

Minutes

For the meeting on 12th May 2023, 2pm in the Stephen Hawking Room.
Ryan Ko and Safy Oshoala chaired the meeting.

Present:

Ryan Ko (Co-President) Safy Oshoala (Co-President) Reema Pujari (VP) Chris Ryan (VP) Michael Hargreaves (Treasurer) Angelo Smith (Welfare) Ellen Thomas (Welfare) Ella Weaver (Green and Ethics) Hannah Dixon (Womens and NB) Zeeshan Hossain (BME) Téa Endeladze (Frep) Anya Penderis (Frep) Anjali Darling (Frep) Honor Langhorne (Ents) Harvey Challinor (Webmaster) Reuben Baldwin (DSO) Alex Price (Class Act) Faye Blackshaw (LGBTQ+) Izzy Solomon (Secretary)

Apologies:

Lucas Wolman (Green and Ethics) Audrey Chow (International) Jack Millar (Ents) Isaac Hall (ASO) Mila Edensor (LGBTQ+) Lucia Laffan (Access)

Overview of Points of Discussion:

- [1. JMC and sexual welfare: leave to Hannah to explain \(Raised by Presidents\)](#)
- [2. JCR BBQ \(Raised by Presidents\)](#)
- [3. For G&E: Can you can install recycling bins by punts \(Raised by Presidents\)](#)
- [4. Term Plan \(Raised by Vice Presidents\)](#)
- [5. Updating college website \(Raised by Vice Presidents\)](#)
- [6. Update on committee finances \(Raised by Treasurer\)](#)
- [7. Rent Issues \(Raised by ASO\)](#)
- [8. Possibility of changing rules regarding year abroad students \(Raised by ASO\)](#)
- [9. Creation of a green manifesto \(Raised by G+E\)](#)
- [10. Recycling education \(Raised by G+E\)](#)
- [11. Pet Therapy & Organisation of that \(Raised by Welfare\)](#)
- [12. Study areas/study groups \(Raised by Welfare\)](#)
- [13. Welfare Tea: budget/how much food we get \(Raised by Welfare\)](#)
- [14. Provide update on meeting with senior tutor - disciplinary procedures, JMCs \(Raised by Women/NB\)](#)
- [15. Locking system in college \(Raised by Women/NB\)](#)
- [16. Plan for tackling spiking \(Raised by Women/NB\)](#)
- [17. Disability Drop-In \(Raised by DSO\)](#)
- [18. Diagnosis and Symptoms Info Sheets \(Raised by DSO\)](#)
- [19. Disability/neurodiversity event in induction week \(Raised by DSO\)](#)
- [20. Step stool in laundry? \(For ASO and Treasurer\) \(Raised by Secretary\)](#)
- [21. Newsletter- 'TitBit' \(Raised by Secretary\)](#)
- [22. JCR- empty photo frames? \(Raised by Secretary\)](#)

23. Option for non committee members to raise an item (Raised by Secretary)

Any other business:

Exam Concessions

Garden Party Update

Frep check-in

Class Act check-in

LGBT check-in

BME check-in

Woman of the Week

Points of Discussion:

1. JMC and sexual welfare: leave to Hannah to explain (Raised by Presidents)

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2. JCR BBQ (Raised by Presidents)

→ The deadline to give the college the number of students planning to attend was today.
Thank you everyone who filled in the form.

3. For G&E: Can you can install recycling bins by punts (Raised by Presidents)

→ We should have a recycling bin next to where people get off the punts. This can be used by people studying in the library too

→ Green and Ethics will look into making this happen

4. Term Plan (Raised by Vice Presidents)

→ A term plan has been sent out to the JCR committee. All members should update it with their goals for the term and information that they are going to put forward for any college committee they are on.

→ In time the document will be shared with students. This will allow them to stay up to date with what is going on with the JCR. The document will automatically update as we add to it.

5. Updating college website (Raised by Vice Presidents)

→ The IT advisory meeting will be in the next few days and updating the college website will be discussed

→ Chris noted that he will be mentioning in the upcoming meeting that the 'conduct concern' form's wording could definitely stand to be improved. It was also noted that this form is not the concrete or absolute route students need to use to make a complaint. Students can also speak to their Tutor and JCR committee members. This should be made clear to students.

6. Update on committee finances (Raised by Treasurer)

- The JCR committee is running a deficit of roughly £2000, but we will be able to cover it
- There is still money left across liberation and misc accounts
- Next year the JCR budget will increase from £19,500 to £23,700

7. Rent Issues (Raised by ASO)

- The rent increase was discussed at the finance meeting. The College has tried to protect us from the cost of living crisis, but it has proved difficult when inflation is so high. We have been advised to signpost students to the Benn Bursary scheme.
- The presidents noted that the phrasing that is used around the Benn Bursary could/has caused issues. Students feel that they don't qualify for it because they aren't dealing with sudden financial hardship but rather a sustained struggle due to rising prices. The wording should be changed to reflect this, so that students feel the Bursary is an option for them when rents change.
- It was raised that the ASO wants to do an event on bursaries and finances for the freshers at the start of next term.
- The Co-Presidents believe there is a better way of handling this. The JCR welcome booklet that is given to freshers should be updated to include information on finances, such as how much college meals cost, where to eat, how much it costs to maintain bikes, and how much miscellaneous things cost. A section on the cost of various services in Cambridge will also be included.
- The treasurer also noted that the time when applications for the Benn Bursary are accepted is not ideal when it comes to paying college bills. To help deal with this, it should be made clearer to students that they can request that their bills are delayed until they have received the extra funds.
- Linking to the previous point, it's important that students know that the rents are changing before balloting starts and this change is made very clear, so that no one is blindsighted.

8. Possibility of changing rules regarding year abroad students (Raised by ASO)

- This item was not discussed as ASO was not present.

9. Creation of a green manifesto (Raised by G+E)

- Green and Ethics want to create a semi-formal booklet to educate students and tell them what they can do in addition to help out

10. Recycling education (Raised by G+E)

- It has been raised that students aren't recycling properly or staying on top of it.
- More information posted around college was suggested to try and alleviate this problem
- The G+E officers are hoping to create a drop-off point for soft plastics at college. They are also looking into where these can be sent.

11. Pet Therapy & Organisation of that (Raised by Welfare)

- Very soon the Welfare officers will be sending out information for Dog therapy and sign-ups. It's important for students to sign up beforehand because there is a limit on how many people can be around the dogs at any given time. There will be a 5 students per dog rule.

12. Study areas/study groups (Raised by Welfare)

- Some students are struggling to find a place to work when the library is too busy. It was enquired whether the welfare officers are able to book rooms for people to study in, so that there's more spaces for students to go. The consensus was that there was no issue with this and it was a good idea. It was also mentioned that students had done it before, so it was definitely do-able.
- Lisa (college wellbeing team) wants to run study groups/study skills sessions

13. Welfare Tea: budget/how much food we get (Raised by Welfare)

- Welfare Tea is going really well, lots of people are showing up. There is an issue caused by this though, there are too many people for the amount of food the officers can buy. The officers asked that they can have a higher weekly budget, so more food can be bought.
- The officers are looking to do a Welfare Tea outside as the weather improves

14. Provide update on meeting with senior tutor - disciplinary procedures, JMCs (Raised by Women/NB)

- Lisa (Wellbeing Team) wants to do a run through on welfare and disciplinary action involving a JMC
- Clare Jackson is going to try and organise something similar around JMCs too
- Only the JCR Presidents can nominate students to sit on a JMC, it would create fairer and more diverse nominations if more members of the committee could put names forward. The Presidents were onboard with this shift.

15. Locking system in college (Raised by Women/NB)

- Women/NB suggests that there should be a change to the locking system in college, so that room doors lock every time the door shuts. It was acknowledged that this will obviously cause a drastic spike in the number of people who will get locked out of their room. A member of the committee suggested that this could be a system that students opt into if it will make them feel safer.
- It was then raised that some doors (especially on Wychfield) can only be locked from the outside. Students would feel and be safer if they had the option to lock their room while they stayed inside their room

16. Plan for tackling spiking (Raised by Women/NB)

- There are plans in place to distribute information on spiking ahead of May week. This information will also be put out year round.

→ It was also raised that a 'woman of the week' should be put in the weekly listings.

17. Disability Drop-In (Raised by DSO)

→ The DSO wants to provide a space where people can talk about problems with access arrangements and resources. They want to book out the most accessible room in college, as running it at Welfare Tea was considered, but it can be too overwhelming a space. This will be implemented in Michaelmas term.

18. Diagnosis and Symptoms Info Sheets (Raised by DSO)

→ DSO wants to create information sheets on the symptoms for Autism, ADHD and OCD etc. They will also provide helpful resources like where to go for a diagnosis and will help to demystify the Cranes fund.

→ Angelo noted that the DSO at Kings has a prescription fund. Reuben will look into this for our college.

19. Disability/neurodiversity event in induction week (Raised by DSO)

→ The DSO has raised this with Clare Jackson and plans will be put in place to ensure that this event is included near or during induction week for next year's cohort.

20. Step stool in laundry? (For ASO and Treasurer) (Raised by Secretary)

→ Request for step stool in the Boho laundry due to the dryers being more inaccessible to some students. Request to be passed on to the ASO

21. Newsletter- 'TitBit' (Raised by Secretary)

→ The Co-Presidents have been wanting to start a newsletter, running either weekly or fortnightly. The Secretary has found a discontinued newsletter on the JCR website from a few years ago called 'TitBit' and suggests they bring this back.

→ The Welfare officers would love to do a section called the 'Welfare Godmother', which will be a light-hearted agony-aunt-esque article.

→ It was agreed that it is probably best that this idea be implemented in Michaelmas and not too much time given to it during exam term, but some initial planning will be completed by Co-Presidents.

22. JCR- empty photo frames? (Raised by Secretary)

→ The Secretary noted that the empty photo frames in the JCR could be filled with some art.

→ Members of the committee suggested that winners of college photography competitions could feature in the frames.

→ There is also some money left in the art fund, and students could apply for this for resources so they can fill the frames with something they've made.

→ The Welfare officers suggested welfare painting/ colouring in sheets.

23. Option for non committee members to raise an item (Raised by Secretary)

- While JCR committee members have access to an agenda before JCR meetings and can add items they wish to raise, the rest of the JCR have no way of raising an item, unless they are comfortable speaking to someone on the committee. Providing all students with an anonymous way to feedback and raise issues for the meetings could be useful. The Webmaster found an old feedback form link that will be investigated and if this option works, distributed via Instagram, listings and group chats prior to JCR meetings.

Any other business:

Exam Concessions

- The sad news of Clarrissa Nicholls' passing has obviously impacted everyone at college. To help those that are struggling, information on exam concessions is being sent out.

Garden Party Update

- The planning of the garden party is going well

Frep check-in

- They have started to organise freshers week
- They have their Education and Policy meeting next week

Class Act check-in

- Alex wants to create posters and online resources and potentially add onto the welcome booklet. He also is planning to post some 'life hacks' online. This will be focused on during the beginning of the summer break.

LGBT check-in

- They are looking into running some swaps this term and will soon organise an official instagram handover

BME check-in

- It was passed on that the timings of some wellbeing workshops clash with lectures. It was suggested they are given on Sundays when no one has timetabled work. It was mentioned that this causes an Issue as staff running them are only contracted for weekdays. A decision was made to try and ensure they coincide with lunchtimes.
- Chris suggested that leftover leaflets and resources are available at Welfare Tea

Woman of the Week

- It was raised that a 'woman of the week' should be put in the weekly listings by the Women/NB officer