



Executive Committee Meeting – 18.09.2020

Attendance: SWC (President), MW (FCO), MP (VP), JS (PG&M), ES (Senior Welfare), BT (JCR Chair), TB (Sports & Socs), RM (PR Officer), MF (Facilities), LB (Outreach Chair), ER (Librarian), EE (Communities Chair)

Apologies: SS (Social Chair)

Absent:

Location: a Zoom Call

Agenda:

Coronavirus (SWC)

JCR Engagement (SWC)

Exec Polos (MP)

AOB



Coronavirus (SWC)

SWC While information is limited, does anyone have any questions?

MF Are Freshers quarantining?

SWC I believe so. Sadly, for international students, they will get maybe 1 day out of quarantine, and then will have to quarantine for 3 days with other Freshers

BT When are Freshers going to be told about this

ES They should know by Monday (21.09.20) at the latest?

ER Why three days?

SWC That's the incubation period of COVID-19. We will have to adapt as restrictions change. Universities and volunteers should be exempt to some extent. Unless bars and restaurants close it can't actually get much worse.

ES In terms of quarantining, will freps enforce this?

SWC Freps aren't the police. In health and safety training they refused to give a good answer on key issues on Freps responsibility. Policing has never been the job; it shouldn't be now. I would say no, but it is freps responsibility to report it if they happen to notice it.

MF Are we doing online events?

SWC They are allowed in college, so they should be allowed to go to the bar and marquees, and go from Parsons to bailey. I specifically asked Jeremy Cook twice if it was ok and he said it would be. Online events aren't necessarily going to be necessary, but perhaps it's something we should think about in case people would prefer that.

TB So is quarantining within college or as a household?

SWC Freshers have to be distant to people from outside their household, not sharing bathrooms etc., this will be harder on the bailey as flats are less separate there. Any more questions ask me, I don't have all the answers but I will try to help. College is being good on this, we aren't being kept in the dark but the University is still catching up to regulations. I posted in the Frep group before this started – in freshers week the biggest thing will be impacted will be the social side of frepping. Our teams are 8 so we can't endorse socials. I appreciate that is quite depressing, but it's important to be honest and upfront. I'd encourage you to do the same and direct anyone with questions to me. It's important to try and seem upbeat, we'll be able to do some things in term. If I can do anything to help please let me know.



JCR Engagement (SWC)

SWC We are worried that this term/year engagement will be low, Freps will not be as involved, freshers fair is only online, people have seemingly little reason to be passionate. We must acknowledge this, and still come up with creative ways to make sure that freshers get that initial engagement – if in 2nd year things are normal, we might have completely missed a year, which could have a significant knock on effect. Does anyone have any ideas on the matter?

BT Our best contact with freshers is the freps, they are the best people to talk to fresh about the JCR now more than ever, maintain a personal link

MF Getting Freshers to JCR Meetings online is very important

SWC We were going to get freps to go to flat and watch the JCR meeting. Ideally a frep they know. That was the idea but that might be made impossible by COVID-19 restrictions

EE We need to invest in social media more than ever before. No one showed to the “what is the communities committee” online event, partially because freps can motivate people to get involved, but not all freps are super involved with JCR meetings, so social media is more important. We need to standardize and overhaul the social media, and create more informative videos. For example, I didn’t want to make a Communities Committee account for myself because we have strong existing account for example LGBT. Online games and things could increase engagements, for example Minecraft servers.

SWC I like the video idea, we’re all doing our intro videos. I don’t know how well engaged with they’ve been. Even if 1 person shows up it makes a big difference – quality not quantity, having said that we could increase awareness by using other means of communication

LB 2 girls showed up to my outreach one, spoke a bit about outreach but mostly about Durham in general, so it is worth it. Helps fresh find people to speak to. It’s worth it even if it’s not well attended.

SWC you have to remember that people are stuck at home currently, so like I said at the moment it’s about quality not quantity. I like that LGBT has it’s own, don’t want any community accounts to be too all encompassing. The role of communities officer is more about coordination between groups, not controlling them from above.

EE I didn’t mean that we should get rid of that, I just think we should be clearer on what is affiliated to the jcr what isn’t. Try to make people know that there is more to it than just the page. Or for example we could make a list of pages that people should follow. We just need a coherent guide, on a single resource.

SWC I get what you mean. This might be a convo for another time.

LB It could be an idea to encourage groups to just reference the fact that they are affiliated to the JCR.

TB I could give the freshers a list of all the accounts, specifically saying that they must sign up for the levy to engage with them.



SWC It needs to be made clear that the JCR is far more than just JCR meetings – this is quite poorly understood in general – meetings are an important part of the JCR but it's not where the majority associate with it. I think it's important to change this. It would also help with getting people to JCR meetings. For all the funding 3 JCR meeting a term isn't too much to ask.

LB Meetings should be more catered for Sports & Socs. Nothing relevant ever comes up for them. There is too much "JCR banter" and it can alienate them. Tom could give a sports run down at the start of the meeting, and that might help.

SWC It's a 2 way thing. How we can change, how we can convince them to change their attitude.

MP We should overtly call things JCR, for example lists of Sports and Socs should be titled "JCR Sports and Societies"

SWC Talk to people/frep teams about this. Make sure that we aim to change perception of JCR, and the JCR more than ever In terms of online games, no reason we can't do something like that.

ES Is it worth doing an intro to the freps? They won't be seeing freps around as much as they would previously.

MW Hatfield have done a good intro post on IG, meet the freps.

ER I wouldn't join zoom because it's intimidating as a Fresher, it could be easier if we just had information available on Instagram so that people can find out in a more casual way. It'll also help the Freps get their sense of engagement.

MW I'm happy to do this from MP's Frep jumper info

SWC As long as we ensure it's all GDPR compliant. Also I'm worried about spamming the Freshers' group too much. MP should put up a post asking if freps are happy for their data to be used for this

ER Should we make a specific Freshers 2020 Instagram account?

MW I think we can use the JCR account, we don't spam it too much/

SWC We'd be switching communications too late, but it could be a good idea in the future.

EE On that note it's important that we can make a JCR "brand". It'll all be through virtual channels. Maybe we should do room tours.

SWC I'm not sure we will be allowed into rooms due to COVID

RM I have revived the twitter, but I don't have any unique thoughts about engagement, aside from pics and videos being better than plain text. Could we make our account more like South colleges'. We have already have tours on youtube, and should be made more readily accessible

SWC Great idea, we can put them on the website. We need people to use the website. MF has helped with this a lot.



EE We should make it compatible with google calendar, so people can easily see what's happening on each day.

MF We already have an events space on the website. We need to populate this more, putting any relevant event on.

RM I can volunteer to do this.

ES Welfare has the sexual health supply order form on the website, but the survey we did showed that no one knows about the supply form on the website. It's something we will push, hopefully this will increase engagement.

SWC I don't like how the website has a separate JCR tag, it implies it is external to the rest. I don't understand how to change that, can one of our CompSci students can help

TB, RM, MF We can help.

RM Do we have a webmaster currently?

BT AW has sent me a list of filled JCR roles and do not think we have one

SWC KS's (Webmaster 2019-20) understanding is that his role is redundant right now.

Exec Polos (MP)

MP Exec Polos are currently in brooks, does anyone have any preference to how we distribute them

SWC We should distribute them with Frep stash.

MP Great call.

AOB

BT On Exec reports, please keep them concise so that JCR meetings don't drag. TB you can do a sports debrief in your exec report?

TB Good call I can ask around

ER I have concerns about banners being painted but not hung

SWC Hopefully we will be able to hang them, whilst not being allowed into Freshers rooms to do so.

EE we could just have the reports on the agenda and not have them read out in the meeting.

BT Potentially short one in the meeting, longer one in the agenda.

SWC That's the ideal exec report. There are benefits to having a face to the name and JCR role.

LB Exec members talking reduces how "JCR"-y it feels and makes it more enjoyable.