

JCSU COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the JCSU Committee held on Wednesday 4th March at 7.30pm in the Chapel Vestry.

Present: the President (Amatey Doku), the Vice-President (Ruby Stewart-Liberty), the Treasurer (Christina Lane), the Secretary (Freddie Valletta), the Services Officer (Aiden Goulden), the Communications Officer (Caroline Sharp), the Access Officer (Tom Hogg), the Male Welfare Officer (Ben Simpson), the Mental Health and Disabilities Officer (Harrison Packer), the Women's Officer (Eleanor Kashouris) and the Racial Equalities Officer (Nadine Batchelor-Hunt).

Absent: the Green Officer (Tansy Branscombe), the Ents Officers (Xanthe Fuller and Amelia Oakley), the Female Welfare Officer (Daisy Eyre), the International Officer (Marina Mayer) and the LGBT+ Officer (Anthony Wheeler).

1. Committee reports of actions since last meeting

AD – attended Educational Board, did the ballot draw for the Clean Bandit soundcheck, planning ahead to put Constitutional changes into action.

CL – signing off cheques.

FV – organised and wrote minutes for the OGM.

AG – organised 1st year ballot, in touch with Domestic Bursar about suggestions form.

TH – attended Educational Board, getting ready for the e-mentoring scheme which starts soon, met SLO, Admissions staff and the new Webmaster about access videos.

BS and DE – attended Education Board, welfare cake, drop in sessions, welfare bake for Fairtrade Fortnight, raising awareness about eating disorders.

HP – sent out final fortnightly focus email, raising awareness about eating disorders.

MM (reported by HP) - scheduled return formal for King's and Medwards internationals for beginning of next term, formal at Downing at beginning of next term, trying to get interest to show Catalan film (with English subtitles), planning international brunch for end of this term or maybe next term as well.

AW (reported by FV) – panel discussion with the grads, LGBT+ themed pub quiz, organising a trip to see Rent.

EK – trained by CUSU on domestic abuse issues, put up Reclaim the Night March posters for Sunday, advertising Women's Dinner, emailed Senior Tutor about the college's sexual harassment policy.

NBH – organised Pink Week – badges and formal, racial equalities stuff next week again.

2. Minutes from last meeting

No comments.

3. Suggestion form report by AG

Providing toilet paper in college accommodation – can't see this happening, decided against proceeding.

Change to Xmas formal booking – on hold until closer to the time.

Seat booking system for formal – see 4(f).

Cardio gym livened up a bit – new gym in West Court therefore no point in spending money at this time.

Women's hour in weights gym – see 4(e).

More chocolate desserts as well as chocolate sauce and Nutella for brunch pancakes – meeting with Domestic Bursar regarding this.

Putting vegetarian starters on the formal menu – meeting with Domestic Bursar regarding this.

Recycling bins in rooms – TB's remit, she isn't here so cannot report back.

More interesting crisps in the bar – already happened.

Standardised formal lengths – clarified with Domestic Bursar, 9.30pm is the set finishing time with some variation due to kitchen working at different pace for different menus/size formals.

Remainder – haven't had the chance to look at them but will do soon.

4. Matters arising

(a) JCSU OGM review

AD – OGM went quite well but in the committee reports section we should have a limit of five points as it was quite slow. We could also get the agenda up on a projector screen which can be updated with new amendments.

FV – this should be easy to get from Conference as well as a laptop for next time.

AD – could also have Sainsbury's pizza as an incentive to get people to come.

CL – a new secretary budget could be put in the club's budget at the OGM.

(b) Review on deaning

AD – this was passed as an emergency so we have to look at this.

AG – it may be easy to clarify with the Dean if we could get a mediator but he will probably say no. He has only put house party regulation on JNet as this the only thing that he can make clear. He is very unwilling to put tariffs on standard punishments as he takes into account specific circumstances.

RSL – we need to push for less arbitrary punishments by looking at all the public info available to us and then looking at where the holes are.

AG – the statutes are so open to interpretation mind.

AD – the students aren't going to look at them though, we need to look at making this info more available e.g. on JNet, or in the Freshers pack

HP – is it a possibility for the Dean to anonymously record punishments and publish them.

AG – he's reluctant to share info like this in the public domain as it's easy to find out who did what due to the close nature of college.

AD – I think this is more about actual deaning process i.e. whether you can take in a mediator but we can do both at same time.

(c) Educational Board report

AD – went to Ed. Board with TH, DE and BS. There was an issue raised with gender balance in examinations and the statistics were up for discussion. It appears that across the board men do better than women. Men are more likely to get 1sts and 3rds whereas women are more likely to get 2.1s and 2.2s. Could we get more info from students about it?

BS – this is a uni and subject wide problem, it is so dependent on the subject and the part. Jesus has one of the most even gender balances (I think 31% of men and 29% of women get 1sts)

EK – going to achieve nothing looking at the college level, it needs to be uni wide. Direction that the Women's Campaign takes after the CUSU elections will make a difference as all Women's Officer candidates mentioned it.

BS – at Jesus, could make students and supervisors aware of the issue which could change people's viewpoints.

EK – as well as looking at gender imbalance in supervisions.

TH – could also talk to the Education DoS. The changes between different Tripos parts could be down to people's choice of papers affecting their grade. The more choice gets you doing stuff you want to do.

BS – if you mention this to students, it will raise awareness and get people talking about the issue. Will make people recognize if they're being unfairly treated.

EK – women will never say that men get more time in supervisions as people don't consciously think that.

RSL – we may just leave it to uni as it will have more gravitas coming from them.

EK – we could wait to see who wins CUSU Women's Officer elections and go from there. Charlie Chorley will focus on this, whereas Daisy will focus more on the 'Whose Uni?' side of things.

CS – we could just talk to people on Ed. Board and work with them rather than making a campaign. Could see if the Master and the Senior Tutor want to get involved.

AD – we will make sure that students are aware that the Ed. Board minutes are available on JNet if they do want to read more about what was discussed.

DE (reported by FV) - I think it's a really important discussion to be had. As I said at the meeting, I think the issue is in many ways societal, but this does not mean to say that we can't do anything about it. I said at the meeting that women tend to "play it safe" and that this probably has an impact on grades. I think confidence is a major part of this, and that in supervisions the dominant voice of men can drown out women, perhaps there is something supervisors could do about this. I agree with AD that we should ask the women of the college what they think.

(d) Plans for the Access and Outreach Jesus YouTube video

TH – met with AO, Chris Burlinson, Helen Higgins (new webmaster), SLO and the Admissions Dept. They're getting a photographer to take loads of photos for new prospectus and could also do training for student photographers so there's a mix in new prospectus. They also want to shoot two videos a professional one and a JCSU led one. For the professional vid, they will do research on videos from educational institutions and for the JCSU one we need ideas to get it kick-started. Could do short videos (day in the life, meet the JCSU, meet students, supervisions, events, sports, formal). Even a Loughborough SU style video – they did 'Call Me Maybe'. AD – watching that was such a painful experience, we're not doing anything like that! Needs to be genuine but also needs to look good as people get turned off seeing bad videos.

AG – me mate from Queen's is dead canny at editing videos mind. He got asked to do one for his college so can ask him for advice.

TH – Luke Ilott's charity video was good and also AO did a video for Murray Edwards so we can ask them for help.

TH – plan was that over Easter research would start therefore the videos could be done before Freshers arrive in October. We can chat about the video on our Facebook page, I will research other casual vids and will talk to AO etc.

(e) Gym culture

AG – some college members want gym culture to change, for example the introduction of a women's hour at the gym and a women's gym rep. Also the enforcing of the rule that there aren't supposed to be groups of a sports club during peak times (4-8pm) as it stops others using it.

BS – hugely in favour of this, however we need to make sure that this isn't only time for women to go and that they shouldn't be scared or intimidated when they go at other times. Don't want to make the situation worse.

EK – I met with Charlotte Jackson and Maisy Smyth and they're both willing to do gym inductions.

RSL – they could do intro sessions which would be available for everyone.

EK – emailed Rory McLeod (gym rep) about the possibility of this and he sent back a rather angry email saying that he didn't think there was a bad gym culture and that there shouldn't be a women's hour. It seems as though they have decided (without consulting women) that women would feel patronised if a women's hour was introduced. There's already been a lot of support for this, for example, the JCBC women want it.

AG – would defeat the point of a women's hour if it was swamped with boaties mind.

NBH – could we possibly change it so that gym reps are elected also with one of them a woman?

RSL – it's not really okay for the gym reps to pass stuff without going through the Gym Committee and not minuting it.

AD – yes it's bizarre that they aren't elected, means they're not accountable. We could put this issue in the Annual Survey and then see what the college want.

AG – then if college feel strongly about it we can put it in an OGM (I would be happy to propose the motion) and then the two reps could be elected at the same time as the JCSU by-elections. To summarise we would have two elected gym reps – one man and one woman, enforce the no groups at peak times rule, debunking gym myths – positive space, people can go any time not just in the women's hour but we would still try and introduce this.

DE (reported by FV) - thanks Aiden I think this is a really good idea, if we think this is majorly a female welfare issue I am very happy to lead any campaign/action to make it happen.

(f) Formal hall seat booking system

AG – the idea of a formal hall seat booking system is great idea but difficult to see how it would work in practice but the Domestic Bursar is very happy to have this discussion.

TH – could this work on JNet? There is a new Webmaster after all.

AG – I'm afraid the Webmaster is looking at the front end a bit more than the back end mind.

EK – we could stop people leaving random gaps by encouraging people to move down the tables.

FV – or we could advertise people to arrive early and the fact that you can reserve places for a group of people if you get a party permit.

AD – think the best thing to say to the students is that we have had a discussion, but the best thing to do is make people move down the tables and not leave random gaps.

(g) Scudamore's punt hire scheme

CL – Scudamore's sent me a letter advertising discounts for Jesuans. Hourly hire goes from £20 to £15, all day hire goes from £75 to £60. This (joint with MCR) would cost £180 per year.

AG – this represents value for money for students but we need to decide whether it's value for money for us.

BS – is it important enough for us to spend money on this as opposed to other things (welfare/ents).

AD – we can approach the MCR about this.

CL – will do. We don't have a budget for this, we would have to take it through an OGM.

(h) Changing the JCSU Enterprise Account

CL - after meeting with the Senior Bursar and the Finance Office, they were worried about how easy the Enterprise Account can be abused by people. Therefore they propose to change the Enterprise Account bank from HSBC to Lloyds which would bring it under the college banking umbrella so they can analyse what the money is being spent on. We would also change it from an online account to a cheque based account.

AG – online purchasing is easier for larger purchases as opposed to cheques. For example, last year we spent £1000 on things for the garden party and it is difficult for people to be £1000 out of pocket and waiting for a cheque.

AD – better pre-planning could prevent this.

CL – the number of transactions from this account is relatively small therefore it is easier to plan ahead.

AD – could you chat to Theo Morris Clarke about his regarding this. Ask about online banking, the bank swap is fine though.

(i) JCSU termly magazine or newsletter

AD – The bulletin is great but it is more 'this is what's happening' as opposed to 'this is what has happened'. The Jesuan News is the college one but it covers the entire college not just students. We would get two non-JCSU editors who would collate stuff during term and publish it in the last week of term. Due to costs we would just have an online version. It's a good opportunity for people who want to get editing or publishing experience. CS and JCSU to review the content. It also encourages students to take photos – can do competitions.

TH – can work in tandem with Eliot's Face it gives more opportunities for people to get involved.

AD – will talk to CS to get this going for a Michaelmas Term start.

5. Any other business

(a) Constitution

CL – been approached by someone saying that the Constitution isn't on JNet.

AD – will put it up once we've properly rewritten it and it's been approved at a referendum next term.

(b) Annual Survey

AD – only had five people respond with questions. Could people continue to get back to me and we can get it out by the end of term.

(c) Bar quiz

FV – are Teach First still doing the bar quiz this week.

TH – will prompt them to reply.

(d) Puppy update

DE (reported by FV) – by chance, it turns out that the grads were organising a puppy event too. They had made more progress on dates and I had made more progress on rooms so we decided to combine. I had a meeting with their person organising it, the Secretary Christine van Hooft. It all seems to be running smoothly and I think it will be a nice link between grads and undergrads.

(e) Eating Disorder Awareness Week

DE (reported by FV) – this week I will be running a campaign based around eating disorders awareness week with BS and HP. We will be going around college with wipe boards and asking people to write one thing they love about themselves. Looking forward to you all getting involved!

(f) Student Room website

TH – still editing the Student Room Jesus page, need services statistics about rooms and prices off AG. Also need an Ents bio of AO and XF.

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

The meeting closed at 9:10pm