



Executive Committee Meeting - 18-02-2022

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

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

Location: SCR

Agenda:

Updates

Gowns

Tigers Lair

The SU

Freshers' Week

Vending Machine

AOB

Minutes Pass

AW got KFC for himself and KM, JS is fuming but no one knows who he is



Updates

JS: Sorting out murder mystery formal - all looks good. Doing a research event on Tuesday evening, please be there. Got a gala show on Sunday - just a plug xx

TB: Got a hire going out in two days for headphones, helping for karaokes and formals

DM: Sat on SU comm, had a meeting with EW to make events accessible and with IC about communities comm budgets. Getting an AGM for working class students' soc soon

JW: Doing housekeeping, replying to emails and app for participation fund out

IC: Researching ways to streamline recaims, been thinking of ways to set our finance procedure in stone and how to work w other jcrs going independent and how

LH: Went to assembly, su reps planning on boycotting assembly but no plans how to do it

CL: Planning Cuth's take me out, selling tickets but dealing with dropouts. Oversubscribed on Calais so thinking of doing another week

EM: Most of you went to the JCR meeting, had gov comm and have another one this term - all going ok

AW: Doing a lot of su and independent related stuff, getting sla happening and getting an moa w the su. Trying to do bar research

EW: Feats stuff, looking at summer ball location and meeting w dan

KM: Lots of graphics, helping with feast, going to all the committee meetings, stash sale happened today, made £400 for participation fund and stash is arriving next week

Gowns

KM: AW and I have been talking about Cuth's going officially non-gowned. At the moment we are gown optional and there are many reasons why this is an issue. Primarily this is a financial issue for students - anyone who buys a gown pays £55 to only wear it once at Matriculation when you don't have to. The reason it is an issue is that it is currently optional though is that it is a burden on working class students, before you arrive at Durham you have no idea whether you'll be the only one without a gown or not. We don't wear them at formals and you can't wear it at graduation so what are your thoughts on Cuth's going officially non-gowned?

EM: Hated wearing a gown last night, it's pointless so I agree

CL: Anti gown!

JS: Down with the gown!

EM: People like photos in a gown but that is about it. Some will need one for a formal at another college or something



KM: That is why I thought we could do a buy back scheme where we buy back recent grad gowns for like £10/15 and then we have a stock of gowns that we can make part of the bailey wardrobe or have a rack for matriculation for photos

IC: In terms of freshers will we advertise that we are non-gowned?

AW: We don't advertise that we are gown optional, college do. If it passes in a JCR meeting then we can bring it to college and ask them to remove the gowns as something they offer to freshers and we get them to remove it from the website. College could say no

CL: Is any other college anti gown?

KM: Lots are

AW: Any one pro-gown?

JW: Not pro but I think we could just let people know that there is no pressure to get one instead of going anti?

AW; Wouldn't be in favour of that, we would be asking 1. to stop describing as gown option and to be described as non-gowned and 2. ask college to stop selling them. They have a lot of them already - they might turn around and be like maybe in two years

KM: Could get them to sell to other colleges?

AW: I think dress codes should be flexible - would like to change our dress code from lounge suit, hatfield used 'smart'. The idea of a formal should not be to wear a certain thing, just make the effort but also feel comfortable

DM: You won't know the etiquette if you're from a background without formal events and will not know if it is actually an optional thing in regards to the gowns, or if it's optional but everyone will have one. Same with the lounge suit. It's not a big deal it's just about advertising to help those that need it

JW: Fully understand it just giving the opposite side of the argument

AP: AW to write motion to lobby college to go non-gowned

TB: Include formal dress code too?

AW: Don't think it requires a motion, just ask college

JS: It was raised to EA (former Principal) before and she was keen to change it

AP: JS to talk to TW about dress code for formals

AP: AW to remind JS about his AP

Tigers Lair

AW: You probably saw my aggy messages in the officers chat. It's £2000, do it. It can really be for anything, the criteria is that it has to be a community enrichment or improvement



project to benefit the college community or enhance wider student experience. Deadline is Sunday. CL use it for outreach, JG use it for any big welfare project, TB something to improve our spaces, just go for it because 2k is a lot

The SU

AW: They are bare annoying and want to get rid of SU reps. One question that needs to be asked is that if we came up with a MoA and it required certain things of us in our SO's does anyone have a big issue?

JS: What is MoA

AW: Memorandum of agreement which is basically something which says I'll do this if you do this for me

IC: Might be good to think about what they'd ask of us

AW: I believe they'd ask us to have them elected by all Cuth's people - UG and PG which we do anyway but we would not be able to go back on that. If we did ever levy-gate our elections then we would not be able to do it. So is everyone happy for me to go about agreeing a MoA for the election of SU reps?

JS: It's important to recognise the climate around the SU not being great and in the next 2/3 weeks with the election it will be hell. It is important to be culturally competent for the next month

LH: The SU reps keep saying they will be boycotting SU Assembly, Stevo and Collingwood primarily and now many are bc of this. Most don't have an SU committee or communicate with their execs so they really kind of act on their own accord

AW: Asked the other Presidents about this and they had no clue

LH: Castle is against the boycott, as is Grey but a lot of them don't communicate with their JCR so they decide for themselves - I don't believe boycotting is productive. Do we all agree?

Exec is opposed to LH boycotting Assembly

AP: LH not to boycott Assembly

IC: In the MoA could we have a written set of aims of what we want and circulate that among other common rooms. If we all have to set up MoAs we want consistency and something that works for everyone

AW: As common rooms we should meet separately to decide what we want from the SU in this

JS: Happy to speak to the other officers about their thoughts and approaches

LH: Do you want to go to meeting AW, it's the SU rep meeting where this is being discussed?



AW: Yes but PresComm :(

AP: AW to email Collingwood about why they're boycotting and go to SU Rep comm

AW: They are doing a democracy review. Part one is about policy making, there are good suggestions there. Second part is about sub committees - those are assembly changing procedures. Part three is changing the makeup of assembly and at PresComm we did not think it was right for them to decide their own makeup - it doesn't work being a policy making body when that isn't voted on by the students

JS: The positions they are adding are not positions elected by assembly - they are elected campus-wide?

AW: Yep

JS: Might be missing the point, but I know the makeup of assembly has to pass assembly anyway so?

AW: They have to pass an indicative motion and then they will write their Standing Orders that will then pass assembly. When a country needs a new constitution they decide who will write it and then hold a referendum on this. So basically we are saying there should be a referendum on their Standing Orders, cross college wide where each CR will vote on their SOs

JS: What is the difference between us writing a motion to the SU and voting in a JCR meeting?

AW: Anyone can attend assembly but no one can vote. The SU legally can't have a referendum. AM (Opportunities Officer 20-21) wanted a referendum but had to change her mind when she realised it was not a possibility. So our options are either we refuse to pass any motion that goes to Assembly about this or we could hold a referendum on their SO's prior to it being passed on assembly and require LH's vote to be linked to that, and have that linked across all common rooms. First one puts the ball in their court to change their constitution to allow for referendum but second is gung hoooo. We could get all Common Rooms to have referendum, ask CIS to do an election and that would mandate SU reps to vote in which ever way their CR voted

TB: Makes sense to discuss it first with the SU but if they don't agree then cross common room referendum

IC: I think it shows the SU up. People don't engage with assembly as it is not a direct democratic body - there are barriers to engagement but a referendum is a more direct form of democratic representation and makes them think they should have referendums themselves

AW: Do you think we need a motion and bring it to a JCR meeting or do we just decide here to have a vote on the SU voting system?

TB: We need to make sure it doesn't look hypocritical



EM: Closest thing we have in our Standing Orders is a straw poll where you gauge the opinion of a group of people without a formal question and that says voting by hand but we could ignore that

AW: Digital straw poll!

TB: Talking in a JCR meeting will engage more people

LH: It will help people to understand it to and allows people the opportunity to give opinions

IC: Would we need 49 seconders?

AW: No it would mandate SRO to do the vote and mandate the SU rep to vote in SU assembly in accordance with the outcome of that vote

EM: Alternatively, nothing in strawpoll standing order to vote by hands

TB: Could we put down a Standing Order on external referendums?

AW: Would require two JCR meetings but we could update standing orders to update a scenario like this. To make it binding though we would require a motion. Exec can't request a JCR officer to do anything

AP: AW to talk to the SU first but then go nuclear

Freshers week

KM: AW and I have been throwing around the idea of not all of the exec being mandated to frep. There's a few reasons why we could potentially pursue it: 1. Would reduce the burden on some exec members when they already have a lot to do in freshers' week and could do what they need to do better. 2. Team motivation - with the exec being forced to frep it can lead to a negative attitude on teams when a team member obviously doesn't want to be there and is bringing morale down. 3. Some exec members are looking to recruit committee members during frepping either through freps or freshers and some can be lazy with this and not utilise that opportunity but having to apply could motivate them more to do this making committees better. There would obviously be some that would still be mandated to frep like Senior Welfare Officer, Social Chair, PGM President

AW: The point about time, the most immediate one that came to mind was facilities - we could have done way more tech if you hadn't been frepping TB but then do the pros outweigh the cons?

TB: The exec would still have to do stuff for freshers week but then they don't have the restriction of the teams and things so it is complicated

AW: I think it could be the case that whether facilities freps or not, they need to be in durham. Doesn't work if the publicity officer isn't in Durham for college families but yeah could facilities just come in the evenings and do tech or find new ways to do the day events? They do it at other colleges, some aren't mandated to frep but some are



TB: Could we do it as off team freps?

AW: All I worry is that there is not much difference like then they are just a frep in name - it also raises questions like do they do training, do they get the stash?

EM: Comes down to fact as we don't have a frepping Standing Order. I would feel like if facilities is expected to be around a lot of time but could they not just get the jumper and go to the socials etc

AW: Point of frep jumper is so you are identifiable for the freshers and the point of the frep social to get to know your team so you can work together

KM: As an exec member on a team you can just become more of a hindrance to your team when you are pulled away for a whole afternoon because you have your roles responsibilities you need to sort out and with more exec members next year that leaves the teams incredibly short if there's two exec members on a team

AW: You can't be relied upon as an exec member on a team fundamentally with many roles, TB you were always called away to help start setting up, same with KM, EW, and LH

JS: Important to think about, if a facilities manager is not given a guaranteed place but they apply to frep and they don't get on - would it cause major tension?

AW: Where they don't mandate to frep always exec members who get turned down and it can cause issues

JS: Just awkward if they don't put the effort in because they expect to get it

AW: There have previously been exec members who just weren't good at frepping, they were lazy, complacent, and would not have got it

JS: People who have been Team Leaders in the past and gave a lazy interview when applying to be a normal frep and just didn't get it

LH: I do think it is nice if the freshers meet the exec to some extent

CL: I am pro exec members mandated to frep as the laziness doesn't outweigh the visibility

IC: Could just be better planning pre freshers week so their responsibilities are done before the week and put them on non disruptive teams?

TB: I think facilities could be so much better used if they worked with the social chair, president and head frep to plan events in the capacity of we have these things and what you can look at. You do a way better job when you feel ownership over the event

AW: If the re-shift of the facilities goes well I would not have the tech chair frep but facilities then could

JS: It is important to strike a balance of feeling appreciated though, if tech chair is coming in to do events and stuff they need some perks

EM: Tech chair could still get a t-shirt?



IC: It would be their job though like they'd be paid to be there

EM: I think if the exec member didn't want to frep, they shouldn't have to

AW: I was asked by people this year if they didn't have to and I said no

JS: Previous exec members have had to miss important things because of frepping and that caused tensions

AW: My opinion on that is if you can't make parts then that would be enough to say you can't frep because you could be missing important training. Missing the first three days means you can't frep

Vending Machines

AW: I want vending machines and have them run by the JCR, we could undercut all the shops. The idea is that the facilities manager would be responsible responsible for vending machine

TB: Would make sense but responsibility for the facilities manager could be a lot depending on how often you are wanting it checked and restocked

AW: Do people like this idea?

TB: Would be profitable after a while

AW: Could have a card reader and we can put whatever we want in it. If Brooks had pot noodles I would have bought them everyday

TB: We could put toiletries and even welfare sexual health supplies in them

IC: The spaces we put them in are owned by the uni and they have to use specific suppliers

POI from the Aidan's JCR President: Aidan's have a vending machine and walkers have deals for which vending machines they allow to stock their stuff. The Aidan's vending machine is not really used

IC: They never sent us the money before when we had vending machines in Brooks

Another POI from the Aidan's JCR President: You can pay to have the vending machine there or they put it there for free and split profits

AW: We need a new one anyway as the one in Brooks is gone and they replaced it with one that didn't work, was drinks only.

AP AW to look into vending machine, look into what we can put into one and buying one

TB: Wold need to think about what we stock - whether it is branded or off brand



Feast

KM: The expectation is that because you received guaranteed tickets and have already received the discount that you will be there on the day to set up from 9am and you will clean up after as well. It's not just us, social comm are cleaning and setting up too. EW and I have made documents that we will share with you that details your individual jobs for set up, mid-event, and clean up. No one has too much to do on their own but it is one of those things that everyone just needs to do their bit so no one else is over burden picking up the slack

AOB

JS: Research event on tuesday so please come, want to make it known that it is not just for postgrads, you can always join on zoom. It's psychology based and starts at 19:30 in the SCR