



JCR Meeting 1.2 – 27-10-2020

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), JG (Male Welfare), JGa (Female Welfare), EM (Stool), HM (EM Rep), LH (LGBT+ Rep), GG (WCS Rep), SP (Trustee), KM (Trustee), JW (Finance Comm), CA (YAPL Rep & Social Comm), HH (Campaigns Manager), BC (Welfare Campaigns), IC (Music Rep), TAF (Welfare Campaigns), IA (Welfare Campaigns), TU, CH, AJ, RMu

Apologies: JC (PG Treasurer), SM (Keeper of Couplets), EG (Finance Comm), GT (Welfare Campaigns), JW (PG VP), CP (Bailey Wardrobe Manager)

Absent: ER (Librarian), AJ (Local Students' Rep), JP (Trustee), KB (Finance Comm), SR (Finance Comm), EW (Social Comm), EP (Social Comm), AG (Social Comm), SB (Social Comm), DM (Social Comm), NG (Social Comm), NE (Social Comm), HR (Social Comm), LJ (Social Comm), LuH (Social Comm), SU (Social Comm), IE (Social Comm), MO (Social Comm), EG (Social Comm), GF (Welfare Campaigns), MPi (Welfare Campaigns)

Location: MS Teams – which means there will be voting in this meeting



Agenda:

Motions

Nominal Membership Motion

Climbing Budget Motion

Student Trustee Method III motion

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

Motion to Create a Cuth's Working Class Society

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

Motion to Create a Cuth's Cycling Club

Participation Fund Motion

Volunteer Librarian Motion

The Inaugural Presidential Discourse on Penrose Tiling

Elections

Environment Rep (I)

Assistant SwD Rep, Assistant International Rep, Assistant Working Class Students' Rep, Assistant LGBT+ Rep, Transgender and Non-Binary Rep, Assistant EM Rep, 3x Junior Returning Officers, Formals Manager, Postgraduate Welfare Rep (II)

All motions from previous JCR Meeting passed after being voted on online

Minutes Pass from last meeting pass, Extraordinary meeting minutes still haven't been circulated



Motions

Nominal Membership Motion

This JCR Notes:

- There are an increased number of distance learners this year due to covid-19
- Distance learners are unable to participate in any JCR activities that are not online
- Online events are generally free to run
- We require a baseline form of payment to distinguish members from non-members
- Trustees have the power to create new forms of membership without consulting the JCR student body
- A new form of “nominal membership” of £1 has been created for distance learners

This JCR Resolves:

- To update the standing orders to reflect the creation of the new nominal membership

Proposer: Saskia Wootton-Cane

Seconder: Lottie Brand

Discussion

No questions

No amendments

No opposition

Motion Passes on a General Aye



Climbing Budget Motion

This JCR Notes:

- The JCR matches half the weekly cost of climbing at Durham Climbing Centre.
- Cost have risen from £5 a climb to £7.50 due to the financial effects of Covid-19.
- This would increase the amount asked for from the JCR from £2250 to £3375.

This JCR Believes:

- The JCR should continue to match half of what each member pays per week in line with other similar societies.

This JCR Resolves:

- The JCR will budget for providing £3375 to Cuths Climbing Club in order to match half the cost of climbing at Durham Climbing Centre.

Proposer: Maddy Wilson

Second: Tom Bowers

Discussion

No questions

No amendments

No opposition

Motion Passes on a General Aye



Student Trustee Method III motion

This JCR Notes:

- As a Method I position, Student Trustees can't hold a Method II or III position;
- The role of Student Trustee is one of vital importance to the JCR, but often is not contested.

This JCR Believes:

- Allowing Student Trustees to hold a Method III position would not conflict with trustee impartiality;
- The knowledge of constitutional, governance and financial issues the Student Trustees hold might be of benefit to other JCR committees;
- Allowing Student Trustees to hold multiple positions could increase pool of candidates for the role of Student Trustee, which would encourage candidates to put themselves forward.

This JCR Orders:

Method III Election Rules Order

1.1.2.1 A person may, however, hold the position of Student Trustee at the same time as one Method III position.

Proposer: Kirstin McCann

Secunder: Alfie Whillis

Discussion

MP Why is this only for Student Trustees, and not other Method I positions?

AW It's an undersubscribed roll while still being very important, and it's significantly less work than most other method I positions.

No further questions

No amendments

No opposition

Motion Passes on a General Aye



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

This JCR Notes:

- The Year Abroad and Placement Committee has existed for one year.
- Over the past year, the role names of “Year Abroad Representative”, “Year in Industry Representative” and “Returners Representative” have served as arbitrary titles.
- Over the past year, the roles of “Year Abroad Representative”, and “Returners Representative” have carried out the same tasks as the other four General Committee members.
- Over the past year, there was no interest in the “Year in Industry Representative”, which was an unfilled position.

This JCR Believes:

- That if a title is arbitrary and not reflective of the work being carried out, it should be removed.

This JCR Repeals:

- Positions in the JCR Order, Clauses 15.1.3, 15.3, 15.4, 15.5, 15.6.2

This JCR Orders:

Change to Clause 15.1.3

- It shall consist of: 1) Year Abroad and Placement Representative, 2) President of the Society, 4) Vice-President, 5) 7x General Committee Members, and 6) Publicity and Relations Officer (Ex-Officio).

Change to Clause 15.6.2

- Their duties shall be: 1) Assist the Year Abroad and Placement Officer in all tasks, as deemed necessary

Proposer: Clarissa Atlee

Seconded: Silvia Saccardi

Discussion

No questions

No amendments

No opposition

Motion Passes on a General Aye



Motion to Create a Cuth's Working Class Society

This JCR Notes:

- Following various group chat revelations, the need for support and a safe space for working-class students in Durham is increasingly more clear
- The prevalence of 'impostor syndrome' among working-class students at Durham, an environment which is predominantly hostile to individuals from lower socio-economic backgrounds
- Existing support in Cuth's for working-class students, with the Working Class Students' Representative and event subsidies for students receiving the Durham Grant

This JCR Believes:

- A working class society would give students from lower socio-economic backgrounds a safe space where they could provide emotional and practical support to one another
- The society would also offer the opportunity to engage in campaigns in Cuth's, and could give support to the Working Class Students' Representative where needed
- Once coronavirus restrictions are lifted, the society could meet and run campaigns in person

This JCR Resolves:

- To create a working class society in which members can meet to share their diverse experiences of working-class culture and support one another
- To use the society to promote awareness of issues facing working class students
- To reassess how the society runs when in-person socialising becomes safer
- The President of Cuth's Working Class Society will be elected in the first general meeting. If this position is unfilled, then it will be offered to the Working Class Students' Rep until the position is filled at the next general meeting

Proposer: Thomas Underwood

Second: Lucas Surgeon, Georgia Greatrex, Min Thant, Naomi Green, Sachin Savur, Jacob Hiom, Victoria Auger, Georgia Davies, Jack Simmonds, Jamie Halliwell, Megan Smith, Dylan Brooks, Tessa Gosney, Saskia Wootton-Cane

Discussion

DT Why does the WCS Rep not automatically become President?

TU We'd be working closely alongside them. I think they cover different areas. WCS Rep has a lot of 1 on 1 stuff and is generally quite busy, whereas this would be more communal. I've ran this motion by her and she supports it.

SWC Helping with Grant applications is already under the responsibility of the WCS Rep could this not lead to work being duplicated?

TU The society is more of a communal thing, and we won't be giving formal advice, just personal tips from our own experiences.



SWC That makes sense. My only concern is that without a formal relationship, relations could break down in the future when different people hold the positions. It's up to you, this is just my advice from my experience of Society/JCR relations. You could even just mandate that they come to meetings.

No further questions

Amendments

SWC I amend that the WCS Rep is mandated to attend all meetings that they can attend

MP Do any other Societies mandate that Officers go to their events?

RM Yes, LGBT+ does.

AW Is this just exec meetings?

TU This year I'd been expecting the current WCS Rep to attend exec meetings. I'd have no objections to them doing so.

SWC In that case just the exec meeting.

Amendment Passes on a General Aye

No further amendments

No opposition

Motion Passes on a General Aye



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

This JCR Notes:

- That the recent leaked screenshots from the DUCA and DUFMA group chats are disgusting and deeply offensive
- That the fact that examples of such behavior keep happening shows that Durham is in enabler of such a culture
- That the University as an institution has failed to address this culture, and as a result has allowed Durham to become a breeding ground for racism, sexism and homophobia
- That the University as an institution has failed to create a non-tolerance culture towards hate
- That colleges have led successful Anti-Racism training during Freshers weeks

This JCR Believes:

- That the University should not simply react to instances such as these, but actually work to mitigate them
- That to do this, the university should work with DPOCA and the college EM/POC reps to support and make obligatory, Anti-Racism workshops
- That the University should make workshops such as these compulsory

This JCR Resolves:

- That according to DPOCA'S campaign, the Ethnic Minority rep will release an open letter across DPOCA and Cuth's social media platforms
- That Cuth's will take part in a college wide campaign targeting the university in actions towards racism

Proposer: Hannah Moore

Second: Dan Takyi

Discussion

No questions

No amendments

No opposition

Motion Passes on a General Aye



Motion to Create a Cuth's Cycling Club

This JCR Notes:

- The JCR doesn't currently have a cycling club

This JCR Believes:

- Cycling is an excellent social sport.
- Cycling in an organised group is a safer way to enjoy the sport and also would provide members with more confidence when out on the road.
- Cycling would enable members to explore and appreciate county Durham and the local area.
- Body

This JCR Resolves:

- To create a cycling society with weekly rides for all abilities.

Proposer: Thomas Bowers

Second: Georgie Pease, Barnaby Collins, Harley Helps, Jack Reeves, James Reston, Stella Janssen, Pascal Bisson, Maddy Wilson, Matthew Larkin, Poppy Azmi, Anthony Ford, Jess Taylor, Robert Maxwell, Josh Davis

Discussion

TB I have had concerns about people without bikes not being able to get involved, but I still think the society is a good idea.

No questions

No amendments

No opposition

Motion Passes on a General Aye



Participation Fund Motion

This JCR Notes:

- The JCR currently has a fund of £1000 for the year to assist people paying for subs for both Cuth's and DU sports and societies.
- There have previously been two deadlines for this (midway through Michaelmas and Epiphany Terms).
- This fund is over-subscribed and we have had to turn people away in the past.

This JCR Believes:

- The JCR has sufficient funding to double this funding.
- No-one should be turned away from receiving at least some funding towards the total cost of subs for the sport or society they wish to join.
- £2000 should cover the amount of requests we get for funding. This can be reviewed in future.

This JCR Resolves:

- The Participation Fund be increased from £1000 to £2000.
- People can claim on a rolling basis, so no one is turned away because they missed a deadline.
- The amount one person can receive is capped at £200 (more than the cost of any Cuths sport or society)

Proposer: Maddy Wilson

Seconder: Jack Simmonds, Georgia Greatrex

Discussion

No questions

No amendments

No opposition

Motion Passes on a General Aye



Volunteer Librarian Motion

This JCR Notes:

- That currently you cannot hold any other position if you hold a method I position, or any more than two method II and/or III positions concurrently.
- That anyone who wants to volunteer in the library can, and the position therefore is not limited or competitive in the same way as other JCR positions.
- That several volunteer librarians do hold other JCR positions.

This JCR Believes:

- The position of volunteer librarian should be an exception to the rule that you cannot hold a method III position alongside a method I position, or more than two method II/III positions concurrently.

This JCR Orders:

Method I Election Rules

1.1.2.2 The position of volunteer librarian shall be an exception to this.

Method II Election Rules

1.1.2.2 The position of volunteer librarian shall be an exception to this.

Method III Election Rules

1.1.3 The position of volunteer librarian shall be an exception to this.

Proposer: Saskia Wootton-Cane

Seconded: Michael Power

Discussion

No questions

No amendments

No opposition

Motion Passes on a General Aye



The Inaugural Presidential Discourse on Penrose Tiling

In a truly thrilling address, SWC gives a myriad of examples of why she cares so much about Penrose Tiling. She emphasises that the pattern doesn't repeat, and explains how inspirational she finds it. Then, she crafts a gripping narrative of how the patterns were discovered in nature, and a man, who was once shamed for his "quasi-crystals" was redeemed by the light of a 1992 Crystallography committee – and, lo and behold, the tiling expresses the fibonacci ratio. The JCR is deeply moved by this. To finish, she reveals the man himself, standing on Penrose tiling. Breathtaking. Ruptuos applause follows.

The Raffle

First Prize: Half eaten box of Quality street – Won by CH

Second Prize: some of EIM (19-20 President) – Won by BT

Third Prize: a signed card – Won by AJ (on the same call as SWC)



Elections

Assistant SwD Rep, Assistant EM Rep, Postgraduate Welfare Rep (II)

No Candidates, to be rerun

Assistant International Rep (II)

Candidates: TAF, RON

TAF's Hust

- Introduces herself, and her international background
- Found that as an EU student there is little support from Brexit – and this causes stress for many
- EU students won't be available for home status and Student Finance
- Feel strongly about supporting these students
- COVID will complicate things and they will need support, happy to provide this

Questions

SWC What specific Support will you offer to European Students?

TAF Financial support is very different for EU students – I'd like to work with JCR and Uni to support these students – it's hard not having your parents drive you to uni, and more support would be helpful.

GG How will you adapt to the current lack of an international rep?

TAF I think a big part is taking more on work myself – it's an important thing and I can take the responsibility. I'd work closely with the communities committee,

TAF Elected

While the votes were being counted, ES is outed for having ordered 180 jaffa cakes to the wrong address – she blames her brother, whether you believe her is up to you



Assistant WCS Rep (II)

Candidates: RMu, RON

RMu's Hust

- Passionate about making Durham safer for WCS.
- Found it hard being from working class background in her first year.
- Imposter syndrome is a common issue.
- Would organise coffee mornings, Zoom meetings.
- Important to discuss how university changes our perception, the elitism in Durham, misinformation and stereotypes.
- Would encourage working class sense of pride and achievement

No questions

RMu Elected

Assistant LGBT+ Rep (II)

Candidates: CH, RON

CH's Hust

- Introduces herself, lots of enthusiasm for the role.
- Lots of relevant experience, such as an LGBT society at old school
- More Zoom Socials to make up for lack of Osbournes Mondays
- Cuth's own pronoun badges

Questions

LH How would you reduce Bi-erasure?

CH Make sure all campaigns address the Bi community, and emphasise that they are just as valid. Any Biphobic conversations in the JCR must be called out and educated.

CH elected



Transgender and Non-Binary Rep (II)

Candidates: AD, RON

AD's Hust

- Introduces themselves, wants to make sure that Cuth's is a safe place to come out and a safe place to correct people on pronouns
- No one should have to be afraid that they won't be like for who they are

Questions

RM Anything you'd change about Freshers' Week?

AD It was nice seeing people wearing pronouns badges. The badges are a bit small and hard to see, but it was still comforting for me

AD Elected

Junior Returning Officers (II)

Candidates: JC, RON

JC's Hust

- 3rd govcomm position he's run for in 12 months
- He was VP last year, used to being the JCR bitch [sic]
- Could bring some expertise to GovComm

Questions

MP Is "bitch" appropriate way to refer to prestigious role of Vice-President of the Society?

JC Yes

EM Can you bring my pudding upstairs to prove your dedication to GovComm?

JC No, as you are not the SRO

SWC What is the biggest problem in Cuth's governance at the moment?

JC It can be a bit hard to understand from an outside perspective.

JC Elected



Formals Manager (II)

Candidates: EM, RON

EM's Hust

- Held many JCR positions
- While formals may not go ahead, I'd love to get involved with Social Comm.
- It'd be great if we get formals back, first years need that experience

Questions

SS On Social Comm we're preparing for things not to get better – how would you do a formal with current restrictions/ what's an alternative event?

EM In theory we could do a formal for households in some capacity. Online formals, using breakout rooms aren't without precedent. Something like the Feast could have a similar vibe. I love spreadsheets and google forms, so I back myself to organise noting.

SS Considering low attendance of online social events, how would you make it more desirable?

EM Online events are often ruined by too many people, with the conversation dominated by one or two people - if people knew others who are going, it could work – encourage signing up in groups. Things like smaller groups, and spreading ideas to freshers households could improve participation.

EM Elected



Environment Rep (I)

Candidates: KB, RON

Questions

SWC I wanted to set up a foodwaste scheme when I ran – this has been sidelined by covid and I cannot do it this year. COVID presents challenges. How would you work around this?

KB We can't do everything that we'd like to but there are little things. There's been rubbish lined out on the street by house 13, more could be done to stop this. Opportunity is still out there – we could get involved with other societies – I've involved with another project which has given me experience.

Husts and Voting online

Meeting Adjourned