



JCR Meeting (Extraordinary) – 27-08-2020

Attendance: SWC (President), MW (FCO), MP (VP), SS (Social Chair), 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), JG (Male Welfare), JGa (Female Welfare), HM (EM Rep), LH (LGBT+ Rep), GG (WCS Rep), SP (Trustee), KM (Trustee), JP (Trustee)

Apologies:

Absent:

Location: A Zoom Call

Agenda:

Motions

Associate Membership for SP Motion

Associate Membership for ES Motion

Temporary Method III Motion

Motion to Create a St Cuthbert's Baking Society (SCBS)

No Elections

Minutes Pass



Motions

Associate Membership for SP Motion

This JCR Notes:

- That the Education Master's course was moved to a January start at late notice to those who had accepted places
- That SP was elected for the position of Student Trustee before this change was made
- That individuals who are not students cannot be JCR Members except through Associate Membership
- That the byelaws were recently amended by the trustees to allow individuals who are not students to be granted Associate Membership in exceptional circumstances
- That SP has signed a house in Durham and will be physically present throughout Michaelmas Term
- That the Trustee Board usually allows for one out of three student trustees to not be physically present in Durham, e.g to be on a year abroad or placement year. No student trustees fit this criteria this year.

This JCR Believes:

- It would be more damaging to the JCR to elect a new Student Trustee at short notice than to allow SP to keep her position for the term
- SP's potential distance from the student body will be no greater than that of a student physically out of Durham on a year abroad or placement year, and is likely to be less
- Covid-19 will impact many students in different ways throughout the year and the JCR needs to be flexible when responding to problems like this

This JCR Resolves:

- To grant SP Associate Membership including all rights, benefits and obligations of a Full Member
- The duration of Associate Membership will be from this motion passing to 11 January 2021.

Proposer: Saskia Wootton-Cane

Seconder: Maddy Wilson, Rowan May, Michael Power, Eleanor Radcliffe, Tom Bowers, Jack Simmonds, Eduardo Enamorado, Serena Smart, Lottie Brand, Matthew Fox, Jack Pearce, Jade Gavigan, Alfie Whillis, Jack Reeves

Discussion

No questions

No amendments

No opposition

To be voted on online



Associate Membership for ES Motion

This JCR Notes:

- That the Education Master's course was moved to a January start at late notice to those who had accepted places
- That ES was elected for the position of Senior Welfare Officer before this change was made
- That individuals who are not students cannot be JCR Members except through Associate Membership
- That the byelaws were recently amended by the trustees to allow individuals who are not students to be granted Associate Membership in exceptional circumstances
- That ES has signed a house in Durham and will be physically present throughout Michaelmas Term.

This JCR Believes:

- It would be more damaging to the JCR to elect a new Senior Welfare Officer at short notice who will not be trained before freshers week than to allow ES to keep her position for the term
- Covid-19 will impact many students in different ways throughout the year and the JCR needs to be flexible when responding to problems like this

This JCR Resolves:

- To grant ES Associate Membership including all rights, benefits and obligations of a Full Member
- The duration of Associate Membership will be from this motion passing to 11 January 2021.

Proposer: Saskia Wootton-Cane

Seconder: Maddy Wilson, Rowan May, Michael Power, Eleanor Radcliffe, Tom Bowers, Jack Simmonds, Eduardo Enamorado, Serena Smart, Lottie Brand, Matthew Fox, Josh Gordon, Jade Gavigan, Alfie Whillis, Jack Reeves

Discussion

SWC This one is perhaps even more important, timescales simply don't make sense.

No questions

No amendments

No opposition

To be voted on online



Temporary Method III Motion

This JCR Notes:

- A large number of positions run in meetings 3.1 and 3.2 went unfilled;
- A total of 20 positions across 16 elections are now available in Meeting 1.1.

This JCR Believes:

- The process of running for a position online has decreased the number of people likely to run for a position;
- More positions are likely to be filled and with more candidates if some positions are moved to Method III temporarily;
- Running 16 elections at once is not feasible whilst upholding democratic standards and ensuring high engagement.

This JCR Mandates:

- During Michaelmas Term, with the agreement of the overseer of the role the Senior Returning Officer may at their own discretion use Method III in place of Method I or II to fill a position.

Proposer: Alfie Whillis

Second: Saskia Wootton-Cane

Discussion

AW Engagement was mediocre last term, this motion addresses this. Video husts might be slightly more intimidating.

MP How does this interact with the rule that if rules go unfulfilled for long enough they become Method III?

AW It doesn't really interact, this just gives us more flexibility. To be clear, we'll keep anything of Communities Committee as Method II, but things like Gym manager or Webmaster might move to Method III

DT Who's going to do the interviews

AW This is generally sorted in the Standing Orders, most positions have "overseers"

EM Will unconscious bias be provided this year for people doing interviews?

SWC I've been chasing people across the university, and can't give a definite answer. We'll make sure that the panel of at least three will have at least one person who has done the training – and a lot of the training is to do with structuring the interviews, so you can get it from other people.

EE In relation to Freshers – how should this be advertised? Interviews can be intimidating.

AW Method III Standing Orders don't state that it has to be an interview, so something like Webmaster which focuses on technical skills could be done purely by form.



No further questions

No amendments

No opposition

To be voted on online



Motion to Create a St Cuthbert's Baking Society (SCBS)

This JCR Notes:

- Lockdown has made many people feel lonely and isolated.
- Many people are feeling more stress and anxiety at the moment, and baking has been shown to lower both of these.
- Cake is delicious.

This JCR Believes:

- A baking society would offer a way to socialise in lockdown and could run with no subs or money from the JCR.
- Once lockdown is lifted, the baking society could readjust and run in person. Subs would likely become necessary to cover equipment, however basic equipment is not expensive.
- Ingredients would likely be covered by one-time payments before sessions; however this would be voted on by all members of the society before deciding for certain.
- If we did begin to operate in person, we could provide baked goods for JCR meetings and also run bake sales for outreach.
- A baking society would offer another option for sober socialising for people who don't drink or don't like to drink too much.

This JCR Resolves:

- To create a baking society in which people would take turns choosing recipes to make weekly over zoom/teams.
- To reassess how the society runs when in-person socialising becomes safer.

Proposer: Harriet Gray

Seconded: Eduardo Enamorado, Marlo Avidon, Fiona Davidson, Rida Aslam Azmi, Imogen Usherwood, Avinash Virdee, Jack Pearce, Velina Peykova, Emily Orr, Rowan May, Anna Murphy, Lottie Brand, Matthew Fox, Dhruva Agarwal, Victor Yopez Melian

Discussion

No questions

No amendments

No opposition

To be voted on online



No Elections

Meeting Adjourned