



TREVELYAN COLLEGE JCR MINUTES

# JCR Meeting 2022

12/06/2022 at 6:30pm in Trevs Bar

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PRESENT

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Alannah Life	<b>President</b>
Mudit Tulsianey	<b>Vice President</b>
Clementina Vong	<b>International Rep</b>
Emma Rohe	<b>Welfare Officer</b>
Roshni Vachhani	<b>Publicity Officer</b>
Sara Westerhuis	<b>Buttery Chair</b>
Thomas Hewitt	<b>Chair</b>
Yusuf Alsari	<b>Communities Representative</b>
<b>Apologies:</b>	
George Little	<b>Treasurer</b>
Grace Moore	<b>Services Officer</b>
Jim Lin	<b>Social Chair</b>
William Brown	<b>SU Representative</b>
Rory File	<b>Sports Representative</b>
Nicole Barrett	<b>Ball Chair</b>

TH: Hello! Welcome to the final meeting of the academic year! We have husts starting promptly, then meeting at half 6. There will be pizza and the bar will be opening shortly. Because it is final term, most of our candidates are out of the country. So we have 2 candidates here, so I am going to spice it up for the others. Let's get going.

TH: First virtual hust for Assistance Treasurer for buttery. *(TH read this out)*

TH: Now in person Leah and Kush for assistant treasurer for societies.

TH: Angus Yip standing for disabilities rep *(ER read this out)*

TH: Natalie Wan for assistant social chair *(SW read this out)*

TH: Isaac Chan for charities officer *(MB read this out)*

TH: Clarice Ng for Gym Rep *(Thomas Hewitt read this out)*

TH: That brings the husts to the end. The bar will be opening in the next few minutes and pizza should be on the way!

*Thomas bangs the gavel*

TH: Welcome everyone we are going to start the meeting. Thank you for everyone who came, sharing interest in the meeting, JCR and college! We have a lot to get through tonight. I have had apologies of absence from George (Treasurer), Jim (Social Chair), Grace (Services Officer) and William (SU Rep) Rory (Sports Rep) and Nicole (Ball Chair).

*struggles to go to next slide*

*Everyone chuckles*

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## EXEC REPORTS

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TH: Exec reports now.

MT: My main thing is last week we had trevs talks and this we are sorting out awards, for people who have done amazing things for college

GL (*Online – Thomas read this*): I have been busy sorting out Trevs day and the end of the year budget before I go on leave. Trevs day did lose a bit of money but it was a very successful event. I have started to draw up the budget for next year and making some changes. I am now on leave but my emails will be monitored by Dorian, but if you are looking for reimbursements or things being ordered please email the president

ER: The main thing was stress less which ran before and during exams. The most popular activity was cake on the cobbles.

YA: Last Monday we had the beach volunteering project which went really well. There was an email sent out so you can clock your hours. Other than that, talking to Hannah about next years plans for volunteering. Celebration day was good

WB: (*Online – Thomas read it with a 2 page printed script in hand*)

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen.

Apologies that I can't be here in person to give you my report, especially as I know so many of you have camped outside the bar for days just to see me. I am, however, confident that Thomas will prove a more than adequate understudy.

I chose a busy time to get elected as DSU Rep. Within weeks of my election, the UCU announced their vastly unpopular marking strike to almost immediate backlash from the student body. Given the DSU's ranked last in the country for two years in a row for representing students' academic interests, it was hardly surprising that many students quickly became frustrated with the DSU's apparent timidity in advocating against the planned marking strike, and, as many of you will have noticed, there was a period where Duffess was awash with posts criticising the DSU's shortcomings and perceived ineffectiveness over the marking strike.

I sympathised hugely with those students who were affected and, in my capacity as Trevs' DSU Rep, wrote a letter to Seun Twins, the DSU President, and Charlie Procter, the DSU Undergraduate Officer, condemning the DSU's inadequate communication with its members, demanding to know what they were doing to fight against the marking strike and mitigate its potentially disastrous impact on graduating Durham students, as well as asking about what the DSU was doing to secure compensation for contact hours missed because of strikes. I decided against publishing the letter because I didn't think it would have improved the DSU's responsiveness or willingness to hear my concerns, but rest assured, its tone was more than a little harsh.

In all fairness to the oft-criticised DSU, the response my letter received was adequate. I had a Zoom meeting with Seun where she disclosed to me what she could about what the DSU was doing to

encourage a settlement between the University and the UCU which would end the strikes. Understandably, there was much she was unable to tell me in case it jeopardised negotiations. I think, if I was to summarise her defence, it would be that rather than being 'asleep at the wheel', she was 'gagged at the wheel' – the DSU was, she explained, trying to represent students but they were limited in what they could tell their members because it might risk the progress of negotiations

between the University and UCU. Nonetheless, I impressed on her the need, where possible and reasonable, for the DSU to be as transparent and regular with updating its members about UCU strike action.

My letter also received an email reply from Charlie, a fellow Trevelyanite. I was encouraged by the sentiment of his reply which appeared to display a sense of humanity, honesty and capacity for critical thinking above that usually found in the DSU. Alas, just as I was writing my reply, an agreement was reached between the Uni and the UCU, so that somewhat killed the urgency of the issue.

I also attended my first meeting of Assembly, and have concluded that I deserve a salary far more than the President. We spent almost the entire meeting debating a motion regarding Assembly's own standing orders only to realise we were below quorum by one person, meaning nothing passed at the meeting actually counted and will have to be voted on it all again next time. To compound my misery, laughing appears to be against the Standing Orders as any time someone dared crack a joke to try lighten-up the immensely dreary proceedings, they were scolded by the Chair for not being 'respectful'. Oliver Cromwell would have felt right at home.

That just about concludes my report. Thank you for listening and if you have any questions, please contact me at William.Brown@durham.ac.uk. See you next year.

*Everyone chuckles*

SW: we have been very busy with events. We have done 4 events, which is very good for the financial positions. We gave a couple of issues which are now fixed. Machines all fixed. We opened on Trevs Day. For Summer ball will be catering for 6,000 people. Toastie Machine is now fixed.

GM (*Read out by Thomas*):

Hi Trevs,

On Friday 10th June the termly Catering Committee occurred. This gave me the opportunity to report back the data from the Catering Review Form which was sent to all Livers in. Dawn Purdy and the dining team now have this information on the likes, dislikes and suggested improvements which the Livers in have after a year of eating in college.

Preparations for the End of Session formal on the 23rd June are underway. Bookings remain open until Tuesday. This shall aim to be a fabulous night to end term celebrating the achievements of Trev's students and enjoying time together.

This is the end of my report.

I hope you all have a lovely summer.

RV: I have been updating the website regularly with all of our meeting minutes from weekly meetings, and been sending out fortnightly newsletters. I have been working with college to update the map of college and just updating things on the website in general. My main role is to update the

social medias with what is happening around college, so if there is anything you would like me to share on the social medias please do let me know.

JL (*Read out by Thomas*):

I've finished organizing Trevs Day, receiving overall positive feedback with several points for improvement:

- Food in the future would try to include more vegan/vegetarian/gluten-free/lactose intolerance options to fit people's needs. If failed to do so we would inform people in advance and inform them of the canteen food options of the day as an alternative.
- People have provided feedback that they would like a long time period for music and ENTs, along with free food. In response to this increasing demand, we would adjust the ticket price to provide more thorough services to cover such needs. People can still join the event with a discount after contributing to the event and being approved by the social chair.
- There are voices craving for more in-depth bonding activities during the event to deepen college identity and to avoid events being overly superficial. In response to such requests, we would try to introduce friend-making events next term for people to get to know one another.
- For the complaint about the photo taken time being too early, we are aware of the awkwardness of the time arrangement and will try to blend traditions into events more smoothly in terms of time schedules.
- We will try to transparently the budget list for the event through Instagram posts in the future.

TH: Georgia has taken ill and so won't be reporting tonight.

TH: Thank you to everyone who submitted Frep applications and nominations for Honorary life membership, colours and formal recognition of thanks, which I have been collecting and anonymising.

AL: The end of 4 years. If you told me 4 years ago I would have been in this position, I would have been like what. I have really enjoyed it. I have done things I wouldn't have even dreamt of. In Term 1, created new event called the Returners Gala which addressed the formal dinner and covid issues. Also worked with other presidents on the Anti-Spiking campaign to provide anti spiking material like covers on drinks. In epiphany term, formals came back, bar nights back, Trevs practically back to normal. During Easter term and exam season, have opened coffee bar, which is free to use. Summer Ball preparations are in the final stretch, it is going to be an incredible event. I'm really glad to see Durham the way it was when I first arrived, as opposed to last year. I have loved the past 4 years.

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## DISCUSSION POINT – Concessions and JCR Positions

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MB: Recently there has been trend to join certain JCR positions as a result of concessions. The positive is that there is an incentive to do more work, or does it? There is so much other work, so this is only the icing on the cake. The negative to think about here is what is the ulterior motive?

SW: Analyse to what extent should JCR positions get concessions vs volunteering. There is going to be a motion coming up about gym membership and in that there is something about having free gym membership. This will add up. 50% for events also. JCR Levy going up? These things aren't all connected but not all disconnected.

AL: Encouraging friends of person who has concession to come, there is a net increase income. We don't particularly make a loss on any paid event.

SW: I do think it will make people just go for a role for the concession. I think the idea is there but like I do 4-6 hours a day, so won't force people. I think concession is less than the impact of JCR role.

MB: I'm quite neutral about it. One thing I am conserved about is that are currently doing it in quite an ad hoc way. Do we want to have more of a systematic approach?

SW: Yeah I agree, just bought it up to see what people thought in general.

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## GYM COMMITTEE MOTION

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AL: Speaking about concessions. Talking with college staff. College doesn't make any money or lose money from college being open or close. However, they do like to take things away from us if we aren't doing things in the right way. College have said if gym not in good condition, it will be taken away. Hence the motion. Currently we have a gym rep, but we can't expect them to come in every single night of the week and clean the gym mess, even then when they are paying for it. So we want to create a gym committee in order to share the workload. It makes it slightly more monotone to organise the gym

TW: Any questions of clarity (the working and what it means)?

TW: No. Does anyone have any questions of substance? No

AH: How do you avoid favouritism of who gets the committee because gym rep chooses?

AL: Interesting point. So open committees do exist, so we have done somethings like this previously. We could anonymise applications with like a short letter so the gym rep could choose without knowing who is who. Do understand the point though.

MB: If the person is already sitting on it on an ex-officio capacity, could they not also help picking?

AL: Yeah, we could get the president to oversee applications and choosing process.

ER: Is there a reason for 7? Like if someone is sick, they are down to 6 which means double work for someone?

AL: The reason why it is 7 is because the gym rep can do more than one rep. In my mind, If people were doing less than one a week, then they aren't doing sufficient work to gain concession.

ZB: A quick question about the interaction, can the societies that use the gym help the cleanliness?

AL: So the use of the gym by sports societies varies. It really does vary and the only society that has a say to a limited capacity is Boat club for the rowing machine. The gym is for the whole college. Same thing for other things, like pool table. Pool club exists but JCR look after the table and all that stuff. So we are aware that there are societies that use the gym a fair amount but it is not down to the captain. A lot of captains are DU captains as well as Trevs. This is a Trevs gym and no society consistently uses for it to be a solution.

MH: With the gym rep being able to do multiple, should something be changed in the motion to a certain number of days per term as opposed to per week.

AL: Yeah happy to change it. We could say minimum 10 (1 a week) If everyone okay with that.

DH: 10 days?

AL: My main point was where they have do a number of shifts done at the beginning of the term before events season. To try and put a bit more effort in over the term. You guys can change the 10 days thing, whatever you guys thing work

TH: Is that a formal amendment?

AL: I guess

AH: what about time people clean it?

AL: The last few users might be cleaner. It would be up to gym rep discretion and their discretion. It's not like scrubbing place down. Obviously when there is a little mess here and there it is okay, but every day is not okay. Trying to fix the constantly an issue thing.

SW: We have experienced with buttry that the minimum number of shifts a thing is not working. We even had to close down the buttry at the end of term because we don't have the workers. I understand during exams etc.

AL: To some extent it is a bit different, because the gym running is not dependent on someone there to clean. Like bar and buttry need workers, but this is just towards the end of the evening. It is a matter of working for an award, if don't work then don't get award.

TW: Any more final amendment. Need 2/3 to pass change in amendment.

*Voting*

TW: Okay motion passed overwhelmingly.

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## FAITH REPRESENTATIVE MOTION

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TH: Okay Stas your motion

AA: Evening everyone, you all well. A few days ago I was running through the positions in the JCR, particularly under communities. I felt something was missing. I thought about the idea of a Faith representative and brought it to a few people, and they seemed to agree. These are all communities or identities that people will relate to. I believe that the various religious standards need to be



represented equally. There is a lack of representation of faith throughout all college, not a specific religion but all religions equally. Just saying Josephine Butler college have one, why don't we? Part of the role is to deal with the lack of awareness of basic things such as the existence of the faith room. I barely knew it existed. Role would be monitor and adjust thing. I believe this position would very easily get filled. This is communities not welfare position as they are expected to represent a community of people i.e a group identity rather than a support role primarily. However, support will be a secondary aspect to the role. The final thing would this be a lot of work to JCR, judging by the fact that I have talked to CU at Trevs, I gotta run for it and be there for people who identify as religious but are not represented.

TW: Any questions of clarity or substance? No. Okay, let's move to general discussion.

DZ: First off, we have had working class rep for a few years but no one has run. Also, All the other tier 2 positions mentioned in the summary are welfare but the faith position would fall under communities, is there a reason for this?

AA: That's a great shame, I wasn't aware of that. With the religious representative, it is very established. I hate to say it but it is more aware of as an identity. I am not sure the working class representative is being quite so represented in college. If that makes sense, we need to promote it. With the religious representative, we are pretty sure who we are, pretty established on campus. I feel like we would be very easily able to fill it. I get the point about welfare. Welfare should be included in the role. I mean welfare and communities kind of mix

DZ: Yeah but surely by having this position we are alienating people and so will have even lower attendance at JCR meetings which we can't really afford?

AA: Interesting point, but I am going to turn it around. If there is this role, maybe this could indeed increase attendance, knowing that religion is being represented. It might push people to get more involved in the JCR.

TW: Any other questions

FG: If you look at the DU Level, it doesn't exist and would argue that this a fair thing because it is so broad. How can 1 or 2 faith reps represent a massive range of identities? I think there will be more points of contention with those that have faith vs those who don't have faith?

AA: The point I made is that the LGBTQ+ rep means you are fully representing a lot of sexual identifies, despite having one sexuality. For faith, similar thing. Being able to represent people of all religions

Matt: The first thing is how it is similar to LGBTQ+ communities, you said it represents all these faiths plus those that don't have any. My worry is this going to create friction between groups. Do you know any other groups that are interested about from CU? My main point, is could this not already have been done by communities rep? We currently have a lot of missing positions, like 5, so having another one won't really attract more people.

AA: Respectfully, I disagree with the point about friction. With the point about the communities rep doing it, faith rep is more focussed and more specific about a specific thing. I think bringing it to communities rep makes it very general, and I don't think it covers a specific enough area. I wouldn't be up here if I didn't think that. I think that this means a lot to a lot of people. There are people that want to make something of it.

ER: Whilst the CU can organise things, this is now with a faith representative it is JCR sponsored. I don't know how the JCR could stop the feeling of alienated that some members may feel. How would it be made open and inclusive?

AA: I think we should be completely clear. This is not what it is about, this is not a conversion attempt but about representing faith. This can show what faith is about and not about. We can promote good things about faith. I think it will help that have struggled and be able to talk to people.

MH: Talk about working with other positions. I think you could adjust the motion to say it works with exciting JCR members.

AA: Yes. I agree.

MH: Is this going to be an amendment.

AA: I mean, yeah. Let me ask my seconder, Roshni, do you agree?

RV: Yeah

TW: Okay, so organise and work with others

TW: Right we are going to bring it to a close. Time to vote.

*Voting*

TW: Okay, the motion has not passed.

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### HARM REDUCTION MOTION

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AL: The university has a zero tolerance on drugs. If you get caught, you could get kicked out immediately. This motion is to re look at the way university deals with it (the way the uni treats people). The main way to do this is to take a more forgiving approach. A lot of colleges and universities have signed it if you followed the campaign on Instagram.

AL: This is what the JCR resolves to do.

- To endorse the following demands to Durham University:
  1. Treat recreational drug use as a welfare issue not a disciplinary issue - commit to not expel, suspend or refer to the police any student for possessing controlled drugs for personal use.
  2. Expand and better publicise the specialist support for students facing substance abuse issues, providing access to trained professionals.
  3. Allow student groups to provide educational, scientific resources to students.
  4. Allow student groups to provide testing kits on University property, such as through common room welfare services.
- To sign the open letter to Durham University written by Harm Reduction at Durham.

TW: Any questions?

AH: 'Need access to the facts about the drugs', I find that quite out there. I don't see why the JCR views that. What does it mean by 'deserve professional support'?

AL: Need access to facts, yeah whilst the internet does exist, people are more likely to listen to information from campaigns than to go search things up. We already do a lot of this, i.e. contraception and safe sex, people are still ill informed despite the heaps of information available out there. Deserves professional support, people deserved be supported in welfare. If you get caught throwing up in college, you get charged. If spiked however, don't get charged. It is not about providing support, more of a reference of mentality of support.

ER: This is why testing kits are so necessary, not ever really sure what is taken

FG: First, I think it is a good point. I believe the SU has voted on it, what else can we actually do in college. Also is the bar opening?

TW: Yes, the bar is opening in 5 mins.

AL: Yes, we are coming into it late in the game, we can still sign it and show support. By adding our name, there is more motivation for university to take it seriously. If we don't sign it, could bring down the campaign. Also, if it is not signed by a lot of people, could be dismissed. I've seen the difference between 1 person emailing Jeremy Cook VS 70 people emailing Jeremy Cook. By highlighting other Russell groups, shows that there are other universities already supporting students and so our university needs to do the same.

TW: Putting it to the vote.

*Voting*

TW: Motion overwhelmingly passed.

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### JCR Levy Motion

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AL: Levy has not been raised in a while and if doesn't get changed soon, we won't be in a good financial position. Propose to change it to £140 which is still less than rate of inflation, and still be third cheapest college. If we don't raise it, decrease quality of events or decrease in ability to subsidise events by the JCR. Also need to pay for president salary. Change is 1<sup>st</sup> August so any current students can get the current lower cost.

TW: Any points

Freddie: As we all now students are facing a lot of pressure with inflation. Student's costs are rising so would this not just add to the problems as well. Could we instead not reduce what the JCR offers.

AL: One of the services the JCR offers is financial relief, we do have financial support available so we should be able to support those who couldn't. We also have financial payment plans and college can also support the payment for those who need it. We haven't raised it in the past 5 years. The value of it, is equivalent to £84 if you include VAT and all that. I do get your point about everything going, that also means that things will go up so we can't afford to put on anything.

AH: Another issue that could also be addressed is society members not paying the JCR levy and getting away with it. This could see a decrease in membership numbers. This could probably help us get the revenue we need.

AL: In the past, I have looked at the numbers. 90 to 140. 130 to 140. According to previous figures, raising the levy will still cause net increased income. This raise is that £100 cheaper than the more

expensive levies, and we put on subsidised events whereas those colleges still have expensive events. I don't think £2 or £3 increase would decrease attendance. It will be available online, being transparent.

TW: Okay, time to vote.

*Voting*

TW: Okay, motion passes overwhelmingly.

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### AOB

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TW: A new part of the meeting, suggestions and grievances. This was based on a suggestion, sort of like any other business. Last time we had the issue about the paper towels being brought up, so this is just a space for anything like that to be brought up and discussed.

TW: As Jim mentioned earlier in the week, if you filled out the Trevs Day feedback form please come here and Roshni and I will try to sort you out with your free Tshirt.

TW: Finally, please do vote, there will be amazon voucher.