



Report from the JCR President (on behalf of the Executive Committee) to the JCR on Bonding

Over the Easter holiday the JCR Executive Committee held over 14 hours of meetings on three consecutive days to set their goals for the coming year and lay down the foundations of a productive working relationship. Besides the Outgoing Bar Sabb all members of the Committee were able to attend hence, all aspects of the common room's life were covered efficiently. Thanks to the devotion and enthusiasm of the Exec the meetings were successful in developing a strategy to best serve the JCR. This report aims to summarise the discussions that took place over the meetings.

Each Tier 1 presented their individual goals for their role in the coming year. Furthermore, the Exec outlined the structures and procedures of working with each other, Tier 2s, committees and the JCR as a whole. The importance of transparency was highlighted and all members agreed unanimously to continue the practices of the previous Exec to ensure that the JCR is kept updated about the work of the position holders.

Issues of discipline were discussed both regarding JCR position holders and the wider JCR. This included formal protocol, behaviour at events and mitigating rare cases of disciplinary action affecting the JCR and college as a whole. The Vice President [Christian Moulding] presented his thoughts on improving the efficiency of disciplinary action by putting in place a coherent yet sufficiently flexible system of bans and fines.

In terms of working with College and the University the Exec is keen on maintaining a good relationship with officers to enable JCR members to make the most of their student experience. The Vice President [Christian Moulding] is to collaborate with JCR committee to gain knowledge of the JCR's stance on university level questions to support the President [Mary Karvalits] representing the community. Regarding the Students' Union, the SU Representative [Nat Kunin] introduced his ideas on improving communication with SU officers and promote and increase the transparency of the Union. The President [Mary Karvalits] has been appointed to build a new communication strategy to improve inter-common room communication with the MCR and SCR.

Long discussions were devoted to means of increasing engagement with the JCR. All agreed that promoting transparency and accountability is the first step in this direction. However, it was pointed

out that communicational tools (such as online platforms) could be used more efficiently to move from availability to engagement. The Chair [Jack Reed] presented the structure of JCR meetings and elections as well as the upcoming referendum regarding the role of Sabbatical President. The Exec agreed that during the campaign the current President [Mary Karvalits] should not participate.

One of the main discussions of the meetings was the one on college image. Outcome showed that Trevs is regarded, by all members, as an open and diverse community in which the JCR's function to facilitate and enable members to explore and celebrate these values while also developing personally. Special attention was dedicated to the proactive projects that could promote the image of Trevelyan College and the JCR in particular. The Publicity Officer [Dan Thomas] agreed to further update the JCR website to present to prospective students all the opportunities the community has to offer. This will involve utilising more of the clubs and societies in the promotion process to project a holistic view of Trevs. On that account, the role of common room sport clubs was discussed. While acknowledging music as a unique feature of college the Exec thought it important to promote the sporting profile of the community. To ensure that all clubs and even non-music societies are celebrated the idea of a Sports and Societies Representative was debated. To increase engagement with the local community the Outreach Officer [Abby Ellis] presented her ideas about potential new outreach projects which could ensure that JCR members can give something back to Durham residents.

Academic culture was a point raised by the Vice President [Christian Moulding]. The structure of the annual Academic formal, Trevs Talks and informal reading groups were considered as well as the effective promotion of the College and the Durham Award.

The Welfare Officer [Laura Hosford] talked about the potential reform of drop-ins, academic families and communication channels, the introduction of a welfare Instagram account. The idea of online live-chat drop-ins and the involvement of alumni in academic families was debated. The plan for the Stressless campaign was also presented in which all Exec members agreed to participate.

There were little changes made in the events calendar. It was pointed out that charity events could be more spread out to increase donations. The Social Chair [Saška Dobozy] presented her plans for Trevs Day. Policy was outlined on the work of the Exec during events. The International Students' Representative [Jeremy Teale] talked about introducing new, and smaller events to the calendar. It was agreed that Day of the Dead would be the main event in the beginning of November as a quieter, more culturally motivated alternative to Halloween when most students tend to go out. The Incoming Bar Sabb [Alex Grover] introduced the Bar's plan for Oktoberfest which is aimed to be part of the his project to promote a more sensible drinking culture in college.

Regarding storage and space substantial discussion took place to mitigate the decreasing number of trunks and the JKH being used for academic purposes next year. The Services Officer [Eddie Brown] agreed to work with Jim and College to sort out storage spaces in the future.

The Upper JCR was mentioned in terms of promotion as a JCR space and limiting the use of the room exclusively to members. The JCR levy has been updated accordingly. The importance of avoiding students opting-out from the JCR and potential incentives were explored. The Outreach Officer [Abby Ellis] and Services Officer [Eddie Brown] presented their plans of stocking the Upper JCR and organising Livers-out dinners to increase livers-out presence in college.

The Treasurer [Alistair Stark] introduced the Exec to financial procedures and cash handling. He mentioned reforming payments, especially regarding freshers' week, to simplify the procedure.

Another debated topic was the use and improvement of JCR platforms. Regarding the online platforms of the community the Exec decided to produce a clearer outline for the policy and the function of these. Thus, the Publicity Officer [Dan Thomas] will work to reform the weekly email and the Facebook group to avoid removing posts and rather redirect content to make it more accessible for JCR members.

The Buttery Chair [Becki Smith] presented ideas for the new vending machine and suggested the purchase of a waffle maker that could be used for future events further minimising event costs.

More detailed notes of the content of these meetings can be found in the minutes published on trevsjcr.com under Documents. In case of any inquiries feel free to contact any of the relevant Tier 1s mentioned above. Comments and suggestions are also welcome over the anonymous feedback system which can also be accessed through the same website. Thanks to the JCR for allowing these three days of meetings to happen, the Exec is confident of the positive impact this has on their service of the JCR. We understand the most important function of the Executive Committee to facilitate engagement and improvement to Your university and experience. Therefore, please do not hesitate to approach any of us with questions, ideas or suggestions about our individual roles and plans as well as the greater strategy for the JCR outlined above.