
EXEC REPORTS

INTERNATIONAL REP

Mary Karvalits: Lunar New Year is happening on the 18th of February. It would be great to have some volunteer helpers on the night, decorating, handing out food etc. It's great fun. Message me if you want to join.

TREASURER

Ben Zealley: £1500 is available to go towards any societies. This can pay for any necessary equipment. Let me know if you want to apply.

DISCUSSION

NATIONAL STUDENT SURVEY

Lydia E: This is used to rank universities silver through bronze. There are some pros and cons that we think everyone should know. We are not boycotting, neither is the SU. However, a lot of people do boycott it because it can be used to make universities more expensive. It does provide feedback and help highlight areas of concern but only for the questions that they ask within the framework. It helps prospective students make decisions and you can get your voice heard by it.

Darcy: Last year there were very few universities that actually boycotted. Cambridge and Oxford did last and will this year. On the one hand you have the issue of it commoditising education. The NUS has proposed a boycott as one way of preventing the Higher Education Reform Bill going into place. The problem is is it really a boycott if only a few universities do it? Does somebody want to make a motion in the JCR to say this is our position or should we bring it to the SU? What are the opinions?

Stephen Lowe: I'm running on a platform of not having an opinion.

Andreas Vismara: A boycott could be useful but there is something else that needs to be done. It's down to the decision makers in the higher committees of the university.

Darcy: There was a highly controversial year of infighting in the NUS the year after this came out so they didn't have a formal opinion. This year however they are publicising the boycott everywhere.

Nat: Departments will still get feedback.

Darcy: But it does affect departmental funding.

Mike: What has Trevs policy been in the past?

Lydia E: When Trevs Left was a thing, they were against it. But that was just one society.

INTERNATIONAL REP WELFARE TRAINING MOTION

Mary: This motion was written a year ago because international rep used to be a part of the welfare team. As someone who does drop-ins I think welfare training would be useful. The Senior Freps have to do this and International Rep organises International Freshers Week.

Vote overwhelmingly in favour

CREATION OF CHARITY OFFICER MOTION

Abi Johnson: I am the current DUCK Rep. My job is to run charity events and raise awareness. This year we have raised over £4000. That stands to be more than any other college in Durham and we are the third smallest. I am a tier 2 and sit on several college committees and I get money from the JCR for printing/donuts/etc. At the moment DUCK is a kind of middleman between the money we raise and the actual charity. Essentially, DUCK do nothing. This year DUCK created a liaison officer position for each college which makes my job redundant. So I want to disassociate from DUCK. This will make basically no difference. We'll still know what happens in DUCK through their new Liaison officer.

Grace: Do DUCK provide anything other than the buckets?

Abi: No. After working for them for a year, the JCR has been my sole source of support. They don't give training. I did receive charity law training but that is open to anyone.

Tom: Will disaffiliating from DUCK prevent ordinary students from getting involved in DUCK stuff?

Abi: Absolutely not.

Nat: What about training?

Lydia E: Uni legal can sort all that out for us just as the JCR anyway.

Hal: The Treasurer already has a lot going on. The stuff that DUCK does do like counting up the money, are we dumping that on Ben?

Ben Zealley: The way we thought this would run would be that the charity rep would be responsible for collecting and counting the money. All the treasurer would have to do is bank it. So the onus of the financial responsibility would be on the charity officer.

Emma Maynard: DUCK has the sealed buckets. Can we mandate cash handling training?

Abi: Yes but the sealed buckets aren't anything special we could get hold of those. When does cash handling training happen?

Ben: It can happen at any time.

Mike: Is it worth an amendment or will it just happen?

Ben: I don't think it's in job descriptions anyway. It would just happen.

Tom: The charity committee would still remain open?

Abi: Yes.

?: Is there any guarantee that the charity money will remain separate from normal JCR funds. Is it not just replacing one middleman with another?

Abi: The way I think it will work is the treasurer will bank it and then send it on.

?: Can we go back on this if we change our mind later?

Abi: We're not disaffiliating in the sense that we are cutting them off but just that we don't have to always work with them. This also means that if we do get a thank you from a charity the rep can forward it directly on to the JCR.

Vote overwhelmingly in favour

VOTES

INTERNATIONAL REP MOTION

Passed Overwhelmingly

CREATION OF CHARITY OFFICER MOTION

Passed Overwhelmingly