

JCSU ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the OGM of the JCSU held on 3rd November 2017 at 7:30pm in the Brewery 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 Ents Officer (Ollie Brown), the Women's Officer (Alex Rowe), the Welfare Officers (Holly Hamilton & Cormac Devlin), the Mental Health and Disabilities Officer (Sophie O'Reilly), the LGBT+ Officer (Holly Bracewell), the Ethnic and Religious Minorities Officer (Heval Turel), the Green Officer (Surina Fordington) and the International Officer (Nikhil Dwivedi)

Absent: the Ents Officer (Mary Kiernan)

1. Executive reports of actions since last OGM:

KB: Oversaw organisation Freshers Week (timetable & JCSU rota, sale of gowns, distribution of arrival boxes). Worked with MKS on programme for supporting architects. Spoken with MKS, VT and the Dean of College about the cost of the graduation buffet. Spoken with the Dean of College about party permits. Organised recent Jesus Varsity. Oversaw gym rep elections. Spoken to Richard Dennis about election rules for the upcoming JCSU elections. Sat on West Court Committee, on College Council and on various other committees.

VT: Helped with Freshers Week. Organised Committee stash for those requiring new items / new Committee members. In process of organising College stash. Ordered and sold JCSU water bottles and thermos flasks. Worked on the gym rep elections. Organised University Challenge trials. Regularly attended CUSU Council.

KM: Ensured refunds have gone through for all Clubs & Societies expenses. Produced upcoming JCSU budget. State of JCSU Enterprise Account: £1700 made from gowns, so the Enterprise Account now stands at about £8000.

MB: Organised OGM and in process of organising upcoming AGM. Minutes provided of JCSU Committee meetings. Ran Bar Quiz with MKS most weeks. Organised JCSU Freshers Fair in Freshers Week. Oversaw bookings for the JCR. Booked rooms for various JCSU functions. Attended CUSU and College consent workshop training.

OA: Helped KB with stance on party permits. Met with aspiring JCR President at Christ's to discuss accommodation at Jesus.

CR: Produced weekly bulletin. Organised new Society mailing lists. Created Grid of Faces for Freshers. Helped VT with lists for gym rep elections.

MKS: Spoken to the Dean of College about cost of graduation buffet. Helped with two successful Access residentials over the summer. Active in the recruitment of a new generation of Ambassadors. Organised the College parenting scheme for incoming Freshers. Liaised with CUSU about their Shadowing Scheme. Involved with CUSU Class Act. Supported students in their concerns. Setting up Ambassadors' blog for prospective applicants. Produced and distributed new Alternative Prospectus.

SF: Attended Green conference at start of term. Worked with college staff to discuss environmental issues. Successfully lobbied for Compost bins to be introduced in College accommodation. Working on getting hairdryers in library toilets to reduce paper towel consumption. Making progress on Green Impact award and the Switch Off campaign. Ran GreenSoc in College. Supported a campaign to get green officers on May Ball Committees. Organised upcoming Green Formal.

OB/MK: Organised the two Freshers Bops. Ran the bar crawl in Freshers week.

- AR: Organised and facilitated consent workshops in College. Ran Women's Forum. Dealt with various confidential matters. Worked with Geoff Parks about trying to help the Tutorial Advisers give better advice to survivors of sexual violence. Working with Women's Campaign on their Breaking the Silence initiative.
- HH/CD: Helped run various welfare events in Freshers Week. Set up new anonymous messaging system. Underwent special training with the College Counsellor. Organised various welfare cakes and welfare drop-in sessions. Organising free chlamydia testing. Trying to get a student art wall in bar with SO.
- SO: Helped with welfare events in Freshers Week. Ran Good Mentalitea. Sent out email about mental health to all students. Attended welfare drop-ins. Helped with anonymous messaging system. Attended CUSU and College consent workshop training. Sorting out a student art wall in bar with HH. Underwent special training with the College Counsellor.
- HB: Attended CUSU and Jesus Consent workshop. Ran LGBTree event in Freshers Week. Organised the Spirit Day Formal. Working on proposal to fly the LGBT+ flag. Provided support to Freshers about coming out.
- HT: Attended CUSU BME events. Attended consent workshop training. Helped with welfare events in Freshers Week.
- ND: Oversaw International Freshers Week. Helped with welfare drop-in sessions and the anonymous messaging system. Organising Pembroke and Clare international swaps.

Daisy Eyre, the CUSU President, provided an update on what CUSU has been doing.

- DE: Access Officer: has been organising the CUSU Shadowing Scheme and Targets School Training. Education Officer: has been trying to get more people to run as Faculty Reps, adding a political dimension to that role in terms of supporting under-represented groups. Women's Officer: has been involved with Breaking the Silence campaign, working on trans admissions to Women's colleges. Disabled Students' Officer: has been doing work on auditing University facilities, creating networks for subgroups of disabled students (mental health, autism, physical disabilities, learning disabilities). Welfare Officer: working on Self-Care 101. President: organised CUSU elections (double the turnout from last year), working with Edward Parker-Humphreys (EPH) on getting a Living Wage policy in Cambridge, trying to promote the image of CUSU and its role, publicising emails, organised CUSU Council every other Monday.

2. Members' questions to the Executive

None

3. Ordinary Motions

(a) Motion 1: Establishment of a Freshers' Representative on the JCSU Executive Committee

Jess Tucker (JT): Proposed à la agenda.

KB: I think this is a great idea. So, to clarify, would this be a second year who would be helping to run Freshers Week since we obviously can't collect an incoming Freshers?

DE: Really good idea. It is far too much for one person to organise Freshers Week. However, it does take a lot of thought if this is going to work in practice.

Sorcha Keenan (SK): Would it be the Freshers' Representative organising Freshers Week in conjunction with the JCSU President?

JT: Yes, definitely in conjunction.

OB: Do you think this could dissuade Freshers from running for other positions?

JT: If people want to be involved in other positions, then I feel like they would still be keen to run for those.

KM: Do you envisage it as a two-person role, similar to what the Ents position is?

JT: It would be fine for someone to do it on their own if they want.

MKS: In terms of how this would work on a practical level, how do you envisage it working?

JT: There would definitely be input from the Freshers regarding what they think would work well. During Michaelmas term, the Freshers' Rep would be a point of contact for incoming Freshers. During Lent and Easter terms, more of a representative role.

VT: Do you envisage it as a welfare role?

JT: It could be some kind port of call for welfare. But I wouldn't want the Freshers Rep to step on the toes of the Welfare officers. Might be more approachable to the incoming Freshers possibly.

HH: It does tend to be mostly Freshers who come to the welfare hours.

MB: I think it's important to differentiate between the two aspects of this role: the representative role and the accountability role. In terms of accountability, it ensures that there is at least one Fresher on the incoming Committee which is important because we need to reflect the views of the whole student body. This year, there was only one Fresher on the Committee.

Dan Patton (DP): In previous years, there have been a few more. But it's a good idea to represent the younger members of the College. Equally, though, the person in the role will be a second year in Freshers Week, so there will have been a year since they were a Fresher.

SK: Would the Freshers Rep be a full member of the JCSU Committee?

KB: Committee meetings happen every 2 weeks, as well as these open meetings. At the OGM and AGM, we debate things that the whole student body needs to have a say on. The Freshers Rep would attend all these meetings.

MKS: Why does this role need to be one for two people? It's already a Committee of 17 already. There has to be content to the role.

JT: Throughout the year, representation could definitely be done by one person. In Freshers Week, multiple perspectives might be useful in terms of events. People who start go through different experiences.

SO: It might get a bit out of hand with representative roles on the Committee. As a Second year in Michaelmas, how would you be able to represent the Freshers when they're not immersed in Fresher culture? In the form of forums or in one-on-one chats, etc.

JT: In Michaelmas, it's a lot more difficult. Could focus on working with the new Freshers, put on more events in Michaelmas term.

ND: Could we create the role as gym reps? Is there a reason why they should be part of the JCSU Executive Committee?

JT: It would be good to get more Freshers involved in the JCSU Committee. It's a lot more intimidating to run for roles when you know it's mostly second years competing.

KB: I propose an amendment that involves removing Clause 3 from the resolution section. I think it's a good idea, but might be good to restrict it to one person. Thank you very much for bringing it because it sounds an excellent role that can incorporate various aspects.

Vote on procedural motion for amendment:

In favour: 38

In abstention: 1

In opposition: 1

Procedural motion passes.

CR: This motion requires Standing Order change, which means a 2/3 majority in two consecutive meetings.

DP: In terms of Freshers Week, the President does a lot of organising the events. But most of the Executive Committee have specific events that they run themselves. Will an extra pair of hands be useful?

KB: The problem is that all communication comes and goes from one place. Difficult to delegate beyond what I did, especially in terms of email correspondence. The Freshers Representative could be the main point of contact and help to coordinate Freshers Week. Would shift the main burden away from the President.

DP: Most other universities have a massive team of Freshers Reps who are there for the first few weeks/month. They are there to look out for Freshers. Not necessarily a role on the JCSU Exec.

KM: If we did have a Freshers Rep, they could coordinate a Freshers Committee. Would seem a good way of getting people involved.

SK: Not much they can do for first two terms, even if they can help in Michaelmas term. It might dissuade people from going for other positions. If there was a Freshers Rep, I would be less keen to go for another role.

OB: What would happen if we have lots of Freshers on the committee anyway? Would be less effective as a position in that case.

DP: Not really sure that works as logic (e.g. Women's Officer and if all Committee were women).

ND: Going back to SO's point, it's deceiving to call them a Freshers Rep when they're actually a second year. Does not correctly reflect what they're doing.

Theo Bearman (TB): If someone says you are the Freshers Rep, then people understand that. More important to have a single point of contact.

SO: The JCSU exists because we are that point of contact, especially the welfare team. Bit of a moot point because we exist as a body to represent all Freshers.

EPH: Key point is that there are two parts to this role: organisational and representative. Representative: in the first two terms they would be a Fresher. Organisation: more in Michaelmas.

KB: At Magdalene and St Catherine's, they have Freshers' Rep a bit like a gym rep. In a similar way to the College Council representative elections in summer term, could elect a Freshers' Rep in summer term.

JT: Gives the position more legitimacy if elected with the rest of the JCSU if people are getting involved and interested at that point. Would be cool if people could say 'I actually want to run for this position'.

EPH: There is a problem of under-representation of Freshers. Would be helpful to have someone that is dedicated towards Freshers Week too.

SK: I agree with the idea of a separate election in summer. Shouldn't be responsible for welfare. Would rather to go to someone who is more trained.

JT: Welfare officers are main port of call for welfare, to make that clear. Freshers' Rep might be useful for odd questions, e.g. accommodation questions, questions about supervisions, etc. Wouldn't necessarily know who to speak to.

EPH: JCSU can be quite a confusing body when you come in. Not trying to be treading on toes. If you have a concern about anything, then the Freshers' Rep could direct you towards who to speak to. Not necessarily about encroaching on responsibilities of other officers. Hold by-election at start of Lent. Wouldn't discourage people from running for other roles.

MKS: Probably easiest way to go about it. Internal Committees that can have non-exec roles. One member of committee who is definitely a first year. By Michaelmas, they are no longer a first year. Standing Committee of JCSU composed of Freshers that is elected at start of Michaelmas. Consultative role. Something along the lines of 'The Freshers Representative would chair a committee of first-years elected at beginning of Michaelmas Term. Elected by first years'. To be discussed further.

DP: Propose an amendment to change to Freshers' Officer in line with the titles of the rest of the Committee.

Procedural motion passes with unanimity.

KB: Procedural motion to go to a vote.

Procedural motion passes with unanimity.

Vote on motion:

In favour: 29

In abstention: 2

In opposition: 10

Motion passes with 2/3 majority. Needs to obtain 2/3 majority at AGM to enter Standing Orders.

(b) Motion 2: Motion banning the use of social media campaigning in the run up to JCSU elections

CD: Noticed that there has been an informal ban on social media in the run-up to elections (not allowed to post on Twitter or email pre-existing email lists). I suggest that we should formalise that ban. If we want to encourage fresher participation, then social media discourages them from applying. Spoken with HB in depth about her experiences with this. We don't want JCSU elections to become a popularity contest if we can avoid it.

CR: To clarify, in previous years, there hasn't been a formal policy in place. This lack of formalisation meant that no punishments could be imposed.

KM: Could still post everyone's manifestos on the JCSU Facebook page.

CD: As long as it's locked, so people are unable to share particular posts.

SO: Can you disable likes on FB?

KB: It's almost like an informal vote before a vote. Better just to have the manifestos in the Marshall Room and email them round.

SK: What would be the policy regarding group chats on Facebook?

CD: We can't really police that.

KB: With private messages, there isn't really anything we can do.

No points in opposition or abstention. Passes nem con. Enters into JCSU Policy.

MKS: I propose that this is also put into the Standing Orders (seconded by KB) in order to make it a more concrete policy.

DP: Alternative view might be to specify what people can do, instead of telling them what they can't.

CD: Social media has been the main issue in the past. Less of an issue with flyering because it matters less whether you are a second year or first year in that case.

Moves to a vote. Passes with unanimity. Requires a second vote at the AGM to enter into the Standing Orders.

(c) Motion 3: Motion to update and improve the definition of the role of the JCSU Access Officer

MKS: I reflected on what the Standing Orders say the role is and what I think it should be. Don't think it really captures the essence of the role. I'm not really changing anything other than to make it correct. The nature of the role is out of date. The Ambassadors scheme was just over a year old when this definition was written up. There are now much more prominent University-wide campaigns, e.g. the work of ACS and various intersectionalities within access. Locus of Access work has moved beyond College to University, e.g. CUSU shadowing scheme and ClassAct. Role of access officer should be to work with these kinds of people. Should not confine that just to the College environment. My proposed definition clarifies that we want a University-wide reach not just a College-wide one. Alternative Prospectus should always be under the control of the Access Officer, but at the moment it depends on copyright. Can hold Access Officer to account so they keep it up-to-date. In the previous JCSU Survey, it was found that 1/3 of respondents had experienced or witnessed discrimination based on socioeconomic class. Clearly a real issue there. No one on the JCSU Committee fits within that perfectly. Somebody who feels discriminated against should have someone to voice their concerns to. Full title is Access, Funding and Higher Education Officer, so meant to help students find funding if they need it. For instance, with the graduation buffet, the cost has been in the realm of £30. If someone has a large family or has to travel a long way, it might put off relative from attending that event. Lack of subsidies for architect students (up to £1,000 in costs per year, but College only covers about £200). Should be clear point of contact on issues like that. Gowns are quite expensive. Working with college to find out if gowns can be sold second hand at a cheaper price. To sum up, all I want to do is to update the role and make the Access Officer more effective. Makes it clear what they're supposed to be doing and the student body can hold them to account much better.

VT: Will it change as much again in a few years?

MKS: If it needs to change again, then it should. We should always reflect on what we're supposed to do. A lot of problems pre-date this constitution, e.g. intersectionality of widening participation, so I don't think it will be out of date in a few years.

No points in opposition or abstention. Passes nem con.

4. Report by Junior Treasurer on JCSU Budget

KM: In previous years, the JCSU has been running a surplus budget of several thousand pounds. Since societies underspend, we had nearly a £9,000 surplus last year that goes into a pot that just sits with College (now standing at about £57,000). This year, there are more societies wanting more money. We have a £54,000 budget for this year, which is pretty much balanced give or take a few hundred pounds. Building on that, we are expanding the JCSU fund to £1,000 from £700 in case societies do need emergency funds.

CR: What Kirsty is doing is making sure that money doesn't get cut off if people are frugal.

KB: To clarify what we can spend the £57,000 pot on, it's essentially capital expenditure. For instance, the rugby team wants to buy a scrum machine.

5. Emergency motions

N/A

6. Any other business

KB: JCSU elections – tomorrow will send an email about upcoming elections. More details to follow. Hustings on 21st November. Elections on 23rd November.

JT: What about Freshers Rep role?

KB: Should hopefully be time to do that. Will look into it further.

Meeting concluded at 21:05.

APPENDIX

AGENDA

- 1. Executive reports of actions since last OGM**
- 2. Members' questions to the Executive**
- 3. Ordinary Motions**

(a) Motion 1: Establishment of a Freshers' Representative on the JCSU Executive Committee

The JCSU notes:

- 1) That the JCSU Executive Committee does not currently have a dedicated Freshers' Representative.
- 2) That many other colleges have Freshers' Representatives on the Executive Committee of their respective JCRs, including Queens', Gonville and Caius, and Sidney Sussex.
- 3) That the JCSU Executive Committee is predominantly made-up of second years in Lent and Easter Term/third years in Michaelmas Term.
- 4) That the last round of JCSU Elections saw only one first year elected to the JCSU Executive Committee.
- 5) That the participation and involvement with the management of the JCSU is often disproportionately low amongst first years, in terms of General Meetings and Elections.

The JCSU believes:

- 1) That a Freshers' Representative would provide an easily-accessible point of contact for incoming first years when they first start at Jesus.
- 2) That a Freshers' Representative would be extremely useful in managing the organisation of Freshers' Week.
- 3) That a Freshers' Representative would provide current first years with better representation on the JCSU Executive Committee.
- 4) That a Freshers' Representative would encourage greater participation and involvement with the management of the JCSU amongst first years.

The JCSU resolves:

- 1) To establish the position of 'Freshers' Representative' on the JCSU Executive Committee, with responsibility for managing the organisation of Freshers' Week in conjunction with the rest of the Executive Committee, representing the concerns and voices of first years on the Executive Committee and providing an easily-accessible point of contact for first years.
- 2) To restrict candidacy to students in their first year of study.
- 3) To allow the position of 'Freshers' Representative' to be shared jointly between two Members of the JCSU provided they stood jointly for the position at the time of their election. In this eventuality each 'Freshers' Representative' shall be a full member of the Executive with all the associated duties and responsibilities

Proposed by: Jess Tucker

Seconded by: Edward Parker Humphreys

(b) Motion 2: Motion banning the use of social media campaigning in the run up to JCSU elections

The JCSU notes:

- 1) That the JCSU Constitution currently does not impose restrictions on the use of campaigning on social media in the run up to the annual JCSU elections. Nevertheless, in previous elections there has been an informal ban on the use of social media by candidates to promote their campaigns.

The JCSU believes:

- 1) That Hustings and the posting of candidate manifestos in the Marshall room is sufficient opportunity for candidates to promote their campaigns.
- 2) That the informal ban imposed in previous years can cause confusion about what candidates are permitted to post on social media.
- 3) That the use of social media to promote campaigns gives an unfair advantage to second and third year candidates, as they have more established connections with College members on social media. Freshers may be put off running for positions against second and third year candidates who can use their established social media presences to promote their campaigns.
- 4) That the use of social media campaigning could turn the elections into a popularity contest and shift focus away from candidates' policies.

The JCSU resolves:

- 1) To adopt a Standing Motion formalising the ban on the use of social media to promote campaigns in the run up to elections. Candidates will not be allowed to post about their campaign or policies on any social media network, or send emails relating to their campaign to existing group mailing lists.

Proposed by: Cormac Devlin

Seconded by: Holly Bracewell

(c) Motion 3: Motion to Update and Improve the Definition of the Role of the JCSU Access Officer

The JCSU notes:

- 1) The Access, Higher Education and Funding Officer (AO) plays a central role within the Jesus College Student Union.
- 2) The current rubric within the Standing Orders of the Constitution of the Jesus College Student Union for the role of the Access, Higher Education and Funding Officer reads: *"The Access and Funding Officer shall be responsible for matters concerning access, including liaison with College in such matters. They shall also be responsible for co-ordinating the CUSU Target Schools and JCSU "parenting" schemes within College."*
- 3) This definition of this role was finalised in January of 2016, now almost 2 years ago. In the period since then, the nature of the relationship the AO has with College widening participation has changed significantly.
- 4) In this period, the expectations of the student members of the JCSU, and responsibilities taken on by the AO, have also changed significantly.
- 5) In light of this, the brevity of the definition of the role of Access, Higher Education and Funding Officer no longer accurately characterises the role, which hinders the effective action of the AO, and also makes it more difficult for student members of the JCSU to hold the AO to account.

The JCSU believes:

- 1) It is appropriate that the responsibilities of the role of the Access, Higher Education and Funding Officer as detailed in the Standing Orders of the Constitution of the Jesus College Students Union should reflect the actual expectations that the student body place on the role, as well as the practical realities of the nature of the role as it has evolved since the last review of the Constitution.

The JCSU resolves:

- 1) To alter the current Standing Orders of the Jesus College Students Union with respect to the role of the Access, Higher Education and Funding Officer to read:

"The Access, Higher Education and Funding Officer shall be responsible for matters concerning access, including liaison with College in such matters, supporting any JCSU members who wish to participate in widening participation, and having responsibility for co-ordinating with and facilitating CUSU and other university-wide outreach initiatives within College."

The Access Officer shall also be responsible for ensuring all JCSU members can fully participate in the college community, regardless of background or circumstance, liaising with the Fellows, College Staff, and CUSU on all relevant issues and matters arising, as well as liaising with other members of the JCSU Executive Committee to reflect the intersectional aspects of widening participation.

The Access Officer shall also be responsible for organising the JCSU “parenting” scheme, as well as maintaining the ‘Alternative Prospectus’ and any other JCSU access publications.”

Proposed by: Matthew Kevin Sample

Seconded by: Hannah Whitehouse

- 4. Junior Treasurer report on the JCSU Budget and JCSU Enterprise Account**
- 5. Emergency motions**
- 6. Any other business**