



JCR Meeting 2.2 – 23-02-2021

Attendance: SWC (President), MW (FCO), MP (VP), JS (PG&M), BT (JCR Chair), TB (Sports & Socs), MF (Facilities), AW (SRO), JGo (Male Welfare), GG (WCS Rep), SP (Trustee), KM (Trustee), EM (Stool, Formals Manager), SB (Social Comm), DM (Social Comm, Assistant EM Rep), JC (JRO, PG Treasurer), SG (DUCK Rep), EJ (Outreach Comm), JR (Head Frep), KBro (Environment Rep), CH (Assistant LGBT+ Rep), TAF (Welfare Campaigns, Assistant International Rep), CA (YAPL Rep & Social Comm), JP (Trustee), EBo (Outreach Comm), LD (Outreach Comm), ZH (Assistant Librarian), AnJ (SU Comm, JRO), JGa (Female Welfare), SoB (Events Manager), LH (LGBT+ Rep, Communities Chair), LB (Outreach Chair), ER (Librarian), RM (PR Officer), SS (Social Chair), LuH (Social Comm), SU (Social Comm), MO (Social Comm), SR (Finance Comm), NE (Social Comm), DB (Outreach Comm), CL (Outreach Comm), LF (Stock Manager), HR (Social Comm), HD (Stock Manager), RP (Bar Liason Officer), IE (Social Comm), LJ (Social Comm), JW (Finance Comm), EP (Social Comm, Sports & Socs Reporter), SGo (SwD Rep), AA (Environment Comm), EBl (Environment Comm), GT (Welfare Campaigns), CT (Project Coordinator), EK (Environment Committee), EGr (Finance Comm), KW (PG Academic Rep), EW (Social Comm), CP (Bailey Wardrobe Manager), BC (Welfare Campaigns), EG (Social Comm), GF (Welfare Campaigns), AJ (Local Students' Rep), EB (Fashion Show President), AD (Trans & Non-Binary Rep), MH (SU Comm), JL (Outreach Publicity), KB (Finance Comm), GM (Environment Committee), CM (Environment Committee), JN (Environment Committee), IA (Welfare Campaigns), CW (Environment Committee), MR (JRO), IC (Music Rep), Cwi, AF, IU, AL, SMa, CPa, NT, PA, TW, AbF, AS, BK, JB, DT, ML, DA

Apologies: HH (Campaigns Manager), HM (EM Rep), EMS (Outreach Comm), LA (Environment Committee), ES (Senior Welfare), AG (Social Comm), JWa (PG VP)

Absent: LS (Gym Manager), NG (Social Comm)

Location: MS Teams



Agenda:

Reports

Motions

JCR Covid Fund Motion (1)

Terms of Office Standing Order update Motion (2)

Several Automatic Votes of No Confidence (auto-VONCs) (3)

The Raffle

Elections

2x Sports & Socs Reporters (Method II)

1x SU Comm Member (II)

Postgraduate Welfare Rep (II)

Assistant SwD Rep (II)

Assistant WCS Rep (II)

Facilities Manager (I)

JCR Chair (I)

Publicity and Relations Officer (I)

Sports and Societies Chair (I)

Outreach Committee Chair (I)

Senior Welfare Officer (I)

Finance and Compliance Officer (Method I Presidential)

Minutes Pass



Reports

Student Trustees (SP)

Since we were onboarded in August we've done a fair bit of admin as a board, including updating policies and continuity plans so we are in a strong position as a charity moving forward. We interviewed for 3 new positions on the board, and onboarded 3 new external trustees, all led by KM as head of the nominations committee. This means we are now a full board, with no one looking to step down. We've had lots of sub committee meetings to help support the exec in such an extraordinary time, focusing in particular on helping make sure that student welfare is at the forefront, Freshers are being integrated as much as possible and that engagement in the JCR stays up, and ensuring finances are well used since many events can't go ahead as planned. As always, please contact any one of the three of us if you have anything you'd like to raise the trustees 😊

Year Abroad and Placement Rep (CA)

- I have supported non-MLAC second years applying for a year abroad through OEP and Erasmus, and those interested in placements
- Two new committee members AC and EG have been recruited. AC did his year abroad last year; EG is currently on hers in Barcelona. Thank you to SWC and MP for supporting and reviewing the applications
- We are restarting the Year Abroad and Placement Newsletter – first one coming out on 5th March, as well as working with Elizabeth to include things in the Friday bulletin. The committee are working hard and doing well on this
- We have also been looking into how we can make the year abroad application process clearer for non-MLAC students, and how we can highlight the benefits of undertaking a placement year
- I have created a welfare form so that year out students can let us know anonymously if there is anything extra re: welfare that they feel we can do to support them. Thank you to JGa and ES for helping with the advertising and being supportive
- I am looking into organising information banks and creating contacts for Cuth's, based on the work of the committee last year
- EA (Principal) is waiting to hear back from central university if it's alright for us to endorse an Asian remote volunteering opportunity
- I will be proposing a new motion soon, which, if passed, would mean the standing orders reflected the responsibilities of the YAP rep and committee as they've uncovered over the past year and a half, including handbooks and formals
- I have reopened applications for the spare spaces on the committee
- If you want to follow our Instagram, it's @cuthsyearabroadandplacement



Environment Rep (KB)

- Greenspace meetings: Potential inter-collegiate rubbish run, April Showers campaign material and Bin Audits
- Meet the Committee series on our Instagram
- February Against Fast Fashion campaign on our Instagram
- Attended Durham Amnesty International and The Ugly Fruit Group events - working towards future projects with
- Meeting with Outreach Chair about Green Move Out next term
- Decided on Bailey and Parson's Field Move Out Reps
- Started work with Committee on Cuth's Sustainability document

Music Rep (IC)

- Earlier this year, I actively lobbied for the opening of the music room, which unfortunately due to restrictions has been open only sporadically throughout the year
- I also worked with music Durham, to secure University practice space for several of our band societies, where we could practice following the regulations, which was successful until the reimposition of lockdown.
- Towards the end of last term, I worked with outreach, and reached out to several performers in Cuths to put together a livestreamed concert in D.A.SH.
- This term has largely been quiet due to the strict regulations but, I have kept an eye on government announcements pertaining to when music functions will be permissible again.
- I started considering the viability of live events after the lockdown, and some events that the Music Rep could set up next year.
- I've started to work on my handover notes for next year's Music Rep



Motions

JCR Covid Fund Motion (1)

This JCR Notes

- The university and college provide some provisions to help students with distance learning, but these are often hard to access or means tested which can exclude some students.
- The nature of this term has brought unprecedented hardship upon students and the JCR should support its members through this.

This JCR Believes:

- Buying new equipment like headsets, microphones, webcams, tablets, and piano keyboards would help JCR members with online learning.
- The JCR has sufficient funds to pay for technology which can be lent out to its members.
- The JCR would be able to run a system where these items are loaned out to its members whilst they need them.

This JCR Resolves:

- To allow the JCR to spend up to £1500 on new technology to be loaned out to its members on this occasion.
- No member would be allowed sole ownership of any of these items – they belong to the JCR and will be loaned out on a temporary basis.

Proposer: MW

Secunder: JS, SWC

Discussion

AF Would this support people in other countries or just those in Durham?

MW Idea is that the JCR would loan these things out, so this would be for people based in Durham.

No questions

No amendments

No opposition

Motion passes on a general Aye



Terms of Office Standing Order update Motion (2)

This JCR Notes:

- The Terms of Office (ToO) Standing Order has not received frequent updates as positions have been added to and modified in the Positions in the JCR Standing Order and as a result is inconsistent with other standing orders and does not reflect current practice.
- The ToO Standing Order is worded in such a way that it demands frequent updates and requires extensive repetition of phrases within the Standing Order.

This JCR Believes:

- The wording of the ToO Standing Order should be updated such that the Standing Order operates without as frequent updates, presuming a default Term of Office and only requiring change in the event of an unconventional position being established;
- The ToO Standing Order should be reordered to remove unnecessary repetition of phrases and rephrased to avoid unnecessarily verbose wordings;
- The terms of Office should be updated to reflect current practice (e.g. moving Minority Reps to a normal term of Office, and clarifying that Student Trustees' terms of Office usually lasts until their replacement by the Board of Trustees);
- The fact that the Board of Trustees can remove an Officer from Office should be added to the ToO Standing Order;
- The responsibility for proposing Auto-VONC motions should automatically fall on the President of the Society.

This JCR Repeals:

Terms of Office Standing Order

This JCR Orders:

Terms of Office Standing Order (on following pages)

Proposer: AW

Secunder: MP

St Cuthbert's Society JCR

Article 1 Terms of Office



1. The terms of Office for Officers shall be as follows:

1.1. All Officers elected by Election Method I, unless otherwise stated:

1.1.1. Terms of Office shall be from 1st July until 30th June of the next year.

1.2. All sabbatical Officers:

1.2.1. Term of Office shall be from 1st August until 31st July of the following year.

1.2.2. During the month of July at the end of their term there will be a handover period where detailed knowledge required for the position will be passed on to their successor.

1.3. The following Officers elected by Election Method I:

- 1) DUCK Representative,
- 2) Assistant Librarian, and
- 3) Fashion Show President.

1.3.1. Terms of Office shall be from the conclusion of their election until 30th June in the academic year that they are elected. After this, they will be invited to remain in Office until their successor is elected.

1.4. The following Officers election by Election Method I:

- 1) Senior Freshers' Week Representative.

1.4.1. Terms of Office shall be from the first day of Easter Term in the academic year in which they are elected until the first day of the Easter Term in the following academic year.

1.5. The following Officers elected by Election Method I:

- 1) Student Trustee.



- 1.5.1. Terms of Office shall be from the conclusion of their election until their successor(s) are formally appointed at a Trustee meeting and they are removed from the register of Trustees.

1.6. All Officers elected by Election Method II, unless otherwise stated:

- 1.6.1. Terms of Office shall be from either the conclusion of their election or 1st July, whichever occurs later, until 30th June of the next year. After this, they will be invited to remain in Office until their successor is elected.

1.7. The following Officers elected by Election Method II:

- 1) Summer Ball Manager, and
- 2) Cuth's Day Manager.

- 1.7.1. Terms of Office shall be from the conclusion of their election until 30th June in the academic year that they are elected.

1.8. All Officers elected by Election Method III:

- 1.8.1. Terms of Office shall be from when a person's application is declared successful until June 30th in the academic year that they are elected. After this, they will be invited to remain in Office until their successor's application is declared successful.

- 1.8.1.1. The exception to this shall be the Year Abroad and Placement Committee, where members' terms of office shall be from when their application is declared successful until 30th June of the next year.

1.9. The following Officers:

- 1) DUCK Liaison Officer.

- 1.9.1. Terms of Office shall be from when a person's application is declared successful until 30th June in the academic year that they are elected.

2. Unoccupied Positions

- 2.1. All Officers shall remain in Office until:

- 1) Their term of Office ends,
- 2) They tender their resignation, or
- 3) They are removed from Office by the passing of a Vote of No Confidence, or
- 4) They are removed from office by the Board of Trustees.

- 2.2. In the event that any post elected by Method I is or becomes unoccupied there shall be an election for that position within four weeks of term time.

- 2.2.1. The exceptions to this shall be:



- 1) If a person who has already been elected to succeed the holder of any post come the expiry of the Term of Office volunteers to assume the duties of the current post-holder for the remainder of their term of Office;
 - 2) If the Board of Trustees has established a procedure to deal with the early removal or resignation of the Officer.
- 2.2.2. Until the post is filled the Executive Committee shall either:
- 1) Assume the duties of that post communally, or
 - 2) Appoint a volunteer to fulfil the duties of the post.

3. Vote of No Confidence

- 3.1. Any Officer may be removed from Office prior to the conclusion of their term by a Vote of No Confidence (VONC).
- 3.2. The procedure to be followed to call a VONC shall be as follows:
 - 1) A Motion of No Confidence, calling for a VONC in an Officer, must be submitted to the JCR Chair and should be dealt with as a normal motion, with the exception that it must be proposed by a Full or Honorary Member and seconded by 49 Full or Honorary Members.
 - a) A Motion of No Confidence in the Chair should be submitted to the SRO.
 - 2) If no General Meeting is pending within one week an Extraordinary Meeting shall be called at which the motion shall be heard.
 - 3) The Chair will call upon the Proposer to speak on behalf of the VONC. The Officer in question will be given an opportunity to present their defence.
 - 4) A Motion of No Confidence in the holder of a Method I, II or III position requires a 2/3 majority to pass, and through a deemed simple majority for a Motion of No Confidence in a holder of a Method IV position.
 - 5) The VONC shall be overseen by the SRO, except in cases where they are the Officer in question in which case their duty shall pass to the President of the Society.
- 3.2.1. A VONC in a Method I position holder will be carried out using Election Method I. A VONC in a Method II or III position holder will be carried out using Election Method II. A VONC in a Method IV position holder will be carried out using Election Method IV.
- 3.2.2. In the event that a VONC is successful, the Officer in question should immediately be considered removed from Office.
- 3.2.3. Any member removed from Office by a VONC shall not be eligible for election to the same position at any time.

4. Suspension

- 4.1. Any Member of a Committee that is not a member ex-officio (i.e. whose role description is detailed in the rules of a different committee or the Constitution) may



be suspended by a 2/3 majority vote of that committee, proposed by any committee member and over by the SRO by secret ballot.

- 4.1.1. While suspended, the Officer in question should be considered temporarily removed from Office.
 - 4.1.2. The period of suspension shall be no more than 14 days.
 - 4.1.3. During the period of suspension, the Proposer of the suspension shall collect signatures of seconders for a Motion of No Confidence which they shall propose, this shall be submitted within 7 days of the start of the suspension to the JCR Chair.
 - 4.1.4. The suspension shall be lifted if a Motion of No Confidence is not submitted within 7 days of the start of the suspension or if the Motion is rejected.
- 4.2. An Officer cannot be suspended twice for the same grievance.

5. Automatic Motions of No Confidence

- 5.1. An Automatic Motion of No Confidence should be proposed by the President of the Society in the next General Meeting following an Officer:
 - 5.1.1. Failing to attend two consecutive General Meetings without sending apologies,
 - 5.1.2. Failing to attend three General Meetings without sending apologies in total,
 - 5.1.3. Failing to attend two consecutive relevant committee meetings without sending apologies, or
 - 5.1.4. Failing to attend three relevant committee meetings in total without sending apologies.
- 5.2. The Vice President should send a warning to the Officer in whom an Automatic Motion of No Confidence would be brought in the event they fail to attend another meeting without sending apologies.
- 5.3. An Automatic Motion of No Confidence should follow the procedure of a regular Motion of No Confidence, with the exception that it requires no seconders and should not result in an Extraordinary Meeting.

Discussion

AW Basically ToO was a bit of a mess – this version presumes a default term of office. Minor changes and tidying up.

No questions

No amendments

No opposition

Motion passes on a general aye



Several Automatic Votes of No Confidence (auto-VONCs) (3)

SWC These motions are brought automatically against JCR Officers (anyone with a JCR position, including Committee members). To avoid this from happening, please attend JCR meetings – or just send apologies to MP (vice-president@cuths.com). This is just a brief email and really isn't too much to ask. These motions are automatic and not my personal opinion on these officers. But I would like to propose a procedural motion to give these Officers a reprieve this once, as it has been a tough year and we need to be understanding.

SWC Proposes a procedural motion to postpone these specific auto-VONCs indefinitely. However this is not to say that these JCR officers can never be auto-VONC'd in the future.

Questions

JC Can you clarify what will happen if this passes, and what happens if it doesn't?

SWC If this procedural motion passes these auto-VONCs will go away – if it doesn't pass we will go back to these motions and vote on them.

MF Is this one more chance of no auto-VONCs ever for these officers?

SWC One more chance

No further questions

No opposition

Procedural motion passes on a general aye



The Raffle

1st Prize – Custom engraved tankard - AL

2nd Prize – Vintage 2016 Cuth's Day Stash – GM

3rd Prize – Extremely Chocolatey biscuits – EB

Elections

Husts have been copied from written versions made available to MP before the JCR Meeting, and abbreviated for TB and JuW

2x Sports & Socs Reporters (Method II), 1x SU Comm Member (II),
Postgraduate Welfare Rep (II), Assistant SwD Rep (II), Assistant WCS Rep (II)

No Candidates, to be re-run at the next JCR meeting

Facilities Manager (I)

Candidates: TB, Request New Candidates

TB's Hust

- 3rd year compsci
- Experience doing JCR stuff – Sports & Socs chair
- Variety of roles in societies
- Founded cycling society
- Frepped twice
- Worked at the bar
- Lot of technical skills, can learn how to use new tech
- Very adaptable to whatever happens with COVID
- Want to create a women's hour at the gym – would help people who feel comfortable
- Learn from booking system from COVID – which will help livers out to make sure there will be space
- Wants to allow sports and socs to book out gym
- Create videos that show how to use equipment
- Better advertise the green machine with our website – other DU societies should be able to know that they can rent it out.
- Invest in facilities to benefit members.



Questions

SS asks a targeted question and is told off by AW

MF The construction of the new building at parsons will start in summer – how will you respond to the effects of this?

TB It will depend on if other things go out of action – if (for example) a room goes out of action I'll need to negotiate with college to find a replacement room

JR Which facility needs the most investment?

TB Probably green machine – I don't know music stuff, but investment in this can make us money in the future.

AW How will you deal with recruiting the Facilities Committee – it's historically been a struggle?

TB Start by creating a social side? It's hard to get people to run in the first place – advertise it as a team and not just having one job. By adding a social side people are more likely to be engaged.



JCR Chair (I)

Candidates: EM, Request New Candidates

EM's Hust

Hi everyone, I'm EM and I'm running to be your next JCR Chair. You might know me as your current JCR stool (or just the person who runs the raffle in the meetings), and it's this experience on GovComm that has led me to running in this election. It goes without saying that I love Cuths, and I want a JCR that is open, transparent and as easy to get involved in as possible- particularly as we begin to rebuild post-Covid.

One big area we'll really need to focus on next year is engagement and making sure that both the current and new cohorts of freshers are given as many possibilities as possible. Whilst this is no means solely the job of the Chair, getting people attending meetings or even just understanding what the JCR can offer them is a huge step in increasing participation and ensuring positions are filled. I'll ensure I'm an active member of the exec, engaging with freshers with drop-ins (hopefully in person and on both sites), whilst also ensuring livers-out still feel that the JCR represents them. We obviously don't know what September will look like, but cautious optimism suggests we might be able to have in-person meetings and a traditional fresher's week, both of which would hugely help getting the next generation of Cuthspeople excited about the JCR and the opportunities we offer. Even if we are still having to operate online it would be more crucial than ever to try to keep up engagement levels as zoom fatigue begins to set in, but either way I'll be ready to work with the new exec to adapt to the situation we find ourselves in.

On the subject of meetings, they're obviously one of the largest parts of the chair's job, and I believe my experience on GovComm would allow me to hit the ground running with them come autumn. I chaired the last meeting and it mostly went off without too much difficulty, and I've submitted plenty of motions and been to many a meeting in my time, so know how to run a good JCR meeting. The current way we run meetings is pretty good and I don't have huge plans to change the structure of them, but I would push for agendas to be out well in advance so that big amendments can be proposed ahead of time, meaning GovComm can inspect them and they're allowed to be properly considered by all members ahead of the meeting. This wouldn't be necessary for all amendments but would be one tool in the arsenal of making meetings smoother and more enjoyable for all. I'll also continue to work with the minority reps to ensure that minority voices are heard in meetings- I was SwD rep in my first year and so am keen to strengthen these links within the JCR.

On top of all this, I want to make JCR meetings more fun. Sadly, Teams hasn't been fantastic for some of the more interactive elements of meetings, and we all long to be back in the bar with a jug or 3 as soon as we can. I'll make sure that the raffle continues to go from strength to strength (including custom stash and more vouchers for prizes). I'll also push for an increase in the GC budget to allow for more food to be provided in meetings: think pizzas for the long exec elections and more snacks on tables in the bar/dining hall. If we aren't able to meet in person, I'll come up with small ways of increasing engagement and fun: things like the Greggs vouchers from the presidential election and the like.

Beyond meetings, I'd like to make some clarifications to the way S&S have to be governed: some of their rules are not entirely necessary or just unwieldy for execs to carry out. I'll aim



for this to be smoothed out so that the governance of groups is simple, and focus can just be placed on running the activities members want. I'll also keep running the engagement survey so that we know how to best steer the JCR to work for members, and of course I'll keep up the excellent work of past chairs on maintaining the standing orders and other governance documents.

I hope that this hust has given you an idea of what my vision for JCR chair would be, and I'd really appreciate your vote. Please feel free to message me with any specific questions you might have!

Questions

BT It can be hard to be impartial as chair – how will you tackle this?

EM You're right, I have opinions – it's crucial that the chair is down the middle. I've had a year on GovComm, already practiced extremely impartiality – it's important to understand motions that are controversial. Obviously the chair can't write motions, I'd just assist others. As a trustee last year I have experience on doing impartial work behind the scenes.

SWC When I was chair – my biggest focus was getting things up to date? What would your focus be?

EM I think making S&S governance simpler would help – work with SRO and Sports & Socs – governance shouldn't be a burden. We'll need to get 2 year groups into normal JCR operation, and adapt back into normality – now that we have teams in place, we could get people who aren't able to attend into meetings. We'd let people call in and it could be more interactive.

CA In a scenario where you have a laptop in a JCR meeting so that people could call in – I am concerned that it might be disengaging. Thoughts?

EM It might not be perfect, but I think it can be better than watching a stream. One or two GovComm members are usually free – they could monitor the stream. We could buy a high quality webcam – it's not perfect but it's got the potential to work better – would have to try it out. It's important to take little steps towards better engagement.



Publicity and Relations Officer (I)

Candidates: LH, NT, Request New Candidates

LH's Hust

Hi, I'm LH a first year geography student and the current LGBT+ rep. I'm running to be the publicity and relations officer because I simply love Cuth's. Since my first day in Cuth's, I've always been involved with the JCR. Outside of the JCR, this year I've been the media secretary for Durham University Canoe Club and had the opportunity to run their social media and communicate between the SU and the club. I have the necessary experience to make this role impactful and continue working on the amazing progress that has been made with the newsletter, communication, and housing.

My main goal in this role would be to start working towards creating the JCR's own mailing list. If successful, this would make the communication between the students and the JCR more efficient. It would allow us to directly send the newsletter into everyone's inboxes, meaning we won't have to rely on social media to let people know what's going on. Hopefully, this would let people who don't like using social media aware of what's going on as well.

On the subject of the newsletter, I would also like to make it more accessible. Cuth's is a diverse community and many students have disabilities. By making the newsletter more accessible via simple changes, such as keeping the information simple, using alt text, providing a plain text version and using contrasting colours I can ensure it's accessibility to everyone.

In addition, I would like to help sports and societies with advertising their events. This year I've helped with the organisation of many LGBT+ events. However, it's been hard to advertise these events due to the small number of followers our social media has. However, with the help of the JCR pages we were able to reach a wider audience and I would love to be able to extend this support to any group that requests it. Furthermore, I think this could encourage people to try out new things.

Another major task of this role is the communication between the JCR and the SU. I promise to have open and clear communication. I promise to convey Cuth's students' opinions in the SU meetings with complete impartiality. I want to make it easier for people to share their opinions by using polls, forums and encouraging people to get in touch.

Finally, for the liver out handbook I want to provide a variety of tips for easier living while keeping it very informative. As a liver out this year I had to learn a lot by trial and error... such as taking the wrong bus and ending up in Sunderland instead of Gilesgate. To make sure no one else has to experience similar things I'll make sure to provide ample of information about transport, bills, landlords, safety and most importantly their rights as tenants.

Thank you for listening, if you have any questions please feel free to contact me and I hope you consider voting for me.



NT's Hust

Hello everyone,

I am NT; a first-year law student and I am campaigning to your Publicity and Relations Officer for St Cuth's, in the coming academic year. I am extremely excited and enthusiastic about getting stuck in with all of the projects this role entails and would be honoured to work within the JCR to enhance the student experience, making Cuth's an even greater college to be a part of! Additionally, I would say that I am very well organised, and I know I can give this role the care and attention required, whilst maintaining my degree work. I pledge to attack this role with enthusiasm and tenacity.

As I mentioned in my manifesto, I have some really exciting ideas to bring to this role. From newer initiatives, to keeping up the great work of the past Officer.

For instance:

I think it would be extremely beneficial to add a section into the Cuth's Livers-out handbook and discuss at the housing talk, about things we can do in our student homes, to live an eco-friendlier lifestyle. This green initiative has really taken storm in the past few years, and I would love to work alongside the Cuth's Environmental Committee to achieve this goal. As I believe it is greatly important, as proud Durham Student's, to give back to the wider world.

I would also devote a lot of time and energy into making sure the student voice is heard at SU meetings, and that the information is communicated back effectively. I have been thinking about different ways in which to communicate with the student body and would definitely do some research into what methods are best received, and how best to keep everyone updated!

The running theme in this campaign seems to be communication.

Because alongside communicating with fellow students about Student Union affairs, I also am committed to being in constant contact with cuth's students and societies, in order to continue to fill the newsletter with positive and uplifting anecdotes about the successes of the past week! Which I think is really important – especially considering the difficulties of the past year and the hurdles ahead of us.

Additionally, I have been considering some new and exciting additions to the newsletters, and I hope to get societies and students involved, to make it a group effort we can all be proud of.

Through these aims, I hope to positively contribute towards St Cuthbert's Society, and I look forward to potentially working with everyone!

Also, I would be really excited to FREP for the new freshers, and experience freshers week from a different perspective – hopefully, COVID-permitting, there can be more exciting in-person activities to plan and be a part of, but I am certain that any online activities will be equally as entertaining!

I appreciate being given the platform and time to be able to discuss my ideas, and I hope you are as excited by them as I am!



Questions

AF Could you expand on what has been good about communications this year and what you'd like to change?

NT I like the social media side – but I think a mailing list is a very good idea. I think I'd lean into social media – especially on things concerning SU issues, I'd be interested in doing research into what people are thinking.

LH I love the Instagram this year – especially in a year where things have been online. Mentioned in hust – I don't like the reliance on facebook – we need to be accesible to people who don't use facebook at all. Something that you receive by email once a week would be harder to miss than a newsletter on Facebook.

CA Exchange students who are here for one year don't always know what's going on and might not have Facebook or any English social media – how would you make it accessible for them?

LH Drop-ins would be useful -we've done this for minority reps – make it clear that I will answer any question – again less reliance on social media would be useful – important in freshers week to establish the rapport between international, erasmus and uk students so that they know they are part of cuth's

NT I would say the main thing is keeping up with exchange students, having open conversations, staying in contact as well as possible – ask them how we can best communicate – Drop-Ins are a good idea, ask people what they want, how they want to be communicated with.

RM Open question – the role covers a wide range of things – what are you most looking forward to. How do you think the role will evolve?

NT I like most of the role – the housing talk and the livers out handbook especially – I like public speaking and I think it's a fun way of engaging Colleges families would also be fun – obviously havent had too much JCR experience and just want to get involved. I think this year has shown us the importance of in-person events, which would be super beneficial.

LH I'm most looking forward to SU comm – love minutes and agendas. I like discussing things with people. I have chaired meetings over zoom but it would be more fun face to face – not sure how it'd evolve. SU and JCR communications should change. Hope things go back to face to face.



MF SU elections are going on – only 10% of cuth's has voted – how would you encourage cuth's students to vote, even if they don't think the SU matters?

LH In house 8 I was known as the election person because I was always pestering. Make sure it is well advertised. Can't force people to vote. Hopefully we could use college or a mailing list. Cuth's is big so it's down to making sure that everyone knows they have a voice and it's their experience. Can't force people to vote though.

NT Agree. Keep people informed. I wasn't that clued up this year. Everthing is about keeping people in the loop.

IC Communications needs to have an incentive – how would you adapt it to make presentation interesting?

NT For the newsletter I was considering getting more people involved – make it something everyone can be proud of – we could do a comic strip or something – get people involved. For the SU, the best way is to make the info look as good as possible while being concise. Can't force people to read.

LH Keep it simple and as short as it can be – people can't be bothered to read pages and pages. Keep it short and concise – accesible to as many people as possible. Simplistic design, but wouldn't say no to banter. Serious first and then optional fun bit after.



Sports and Societies Chair (I)

Candidates: JW, Request New Candidates

JW's hust

- 3rd year MLAC on year abroad.
- In first 2 years was keen for many sports & socs
- Would like to get back into more S&S with more responsibility. Help to strengthen and improve S&S
- 4 main proposals
- 1. aware that corona restrictions have hurt S&S. Help them get back on their feet – let S&S get a new exec later into the year.
- 2. highlight importance of inclusivity to create a guide for the do's and don't's of socials
- 3. encourage more reporting to raise profile and recognise achievements – form system and possibility of livestreaming matches
- 4. encourage more participation to reach out to more people
- More details on manifesto, vote if you can and let's have a great year

No questions as a candidate isn't able to attend meeting.



Outreach Committee Chair (I)

Candidates: CL, Request New Candidates

CL's Hust

Hi! I'm CL, a 1st year English student currently sitting on the Outreach Committee, and I would love to be outreach chair next year. It has been a really tough year, but I think it has made us realise that more than ever, outreach is a vital part of the community. With restrictions hopeful starting to lift, I think it is a really good opportunity for us to expand our in person volunteering.

We have done some incredible fundraising this year so far (esp under the circs if i may say so) but i really believe that no matter how much money you have, it is people that makes outreach projects happen. With that in mind, as outreach chair I would focus on stepping up our efforts helping out in the local community, particularly with homeless and other displaced people hit hardest by the pandemic, which is an issue very close to my heart.

I have already got in contact with The Peoples Kitchen, which is an organisation in Newcastle that provides services for homeless people in the North East, and I would love Outreach to have a regular volunteering group help out there.

I also want to promote the app On hand to the cuths and Durham community, which allows isolated and vulnerable people to request anything from shop drops, to medication collection, to a phone call or social call from the wider community as and when. Further afield, I want to, rather ambitiously, organise a volunteering trip to either Calais or the napier barracks over a break to help out with the refugee crisis.

I also have experience volunteering in larger scale operations as last year I volunteered in Calais with an organisation providing hot meals for refugees. It really opened my eyes as to how easy it is to help people when you have the conviction. Obviously there are always hurdles in the form of red tape, but the hardest bit is often taking the initiative and opportunity to take action. Once you realise all you need to do is try, everything seems a bit more hopeful.

Despite not having too much experience of the JCR (I am obviously a 1st year and haven't even been to an in person meeting!) I have had quite a bit of experience organising change and general volunteering. At my sixth form I started an environment committee, and successfully lobbied to eliminate all plastic cutlery and disposable coffee cups, as well as persuading the school to take a more eco friendly stance. Other than that I have also done various bits of volunteering in lots of different capacities.

Overall I think that my slightly irritating enthusiasm and optimism would be an asset to next years outreach chair. I am eager to learn the ways of the JCR, but also hope that I therefore won't be scared to break with tradition if it means being able to elevate outreach as a committee. On that note I also would like to help make the JCR more accessible and approachable to people who aren't quite sure how to get involved. Regardless of what position I hold on Outreach committee next year, I am not someone who can sit by where change can be made, but being outreach chair would be a wonderful opportunity for me to help do that alongside everyone else on the team.



Questions

IC In the past outreach has collaborated with other student groups – would you do this?

CL I'm passionate about displaced people – sewing soc or art soc – do a clothing drive – we could fix things up and donate

LB In the past outreach has struggled to engage people – how will you get people to sign up post-COVID?

CL I think we are lucky in that when restrictions lift they will be keen to do things in person – it's a case of making sure the communication is good, and making it a social thing. Anyone who is free and wants to get involved can do so.

AF Cuth's has worked with DASH, would you consider this?

CL A regular link could be a good thing, we can spread it out across the year to keep it as an even flow.



Senior Welfare Officer (I)

Candidates: JGa, Request New Candidates

JGa's Hust

Hello everyone, my name is JGa, I am a second-year geography student and I am running to be your next senior welfare officer. Welfare at Cuths has an important place in my heart, it's such an important aspect of college and I'm really passionate about making sure students have access to support. I got involved with welfare in my first year, I was co-campaigns manager, and I am now your female welfare officer. From these roles I have learnt a great deal, from organising and running campaigns to being trained on important issues students face and the value of active listening and signposting, and the importance of having welfare there for support no matter what. With my experience and love for welfare at Cuths I know I can give my all to this role.

I have lots of ideas, please check out my manifesto, but I want to point out a few things. I want welfare to remain resilient and adaptable to the current situation, continuing to make student support accessible and a priority. When it comes to campaigns, it's about working alongside the campaigns manager and leading the campaigns team to run stand out and important campaigns that start conversations. A few of my ideas are to promote being an active bystander and getting our bar staff, if our bars can be opened, trained through the good night out campaign to deal with disclosures or events of sexual violence and hate crimes, and to make it clear that that behaviour is not welcome in Cuths. I think running a grief campaign will be really important next year, and I want to make SHAG week 2 weeks, putting an emphasis on intersectional sex education and consent. I want to run pub quizzes and movie nights and also work on having panel discussions or speakers in for campaigns. I will continue to work alongside communities committee to make sure campaigns are representative and inclusive.

Freshers week is an important week. I want to make welfare super visible, running welfare corner and work with college to run consent workshops and keep students safe. Throughout the year, I'd love to be able to have coffee chats for people to come by for an informal chat and to find out more about welfare in college. I would also like to work to set up an anonymous question and answer service for students if they don't feel comfortable emailing. Drop ins and responding to emails are really important, I want to continue to make sure this service is accessible and advertised as a safe, confidential space. I will have the welfare handbook released before or during fresher's week and I also want to produce a summarised set of posters that allude to what the whole handbook has inside, making sure that people know where to go for further information.

To be senior welfare is to be there for Cuths, to make sure you know that no matter how crazy the world is around you or how tough things get inside your head, welfare is there for you - a legacy of Cuths welfare I want to continue and build upon. For some, welfare will be



all about the posters and events for the campaigns. For others, welfare will be the time they went to a drop in and finally told someone something they've never told anybody else, or when they cried because everything just got too much, or when they emailed a welfare officer worried about a friend. I want to make sure that no matter what your experience with Cuths welfare is, it is one where you knew that welfare would have your back. I care a lot about student support and about the Cuths community. As your senior welfare officer I want to make sure that you know welfare is there for you, even if you decide to talk to a friend instead or you decide you're not ready to talk, welfare will always be there, I want to always be there. So please vote JGa for Senior Welfare Officer, I promise to give it all that I can

Questions

SWC A tough thing about the roles is boundaries – Freshers' week is your introduction to the week and it's very intense. How will you handle it?

JGa Agree Freshers' week is the most intense week. It's important that private messages are redirected to email so that there isn't a crossover. I think not having notifications on for emails, so that I only reply when I'm ready to. Stick to what I know I have the capacity to do. Makes it easy to balance the role. Use drop-ins as a space to talk.

DM Bit of a difficult question – on mental health – I've noticed that a lot of students have issues with how the university deals with mental health – I know people who were penalised for mental health issues. A lot of them felt alone and left out – if you were in the position how would you help a person like that?

JGa in the capacity of the role, it is peer lead support. They would have to reach out to welfare – it needs to be super visible, super non-judgemental and non-confrontational, signposting. That's the capacity we can support students in. I think the main thing is ensuring people know we take emails.

BT (Asking on behalf of ES) how would you build a strong relationship between college welfare teams coming off a year where that hasn't been possible?

JGa hopefully residential will happen next year – I know there is a big group chat so communicate there – there's the DU welfare network. Depending on what next year is like it'll be easier to form connections and meet up with people. Hopefully more cross college campaigns can go ahead.



Finance and Compliance Officer (Method I Presidential)

Candidates: IC (proposed by AL), AF (proposed by JR), Request New Candidates

AL's Hust

Hello, my name is AL, a masters student in the school of government and international affairs, and I'm here today to propose IC for the role of FCO. I have known IC for the majority of his Durham experience through his involvement in music, and what I've learnt over this time is just how committed, enthusiastic, and eager he is. At first IC seems like a shy guy who is simply there to get the job done, however the more you get to know him, it is quickly evident how in reality, he is one of the most kind and motivated people you could meet. I've worked with IC on the Cuth's Big Band exec when he was treasurer, and now Vice President, and I don't think I've met anyone more organised. He is consistently able to get the job done and doesn't view anything in half measures.

IC has held roles in the JCR, such as his current position of music rep, that have helped him gain invaluable knowledge of the JCR and experience that he will be able to apply well to the role of FCO. IC has also been one of the biggest players in the development of the arts within Cuths. The standard that he has helped it reach reflects his motivation and dedication to see projects through to a high calibre. He further has a wide-ranging interest in the JCR, yet also brings a fresh perspective to the JCR exec with a multitude of brilliant ideas on how the JCR can be improved to boost the overall student experience even further. He cares a lot about ensuring that every student in Durham is able to have the same experiences.

Additionally, IC will be entirely capable when it comes to handling such large sums of money that is required in the role of FCO. As treasurer of Cuth's Big Band last year he handled our vast reserves and ensured the money was well spent and every expense was covered. This reflects the qualities that IC holds, a few alone being consistency and perseverance. He is also a brilliant team player, and is easy, yet also enjoyable, to work alongside. His passion shines through in everything he does, and this is why I am so excited to see what he will be able to achieve in the role of FCO.

IC is my friend and I am so honoured to be able to propose someone who I know will do a brilliant job as FCO. So give IC your vote, because he deserves it.



IC's Hust

Hi, I'm IC, I'm a third year classicist and I'm running to be your FCO for next year. For those of you that don't know me you've probably seen me play bass with Cuths big band or my own band at pretty much every Cuth's event I can, back when events were still a thing.

Now before I get into all the technical details of what I want to do as FCO next year, I want to talk about my relationship with Cuths and why I am running for this position. To get this out of the way, I will admit that I've never been in the JCR exec and I've not really been one to table lots of motions in meetings so a few of you are probably wondering why I'm running for one of the most important roles in the JCR, one that enables the JCR to function, whilst also being a full time source of support as a sabbatical officer.

Well to answer that I'll explain: for most of my first year I didn't really know what the JCR was, it was just this alien body that seemed hell-bent on preventing Big Band from having our own music room key, it wasn't until I was politely coerced to go to a meeting to sign-in for my society that I began to understand what the JCR was and what it stood for. It wasn't a foreign body, it was an organisation that exists to represent us and champion us, and even arguments that seemed petty before, like the infamous battle over the music room key made sense, it was an ordered system where people could argue on their own rationale and where everyone could exercise their right to vote and be represented.

From this point on I endeavoured to get stuck in, in my own way, in places where I believed I would add most value. I became the treasurer for Cuths big band in my second year and realised that we had a symbiosis with the JCR, we required funding to function but we also gave back by performing at pretty much every JCR event. I then became the first assistant music rep the society has had and I learned to work in a supporting role, helping to deliver our great events like Cuths Live when we could, and acting as sounding board and a figure of support to the main music rep in delivering the changes we wanted. This academic year I faced the struggle we all did in trying to provide the enrichment of the Cuths experience despite the encumbering restrictions of the pandemic. As Vice-President and COVID Officer of Big Band I made sure that we could practice safely by observing the strict regulations put in place by the university. As Music Rep, despite the obvious roadblocks to music in these conditions, I pushed for the reopening of music rooms and secured practice space for the fledgling CHC Orchestra up until the reimposition of lockdown.

My point with these examples is that I excel in places where I can support other people and enable them to perform and participate in the best way that they can. Though I haven't been on the exec and haven't followed what may seem like the conventional route to FCO, I'm greatly experienced in a skill which is of central importance to the role and would be great at not only aiding the JCR as a whole, by administering our finances, but also as a figure of support to the president, that they can lean on as a fellow sabbatical officer. It is the brilliant marker of our democratic system, that it allows anyone to take up a role, provided they can prove themselves before their peers. Along with this, as many of my friends in college will attest, I'm always eager and approachable to assist in anything that needs to be done, whether it be moving a drum-kit from Parsons to the Bailey or staying behind to clean up after an event. An FCO, as well as working in their financial role, shouldn't be afraid to adapt and work anywhere the JCR needs them and I'll always be willing to do this with diligence and a smile.



Cuths has been a central part of my university experience and I consider myself a Cuths member before anything else, I even sometimes forgot that I was doing a degree last year in between all the non-academic college stuff I was involved in. I genuinely love this college and its members for many reasons, from our relatively humble beginnings to our sometimes rebellious pursuit of what we believe to be right, that, in my mind, makes us stick out from other colleges in our own way. In running for FCO I want to give back and add to this tradition, by helping the JCR bounce back from the pandemic, by addressing the problem of Durham's wealth disparity and by working to increase the financial support we offer to our members in ways which I will now describe along with explaining my financial experience for the role.

In terms of financial experience, I've already worked as a treasurer of a JCR society so understand Cuth's systems of reclaims and funding based on subs. I've attended the main budget meeting twice and this year I have looked after two budgets - the music room budget and the music committee budget. From these roles I have an intimate understanding of the rules regarding spending money and how JCR funding works from the perspective of both a society treasurer and a method 1 position holder. I know that as a charity, we have a duty to make sure that our funding is spent in a conscientious and principled way to enrich the welfare and experience of Cuths members. From a more technical standpoint I have experience in both managing large transactions and analysing financial data from my work as

Reservations officer with a travel company in my gap year. during . During the crash of a major airline, which we had made large use of, I analysed the data on our losses from flights we had invested in and worked with the bank to reclaim compensation for every single transaction we made with the airline. From this I gained an understanding of analysing financial data along with learning how to adapt to the company's personal software. Similarly I gained experience in writing financial reports, using excel and a working knowledge of the GDPR regulations which were instituted during my time there. With this experience and my skill for research I have no doubt that I will be able to meet and excel in the finance related demands of the role.

I've talked a lot about myself, now I'll address what I want to do as FCO.

First I want to make sure that the JCR provides value-for-money for the levy it charges for memberships. This year has naturally been tough and though the JCR has worked brilliantly to open facilities as it can and provide virtual enrichment, I'm sure we can agree that this is a shadow of how Cuth's would operate were it given freedom from the pandemic and its restrictions. The unforeseen nature of this situation meant that unfortunately Freshers paid the levy as they normally would and have received a fraction of the normal Cuths experience in return. With this in mind I want to take an optimistic outlook to next year and work towards helping Cuths bounce back from COVID. To do this I would like to invest in improving Cuths facilities and look at the possibility of I increasing capacity in order to reclaim value for those who've paid the levy and missed out. Similarly I'd consider subsidising events and work towards reducing ticket prices so that as many Cuthspeople as possible can regain value for their money and take part in the real Cuths experience. I would also look at providing funding for smaller events so long as they fall in line with our charitable goals and enrich the experience of Cuths student. Through all of this and with the aid of next year's JCR I hope to help revive the bustling and vibrant Cuths community I knew before the pandemic.



Next I'd like to tackle an issue close to my own heart. As we have seen from events earlier this year Durham has an issue with wealth disparity and unfortunately there is a stigma attached to it. Wealth inequality is hard to see in individuals, as, at university, there often isn't anything obvious about a person's appearance or character that would indicate they come from a specific financial background. Because of this, I think we can often be guilty of forgetting it exists or acting as if it doesn't. I also think that it is due to the fact that, the effects wealth inequality are so isolating, they are borne by individual people when they have to make an excuse for why they can't go to an event, when they're afraid to burden their parents by asking them for help and when they have to make the precarious balance between getting a good degree and working to survive. As a charity and a JCR that champions inclusivity, I believe it is our duty to ensure that everyone, no matter their financial background gets an equal chance to participate in the JCR and gain the same enriching Cuths experience as everyone else. I would lobby to increase the participation fund using some of the society's large reserves, which need to be spent, in order to ensure that as many people as possible gain access to the help they need. I'd also like to collaborate with Working Class Society and the Communities Committee to hold open discussions on issues relating to wealth inequality such as (imposter syndrome, Living on a tight budget and balancing academic and part-time work). No one gets to choose the financial background they're born into, as such it should never be a barrier for someone taking in the JCR or enjoying their time at Cuths at any level.

Finally, I would work towards the amount of aid that the JCR provides to its members through support. The pandemic has taken an extreme economic toll on businesses and families throughout the country and this has naturally spilled over to affect the lives and wellbeing of many people here at Cuth's. Therefore, I believe it is our duty, considering our privilege to be a charity with a large amount of reserves, to invest some of this money into providing more support to people in the wake of this disaster. To this end I would like to analyse the uptake of the current support funds and increase their publicity to make sure that they are accessible to those that need them most. Similarly, I'd like to explore additional areas that the JCR could fund in order to improve the wellbeing of its members such as aid for buying academic supplies or JCR awards with a monetary prize. Finally, I'd like to decrease the burden placed on society treasurers by instituting "emergency reclaims". Though reclaims are often completed quickly and efficiently they still place an inherent financial burden on the treasurer by making them foot the initial cost of the things their society needs, even if they are in a precarious financial situation. A person's financial situation should never be a barrier to someone's participation on a society exec and therefore I would include an option, either on the reclaim form or in the subject line of the email they send, for a person to designate their reclaim as an emergency one, which means that I would move it to the top of my work pile with no questions asked and complete it as soon as possible to mitigate the financial stress of money missing in their account. Through these measures I believe we can help support Cuthspeople through these hard times.

With that I'll wrap up my huzz, thank you for enduring ten minutes of my sonorous northern brogue. I hope you'll consider me for this position and help me make the JCR a place where no one has a barrier to their participation.



JR's Hust

Hi, I'm JR and I'm proposing AF for FCO. Before last meeting when I noticed no one had chosen to run for FCO my housemates and I jokingly told AF he would be perfect, as a wannabe washed up Actor with no job prospects, he would be the ideal candidate. Except following that first comment and a very long discussion over dinner and the next few days we realised he might just be good for it. So that's how we convinced AF to go to his first ever JCR meeting.

However, in the time I've known AF I've seen how passionate and downright obsessive he can over even the smallest of projects. My first time seeing AF act was as a fed up yet optimistic barista, giving a monologue about the more 'memorable' customers he had served. Kind of ironic since that would probably be his reality if he loses this election. Funnily enough, he didn't shut up about that for weeks, and then when he worked on a highly awarded short film he didn't shut up about that for months, and I imagine he wouldn't shut up about FCO for years.

While AF studying Maths is a nice touch, it's got nothing on his experience working as the director of finance and resources for a national championship F1 youth team. I remember planning this campaign with AF and looking through his old google drives, first I was impressed that he reached the drive storage limit, can't say I've seen that before. Second, was just how varied his role was. AF was planning budgets, writing letters to sponsors, organising international travel, working with the Malaysian ministry of education and the Singaporean consulate – the list kind of goes on really, and you'll hear the rest from him.

Throughout AF's degree I've seen him work on dozens of different projects, which would have something to do with his JCR absence. However, I'd argue that with his experience and fresh perspective AF can be a great force for change especially given how young FCO is as a position. So that's why I am very enthusiastically proposing AF, thanks for your time!



AF's Hust

Over the last 5 years, I have held many positions of leadership, both in my time during and before Durham. The one thing tying these positions together, is a strong understanding of how the money of an organisation works.

My main source of financial training came from running an international miniature race team over two years, first called Hawk racing, before merging with Beta lightning of Kuala Kedah to become Tempest Racing, representing the UK and Malaysia. You may have never heard of F1 in Schools, but across my two years, we competed with over 17,000 teams for a place at the international finals, which we secured in 2018.

Across these years, I operated as the team's Director of Finance and Resources. My responsibilities were to secure external funding from private entities, such as businesses and members of the public, negotiating manufacture either free of charge or with heavy discount from UK based engineering firms, and to allocate all our resources effectively between our sub departments. This directly ties in with my responsibilities in section 3.11.2.7 of the FCO standing order – I have a lot of experience reaching out to other organisations and potential sponsors in a highly professional environment. It is worth noting that most of my previous work has been performed without an office, so I am no stranger to working remotely, under Covid legislation if necessary. Additionally, with a members body now spread across international borders; our college may need to be more flexible in navigating time zone differences for individual members. With experience in managing a team split over an 8-hour time zone, I am no stranger to this.

Through the years, I have overseen a wide range of paperwork signings and documentation relating to, but not limited to: flights, petrol, accommodation, component purchasing, outreach, press releases, writing sponsorship letters, emails, phone calls, social media output, communication with both British and Malaysian Ministries, and have had to summarise all this work into a hefty tome of a document for scrutiny by industry professionals.

I was able to perform this job well; our team placed 27th internationally in the F1 in Schools programme. Since then, I have worked in a bakery, where I saw how end of day finance reporting works as I closed the shop after most of my shifts, became Vice President and then president of the film society in Durham where I grew my understanding of managing a team and the meaty costs related to equipment maintenance and SU grant applications. As a filmmaking society, we have been no stranger to running sets in a Covid safe manner and have had to fill out various health and safety forms to ensure proper procedure, as well as upholding GDPR and other responsibilities in our work.

Throughout Covid, I have continued to increase my knowledge of legislation surrounding health and safety. I have an up to date 'Covid Basic Awareness on Production' Training certificate awarded by Screenskills UK, as well as being a certified Covid Officer with the SU. I hope to make Covid awareness understandable and manageable when working with college societies to ensure money is not only spent sensibly in this coming year, but safely also.

In short, the inner workings of rigidly defined societies and companies is something I am acutely familiar with. Whilst some members may be discouraged from voting for me on the



basis that I have not worked in the JCR before, I would encourage you to consider the skills I have gained from roles held in the wider university community and on the international stage.

Clear and effective communication lies at the heart of any democratic system. To execute the role of FCO effectively, I would ensure that finance reports are delivered in a timely manner to my trustees, in a clear to read, consistent and understandable format. This would allow the board to make informed and transparent decisions about the financial future of our college. Where members have visual impairments, alternative colours or audio recordings would be created.

To summarise my plan for the year, if elected, I want to make a few changes around here, whilst keeping what's good about our society.

There should be monthly finance reports accessible to all, with clear diagrams and statistics, so everyone understands our budget. It can be hard to get a sense of the financial scale of corporate entities, especially as an individual outside any Exec bubble. It is my hope that both the true scale and limitations of the JCR's budget can be understood by all its members, both by those running societies and members of them. This puts transparency and responsibility at the heart of the college.

We need better ties to local business, so we can really be a part of the community. With greater emphasis fundraising events for local charities and taking part in local initiatives to help better bridge the divisive gap between the local residents of Durham and its burgeoning student population. I hope that by donating to and engaging more with Durham holistically, we can raise more money for good causes in our community.

In a landlocked Covid year, the most important thing, in my view, is accessibility. I will ensure that all releases I make will be designed to maximise readability, e.g., for those who are blind, colour-blind, or dyslexic, with uniquely coloured versions, or audio recordings where necessary.

I also want to continue the work of previous execs in actively ensuring Cuths is a welcoming place for all, regardless of gender, sexuality, ethnicity and neurotype; this would be achieved by working closely with our Disabilities Reps, Welfare Comm and Communities Comm, while lobbying for more grants to help all students access what our college has to offer.

Thank you for your time.



Questions

MW When next year we hopefully bounce back – how will you spend money best?

AF Aware that from the year out there are Freshers who don't know traditions – wealth disparity growing, need to make things accessible – reduce the cost, additionally the mental health repercussions of covid will be big – fresh may be a bit wild, may need extra training for welfare.

IC As I mentioned in my hust, we've essentially got a year of JCR levys – I'd like to invest in facilities and consult with facilities manager. Improve capacity to have access to facilities – invest in subsidising events so that as many as possible can access events – lobby to increase JCR support funds – look into further areas of student life.

SWC Spme of the support that Cuth's offers is unique across common rooms – what is best about what we offer – what is done well already?

IC I like the uniquely tailored fund today – we've seen a problem and directly tried to fix it. This is a good way to go about things. I like the JCR participation fund. It's wide reaching and helps events. I think that helps. I've read through FiComm minutes, it's been heavily over subscribed – if it needs increasing we can.

AF Covid fund seems good – I'm concerned about the international community – I love the participation fund, but could be better advertised. Arts fund is a good thing.

MF How would you spend the money we have in reserves?

Point of information AW: it's not 100% the FCO's money, so this question is: how would you spend it if you could?

AF I don't have access to budgets – it would have to be a transparent decision. Making sure that people know what we are spending on is important – have sports and socs directly advertised.

Point of information SWC: Everyone does have access to our budget – perhaps it could be clearer – but the annual budget is passed in the annual JCR budget meeting – any JCR member can attend this meeting, minutes of it are on the cuth's website and the charity commission website

IC It would be in consultation to facilities manager – size of premises is an issue – maybe look at what we could do. I'd like to make funding available for more smaller events – in the past I helped run cuth's live and that was great, but it was underfunded – if we threw more money at small events it could be even better



JC Our reserves have been mentioned – in light of the 2008 financial crash – what is an appropriate way to look after our reserves? With regard to what it taught us about bank accounts and hedgefunds.

IC I do not understand this question. I have seen ‘the Big Short’. We need to make sure it’s a safe place with a history of stability – if it’s an investment we need ensure stability

AF Not hugely familiar with charitable banking – we’d want to invest in ethical funds – provides an example of an ethical fund.

SWC On the compliance side – FCO attends indycomm – a committee of independent common rooms. There’s a feeling with indycomm that the uni is moving in punitive ways against common rooms – they are worried about what happens if we aren’t compliant and cause reputational damage. How will you manage against this? Do you agree with the uni here?

NB: SWC is not making an overt accusation, simply acknowledging that there is a feeling that this is the case

AF Just to break it down a little, is the question about how we would protect ourselves?

SWC It’s more about how you have to work alongside the uni. We do have a relationship with them legally – in terms of our relationship, how would you ensure that we are getting a fair deal?

AF In the uni’s language they refer to students as customers – I don’t like this. My main way is to make sure that they think of us as students and not customers. It would be good to have regular meetings and updates – make compromises where needed

IC I think that it’s important that we are very transparent and follows our charitable incidents – we are here to serve cuth’s people – more uni oversight contradicts our reputation for independence, I would push to keep cordial relations and don’t let them stop us. We shouldn’t reduce our level of service to please the uni. I think as long as we maintain our charitable principals we should be ok.

MP Would you bring back the Cake Rota for finance comm?

IC I’d bring that back. Being on the committee isn’t the most fun JCR role. With cake and socials it can build solidarity and make more finance comm meetings fun.

AF I have to admit I hadn’t heard of it. Top of my list now. Finance comm has 7 people, they need cake. I don’t see an issue with providing it.



AW When the position of FCO was established the option was presented between going for FCO or going for an external book keeper – it was argued that the FCO could provide other duties as needed. In the first year the hours were increased as it was felt that more could be done with extra time. Why are you suitable to work on that?

AF One aspect we can agree on is music – we are both bass players. I have worked in acting and theatre, I would like to make sure that Cuth's Drama society is maintained – I saw Grease. I think that the wider ethos of Cuth's is not just performative, but also about intellectualism – I would like to start a book club

Point of information SWC: a book club already exists

AF I would like to expand book club

IC I think it's about facilitating people – that's in finance, that's in personal support – with previous FCO he helped organise Cuth's music and Cuth's live – he supported us and checked in on us – it's being a constant figure of support, for small and big things. I do have a really close relationship with music at Cuth's and I will help this grow – help people form bands etc. but also facilitate anything.

[Elections to be voted on online at cuths.com/vote](https://cuths.com/vote)

Meeting Adjourned