



JCSU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 2020

Minutes of a meeting of the JCSU Committee held on Monday 27th January in the Coleridge Room.

Present: the President (Aurelio Petrucci), the Vice-President (Octavia Rooks), the Treasurer (Will Davison), the Secretary (Sameer Aggarwal), the Ents Officers (Ollie Dennis and Matt Griffiths), the Access Officer (Cormac Parks), the Male Welfare Officer (Tom Cay), the Female Welfare Officer (Honor Abery), the Women's and Non-Binary Officer (Jess Molyneux), the LGBT+ Officer (Ben Gibson), the Environmental & Ethical Affairs Officer (Zak Coleman), the International Students' Officer (Satya Amin), the Freshers' Officer (Libby Bryant), the Ethnic & Religious Minorities Officer (Bobby Mugo), the Services Officer (Heather Jones) and the Mental Health & Disabilities Officer (Sophie Baldwin).

Apologies: the Communications Officer (Jacob Powell).

The meeting opened at 19:08.

MINUTES

1. Committee Reports of Actions Since Last Meeting

AP: Had first College Council meeting – discussed flying LGBT+ flag, now agreed to fly every year. Discussed Benin Bronze and Rustat memorialisation. Met with Bursar about student rent rises – agreed a figure of 1.75% (between RPI and CPI).

OR: Tickets out for Halfway Hall – couldn't get different prices for meat option.

WD: Have stated reluctant position with regards to funding the gym renovations. Have meeting coming up about Boat Club funding.

SAG: Took minutes. Organised bookings of JCR. Finished taking committee photos.

OD/MG: Organising Ceilidh. Lots has been changing, so might put out another termcard.

CP: Day-in-the-life pushing ahead.

TC/HA: Have a provisional date and time for Week 5 Welfare Event. Running with idea of talk by Dean of Chapel, get Master involved etc. Discussed about getting a crepe stall.

JM: Booking rooms and confirming speakers for Week of the Woman. Have proposed a compromise for Women's Hour of 6 hours a week.

BG: Also had discussions about flying LGBT+ flag.

ZC: 5 new recycling bins to be created by Waff. Been contacted about doing an event about ethical/sustainable banking.

SAm: Had meeting with other college International Officers. Now have drop-in sessions. Started planning a bop with BM, OD and MG.

LB: Booked rooms for Freshers' Week.

BM: Had meetings with catering about halal options and more fish options.

HJ: Have had a lot of people coming up to me with little issues, so will start putting a form out.

SB: Have stuff for the CALM bop. Waiting for a meeting with Geoff Parks about a 2nd counsellor.

2. Matters Arising

a) JCSU Stance on Drinking Societies [ZC, BG]

ZC: There was controversy about this last year, good to have an ethical lead on this. Perhaps less of an issue here as we have only 1 or 2?

OR: Yeah, Black Widows semi-defunct.

ZC: Think it's a symbol of Oxbridge elitism and exclusivity. Don't know about the stance of other JCRs but might be good to take a policy stance and raise the issue to Freshers.

BG: Problematic due to it being a single-gender space, which is an issue to non-gender-conforming students. Also, can lead to shows of toxic masculinity. Also gendered swaps are an issue, which assume sexuality of students etc. Think we should also think about bring 2s vs 1s in house, so it's not run by self-nominated students.

AP: People will nominate themselves to run these events, as people use it to mark themselves out.

SAg: College may start taking an interest as soon as it becomes a JCSU event.

TC: If we emphasise that not drinking is an option might be more manageable.

OR: Problem is a swap as an event is for drinking.

JM: And fines are also a large part of these events.

AP: Should we approach college about getting our Ents to run it?

OD: If we know we would get backlash for getting it wrong, we will definitely moderate it.

AP: If we maybe left 2s vs 1s alone, and then had a non-drinking social in addition?

SAm: The JCSU event may not be well attended.

AP: We could do a 2s vs 1s formal.

JM: Also due to the small membership of drinking societies mean they could be phased out reasonably easily?

AP: I think the attitude is dying out, but it still exists. We already have a reasonably good culture at Jesus, with a little work it could be a lot better.

AP: What about the Natives?

WD: Problem is a lot of large donors are old Natives, College looks after a lot of the Natives silverware etc.

BG: For us to have an official stance it needs to be passed at an OGM.

WD: What would be the arguments against taking a stance against?

TC: May be argued that the JCSU shouldn't interfere.

AP: Hard to actually ban drinking societies – can easily pop up again.

WD: College are more involved with the Amazons and Rhadegunds than Caesareans and Black Widows. They get £1,100 a year from the JCSU – they're sports societies, but essentially drinking societies.

AP: We could ask the societies how they meet the objectives of the JCSU.

MG: Do College also have a mutual relationship with the Amazons and Rhadegunds?

WD: No.

HA: We should also come up with a definition of drinking societies.

AP: Need to make sure the motion is watertight, so it's not voted down because it's flawed.

b) Welfare Drop-Ins [HA]

HA: Would perhaps like to move to a booking system?

AP: Other colleges have this system.

JM: Would be good if you could book to see a specific Welfare Officer.

JM leaves at 20:08.

HA: How would we run the system?

AP: Probably Google Form.

WD leaves at 20:08

TC: Could have a system where you can book to see if you can't make a drop-in session.

LB: Would be good to have a 10 minute buffer so people don't run into others on the way in and out.

AP: Also have people knock etc.

c) Wuhan Update and Welfare Measures for Chinese Students [AP]

AP: Discussed at College Council. College are treading a line between reassuring and making people worried. The students arrived on the 11th and left on the 22nd. The incubation period is 1 day to 2 weeks, so the latest they would've developed symptoms by the 25th. Have been being monitored everyday by their university, and have not shown any symptoms, so College now in the same boat as the rest of the university in dealing with the situation. Biggest risk now is Chinese students and their welfare – have heard reports of harassment. Concerns mainly SAM, but also rest of Welfare team. Could you draft an email SAM?

SAM: Have heard reports of people asking people who look at all East Asian if they're from China or Wuhan etc. Would like to emphasise these comments are not appropriate.

AP: Could you write me a draft about that, and SB could you draft a section about health anxiety? Will run by Geoff Parks as sensitive.

MG: Have also seen comments on Camfess and in the lab etc. about people at Jesus.

3. Any Other Business

ZC: Who are College liaising with regards to the Benin Bronze.

AP: Liaising with the Royal Court of Benin. Just having to verifying things with the Charity Commission. Also working with someone from the UN who deals specially with objects that need to be repatriated.

AP: To explain Rustat situation: Tobias Rustat was one of the largest donors to the college, and also a large participant in the slave trade. Yet he is memorialised in the Chapel and Cloister Court, there are conferences, feasts etc. named after him. College are working through whether to remove, contextualise, etc. the memorials. Would be good to have student input, and have students be more vocal.

ZC: If College can trace a large amount its current wealth to the slave trade, shouldn't some of that be used to help those the slave trade caused suffering to.

AP: A bursary has been discussed. College also gave money to abolitionists. Some things have also been renamed, e.g. the former Rustat Conference.

BM: What steps has the College taken to educate about the history of the slave trade?

AP: The Master has said she wants student body to be aware of the legacy of slave trade working body, but I pointed out that College doesn't do enough about this.

CP: Did we sign off initial £10,000 for gym refurbishment?

WD: No, previous year's committee did.

WD: JCSU give Boat Club £16,000 a year, which is a third of their funding, with rest coming from College, donors, trust fund etc. They can overspend by up to £4,000, which we have to cover, so would like more oversight.

AP: Choir have become more financially independent from college – something from Boat Club to think about.

HA: Who do we talk to about catering?

AP: Likely either Iain Sutherland or Alexis Moreau.

LB: If it's in the Brewery Room, Conferencing may insist you can only get food from them.

AP: Have emailed Domestic Bursar about washing machine situation as now ridiculous – want them all replaced as probably would be more economical than constantly fixing.

HA: Can we have an aligned date for work to start being set for all subjects in Freshers' Week?

AP: Might also be good to fly flag for Trans Day of Remembrance.

OR: Regarding the use of the word "gyp" for kitchens – know it's a traditional term, but it is also a derogatory term for the traveller community. Would be good if we get the College to change the signs to "kitchen".

OD: Have noticed it varies around College – people in Library Court say "kitchen", but people in Chapel Court say "gyp".

AP: Should be very easy to change.

AP thanked the members of the committee for a helpful and productive meeting.

The meeting closed at 20:18.

Next Meeting Agenda Items:

Phasing Out Ruminant Meat in Caff

Discussion of Food

Discussion of OGM Motion about Drinking Societies

Fellow/Student Events