

## JCSU COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the JCSU Committee held on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 4PM in the Coleridge Room.

### MINUTES

**Present:** the President (Daisy Eyre), the Vice-President (Ellen Parker), the Treasurer (Anand Sharma), the Secretary (Jamie Sandall), the Services Officer (Christina Lane), the Communications Officer (George Thompson), the Access Officer (Amelia Oakley), the Green Officer (Tim Lennox), the Ents Officers (Niall Devlin & Harrison MacNeill), the Women's Officer (Abigail Smith), the Welfare Officers (Joe Hamilton & Rebecca Lewis), the Mental Health and Disabilities Officer (Eddie Conway), the International Officer (Man Hon Ding), the LGBT+ Officer (Andy Burnett) and the Racial Equalities Officer (Ore Ogunbiyi).

**Absent:** n/a

#### 1. Committee reports of actions since election

- DE - has been busy. Tour of college to meet key people who JCSU will be working with. Attended the building planning meeting with domestic bursar where works to the Porter's Lodge and Kitchens were discussed. Had meeting with EP, ex-President and Vice President. Solved book situation for George Raikes.
- EP - Stash order sorted and EC's corrected. Preparing for halfway hall: invites to be printed imminently, there were some issues with the Vegetarian menu
- ASh - Met senior treasurer and people from finance office, distributing checks etc.
- JS - Organised this meeting. Secured photographer for societies photos, to be held on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> of April
- CL - Preparing for room ballot (meeting with DE). First email will be early next week. Pool table to be delivered on Tuesday.
- GT - Met with College Communications Officer to discuss plans for the year. Setting up email accounts and overhauling JCSU website, looking slightly less disgusting. Two bulletins have been sent.
- AO - New American exchange students have been allocated parents. Shadow scheme starts in coming weeks.
- TL - Energy saving competition being planned (meeting keep people). There has been mixed success, but promising. Homeless food collection, seeing if caff waste can be brought together but college has cited legal issues.
- ND & HMcN - First Bop organised, though few details still need to be confirmed with new Dean. Term card not settled on yet but being planned out. Assisting with JHAF set up.
- ASm - Looking into starting woman arts festival (EV consulted). WBS consulted over sexual harassment policy. Other woman's officers being consulted with regards to tampons. STEM mingle being planned.
- JH & RL - Frist welfare cake earlier in the week. Frist drop-in has occurred. Term scheduled for coming drop-ins etc. Planning out Wellness Week, in consolation with the dean of Chapel and Chaplain. To be held over the 15 - 19<sup>th</sup> feb. There will be workshops, talks and interactive activities.
- EC - Looking into prices for stuff to order (stress equipment etc.). Meeting with disabled students campaign next week.
- MHD - Meeting exchange students tomorrow (committee invited). Planning formal swaps for later in term.

AB – Organised swap with grads on Tuesday. Bought pay as you go telephone for anonymous texts.

OO – Trying to sort out a BME swap, need to ensure representative coverage at events. Hoping to incorporate FLY into Wellness Week.

## 2. **Suggestion form report by CP**

CP reports that there have been suggestions regarding caff prices, queries over pool table and requests to allow pennyng at formal

## 3. **Matters arising**

### **(a) *Changing the title of the LGBT+ officer to the 'sexuality and gender identity officer'***

AB - main reason LGBT+ title is intimidating, in Fresher's people who are unsure about what label to use may find it intimidating

DE - could there be a vote between those who do self identify

AO - spoke to previous LGBT+ officer who changed it from LGBT. Reads statement:

“For those on the committee that don't know me, I [Anthony Wheeler] was the LGBT+ officer for Michaelmas 2015 and Lent and Easter 2016 and it was under me that the + was added to the title. First of all, I want to say that I personally disagree with the notion that the LGBT+ title is restrictive and that the + marginalises groups. The intention and subsequent effect of adding the + was to demarginalise people who identified as not straight or cisgendered but did not necessarily feel they identified or did not want to identify with the existing label of L, G, B or T. This change was brought about by consultation with the college LGBT+ community, the wider university community (through CUSULGBT+) and wider college consultation at two OGMs.

The only objection to this change was whether we should use LGBTQ, but it was discussed that Q (meaning Queer) and + harbour the same meaning and it would be better to have a standardised term across the University as other colleges and indeed CUSU use the +. The current LGBT+ officer and JCSU should in the first instance consult with the college LGBT+ community, through the mailing list for example, which as far as I'm aware has not yet happened. Secondly, many people take solace in the fact that through the LGBT+ label and community they have found that they are not alone. How much you identify with the labels does not matter, but it is important that there is a continuity of terms in relation to that community.

If an LGBT+ person wanted to find out about our college and what it offers to LGBT+ students, they are going to google 'Jesus college LGBT/LGBT+/LGBTQ'. To find 'Sexual identity and gender inequality' would not project the correct image of the inclusive LGBT+ environment we have in college. At Jesus we have a very inclusive environment and I created events and spaces where anyone regardless of sexuality or gender identity were allowed to take part in and be, simultaneously raising the profile of LGBT+ and inclusivity in the college for all members.

I believe the current and subsequent LGBT+ officers should attempt to focus their efforts on this, particularly given the great inclusive atmosphere we have at Jesus, rather than focus on a name change that could be more damaging than useful. I believe personally and from my experience as a representative of the views of the LGBT+ community at Jesus that this name change would in fact be a backwards step, which could potentially marginalise our LGBT+ community in college as well as future LGBT+ applicants. I advise the committee against continuing with it.”

ASm - this could mean the moving of transwoman from under the Women's officer heading  
HMcN - does the '+' not cover this anyway?

ASm - thinks it makes it more separate

JH - more so than the actual T in LGBT?

DE - hopefully everyone would be able to come to either

ASm - sees that the distinction arising as unnecessary

GT - LGBT+ is a label built upon a number of identities grouped together, maybe people who are unsure need the room to identify. LGBT+ is a title build on the notion of identity, new title is clearly for everyone.

HHcN - have found a different experience at home, people are not necessarily as aware of these issues when coming to university

OO - there are different for racial equalities, CUSU have BME

EP - we don't have a men's officer because they are not the oppressed group. If we are going to have an online vote, should we have discussion/debate before.

CL - this would have to go through OGM

AB - plans to talk about this at the swap. Google search will not be an issue as it is just the title, the phrase will be in the text so the first result will be the same

RL - by changing the name would future candidates need to self-identify as LGBT+?

AB - if people feel they are experienced enough with the issues that they can still be an effective representative then it would not matter.

AO - nothing in the constitution saying you have to identify as LGBT+. Women vote for women's officers. Problematic to ask people to put themselves into a box.

DE - reservations that not all LGBT+ will be on swap. Discussion group may be needed with a neutral chair

AO - proposition for a timeline: discussion group, email with anonymous google drive, gather evidence for argument to be presented at OGM

GT - concern that only letting LGBT+ people vote is restrictive

DE - entitled to restrict it to only the people who it concerns

AO - separate email to LGBT mailing list to survey opinion and agrees shouldn't be restricted

EC - amount of people who voted in election, wouldn't harm to say if you identify

DE - agrees with above, not hypocritical to say only LGBT+ on this matter despite college voting on whole role

HMcN - what if student considered themselves outside new title then wouldn't be eligible to vote

DE - advises an opinion pole as evidence for OGM

RL - you would except those concerned to attend OGM, vote would need to be advertised

DE - Review responses to survey and take it form there. Welfare can consult responses and decide together who to put this across OGM.

AB - need for discussion will depend on response to opinion poll

ASm - keen that women's officer is involved in consultation process

DE - discussion group would be useful as would ensure no group is ignored

AO - keep discussion group open to everyone, so all are comfortable

DE - this will be taken to college at the next OGM

**(b) Welfare aims for the year**

RL - welfare cake to held every two weeks, drop in Wednesday's at 6 alternating between JH/RL. Noticeboard is on its way. Anonymous advice service to be expanded to welfare. On call service will be started too.

JH - Wellness Week: currently have linkline, DHIVerse, peer2peer, FLY, CATS, CUSU welfare, any other ideas. Need to publicise to population.

RL - Wellness fair Wednesday 6 -8pm where students will be able to meet the above organisations to help with wellness

JH - there will also be posture workshop, drop in with local GP, yoga etc.

RL - welfare craft too, MCR also getting involved, film night, no baking session (no ovens)

EP - mindfulness talk was excellent, call for equivalent at Wellness Week

RL - CUSU want to create welfare league table. Ranking colleges

Unanimous - nope

DE - CUSU opaque not many forums to disagree with them. CUSU believes they have a mandate to do it.

HMcN - sounds very destructive

DE - last yea managed to stop ranking but they are likely to introduce a star system

### **(c) Caff Prices**

DE - Mandated to campaign on prices at AGM and went through unanimously, optimistic that they can be reduced. Aware that some people are priced out of caff. Some in college don't understand that students are living on a budget. Caff prices should be included in JCSU annual survey in a major way, should be a focus on principally price but also value. Bursar have been told but there was little receptiveness. Hope that Bursars' will be shocked and galvanized by a significant response to survey.

CL - meeting Domestic Bursar where this will be discussed. Notes that sauce is now free.

OO - most students are unlikely to mind a compromised quality.

ASm - notes inconsistency in quality with Vegetarian option

AB - call to have caff cost breakdown published

RL - how is formal subsidised, formal should be more as a way of making caff cheaper

DE - should investigate in same survey if people are willing to pay more for formal

JS - important way to make case would be to obtain the data King's used in their campaign in order to make our case to college

CL - foresees strong resistance form college

DE - remains optimistic

### **(d) Transparency**

DE - A very complex issue. Interesting in that it got passed. People said they want to be able to contribute to discussion. College wide committees (CC, student affair, educational board) minutes are not released until confirmed the following term when the next meeting has taken place, this decreases transparency. A lot of power in these minutes as people have been misrepresented in the past. Doubt that college will change procedure. A President's bulletin detailing what has been discussed and what will be disused could be a useful way of signposting what has occurred

ASm - people want to know what's going on but unlikely to research full details. Bulletin would likely be more likely to increase participation

OO - risk of overkill. Too many committees, discussions. We are meant to be representatives not just communicating the results of meetings

GT – concern over the tyranny of people with time and who are disproportionately politically engaged. Not just the case that if you care you go  
AO - huge amount of information is already available  
ND - google drive with minutes?  
GT - they go on website. JCSU, CC, OGM etc.  
HMcN - that website needs publicising on JCSU Facebook page  
DE - interim measure will be the President's bulletin. Long term get college to communicate more clearly. Instructions of where to find minutes will be in first bulletin.  
GT - explanation of how to find them will also be provided on website

**(e) Rents and Services charges**

DE - Email over Christmas from bursar. Effectively, they want to change who utilities are charged from base rate to daily rate meaning that long tenancy would pay more. Is fairer as currently all pay the same. Instead they would standardise at £1.60 a day. This is fairer, lots will save money. People have a choice, unless you're a fresher or by chance of ballot position.  
ASn - where is base rate from?  
DE - Seems arbitrary. Changing because it's fairer. Wanted to discuss with committee.  
MHD - good idea. Benefits international students. Disincentive for people who don't need long tenancy to choose it. Could mean fewer international students having to move out  
ASm - this should be signposted in ballot emails  
CL – consensus that no one would object

**(f) Updates from DE on new CUSU policies**

DE - CUSU is looking to change the way affiliation fees work, this has discussed it with the Bursar

**(g) Termcard**

DE – Hoping to plan termcards in advance  
ND - organisational capacity is limited by the fact people are continually coming forwards with new ideas  
OO – on this, there is a lot of support within student population for karaoke night  
DE – proposes that this could be updated online  
MHB - could provide an e-calendar where students choose which to subscribe too (filtered out by different areas: ents, welfare etc.)  
DE - really want to get this done as soon as possible

**(h) Policy for use of the new JCR**

DE - first time we have had JCR that can be a very social space. Need to discuss whether people should be allowed to drink in the JCR.  
AO - issues raised over whose responsibility it is to clear up  
EP – issue raised over licencing  
GT – unlikely to be an issue as is private space  
DE – noted that other colleges are allowed to  
ASm – advises that there is not a blanket ban but equal efforts to discourage  
AO – importance that the JCR is not see as 'an area for social drinking'.  
RL - might be nice idea to have JCR as a space without alcohol given presence of alcohol in other areas (BOPs etc.)  
DE – not an outright ban  
ASm - this is something that will have to be readdressed when bar opens

**(i) Energy Saving Competition**

TL - trying to get people to save energy/cost for college and give it back to them: cash prize. College keen if will be economising. Hoping to launch this term, but college keen to get details straight (so might have to be Michaelmas)

GT - how does data work?

TL - will have to be restricted to houses as have meters

ASm - what about ballot? What if split and some are more keen than others? This could cause friction and might not be positive

OO - in a split house, if inhabitants are not friends some might not spend much time in the house working etc. might not be fair representation

JH - important not to underestimate what people will do for this money

AO - could become an access issue. As some might be more excited for it than others due to economic circumstances

DE - real plus that people are able to get such affordable heating. Formal tickets may be a better way of incentivising

AO - Also might want to split to Easter term when heating is less of an issue

JS - these are all important concerns but many rest on the size of the prize, what is the projected value?

TL: original £500. Which has been revised by splitting it to. With smaller awards for runner's up

EP - college, as an environment, is supposed to remove stresses (why we have cleaners, caff etc.) Benefits don't necessarily outweigh the costs in this instance.

DE - important to publicise and really prioritise the issue

GT - who do adjustments work for number of people, tenancy etc.?

TL - % saving over fixed period of time

ASm - by reducing prize to, for example, formal tickets can make it a positive experience rather than potential problematic

GT - could money not be put towards more sophisticated thermostats

RL - worth considering the insulation and plumbing issues experienced in many of the older houses

TL - improving insulation as part of renovations that are ongoing

**(j) Green initiatives**

TL - contemplating a two Vegetarian and one meat caff or a meat-free Monday

AO - proposes having a Vegetarian week

HM - certain people would despair at whole veggie week

GT - every now and then the main option could not be meat, why normalised

ASn - deli sandwich and soup could be Vegetarian more often

ND - requests to separate meat and vegetables in salad bar

AO - requests that vegetables at formal do not have meat incorporated

GT - Vegetarian starter at formal is not being advertised

CL - has been requested but caff is just being slow to adopt

**(k) Feedback from 6 Ballot meeting - CL**

First email next week reminding people to think about where and in which groups they would like to live next year. Also organise room visits with reps from each staircase.

Reserved rooms - decided to keep reserved rooms anonymous so there was no pressure to switch. On Jerome they will say whether houses are going to be refurbished

**(l) Pomona Students Kitchen Facilities**

*EP - Pomona students mentioned that facilities are inadequate.*

*DE - not a matter that needs dealing with now. Email to be sent inquiring. [action point]*

*ASn - said students have emailed Pomona inquiring*

*DE - instructs EP to please follow up*

***(m) JCSU logo is ugly, call for change***

*A point widely supported by the committee*

*GT - JCSU logo on website and bulletin wants improving. Barely a logo, just JCSU*

*DE - what is proposal? Competition?*

*GT - want to change in time in office. Group to discuss or competition for ideas, perhaps not final logo. JHAF could be involved in its selection*

*DE - GT given go ahead*

*GT - requests future consultation regarding the horse etc.*

***(n) Circulation of bank statements from the joint Enterprise account - AS***

**4. Any other business**

***(a) Sign off engineering dinner - DE***

*EC: date?*

*DE: Friday 19<sup>th</sup> feb*

*Committee support*

***(b) AO access film payment***

*AO - reassures committee she is paying herself the agreed amount for production of the access video. Might reassess if budget has been cut*

***(c) Alternative prospectus***

*DE to work with GT and set up committee*

***(d) JCSU Website overhaul needed***

*GT advocated that it is outdated. Agreement that certain aspects could be passed to branches of college out could farm out certain aspects .*

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

The meeting closed at 18:00.