JCR Meeting
to be held on 21st February 2016 at 6.30pm in the Bar

Agenda

Meeting chaired by Tom Grant (Chair-elect)

1. **Meeting Called to Order**

18:32

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Jake Perryman, Rae Walker, Carole Saville, Alex Brown, Annie Harding, Freddie Ridell, Adam Jarvis, Jono Tiffany

Aman Gupta, Emily Vass and Will Emery were not present but did not send apologies

1. **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Approved

1. **Chair and Exec Reports**

Stella – thank you to everyone who voted in the SU Election, we had the third highest proportion of students voting

Paige – applications are still open for BallComm, apply to be part of organising Summer Ball

Bridget – Super Projects will be opening tomorrow

Alex T – he is meeting with Graham Towl and probably Jake and/or Sam re. accommodation fees in the next week or two

1. **Discussion Points**
	* Prof Q&A

Thank you to the Prof for coming to our JCR Meeting

Congratulations to all involved in the musical and to Adam Jarvis who has been elected as next year’s SU Development Officer

The Prof talked about our new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart Corbridge. He thinks the Colleges are in very good hands and is very positive about the future of Colleges and the University under his leadership.

Arved – do you know anything about the plans of the VC in terms of pushing and battling diversity?

Prof – the plans are still being elaborated, the University could occupy a very unique position being excellent at research, education and student experience and the VC is pitching us into a very small ‘Premier League’ of Universities. The student experience is just as important as research and education and the VC is going to push through with this idea now that he has announced it.

Arved – how does he intend to improve the student experience?

Prof – improving buildings and student experience, Performing Arts (he is very impressed with Team Durham and Experience Durham and a lot of money has been put into sport). He also wants to raise big sums of money to be able to make these changes possible.

David – please can you verify that in the 70s Pink Floyd played a gig at Trevs?

Prof – believes that it is true, although he is unsure. If it is true, let’s make a bigger thing of it.

Prof has now learned to use the term ‘shoutout’ correctly.

Rosie R-C – how will the University raise these private funds?

Prof – bonds, private investments etc. building accommodation with private capital (so that rent can come in) so that the public money can go on labs etc.

Ben Palmer – is that going to be done at an individual college level or University level?

Prof – University level

Lily W – will getting private investment into accommodation not push up accommodation fees?

Prof – this is a potential problem - to ensure that the student experience remains very good, the University will have to push for the return to the private investors to be very very small.

Hannah F – in terms of the environment motion we passed a couple of meetings ago, how will the University ensure they are investing in environmentally friendly companies

Prof – the University have a clear investment policy of companies who they can or can’t invest in. It’s not easy to be absolutely certain of where your money is going, but the University does its best.

Guy – How much influence does Prof’s role have in setting accommodation fees and

do you see that changing?

Prof – every generation is the foundation of the country’s future prosperity, we should be publicly funding it. He is very against the current situations but there is nothing he can do about it

Guy – who are the people in the university who set the fees?

Prof – there is a University committee who make these kind of decisions and Prof doesn’t get a say in it

1. **Motions**
	* Washing Machines

Alex Gottlieb explained the motion

Clarity:

None

Substance:

Bridget – is there a need to go straight to a Freedom of Information Request or could we try just talking to them first?

Bridget proposed an amendment to add ‘… if necessary put in a Freedom…’

Seconded by Daisie

Amendment accepted

Guy: we might have to buy new washing machines for this?

Sam: he has brought this to Janice in the past, they can’t change the price, and don’t really want to pursue finding out how to

Vote:

Overwhelming in favour

None against

No abstentions

Motion passed

* + Exec Thank You

Alex McKenzie explained the motion, including what the Exec have done over the past year.

Clarity:

None

Substance:

Lydia: what Alex just said isn’t what the motion says, the motion itself seems like a bit of a joke, but what Alex explained are a lot of very valid points

Chair: Point of information, this is a copy and paste job from years gone by, this is always how it is laid out

Vote:

42 in favour

16 against

24 abstentions

Motion passed

* + Bonding

Bridget explained the motion.

Clarity:

None

Substance:

Alex Bos: Is there no alternative cheaper option? Could it take place somewhere closer/ cheaper?

Guy: This is £1 a year per person in the JCR for this – that’s pretty good value for money

Alex T – it is setting an agenda, setting a plan for the year, it needs to be done to set out operational plans for the year, this is cheaper than previous years

Bridget – this is a maximum £500

Max Parry – is it necessary considering that a lot of the people on the Exec this year are on the Exec again next year and that lots of them know each other already?

Becki – in some ways, because there are going to be people who have done it before, bonding is even more important to ensure that the new people are integrated smoothly into the team

Christina – similarly in terms of friendships, it is even more important to ensure the team is integrated so that decisions can be made for the JCR quickly throughout the year

Bridget – having been on a second bonding, it is even more important to adapt to the new team, who were very different to the old team

David – we are just looking at the gross amount of money that is being spent, it is a big figure

Guy – context is everything, this £500 is not very much money at all, to spend on something that is going to be so significant

Meg – every time the exec have to clean up vom it’s free, every time the bar do it, the JCR is charged £30, this is really not a lot of money

Lauren – could we have some context?

Bridget – the annual budget of the JCR is 6 figure, £500 is very small in terms of the JCR budget

Vote:

52 in favour

6 against

16 abstentions

Motion passed

* + Sky Money

Bridget explained the motion

Clarity:

None

Substance:

Alex G – what will the £2000 for Trevs Day go on?

Paige – being able to continue the ents etc. for longer throughout the day, more food

Bridget – in real terms the budget has got smaller because the contribution from JCR dues has stayed the same since anyone can remember but inflation has meant that everything we hire etc. is more expensive

Rosie R-C – could some of this money not go into investing in some more environmentally friendly things?

Bridget – Eco-committee has a budget but they never spend it so we can’t justify increasing it if it isn’t spent

Max P – proposed to take the motion by parts

seconded by Luke Lilley

Amendment accepted

Meg – who has decided how to allocate the money?

Daisie – ideas were given in a JCR meeting and then FinComm used these to decide

David – current budget of Trevs night?

Bridget - £2500

Vote (Trevs Day) –

overwhelming in favour

2 against

8 abstentions

trevs night –

43 in favour

10 against

13 abstentions

FinComm –

44 in favour

7 against

13 abstentions

Whole motion passed

1. **Adjournment**

19:32

Prepared by,

**Alex Brown**JCR Chair

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Washing Machine Motion

Summary

The washing machine situation in college is poorly thought out and is not in-line with college’s energy efficiency goals. If nothing else, this motion asks for an investigation into the cost to college of running the washing machines via a Freedom of Information Request in order to re-evaluate the pricing structure.

This JCR notes

* The college has a monopoly on the student washing market.
* Currently the washing machines cost £2.50 for a choice of five wash cycles.
* No money is saved by using the machine without automatic dispensing of detergent, which would be a primary reason of a student doing this anyway.
* There is no difference in price between the wash cycles, despite a hot wash surely costing more than a cold one and using much more energy.
* If a student does just one wash a week for a single term, the college takes £25. This is on top of residence fees which many of us feel are already inflated.
* The JCR is currently running a surplus which could be used to subsidize the washing machines.

This JCR believes

* Clean clothes are a fairly basic requirement that benefits each of us, and the community as a whole.
* Students should be given the choice to save money by using cheaper washes if they wish, whether that is by using their own detergent, or by having a 25 minute cool wash instead of a 50 minute hot wash.

This JCR resolves

* To consult college in creating a tiered pricing system for the washing machines; reducing the price of the energy efficient thirty degree wash.
* To reduce the price of the machine where you use your own detergent.
* If necessary, put in a Freedom of Information Request to investigate how much college pays to run the washing machines.
* If the college is making a profit: the JCR should confront them to bring the price down to cover cost only.
* Otherwise, the surplus in the JCR fund should be used to subsidize the cost of each wash.

**Proposed by:** Alexander Gottlieb
**Seconded by:** Jennie Steele

Exec and Chair Thank You Motion

# Summary

This motion recognises the hard work the current exec have out on over the course of the year and aims to thank them accordingly

# The JCR Notes

* Tansey has made several rousing speeches
* Perryman has scared several members of the JCR with his disciplinary stares
* Bridget knows just about everything there is to know about college finance
* Feeney no longer has to reach the top of the whiteboard
* Stella is the tallest person ever to be on the exec
* Angus has distributed enough condoms
* Becki is now free to resume her degree in CATSS
* Sam has successfully set up services committee, consisting of just the one member: Vanessa
* Meg has worked hard all year to represent livers out
* Browno’s BNOC status is still widely disputed despite being on the exec twice
* Jono is now free to pursue rockstar status as a member of Fire Action

# This JCR Believes

* The JCR should thank both the outgoing Exec and Chair in the traditional manner of providing individually engraved tankards at an approximate cost of £270 and allowing them to eat at Lumley Castle at an approximate cost of £25 per person plus taxis both ways;
* That the above option is cheaper (and nicer) than the course of rehabilitation in a psychiatric institution that is usually recommended to an outgoing Exec.

# This JCR Resolves

* To purchase 12 individually engraved tankards in total (one for each member of the outgoing Exec and the outgoing Chair) coming to an approximate cost of £270;
* To pay for a meal (up to £25 per person) at, and taxis to and from, Lumley Castle on a date arranged at the discretion of the outgoing Exec and outgoing Chair in addition to the £80 deposit which has already been paid at the approval of Finance Committee.

**Proposed by:** Daisie Langford
**Seconded by:** Alex McKenzie

Bonding Motion

# Summary

# It is traditional for the new JCR Exec to spend 3 days over the Easter holidays ‘bonding’. This is vital for them to plan for the year ahead and also provides an important time for them to build strong working relationships for the year ahead.

# The JCR Notes

* That the new JCR Exec traditionally spend 3 days during the Easter Holidays ‘bonding.’
* This ‘bonding’ is crucial for the new to formulate their plans for the year ahead.

# This JCR Believes

# That bonding provides the Exec with the founding for a strong and productive working relationship.

# The meetings held during this period of ‘bonding’ time are vital to the smooth running of the JCR by the Exec over the upcoming year.

# This JCR Resolves

* To allow accommodation and living expenses for bonding to be reclaimed from the JCR up to the price of £500

**Proposed by:** Bridget Shepherd
**Seconded by:** Alex Tansey

Sky Money Motion

**Summary**

Recently the JCR has voted to stop subscribing to Sky and also voted not to replace Sky with BT. Once the bar and MCR contributions have been accounted for this has saved us approximately £4,000 a year. This motion presents the plan Finance Committee proposes to do with this saved money.

**This JCR Notes**

* That the JCR recently cancelled it’s Sky subscription and this has not been replaced by a new TV subscription.
* The cancellation of Sky has saved the JCR around £4,000 annually (the exact figure spent on Sky varied slightly year to year dependent on the number of MCR members compared to JCR).
* Sky TV was open to all members of the JCR to use.

**This JCR Believes**

* That the saved money should be allocated to things that can be open to any member of the JCR.
* That events and clubs/societies are two such places that can be open to any member of the JCR.

**This JCR Resolves**

* To allocate £2,000 to the Trevs Day budget to supplement the £8 contribution from each fresher’s JCR dues.
* To allocate £1,000 to the Trevs Night budget to supplement the budget created from ticket sales.
* To increase the Finance Committee budget by £1,000: from £4,000 to a total of £5,000 a year.
* To loosen the restrictions on applications to Finance Committee by editing point 5.1.10 of the JCR Standing Orders to read:
	+ Make grant allocations for JCR clubs and societies up to £350 if passed by a two-thirds majority of those present. Applications may be made for extraordinary purchases and routine expenditure. Applications for routine expenditure will only be granted where a clear effort for the society to finance it themselves is evident to the committee.

**Proposed:** Bridget Shepherd

**Seconded:** Daisie Langford