



Executive Committee Meeting – 04-12-2020

Attendance: SWC (President), MW (FCO), MP (VP), JS (PG&M), BT (JCR Chair), TB (Sports & Socs), MF (Facilities), LB (Outreach Chair), ER (Librarian), HM (EM Rep), RM (PR Officer),

Apologies: ES (Senior Welfare), SS (Social Chair),

Absent:

Location: A Zoom Call

Agenda:

Harm reduction/drug testing kits (SWC)

Accommodation fees motion (SWC)

Exec Reports (MP)

AOB

Harm reduction/drug testing kits (SWC)

SWC I'd like to buy drug testing kits for students. Drugs are taken, it won't enable more people to take drugs. We'd give out information alongside it. They aren't very expensive. Require a little bit of work to sort. The tests just tell you if it is what you think it is. We'd get tests for cocaine, MDMA, and ketamine. I personally think those are the most commonly used drugs that we'd need to test.

Unanimously supported

MP How would we give out?

SWC Use the infrastructure we have through welfare. We'd buy some tubes (also cheap). I'd get the people who are distributing to practice on aspirin. It's quite user friendly. We could always write our own instructions. Welfare are fine with this. They'd need to be refrigerated.



Accommodation fees motion (SWC)

SWC This motion came from a desire to unify demands in Durham. Hatfield are passing a slightly modified version through. They are worried about the differentiated fees idea. Their reasons could easily apply to Cuth's. It could segregate their college. I don't want the college to be segregated, but I think lowering the barrier to participation would be huge. What do you guys think. The 3rd way would be to assign the cheaper rooms randomly. This does require more work. Who knows what will be agreed to. There is room for manoeuvre but I'm wary of straying too far from the unified demands. I've offered to meet with every JCR President/Ripped off group/SU Officers/SU Rep about this.

RM I think differentiation is necessary. There are better ways to do it than others.

TB Differentiating isn't optimal but may be optimal. You could have a hierarchy on who can afford which rooms.

SWC In other universities they have a similar thing. I think the collegiate system counteracts it quite well.

MP Randomly assigning will create a scenario where someone will be paying a fair bit more for a much worse room compared to someone from a very similar background. I agree with the intent of it, and we should really try to fight segregation, but I'm not sure I agree with the implementation. I think perhaps an expansion of something like the Durham Grant could work better instead of differentiation.

JS They've changed the grant to a sliding scale, but only for last years Freshers onwards – can't get on it when you've already started. Fee differentiation is a contentious issue, but it can be a positive thing. It's perhaps not the perfect long term solution.

MF On a different note, to what extent do we lobby for this?

SWC Unsure. Future still hard to predict. The plan for this is to vote for this in JCRs. What I mean by lobby is for me to be working on it. Anything further is down to us and our students.

ER It's a complex issue – we'll see how it progresses.

SWC I may propose an amendment to be a random sample of rooms. We don't want to create segregated college communities. It's no one's aim. Bringing students in is the important bit.

RM As long as it doesn't dilute the demands. As long as it's a small note that is ok.

Exec Reports (MP)

MP Send me your reports please!

HM I've prepared a short one. We'll put it in the meeting

BT Please keep it short!



AOB

Covid update from Central

SWC Everything I'm about to say is very, very speculative.

- Next term could be more open for structured Wider Student Experience if the Lateral Flow Testing is successful.
- This could apply to a fair few things we run, as long as we are strict on policing.
- Consequences of insufficient policing could be severe for Cuth's and the Wider University.
- Levels of optimism are very mixed – this is not confirmed at all.
- TB will likely have a conversation about Sports & Socs over Xmas

Nudity

TB The naked calendars have just arrived – we'll hand them out in the marquees

MW I will help with this and organise card readers.

Socials

SWC There's an SCR thing on at 8 on Monday. Please come. We'll do our social soon.