

# JCSU COMMITTEE 2017

Minutes of a meeting of the JCSU Committee held at 19:00 on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2017 in Prioress's Room.

## 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 Officer (Ollie Brown), the Women's Officer (Alex Rowe), the Welfare Officers (Holly Hamilton and Cormac Devlin), the LGBT+ Officer (Holly Bracewell), the Mental Health and Disabilities Officer (Sophie O'Reilly), the Ethnic and Religious Minorities Officer (Heval Turel) and President of the SAFE Committee (Alex Barry)

**Absent:** the Ents Officer (Mary Kiernan) and the International Officer (Nikhil Dwivedi)

## Committee reports of actions since last meeting:

- KB: College Council, CUSU Council, Student Affairs Committee, CUSU and College Sexual Harassment Policy, Rainbow lights, pancake race.
- VT: Halfway Hall and Student Affairs Committee.
- KM: Mental health first aid training, met Richard Dennis to issue refunds (three times), CUSU Council meeting, gone to Lloyds bank for new cheque book, hosted bar quiz with Katherine, met to discuss budget for next year.
- MB: Hosted bar quiz, attended Health and Safety Committee meeting, booked photographer for Sports and Societies photo day, distributed Committee Grid of Faces to all undergraduate staircases, organised OGM.
- OA: Attended Student Affairs Committee, IT committee & buildings committee meetings, been meeting with Simon and head chef with LB about caff, organising caff forum.
- CR: Finalised feedback for JNET, put people in contact with JCSU members, made a start to changing things on the JCSU website.
- MKS: Student Affairs Committee, Access Liaison Committee, further Ambassador Training, managing access-related student issue, hosted a bar quiz, looked into JCSU social media presence and began progress with Communications Officer to improve our reach.
- LB: Caff meetings and organising Caff Forum with OA, GreenSoc meetings, recycling posters in kitchens, starting to organise plant sale and green formal, student volunteering whiteboard pics, getting 'take me' tags for kitchens as of next term.
- OB/MK: Helped organise Blues and Chill, spoke to Christ's president about possible formal swaps, organising movie night and bop for end of term, showing 6 nations games in the Brewery Room/JCR.
- AR: Reviewed draft for sexual harassment policy, Student Affairs Committee, ran women's forums, organising IWD formal and party, sent women's bulletins.
- HH/CD: Student affairs committee, continued welfare cake, Blues and Chill, met with Paul Dominiak and Sophie to discuss counsellor and anonymity issues.
- SO: Did 'Mind Unwind' art event, did mental health first aid training, met with Paul Dominiak, looking into increasing counsellor's hours.

- HB: Hosted Glitter formal, obtained a flag to be flown for 28<sup>th</sup> February, met with Paul Dominiak to continue organisation of chapel event, tried to get approval for drag performance at the chapel event (unsuccessfully), continued to organise the pancake pidge packages to raise awareness of pansexuality.
- ND: Organised a formal with Sidney Sussex and St John's. Held an event for American exchange students.
- HT: Prevent committee meeting. Dealt with fancy dress incident (spoke to relevant individuals & emailed undergraduates).

## 1. Suggestion form report by OA

N/A

## 2. Matters arising

### *(a) SAFE Donation on College bills*

AB: The Southern Africa Fund for Education (SAFE) was set up around 30 years ago, with its origins in the Apartheid era. The SAFE Committee has plans to rebrand (to JAF = Jesus African Fund). The aim is to become more transparent and raise awareness of SAFE's work, having funded a lot of good things over the years. Took a motion to College Council to rebrand from SAFE to JAF. Caveat is that SAFE/JAF will be much more accountable (tell the JCSU at an OGM which charities they're funding and with what outcomes) and that it will be easier to opt out (replying to an email, for instance).

KB: SAFE originally had quite a specific aim (Apartheid), so maybe it would want to aim for something similarly specific.

MB: Would you diverge away from the education process?

AB: SAFE receives hundreds of applications for grants each year and picks the worthiest applicants.

VT: Mainly grassroots funding?

AB: Amount raised is around £12,000 or so a year. Able to fund smaller charities, e.g. orphanages to provide meals for schoolkids.

VT: Feedback process regarding work of charities.

AB: SAFE requires all charities to provide feedback – achievements, photos, etc. There is an in-depth vetting process, with the Committee's main role being to select charities to support.

VT: Getting Jesus students involved, could get some take-up.

AB: One Cambridge-based charity, so potential for student involvement along those lines.

MKS: Need SAFE's work to be better publicised.

AB: Trying to get more students involved in the Committee, provide a voice on where the money goes. Plan is to run events alongside stall at Fresher's Fair. Archivist to make sure records are kept.

KB: Would it be possible to have a review process, e.g. every 10 years? If any particular issues crop up, there might be scope to support those.

MKS: Especially given the proposed rise in line with inflation, a review point would be useful to make sure money is being spent in the most appropriate manner.

AR: Perhaps 5 years to make it more likely to be remembered. Concern raised that the proposed name (JAF) sounds a bit untargeted. There might be more credibility if more specific name.

MKS: However, a more specific name means less range for potential charities. Essentially decision for the SAFE Committee.

MB: Do we, as the JCSU Committee, want to stay neutral or back a particular motion?

KB: Maybe not necessary since we have votes as our own positions. If some members of the student body don't want to support JAF at OGM, perhaps better to have a mixed position.

OB: Slightly passive way of giving to charity, some people might be against that.

VT: Some students might be more concerned about charity work in the Cambridge community, so perhaps support might be for more local charities.

MKS: JCSU often takes a position, e.g. Ethnic and Religious Minorities name vote.

*The Committee resolved not to take a universal position on this issue.*

### ***(b) Feedback from Student Affairs Committee Meeting***

AR: Talked about sexual harassment policy, particularly sections that were amended/removed. For instance, the suggestion that students would be expected to report sexual harassment within 3 months was scrapped. Legal advice which implied that students should defer from seeking legal advice was also removed. In cases of rape and other very serious incidents of sexual assault, some argued that this should go through the university service since the College might not be equipped to deal with that level of incident. However, it was also suggested that this should be the kind of issue dealt with inside College (since students feel safer within college). The bureaucracy of getting the policy passed through has been taking a while.

KB: Will go to another Student Affairs Committee.

MKS: Moving in right direction, even if slowly.

SO: Happy with policy?

AR: Maybe some changes to the wording in certain sections. The policy is in line with CUSU guidelines.

CD: A number of routes that can be taken. If a complaint is made to College via the Senior Tutor, the respondent can either take it through College, take it through the university service or go to the police. Also possible to have informal advice and guidance (either from Tutorial Advisors or Senior Tutor).

AR: More likely to be dealt with efficiently within college, rather than going to police. Committee take a stance on a preferred route. College or university more favourable in terms of a helpful resolution.

VT: Sounds quite complicated.

SO: Needs to be made public within college after it is approved.

CD: Useful to have certain example scenarios, plus ability to leapfrog to university if people prefer.

OB: Can add this to sexual consent workshops.

KB: Other issues discussed on Student Affairs Committee include: student accommodation policy (combining 4<sup>th</sup> years with 1<sup>st</sup> year Masters, medics and vets, so matriculated groups can stick together), 'Ask for Angela'.

### ***(c) Counsellor***

SO: Useful to have student backing, either to increase current counsellor's hours (in the days she works or more days) or employ an alternative counsellor who does more alongside current counsellor. College might be more inclined towards the first option, but preference towards second option since some people might not be happy seeing a female counsellor.

KB: At Student Affairs Committee, counsellor was discussed. Agreed to keep counsellor for 2 years, with a review after 1 year.

SO: Waiting time depends on when in the term.

LB: Counsellor only responds to emails on days she works.

SO: Another day she works would be another day she could respond to emails.

CD: Possibility of contracting counsellors in, with a greater variety of potential counsellors.

HH: Liaising with other colleges, seeing if we can use their counsellors, etc.

CD: On average, it seems like the counsellor is doing the right amount of work (some weeks busy, some weeks less busy). Only a small ratio (around 2 out of 16) were men, so maybe concerns about that.

SO: Drop-in session always busy with people who are unable to get appointments.

KM: How willing would College be to fund more hours?

CD: College will probably be willing, but need to work out what we want. More variation in counselling offering might be useful. Contract in different counsellors. Working group could be set up with staff.

SO: Different approaches would be useful, especially when some people just need quick fixes with stress-related issues.

KB: Maybe not necessary to take as a motion at OGM.

MKS: Master quite keen for providing for those who are not happy with the current counsellor.

SO: Anonymous survey perhaps to get non-JCSU feedback.

KB: If college reluctant to move forward, could potentially take to an OGM in future.

#### ***(d) Caff issues***

OA: Discussions with Caff staff. Going to hold Caff forum on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March, so they can hear from student body what we want from Caff. More backing from the student body.

LB: Want to make sure no backtracking regarding proposals.

OA: Want to improve menu, using feedback from the Caff survey carried out earlier (e.g. a 2 sides deal). Follow up on price comparisons between colleges – seems that Jesus is middle-ground in terms of food (not including KFC).

KB: No change to KFC on the horizon.

LB: Would be good to publicise the environmentally things that Caff does. Leftovers are all composted. Ethically sourced produce.

#### ***(e) Ableist language***

AR: Complaint that an ableist comment was overheard.

SO: Send round email, but not in a preachy way. Advise students to consider what they say. Would be a good springboard to go from.

AR: Lead by example as a Committee.

***(f) Anonymity in welfare issues***

HH: Incident a few weeks ago, because of a lack of anonymity regarding a non-student. Except for on Welfare phone, going to refuse anonymity.

CD: No one should be able to contact us if they're anonymous (no personal details given out).

***(g) More use of JCSU social media***

MKS: The JCSU Twitter page is currently active, previously used by Mr Aiden Goulden for dubious football commentary. Might be advisable to delete past posts and start from scratch. If some interesting event is happening, might be good to let people know.

CR: Can distribute password to JCSU Committee members.

MKS: Very helpful for parents and prospective applicants; Facebook and Instagram not appropriate for that. Try to look professional from the outside. Also spoke to CR about a Snapchat filter. Was meant to happen last year, ask previous Communications officer.

***(h) Costs of graduate buffet***

MKS: Buffet day of graduation ceremony. Students free. Guests £27.93, very pricey. Message from graduand because of prohibitive cost. Other costs of the day, e.g. travel, accommodation, food, dressing up – very expensive experience from graduation. Shame if people feel like they are unable to bring their parents along.

KB: Spoke to Richard Dennis about this. Buffet is one thing that should be provided to parents.

CR: Scandal regardless of background. So much for a buffet. Seems like parents are subsidising cost of children.

KB: Might be worth sending an email to Richard Dennis.

KM: Happy to take lead on this and speak to Richard Dennis, keep MKS in loop.

MKS: Too late for this year's 3<sup>rd</sup> years. Any money in place to support them (case-by-case if cost is prohibitive for some). Looking to future and reduce cost.

LB: Splits year group based on money.

**3. Any other business**

MB was alerted to the fact that two motions for the OGM were being submitted by Todd Gillespie.

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

The meeting closed at 20:00.