



Governance Committee Meeting – 25.10.2020

Attendance: BT (JCR Chair), AW (SRO), SWC (President), MP (VP), EM (Stool)

Location: A Zoom Call

Motions

Nominal Membership Motion

SWC The membership already exists, we should rethink this sort of procedure in the future, because if this motion passes we will still have already implemented it with Trustee permission.

AW I think having motions like this is an important step to keep the Trustees accountable. If this motion was rejected, the Trustees would be expected to act accordingly.

SWC The way it currently works is a bit of a hangover from a feud me and AK had with the Trustees during her reign.

No further governance issues

Climbing Budget Motion - amended

EM Is this entirely necessary? The climbs seem very optimistic due to COVID practicalities

SWC If they don't use all of the budget that is ok with us

No further governance issues

Student Trustee Method III Motion

EM Why is it only Method III and not method II.

AW KM seemed set on it. Method III are the least "executive" of the positions, the least offensive.

EM If Trustees are neutral in meetings I'm not sure they should be able to campaign.

No further governance issues



Climate Crisis Motion

SWC This motion has to go with finance comm, there are a lot of budgetary requirements that haven't been addressed.

MP The motion alone would require us to take on multiple additional sabbatical officers if it passes. It shouldn't go to the JCR meeting.

SWC I think the motion hasn't checked with other University policies and how this change could be implemented.

EM The Bee-Keeping element is ridiculous, Cuth's objectively has no where near enough room for a proper Bee Farm. We could suggest a link up with Mary's Bee keeping society though.

SWC GovComm have the capacity to reject a motion. I believe we should go back to them and say that while we are sympathetic to the aims, this motion isn't acceptable. Suggest other existing channels. It's not that they can't write a motion, but this just isn't possible.

EM It's unclear what would happen if the JCR failed to meet the carbon neutrality element.

AW If we bring this to a meeting, it could be split into different parts and could take hours. It could take literal hours and be very poor for engagement.

SWC Is anyone even on Environment comm? College wouldn't even be in charge of Carbon Neutrality so it shouldn't require us to lobby to them. I care about this cause, but this motion can't go through. We'll reject it on the following grounds i) the Motion is not possible to achieve, ii) the Motion contains multiple factual errors, iii) It's too much for one motion, iv) The proposer hasn't consulted with relevant committees (eg. Finance comm). BT you could ask them to make a smaller motion?

BT I'll do that.

No one disagrees with this

Removal of Year Abroad Rep, Placement Rep, and Returners Rep Motion

No governance issues

Motion to Create a Cuth's Working Class Society

AW What are my responsibilities for these new societies – the AGMs don't seem to be following the standing orders completely. Standing orders should be clearer.

SWC This motion has addressed this, so any issues with the standing orders aren't necessarily relevant.

EM Is anti-Racism society electing a president, or just a chair?

BT According to SS, Anti-Racism society would elect a separate president and chair.



AW & MP express distaste towards S&S AGM rules introduced last year, and frustration that no sitting or previous S&S chairs were consulted.

AW I'll be in touch with them. I think we need to rewrite the standing orders – is everyone ok with the proposer being the interim President and required to hold an AGM?

Everyone pretty much is

No further governance issues

Motion to support 'DPOCA's 17 letters, 4 words: A Racism Free Durham'

BT Motion is minorly incomplete

SWC As an abstract concept it seems great, but I haven't actually seen the letter. It should be clear what we are agreeing to. It should also be clear that we can't force the university to do it.

BT I read early drafts of this letter and it wasn't far from what you'd expect.

No further governance issues

Motion to Create a Cuth's Cycling Club

AWC They don't mention money, but it might be assumed that they have their own bikes for now. If they need to buy bikes in the future we can address it then.

No further governance issues

Following motions were discussed on the Facebook Group after the meeting ended

Volunteer Librarian Motion

No governance issues

Bar Steward JCR Membership Motion

No governance issues



Elections

SWC I spoke to Communities Committee, and they explained why they weren't keen. Some of their ideas were good. It is a weird chair role, why would you go for a role that isn't related to your "group".

EM I considered running, but I couldn't feel like I could represent people outside of my group. JC, who created the role, has had second thoughts.

SWC LH (LGBT+ Rep) suggested having a delegate for the reps, instead of having a committees chair.

AW If they have President and VP on the committee, do they need a representative on the exec? They could just appoint one of them to chair it.

SWC I think this removes minority voice on the exec. It could be that the Pres or VP be none of the minority groups. Josephine Butler does something like LH suggested.

MP We should bring this up to the group chat?

SWC I'm happy to do a Comms comm meeting with BT and AW?

All Agrees

AW Perhaps we focus too much on is and isn't on the Exec – the JCR is more than the exec

Environment Rep

Candidate KB

No issues raised



AOB

MS Teams Practicalities

BT Me and AW have considered a slideshow which would help follow the meeting

SWC You could create an “event” on teams – it’s like a webinar of sorts

AW I think it’d be really helpful to have the motions on the screen, as it’s hard when you’re already on your PC – I struggled to follow and I’m keen – this could be a Stool job

BT What do we do if people change their vote and it’s close – could we do a cut off time?

AW Could we put a timer on it? This could end up with some hurt feelings as it is public

SWC Half the reason I suggested it was because it can be controlled

AW Drama could be increased, but I don’t want that – there’s another voting system called polly – but the uni haven’t granted us access to it.

EM Do we have full control over what people do when they join to prevent Zoom Bombing

BT Yes, we can mute people if necessary and not allow them to share screens.

Resignation Procedure

AW Has anyone thought of a resignation procedure? The issue of announcing it hasn’t been resolved.

MP I personally don’t think we need to make an announcement, from experience I think announcing it when we announce the other roles available at the next JCR meeting is sufficient. It’s never going to be 100% fair.

EM We could mention it in President’s Email.

SWC I was never sure if people used this, but I did have a running document of what positions were running when I was Chair. It could be presented better and be a useful tool. I agree with MP – nothing is ever completely fair. Issue is this does promote the idea of a JCR clique who know about elections beforehand.

MP You could find out a year in advance and it wouldn’t be a massive advantage, 2-3 weeks is sufficient time to prepare a manifesto and poster.

AW We could just make it so the JCR meeting is advertised slightly in advance, and mentioned in the President’s email. I personally felt student trustee was poorly advertised last year.

EM That was just a failing of last year’s SRO, not the system.



Participation Fund Increase

BT Increasing Participation fund – MW has asked about raising the participation fund – does she need a motion to do this?

SWC There's a certain level of spending that must be approved by the JCR – I'm seeing her soon so I'll ask her then.

College Drink Renaming Poll

AW We should hold off on the poll – wait until 2nd and 3rd years have had a chance to go to cuths bar.

SWC I'll set of a reminder – and I'll do an open poll

Method I Library volunteers

BT There are people who have method I positions who are in the library, this is a JCR position

EM We could reshuffle the standing orders to allow this.

SWC To me I think it makes sense to allow it. I will write a motion (see above).

Raffle

Have we found anything for the raffle?

SWC I could find *something* – but don't expect amazing gifts.

AW How will we do the raffle

SWC This sounds like a premium Stool job. I am doing my adress in this meeting. I'll do it in the break between. I am not doing a Diss on ramen soc out of principal.

MP is a grass

MP CA currently hold 3 JCR roles (aside from being a library volunteer)

AW CA should resign from one. I'll make sure that she does so.