CD: Spoke with the Domestic Bursar about issues raised at JCSU Committee meeting on 18th January. Reported that Domestic Bursar is fine with everything other than quiz machine (reason given is that it was struggling to break even).

b) Grade classification

KB: Reported back on what the College Council had to say about reform to grade classification. Tentative support from College Council for model 3 (which includes 1st year marks, a principle which was opposed by KB), although college is still considering a range of alternatives.

AR: Noted the gender impact that weighting can have (quoted figure that 95% of 1st class grades in Part I History go to men).

MK: Enough of an incentive to get good grades in 1st year (e.g. for internship applications).

LB: Would discourage people from getting involved in extracurricular activities.

VT: Coming into line with other universities is one of the motives for the change, so it seems silly that there should be a model that does not achieve that.

c) LGBT+ flag

KB: College Council gave support for LGBT+ flag on gates (but not on flagpole) and LGBT+ lighting on chimney. Would like JCSU to pay for lights. Will discuss with Bursar.

d) Dr Julian Huppert

VT: Had meeting with Dr Julian Huppert, head of the Intellectual Forum based in West Court. He wants more student involvement in West Court, particularly his think-tank (a student representative, students taking part in debates, debates just for students). He has lots of contacts of Cambridge, so could organise emergency debates at quite short notice. Happy to help students in other ventures. Also keen to offer internships to Jesus students (2 months in summer to do their own project which does not fall into one degree, provision of desk space and expertise).

CD: Accommodation during internship?

VT: Have to ask college to provide a room.

KB thanked the members of the Committee for a very helpful and successful meeting.

The meeting closed at 21:00.