JCR Meeting
to be held on 13th December 2015 at 6.30pm in the Bar

Agenda

1. **Meeting Called to Order**

18:47

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Sam Leather, Jess Thew

1. **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Approved

1. **Chair and Exec Reports**

Alex T – all the other Colleges are also doing stuff for accommodation fees to go along with our letter. Trying to get a meeting with Graham Towl.

1. **Discussion Points**
	* Any other business

None

1. **Motions**
	* Divestment from Fossil Fuels

Annie explained the motion.

Clarity:

None

Substance:

Bridget – what sort of action are you planning to take? – say that Trevs disagree

Peter Buck – this will form good support for a University-wide campaign with a petition etc.

Giacomo – the ethics are also important, the Uni invest in BP who are responsible for some natural disasters

Aman – this only focusses on the financial investments of the uni, should we also be looking at where we get our electricity etc from? – Pete – this is just the start of what will hopefully become a dialogue between us and the uni

Jack McNicol – very positive thing to support, lots of other unis are doing it too

James Rockliff – we need to look at the economic side of it too, if the Uni then invest in less economically sustainable companies and as a result accommodation fees go up etc. – this motion is supporting the ideology and student support for the environment

Alex B - how does this fit in with the current accommodation fees lobbying that is occurring if there are economic difficulties. What do you want the action to be if this motion is taken?

Jake – don’t think passing this will go against what we’ve done with accommodation fees

Alex T – timing and resources might mean that the two arguments become more thinly spread

Annie – we should add the number of the JCR to the wider student body to support this

Vote:

Overwhelming in favour

None against

12 abstentions

Motion passed

* + Bar Drapes Motion

Bridget explained the motion. She proposed an amendment, the price has gone down from £3000 to £2000 following measurements done at Informal Ball.

Peter – could we do something more sustainable and more interesting, have you looked at alternatives?

Paige/ Feeney – this is more sustainable because we will use it for ages and ages

Bridget – should last min. 15 years, this is the cheapest way to do it, and we are going to store it properly in plastic boxes etc.

Aman – this is expensive, could we not source cheaper fabric? – no, because of the strict fire regulations we have to follow

Jono – is it worth doing a straw poll to see how much value people place on the bar ceiling

Freddie – it transforms the space, and is an important part of events, we would notice if it wasn’t there – we don’t necessarily notice it because it’s always been there

Rachel Frame – adds to theme and provides a different feeling to the Bar

Peter Buck – could we use a projector to put stuff on the ceiling instead?

Vote:

23 for

5 against

14 abstentions

Motion passed

* + Welfare Screening Motion

Stella explained the motion.

Clarity:

None

Substance:

Lily – should we screen assistants as well? no, just for the welfare officer

Bridget – screening is really useful for the candidate as well to make them aware of what they are signing up for

Beth Sellers – shouldn’t everyone who does drop-ins be screened, if they are also hearing confidential info

Vote:

Overwhelming in favour

None against

No abstentions.

**A.O.B.**

Ideas to spend the extra money saved from Sky – Trevs Day, increasing FinComm budget but loosening the restrictions, set-aside money for little international/ religious events e.g. Thanksgiving, increase general event budget, SCR cricket nets, things that are more sustainable/ environmentally-friendly for College/ events

Tom Grant wants ideas for another event machine for the Buttery – Chocolate fountain, waffles

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

1. **Adjournment**

Prepared by,

**Alex Brown**JCR Chair

a.e.brown@durham.ac.uk

**Divestment of Fossil Fuels Motion**

# Summary

Durham University have invested thousands of pounds over the last year to companies involved in the production of fossil fuels. The university is also using our accommodation fees to invest in these companies which is against the student body’s best interest. This is not environmentally sustainable and has direct impacts on climate change. This motion aims to show that Trevelyan College is against the investment of fossil fuels and opposes any further investment by the university.

# The JCR Notes

* A Freedom of Information request made last year and reported in the Palatinate on 24th March 2015 revealed that in the last quarter of 2014, Durham University had over £500,000 invested in companies directly involved in the production of fossil fuels.
* One­ third of Durham University accommodation fees go towards “capital and borrowing”.
* In their 20/10/­2020 strategic plan, Durham University state they wish to be ‘widely regarded as a university at the forefront of environment sustainability’.
* The world’s 200 largest fossil fuel companies, by proven carbon reserves, are well in excess of the amount of carbon that can be safely burned to have a chance of staying below 2°​C of global warming.

# This JCR Believes

* That Durham University should be a role model in society, acting responsibly and helping create a safe future that is better for everyone.
* That Durham University, in using money from student accommodation fees to invest in companies directly involved in production of fossil fuels, is acting against the student body’s best interests.
* That we are running out of time to keep global warming below 2°​C above pre­industrial levels ­ the limit for ensuring a safe and stable future for the economy, the planet and all people on it ­ as outlined in the IPCC's 5th Assessment Report.
* That the fossil fuel industry, by extracting, processing, and selling fossil fuels, as well as through its major influence on government policy, is complicit in causing climate change and its catastrophic impacts.
* That we must do everything in our power to rapidly reduce the global use of fossil fuels and expand clean energy alternatives
* That Trevelyan College JCR, as an environmentally conscious student body, can lead the way in pressing the University to divest from fossil fuels.

# This JCR Resolves

* To oppose any further investment in fossil fuels by Durham University.
* To use the limited power we have to lobby Durham University to divest fully from fossil fuels.

**Proposed by:** Annie Harding
**Seconded by:** Richard Lowdon

# Bar Ceiling Fabric Motion

# Summary

At the end of the last academic year the JCR voted that we should buy new material to decorate the bar ceiling at social events through Super Projects. The proposal seriously underestimated the amount of money that would be needed for this and so this motion is asking the JCR to confirm whether the material can be bought at the new, higher, price.

# The JCR Notes

* A Super Projects application was put in to buy bar ceiling material.
* That this application was for a total of up to £300.
* That members of SocComm have measured the ceiling and worked out that this amount will cover the purchase of one colour of material.
* The actual amount of money needed to purchase the full range of colours required is £3,000.

# This JCR Believes

* That the JCR believed that this purchase was a good idea in the initial Super Projects vote.
* That decorating the bar ceiling with drapes sets a really effective scene and creates a special atmosphere at any event.
* That having drapes that properly fit the bar ceiling will improve both the look of the decoration and also make it easier for SocComm to put them up.

# This JCR Resolves

* To up the amount available for the bar ceiling material to £3,000.

**Proposed by:** Bridget Shepherd
**Seconded by:** Adam Jarvis

# Welfare Screening Motion

# Summary

The President, Vice President and the Treasurer currently go through screening so that only suitable candidates can run in the elections. This is important as both President, Vice President and Treasurer hold a lot of responsibility within their respective positions. Additionally the Senior Frep and all of theFreps are screened and part of that process involves welfare related interview questions, on which they can be screened out. Recently the Welfare officer has been changed to a single position and is responsible for the welfare awareness in college. They are also privy to confidential information through meetings with Dr Latham and Welfare Drop-ins, and for this reason should be screened. Therefore this motion aims for the Welfare officer to also go through a similar screening process to the President, Vice President and Treasurer.

# The JCR Notes

* That the President, Vice President and Treasurer all go through screening to prevent any unsuitable candidates from running in the elections.
* That Senior Frep along with the rest of the Freps are screened for issues such as welfare, where they can be screened out if they give inappropriate responses.
* That as a single position it is equally important for suitable candidates to be screened before elections.
* That the Welfare Officer is not a counsellor but is responsible for welfare awareness and welfare drop-ins, and from said drop-ins, and within weekly meetings with Dr Latham, they are exposed to confidential information.

# This JCR Believes

* That as Welfare Officer is now a single position it will benefit from screening.
* That screening will prevent an unsuitable candidate from running in the elections.
* That having the Welfare Officer screened is just as important as having the President, Vice President and Treasurer screened, especially now considering it is a single position.
* That the Senior Frep and Freps are screened for Welfare issues amongst others and therefore the Welfare Officer should also be screened.
* That the screening process is confidential and would provide an environment where the current Welfare Officer can fully explain the parameters of the position and the sort of confidential situations which can arise.
* That this process would also provide the possibility for candidates to remove themselves from the elections if they no longer believe they can fulfil the position as required.
* That because of the confidential nature of the position as well as the affect an unsuitable candidate can have on someone’s welfare it is necessary for the Welfare Officer to be screened.

# This JCR Resolves

* To amend the Standing Orders so that the Welfare Officer also goes through screening.
* For the Welfare Interview Panel to consist of the previous Welfare Officer, the JCR President, the Vice-Principal.

**Proposed by:** Stella
**Seconded by:** Becki Cornes