



JCR Meeting 2020-10-05

Attendance: 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), ER (Librarian), SP (Trustee), KM (Trustee), JP (Trustee), JG (Female Welfare), JG (Male Welfare), JR (Head Frep), ~30 others

Absent:

Location: A Zoom Call

Agenda:

Exec Reports

Motions

Motion to Create a Cuth's Anti-Racism Society (CARS)

College Drink Motion

Welfare Budget motion

Cuth's Jam Soc Motion

Automatic Library Stock Managers Motion

Election Standing Orders Reorganisation Motion

Null and Void Elections Motion

Correspondance from HM

Elections

Bar Liaison Officer (I)

Fashion Show President (I)

JCR Stool (II)

Year Abroad and Placement Rep (II)



Minutes do not pass as due to website issues they have not been fully circulated

Exec Reports

SWC (President)

- A difficult summer with a lot of changing plans and rules
- Had a catch up with all exec about their plans
- Planned and ran two weeks of online events before Freshers' Week
- Freshers' week came together in the end, thanks to Jack, Serena and Michael and Jack S for PG stuff
- Marquees
- New website up, worked on that over summer- JCR levy can be paid over it and sports and socs subs
- Risk Assessments for sports and socs
- Opening facilities is new top priority- please be patient as we are doing everything we can to get them open asap
- Working with other JCR Presidents, mainly on getting information we needed but now hopefully on longer-term things such as our relationship with the SU- I am PresComm Chair now so will be working more closely with SU and University
- Answering student qs and helping them settle in
- Working with trustees to update certain documents
- Worked a bit with DPOCA to get anti-racism workshops into JCRs
- Created a new "nominal membership" for distance learners
- In the process of moving the JCR to the Study Room- paused as I am self-isolating
- In the process of removing computers from the Computer Rooms to create more study space - paused as I am self-isolating

MW (FCO)

- I've been taking JCR levies
- Helping budget for freshers week
- Spent the money we would've contributed to cuths day/summer ball on hiring marquees to increase bar capacity
- Getting everything ready for the year
- Working with Saskia to make this term as good as possible within the circumstances



MP (VP)

- Wrote the Freshers' Handbook
- Organised Stash for Freshers week and exec polos
- Helped with the organisation of Freshers' Week
- Minuted two GovComm meetings, one Exec meeting, one Trustee meeting and made two agendas.
- Am in the process of sorting the website so minutes are possible to view properly again
- Am organising colour badges and DIB badges

SS (Social Chair)

So far as Social Chair, I've been focusing on planning freshers' week. Coronavirus certainly kept us on our toes, as numerous policy changes meant that we were uncertain what social events would be feasible, meaning we couldn't finalise any plans until the last minute. Unfortunately, we were unable to host some of our usual freshers' events (animals about town, club nights etc) because of the covid restrictions. However, we still managed to put on a series of in person events that allowed freshers to go out to college spaces every other night. We also ran a series of online events alongside, however attendance to these events was limited. This involved various meetings with college and the JCR exec, as well as lots of individual planning and organisation. I also got a discount for a mass order of dominoes for the freshers.

JS (PG&M)

Over summer I updated the postgraduate handbook with all the new people in positions, sports and societies etc. I also work with college and the freshers' week team to plan PG freshers week. Due to restrictions most of our events were online, but we managed to do some in person events from those living in college. I also worked with other MCR presidents to host an inter-MCR event which was well attended and did some events with the SU PG Academic officer.

I have also continued the postgraduate families scheme, so those are being created at the moment, and I am hoping to host an online introduction event soon.

Besides that, I have been in lots of meetings over summer with other presidents, university staff and local residents to discuss all things related to covid as well as topics like respect in online learning environments



ES (Senior Welfare)

- Myself, Female Welfare and Male Welfare attended many (many) hours of online training in June and July from Nightline and the SU which is vital to our roles.
- Myself, Female Welfare, Male Welfare, Head Frep and 6 freps attended Consent workshop train the trainer sessions to allow us to deliver consent workshops during fresher week.
- Completed almost 20 consent workshops, a mixture of both in person and online which were received very well, and for the majority had great attendance, even in the online format.
- We now have a Cuths Welfare Teams account for the purpose of online drop-ins!
- Switched Condom brands to Mates Super Safe, finally!
- Put together 350 welfare packs for the freshers, which were handed out during in-person consent workshops, and the rest will be delivered to those who attended online at a later date.
- Managed to hold some in-person drop-ins in the welfare room during freshers week, and have been holding online drop-ins in previous weeks, and will be doing so for the foreseeable future.
- Planning Campaigns with our Campaigns manager, and putting together campaigns team applications.

TB (Sports & Socs)

Last Saturday we had the freshers fair and despite it being online we still got over 750 total signups, not including people who directly joined Facebook pages so I'd consider it a success given the circumstances. The other major job over the past few weeks was making sure all the COVID preparations were in place ready for the start of the Uni's return to competitive sport on 12th October. This included getting people trained as COVID officers (still in progress) and circulating track and trace forms to all our captains. The final major piece of work for me and a few others over the past few weeks was making a big push to update all the sports and socs pages on the website (Still not quite finished yet) so they are now correct and up to date so freshers aren't contacting captains who graduated 6 years ago!

RM (PR Officer)

This summer I:

- Wrote the livers-out guide
- Sat on the interview panel for the appointment of who will facilitate the SU's democracy review
- Sat on the interview panel for the appointment of student community wardens
- Have been having chats with the SU about their upcoming housing campaign
- Have been sorting out college families (hopefully that all went well!)
- Did bits and bobs for social media and the website



MF (Facilities)

- Liaised with Experience Durham/Maiden Castle regarding reopening gyms and ensuring they're COVID secure. Waiting on COVID risk assessment to be signed off.
- Attended training in order to give gym inductions.
- Unpacked new equipment. (For those that don't know -> over summer about £20,000 of new equipment has been delivered)
- Helped with new content on the website.
- Made £486 from Green Machine hires during freshers' week.

LB (Outreach Chair)

I've spent most of my time recently preparing the application process for outreach comm and trying to figure out a covid friendly plan for the year. Eyes on the insta for updates xoxo

ER (Librarian)

- Cleaned out the library to make space for book quarantines
- Met with other librarians
- In the process of sorting out a click and collect system
- Trying to recruit assistants
- Got catalogue trained

BT (JCR Chair)

- Organised and chaired an extraordinary meeting in August
- Organised and advertised JCR Meetings for Michaelmas
- Organised and chaired meetings with GovComm
- Worked with the SRO on engaging freshers with the JCR and how we're going to run elections
- Spoken with Chairs from other colleges about JCR Meetings
- Held a meeting with the Minority Reps and the SRO to discuss accessibility and inclusion in the JCR
- Updated Standing Orders (e.g. sports and socs list updated)



Motions

Motion to Create a Cuth's Anti-Racism Society (CARS)

This JCR Notes:

- Following the racist murder of George Floyd by a police officer, many people have now become keen to learn more about anti-racism and engage in anti-racist activism.
- The previous JCR president shared various anti-racist texts for people to educate themselves about

This JCR Believes:

- An anti-racism society would offer students of colour and white allies in Cuth's the opportunity to read and discuss prescribed critical anti-racist texts through regular online meetings
- The society would also offer the opportunity to engage in anti-racist campaigns in Cuth's, and could give support to the Ethnic Minority Representative where needed
- Once lockdown restrictions are lifted, the society could run the reading group and campaigns in person

This JCR Resolves:

- To create an anti-racist reading group in which members can meet to discuss anti-racist texts, as well as to run anti-racist campaigns in Cuth's
- To reassess how the society runs when in-person socialising becomes safer
- The President of CARS will be elected in the first general meeting. If this position is unfilled, then it will be offered to the Ethnic Minority Rep until the position is filled at the next general meeting

Proposer: Sachin Savur

Second: Dan Takyi, Daniel Vogel, Hannah Moore, Clarissa Atlee, Sophia Graham, Abigail Brierley, Kirstin McCann, Keeley Braithwaite, Abisha Gautam, Saskia Wootton-Crane, Lottie Brand, Georgia Greatrex, Harley Bray, Elysia Boyle

Discussion

No questions

No amendments

No opposition

To be voted on online



College Drink Motion

This JCR Notes:

- Cuth's Bar have recently replaced the old college drink, "The Brownie Bomber", with a new drink named "The Frog";
- The wider JCR was not consulted in the naming of this drink.
- Cuth's Bar has no obligation to accept the JCR's stance on the name of the new college drink

This JCR Believes:

- "The Frog", as a representation of St Cuthbert's Society in liquid form, is also a representation of the JCR and thus the JCR should establish an official position on the name of this drink, which does not dilute the meaning

This JCR Mandates:

- The President of the Society should consult all JCR members regarding potential alternative names for the drink, by a Facebook poll or some other means the President of the Society should then propose a motion to establish the JCR's official stance on the name of the new drink, based on the results of these consultations.

Proposer: Alfie Whillis

Seconded: Dan Takyi

Discussion

DP What happened to the Brownie Bomber

EM A key spirit was discontinued by the makers. An alternative recipe was created but it is quite inconvenient

No further questions

No further amendments

No opposition

To be voted on online



Welfare Budget motion

This JCR Notes:

- Cuth's Welfare's current budget is £700 for the whole year – including Fresher's Week which is very expensive for them

This JCR Believes:

- Cuth's Welfare does a great job and supports the wellbeing of JCR members
- The supplies they order are oversubscribed
- Their current budget is £700 which means that they cannot afford as many supplies as they would like and cannot support campaigns as fully as they would like to
- The JCR's annual income is greater than our current spending so there is money for the budget to be increased

This JCR Resolves:

- Welfare's budget should be increased from £700 to £1500

Proposer: Maddy Wilson

Seconded: Emma Stephens

Discussion

AW Is there a reason why you've selected this exact number

MW After a discussion with ES this seemed like a reasonable amount. If they spend less this year we can reduce it next year.

No further questions

No amendments

No opposition

To be voted on online



Cuth's Jam Soc Motion

This JCR Notes:

- That many members of Cuth's are musicians and perform in non-Cuth's ensembles.
- Outside of Big Band and Choir there are no organised opportunities for Cuthspeople to meetup and play music together, especially those who do not perform Jazz or Choral music.

This JCR Believes:

- That the creation of a Jam Soc would provide the opportunity for Cuth's musicians to connect and make music together.
- This would in turn encourage Cuth's musicians to form their own ensembles and thus contribute to the creation of a more connected musical community at Cuth's.

This JCR Resolves:

- To create "Cuth's Jam Soc" which would provide opportunities for Cuth's musicians to jam together, along with a network in which Cuthspeople can connect and discuss music.

Proposer: Isaac Costello

Second: Avinash Virdee, Alfie Whillis, Ishaan Shukla, Tom Rainbow, Chloe Wong, Alice Law, Dominic Purefoy, Phoebe Frampton, David Binns, Zac Hutchison, Jamie Halliwell, Megan Smith, Barnaby Collins, Charlie Winefield

Discussion

No questions

No amendments

No opposition

To be voted on online



Motion Title

This JCR Notes:

- The 'Librarian'/'Society Librarian' has historically also been a Stock Manager by virtue of their position, but this is not currently mandated in the standing orders.
- The naming for the role of 'Librarian'/'Society Librarian' is inconsistent in the Standing Orders.

This JCR Believes:

- The 'Librarian'/'Society Librarian' should always be a Stock Manager.
- The Assistant Librarian should also be a Stock Manager, given their insight into the management of the Library.
- 'Society Librarian' should be the official title of the role, in respect of St Cuthbert's Society's history as a Society.

This JCR Orders:

- Positions in the JCR Order

3.12.3 For the duration of their term in office, the Society Librarian will be a Stock Manager

14.2.4 For the duration of their term of office, the Assistant Librarian will be a Stock Manager.

This JCR Mandates:

- The JCR Chair should change all references to the 'Librarian' in the Standing Orders to 'Society Librarian'.

Proposer: Eleanor Radcliffe

Seconder: Alfie Whillis

Discussion

MF Are the librarian and assistant librarian paid, as stock managers are?

ER Yes. I will make a motion to have assistant librarian elected in first meeting so they can attend similar training. To me it just makes sense.

No further questions

No amendments

No opposition

To be voted on online



Election Standing Orders Reorganisation Motion

This JCR Notes:

- The Election Rules standing order is 21 pages long and contains all three Methods of election, rules for referendums and details of sanctions for misconduct;
- Many candidates in JCR elections either have not read the Election Rules standing order or are confused by the wording and meaning of certain rules, meaning breaches of election rules are frequent;
- That the Governance Committee has the power to declare elections null and void under exceptional circumstances, though the standing orders do not stipulate what would be considered exceptional.

This JCR Believes:

- Candidates in JCR elections are more likely to read election rules if the document they are presented with contains only the information relevant to them;
- Sanctions for misconduct are better grouped with the Appeals Tribunal in a new Election Sanctions and Appeals order, as this information is not relevant to the vast majority of candidates;
- The Election Rules standing order is overly wordy and repetitive and can be streamlined;
- Some sections of the Election Rules standing order lack clarity and can be reworded for that purpose (e.g. 'Not permitted to make or repurpose an existing video or website');
- Deadlines stipulated as periods of time (e.g 72 hours) are better expressed as fixed hours (e.g 7pm);
- Some stipulations of the Election Rules standing order are needlessly restrictive (e.g. time and place of election results announcements);
- Proposers and Seconders are no longer required for Method II elections;
- It is unclear if the 50% + 1 vote majority stipulation of the Appeals Tribunal applies to the entire membership, or just those present, and that it should apply to the entire membership;
- That the power to declare elections null and void should be taken away from the Governance Committee until the grounds under which this might occur are properly scrutinised.

This JCR Repeals:

- Election Rules Order
- Election Appeals Order

This JCR Orders:

- Method I Election Rules Order
- Method II Election Rules Order
- Method III Election Rules Order
- Referendum Rules Order



- Election Sanctions and Appeals Order

Proposer: Alfie Whillis

Second: Saskia Wootton-Cane

Discussion

No questions

AW I amend to remove tableslips entirely from the standing order

SWC I think we should keep them from presidential elections or perhaps exec elections

AW I would be happy to keep it in only for presidential, vice-president, and FCO.
Otherwise I don't think it is necessary.

ER I think we should remove tableslips entirely, if anything it reduces JCR engagement

JC I think we should keep tableslips for most roles, slips on a table aren't that intrusive,
they should be for all exec at least

AW Proposes keeping in for only positions elected in 2.1

Passes on a general aye

No further amendments

No opposition

To be voted on online



Null and Void Elections Motion

This JCR Notes:

- That the Governance Committee does not have the power to impose sanctions after the results of an election have been announced;
- That the Governance Committee has historically had the power to declare elections null and void, though the standing orders have never stipulated what would be considered exceptional circumstances.

This JCR Believes:

- The Governance Committee should be given the power to declare an election null and void at any point up to the commencement of the terms of office of the elected candidate in exceptional circumstances in which evidence emerges that beyond reasonable doubt calls into question the integrity of the election or the legitimacy of the elected candidate;
- The Governance Committee should only be allowed to exercise this power by a two-thirds vote of the entire membership;
- The results of an election should only be announced provided that a majority of the membership of the Governance Committee are satisfied that there are no outstanding complaints or unaddressed evidence of election misconduct or interference.

This JCR Orders:

Election Rules Order

4.3.4 The declaration of results shall only occur once a majority of the entire membership of the Governance Committee is satisfied that there are no unresolved complaints or evidence of misconduct regarding the election.

Election Appeals Order

Article 3 Void Elections

1. Declaring an Election Void

1.1. Under exceptional circumstances, an election may be declared null and void by a two third majority vote of the Governance Committee at any point up to the commencement of the elected candidates term of office.

1.2. Exceptional circumstances are limited to circumstances in which there is credible evidence that the outcome of the election may have differed due to misconduct or external influences.

1.2.1. Exceptional circumstances might include, but are not limited to:

1.2.1.1. Emergence of evidence of misconduct by a candidate and/or campaign team member after the declaration of results,

1.2.1.2. Misconduct by a member of Governance Committee,

1.2.1.3. Campaigning by any individual forbidden to by the standing orders, and



1.2.1.4. Widespread lack of access to the method of nomination or voting.

1.3. This decision may be appealed by any member of the JCR to the Appeals Tribunal, where normal procedure shall be followed.

2. Re-running an Election

2.1. Upon declaring an election null and void, nominations should then be reopened and hustings held at the next JCR meeting.

2.2. The Governance Committee may disqualify candidates from the re-run election on the grounds of their misconduct in the null and void election, following standard procedure for sanctioning candidates.

Proposer: Alfie Whillis

Seconder: Saskia Wootton-Cane

Discussion

DT Is this investigated by GovComm?

AW It follows the same procedure as if a rule break was discovered during the election.

No further questions

No amendments

No opposition

To be voted on online

Correspondance from HM

We are releasing a letter from all EM reps talking about the leaked screenshots from groups chats showing students being racist – we demand more support for anti-racism workshop, as well as some more official actions against students on the screenshot. I can send this letter to anyone who wants to read it. Additionally, someone has set up a Cuth's BLM Instagram account, just so we can be more in touch can you please contact me if this is you.



Elections

As elections are online, you can see husts online. Voting will be on DUO at apps.dur.ac.uk/vote and this lasts 48 hours.

Bar Liaison Officer (I)

Candidates: Rory Pattison, RON

Fashion Show President (I)

Candidates: Ellis Burke, RON

JCR Stool (II)

Candidates: James Cochran, Euan Martin, RON

Year Abroad and Placement Rep (II)

Candidates: Clarissa Atlee, RON

Meeting Adjourned