



Executive Committee Meeting - 24-11-2021

Attendance: AW (President), IC (FCO), KM (VP), EW (Social Chair), JS (PG&M), EM (JCR Chair), JW (Sports & Socs), LH (PR Officer), TB (Facilities), CL (Outreach Chair), DB (Communities Chair)

Apologies: JG (Senior Welfare), ZH (Librarian)

Absent:

Location: Conference Room

Agenda:

Updates

Exec Restructure

AOB

Minutes Pass

AW got us mince pies <3



LH is too keen for the exec

Updates

AW: There's too many of you, give an update in as few words as possible

EM: JCR meeting on the 5th, govcomm, standing orders, early planning

CL: 12 days of outreach, last minute but killing it

EW: Michaelmas is done, first formal tonight

JW: Participation fund allocated, naked calendar ordered

TB: Hires done, naked calendar helped, popcorn machine bought

AW: Meetings, restructuring welfare and exec - ish

IC: Michalemas reclaims

LH: University challenge team submitted, annoyed at SU

DB: Beefed a communities comm motion and going to a JW (Vice-Principal) working group

JS: No longer pres comm chair woo, rewriting panto boo

KM: Busy, I do many things - seemingly panto too

Exec Restructure

AW: Would like to talk about the logic of the approach KM and I took with this, the idea is solving two issues. Firstly the way roles are currently run: the roles do work and work fine but they could all be improved to benefit our current operations better. Secondly we were looking at it and seeing what we don't do but could start doing. Those were the two motivations on why we did this. Practically we don't have responsibility for day to day running of the jcr - we don't represent all of the JCR here, there are loads of committees which are not under anyone's remit here and we don't have special powers as a committee. In practice the only one who does have special powers is the President. We thought about it for ages on whether to give the exec power and we decided no - we have JCR meetings where the general membership can say what the priorities should be, we don't need to boss people around it's bad vibes. We proposed to change the job description to reflect reality. Then there are lots of ideas down, some bad, some ok, some good and conclusions are listed at the bottom. The ones I am set on are the creation of the development officer responsible for alumni, careers, mentorship, and college families. Another is a publicity officer who only does publicity and gets stash because the VP has too much to do and stash is not really relevant to the role. The facilities change would be contentious. There are small changes like



moving agendas to the Chair that we also thought just made sense. If we go through the points one by one, development officer - any thoughts?

JS: With college families, I tried to do PG families but it ate up so much time and it is always asked if postgrads have access to families/mentors, so something more structural for that is a big yay for me. I don't think we should take it away from the PGM Pres completely but the officer should take joint lead in doing academic events: my committee is never full but the positions filled vary each year and then responsibility of unfilled positions falls to the PGM President. If we don't get an academic officer the work not a big task on its own but it takes up a lot of my time. I don't think it is too much of a stretch for them to take a lead on the SCR events too

AW: I spoke to TW (Principal) about a lecture series with the development officer, they want to run one and want us to be involved in it - I think it is a cool idea to get them involved in that

JS: Research slam is the most informal event of that kind and SCR members come with professional opinions, it is very developmental in nature so having someone nurture that space would be a huge help

CL: Could they work with societies like femsoc for these series?

AW: I think TW is modelling on what Stevo do, they do a lecture series with their college and JCR, anyone in the JCR can invite a speaker - exec bring people in, sports and socs bring people in. The idea is it would be a little less academic but getting in experts in their fields - would be about getting alumni in

KM: I am obviously pro this idea but the workload looks huge - do we think it's feasible?

JS: Would they have a subcommittee?

AW: I don't think so as it's a collaborative role, working with college, publicity, and sports and socs. It is a big role and would be one of the bigger roles, it's quite an attractive role in terms of experience so I think we would get people interested in doing it

EM: It attracts a specific person but that is not really a bad thing, it need to start off well with a good person

TB: How do you envision the careers side of it working?

AW: I think they could organise a careers talk, or get alumni in but in a less dry way than college. They could get in contact with CV specialist and get a CV clinic or something like that

CL: Think you would need to be specific with the expectations of the role

AW: Publicity, what do we think about splitting PR?

CL: What does the other bit go to?



LH: Running social media you need to post consistently and regularly but SU stuff takes up times

KM: Our initial conclusion for this was to give the SU side to the VP - taking stash off the VP would give the VP the hours for SU stuff and the VP goes to SU meetings anyway. They also work closely with the President who is also engaged with the SU side and so we thought it would work but we don't think that's the right solution now

LH: Could we keep PR just with an assistant?

AW: If you go back and look through the manifesto of pr and comms, they don't talk about publicity - it's an SU rep role with publicity tacked on. The SU side is more important and puts people off who would be interested in publicity. We would attract someone who is not normally engaged with the JCR having a role solely responsible for publicity

EM: It could be way more uniform, the instagram could be sick

KM: I went through what every other JCR does with the SU rep: some have it with sports and socs but we hated that idea, others had it with outreach which didn't really make sense to me, and some have it just on its own. Having an SU rep with no other responsibilities makes the most sense but it is not really enough workload to warrant being on the exec

CL: Publicity not on the exec?

AW: Social media access is a responsibility that cant be given to a method II position. Publicity is enough on its own, then you create an SU role which is not enough to warrant being on the exec

TB: Can SU be a method I but not on the exec?

JS: A lot of stuff could be done by SU rep if purely dedicated to it - they could do workshops and drop ins about campus wide elections and how to cater a campaign, they could work with team durham and sports and socs

KM: Would be good to get better engagement

JS: I know minority reps do stuff with associations where applicable but there is not a coherent line of communication between the jcr and associations at the SU

DB: Only two of the durham wide associations have been in touch or engaged with us at college level but would be good to have streamlined

TB: Can it be split by a committee?

AW: No because we have to have one voting member and they need to keep it consistent

KM: That's why we also were against giving it to Communities Chair

LH: A lot of SU stuff you have to research and that takes up time as it is big issues

CL: I think the role would be good enough, we have to think long term as the SU is so shit and it can only get better



Big no's from everyone, CL is still just a silly fresh

CL: You would hope it gets better and that there will be more communication with the SU, you want someone to take on that

AW: I am in favour of having an SU rep on the exec

JS: The SU should be running housing campaigns and they do contract readings and tenant rights which fits in with the ethos of the SU rep. A lot of the SU services are unknown

IC: Generally looking, if we are talking with the development officer - does the exec become too big?

AW; Good question, leads to the next point on whether facilities should go to FCO? Current opinion: would give fco role more definition - it is still in the lurch. There are suggestions from lots of people that it might not be needed in the future but you do need an FCO, giving them facilities would cement it in the structure. Firstly, facilities are financial in nature - IC has done the facilities work for me this year. With the new building down at brooks the FCO is more available than a student facilities manager and TB you are great at being in college but hasn't always been like that - we can design the roles off of good people in the roles

TB: One point that I think could work, take external hires and give that to fco - that makes sense with invoices and pricing. The extra job is managing the purpose of all these spaces being maintained and has upkeep, ensuring the new jcr doesn't become a house & lounge, and managing the bookings of it

EM: Hild Bede has a system for booking out rooms like a spreadsheet timetable which works very well. We are changing the nature of the role and title really

TB: It is a little bit more of a caretaker role. With the tech team - it's the small things like setting up a movie night, getting a mic and pa for a jcr meeting make sense for a facilities manager to have responsibility of but the other responsibilities make sense to be FCO

EM: Then does tech chair make sense to go back to FCO?

TB: Yeah, where the money is involved that should go to the FCO and anything else to the facilities manager

LH: Anything booking wise, the webmaster wants booking systems on the website

AW: They think they can build one as good as skedda on the website

IC: For the little things like setting up for meetings, if we don't have a consistently available facilities manager then in a bad year it could be a non role

TB: You aren't necessarily doing it but facilitating that the role gets done as facilities manager

AW: The history of the role speaks to the structure

TB: Getting rid of hires makes sense, the use of the rooms and how they are used should be under facilities manager. The annoying part of the role is people calling you being like I can't get into the music room or something like that where you get no notice of being needed.



Hasn't been an issue this year as I ask for 3 days notice but it has been an issue in the past not making that clear

AW: I agree that is why it seems much better this year

TB: Half of the issues with the role could have been teething issues

KM: Is it enough of a role with the tech side of things going to the FCO

TB: With the new spaces yeah

AW: If you get rid of gym manager, give them the common rooms, and establish clear management structure with the integration of the FCO I think you could keep it but then the exec has grown by two members

TB: Is it a problem though? If the roles are all defined and have a clear purpose

JS: On the point of too many, if it works it works. With a lot of things changing this year with facilities, is it causing issues if it becomes too much the FCO

EM: What are we worried about with making the exec bigger

KM: One thing is that the President is the line manager of everyone on the exec and AW you already do way over your hours and managing two more would only add to your hours and in an operational way, not in a developmental way. The point of this restructuring was so that roles would become more strategic and developmental in nature rather than just like getting the job done. Adding two more restricts the time the President has for strategic development even more

IC: If having too many exec members became too much work for the president would it make sense to make line management of facilities and maybe other roles to the FCO?

TB: What other roles would go to the FCO?

AW: The whole point of the President being everyone's line manager is because the President has the most operational knowledge at any one time so it doesn't work

TB: This year the common room is quite a big job, and so I think we try out a new facilities and FCO relationship - it could be merged in the future but keep it for now and see how it works

AW: Conclusion with facilities: removing gym managers, re structuring the committee and creating a new fco and facilities relationship. The amount of time I dedicate to different roles is inconsistent and that needs to be fixed. I spend a lot of time with social stuff, I should have done more for outreach at the beginning of this term and could be doing more with sports and socs. In general thinking about how roles get help would lighten the workload. At the bottom is the assistants

CL: Should be elected before the year in third term



JW: Instead of assistants sports and socs chair maybe a team cuths captain - there is a balance between teams cuths and team durham and I would suggest splitting it in that way, when the workload is too much is bc of team durham stuff

TB: The title will also probably appeal to more people

EM: It sounding a bit like a committee without a committee hmmm

AOB

EW: Refreshers week - it is normally 3-4 days over the first few days of time. We will have a club night, a cuth's live, a pub quiz and a fair for sports and socs

EM: What if coaches are very spenny?

AW: I will get a quote on coaches

EW: If anyone wants anything done in conjunction with refreshers week let me know

KM: Where would you put 17 boxes of stash?

AW: 17?!