



JCSU Executive Committee Meeting - Minutes

Held 20th January 2024 at 6pm in the Coleridge Room.

Present

Adi Mishra, AM (President)
Kieran Leete, KL (Vice-President)
Dom Swift, DS (Treasurer)
Anna Putland, AP (Secretary)
George Dickenson, GD (Comms Officer)
Devavrat Verma, DV (International Officer)
Jenni Buss, JB (Freshers' Officer)
Ewan Cornwall, EC (Freshers' Officer)
Muzammal Mushtaq, MM (Access Officer)
Abena Appiah, AA (Ents Officer)
Becca Juman, RJ (Ents Officer)
Tara Buxton, TB (Women's and Non-Binary Officer)
Sarah Marsh, SM (LGBTQ+ Officer)
Leah Neves Gomes, LNG (Services Officer)
Belle Richmond, BR (Female and Non-Binary Welfare Officer)
Edith Stewart, ES (Environmental and Ethical Affairs Officer)
Shams Ullah, SU (Ethnic and Religious Minorities Officer)

Absent

Quick Summary

- The Committee discussed:
 - Green Officer's updates on projects she is working on
 - progress made with the J-Bar redecoration
 - heating and hot water issues
 - student rent increases for the next academic year
 - Jesuan magazine write up
 - how to best proceed with pushing for increases to the JCSU budget
 - JCBC
 - updates on the Free Prescription Scheme
 - sending out a survey for ERM students
 - rebranding the Multicultural society

Meeting opened at: 18:05

Administrative Matters

20.0. Apologies

No apologies.

21.0 Approval of draft minutes

The Committee APPROVED the draft minutes from [06/01/24](#) as the official record.

Green Officer

23.0 Updates

- ES shared that she had had a meeting with the Head Gardener. She said that she was planning to drip information into the Bulletin, and was working with GD to do this. She thought that introducing a flower of the week would be a nice idea.
- ES said that she had spoken to the Bar Manager who was keen to install plants into the Brewery Room. AM thought that this would be unlikely to materialise given students could mistreat them. However, ES said that they could be installed up-high so as to be out of reach.
- ES also said that the Bar Manager wanted beds to grow rosemary and mint in. She said that she was currently in the process of determining the feasibility of this.
- ES said that she had spoken with the Domestic Bursar. She said that he had a lot of things in his remit at the moment, but that she had suggested washing lines be implemented.
- ES said that she was also currently in the process of trying to set up a Green Society which would cover things such as clothes swaps and plant sales. She said that she wanted to ensure that this had a proper structure in place so that it would continue when she left.
- Finally ES said that she wanted to check Yarn Society was not buying wool.

President

24.0 Update from the JBar Taskforce

- AM shared that the JBar Taskforce had met over the past couple of weeks to discuss potential themes and decoration ideas for the Brewery Room. He said that they had decided the theme should be retro/vintage. Some of the decoration highlights are: a neon rooster sign, a Pac machine, a framed Jesus Football shirt, framed movie posters, painted vinyls, black sofas, and a coffee table.
- ES highlighted that it is important to ensure the sofas are not newly bought leather ones, and suggested that the Taskforce look for more sustainably sourced options. BR added that 'faux' leather doesn't age well.
- Given that college will be sourcing many of the items/decorations from suppliers, AM said that it was worth drawing College's attention to this.

- KL said that he and LNG had visited stores, with college staff, to look for furniture. However they had been unable to find many things that were suitable. He did say that there was one black leather sofa, with a broken leg, that they would keep in mind as this could potentially be upcycled.
- KL said that he had spoken with the Domestic Bursar who thought it was important to make sure things could be taken down out of term. DS said that the decorative rowing blades would probably need to be a permanent fixture given their weight. KL suggested that this be discussed with maintenance.
- KL also said that College has a new, low level stage that could be used for Open Mic night. LNG was dubious about this. She pointed out that she didn't think it would be big enough for a full band, and asked that SM bear this in mind when organising Open Mic night.
- AM asked all committee members to communicate via the group chat if they had any further suggestions or thoughts about the project.

ES left

25.0 Heating/Hot Water

- AM said that, as per the Domestic Bursar's Bulletin last term, changes were made in Michaelmas to the heating and hot water schedule. As a result, accommodation is now heated on-and-off for 8-10 hours per day. He acknowledged that this week was particularly cold, and as a result many students are unhappy.
- LNG agreed with this. She shared that she was regularly making trips to Plodge to collect a portable heater as her room was very cold.
- AP said that as far as she was aware, there were no issues with heating and hot water arrangements in Library Court. DV agreed he hadn't heard of any problems in Chapel Court either.
- DS said that the Domestic Bursar tried to match heating and hot water hours to the demand curve, and issues occur when people's behaviour doesn't coincide with this. KL added that, after a certain time, the hot water goes off. Therefore, after the tank has drained, there is no hot water which is particularly problematic after evening sporting fixtures.
- BR said that she thought the heating system in North Court was flawed. She said that the Polar Bear QR code didn't accurately track when students were in their rooms. As a result, the heating was on at the wrong times of the day.
- AM accepted this, and acknowledged that students living in North Court and houses were likely to be those most affected. He asked whether anyone had any ideas for potential solutions.
- KL suggested that the Committee send out a survey in this week's Bulletin. He said that, this way, results can be reviewed next week and then the JCSU can look to implement changes more effectively. SM said that she thought there needs to be questions about frequency, place and circumstances.

- AM asked LNG to work with GD to put together some questions to be circulated. He said that he would share the MCR's survey with them, but that it would need adapting. ([AP 25.1](#) & [AP 25.2](#))

26.0 Student Rent

- AM said that he had met with College last week to discuss the annual increase in student rents. He said that College wanted to revert to the previous way that rent had been calculated. Discussions were ongoing.

27.0 Summary of activities from the academic year so far

- AM shared that he was required to write up a summary of activities held since the start of this academic year for the Jesuan. He asked everyone to provide suggestions of what he could include.
- KL and AM looked through the write-up from last year. KL suggested including Green Week, IF, Varsity, Frisbee Cuppers, Freshers week, and Refreshers week.
- KL said that he would send AM a summary of the events from Freshers week, and asked that JB & EC do the same for Refreshers week. LNG said that she would do the same for sporting events. ([AP 27.1-27.3](#))
- KL asked that, from now and onwards, all committee members start a document to keep track of what they have done. ([AP 27.4](#))

Treasurer

28.0 Push for increase in funding of the JCSU

- DS said that he was continuing to push for an overall increase in funding. Looking at his figures, he said that most societies were on track to spend all of, if not exceed, their allocated budgets. Given the substantial increases in running costs, he thought that this was hardly surprising.
- AM said that he and DS had decided to create a Financial Report Taskforce whose job would be to produce a proper in-depth report detailing the historical spending; changes to the patterns of spending – particularly focusing on what proportion of societies' budgets are being used for welfare – as well as fee prices for pitches and matches.
- AM added that all committee members needed to ensure that everything they chose to spend money on was really well considered, and justified.
- DS asked if anyone wanted to help. He said that timeline wise, the aim would be to try to find all the information by the middle of this term with a view to getting all the data compiled by Easter.

29.0 JCSU x JCBC

- AM and DS said that conversations were being had with College and JCBC around the future of the JCSU funding JCBC. Due to this, the Committee will eventually be expected to express a view on this.

- Committee members discussed the importance of the JCSU's role in overseeing funding of societies; the tendency and ability of the Boat Club to overspend their allocated budget; and the complexity of the JCBC's funding structure.

30.0 Update on Free Prescription Scheme

Attached is the [SU x JCSU paper](#).

- DS said that he was investigating the feasibility of implementing a trial period for the Prescription Reimbursement Policy. He reminded the committee that the aim of the scheme is to provide a safety net for students who become unwell. He added that term is already difficult to manage without the added stress of an unexpected or recurring illness.
- AM said that he thought the scheme could be potentially beneficial from a welfare perspective. His logic was that students were unlikely to buy prescriptions for mild-moderate illnesses as they often tried to be as frugal as possible. Therefore, he felt that the scheme would incentivise people to look after themselves.
- On the mechanics, AM said that Christ's ran a trial which their JCR funded. They collated data on uptake of the scheme and took it to their college who agreed to pay. Claims were capped at 6 prescriptions per person, or 1 pre-payment certificate. He added that the scheme had now been implemented by various other colleges.
- BR highlighted she thought that students were able to fill in a form to receive free NHS prescriptions. However, DS said that he had looked into this and eligibility criteria was extremely narrow and difficult to prove.
- AM said that he felt it was too risky to go out on a whim with a trial period, given the current state of the JCSU budget. He also said that he thought it was important to work with College on implementation of the scheme.
- KL agreed and suggested creating and circulating an anonymised survey for students. ([AP 30.1](#))
- AM proposed that the JCSU creates a paper to take to college noting Jesus students' current behavioural patterns compared to the behaviour of students at other colleges which have introduced the scheme.

ERM Officer

31.0 Survey

- SU shared that he planned to make a survey to circulate throughout college to ERM students. He said that he wanted to include questions about students' usage of the multifaith space, and their experience with dietary requirements in Caff.
- DS added that the questionnaire would need to be anonymised.
- AM said that he would need to think about when to circulate the survey. He was conscious that students would be receiving lots of emails about elections, and he didn't want to bombard them with too much information.

32.0 Multicultural Society

- SU said that he and DV were thinking of reviving and rebranding the Multicultural Society. He said that they were planning to organise events (e.g., cultural movie nights, talks, discussions, debates) through this means instead.

33.0 Any Other Business [AOB]

- LNG asked about pictures. It was decided that committee pictures will be taken on Saturday 27th January between 10am-12pm in First Court. ([AP 33.1](#))

Meeting closed at: 19:34

Action Points

<u>Action</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Assigned to</u>
AP 2.1	Update task-list to include policies.	SU & GD
AP 2.3	Organise a meeting with Danny for the beginning of Lent term to share plans for events.	AA & BJ
AP 2.4	Create a timetable detailing the sporting events due to be streamed from J-Bar.	AA & BJ
AP 12.7	Investigate overspending of the Mental Health & Disability budget	DS
AP 18.1	Further investigate the online budget viewing platform.	DS & GD
AP 19.1	Update the sports and societies list on the JCSU website.	GD
AP 25.1	Send the MCR's survey to LNG & GD	AM
AP 25.2	Put together some questions to be circulated about the heating/hot water situation.	LNG & GD
AP 27.1	Write a summary of the events which took place during Freshers week and send it to AM.	KL
AP 27.2	Write a summary of the events which took place during Refreshers week and send it to AM.	JB & EC
AP 27.3	Write a summary of the sporting events which have taken place since the beginning of this academic year and send it to AM.	LNG
AP 27.4	Start a document to keep track of what you have done.	All Committee Members
AP 30.1	Create and circulate an anonymised survey to investigate students attitudes towards the introduction of a free prescription scheme.	Prescription Taskforce
AP 33.1	Come to First Court between 10am-12pm on Saturday 27th for red jumper photos.	All Committee Members