JCR Meeting
to be held on 1st November 2015 at 6.30pm in the Bar

Agenda

1. **Meeting Called to Order**

18:37

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Approved

1. **Chair and Exec Reports**

None

1. **Discussion Points**
* Rooms for 50th anniversary (Prof Evans, Dr Latham and Martin Clemmett were present for this point.)

Prof explained that College are looking for people (either in Buyback or non-buyback rooms) to offer their rooms (for a £45 rebate) to be used for the 50th Anniversary celebrations in January. Lots of Alumni, including former JCR Presidents and former Principals are coming for a dinner – offering accommodation on Friday 8th January and Saturday 9th January.

100 rooms are already in buyback contracts, but College need more rooms than that – 150 or more people should be coming. Can lock stuff away/ move it into a friend’s room.

Hopefully a good fundraising opportunity

Olli Milton- How is this going to work with moving rooms/ shared rooms? – College are asking people to volunteer whichever room they are going to be in at the time

Adam Jarvis – does this apply to K block? – yes

Arved – how do we let you know if we’re happy to give up rooms? – email Martin Clemmett

You will know for definite if your room will be being used in December

The volunteering is attached to you, not the room

Won’t be renting shared rooms

The Chair took a straw poll – no major objections to the idea

Martin Clemmett to send out an email to all the residents, detailing all the information and then you can reply to him if you are willing to volunteer your room.

* + Missing kitchen equipment

Lots of kitchen equipment has gone missing from pantries, please don’t steal it, and if you have moved it, please return it to where it was originally.

* + Use of the cinema room

The new Cinema Room is a bit dysfunctional. If anyone has any good ideas as to what the room could be used for, let a member of the Exec know.

* + Tennis court

A cage is being built for the tennis net. Alex Brown is ‘sick and tired of hearing about that goddamn net’.

If you use the tennis court, please look after the net – make sure you put it away neatly and carefully.

* + Cost of living in

Bridget Shepherd - The University are putting accommodation fees up and up but Student finance hasn’t risen. Last year we passed a motion to say we support action against the University for rising accommodation fees. Is there anything the JCR would like the Exec to do about this?

Olli Milton – please can we fight for what and why fees have gone up, where is the money going

Guy Harland – Prof came this time last year and told us the money was being spent on Capital investment – we know where its going, we need to be more aggressive about it

Arved – Trevs Left are in the process of organising something about it – we could involve them too

Olli – involving Trevs Left is good, but this needs to come through the JCR, not through Trevs Left

Katie H-C – also look at the Durham Grant – it is going down and down – Bridget - we will include that

Jono – which year was there a rent strike? – the Chair – this happened in 1993, when fees went up by 7% in a year

Tom Grant – could we talk to the SU about what they are doing – Stella – hard for the SU to get their foot in the door to discuss this sort of thing, the University doesn’t listen to them

Tom Grant – can we talk to other JCRs and combine? – the motion we passed on this last year, was passed by lots of JCRs at the same time

ACTION: Alex Tansey to bring this up at the next PresComm

Hannah Fisher – as a JCR we should speak to the Uni and the SU

Consensus – we are happy for the JCR Exec, as representatives of the JCR, to push this up to University level

Vote taken –

Passed overwhelmingly

1 abstention

YK – we keep saying we going to talk to someone and this isn’t working – Bridget – we need to go at this harder

Alex Tansey – the new VC is more for things like this

Freddie Ridell – what is the likely outcome to us not paying accommodation fees? – you can’t graduate, also lots on direct debit which is setup. You are also liable to charges if you don’t pay on time

Consensus – we are all against the trend in College fees, and we are happy to push this to the University and force our way a little bit more

* + Election schedule

Elections for Exec are coming up this term and next term. The Chair is planning to run Elections for ‘living-in’ positions this term.

The Chair asked if anyone had a problem with Freddie staying as Computing Officer until Handover, so that this Election could be resolved to being elected at the same time as everything else –

Passed on a general ‘I’

* + Constitutional review

This is in process

Olli Milton – is there a date for Constitutional Review? – not yet

* + Society governance

The Chair - All ratified societies are part of the JCR and are part of JCR governance, if you have any problems with the way societies are being run, if you have any complaints etc. you can go to Alex Brown to sort it out.

1. **Motions**
	* Welfare Restructure

Adam Jarvis, the proposer, outlined the motion.

Questions on clarity – none

Questions on substance –

Olli Milton – where do the new Assistants stand with the day to day running of the other Tier 2s? – Adam Jarvis – the new Assistants will be Tier 2s and will be of equivalent standing to LGBT+ and Disabilities Rep

Olli Milton – does this spread the confidentiality further? – just one Welfare Officer will report to Dr Latham, the two Assistant Welfares will report all confidential information through the Welfare Officer

Will Emery – is there any specification on genders? –yes, the two Assistant Welfares have to be of different genders to each other, or both of different gender to the Welfare Officer

YK – why is the dual leadership difficult, is this because of the confidentiality? Angus – logistical and administrative side is very difficult, needing to run everything by each other

Jono – like the idea of it being one person – how will the gender thing work with elections? Adam Jarvis – the two Assistants just have to be of different genders, or both of different gender to the Welfare Officer

Christina – if a male gets elected as Welfare Officer, then two males and a female run for assistant welfares and the results are (in order), male, male, female, what would happen? – the Chair – it would go through Steering, but, the second male candidate would be skipped and the first male, and the third female would be elected, to ensure that the different genders were elected

Olli – would be a lot easier in terms of administrative side, but is limiting the confidentiality to one person putting a lot of pressure on one person?

Alex T – should we be specifying genders? we don’t specify how tall candidates have to be – Adam Jarvis – we already have two positions on the Exec (the Welfare Officers) which are gender specific, this is just the same so therefore yes, we should specify genders

Jono – this would result in there being one less person on the Exec, would this make things difficult? – it would be fine for events, it is in the job description of the Assistant Welfare Officers to work in the Welfare Room on Events nights

Bridget – The Exec functioned fine for a term with 11 members when Harry Plunkett resigned so it would be fine. It was noted however that this was in the quietest term for the Exec.

Adam Jarvis – this motion takes a lot of the job off the Welfare Officer – there would therefore be more time for them to do Exec jobs

Vote – we would except that in elections, people may be skipped to be elected, with respect to genders

for – overwhelming

against – 5

abstentions – 5

Olli Milton – proposed an amendment for keeping two Welfare Officers but introducing two Assistant Welfares, seconded by Angus Paterson

not accepted by the proposer – Adam Jarvis – the workload is manageable, the dual leadership aspect is the difficulty

Olli Milton– people like to run for joint positions, we are making more and more positions joint

Vote on the amendment –

for – 15

against – 24

abstentions – 12

Amendment not carried

Member of the JCR – could we bring in another Exec position? – like a clerk

Freddie – there isn’t a need to add another Exec position just for this

The Chair – the number of members of the Exec might change anyway in Constitutional Review therefore we shouldn’t take the number of people on the Exec into account when discussing this

Bridget – the idea of the Assistant Treasurer working events on the front desk with the Treasurer has been floated, we could get tier 2s to work events so that isn’t a problem

Christina – the issue of all the confidentiality and the welfare of the College being placed on one person shouldn’t be an issue, they are Welfare Awareness Officers and are a signposting service and therefore aren’t responsible for everyone’s welfare. Also it is difficult for other people on the Exec e.g. Publicity Officer, trying to work with a dual-leadership role in terms of communication

Olli – can College be told that they are Welfare Awareness Officers – that is not how College currently see it

Olli – the actual reason this wants to be done is to reduce the paperwork, it may not be fair to put the entire load of this onto one person

Adam Jarvis – the College Officers understand that they are welfare awareness officers, it is the dual-leadership issue

Vote on motion

for – overwhelming

against – 8

abstentions – 4

THE MOTION IS PASSED

* + Exec Liver Out

Guy Harland, the proposer, and Olli Milton, the seconder, explained the motion.

Olli Milton proposed an amendment to take the motion by parts:

Taking each individual position separately in the vote

Passed on a general ‘I’

Questions on clarity – none

Questions on substance –

Discussion on Welfare Officer:

Angus Paterson – can we mandate the now one Welfare Officer to live in?

Jono – if you are a signposting service then you don’t need to live in – might be good to live out so they can separate themselves

Arved – it would help with visibility and accessibility if the Welfare Officer lives in

Adam Jarvis – living in makes doing these roles significantly easier, Adam Jarvis and Bridget Shepherd did their roles living out for a term and it made it a lot more difficult

Guy Harland – the JCR is different to the College – people should be able to vote on whether they believe the person will be able to do the job effectively whilst living out

YK – it can be your own decision

Christina – lots of little extra jobs come up e.g. fixing the printer, campbeds, the pool balls get stuck, is that too much pressure to put on the one living in position to pick up all those extra things?

Alex Durk – should the exec be mandated to be in College for a certain amount of time each day?

Jono – as student volunteers we shouldn’t be on call the whole time

Adam Jarvis – people expect everything to work all the time

Helen – could we subsidise exec living in?

Bridget – the JCR can’t afford it and College won’t pay for it

Helen – can we try and find a way to get a SabbPres?

Bridget – a lot of things would have to go/ JCR dues would have to go up by miles for the JCR to be able to afford it

The Chair – we are going to have a discussion on SabbPres in next week’s meeting

Olli – workload is not increased when living out, but the time it takes to do your role is increased. Buttery Treasurer/ Toastie Bar Manager have to be in College everyday – they aren’t mandated to live in

Meg – you choose to live in/ live out

Jono – living in is not accessible for everyone, therefore it isn’t fair to mandate this

Becki – mandating people to live in doesn’t really go along with equality and diversity. The Exec also shouldn’t be on call 24/7

Christina – why is the President not part of this? surely all of this applies to that role as well

Guy – didn’t believe the JCR/ College would be happy for the President to move out as well, taking it one step at a time

Olli – what the President gets for what they pay is more value for money with the flat?

Alex Tansey – needs more discussion about Pres living in, difficult though if you’re the only person who lives in to deal with the niggles

ACTION: Jake Perryman - JCRComm looking into living out Pres

Bridget Shepherd – proposed an amendment to include a clause (if the motion passes) for all the job descriptions listed to include a recommendation to live in but that it isn’t a requirement for election (i.e. the clause that currently exists in the job description of the Publicity Officer),

Amendment seconded by Hannah Fisher

Amendment accepted by the proposer, Guy Harland

Amendment passed

Vote on each individual position:

Welfare:

for – 29

against – 5

abstentions – 20

WELFARE PART OF MOTION PASSED

As each of these are passed/ not passed, each part of the role which is mandated to a liver-in will be looked at by JCRComm e.g. Noiseline

Vice – President:

for – overwhelming

against – 0

abstentions – 6

VP PART OF MOTION PASSED

Treasurer:

Bridget wants to completely re-look at the Treasurer job description and bring it to the next JCR meeting, can we look at this again in that discussion

Bridget proposed an amendment to not discuss this now – Guy didn’t accept

Vote on the amendment to discuss this position in the next JCR meeting:

Overwhelming in favour

2 against

2 abstentions

Amendment passed

TREASURER PART OF MOTION NOT PASSED

Services Officer:

Passed on general ‘I’

1 against

SERVICES PART OF MOTION PASSED

Social:

Passed on general ‘I’

1 against

SOCIAL PART OF MOTION PASSED

1. **Adjournment**

8pm

Prepared by,

**Alex Brown**JCR Chair

a.e.brown@durham.ac.uk

Welfare Restructure Motion

# Summary

Trevs currently has the smallest active student welfare team and whilst this is good for confidentiality, it puts a lot of strain on those students taking on the positions. It would be good to extend this team to include another position-holder as it would not be appropriate to give this level of duty to committee members.

One of the hardest aspects of the role currently is the ‘dual-leadership’ and there are no ‘widely accessible’ assistant welfare roles. Assistant roles are a really good way for potential candidates to gain an insight into the role and welfare would benefit from this. Removing one of the Tier 1 Welfare Officers and splitting the role into two Assistants would combat this issue and provide the extra position-holder as explained above.

The motion aims to reduce the number of Tier 1 (Exec) Welfares to ONE and to create TWO new Tier 2 Assistant Welfare Officers, whose job descriptions are outlined in the appendices.

# The JCR Notes

* Trevelyan College is the college in Durham with the fewest student welfare positions.
* Unlike other demanding Exec positions (e.g. Treasurer and Social Chair), there is no direct Assistant role for the Welfare Officers besides the International Students’ Rep, the LGBT+ Rep(s) and the Students with Disability Rep.
* Seven Welfare Officers have cited that one of the hardest aspects of the role is the ‘dual-leadership’.

# This JCR Believes

* Whilst the reduced number is good for confidentiality, it puts a lot of pressure on the two current Welfare Officers.
* The welfare system could be improved by the introduction of another member of the Welfare Team.
* Whilst the International Students’ Rep, the LGBT+ Rep(s) and the Students with Disability Rep positions provide a good insight into the role of the Welfare Officers, they are very rarely run for by students who do not fit the relevant minority demographics.
* Assistant positions provide a good insight into Exec roles for students who are considering taking on these positions in the future.
* It would be good to streamline the role of Welfare so that only one Officer is in charge of the student-side of the welfare system in Trevs.

# This JCR Resolves

* Amend the JCR Job Description of the Welfare Officers as detailed in the appendix and update the Governing Documents to reflect this change;
* Amend the JCR Job Descriptions to include the Tier 2 position of Assistant Welfare Officers as detailed in the appendix and update the Governing Documents to reflect this change, including any committees;
* Amend section 7.3.2 in the JCR Standing Orders to include the following:

7.3.2.1.6 Assistant Welfare Officers

7.3.2.1.6.1 These elections shall take place after the first JCR Meeting following the election of the Welfare Officer

7.3.2.1.6.2 Hustings shall take place during the first JCR Meeting following the election of the Welfare Officer.

NB: None of these changes shall take effect until the next Welfare Officer(s) election

**Proposed by:** Adam Jarvis
**Seconded by:** Melissa Aldinger

**Appendix:**

**2.5 The Welfare Officer~~s~~**

**The Welfare Officer~~s~~ must live in College for at least two of their terms in office and shall:**

**~~1. Be two Welfare Officers, who shall be different in gender;~~**

**~~2. Be elected independently of each other;~~**

**~~3. Be of equal status and allowed one vote each on the Executive Committee;~~**

**14. Meet ~~together~~ weekly with the Assistant Welfare Officers, to discuss and co-ordinate welfare matters;**

**25. Liaise regularly and meet weekly, with the Senior Tutor and Chaplain to ensure College Officers are up to date with current student welfare issues;**

**36. Liaise between the JCR and College on all matters concerning new students in coordination**

**with the Senior Freshers’ Representative(s);**

**47. Attend Nightline training at the first possible opportunity, and any other relevant training**

**made available;**

**58. Manage expectations from the student body so that the Welfare Officer~~s~~, and any Tier 2 position holders running drop-in sessions, do not give advice or counsel to any student;**

**69. Be responsible for the organisation and implementation of awareness weeks and welfare**

**campaigns throughout the year in conjunction with the Students’ Union where appropriate;**

**710. ~~Split between themselves overall responsibility for liaison with the Senior Freshers’~~**

**~~Representative(s),~~ Have overall responsibility for the organisation of welfare related events and activities during Freshers’ Week, ~~including~~ in conjunction with the Senior Freshers’ Representative(s) ~~and the organisation of Academic Parents~~;**

**8. Oversee the selection of the Academic Parents in conjunction with the Senior Tutor and Assistant Welfare Officers;**

**~~11. Split between themselves overall responsibility for roughly equal numbers of awareness~~**

**~~weeks throughout the year;~~**

**~~12. Provide welfare information to members of the JCR, on JCR notice boards, Welfare Facebook~~**

**~~account and the JCR website;~~**

**9~~13~~. Maintain and replenish a stock of welfare supplies, including but not limited to condoms,**

**pregnancy testing and sexual lubrication;**

**10~~14~~. To maintain and utilise where necessary a welfare mobile for signposting and delivery of**

**supplies, to be switched on only during Freshers’ Week and during drop-ins;**

**11~~15~~. To run two weekly drop-in sessions, to provide a listening and signposting service to students, and**

**to give out relevant supplies. Outside these hours, the College Officers have the responsibility**

**for the welfare of students;**

**12~~16~~. Chair Welfare Awareness Committee;**

**13~~17~~. Help the JCR Executive Committee to organise and run Open Days and Freshers’ Week;**

**~~18. Enable the JCR Welfare Awareness Committee to provide campaigns and the listening and~~**

**~~signposting service;~~**

**14~~19~~. Maintain and update regularly a list of contacts and support services for signposting, in conjunction with the Students’ Union Advice and Help Service;**

**15. Ensure that the individual roles of each Assistant Welfare Officer are divided fairly and equally and are clearly understood;**

**~~20. Must appoint one member of Welfare Awareness Committee to sit on Publicity Committee;~~**

**16~~21~~. Sit on the following committees:**

**(a) JCR: Executive, Welfare Awareness;**

**(b) University: Welfare, Equality and Diversity.**

**3.12 Assistant Welfare Officers**

The Assistant Welfare Officers are advised to live in College but this is not a requirement for election and shall:

**1. Be two Assistant Welfare Officers, who shall be different in gender OR who shall both be different in gender to the Welfare Officer;**

**2. Be elected independently of each other;**

**3. Be of equal status;**

**4. Assume any responsibilities as delegated by the Welfare Officer, and be accountable to them in the first instance;**

**5. Meet together weekly with the Welfare Officer and other Assistant Welfare Officer, to discuss and co-ordinate welfare matters;**

**6. Attend Nightline training at the first possible opportunity, and any other relevant training made available;**

**7. Split between themselves overall responsibility for:**

**7.1 The organisation and running of the Welfare Events Room and rota, excluding those that occur during the Open Days and Freshers’ Week;**

**7.2 The selection and running of the Academic Parenting scheme, including the initial meeting between the new parents and children and the continued correspondence throughout the year;**

**7.3 The publicity of welfare information to the JCR via the Facebook page, the noticeboard, and any other media, in liaison with the Publicity Officer;**

**7.4 Taking minutes of Welfare Awareness Committee meetings;**

**8. Assist the Welfare Officer in the organisation and implementation of awareness weeks and welfare campaigns through the year;**

**9. To each run weekly drop-in sessions, to provide a listening and signposting service to students, and to give out relevant supplies. Outside these hours, the College Officers have the responsibility for the welfare of students;**

**10. Sign the Confidentiality Agreement;**

**11. Sit on the following committees:**

**(a) JCR: Welfare Awareness (2), Publicity (1);**

**(b) University: Welfare, Equality and Diversity (2).**

Exec Liver Out Motion

# Summary

Currently the President, VP, Treasurer, Welfare Officers, Social Chair and Services Officer are all mandated to live in college. The Publicity Officer and Chair are also advised to live in. This year a standard room for a finalist student costs £6,819. En suites cost £7,104. The university has traditionally raised these costs annually (they were £6289 and £6523, respectively, last academic year). For comparison, the standard maintenance loan is £3731 (scaling up to £5500 for those with a household income below £25k). Living out can be considerably cheaper than this\*. The traditional argument for Exec member living in is that they would be unable to fulfil their duties when living out. 3/7 of the currently mandated members of the Exec live out, and have still done an exemplary job.

# The JCR Notes

* The cost of living in is fixed, whilst the cost of living out is more flexible.
* Several of the Exec positions are currently mandated to live in.
* The responsibilities of some of these Exec members have been managed by livers out this year, without a loss of standards.
* Re-running elections, with livers-out only allowed second time round, is inefficient.

# This JCR Believes

* The cost of living out can be notably cheaper than living in.
* Positions on the Exec should be decided on the merit of the candidates, rather than on who can afford to live in.
* The current situation (empty elections being run again but open to liver outs) is not a good long term solution.
* Apart from the President, the responsibilities of the Exec positions can be properly fulfilled by a liver out.
* If members of the JCR deem 'living in' to be a desirable attribute for an Exec members, they could choose to vote for candidates that live in.

# This JCR Resolves

* To change the Job Descriptions for the Vice-President, Treasurer, Welfare Officers, Services Officer, and Social Chair, removing the header statements referring to their requirement to live in college.

**Proposed by:** Guy Harland
**Seconded by:** Oliver Milton