

# JCSU COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the JCSU Committee held on Wednesday 21st January 2015 at 7.30pm in the Library Court Seminar Room.

**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 Green Officer (Tansy Branscombe), the Ents Officers (Xanthe Fuller and Amelia Oakley), the Male Welfare Officer (Ben Simpson), the Female Welfare Officer (Daisy Eyre), the Mental Health and Disabilities Officer (Harrison Packer), the LGBT+ Officer (Anthony Wheeler), the Women's Officer (Eleanor Kashouris) and the Racial Equalities Officer (Nadine Batchelor-Hunt).

**Absent:** the International Officer (Marina Mayer).

## 1. Committee reports of actions since handover

- AD – attended meetings (CUSU, College Council, Lent Term planning, Pre-Ballot and two with the Development Office), organised the College Council representative election (won by Isabelle Jefford).
- RSL – attended meetings (CUSU and with Zoe Stubbins for Halfway Hall organising), booking/contacting various people for organising Halfway Hall.
- CL – met finance office to walk about budget, started signing for cheques.
- FV – organised JCSU meeting, made a grid of faces for the committee (printed and put in kitchens in Freshers' staircases).
- AG – attended Pre-Ballot meeting, started to organise ballot, spoke to the Catering Dept. about improving communications with undergrads.
- CS – improving JCSU social media presence, set up a JCSU Google Drive account, set up a JCSU group tweet account, ran the bar quiz, updated the JCSU website with bios and pictures of committee members.
- TH – attended the CUSU Access Forum, organising CUSU Shadowing Scheme, met the School's Liaison Officer and the Admissions Office with last year's Access Officer for an official handover.
- TB – raising awareness for environmental issues, contacting relevant people to get 'switch off after use' stickers.
- XF & AO – organised a bop and would like to thank the committee for tidying up, organising an open mic night in the bar as well as other events with Duncan the barman, confirmed February 13th for a college Valentine's Day event.
- DE – attended the JCSU Welfare Team meeting and CUSU Women's Conference, sent first welfare email, spoke to maintenance about replacing sanitary bins around college.
- BS – attended the JCSU Welfare Team meeting, sent first welfare email, did first drop-in session.
- HP – attended the JCSU Welfare Team meeting, set out plan for the year.
- AW – attended the JCSU Welfare Team meeting, started No Bystanders campaign, liaised with CUSU LGBT+.
- EK – attended meetings (JCSU Welfare Team, CUSU Women's Conference and one with the Development Office).
- NBH – attended the JCSU Welfare Team meeting, organising a themed formal with MM, sent first to college email.

## 2. Matters arising

### (a) CUSU Council meeting

AD and RSL attending a CUSU Council meeting in the last week and reported on the largest item on their agenda. CDE (Cambridge Defend Education) were asking for CUSU support for their 'End Week 5 Blues' campaign by introducing a reading week in the middle of term. This also included advising students not to hand in work in week 5 this term (but still doing it so as not to get behind). The Council voted in favour for amended motion – advising CDE to do more research (as their campaign was not backed by statistics) and not backing the

idea of not handing in work in week 5 as it is insulting to supervisors who are trained and give up their time for supervisions. AD and RSL feel as though they represented Jesus students well in a moderate way.

AD raised the issue of week 5 within Jesus and the general impression of the committee was that there was a bit of hysteria surrounding it and that many people don't actually get stressed in week 5 at all as people have different workloads and have different stress tolerance levels. It was pointed out that the hysteria can trivialise mental health issues and an idea was raised that within Jesus we should stop saying that people will be down and stressed in week 5 and just remove the name altogether. The Welfare Team said they keep awareness of the college's welfare provisions high and encourage students to talk to their DoS/supervisors or the college's Tutorial Advisors/Welfare Team about any matter, big or small. In addition to this, the point was raised that supervisors could encourage students to talk to them if they get stressed with work, as there doesn't seem to be much of this taking place at the moment.

AD suggested that a question about week 5 and the stigma attached to it could be put in the Annual Survey as it would be useful to see what the views of the student body are.

**(b) Welfare Team meeting**

The Welfare Team met on 18th January. DE reported that the meeting basically outlined most of their plans for the term/year as well as sorting some constitutional issues. EK felt that the Womens' Officer should not be on the Welfare Team as it makes it clear that Womens' Officer is a separate position for the political advancement of women, rather than the welfare of the individual woman, although of course if any woman wants to speak to her about welfare, she should feel free to.

BS also reported that they would try and change the Male/Female Welfare Officer titles to just Welfare Officer. However there would still be two (a self-identifying man and a self-identifying woman). This would enforce the fact that students can go and talk to either.

Also it was decided that for next year's budget, the Womens' Officer would have her own £100 budget instead of it being included in the larger general welfare budget.

**(c) JCSU Survey Monkey account request**

RSL requested to use the JCSU Survey Monkey account for two surveys: stash feedback and Halfway Hall menu choices. The committee didn't have any problems with this. AD said he'd contact Tori McKee (account holder) to ask for clarification if the account can be used by the JCSU for more than the Annual Survey as DE and EK may need to.

**(d) Ents budget for Halfway Hall**

RSL proposed that £200 of the Ents budget should go towards Halfway Hall (decorations/bop etc), as has happened in previous years. CL reported that last year Ents Officers used £1560 out of their £1600 budget which included Halfway Hall. XF and AO confirmed that they were okay with RSL using Ents' money for Halfway Hall.

**(e) Room ballot**

AG attended the Pre-Ballot meeting this week and reported to the JCSU that the two room ballots will take place on 18th February (for 2nd and 3rd years) and 4th March (for 1st years). He needs the committee to sign up for hour long slots on these two days but will create a rota closer to the time. He reported that college are changing the way they're doing it due to the shortage of rooms last year. 3rd years who have a confirmed 4th year place (Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Classics and returning MML) will go between 2nd years and 1st years as usual. 3rd years who do not have a confirmed 4th year place (eg Natural Sciences) will ballot once their

place has been confirmed in July. Full information will be on JNet.

AG also reported that the college would be retiring the rooms database as it was out of date, replacing it with a new system with floor plans, costs, amenity information and photos of rooms/houses/staircases but it won't be up and running until next year. In the meantime he suggested that people should organise room viewings to gain information about certain accommodation.

TH brought up the unofficial document that was created last year by 2nd years in which people put down their room preferences. AG said that the JCSU would discourage a repeat of this as the ballot takes priority and that it caused a lot of issues last year.

**(f) Caff card top-up in the bar**

AG reported that Duncan the Barman is perfectly happy for people to top up their caff cards in the bar.

**(g) Linkline quiz night**

AO reported that she had received an email from Linkline about them organising and sponsoring the bar quiz in Week 5. They would provide prizes and just require the host to do a shout out for them. EK (the planned host for the quiz that week) said that she would be happy to do this. BS reported that he would email Linkline and confirm arrangements.

**(h) MCR relations**

AO realised how little the JCSU interacted with the MCR and suggested that ents could organise an event which would incorporate both communities. AD reported that he had been added by the MCR President on Facebook and that he'd get in contact with her about this matter.

**(i) JCSU Google Drive account**

CS reported that she had set up a JCSU Google Drive account in which committee members could post document/media on in which the entire committee could use. This could include photos for website updates, bar quiz templates or handover documents. This would also make the handover with the next JCSU more smooth.

**(j) Language partnership scheme**

FV reported that MM had proposed to set up a language partnership scheme within the student body. This would entail getting international and MML students to sign up to the scheme. These students would then pair up with other students who wanted to learn/practice/speak/improve a language. It would be a very flexible partnership, with each pair deciding how much they wanted to do. AD said that this was a great idea and advised MM to start organising it and keep the committee updated.

**(k) How letters from college are addressed**

EK reported that she had attended a meeting with the Development Office and AD. She reported that they were very accommodating and have changed how college addresses their letters to students' parents/guardians/carers. AD reported that the Development Office were also happy to change individual circumstances if they were emailed about it.

**(l) West Court update**

AD reported that he had attended a meeting with Richard Dennis about West Court as the current JCSU are the team that will facilitate the move within the undergraduate body. He reported that phase 1 (underground party room, café/bar, JCSU and MCR common rooms, conference room) will be ready in time for Freshers' Week, whereas later phases (auditorium, gym) will be ready at a later time. He reported that in the near future the

committee will visit West Court in order to get a feel of what it is like. He also suggested a launch party for the underground party room as well as setting up an ents Team for planning events in the party room (Clare Ents/Kings Bunker style). He reported that the Porters' Lodge will be extended to include night access, the undergrad pigeon holes will be kept in the Marshall Room and the current bar will be converted into offices.

CL suggested that the JCSU makes information about the West Court development more accessible to students and AG said he'd look into it.

### **3. Matters arising**

#### **(a) Steel pan band**

NBH reported that she would be inviting a steel pan band for an event in the college bar and AO and XF said they'd help with the promotion.

#### **(b) Student photos**

CS requested that if the committee had any photos of students doing stuff around college, could they send them to her. TH said that there was a photo competition run by the Development Office asking for similar photos and that she would probably be able to use them.

#### **(c) Teach First quiz**

AO reported that Teach First had spoken to Duncan the barman about hosting a quiz at some point this term. AD recommended that she should email back to confirm their intentions and clarify what they want to gain from the event.

AD thanked the members of the Committee for a very helpful and successful meeting. The meeting closed at 8.45pm.