



JCR Meeting 3.1 - 28-04-2022

Attendance: AW (President), IC (FCO), KM (VP), EW (Social Chair), JS (PGM President), JG (Senior Welfare), EM (JCR Chair), JW (Sports & Socs), LH (PR Officer), TB (Facilities), CL (Outreach Chair), ZH (Librarian), DB (Communities Chair, SwD Rep), LM (Male Welfare), TA (Female Welfare), MB (Stool), ML (JRO, Outreach Comm), AF (JRO), MF (JRO), PA (EM Rep), CH (LGBTQ+ Rep), JN (Local Students' Rep), ES (Assistant Int. Rep), DM (WCS Rep), DB (SwD Rep), MKA (Assistant LGBTQ+ Rep), LJ (Trans and NB Rep), ME (Assistant SwD Rep), BT (Trustee), NT (Trustee), KBr (Trustee), JG (Finance Comm), SB (Finance Comm), KH (Social Comm, Welfare Campaigns), HC (Social Comm), JC (Social Comm), IF (Formals Manager), RP (Social Comm), IM (Social Comm), SB (Social Comm), GM (Environment Rep), EL (Environment Comm, Welfare Campaigns), SY (Environment Comm), MS (Outreach Comm, Welfare Campaigns), YR (Outreach Comm), BS (Outreach Comm), JH (Outreach Comm), SL (Outreach Comm, International Comm), JV (SU Comm), AD (SU Comm), WS (SU Comm), NM (International Comm), YW (International Comm), IE (International Comm), SJ (International Comm), AC (Campaigns Manager), CW (Welfare Campaigns), KB (Fashion Show President), DS (Music Rep)

Apologies: JR (Head Frep), SC (Year Abroad and Placement Rep), MP (Bar Liaison), CR (Webmaster), SM (Bailey Wardrobe Manager), JWa (PGM VP), JC (PGM Treasurer), RD (PGM Comm), FR (PGM Comm), BA (Finance Comm), SR (Finance Comm), MA (Social Comm), JF (Social Comm), HR (Social Comm), SU (Feast Manager)

Absent: SR (Environment Comm), JR (Environment Comm), AA (Environment Comm), EB (Outreach Comm)

Location: Bailey Bar

Agenda:

Exec Reports

Other Reports

Correspondence

Motions



Library Refurbishment

Exec Restructure

Cuth's Goes to the Movies

Fashion Show Budget

Welfare Revamp

Bailey Wardrobe Manager

Ex-Officio

Netball Resubmitted Budget

Adele Society

Elections

LGBTQ+ Rep (I)

International Rep (I)

Welfare Campaigns (I)

Ethnic Minorities Rep (I)

Bailey Wardrobe Manager (II)

Year Abroad and Placement Rep (II)

Minutes Pass



Exec Reports

President: AW

- Attended a number of Bar Management Committee meetings where we secured a provisional deal to share $\frac{1}{3}$ of bar profits this year and commit to sharing in future, as well as a revised Bar management structure which will allow more direct elected JCR input into management. The $\frac{1}{3}$ of profits could result in a huge increase in income which we can use to make the JCR significantly cheaper.
- Begun to look at plans to replace the Tadpole with the Bar Steward.
- Spoke to a lot of students living in Brooks and worked with college to ensure they take account of their views on the building works, including getting an agreement to pause noisy work during exams.
- Have started to attend a University-led group of senior staff on the Ukraine Crisis as a student rep, if you have views on this please share them!
- Begun to set in motion the plans to reshuffle our spaces with IC.
- Started planning Summer Ball and Cuth's Day with SocialComm, attended a menu tasting today, and have finalised a venue.
- Attended some graduation events to welcome recent graduates.
- Went to a President's Forum with the PVC where we discussed staff and student complaints and the cost of living increases.
- Went to a big workshop with senior college staff and JCR Presidents to improve the University's support and understanding of frepping.
- Have worked with IC to transition our membership database to the new eCommerce system in the University, which will allow us to levy-gate events, provide more value, and understand our membership better.
- Discussed how to support some great Outreach projects next term.
- Helped to start a campaign to reform the University's dysfunctional zero-tolerance drugs policy alongside the SU, other JCRs, and SSDP - it launched today.
- Completed and begun to write a report on the JCR survey, some really interesting insights and we got the most respondents we've ever gotten. Thanks to everyone who filled it in.
- Planned and ran a session to consider Cuth's values and what barriers there are to improving our work.
- Started my parts of work on a Trustee-led long-term strategy.
- Booked in Cuth's Does Eurovision - May 14th!
- Planned some StressLess events for during exams, including a petting zoo and an ice cream van, and managed to get college to provide some funding for these.
- Took some leave and accepted a masters place for next year!
- My priorities for the term are:
 - Completing the long-term JCR Strategy.
 - Running a series of successful events after exams, getting them back to pre-Covid success levels.
 - Writing a comprehensive handover and making sure every position holder does the same, so we get the best transfer of institutional knowledge we can.
 - Finishing the new membership system and completing a review of our membership structure with the Trustees.
 - Filling the vacant Trustee Board positions with KB and completing the Board's small restructure.



FCO: IC

- Over Easter I met with Ribchester's (our accounts) to review and complete our annual report to the Charity Commission for last year.
- I've been working on improving our financial record keeping so we can be more transparent about how we spend levy money prevent any loss or wasting of money.
- I've started work on writing a JCR Finance Handbook for future FCOs that sets in stone our financial processes.
- I've had a look at potential reserves purchases for this term.
- I've worked on ordering things for our new facilities which should hopefully open as soon as the new build is finished.

Vice-President: KM

- worked with Alfie on planning the blue skies strategy meeting
- been a part of setting up and working on the hard reduction at Durham campaign
- organised the final stash order of the year will be open 1st-9th
- Continuing to organise the returners gala
- Helped out at the open days and did all of the publicity for them
- Organising a custom calligraphy piece of the brownie bomber to put up in the bar
- generally just talking to Alfie a lot and doing things where I can
- Can't say I've been to any committee meetings this last week because I've got in person exams lol

Social Chair- EW

- I've been focused on organising cuth's day and summer ball with the help of the ball and cuth's day manager
- Visiting Derwent this week for a menu tasting for summer ball
- Social comm meeting later this week to further plan
- .Some Eurovision stuff in the works!

PGM President- JS

- Nothing much to report: just keeping PG things rolling over, MCR PresComm etc

Senior Welfare Officer- JG

- Stress Management campaign coming up this term which includes some cute care packages so keep an eye out for the order form for those!
- The welfare survey is also coming out soon so keep an eye out for that
- Drop ins are not running because of exams, but all officers are available via email and a meeting can always be set up with one of us
- Sexual health supplies are still available to order
- Mental health awareness week is coming up, some things in the works for that too so keep an eye out on our social media pages to stay updated



PR Officer- LH

No report yet

Facilities Manager- TB

No report yet

Outreach Chair- CL

No report yet

Librarian- ZH

- Over Easter I worked with the People's Bookshop to donate unneeded books. We donated half, and the rest will be donated by the end of term so that the Reading Room can hopefully be used next year.
- Library will be open for 5 weeks this term and shut around the end of exam season (May 29th) so return any books by then!

JCR Chair- EM

- Worked on the JCR Survey, though let AW take the lead on results as I had a diss to write.
- Went to a meeting with the biophysical institute about potentially collaborating with us on a funky, fun and fresh research event.
- GovComm, SOs, other usual business.
- Got excited over the new real ale on offer in Bailey bar!.

Other Reports

Communities Committee:

Had a meeting involving conversations around:

-a Comm Comm Newsletter being created, providing a centralised hub of information including the work the minority reps which should be worked in the coming term.

-Altering the name of the EM Rep to POC Rep

-Discussed what we could do for meal plan students who are fasting during Ramadan

-began discussions about further funds which could be created, off the back of things like the gender expression fund.

Assistant EM Rep

-Organised late food pickups for fasting students

LGBTQ+ Rep

-Sat on EDI committee and discuss plans for promoting EDI initiatives in college

- planning events such as a group trip to durham pride

WCS Rep

-attended Exec meetings as the Epiphany chair of Comm Comm

- sat on SU Comm

-Sat on the EDI Comm

- Rep for Open Days

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- Attended the Strategy Meeting for the coming year

Student Trustees:

- Full board meeting took place in March. We discussed:
 - The bar
 - Handovers
 - Expanding the trustee board
 - Trustee diversity
 - JCR membership system
 - JCR strategy
- Beginning to kick-start the process of recruiting for a new external trustee
- Implemented a new policy review system which means officers and exec members will become increasingly involved in developing them
- Met with NatWest's Mentor service to discuss getting employment law and HR support and guidance for Cuth's
- Organised monthly trustee/exec calls
- Next full board meeting is not until July, but remember that elections for three new student trustees are in the next JCR meeting, after exams

Motions

Election Reordering Motion

This JCR Notes:

- Currently, the elections for the President of the Society, Finance and Compliance Officer and Vice President are all run in Meeting 2.1
- As Method 1 (Presidential) election, both the President and FCO elections consist of a 3 minute hust from a proposer, then a 10 minute hust from the candidate, making these elections considerably longer than others.

This JCR Believes:

- As both the President and FCO are paid sabbatical roles, it is important that people are engaged during the husts.
- This currently isn't being achieved due to the length of this JCR Meeting. By the end, people are tired, drunk and/or are disinterested, which is unfair to the candidates running and shouldn't be the case when it is people's future jobs.
- Having both sabbatical roles in one meeting is therefore unproductive.



- Having both sabbatical roles husted in one meeting is not productive as people lose interest in the very long meeting, which is unfair to the candidates running and shouldn't be the case when it is people's future jobs and such a significant part of JCR expenditure.
- The FCO election should be moved to meeting 2.2, and swapped with Senior Welfare Officer to balance out meeting lengths
- As the FCO will now be husted in Meeting 2.2 they will campaign for 42 hours, and the Senior Welfare Officer will campaign for 64 hours, but, the FCO will still be a Method 1 (Presidential) Election.

This JCR Repeals:

Positions in the JCR Order:

3.11 Finance and Compliance Officer (FCO)

3.11.1. Elected via: Method I (Presidential), Meeting 2.1.

3.13 Senior Welfare Officer

3.13.1. Elected via: Method I, Meeting 2.2.

This JCR Orders:

Positions in the JCR Order:

3.11 Finance and Compliance Officer (FCO)

3.11.1. Elected via: Method I (Presidential), Meeting 2.2.

3.13 Senior Welfare Officer

3.13.1. Elected via: Method I, Meeting 2.1.

Proposer: AB

Secunder: AW

Discussion

MkA: Will it affect fco campaign time?



AB: It could marginally but balances out by not being in the first one as it impacts the presidential one and people will overall be more engaged in all elected so that balances out the one day less of campaigning

AW: This has been the first year with multiple candidates for both positions in one meeting and a lot of other colleges do this because it works better

DS: Will you move other exec ones from 2.2 as there are a lot of other exec positions in 2.2 - think it is more important that pres one has good engagement than 2.2

No further questions

No further amendments

No opposition

Passed on a general aye

Parson's Field New Building Motion

This JCR Notes:

- The upcoming completion of a new building at the Parsons Field site, currently on track for a mid-May completion.
- The facilities plan passed in a JCR meeting earlier this year, that proposed improving the JCRs, creating a new Exec Office, and improving storage space for the Green Machine and other JCR equipment.
- The recent purchase of new furniture for House 12 and House 8 JCRs using a £5,500 college grant.
- The current budget allocation of £500 for gym improvements and £700 for Green Machine improvements, as well as a generous annual alumni donation to improve our music facilities.

This JCR Believes:

- Funding should be made available to improve JCR facilities in response to the opportunity to reorganise our spaces.
- The purchase of new equipment, such as a TV, an air hockey table, a pool table or a table football table, would significantly improve our JCRs, but aren't currently accounted for in the budget.

This JCR Mandates:

- The Finance & Compliance Officer and President of the Society to, as far as possible, seek alternative methods of funding, such as the utilisation of existing budgets or Alumni Association funding.

This JCR Resolves:

- To allocate up to £3000 for the improvement of the JCRs, Exec Office, and storage facilities.



Proposer: AW

Secunder: IC

Discussion

No questions

No amendments

No opposition

Passed on a general aye

Harm Reduction at Durham Motion

This JCR Notes:

- Durham University currently has a “zero tolerance” drugs policy, outlined in its Code of Practice: “Any students found to be using or in possession of any controlled drug, including cannabis, on University premises will be subject to its disciplinary procedures and the police will be informed.”
- There is a significant deviation between policy and practice, with drug use invariably being overlooked, though there is substantial variation across colleges and departments.
- The University currently prevents students from distributing drug safety testing kits on University property and often hinders the distribution of harm reduction material.

This JCR Believes:

- Durham University currently has a “zero tolerance” drugs policy, outlined in its Code of Practice: “Any students found to be using or in possession of any controlled drug, including cannabis, on University premises will be subject to its disciplinary procedures and the police will be informed.”
- There is a significant deviation between policy and practice, with drug use invariably being overlooked, though there is substantial variation across colleges and departments.
- The University currently prevents students from distributing drug safety testing kits on University property and often hinders the distribution of harm reduction material.

This JCR Mandates:

- All JCR Officers, particularly the President of the Society and Senior Welfare Officer, to represent these views to the University where possible and appropriate.



This JCR Resolves:

- To endorse the following demands to Durham University:
- Treat recreational drug use as a welfare issue not a disciplinary issue - commit to not expel, suspend or refer to the police any student for possessing controlled drugs for personal use.
- Expand and better publicise the specialist support for students facing substance abuse issues, providing access to trained professionals.
- Allow student groups to provide educational, scientific resources to students.
- Allow student groups to provide testing kits on University property, such as through common room welfare services.
- To sign the open letter to Durham University written by Harm Reduction at Durham (see Appendix A).

Proposer: AW

Secunder: KM

Discussion

DB: How will this affect duty and training of peer led welfare

AW: I think it is a trickle down thing - this is in the uni code of conduct but that impacts all other policies but we can't say how it will trickle down yet. We tried this year to do more with harm reduction but there isn't much on offer yet but in a few years I think the uni will when developing their drugs education program

JG: We have SU training which includes training from SSDP and we try to include a lot of stuff about that in the welfare handbook and we don't take the uni stance if someone comes to us with an issue around drugs

No questions

No amendments

No opposition

EM moves it to a blind vote

Motion passed

2 Term Sabbatical Officers Motion

This JCR Notes:

- The President of the Society and Finance and Compliance Officer are only permitted to hold office for one year.



- The Charities Act 1994 requires the University to ensure sabbatical officers in JCRs don't hold office for more than two years.
- The handover period, normally conducted over two weeks in July, is very time and labour intensive.
- Permitting sabbatical officers to run for two terms is the norm across JCRs and the students' union, with Cuth's being an outlier.

This JCR Believes:

- In an increasingly complex regulatory environment for JCRs, the JCR would benefit from occasionally having more experienced sabbatical officers who hold the role for two years.
- Holding a sabbatical role for two years, would allow long-term projects to be more effectively pursued.
- Widening the pool of potential candidates for sabbatical roles may increase the competitiveness of the elections.

This JCR Orders:

Method 1 Rules Order

(2.1.1)

3) Currently hold a position elected by Method 1 (Presidential) and being elected would not result in you having held a paid elected role for more than two years in the JCR.

JCR Membership Order

4.1.1 Stand for election for any role elected by Method 1 (Presidential), subject to any requirements for a particular position.

Proposer: AW

Secunder: KM

Discussion

ZH: If someone is running against pres, it gives pres a higher chance of winning no?

AW: Two years ago at HB a president lost a reelection. In SU it is common to run for two but not always win. It could put them at a slight advantage and we do have two sabbs that one can always be impartial and there are plenty of people to talk to instead of talking to one you are running against

AF: If someone held a sabb role for a year and wanted to run for the other sabb role is that allowed



AW: Yes

DM: Does this go beyond the two years like coming back for a PhD and you can run?

AW: If you do a year as President, then do a PhD you could run again

HS: Is it two terms per position or per person?

AW: Two per person

AB: Is it not better to say if no one runs in the first try then you can re run?

AW: There is a slight advantage but for me on balance it is not a really popular role, in three years we have only had 4 people want to do it. We could be disadvantaging one or two people at most and the benefits outweigh

AB: Does it not outweigh that someone could initially run on a two year basis?

AW: It would reflect poorly if you campaigned on a two year issue it would be a prick move and defo self sabotage

AB proposes amendment to only allow re run if unfilled first time round

ZH seconds

NH : How does that work time wise as there's only two weeks between first and second meeting and allow people to properly consider?

AB: I feel that remains without the motion

EW: If someone is re running the voters have the capabilities to decide whether the person would be good again or if someone deserves a chance - is it not more democratic to leave it to the people

AB: I think a lot of people vote on name though and so it wouldn't always work that way

LM: Can't you run to be President of the USA twice why can't we do it as Cuth's JCR?

AW: I want to restate the point that it is not uncommon for someone to re run and lose

KM opposes amendment

Amendment does not pass

ZH: Considering there could be a conflict of interest can it begin next next year?

EM: It will only come into account for the 2024

AW: Not true. This came out of the board of trustees as they spoke about the transfer of institutional knowledge, I don't think there is any sense in this amendment as we don't know the situation next year

Moved to a vote

Amendment has not passed



No further amendments

EM moves it to a vote

AW: Challenge to the chair in that general discontent is not neutral

EM: I am not going to take that advice

AW: I am not going to take it to a vote in the interest of time

Motion passed on a vote

Welfare Campaigns Team Revamp Motion

This JCR Notes:

- There are currently 7 general members on the Welfare Campaigns team, with no explicitly targeted roles.
- Responsibilities are typically delegated on a campaign by campaign basis within the campaigns team.
- Due to the lack of specific roles and focuses, the Welfare Campaigns Manager often adopts the tasks of regular campaigns team members
- Delegating roles for the entirety of the year has been successful on both OutreachComm and Social Comm
- Other welfare teams within other colleges assign specific roles and responsibilities for welfare campaigns team members, which would allow people to focus specifically on assigned tasks and ensure smooth running of campaigns

This JCR Believes:

- Allocating responsibilities for specific elements of campaigns as a targeted role would allow people to focus on their passions specifically, and would further motivate people to apply to the campaigns team to develop their skills within the role over the course of the year
- Focuses on events, social media/publicity and research would be most beneficial for the campaigns team, as they are the main components of a successful welfare campaign
- It would make the welfare campaigns manager role more managerial and effective, as more time would be focuses on planning and ensuring that campaigns are running smoothly

This JCR Repeals:

Positions in the JCR Order:

(7.1.4. It shall consist of:)

7.1.4.1 Up to 7 Campaigns Team Members will also be invited to attend



This JCR Orders:

Positions in the JCR Order:

(7.1.4. It shall consist of:)

1. Welfare Publicity Campaigns Officer;
2. Welfare Events Campaigns Officer;
3. Welfare Campaigns Team Member;

Welfare Publicity Campaigns Officer

7.3.1. Elected via: Method III.

7.3.2. Their duties shall be to:

1. Aid the Welfare Campaigns Manager with a focus on publicity material for campaigns
2. Attend welfare campaigns team meetings and offer ideas and suggestions relating to upcoming campaigns
3. Assist with the preparation, organisation and distribution of social media content for the welfare campaigns
4. Their overseer shall be the Welfare Campaigns Team Manager

Welfare Events Campaigns Officer;

7.3.1. Elected via: Method III.

7.3.2. Their duties shall be to:

1. Aid the Welfare Campaigns Manager with a focus on researching material
2. Attend welfare campaigns team meetings and offer ideas and suggestions relating to upcoming campaigns
3. Assist the campaigns team manager with the preparation and organisation of the welfare campaigns events
4. Their overseer shall be the the Welfare Campaigns Team Manager

x5 Welfare Campaigns Team Member;

7.3.1. Elected via: Method III.

7.3.2. Their duties shall be to:

1. Attend meetings of the Welfare Campaigns Team,
2. Contribute ideas towards campaigns,
3. Aid the rest of the welfare campaigns team as assigned by the Welfare Campaigns Team manager
4. Attend campaign events.
5. Their overseers shall be the Welfare Campaigns Team Manager

Proposer: LM

Seconded: AC

Discussion



No questions

No amendments

No opposition

Passed on a General Aye

Awards Standing Order Update Motion

This JCR Notes:

- That the Awards Standing Order is out of date with current practice, as a number of additional awards have been awarded since 2020.

This JCR Believes:

- These awards, such as Postgraduate Contribution and Best Artistic Performance, should continue to be awarded and added to the Standing Order.
- There should be an additional award added, recognising the most outstanding sportsperson - Sportsperson of the Year.

This JCR Repeals:

Awards Order

This JCR Orders:

Awards Order (See Appendix B)

Proposer: AW

Second: JS

Discussion

DS: How does it work? Are they nominated?

AW: They are nominated through a form and then there is a panel who chooses all the awards except the DIB and that is chosen by President technically

BT: Should the panel for president be formalised for DIB



AW: I think if you made the decision on your own that would be unpopular and I would say I only agree with how it has been done in recent years. I think we should respect tradition that it is the decision of the President ultimately

BT: Why have you decided not to separate the gold DIB in the motion?

AW: I think it creates an unnecessary distinction between pgs and ugs. To clarify the DIB is given when you graduate, if you do a PhD or masters and made a similar significant contribution you get a gold one and there has only ever been two given out. The gold glb is not a thing, it is the same award just a different pin in recognition that you have won two and i think it puts unnecessary burden on the person choosing. If you are choosing a seventh it's not if you're in the top six it's a whole separate evaluation and if the person decided against it even if that was correct it would be extremely difficult and awkward. A lot of the criticism in the past has come from a culture in the past and anyone aware of this would want to be more objective and avoid this.

No questions

No amendments

No opposition

Passed on a General Aye

People of Colour Representative

This JCR Notes:

- The current EM rep and assistant rep believe the term “Ethnic Minority” is no longer in use by many ethnic groups due and is alienating to many POC due to its emphasis on the size of marginalised populations rather than their treatment, which at its core is the reason for their need for representation
- The terms “person of colour” and “people of colour” are used by other Durham student groups and as well as being commonly known worldwide and their use would increase the role’s visibility amongst current students and especially incoming freshers.
- While the focus of the representative can and should continue to include white ethnic minorities and marginalised religious groups it is important to note that a majority of the issues the rep deals with has to do with race and the position should reflect that

This JCR Believes:



- The role name for the Ethnic Minority Rep and Assistant Ethnic Minority Rep should be changed to “People of Colour Representative” and “Assistant People of Colour Representative” respectively.

This JCR Mandates:

- The JCR Chair to update all standing orders to reflect this change.

Proposer: NH

Seconded: DM

Discussion

DB: Would you want a role specifically for religious representation?

NH: The discussion in comm comm has concluded it would be difficult to define a religious minority rep and distinguish that from the POC rep who already does a lot of that work - the role will still include religious minorities but the name should be reflective of the group it is primarily representing in durham right now

No further questions

No amendments

No opposition

Passed on a general aye

HLM for IC Motion

This JCR Notes:

- That honorary lifetime memberships can be given to members who have contributed exceptionally to the development of Cuth’s JCR by passing a motion to grant them to specific members, provided the motion has fourteen seconders

This JCR Believes:

- That IC has made an extremely significant contribution to the JCR, primarily in the role of FCO but also throughout his time as a student having been Music Rep, Assistant Music Rep, held executive positions in Big Band, and making significant contributions to other societies and events.
- That IC has dealt with extremely challenging circumstances regarding our finances, having followed on from a difficult year, and has worked hard to find logical solutions to our financial procedures and policies.



- The work IC has put into the JCR is equal to that of others who have received honorary lifetime membership, and so his efforts should be recognised as such.

This JCR Resolves:

- To grant Isaac Costello honorary lifetime membership of St Cuthbert's Society JCR

Proposer: KM

Seconders: JS, AW, EW, AD, JN, DS, MA, JV, DM, IH, GT, SU, JH, DS

Discussion

HS: What has he done

KM: IC has gone above and beyond in his role as FCO having to deal with a lot of problems that have arisen over the last few years and so doing more than expected, and then previously has held a lot of background roles and supporting roles both positions in the JCR wise and on society execs

AW: In IC's time he has been in a lot of behind the scenes roles and I have always come to jcr meetings with him forever and I don't think he has got a lot of recognition for things he has done but has always been in supporting roles. I could say so many things that he is behind that no one knows about and I just think he really deserves one

AB: Is there a better way to do this than a motion?

AW: No this is the only way to do it

AB: I don't think this is the environment to do it

AW: No I disagree we give them out in person. If you are running for a sabb role you are not doing it for the money and whenever someone does something its a positive way to acknowledge that

HS: I think if you had the opposition to it this is the place to do it

No further questions

No further amendments

No opposition

Passed on a general Aye

Elections

International Rep (I)



Candidates: SL, RON

SL's Hust:

Hust yet to be provided

Questions

JS: PG and international freshers week are the same week and there are a lot of joint events - do you have any ideas for freshers week collab events?

SL: I think movie nights and have a mixer after would be good, and a pub quiz that could be a bit more tailored to international students and less british

MkA: International student group is wide, how will you make events as inclusive as possible?

SL: You can do events aligned to certain cultural events and I think making sure people know those are open to all and create awareness around all these cultures and that's a big part of what I want to do

DM: On comm comm the missing voice is international students, how would you encourage international students to get more involved?

SL: Yeah I would like more international voices in the JCR, a big part is the lack of understanding of what the JCR and what is going on so I think any way to spread awareness with posters, pamphlets and social media awareness is just key

LGBTQ+ Rep (I)

Candidates: LJ, RON

LJ: Hello Everyone! I am Lukie, my pronouns are they/she, and I'm running to be the next LGBTQ+ rep and I am a first year physics student.

I have been the trans and non binary rep this year, sitting on the LGBTQ+ society exec and am a Welfare Campaigns team member. Through both these roles, I have been proactive and dedicated in helping run socials, alongside others establish an EDI committee to ensure effective communication and action from the college wrt concerns of minorities. And also enjoyed being part of the welfare campaigns.

I would love to continue to run collaborative campaigns with welfare and outreach and other members of communities committee, to promote intersectionality and engagement. I would love to host some talks on queer theory/gender and relationship studies etc, and lgbtq+ academics from other disciplines if there is demand as i think it would be really enriching. Additionally, I have been part of the discussions this year involving welfare training for minority reps and i think it's vital to ensure the soc are integrated with welfare like this, to



better provide support. Furthermore, I would love to make pride month the most joyously queer celebration possible, to collaborate with other colleges, the lgbtq+association- to make it big, and fun, comfortable, accessible and inclusive.

Also, Freshers week is a really important time for new students at Cuth's, and making it inclusive, accessible and LGBTQ+ friendly would be a priority. Continue the pronoun badges, and make sure the freshers handbook, formal invites and language used by us is inclusive, but also have the LGBTQ+ rep be visible and present alongside welfare to offer support, or just be there for any freshers.

I have loved the past year in my current role so much, and for me, along with other students I think, Uni can be the first time for people to feel part of a community, and the community to be an active presence, and I would love to help make other peoples living and studying within the college easier, and let them know that they belong.

Thank you, I do hope you consider voting for me :)

Questions

CH: There is a bit of a tricky relationship between college societies and the SU LGBT Association - how do you plan to challenge this?

LJ: Maybe be slightly irritating by constantly letting them know what is happening. If there are colleges without societies does not mean there isn't the students who need it so bigger events to get more involved

CH: We did an insta takeover over the holidays, how do you plan to reach out to students over the holidays

LJ: I think a structure to allow for consistent posting as students going home and back into the closet will benefit from even an active community presence at least online so i think social media consistency is key

JS: A lot of students come to uni with little knowledge of LGBTQ+ history so what events would you like to put on then

LJ; I would like talks - I like the idea of having someone with expertise come in as we can do what we can but someone who is captivating and knowledgeable will pique interest. Would be good to get comm comm involved with like LGBTQ+ POC history and making that visible

LM: With consent workshops, a lgbtq focus has been lacking so how would you change them to make them more inclusive

LJ: I think the first thing is making sure the language is inclusive and make sure the relationships arent focused on through a cis hetrosecual lens so making sure they are informative and wide ranging



Welfare campaigns (I)

Candidates: CW, RON

CW: Hi everyone, I'm Ciaran (pronouns he/him), I'm a third years maths student and I'm running to be your next welfare campaigns manager! I first decided to get involved in welfare campaigns during my second year because I believe that they're a really great way to reach out to students about their wellbeing and they provide reliable information on really important topics that not everyone may be familiar with before coming to university.

I've had quite a bit of experience working with campaigns from my year and a half of being on the welfare campaigns team and also as part of the international campaigns team last year where I helped create a campaign to help international students during COVID. One of my favourite parts about working on the campaigns team with restrictions finally eased this year has been the events as this is where I feel like most students engage with the campaigns that we have created, and if I were to be elected I would love to continue to organise as many events as possible next year such as another welfare formal (possibly in shag week) and also a silent disco, as well as some more chill events like coffee mornings and games nights so that everyone can get involved in campaigns events whether they want to drink alcohol or not.

I would also like to ensure that the cuth's welfare social media accounts stay active throughout the year even when campaigns aren't running so that when we do post campaigns there is more engagement with them. This can be done by running things such as Instagram takeovers from the welfare team or even just posting regular polls or questions on Instagram stories that students can interact with.

Something I am really keen on doing is posting a suggestions box on the cuth's welfare socials where students can suggest topics that they'd like to see the welfare team cover in a campaign so that we can help tackle issues that are most important to cuth's students. I would also like to ensure that the content that is posted on social media is concise and not too wordy – sometimes trying to get lots of information into one post can make it quite crowded and therefore people are likely to just scroll past it, therefore I would make sure that the most important information is put on social media posts and then we can include reliable sources that students can reach out to should they need further information.

I would also really like to run a campaign during Michaelmas term about the issues that many students face when first coming to university such as homesickness and imposter syndrome and how they can try to best deal with these, and this would be a great opportunity to work closely with communities committee and get them actively involved in welfare campaigns to consider how students from all different backgrounds are affected differently (for example, students from working class backgrounds may find it difficult to deal with the financial aspect of moving away to university).

Overall I believe I would make a good welfare campaigns team manager as I am extremely passionate about the work that cuth's welfare do and I am determined to make campaigns that



are as fun and engaging as possible. Thank you for listening and feel free to ask any questions!

Questions:

AC: Sometimes campaign team members don't engage as much or fulfil task so how would you get equal engagement

CW: I think the restructure will help as it give people more time to do and giving advance notice of what the campaigns will be and just consistent checking in with everyone and keeping track of their work

DB: Favourite campaign and what do you want to introduce

CW: I think Movember was my favourite as the formal dinner was nice, the charity football match and I think that was the perfect example of what a campaign should be. Something I am keen to do is issues students face when they first come to university and i think that will be a good opportunity to get comm com involved

JS: Some campaigns have been staples for a few years now how would you bring something new to them

CW: I think with shag week we could have a formal like with movember and ensuring things with sports and socs are brought into other campaigns like movember

LM: How do you envision welfare next year and how do you see it through campaigns

CW: Yeah there are obviously a lot of changes and it will hopefully be easier to manage, with campaigns i see it being a lot more events based but I think we need to ensure the online content stays on the same level so the information is accessible

Ethnic Minorities Rep (I)

Candidates: NH, RON

Hust not yet provided

Questions

MK: We do anti racism workshops already, how can we improve them?

NH: My experience personally, I was uncomfy. I was the only POC fresher in the room, and I felt lots of questions were directed at me. Lots of these qs are heavy, and POC don't always want to lead these conversations. We need to explain this to freps, and make sure they know this. Not much emphasis on the support and report tools within the university. Per the uni code of conduct, racism is against the rules. This needs to be emphasised more so students get the justice they need.

SL: How can Cuth's help students who are fasting?



NH: For students who are fasting, they keep being told we don't have enough students to make this a big thing. This is true within Durham, small numbers of POC in Durham and CUth's too. This is a major issue but we're trying to ensure these events are taken into consideration. Planning JCR meetings so people don't have to break fast during them. Scheduling formals and meals. Ensure colleges have halal and kosher options so students have food they can eat even outside of fasting.

AW: What do you have on space for religious minorities

NH: I know this is a conversation being looked at by the wider uni, they are getting rid of the prayer room at greys and the other one is behind a bar and that's just a bad space. As a temporary solution working with other colleges to create an adequate space for students. Long term we need to advocate for more prayer spaces for minority groups that are usable and accessible which can't be solved immediately but long term we can advocate for this development.

DB: Cuths has a gradual intake, how would you like to change post offer days and change the conversation around those from being negative

NH: I would like the rep to have more involvement in those and a for pre freshers. Realistically Durham isn't a good place for POC right now but it is important to say there are POC students that have a space here and this is why I want a POC Cuth's page that isn't solely focused on anti racism. By platforming the role of students of colour and improving their visibility and systemic aspects of it within a uni that does not want to change is the only way to do it

LM: Being religious minorities in cuths, how would you use our chaplain how would you work with them to advertise events for minorities

NH: It is important that the events are rooted in their religion and its important they come from the right person like I wouldnt be comfortable holding an event dep rooted in hinduism so asking students what they want for these celebrations and events and then take it to the chaplain. It would be on a needs basis and it would be weird for cuths to hold eid celebrations if there are no muslim students in cuths, so i think it is asking what people want and then the discussion can go from there

Bailey Wardrobe Manager (II)

Candidates: GM, RON

GM's Hust:

- I am environment rep currently
- My entire year has been focused on bailey wardrobe
- The continuity is important as it has been going on for ages but still not established
- My big idea is having a bailey wardrobe walk in the fashion show and I think that will increase the visibility of it



KM: 3 words to describe the current state of the bailey wardrobe?

GM: Ghastly, small, interesting - besides the red wig

EL: Where did the money come from?

GM: A grant I got from the uni

DM: Bailey wardrobe is overlooked and would be really beneficial for students from low income backgrounds so how would you make the advertising more accessible?

GM; It needs to be advertised way earlier so people dont feel the pressure beforehand to buy suits and dresses and so earlier in summer we need to advertise that you can rent. The themes of events need to be inclusive of the fact that some people may need to buy stuff so taking into consideration that people can reuse things. Stocking things like different ties would also help

MkA: Would you only have formal wear or would you have fancy dress?

GM: I think with fancy dress people would buy things for less than the cost of renting and so buying low quality things like that is a lot more difficult from a sustainability standpoint and longevity but it is being looked into

GM elected

Year Abroad and Placement Rep (II)

Candidates: KB, CT, RON

KB's Hust:

- I am going on my year abroad next year.
- I have got to know a lot of people who have been abroad for a year and people consistently feel detached from college.
- My ideas are stronger connections, meetups, a strong facebook group and insta page and maybe a year abroad placement parent scheme.
- I have the experience and you can bleed green from wherever you are in the world

CT's Hust:

Hi everyone! I'm Chloe and I'm running to be your Year Abroad and Placement rep.

I'm having the best time on my year abroad in Prague, which I didn't realise was an option for English Lit students until I found out through Cuth's. I want this position because I want to encourage others to consider doing a year out, and to make sure that there is support for people who are away and coming back to Durham. Through my experience on the committee in second year and my time away this year, I know that the most important part of this position is helping people to feel connected, wherever they might be.



The main way that I'd do this is through improving social media presence. The Instagram could be better used to show people in first and second year what kinds of things to expect through takeovers and sharing opportunities. The Facebook groups could be better used to help people who are away, through sharing who is living nearby, sharing recommendations or just to give reassurance that you're definitely not the only person having visa or language barrier problems. Along these lines too, I want to bring back the newsletter as a record of the amazing things that Cuth's year out students are doing – it's a tradition that I think would be a shame to lose.

I have plenty of other ideas too:

- I'd collect examples of successful applications and advice to help guide 2nd years through the process of organising their year out
- I'd love to work with a committee to organise departures and arrivals socials
- I'd like to make a bank of info to share recommendations and advice for different locations

I have plenty more ideas which I would love to bring to this position, to show that whether you're in Durham or not, you're still part of the Cuth's community.

No questions as CT ran in absentia

KB elected

Meeting Adjourned