



Executive Committee Meeting – 30-10-2020

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

Apologies: MW (FCO), SS (Social Chair), ER (Librarian)

Absent:

Location: A Zoom Call

Agenda:

Updates (SWC)

Accommodation fees/Post-Offer Visit days (SWC)

AOB

Minutes Pass

Updates (SWC)

SWC We've had a conversation about Communities chair. We agreed to propose that the committee would continue as is, but it will interally elect someone to chair the meetings. I think an issue was the role felt vacant, and didn't really appeal to anyone. They will additionally send someone as a delegate to exec meetings, without them having the additional responsibilities of being on the exec.

BT What if they want to send more than one representative?

SWC Ideally they wouldn't send the whole committee, but two or three would be fine.

MP Why not have just one member who both chairs the meetings and sits on the exec?

SWC It's more flexible, they could do it like that if they want to.

MP Will they get discounted tickets for balls?

SWC No, as they aren't asked to do any extra exec stuff.

SWC As for updates from me, I've been trying hard to get the gyms open and sitting on various comittees.

LB Are you enjoying yourself?

SWC Yes, committees getting started have made it a bit more fun.



RM Not enough people have applied to be on SU Comm, what could I do?

BT You could run the positions in the JCR Meeting.

ES Can more people please give a statement for the take time to sign? There was a lot of discussion on the senior welfare Group Chat about finding housemates outside of households – do we have anything planned? Other colleges have done so.

RM No plans as of yet, but it sounds like a good idea. We've got the Cuth's Housing group, but I don't think now is necessarily the time.

JS Me & SWC has a conversation with the Principal about welcoming Livers out into college – how could we encourage people to come in?

SWC The issue is household mixing. Is there any way we could make social distancing less weird

Awkward Silence

LB This might be one to think on...

Generally Agreed

SWC There's an oversight being set up for the respect commission, basically they've come for some recommendations, and now they need to be sorted. If this is something you are interested in, see my weekly email for how to apply.

SWC What did people think about JCR meeting on MS Teams?

TB I thought it was better.

SWC I'm glad, I was worried about the voting system, but it worked out in the end.

BT I think people ran for positions because of the format change, the meetings were a tad longer but it's worth it.

SWC The meeting was almost too short before. I think it worked. I'll put more effort onto the raffle next time.

Accommodation fees/Post-Offer Visit days (SWC)

SWC This is way in advance and very very speculative – personally doubt that Post offer visit days will even take place. There's been talk of refusing to do them if accommodation prices increase. What are the initial impressions of this? Is it too damaging to not hold them, or is it worth it? The university relies on us for Freshers' and POV Days. One year they paid for some common rooms stash on the condition that they kept this secret, but now even that doesn't happen (as far as we are aware). We really get nothing, and I am a bit sick of it.

RM I'd support it, the University won't budge unless we do something.

LB It's quite a good idea. It'd need to be quite unilateral across common rooms to be effective.



TB They are quite important for Freshers' who are anxious. I support the idea of it, but I don't know if it'll be damaging.

SWC It'd send a very strong message to the Freshers.

MF This should be brought up in a JCR meeting before it goes ahead.

SWC If it seems like it will happen, we would definitely run it by the JCR first.

MP We need to be very serious about the consequences not only to students and to the JCR as a charity – I think we'd need to set aside a budget to deal with the potential financial ramifications of this. That said I support it, it is the only actual move we can take, and sooner or later some sort of action needs to be taken.

RM Durham takes our volunteering culture for granted.

SWC I don't know if I believe open day reps should be paid, but the JCRs definitely should be paid for open days – this could mean the Levy is lower. The lack of compensation is an issue.

MP I think the messaging needs to be very clear. If this is over accommodations fees, tacking on a bit about how the JCRs need more money could make it less universally appealing, and while I obviously care about the JCR accommodation fees are probably a bigger deal.

SWC If this is to go ahead, we would have a very clear set of goals and messages. I agree with RM – we're essentially giving the university free labour.

No Other Business

Meeting Adjourned