
MEETING BEGINS

EXEC REPORTS

Lydia E: I've been in a million meetings so I'm just going to summarise a few things. First of all I want to thank you all for sending us on bonding, I've sent a report in an email. If you have any questions please come and speak to me. We're still working on the Upper JCR, especially the TV. If you want anything in there please ask. The university have now implemented a strategy to tackle sexual violence on campus, please come and see me or Darcy if you want to know more. MC have planning permission for some pitches but they didn't for the building, that might be delayed; speak to me or the Sports Rep about that. There are academic year changes and changes to Post Offer Visit Days and February open days as well. I've also been working with our wonderful international rep to organise events with our sister college in New Zealand.

ACCOMMODATION FEES

Darcy: Most people don't like accommodation fees because they're too high. The DSU is starting a campaign to try and get them to freeze and then to lower them. They're running this to get everyone aware and angry about how high they are and how much they've risen. That's starting after exams so if you want to get involved talk to me and Lydia.

Lydia E: It's already started but you can get involved after exams.

Alex Brown: When you say get involved, I don't have much spare time - what can I do?

Lydia E: There's a petition online and they're doing things in the DSU. You can change your profile picture on Facebook.

GYM MATTING MOTION

Ben Zealley: So, the new gym has been completed since March. Underneath the weights there is a lot of matting. JCR funds could not have been released until this meeting. Special projects agreed to pay for the matting, under the reasonably hopeful expectation that the JCR would reimburse the £1,800.

Mike: Clarity?

No

Mike: Substance?

Daisy: Why should the JCR pay for this? How does this benefit the JCR? Special projects is a college-level committee and it's paid for out of the bar profits, it's supposed to benefit as wide a range of college as possible. Why can't it just go through special projects?

Ben Zealley: The matting had to be purchased very quickly and the email that was sent out with the explicit hope that they would be reimbursed by the JCR. They did do us a massive favour. If we did pay it back it would be reasonable for someone to submit an application.

Guy Harland: Something that wasn't on the budget was agreed in a meeting that we didn't have representatives?

Mike: It was just email.

Guy Harland: So we didn't agree to this in the budget?

Alex Durk: The exec were in the email chain.

Alex Brown: As the gym is a college facility are we sharing the cost with the other common rooms?

Ben Zealley: As it stands it would be the JCR.

Daisie: We can always just charge stuff on and hope they don't notice... My personal belief is that we passed motions in the past and paid a lot of money towards the gym, I don't see why we should be paying this as well. It seems like Prof. just decided this was something we had to do without giving us the chance to have the argument.

Max Hollingdale: We currently have members of the upper common rooms using the gym and they pay the same fee. If we were to pay, why would we not split it? Is it possible?

Ben Zealley: I could have a discussion with the MCR treasurer. The JCR does use the gym proportionally more.

Tom Grant: What happens if we reject?

Ben Zealley: The matting has already been purchased. We would not reimburse them, life goes on.

Guy Harland: If people were to rise up, would that be a legitimate excuse not to pay?

Alex Grover: Why wasn't it already in the budget?

Daisie: It's been a bit of a saga and went quite over-budget. College did pay for a lot more than they were expecting.

Sophie Cheal: It was slightly confusing in the sense that matting, to college, came under equipment. For us it came under flooring. It wasn't a worry at the beginning because we had the old matting but college said they needed more matting.

Guy Harland: Special projects money comes from the bar so I would recommend people vote this motion down.

Alex Brown: If we vote this down, we get to keep £1.8k. Something like better facilities for college should come from special projects. Why would we re-apply when we've already paid it?

Mike: Anything to add?

No

Mike: In summary, SPC paid for the matting in the gym, they want the money back. Shall we pay them £1.8k?

Vote overwhelmingly against the motion

Alex Brown: I don't think we should take the tone of getting one over on college, I think we should pay something towards it but college should come and explain it to us. We have already paid quite a lot and I'm not against us paying it but all common rooms should contribute.

VICE PRESIDENT FINANCIAL RESTRUCTURE MOTION

Alex McKenzie: This will allow the vice president to deal with the financial admin and work of the JCR. Over the past few years the JCR is generating hugely more financial work for the treasurer to do. At times it would be really useful to have another signatory on the JCR bank account to be able to process expenses payments and things like that. A solution at the moment is to put the VP onto the JCR bank account as a signatory. The DSO framework clause basically just means that they behave themselves.

Mike: Clarity?

Guy Harland: Will that be this year or the next elected VP?

Alex McKenzie: Yes, it will go straight into the standing orders and apply as soon as possible.

Guy Harland: Does the VP need to be a signatory on the bank account in order to sign off things for events?

Daisie: They need to be a signatory in order to access the online banking but at no point can a single signatory take the money out; there have to be two. This would allow them to set up payments which the president or treasurer would then co-sign.

Lily Walwyn: Could you change the font colour of the green bit?

Mike: Yes. *Proceeds to change font colour*

Daisie: On the online banking it would be physically impossible.

Guy Harland: With this system in place it wouldn't allow the VP to do anything without president or treasurer sign-off?

Daisie: Yes.

Mike: Substance?

Guy Harland: It's unfair on the vice president to change their job description after they're elected. Can we amend to take effect next year?

Daisie: Constitutionally, it only comes into place for the next elected officers. But if someone wanted to do it now they could.

Emma: There's a reason we're looking at the treasurer as a sabbatical role because of the incredible workload so this is not about being able to collude it's just sharing the workload.

Sam Leather: Shall we make the amendment to say it's in place for next year and then we'll ask Emma whether she wants it.

Mike Amends

Jack McNicol: I think this is an important motion and it should pass, especially as Durham is getting bigger.

Ben Zealley: If anything were to happen to the president, the VP assumes the presidents roles, including financial duties, anyway.

Alex Brown: Did university finance stipulate it had to be the VP or would another exec member be more fitting?

Daisie: The first response was we couldn't have anyone but they've now said we can only have either VP or Assistant Treasurer. The reason we said VP is because Assistant Treasurer is already the biggest tier 2 role. It's also quite likely that both the treasurer and assistant treasurer will be busy at the same time in the run up to an event.

Alex Brown: Just to say that historically this actually fits in quite well with what the VP used to do back when we were a charity. They used to do this sort of stuff and I think this fits in very well with the ethos. Brown seal of approval.

Vote overwhelmingly for the motion

STUDENTS UNION COMMITTEE RESTRUCTURE MOTION

Chloe Scaling: The goal of this motion is to make SU Comm relevant again. There's only one person currently on the committee plus Darcy chairing. There's not much that it can do. This mandates some of the welfare people to sit on their and gets rid of the whole election process for it. SU Comm meetings will be open for anyone to attend but always with the mandated members. If there are points to discuss that would interest you personally you can go to the open meeting and minority groups will be represented.

Mike: Clarity?

Tom Grant: Can we scroll down and zoom in on the appendix please?

Mike: Is that big enough?

No

Mike: Big enough?

No

Darcy: It also says that the SU rep has to publicise the meetings. The SU rep is part of both common rooms too.

Guy Harland: Can we kick the MCR off a committee?

Alex Durk: Given that the SU rep is an MCR committee member it's probably a joint committee.

Alex Brown: Basically, if this is a joint committee, we'll have to get the MCR to pass it.

Mike: Substance?

Guy Harland: WacComm's role is to do lots of welfare awareness things. This looks like it's going to do a similar thing but connected to the SU. Why run both?

Lily Walwyn; The SU campaigns are completely different from the college welfare campaigns. The two committees are completely different. This would bring the issues of minority groups to the forefront and mean that they could be better dealt with but it would be at the SU.

Guy Harland: So in this committee they have an SU hat on and in welfare they have college hats on?

Lily Walwyn: They should be represented in both areas.

Grace Harwood: If you took minority reps off welfare campaigns, we could get a bunch of white able-bodied people which would be pointless.

Sam Leather: The SU has a five year plan to look a lot more relevant. The president should stay on this committee because there are already too few links between college and the SU. It's important to remember that this SU committee is going to be concerned with the five or six different areas the SU have, while that includes welfare there is more.

Darcy: The president is informed in exec meetings and PresComm. To have them sit on another committee which they haven't been to in years, is it necessary?

Sam Leather: It would be good to have multiple points.

Lydia E: It might be useful for the president because I go to a lot of meetings to do with this. There's a lot of mis-mash between DSU Reps and presidents and it would be good if they were more streamlined.

Amendment to keep the President on SU Comm

Proposed by Sam Leather; seconded by Lily Walwyn

Overwhelmingly passed

Daisie: Part of the role of minority reps is to liaise with the SU committees. It would be really good to have a meeting to discuss that.

Tom Grant: When on welfare committee these people's input is on running college welfare campaigns. On SU committee they will be working on centralised welfare campaigns.

Lily Walwyn: It's not just campaigns, it's representing those voices at a central level.

Tom Grant: For example, Trevs could say 'we have this big problem' at an SU meeting and the other reps could agree and organise something. Is there a need for this to be a committee? Shouldn't they do this anyway?

Mary Karavaltis: It is in the minority reps job description already that they have to liaise. But I think sitting on a committee and speaking with the people who are connected to the SU would help us with that.

Lily Walwyn: I don't think we should underestimate how powerful having these minority platforms is. It's so hard to bring so many of these issues to light and having an extra way to get these issues dealt with is really important.

Emma Maynard: it's similar to JCR Comm, it's a think tank. Not having a committee might mean that things get lost.

Alex Brown: I've completely lost track of what this is proposing? We currently have Welfare

Lily: - awareness -

Alex Brown: Committee. We're proposing to get rid of elected SU Comm members and replace them with the welfare reps.

Chloe Scaling: And it will be open with publicised meetings and agendas.

Alex Brown: Right. So, I kind of agree with Tom in that I'm not sure what purpose this new committee serves that couldn't be served by the SU officer taking a more active role? If this is about all the different areas of the DSU then we're putting only welfare members on. This should be more than just putting a subset of welfare members on the committee, we need other aspects of college life represented. If it will focus on welfare this is fine but otherwise we need more people involved.

Mike: To clarify, these positions are independent on their own. They are not nominated onto welfare committee, they are independent positions. They aren't welfare roles as such.

Lily Walwyn: Welfare Awareness Committee run autonomous Trevs campaigns. It's a completely different purpose. In the DSU there were LGBT+ history months and they can use Welfare Awareness Committee to promote these campaigns but a lot of the time they don't.

Daisie: The point of this is not to discuss the same things. Whenever you have these discussions in university, we should separate the issues of whether it should be open and whether the minority reps should sit on it. We have the issue of making it open like DUCK and we have the second issue of whether we should have minority reps.

Alex Brown: If we are going down that route, I'd really like to see it not pigeonholed as just welfare.

Tom Grant: Is it worth having the music and sports rep as 'activities' people? Are there other tier 2s who would benefit from being on the committee.

Darcy: I'm not entirely sure if music or art rep are particularly interested. If they want to publicise what the SU is doing that's fine but trying to get people to run for an elected committee that is a bit esoteric is difficult in itself. That's why we've made it mandated and open. It would be great if all the elected positions were filled but that is not sustainable.

Amendment to keep two members of JCR Committee to the mandated committee

proposed by Alex Brown; seconded by Guy Harland

Overwhelmingly passed

Lily Walwyn: I agree what Tom said about other tier 2s, maybe not mandate them to go but encourage them to do so.

Abi Johnson: DUCK rep should be on the SU committee.

Daisie: Environment rep should be on too.

Amendment to add DUCK Rep to the mandated committee

proposed by Abi Johnson; seconded by Daisie Langford

Overwhelmingly passed

Amendment to add Environment Rep to the mandated committee

proposed by Daisie; seconded by Abi Johnson

Overwhelmingly passed

Amendment to add Sports Rep to the mandated committee

proposed by Alex Brown; seconded by Daisie

Overwhelmingly passed

Vote overwhelmingly for the motion

ASSISTANT WELFARE GENDER MOTION

Lily Walwyn: This motion says that assistant welfare officers must be different in gender to each other or the welfare officer. The issue is it is illegal to discriminate based on something like gender.

Mike: Clarity?

Tom Grant: Does it apply to volunteers?

Lily Walwyn: If you gave a position in an election to someone because they are a certain gender, somebody would have a legitimate case.

Tom Grant: But they are voluntary, it's not a paid job. *Just checked.* Yes, they're not covered under that law.

Dom Gommo: Why does the requirement exist in the first place?

Lily Walwyn: Originally we had a female and male welfare officer. We had a meeting with college and they believe it is within the law.

Mike: Substance?

Dom Gommo: Is the requirement not there for the people who are interacting with the welfare officers rather than for the officers themselves.

Lily Walwyn: There's nothing to stop people applying but it presents a lot of problems, particularly to non-binary students.

Daisie: What if only female candidates ran?

Mike: It would RON.

Daisie: The current system doesn't seem to make sense.

Alex Brown: I think we agreed to deal with this when we come to it. Whatever is the safest legal option for the JCR just do that. I do have the question of NUS delegates. 50% of them have to be women, if they can do that then why can't we?

Lily Walwyn: We can't expect people to disclose their gender.

Daisie: If anyone can come up with a way we can phrase this then we'd love to hear it but currently what we have is not inclusive and is legally dubious.

Guy Harland: The wording of this does work well, they just have to be different genders.

Lily Walwyn: I've thought about this and anyway you do it risks discrimination.

Daisie: What is the wording in the LGBT+?

Lily Walwyn: Recommends that the candidate identifies as LGBT+.

Daisie: Could we use that?

Lily Walwyn: I feel it would put people off.

Vote overwhelmingly for the motion

VOTING RESULTS

Gym Matting Motion Overwhelmingly against

Vice President Financial Restructure Motion Overwhelmingly for

Students Union Committee Restructure Motion Overwhelmingly for

With Amendments:

- **keep the President on SU Comm**
 - proposed by Sam Leather; seconded by Lily Walwyn
- **keep two members of JCR Committee to the mandated committee**
 - proposed by Alex Brown; seconded by Guy Harland
- **add DUCK Rep to the mandated committee**
 - proposed by Abi Johnson; seconded by Daisie Langford
- **add Environment Rep to the mandated committee**
 - proposed by Daisie Langford; seconded by Abi Johnson
- **add Sports Rep to the mandated committee**
 - proposed by Alex Brown; seconded by Daisie

Assistant Welfare Gender Motion Overwhelmingly for