



Executive Committee Meeting - 05/06/2024

Attendance: DM (Pres), LB (SU), JB (Libr), VC (SC), EB (OR), LN (SWO), LG (JC), TC (Pub), CR (VP), SG (Treasurer)

Apologies: LJ (CC)

Absent:

Location: JCR

Introductions

DM: Technically we aren't in these roles yet so I'm calling this exec meeting 0.1. Ask yourself what the exec actually does. This is a question that each exec decides on at the start of the year. From this year the answer was to represent the places in the JCR that we come through. As a hub for delegation and shared responsibility. Big decisions may come through our exec, in terms of budgets and what direction the money goes in. You are important because you have responsibility and I have responsibility over you guys. So it's important we are clear what we want to talk about when we come together going forward. Does anyone have any thoughts on what the exec does or what you want it to do?

EB: In my role for my next year, the outreach committee doesn't have the involvement that I want to have so I want the exec involved in and to increase engagement at events.

VC: Similar thing for the exec to help out at events and I like schedules and timetables so I want to be organised but equally have a lot of fun.

DM: A lot of the jobs that we do for SocialComm especially are helping out because we are in the privileged position of receiving a discount so we want to make sure we earn that discount. The exec is important for setting the tone and the culture of the JCR. We are obviously all frepping. Especially when we do our speech in the Calman to a daunting amount of people but you will be the face the freshers remember. To be a member of the exec is to represent the communities we are coming from. You are the highest members of the JCR which comes with its benefits but I also want you to use your voice. It's important we all get along but there's no point in having a committee if we don't disagree. You will have your opinions on people in other roles so we should be open with each other and free to talk about it. The other aspect is delegation. In terms of time management and line management so much of this goes through the exec. It's all about balance and I don't want your degrees being jeopardised and there's people elected who will be able to help you. You have each other, you have committees and even though you are perhaps the most enthusiastic person about your respective committee they are there to help you. And I'm here as president next year. I'm here to help you out where you need it and there's a creative aspect to being president but my main job is to help you. I'm not going to stop you from doing something (unless it hurts the profits of the JCR or safeguarding.) My focus for next year is to open up the JCR to the greatest number of people. I don't want it to be a closed circle of people. We need to be quite open in freshers' week. I want to hear other voices in the



JCR. We need not to be cliquey. We want people to feel comfortable being involved because otherwise the JCR will exhaust itself. We want to be normal people who are students who love the things we want to do so other passionate people can see us and help out. My aim as president is to help you succeed at what you want to do. You wouldn't be voted in if people didn't trust the vision that you had.

Activity: Read over your manifesto and in a minute summarise your main ideas and vision for this year.

DM: While everyone is speaking, think about how you in your role can help everyone else. The aim is to see how we can help each other and work together. There are some roles who won't help each other that much but think of avenues that will help. LN you're first.

LN: I think the most important thing is freshers week. I want most freps and exec members to be first aid trained and the welfare officers to be in the Calman talk. I want people to retake consent and anti-racism workshops if they are high ups in sports and societies. Try to introduce welfare reps into sports and societies. *Ask Angela* in the bar. Maybe a student foodbank. Train assistant MGRs.

JB: The library rooms will be open for your training and also frepping!

VC: Same kind of thoughts on frepping. Talking to other people from other colleges we hold a good freshers' week and we provide support.

TC: Just in terms of freshers' week making sure everything is well advertised and people know how to access welfare.

JB: My main aim is to have the library open for as many people as possible. Especially for postgraduates. Make sure volunteering is accessible and rewarding as possible. Make sure people turn up to their shifts which this year has been very good. Do more with the book club which while has been fantastic I believe the MGRs can help with engagement.

LN: The sanitary products in the bathroom will remain stocked and the welfare campaigns team may be able to run campaigns which support the book club with a paired book.

LB: There are a handful of things. Summarise the results of assembly for awareness and accessibility. Welfare with housing campaign in michaelmas. Moving the livers out handbook to the end of this term so freshers will have information. Essentially I care about assembly because there's a lot of important policies the SU has even if they aren't super effective. It's important we support good policies especially welfare and commscomm which could be particularly helpful. Less hate towards SU comm.

LG: I enjoyed sitting on GovComm this year. I was dragged to the first meeting and was made run but then was persuaded to be JRO. Get all the exec officers to speak to fresh as much as possible and come along. Encourage method III as its a great way to get involved as soon as possible and behind the scenes. Make it more accessible in terms of key terms that people don't understand. Maybe an instagram takeover to describe everything. Work with the SRO to publish job descriptions.

LB: Would you consider clearer stuff on how to submit a motion?



LG: I might hold drop-ins and push for attendance. I want to showcase how to do it step by step.

LB: Online resources are better as people don't like coming to things.

DM: If you are doing drop-ins they must be in person and regular to get good turnout. If you do them online people don't turn up and make sure they are consistent and well advertised.

LN: Your best bet is to do them later in the day. Nobody ever comes to the ones at lunchtime but 4-6 drop-ins work much better.

CR: I want to work on a JCR Meeting handbook to disseminate at the first meeting which should cover a lot of that stuff that you wanted to explain.

TC: I have loved running the music account this year, hosting the events and I fell in love with canva. I want to make sure the JCR is as friendly as possible. Making sure we are recognisable as early as possible. As well as Cuth's tiktok. Events being well advertised. Expanding Cuth's news and expanding stash collections to a full week.

LN: New welfare officers want a Cuth's welfare tiktok so I'll work with you on that because I don't have tiktok and I'm not sure how it works. Welfare's instagram gets quite a lot of reach so we can work together with that.

TC: I think I'm going to start off with a guide on all our platforms. Finding out each account, what it does and supporting them.

LG: Maybe advertise them one at a time and explain what each one is. There's a post at the moment which is all of them but it's a bit much. I only followed Cuth's events after Feast.

LB: Make sure it's very on it in freshers week. The more they know what's going on and earlier affects turnout at our events so much which has a knock on effect throughout the year.

DM: The 15th is A-Level results' day. Making sure on A-Level results day we need to have stuff up to introduce ourselves. There should be a massive website update, hopefully before A-Level results day. We did our interviews for frepping in August but hopefully before the end of this term we'll have our freps. So we have a lot more time to get publicity and teams together. After this term ends we will be able to get so much sorted in the time we have.

VC: If things can be reposted (not bombarding) and then everyone knows to come to our page and our events.

JB: Can someone make a note that the MGRs go to the Calman learning centre because we didn't and no one knew who we were. Otherwise no one comes to MGR events during the week.

LB: Just about instagram. There's a lot of stuff we repost but making sure it's all relevant. Striking that balance.



DM: Normally Cuth's JCR is good at reposting drop-ins and things like that which hopefully we can keep up. A lot of people will DM these accounts and vocalise what they want. What I've done with welfare has been working on a different basis but if people are disrespectful please raise it with me. Keep up your professionalism but don't feel like you deserve to be screamed at.

LB: Try not to take criticism personally. A lot of the criticism may have something valid but try not to take it personally.

DM: Criticism mostly comes from misunderstanding. If it does affect you please come to me, not as SWO but as your president. Peer welfare will be available and there is college support.

LN: Make sure you have boundaries in your DMs as well. You can ask people not to contact your personal account. Remember you don't need to reply to emails or DMs right away, you have 3 days to respond.

EB: I wanted to get involved because I've been volunteering with my local charities since I was 13. I want to increase involvement within the JCR and engagement from freshers week. The Calman suite and the freshers fair should be great for that. Involvement with events and charities they want to support. Consistent volunteering scheme with a local charity. Holding more intercollegiate events and opportunities with other colleges.

VC: As social chair I will help hold events.

EB: With the balls I want to choose charities that people want and suit the tone of the events.

DM: One thing as well is you look at the people before you and mould that into who you are next year. Hopefully, with individual handovers that helps as well. There is a reason the people before you got their job and you guys can work on that and make it even better.

VC: I applied for a social committee in my first year as I was told it was a good way to make friends. I'm very keen that events are fun, clear and I want to try new things. In my first year there was October Fest and I want to bring it back. I want to talk to college about the formals and try to increase attendance. Hatfield formals always sell out so why can't Cuths be the same. Instilling our traditions in the freshers. I'm really frugal and want to use our budget wisely.

LB: If Lukie was here she'd mention there is scope for you and CommsComm to work together on the formals.

DM: The working relationship with college is so important and I learned that in my first year as Communities Chair. It's a give and take relationship. They are doing us a favour by lending their spaces and if you work with them they will give back. They've given so much money to welfare this year and that relationship is rewarding. They paid to produce the welfare handbook and £100 for period products. In my first year we had a lot of JCR formals and if we can get that power back by working with them.

LN: College will always want a speaker.



DM: Speaking of- my plan is to get some proper microphones that we can then use to record the audio which may help with publicity. The freedom speech bill which will affect us next year and college can book any speaker they like. This does allow us to book someone in return if it becomes an issue and we need to retaliate against this. Generally though if we have a better line of communication with college, they will listen to us. The college owns the bar and we do so much with that so we do have to give and take. Bickering causes barriers.

Cuth's Day is coming up which is a great team building experience and if we work together it won't take that long.

LN: Don't use it as an excuse but please be aware of burnout and look after yourself. If you're vomiting you will not be that much help. Try not to overdo it and be aware of your responsibility. Have fun but let Victoria know and go home.

DM: That's so important. Timetabling helps a lot with keeping everyone in line and you can have a partner to hold you responsible.

SG: My ideas are to hold drop-ins around the times of grant discounts and the participation fund so it's more specific to what I can actually help with because no one would come if it was every week. I'm going to make myself available to be in the exec office and advertise that if anyone has any financial needs as well as advertising my email. Look into grants for other things such as academia (e.g. textbooks). Have a financial section of Cuths news with budget breakdowns. Work with the Dev Officer to have more alumni events and funding. That's new things but then continue doing everything SB does because he's great.

DM: One thing we need to be aware of next year is money. We had a really bad year 3 years ago but this is the first year we can go forward with stuff and not worry about debt. The JCR levy is going up but we're still ahead of the curve in terms of other colleges. With the cost of living it'll be harder for us to look cheaper. We will find it very difficult to develop funds without going into debt. My worry was it was going to scare you guys but it shouldn't. It's all going to be about redistribution but generally we should be fine. If ever you have any ideas on how to diversify our income please come forward. We rely on alumni donations but if there's other parts come to Saf and me. It's the budget meeting after this. If our budget is low then we can look towards college and demonstrate how we are spending our money. Tammy will fund what the students want.

LB: We rely quite a lot on levies. So that'll be important during freshers week.

JB: College donations are insane. Palatinate are doing an article and the donations compared to each college is crazy. Some colleges are getting millions every year from alumni.

DM: If you want to appeal to the alumni, make it niche. Most people won't want to donate to the JCR but the specific niche they were involved in.

LN: I think you need to be on the carousel and collecting the levies so that people associate you with the money they'll know who to go to and making sure people know that the levy can be paid in instalments.

CR: And the levy is going up to £182. The publicity needs to prepare people for that.



LB: Do college put that information on their website?

DM: So CR and I sit on the College Advisory Board. Their perspective on publicity is confusing and they have a fixation on what's internally and externally facing. They love sharepoint. The T4 (what comes up when you google St Cuthbert's) is for what they're very proud of though it's outdated. What I want to get out there is an email from the exec on results day. They do have a checklist of things that you need to do before you arrive.

LB: Is the levy on the checklist?

DM: Right now it is yes.

CR: My role is going to be supporting you and I know I was quiet throughout this meeting but I will be here. I'm excited to get very familiar with the JCR and the standing orders to be able to give better guidance and keep everybody in the right. I'm really excited to put my own personal spin on the handbook and to continue the archival project. It's going to be a lot of me standing beside DM and looking tiny in comparison.

LB: Are you thinking about condensing the handbook?

CR: I don't think so. No one reads it in full anyways so what is the point of having a condensed handbook with limited information if there's no place people can go to find the rest of that information. I'm not concerned with condensing but I do want to expand on accommodations and where JCR levies go.

DM: With everything you're making for freshers week make sure you're doing it from scratch and there's nothing being copied and pasted over. We need to make sure it's all relevant and about culture on campus and apt to the year we are going into. If we do need something printed out let's look at it and see if we can get the budget for it. I'm under the impression that people don't read a long document online but they'll read a book. If it sits in their room they may have a flick through at any point in the year.

LG: Posters in kitchens work really well and we just need to make sure that it's all up to date. Someone should go around and take down all the posters that aren't relevant.

LN: Also with printing: Vistaprint has a student discount on UniDays.

JB: Distribution of codes as well I really want to be readily available and in the handbook.

DM: I need to be very proactive and make sure to separate myself from welfare and so I'm holding exec meetings in the SCR. Just to separate myself from the JCR, keep myself very professional and not just be an employed SWO.

DM: I'm not going to waffle because I gave a 10 minute hust. I was working class student rep then CommsComm chair and did a lot of good work setting up the discount for the durham grant and setting up the EDI committee. Then I was MWO which was really my calling and now I'm SWO. The perspective I came from was from the culture of the JCR, safeguarding and I was passionate about



making this a safe space. I've done a lot of work that the JCR culture was what we wanted to work with and for next year I want people to feel safe, at home, valued and celebrated. A lot of my plans are to make sure you feel supported: the job of the president is to not be the JCR but to make sure the JCR is supported. I'm thinking about doing drop-ins 'brunch with pres' open to all members of the JCR. I want to help the uni and college understand the cost of living crisis better. I want to be PresComm chair as we could be the JCR who shows people how things should be done. We really need to have a clear voice at the university. To protect students and our JCR. Other than that it's reflecting on our events and where our budget goes. Looking at post-offer days, visit days and how volunteers feel and the optics of the JCR. Those are my personal projects but what takes the forefront is that you guys know that what you want to happen will happen next year. I want you to achieve the best you can. It's a great privilege to be pres and I want to have fun doing it and hopefully we'll have a great year.

LB: Does the PresComm chair sit on SU?

DM: Yes, it's inter-voting between presidents and we get 3 grand if we get it. It's a great platform to get our voices heard on a wider stage.

LB: And we can get our voices heard on the SU because it has a direct link with the university and I can help you get heard.

Electing Exec Trustee

DM: The exec trustee is an interesting position. Last year it was BW. Trusteeship is all about compliance hence why we have so many external trustees have a lot of experience keeping us as a legal running charity. It's less about representing students and more about keeping compliance along the lines of the JCR. There are some big decisions to make. It's about listening to these experts and making sure the exec are compliant with the rules of the charity. It is what you make of it- you can be more "reppy" but it is more compliance based.

Three of you have decided to run. So EB if you want to begin with your one minute hust.

EB: Being the incoming Outreach chair I've always had experience working within charities and I think I would like to approach them at a higher level. Corresponding and understanding the pressures facing charities. This knowledge will help me in my role as OR as I can bring that knowledge into how I approach charities. It would be an insight into charity law and it would give me an opportunity to show my perspective. I'm very disciplined and organised as well as having a knowledge of some of the pressures that the JCR is facing already. I'm dedicated to representing the JCR and the exec.

JB: Last year after being on six committees and only being on two this year I thought why not. On CommsComm we worked a lot on what the trustees were going to say to us. I'm hoping to represent in this way after last year representing on CommsComm. I'm hoping with my handover that I can make a lot of difference and with being the Librarian I feel like I can do a lot.

LN: I would like to be an exec trustee as the trustees as a whole need diversifying and being a queer woman from a working class background I can get that view across. I'm also really good at confidentiality which is needed for the trustees as they deal with issues of importance and I can keep that between whoever needs to know.



JB is elected as exec trustee

DM: Another role that I would elect is the Social Sec for the exec.

TC: I'll do it.

TC is elected Social Sec for the Executive Committee

MEETING ADJOURNED