

JCSU ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the JCSU OGM held on Thursday 26th February at 7.30pm in the Coleridge 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 International Officer (Marina Mayer), the LGBT+ Officer (Anthony Wheeler), the Women's Officer (Eleanor Kashouris) and the Racial Equalities Officer (Nadine Batchelor-Hunt).

Absent: the Mental Health and Disabilities Officer (Harrison Packer).

1. Executive reports of actions since last OGM

AD – attended meetings (Student Affairs, College Council, CUSU Council, Buildings, pre-Ballot, West Court), discussed Marshall Room security with porters and changed it to card access only, organised the ballot with AG, updated the JCSU Constitution and Standing Orders, met with various college staff members, dealt with requests people had.

RSL – attended meetings (CUSU Council, Student Affairs), sorted stash for the JCSU and US exchange students and sorting another order for Easter, organised Halfway Hall for second years (entertainment, photos, security, decoration, food).

CL – liaised with Finance Office to organise JCSU accounts, sorted out budgets discrepancies, worked on financial constitutional changes, reimbursed clubs and societies via cheques.

FV – organised and minuted weekly JCSU meetings, organised a bar quiz rota, updated the club captain and society president list, emailed regarding a change in the college crest, helped a 1st year set up a film society, designed and printed a JCSU grid of faces for every kitchen in 1st year staircases.

AG – attended meetings (Student Affairs, pre-Ballot), sorted out the minimum £20 cash caff card top up in the bar, set up an online suggestions form, organised and ran the rooms ballot.

CS – set up the committee emails, updated the JCSU website with bios, set up a Google Drive account with documents and photos to make handover easier in the future, managed the JCSU Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages, sent out the weekly bulletin and made it more interesting, managed the email lists.

TH – attended meetings (Student Affairs, CUSU Access Forum), worked with CUSU for their successful Shadowing Scheme, regularly met with the School's Liaison Officer and the Admissions Department, planned access tours in the Easter vacation in the college link areas, planning for the upcoming open days, launching the new access website soon, planning a video promoting the college for YouTube, met the CUSU Access Officer regarding A-Level reforms.

TB – sat on college Charities Committee, put a plastic bag recycling bin in the Marshall Room, organised Fairtrade roses for Valentine's Day, planning to start the Green Impact Scheme within college, planned events for Fairtrade Fortnight.

AO & XF – organised events (two bops, two open mic nights along with Miles Stopher, karaoke night, the Not Week 5 Fiesta), planning events (bar crawl for week 8, marriage formal, comedy smoker for next term), arranged (with AD) for Jesuans to attend Clean Bandit sound check at the Corn Exchange before their concert.

BS & DE – attended Student Affairs, carried out the usual welfare stuff (welfare cake, drop-in sessions, sweets in pidges in Week 5), planning for summer, still investigating the potential for a college counsellor, proposed to changed names of the welfare officers in the JCSU Standing Orders, wrote a comprehensive welfare document for college students, re-launched the JCSU Welfare page.

DE – sorted out sanitary bins for North and Chapel Court bathrooms, putting pregnancy tests in her pidge, sorting out puppy day for exam term.

HP (reported by RSL) – sent out fortnightly focus emails to raise awareness of mental health issues, promoted the Student Minds Conference as the student rep for college, holding meetings to campaign for disabled, emailed about an internship opportunity for disabled students, helped edit the Constitution and Standing

Orders.

MM – organised a pot luck dinner, organised formal swaps with other colleges (Murray Edwards, Churchill, Kings, Downing), updated the international student mailing list, helped US exchange students settle in, attending iCUSU meetings.

AW – organised events (LGBT+ pub crawl, grad mixer, formal swap), attended CUSU LGBT+ meetings, promoted LGBT+ history month (email, posters, timetable in pidges), set up the No Bystanders campaign in college with staff and students (pledge event, email, posters), been asked to train caff staff on LGBT+ issues, helped to gender neutralise the Constitution and Standing Orders.

EK – organised a Women’s Dinner for 9th March, protested the tampon tax, part of CUSU Women’s Campaign (Reclaim the Night march on 8th March), writing college sexual harassment policy in conjunction with CUSU.

NBH – no racism in college but spoke to Senior Tutor for him to be first port of call for racial issues, organising a steel pans event in the bar, emailed caff regarding ethnic food days (invites suggestions, Domestic Bursar very keen), organised Breast Cancer Awareness formal (3rd March).

2. Members’ questions to the Executive

No questions.

3. Junior Treasurer report on JCSU Enterprise Account

CL – the Enterprise Account is used when the JCSU account isn’t applicable (e.g. for buying alcohol). It is supposed to be kept at a consistent level by spending money and making it back elsewhere. Profit has come from selling gowns to 1st years and the JCSU Garden Party. Recent costs have been incurred from JCSU stash, Halfway Hall, Freshers’ Week. Costs in the near future will come from the JCSU Garden Party (but hope to break even) and more JCSU costs.

Sam Fairbrother – what is the current amount in the account?

CL – around £9000.

Theo Morris Clarke – this generally fluctuates quite a lot but it is the aim to keep the average at around this level.

4. Ordinary motions

AD – as I am proposing motions, RSL will be chairing this meeting.

(a) Discussion/referendum on CUSU.

The JCSU notes:

1. That JCSU members often do not fully understand the role that CUSU fulfils.
2. That continued CUSU affiliation costs the JCSU £3,500 a year, representing just over 6% of our annual budget.
3. That some JCSU members believe that continued affiliation may not be beneficial to our interests, and that some students have questions on whether or not continued affiliation is ‘value for money’.

The JCSU believes:

1. That an open discussion with CUSU and members of college would help to inform students of the work that CUSU does.
2. That students have a democratic right to express whether or not we should continue to be affiliated to CUSU.

The JCSU resolves:

1. To host an open meeting with representatives of CUSU to inform members of college about their work.

2. At the end of the open meeting, to hold a vote to decide whether or not to proceed with a referendum on CUSU affiliation.

3. If necessary, to hold a referendum on continued affiliation with CUSU, to be held before the end of Lent term.

Proposed by: Aiden Goulden

Seconded by: Theo Morris-Clarke & Amelia Oakley

AG – in the JCSU Annual Survey last year, 50% of people said they unsure how effective CUSU was and only 25% said they were effective. I believe this is not good enough for a £3500 per year cost. People want to find out what they do and voice their opinion so I'm proposing an open meeting with a CUSU member to find out with the option for a disaffiliation referendum afterwards. If we are going to have this discussion, we need to have it properly with all the options on the table.

Tim Kitching – so you're not proposing a referendum?

AG – not directly.

NBH – is this money paid from the JCSU budget or by the college?

TMC – the JCSU budget.

Danny McGrath – I'm really against this. I'm also not sure what motion is proposing. AG you say there'll be a referendum before the end of Lent Term. You haven't factored into account that there are CUSU elections on at the moment; therefore there'll be no CUSU to talk to at this time. We shouldn't disaffiliate as we're a rich college so we don't need to, none of our societies or clubs have ever had money turned down. Busses to the Sidgwick Site were ramped up by the Council and CUSU managed to get them back down. If we can't see the benefits, others still may be benefitted by them. If anything political happens that we want to protest, for example a fee rise, we don't have any link to protest without their affiliation as they're linked to the National Union of Students. If we cut ties we will be saying that we're an apolitical JCR which isn't the case. Their job is to represent us so disaffiliation will cut ties and say we're not interested. I really don't think we should. Also many JCSU Officers (President, Vice- President, Access, Green, Women's and the Welfare Team) liaise with them all the time so they will lose the benefits.

Richard Cartwright – this motion should be a positive thing and not done in anger, we need something to push CUSU to be more effective.

BS – many people didn't know what DMG said so we really need this discussion as it would be informative to let people know.

NBH – we need to find out what they should be doing and then see whether a referendum is needed.

RC – we need to support and work with them and campaign in a positive way.

TMC – it's clear that CUSU does need reform, many people don't feel they're supported and that they don't speak for them. Need to think about the uni-wide student union that we could be a part of and we need a discussion in structured way that whole college can get involved in. We could reach out to other college's JCRs and see if there's anything that we could recommend to CUSU to do. If they aren't willing to change, we could suggest disaffiliation.

AD – I do feel that a discussion needs to be had, all Jesus students would need to be invited with a representative from CUSU, but this will obviously be difficult with the new CUSU committee and their handover. However in order to disaffiliate, it has to be done by the end of Lent Term. Therefore I suggest that the motion is amended. As soon as CUSU hear that the JCSU have had this discussion they have will have to put in a new plan to make us stay.

TMC – even with the amendment would disaffiliation still be on the table.

AD – this shouldn't be part of the meeting but someone could raise it post discussion.

DMG – just to reiterate, they do a job that college JCRs can't. This may not affect Jesuans all the time but it will

affect other colleges. No matter how bad some people think they are, they still do the job. May just be down to candidates themselves but I don't think we should jack money from them. CUSU need the money as they don't get a grant from the university, unlike student unions at other unis.

RSL – Therefore I propose the friendly amendment that we will organise an open meeting with a CUSU representative at the start of Easter Term.

No objection to new amendment – amendment passed.

Vote on amended motion:

For – 31

Against – 2

Abstain – 2

Amended motion passed.

(b) Amendments to the JCSU Constitution.

The JCSU notes:

1. The JCSU Constitution is a body of text which underpins and legitimises the existence of the JCSU.
2. The Constitution was last updated in 2009 and, whilst it contains spelling and grammatical errors in abundance, there are parts of the current constitution which are outdated and do not reflect how the JCSU functions today.

The JCSU believes:

1. That the changes being made will bring the Constitution in line with how the JCSU works today and will clarify and correct unclear or ambiguous passages.

The JCSU resolves:

1. To hold a referendum on this motion in accordance with Article 12.5 of the JCSU Constitution.
2. To amend the JCSU Constitution following the changes proposed and outlined by the current JCSU President, Amatey Doku.

Proposed by: Amatey Doku

Seconded by: Christina Lane

AD – have produced two 10 page long documents regarding Constitutional changes, one of which is just spelling and grammatical mistakes. I'll outline a few major changes. We have removed the Finance Committee as it has never met. Three people are now needed to authorise payments for the Enterprise account. An earlier stage has been added to the budget process. A deadline has been added for receipt handing in and cheque cashing in. People can now only stand for one position in elections. Finally, if the elected JCSU President doesn't accept the role, the person that comes second no longer automatically gets elected.

CL – just to clarify, the extra person needed to authorise Enterprise account payments won't affect reimbursement money for clubs and societies as it is a different account.

Chris May-Miller – if someone runs for President and comes a close second, is there no way that they could still be involved, as Vice-President for example.

AD – I'm afraid not, this way it keeps competition high and they may not put their full effort in another role.

NBH – also, people that come second in the President elections may not want to be the Vice-President.

Vote:

For – 39

Against – 0

Abstain – 3

Motion passed.

(c) Making the language of the JCSU Constitution gender neutral.

The JCSU notes:

1. The language of the JCSU Constitution uses gendered pronouns, i.e. 'him/her', 'he/she', 'his/her'.

The JCSU believes:

1. Despite the fact that college is a tolerant environment, we must always strive to improve and excel particularly in regard to equality. The Equality Act 2010 states that we must have due regard for advancing equality and this includes removing and minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics*, which in this situation would refer to the removal of gendered language from the JCSU Constitution in favour of gender neutral terminology. Not all students identify within the categories of male and female so when documents refer to students as 'he or she' it gives them a sense that they are being excluded or that their identities are not considered valid. By changing the language of the Constitution to gender neutral language, it will help to include these groups. The university's equal opportunities policy states that it will 'subject its policies to continuous assessment in order to examine how they affect protected groups and to identify whether its policies help to achieve equality of opportunity'. As a student body and college we ought to do the same and at this current time, our Constitution with gendered pronouns does not 'help to achieve equality' for the transgender community. The Equalities Act 2010 also states that we should take steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people: changing the language meets these needs.

*Gender reassignment is one of nine protected characteristics within the Equalities Act 2010.

The JCSU resolves:

1. To hold a referendum on this motion in accordance with Article 12.5 of the JCSU Constitution.

2. To amend the current JCSU Constitution following the changes proposed and outlined by the current JCSU LGBT+ Officer, Anthony Wheeler.

3. To make all subsequent changes to the JCSU Constitution gender neutral.

Proposed by: Anthony Wheeler

Seconded by: Rachel Pomery

AW – this has to be a separate motion to the previous one as it is on separate grounds.

Gary Rushton – can you give an example of gender neutralisation?

AW – here's the document of the proposed changes, which are also in the email FV sent out so do read them, but it's essentially changing it from 'he or she' to 'they' for example.

Bryn Elesedy – is there a specific way that it is done?

AW – the gender neutralisation guidelines are all set out by the CUSU LGBT+ Campaign so I have just followed them.

No opposition – motion passed.

(d) Amendments to the JCSU Standing Orders.

The JCSU notes:

1. The Standing Orders, as with the Constitution, have not been updated recently and many of the titles of the roles and role descriptions of the JCSU Executive Committee do not accurately represent what the roles are.

The JCSU believes:

1. That the changes being made will bring the Standing Orders in line with how the JCSU works today and will clarify and correct unclear or ambiguous passages.

The JCSU resolves:

1. To amend the JCSU Standing Orders following the changes proposed and outlined by the current JCSU President, Amatey Doku, following a subsequent OGM where the same changes are proposed in accordance with Article 12.6 of the Constitution.

Proposed by: Amatey Doku

Seconded by: Christina Lane

AD - in order to change the Constitution, you need a two thirds majority at an OGM plus an online referendum. This motion will also correct spelling mistakes and grammatical errors. I'll outline a few changes. We have updated the descriptions for welfare officers – have replaced male and female Welfare Officers to two Welfare Officers, a self-identifying man and a self-identifying woman. This is because they don't apply to a specific gender, but to everyone. On the whole they work together so it reflects that. Also we have added the potential to add abstention speeches at AGMs, EGMs and OGMs. Also all of AW's gender neutralising changes will affect mine.

James Porter – with respect to making welfare officers gender neutral, this could be discriminating if you want to talk to your own gender but if the Welfare Officers were both men, one a self-identifying male and one a self-identifying female.

AW – you cannot self-identify as male or female, but as a man or a woman. I understand your point, this is why there's a welfare team of different backgrounds and genders who all have welfare training. However if there isn't a member of the Welfare Team you want to talk to, there are plenty of other outlets within college and the university.

DE – nothing is changing other than the name. Though small, it is still a really important change, it makes the whole system a lot clearer as there isn't a barrier with the name. Also even though the Women's Officer isn't on the Welfare Team, she can still represent women.

Vote:

For – 43

Against – 0

Abstain – 1

Motion passed.

(e) Making the language of the JCSU Standing Orders gender neutral and more inclusive of the transgender community.

The JCSU notes:

1. The language of the JCSU Standing Orders uses gendered pronouns. I.e. 'him/her', 'he/she', 'his/her'.

2. The JCSU Standing Orders state that the 'Male Welfare and Academic Affairs Officer must be male' and that the 'Female Welfare and Academic Affairs Officer must be female'.

The JCSU believes:

1. Despite the fact that college is a tolerant environment, we must always strive to improve and excel particularly in regard to equality. The Equality Act 2010 states that we must have due regard for advancing equality and this includes removing and minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics*, which in this situation would refer to the removal of gendered language from the JCSU Standing Orders in favour of gender neutral terminology. Not all students identify within the categories of male and female so when documents refer to students as 'he or she' it gives them a sense that they are being excluded or that their identities are not considered valid. By changing the language of the Standing Orders to gender neutral language, it will help to include these groups. The university's equal opportunities policy states that it will 'subject its policies to continuous assessment in order to examine how they affect protected groups and to identify whether its policies help to achieve equality of opportunity'. As a student body and college we ought to do the same and at this current time, our Standing Orders with gendered pronouns does not 'help to achieve equality' for the transgender community. The Equalities Act 2010 also states that we should take steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people: changing the language meets these needs.

2. Following on from the above comments, in order to respond to the needs of the trans community, the language in this situation ought to be changed. The proposed change is: 'The Male Welfare and Academic Affairs Officer must self-identify as a man' and that 'The Female Welfare and Academic Affairs Officer must self-identify as a woman'.

*Gender reassignment is one of nine protected characteristics within the Equalities Act 2010.

The JCSU resolves:

1. To amend the JCSU Standing Orders following the changes proposed and outlined by the current JCSU LGBT+ Officer, Anthony Wheeler, following a subsequent OGM where the same changes are proposed in accordance with Article 12.6 of the Constitution.

2. To make all subsequent changes to the JCSU Standing Orders gender neutral.

Proposed by: Anthony Wheeler

Seconded by: Rachel Pomery

AW – this is basically the same as my previous motion but with the addition of the title change and description of the Welfare Officers.

No opposition – motion passed.

(f) JCSU entry for Spotify Soundclash competition.

The JCSU notes:

1. The JCSU, with the backing of Codeko (Ed Clark a Jesus 1st year student - Codeko has millions of views, tens of thousands of followers), has a very good chance of winning the top prize on offer of £5000.

The JCSU believes:

1. This is an excellent opportunity to win extra funding separate from the College and should be grasped at firmly.

The JCSU resolves:

1. The JCSU will engage in full promotion in order to attract all students to follow the playlist and back the campaign to win £5000.
2. The JCSU, using its significant influence and channels with students, is to fully mobilise in order to gather support.

Proposed by: Richard Cartwright

Seconded by: Ed Clark & Amatey Doku

RC – just to clarify I am a Spotify brand ambassador but I won't gain anything from this. This motion is just to get the endorsement from the JCSU as the playlist has already been created (JCSU Cambridge). I want it just in the hands of the JCSU Exec – to mobilise and advertise it as well as encouraging as many people as possible to follow and advertise it. There will be loads of people within Jesus who will follow the playlist as well as Codeko's fans. There's no cost of entry, the playlist with the most followers on 20th March gets £5000 and the next ten runners-up all receive £500.

DMG – this a great idea, especially if the money comes in before the end of the year as it will go into the Enterprise Account. It'd be good to spend this on the JCSU Garden Party in May Week.

AD – if we did win, we'd have a discussion on what to spend it on, but it'd probably go towards the Ents budget as it is a music thing.

No opposition – motion passed.

(g) Increasing the budget for JCFC.

The JCSU notes:

1. The original football budget is not sufficient due to a number of unforeseen circumstances:
 - The creation of a fourth team.
 - Due to the home pitch being unplayable we've had to play more games away which incur pitch fees and extra taxi costs.
 - A number of A&E injuries which we have funded the taxis for.

The JCSU believes:

1. The football club should have enough money so that players don't have to fund it themselves.

The JCSU resolves:

1. To increase the budget of Jesus College Football Club by £400.

Proposed by: Billy Haslam

Seconded by: Tim Kitching & Niall Purcell

EK – is it true that JCWFC doesn't have funding for taxis?

BH – no, they do have funding but it is separate from the men's team's budget.

CL – how did you come to the £400 proposed?

BH – we're not planning on spending it all. It is high enough that we won't have to subsequently ask for more. It will cover taxis, end of season awards etc.

AD – will you send a list of costings?

BH – yes.

No opposition – motion passed.

(h) Purchasing a trophy cabinet.

Postponed as Henry Miller (proposer) not in attendance.

5. Emergency Motions

(a) Review on the procedure of 'deaning'

The JCSU notes:

1. That the matter of the 'deaning' procedure is a grey area. Students are unaware of what is allowed with regards to the actual meeting with the Dean, if they are allowed to bring a mediator in for example.

The JCSU believes:

1. That students should be aware of their rights when they are being 'deaned'.

The JCSU resolves:

1. That the Executive carry out a proper review on the procedure of 'deaning' so people are aware of what is allowed in the meeting with the Dean.

Proposed by: Sam Fairbrother

Seconded by: Theo Morris Clarke

No opposition – motion passed.

6. Any other business

None.

RSL and AD thanked the members of both the Executive and the JCSU for a very helpful and successful meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm