



Communities Committee Meeting - 12/10/2022

Attendance: KM (President), AB (VP), JS (PGM President), NH (Communities Chair, POC Rep), SMu (WCS Rep), SS (SwD Rep), SL (International Rep), CZ (Assis. International Rep), LJ (LGBTQ+ Rep)

Apologies:

Absent: EM (Local Students Rep)

Location: House 12 Conference Room

Updates

NH: Events calendar. Do we have that?

KM: Oh sorry, only sent to LJ, will put in chat now.

NH: Does everyone want to say what they've been up to?

SL: International committee applications, going to have a meeting soon. Might be planning something for Diwali.

KM: Speak to other colleges and see if they have any plans, can collab with them. Might be bigger and better.

SL: Yeah doing that pretty much straight after applications have gone through.

NH: Went off the EDI calendar and there's lots of events, so emailed a bunch of relevant associations and societies to see which ones they want us to do and celebrate/make posts for as a college as there are quite a few. That's my plan on how to pick and choose, by getting someone else to.

SL: If you want to work with me for Diwali then please do

LJ: Had an EDI meeting with college, discussion on college staff respecting pronouns.

Board game social at Brooks bar tonight, if you wanna come.

SS: Hatfield about doing a joint event, but I want to make it a whole bailey college thing.

NH: That's something we should all consider, collabs with college.



KM: Does anyone have any form of communication with reps from other colleges?

Some agreement but not all

LJ: Not sure how to go about it but other colleges don't have a trans and non-binary rep, how would I go about saying to other colleges like, hey, do it!

KM: I would say, just wondering if anyone has this rep? and if they say no, then bring up how useful it's been at Cuths.

NH: Does the LGBT association contact you? On our group chat, we've got contact to DPOCA. Could be something you bring to the chat to campaign for that to happen to other colleges.

LJ: If the association doesn't do anything, we want to do some sort of statement about Rod Liddle and stuff.

SMu: Been doing period poverty stuff with LM and want to do classless Cuth's campaign.

NH: Main thing for this meeting as I don't want to get it anything when assistant reps are elected, is freshers week feedback. Main two things, meet and greets, did they go well? But before that, international freshers week?

International Freshers

SL: Had a meeting about it. Going to try and get in a frep team as it was virtually impossible for me to be in two places at once.

LJ: Have you thought about how you can get welfare involved?

SL: I think it would be good for community committee to be there, even if it's just for one day.

AB: Do you have a welfare rep in international comm? Is that something you can do?

NH: Want to talk about restructuring comm comm. Spoke to SM about it today.

Should we talk about freshers week first?

KM: International freshers week, started writing handover with that in mind. gone with a structure to allow comm comm and welfare involved in that week.

Freshers Week

NH: Meet or greets? Feedback?



LJ: Events were great.

SS: Hindsight with events, nice to know more about scheduling, told to give time. My event was after a big meeting on Monday so everyone was dead. Wouldn't have picked for it to be then.

SL: For future's freshers week, can we have a document on how to book things and stuff?

NH: That would've been helpful. Lack of handover for freshers week.

SL: One document with logistical information would be great.

NH: Time commitment for frepping.

Did you guys feel like you could do what you wanted to do alongside normal frep stuff or too much?

For me, having to do raceshops and then clubs, was a bit much. Anyone else struggle? Would you rather it be more focused?

If you're just there as your rep as you might be able to do more.

SS: Struggled at the start, ideally I'd have an assistant

NH: Problem with election before end of year, won't have any freshers

SL: Can we have a temporary one?

AB: Can't someone just be a representative help?

NH: Would have to take them out of frepping?

SL: Not a frep

NH: Would that be okay to do?

JS: As a suggestion, if you elected rep at start of the year, but wrote that their role includes following freshers week. if person is unavailable, can elect via method 3 a temporary person.

NH: I think it's important we always think about people we're meant to be representing. can't really do both at the same time.

Other thing though, thinking about not having to do frep duties, not being on a team in the same way. not doing both things

SMu: Would be nice to keep being on a team, a group of people to go back to. Feeling your more part of freshers.

LJ: Exec in teams also still do it and are very busy



SL: Option of not doing late nights? Just so you can sleep?

NH: Or just make it more aware that our main job is our roles and secondary that, we frep.

Having to do all of that on top of everything, too much.

SMu: Also depends on the team leader, mine was lovely. Still being a part of the team does matter.

AB: You're saying main thing your people your representing at the forefront, isn't you guys going to the bar and going to clubs part of that representative role?

NH: Having to do that consistently alongside setting up events.

AB: Where do you draw the line? Because exec and welfare both did it all. I think the bottom line is it'll be difficult. If you need to take time out and say ahh can I have a break, nobody will be like oi. Specificing who does what seems unnecessary.

NH: Just need to be more conscious of it.

AB: But then welfare do that too

NH: that's also a problem

AB: But that's just because frepping is hard. If you didn't want to go to club night, you could've stepped back, I'm not sure what the improvement is.

JS: Whilst framework might be there, I don't think it's within the conversation, not sure if freps feel they can say hey look I want to take the night off.

Need to make it more embedded in the culture.

SL: Put a structure in where two comm comms have to be at a club night, and make sure there are actual breaks for people. Have some sort of system there? Ensuring welfare of Communities itself is better.

LJ: Let people know that this is part of what they are doing.

KM: Start writing your handover now, doing it at the end of the year, not something you remember the little details of. Your experience of frepping, how you found balancing the workload. I'll send out the template doc. Freshers week is one thing where it is hard to find everything to agree on. Everyone approaches it differently. Please put down as detailed as possible in your handover, would be beneficial.



NH: Beyond us individuals, what went well in freshers week? Accessibility for example? What could've gone better?

SMu: Pots and Pans. Tradition I understand but not fair to those it's not accessible to.

SS: Way I tried to do it, you could come chill with us at the back but nobody came, but we ended up at the front after Hatfield anyway so didn't work.

NH: Important that what we do as freps is accessible as we want a diverse frep group.

SL: Should ask them if they are uncomfortable

NH: Make freshers aware when they come in, talk to them.

AB: Controversial but why do we even do it? It's so unnecessary in the rooms. Just go and wake them up by voice. It's not nice for anyone, your flat is supposed to be your safe space, and you've got freps coming in banging, it's just not nice. I think we should just stand in the corridor and shout once, so safe space isn't invaded. Just do it on the walk and we can figure out a way to include those who don't want it but in terms of buildings, I think it should be scrapped.

SL: What if before matriculation, we just say stay at the back, there are people there. Say this to every single flat in case there is someone.

AB: Maybe a little something to say what the plan is for it and if there's an issue, they can email. They know in advance.

CZ: Could be mentioned in the CLC meeting? Everyone's there.

NH: Anything else about freshers week?

JS: Rethinking how we do international freshers week, but there was a couple of times where there would be 2 or 3 people doing the entirety of move ins at Parsons. It's very possible to get overwhelmed and that support isn't there.

SS: People getting stuck outside after freps had left.

JS: Never ever been a convo about two porters on duty during the arrivals. Always on other site not back for ages.

Also, significantly less of an issue this year but I think that there's an issue of freps not appreciating they represent PGM students too. You represent these students too. You need to represent everyone in that building. Sometimes people make comments, just need to remind them that they represent all freshers.



LJ: Maybe something to bring up when people apply?

JS: Because there's a PG tea,, easy to assume that we have it sorted but there's a lot of PGM students.

AB: Include that we are frepping PGM students in the contracts?

KM: I should've said more talks.

JS: Not so bad this year but dreads hanging around. cementing that.

SL: Call from freps saying how do you move them in? I was like just say hi?

NH: Signposting more heavily, all freshers same.

CZ: Unusual for me to be elected but wasn't aware whether i was frepping so better signposting about whether I frep or not- better to tell them you have to apply.

NH: Would just be in the standing orders whether it's part of your job.

NH: Advise elections for next week, explain what the roles are, get people excited.

SL: Assistant rep thing, does it have to be done this meeting? can't be moved?

NH: Just what it is in the standing orders.

didn't make sense to do it at the start.

Restructuring committee

NH: I don't think we as a committee do that much. when it comes to us running events, all doing it separately. Not the most cohesive way to do it. not much of a way for us to interact with students.

Keep comm comm as it is but each have a committee, have method 3 roles, but some roles are open forum. People can just come.

Have own meetings when you're doing your own event.

Positions for people to help you out with certain parts of job. Platform for people to come and say.

SL: Easier to plan an event if it's a society than a committee

NH: I'm saying have an open forum committee instead of a society. Everyone who identifies can come to the meeting.



KM: We could create a society for each of you and use it as an exec, and have meetings and events. But doesn't have to be as formal as a committee.

AB: Society- AGM's instead of applications, you'll have more people.

LJ: want to pass our ideas to as many people as we can

KM: committee's are formalised, might turn people away. people you want ideas from, if they wanted to do it formally theyd probs already do it. need a chill way. societies way to go about it but have exec.

NH: But us as reps do too much in the JCR, if we're doing everything.

AB: Isn't that your role though?

NH: Within the JCR structure itself, internal stuff that needs to be done, not possible for us to represent everyone fully.

AB: Surely you could just talk about that in the society?

NH: Can we do that?

AB: Yeah, just like get people talking and then you can write a motion or whatever and bring it to the JCR.

KM: If it's a committee, me and AB would have to be there, and it would have to be formally minuted.

NH: Oh no, don't want that.

AB: Can talk about internalised JCR problems at the society.

LJ: Said before I wanted a different style of meeting to address issues, so giving people space outside of drop ins, not one on one if you have society.

JS: Open meetings, but also have society exec meetings, bring these ideas to a larger audience. We know JCR has issues with Corcus voting as well, and these sessions will bring people to meetings and have the right group of people discussing issues that identifies too

AB: Need to write a motion for each society individual

KM: Can do same structure for LGBTQ+ Society.

NH: Want a society for POC only where we can talk more about just anti-racism like events and stuff.



AB: Just gotta make sure you're finding ways to include religious minorities too as that comes under your role and would be a bit sad if they didn't have the inclusion in the same way potentially.

Rod Liddle

NH: Rod Liddle and Julie Bindle are coming to speak at Durham.

Would be hard to oppose their choice of Julie Bindle, but Rod Liddle was a welfare issue due to context of why he's bad.

We can't say 'we don't like that they say controversial things' because they'll say and what? But due to the history, as a JCR, we need to say something about that. We need to make a clear stance. It looks like we're co-existing.

JS: Last time I saw, Rod is schedule to speak in a debate 'This house wouldn't come to Durham University' and he's against it.

KM: No confirmation on whether he's coming. Waiting for it to be confirmed before I put something out.

LJ: LGBT association doing the same thing.

KM: Don't want us to seem like we're starting it. Fuel for the fire. Hesitant to act until we know. When we know, huge protest, mobilise.

SL: Can start prepping thing.

KM: Yeah, start statements now.

NH: I'll do one for us, and you guys can sign it.

AOB.

None

