



Governance Committee Meeting – 08.11.2021

Attendance: EM (JCR Chair), AB (SRO), AW (President), KM (VP), MB (Stool), ML (JRO), AF (JRO), MF (JRO)

Apologies:

Absent:

Location: Conference Room

Motions

Jokes Motions

AW: This combines everything I hate about governance. It's three times longer than a motion needs to be, could be said in like three sentences

EM: Will ask to shorten it to no more than 3 points per section

AW: This is a joke motion, let's keep it to 5 minutes

EM: This is not a joke motion

AW: I will challenge the Chair

No further governance issues

CRACAS

AW: This can't be run, it hasn't been through FiComm

EM: I spoke to IC on Friday it was supposed to have been

AW: Yeah but that's not long enough to call the first meeting of FiComm

To be put on hold till ran past Finance Committee

Method II Accessibility

EM: I would like it the phrasing of "if they feel unable to stand" to change

AW: It does imply they are unable to be the rep rather than unable to hust

EM: "Unable to hust in person" would be better

Motion amended



No further governance issues

Communities Committee Reform

AW: Point two of notes is factually incorrect. Point two of 'this JCR believes' implies that doesn't already happen. Anyone can attend a meeting of the exec but only certain people can contribute. Communities committee delegate is not treated as a member of the exec, they contribute to the meeting on the same level as the exec member. It implies something that is not true - a governance issue

EM: I think we should ask them to postpone it to the next meeting

AW: We are telling them we aren't debating it, their name shouldn't be attached and it should be split into two. It is too many issues to change before the agenda publishing deadline

EM: Will do

To be put on hold

Michaelmas Ball Budget

No governance issues

Green Moustache

No governance issues

Team Cuth's Social Media Manager

EM: Not sure that we should be using the "mandates the Chair" to create wholly new roles- I personally think that allows too much of a Chair's SO writing style to creep into how the JCR runs

AW: This is a good point, for a bigger role I'd definitely suggest we change it but to be fair here it's just a matter of copying the S&S Reporters job description exactly and then changing one thing on the first line of the description

No further governance issues



Auto-VONC

No governance issues

Seconders

No governance issues

Facilities Committee Restructure

MF: I completely disagree with the first line of the JCR notes, it shifts on previous managers

AW: I disagree

EM: Ask IC to change it to “struggles to focus on the long term strategy of our tech provision”

Motion amended

No further governance issues

Facilities Working Group Proposal

EM: The working group ran a focus group and it has been ran through the exec

AW: Technically not been given the 5k by college, we have been allocated up to 5k of college budget

EM: Will change the wording

Motion amended

No further governance issues

Discussion

Student Trustees

AW: Student trustees should not be submitting motions like that affect day-to-day operations, he’s a student trustee and should be removed from the operations of the JCR

EM: It raises historical precedent issues, half of the standing orders were written by SWC in her year as student trustee



AW: In our operating framework, we can begin looking at 18.1.5 in the Standing Orders, they are working independent of but alongside the JCR structure. I interpret internal structure as committees and meetings. I see independently of but alongside as meaning trustees should work within jcr structure but independently of decision making. The reference to charity status gives them the remit to make suggestions and ideas which could be perceived as motions but there is a degree to which things are more directly related to charitable aims

EM: Inclusive but not exclusive statement

AW: I disagree, student trustee is a special case, the role of trustee is itself exclusive, the trustees are presumed to have no remit in operations of jcr. Look at the operating framework 3.1, 3.2

EM: This causes a huge issue of when you become a student trustee - are they still a member of the JCR normally?

AW: Reason I bring it up is I think they can submit motions but clause 8: getting this involved with day to day operations is a conflict of interest and should be outside the role of trustees. If you are submitting uncontentious motions but submitting motions regarding the structure of the exec is very deeply involved in the operations of the JCR and is interfering in the process of operations, outside of the role, and a conflict of interest - not acting with integrity

EM: Raises another issue, student trustees are often people who know a lot about the standing orders etc.

AW: Disagree

EM: If we start acting like this with student trustees you will put people off running

AB: I think if we don't let student trustees run these motions it will create bigger drama and they will find a way around that - is it worth the JCR drama?

KM: Yeah, it isn't just JCR drama

AW: Point of GovComm is to be above it and come out with clear decisions. Student trustees should act with integrity and decide what their remit is and it is for us to decide when a conflict of interest has occurred. Trustees should not speak on those kind of motions. I don't see how we can allow them to be the proposer, it is a conflict of interest. This is contradictory to the Standing Orders under student trustees - this is a student trustee explicitly putting forward an opinion on the executive committee and this isn't very independent at all

EM: I am effectively in agreement. Are we happy as a committee, if the motion goes forward at some point that it has to be proposed by someone else?

All in agreement



Elections

Music Rep (DS)

No governance issues

AOB

MB says something annoying

We are unsure where the jcr meeting will be - stay tuned