



## Executive Committee Meeting - 13-03-2022

Attendance: AW (President), IC (FCO), KM (VP), EW (Social Chair), JS (PG&M Pres), EM (JCR Chair), LH (PR Officer), TB (Facilities), CL (Outreach Chair), JG (Senior Welfare), ZH (Librarian)

Apologies: JW (Sports & Socs), DM (Communities Chair)

Location: Alf's Club House

Agenda:

Updates

Charlotte Imlach

JCR Awards

Welfare Budget

Exams

JCR Survey

AOB

\*Minutes Pass\*

CL LATE

LH LATE

JS LATE



## Updates

CL: Really successful litter pick

EM: Govcomm, JCR meetings. I am not grammar. No one is submitting motions :(

TB: Fixed some headphones, had a silent disco and need to sort out music rep gaining access to skedda

ZH: Successful book sale, getting rid of the stock, and keeping library stocked

LH: SU is shit

IC: Trustee accounts, reclaims, all the normal stuff

EW: Feast done, starting on cuths day and summer ball, st patrick's day is next week

JS: Murder mystery formal and research events have happened

KM: Read my report

AW: Read my report

## Charlotte Imlach

AW: CI is sadly leaving us on 1st April and I think we should get her a present and card. Any ideas for a present?

JS: SC (Operations Manager) has asked if SM (PGM Pres 2019-20) will do a commission for someone leaving - could ask SM to do another if it is not for CI

EM: She really likes certain types of beer - you could get her some as part of a gift. Could give HLM?

AW: I don't know if she has been here long enough

EW: My friend paints landscapes on a nice bottle of wine or champagne?

JG: She likes candles and she likes wrestling

AW: A hamper. We are looking at a two and a half week turnaround. We have previously spent around £60 - do we agree on that price?

£60 approved by the exec to spend on leaving gift

AW: Where can we get a nice card?

JS: SM does cards on an etsy store

**AP: JS to find out price and time frame from SM on card and drawing commission**

**AP: EW to find out the price of the bottle painting**



JS: Custom commission A4 is £30-40, can do smaller but it is difficult with details. She does prints that are £20 for A4 and A3 £30. A card turnover is 2 days for first class postage

EW: Price of the champagne and £15-20 for her time spent painting is the quote I have got

JS: SM has done it for quite a few people leaving in the last few years

**AP: JS to sort frame and commission**

**AP: IC to sort card**

## JCR Awards

AW: JCR Awards standing order is out of date, it needs updating. The problem I have run into is 1. What awards should we give out and 2. Who should decide those awards. No one has landed on a satisfactory list of awards in the last few years

TB: Last year we dug around to find out what the awards are and we added one

EM: It is a question of which should be decided by committee and which shouldn't be

TB: Both were done by committee last year but the committees were different because MP was in consideration for the DIB

AW: There is the question of can you receive an award without a nomination? I think you can

TB: Last year the nominations were used as a guideline but it was still at the discretion of the President

AW: The ones we always do are DIB, fresher of the year, unsung hero, outstanding contribution, society of the year, sport of the year, and most improved sports or society. Then we also have awards for most dedicated committee member, best one off event of the year, best artistic performance, and post-grad contribution. Are people broadly happy with that as a set of awards?

TB: With one off event it is not for the balls or anything so I like that one

AW: Book club is not a one off event but someone might come in and change the game. I think those kind of small events which may be regular but could be incredible should be considered

TB: Would it be the best small-scale event?

JS: If it was a book club you are not just giving one for book club you do it for a particular book club event

EM: You can just word it to allow people to know that events like cuths battle of the band can be considered

AW: Artistic performance - thoughts?

JS: What is the scope of that award?



AW: It has never been defined whether it has to be affiliated to Cuth's. Is the point of the awards not to celebrate things that are in Cuth's not just by people in Cuth's?

EM: College do awards for people in Cuth's but the JCR ones should be for things in Cuth's

IC: How would you define it?

TB: Could be at a Cuth's event or society event

AW: Could be anything like that, any committee or society can do anything artistic. Is the feeling we need clarity on that has to be to do with Cuth's, some link to Cuth's?

All in agreement

AW: Postgrad contribution award - thoughts? Keep it?

All in agreement to keep it

AW: Does anyone have ideas?

TB: Could there be scope to add a one off award if there is just something that comes up that year and it can be stipulated in the standing orders that it can be allowed at the discretion of the President or committee?

EM: Not every award has to be given every year

AW: We could add an award for something about publicity?

TB: Like what sport, society, or committee had the best presence on social media?

IC: If a society came in hard with insta game one year that could be recognised

EM: I feel like that could just come into consideration for the best sport and society awards

AW: You could do things like like best campaign - there aren't very many awards and they get around it by honourable mentions

CL: There could be like biggest innovation award?

EM: It sounds corporate - could be outstanding new idea award

giggles from the room

TB: Innovation of the year is not too corporate-y

AW: There is so much that happens that isn't sport or society based. A sport or soc may have also only improved just one aspect but not their thing as a whole. I want to reduce the number of honourable mentions it does water them down - I think just one honourable mention per award

TB: With adding awards you don't want to add too many awards that don't hold the same level of competition or prestige as then it can ruin the value of all the awards

**AP: Everyone think about awards; which to add**



EM: Currently we give six DIBs in the year, they are picked by president or by committee. Historically if you did an undergrad in Durham and received a silver one, you are eligible for a gold one at the end of postgrad or second degree. Two have been given out in the past, one recipient is still around in the uni: Lee Worden and he still wears his on his suit. A gold DIB has not been given out since 1999. There is a subset of people who stick around and do a lot in their postgrad. I like the idea of the gold DIB as a subset of the DIB, but it's part of the six currently so I think it should be a separate thing and codified as something else in the standing orders. They won't be something that is given out every year

AW: I like the idea but I am concerned that it has always been only six are given out

ZH: But the student numbers are expanding

AW: Since 2005 they've only increased by 200. If you look at the board, last year was weird in that it was oversubscribed for the number of people in consideration but previously there have been people to just fill spaces. Presidents fill the 6 as if you only did 4 it would be a bad look

EM: I think now with how much is going on in Cuth's I don't see it being an issue to add another

AW: Cuths hasn't got bigger though that why would we

EM: But has engagement increased?

AW: I am worried about bloat and that it would become more of a shade if one individual is not good enough to get a gold DIB. If it is contained in the 6 it is softened due to comparison. It is more harsh if it is separately considered. Someone with a silver one would do their post grad and then the committee has to decide if them specifically are worthy of a gold DIB

EW: I don't think many people will actually feel entitled to one because we have only had two in the past

AW: The fact you always reach the 6 DIB winners removes harshness of it - it is less personal

EM: Leads to a case of people contributing a lot in first 3 years of phd but last year is rough for them with workload and then they could be forgotten about or overlooked?

AW: I think it's a shit position to put anyone in to say you're going to have to sit someone down and be like you just weren't good enough. People really care about DIBs. DIB is normally at discretion of President but they use a panel to protect themselves

EW: But how often will it be that someone is even in consideration for gold?

TB: Thing with the gold is it is so rare and the point of DIB is award for service over time not just your last year of your degree

AW: I appreciate the problems because for the last year of a PhD for example they will be more busy but will have contributed a lot and that effort can be hard to recognise but that could be solved by careful wording in the Standing Orders. A separate award brings in so many issues, more than it solves



EM: I don't think it does - most people know that if they have done enough to deserve a second DIB then it is probably widely agreed that they do

EW: You have to already had one so it is worth considering for the extremely small number of people

CL: Could it be under the remit of the PGM President and they decide?

AW: No because you can receive a gold DIB for a second undergrad degree and they could likely be the one being considered

JS: I think this year, I have been involved in the exec that I have not felt the typical pg separation. There were a lot of freps though who thought I was a fresher so even if someone has been here for 8 consecutive years then the president in that year has a hard decision to potentially award someone whose work they won't have always directly seen. I am not saying there is a clear solution but there is a very real cohort gap so it is weird one

EM: If we keep it as six it is a shit decision for the committee to make

AW: That's why the DIB is awarded at the President's discretion. I think there are some valid points raised but can be resolved through more careful wording for the criteria for consideration for DIB

EM: Changing the wording for the silver DIB can create issues with the consideration for undergrads though

AW: I am against making the gold DIB separate and if I put the motion through I would not include it in the re-write but you can argue in a JCR meeting

ZH: We could trial making it a separate thing out for this year- it has not happened for twenty years that it could realistically not happen again for another 20 years

AW: I think we solve this DIB question with clarifying the conditions for special consideration for a DIB

JS: When it comes to wording with special consideration it puts weight on the priorities of whoever is president in that year - there have been years when I could not tell you who the PGM President was. There is not always consistent engagement with postgrads from the President - will they be inclined to reward it?

AW: We are an integrated JCR and over four years of a PhD a postgrad up for contention would have to likely be involved beyond pg stuff surely though

IC: If we do have a 7th DIB would 7 names go up on the board?

EM: I would want to record them separately on a new board

IC: You do just have to consider the direct spending out the reserves - a board like that is nearly £1000

JS: If you are doing 8 consecutive years in Durham you see nearly three cohorts and so by the end there will be very few people to actually nominate you



TB: Even a committee will still likely be all undergrads

AW: But I don't see a 7th award solving this. It is not uncommon for people to come back with a DIB but it is not common to get so involved to be in consideration. There's always people that miss out when they think they deserve one

**AP: AW to make a rewrite of the Awards SO, circulate it, everyone send in thoughts. Discussion to be revisited.**

TB: I do think we need to change it formally to be a committee decision to solve the issue of bias being even brought into question

AW: I think it should remain at President discretion but they should have to consult a committee. I don't want to lose the tradition just because there has been issue in the last few years

## Welfare Budget

JG: We upgraded our sexual health supplies, both demand and cost has gone up so we are asking for £500 more to cover supplies for third term as well as cover the cost of campaigns. We expect increased demand in third term for supplied

AW: What do you have - do you have any pregnancy tests?

JG: We need to order more pregnancy tests as we are extremely low

AW: There may be a conversation with the clear blue choice on welfare comm as we might need to consider cost of an entire year and if that is feasible

JG: Demand for them has gone up so maybe we need to rethink the ordering or advertising - I don't think people are taking the piss with them though. We went through a lot of supplies and money for SHAG week events but it is something we will look into

Exec approved a £500 increase to the welfare budget

## Exams

**AP: Everyone to send AW their exam period**

AW: Going to do the ice cream van at brooks again and do a snack run for the Billy B

CL: I am going to hold a litter pick one afternoon

TB: Gardening soc could hold some sort of event surely

EM: Could whack out the popcorn machine



## JCR Survey

AW: JCR survey has gained new relevance as the trustees want us to do it in order to write the strategy. Let me know if you have comments or want to add questions

ZH: Could ask why people purchase levy

AW: I think people just purchase it because everyone did - I don't think that is going to be extremely insightful

JS: For Q6 'why have you never ran for a JCR position' you could have an insert your own answer like an 'other' option where people can specify?

**AP: AW to amend survey to allow for this**

AW: Do we have govcomm budget to work with so we can do vouchers?

EM: Probably too stretched but a prize would be a good incentive

AW: Thoughts on prize?

EM: 5 £5 gregg vouchers

AW: We could technically take it out of trustee budget as they have requested it