****

**TREVELYAN COLLEGE JCR MINUTES**

**JCR Executive Committee Meeting 2023**

23/06/23 12:15

**CONTENTS**

Contents **p.1**

Present  **p.1**

Individual reports **p.1**

Trevstock Review **p. 2**

Election Timeline Review **p. 2**

Year End Review **p. 5**

Plans for Next Year **p. 7**

Any Other Business **p. 7**

**PRESENT**

Dorian Held **President**

Matthew Hall **Welfare Officer**

Kush Pandey **Treasurer**

Patricia Moreno-González **Social Chair**

Tennyson Godsell **Publicity Officer**

James Taylor **Buttery Chair**

Akshita Singh **Chair**

**Apologies**:

Thomas Hewitt **Vice President**

Hugo Fung **International Rep**

Alysia Orbell **Welfare Officer**

George Scholey **Bar Sabb**

**INDIVIDUAL REPORTS**

AS: TH said successful TrevsTalk, good audience. Health and Safety metting with college, stressed importance of planning events as early in advance.

DH: Did he say anything about engravings?

AS: No.

KP: Gown buyback strong, received a lot, in process of paying those back. Looking strong for fresher’s week. Workign with AS on reratification and the budgets for clubs and societies.

DH: I’ve been made aware there’s a lot of discrepancies for a lot of societies.

KP: I’ll speak to GL about it. Last year, I didn’t receive budgets for around half of the societies. GL said that’s all the emails he received as well. I’m assuming when GL made the budgets not accounting for this.

AS: There’s quite a few empty from last year’s reratification budget form.

DH: I’d say we need to be as strict as possible for re-ratification, as technically societies who don’t submit their budgets shouldn’t have been re-ratified.

AS: Some societies, like pool, don’t need to. A lot more than last year have included their budgets which is good.

KP: I’ll work with Immy to look over these. I imagine the main issue will be with the starting amounts. I’ll be much stricter next year with expense forms.

AS: I need to send an email to all the societies that haven’t done this yet over the weekend.

DH: This will be a massive endeavour, so don’t stress yourselves out too much about it.

PMG: Good feedback from Trevs Day, had the debrief so know how to improve for next year. Quite happy with it overall.

MH: We’ve looked over what we need to order for next year with what budget we have left. Frep interviews. Doing welfare for events.

TG: Primarily been focused on the End of Session formal and creating posters, namecards and certificates for it. Had a quick chat with Kunle about the app and he seemed very optimistic about it, so hopefully that means we can have it up and running for the start of the next academic year.

DH: Double-check with Kunle and Martin, recipe for miscommunication.

AS: Re-ratification ongoing, 3 societies have asked for extension so we should be looking at 30-31 societies with completed documents. Will then send them to KP and Immy for budget approval. Elections happened, there was an error, contacted CIS but they cannot figure it out. I published the new results, we still don’t know what caused the anomaly. Going forward, I’ll be sure to double-check all the results.

DH: Don’t spread yourself too thin, just take a quick check. If it happens again, go to CIS again and ask them to fix their system.

AS: Other than that, I’ve been helping out with the frep application process, and have had a steering meeting regarding revising the election timeline.

DH: Helping out at events. Incident at Trevstock, haven’t heard anything from college but will need to think about drinking culture going forward. It was dealt with as well as we could have hoped given the situation, so thank you to everyone who was there. Still meeting with Tier 2s, such as Head Freps, Gym Reps, and Environment Officer. Still not been able to contact Charity & Volunteering Officers, Hannah has let me know they’re not really interested in the Volunteering aspect of the role, but in their defense, it was changed after they got elected. Saw Jeremy Cook yesterday at PresComm, discussed Marking Assessment Boycott, encouraged them to have better communication with students. Raised point about numbers for formals, Jeremy seemed very reasonable about it and asked why the number system for formals can be more flexible within colleges. Big PresComm handover next Friday. Setting things up for next year from now on.

**TREVSTOCK REVIEW (President)**

DH: There was an incident during Trevstock. Other than that, great turnout, music all the way through. People seemed happy with it, so overall a very successful event.

**ELECTION TIMELINE REVIEW (Chair)**

AS: In recent years, there’s been a downward trend with election engagement. The general consensus amongst Steering was that there were too many elections each term, typically 2-3, and people aren’t too excited about them. Regarding other colleges, Castle have one big election, other colleges also have offline ballots but I’m unsure how feasible that is here. What Steering suggested was reducing number of elections, having the first Michaelmas election for Tier 3 and any vacant positions. Second elections (also in Michaelmas) will be exclusively for Tier 1 positions – one big election we can more effectively publicise around college, with 5-6 positions open as opposed to 4. Remaining Tier 1 positions will then be elected at the start of Epiphany. We have too many positions to condense to one election, but two seems feasible. The second Epiphany election will be for Tier 2s. The main issue considered is that we have a lot of Tier 2 positions, but we could potentially split them between the two Epiphany elections. So basically, a Tier 3 election, two Tier 1 elections, and then a Tier 2 election.

MH: I would suggest doing the Tier 2s along with the Tier 1s who oversee their positions.

DH: Would it be possible to have Tier 2 at the start of Epiphany and Tier 1 at the end? My worry having Tier 1 at the proposed times is people would be coming straight back from Christmas and not have enough time to consider their applications. We can think about what Tier 1s we want to do in Michaelmas, potentially the one’s with the most Tier 2s? Then it also means the JCR Meetings aren’t always preceded by husts and elections.

AS: We could have one meeting primarily about elections and another more focused on motions/agendas/college life.

DH: Publicity could help with that.

MH: Are you able to postpone motions? Maybe postpone grittier motions to a meeting less affected by elections?

AS: The length of meetings is another concern. The recent one was quite short, but usually they’re very long and people lose interest. We do need a motion for freshers to keep them engaged.

MH: The formal one will be nice in that its give them more freedom, so it’s a good motion for the first meeting.

DH: I’d be surprised if it was ready by then. We have to speak to college first by courtesy.

AS: Steering suggested that for the first Tier 1 election, we do President, Welfare Officers, Social Chair and either Chair or Vice President.

KP: I think we should add Treasurer, as that’s one of the big ones.

AS: Yep.

KP: Social is also helpful so they can start planning events with enough time.

DH: Should we include Clubs and Societies?

KP: I know someone was going to apply but they missed the deadline, so if it re-opens we can sort that out.

AS: We should probably open it after the person running the role has a better understanding of what the role entails.

KP: Also what about Buttery Chair? That one’s quite important.

AS: So at the time moment, the second Tier 1 election will be for Vice President, Publicity Officer, Buttery Chair, Services Officer, Clubs & Societies Rep and International Rep. We could move the Buttery Chair, but I feel it fits better with the roles in the second one.

DH: I think its fine. I have another suggestion. What other colleges do is elect their President quite late (latter half of Epiphany). Doing it early means people know who their President is and have more time to get acquainted with the role, but it could also mean we cut people off from applying who want more time to consider. Moving President election with everything else could be too much change.

AS: I might need to talk to college about this. I don’t know if they want to know who President is earlier in the year?

DH: Mid-Epiphany would be fine.

MH: Presidents are finalists and typically already have some JCR-involvement, so typically people will already have an idea if they want to run by Michaelmas of their final year.

KP: Also leaving it too late could be risky if no one runs.

DH: Having thought it through, its probably fine in Michaelmas, but its up to you guys.

AS: For Epiphany 1 elections, do we want to do all Tier 2s then?

MH: Is it worth having three in Epiphany for Tier 2s?

DH: We can do as many as we can for Tier 2s and do any remaining positions with the Tier 1s. It would be Head Freps for President, the six welfare positions, two for treasurer, and two for Social Chair. After that, we have Assistant Publicity, three for services, four for Clubs and Societies, one for International.

AS: That’s a lot of positions to do in two elections.

DH: I think this proposal is really good and it would definitely help with enegagement. Having more structure is definitely a good thing. We can use other meetings and publicity to boost this, and hopefully we can make elections more of an event again.

AS: There was also questions about campaigning. In Trevs, we’re very strict. Steering was of the view that social media campaigning should not be permitted, but not being able to say ‘vote for me’ was a bit extreme.

KP: What was the thought process behind prohibiting campaigning?

AS: Trevs elections are very laidback and subdued, I think it was to inhibit people from pestering voters.

DH: I see the no-campaigning thing as evening the playing field, as it greatly benefits those with good publicity skills. It gives people with other strengths an equal chance.

KP: Could people just say vote in the elections.

DH: It’s quite hard to police.

AS: Even despite the don’t say ‘vote for me’ thing, people still network. What are the freshers opinions?

PMG: It feels very daunting, a lot of people don’t apply as freshers because of this. Having them earlier will be good as handover should be easier. I’m already worried about finding a successor. Maybe better publicity and more easily accessible information could help.

MH: GL did a really light-hearted video which I think was helpful.

AS: TG and myself need to come up with a better publicity strategy. We can also encourages freshers to go for Tier 2 roles.

MH: When is Summer Ball Chair, as that needs to be early?

DH: I would suggest having Summer Ball Chair elected in Easter, which we obviously can’t do next year. In my first year, it wasn’t a JCR-wide election. We could have it right after Summer Ball to have it elected for the following year.

KP: What other elections are happening in Easter?

AS: Any remaining positions. We can add Summer Ball Chair to Michaelmas 1 for this year, and have it in Easter going forwards.

KP: So the remaining Tier 2s and Tier 1 will be in Michaelmas 1.

AS: Are people generally in favour of husting for Tier 2s?

PMG: One on hand, its good to explain yourself to people, but also it can deter a lot of people.

DH: All elections are technically contested as you’re running against RON.

KP: I think we’d get more engagement without husting.

DH: I have some reservations about this as we’ve had issues with Tier 2s engaging in their roles, so if they don’t hust, this could exasperate this issue. It’s part of showing your commitment to the role.

AS: We can review this at a later date. I may contact you guys over the summer and during freshers for feedback and with a proposal. We could present this during the first Freshers meeting.

**YEAR END REVIEW (President)**

DH: I just want to have a little chat with how people think this year went overall. I’ll open up the floor for general feedback.

KP: Events seemed pretty popular, financially we made a lot more profit. One thing I’ve learned through interaction with non-freshers and non-finalists is they’re less likely to come to events, especially if they are livers out.

MH: A good change to Welfare having two officers – I think it was necessary and put us in a good position for next year. Hopefully it should be even smoother next year.

DH: How did you find the college meeting?

PMG: Pretty positive.

DH: Yeah, it shows they’re happy with what we’ve done this term. It’s been a wonderful year. They just want the best for college. What I would like to do is release a JCR feedback survey to be released next week. I’ll draft something up, send it to you guys so you can add whatever, and you guys can work on it for next year.

MH: I think people would need to be incentivized to do it in order to get a decent turn out.

DH: This could be individual or collective. We could do a raffle for a gift card or something, or we could do it by benchmark.

MH: Individual probably better for finalists.

DH: So the draft should be ready by next Thursday at 12pm. I’ll share as soon as I can and talk to Martin about how best to get engagement over the Summer.

MH: Maybe section it off into the various categories, like welfare, services, etc.

DH: Yep, and leave everything optional. I also want to have individual meetings – about an hour each – to go over plans for next year, relay information, and make sure everyone is prepared to reduce pressure on GL and that you guys feel comfortable. Michaelmas, especially Freshers, is very stressful. I’ll send over availabilities on Monday and you guys can book it with me. Regarding the parenting scheme, I’ve not had any updates from Martin, but I’ll let you guys know as soon as I get information from college. MH, would you be happy to work with AO and TH on it?

MH: Yeah, sounds fine. I’ve got a few other jobs I need to do over summer anyway.

DH: Before we move on, over the summer, please do check your emails every now and then but also take time to rest. If you feel I’m sending too many messages over the next month, let me know. Is everyone happy to still be communicated with on a once-a-week basis?

*[general agreement]*

**PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR (President)**

DH: I’ve got four weeks of handover with GL. I’m going to suggest a second bonding before all the freps arrive on the 17th. I’ll try to get him to contact you guys at some point over the next few weeks as I think an exec debrief before frepping starts is vital. It will be more of a rundown of freshers week, a rundown of Michaelmas, and it should hopefully be more chill than the Easter one. We’ll have individual meetings about the next year, but keep in mind everything college office said in the meeting. Try to get in contact with Tier 2s, empower them to think ahead, and it’ll make all your lives easier. The earlier you get in contact with people, the better, be it college, Tier 2s or 3s.

KP: What about the Tier 2s for unelected position?

DH: Currently I’ve taken over the Clubs and Societies Tier 2s, but its not fair to assume GL will be happy doing the same.

PMG: I can take Music Reps.

KP: I can take Sports Rep. I think Charity & Volunteering were under Treasurer as well.

DH: We can leave Sports under GL as they’re friends.

**AOB**

PMG: I’m thinking of maybe bringing a motion to have Events Comm not be elected. Could I write a motion for this?

AS: Yep, I’ll send the templates to you. It will need a 2/3 majority as it changes the Standing Orders.

KP: I thought Jim implemented this?

PMG: You still had to be elected last I checked.

MH: It’s still in the Standing Orders.

PMG: We could cap it at 10 or 15. It is just because we don’t have many members.

KP: Would we have people exploiting this to get discounts? People could show up to one thing and expect a discount.

PMG: I’ll reiterate that it’s up to the Social Chair’s discretion.

DH: Regarding the pricing of things, levy is still at £140. Are gowns still at £59?

KP: Do we know how many we need to order for freshers?

DH: Let’s buy around 250.

MH: We do have a lot of second-hand ones. If it’s on e-commerce, I imagine most people would go for second-hand just because its cheaper.

DH: I’ll chat with Gym Reps later, but basically, the levy for the gym has to increase. We don’t have enough money to maintain the gym. I think we’ll increase it to £45 for the year, which I think is still fair for the services provided.

*[general agreement]*

DH: We also have Platinum Passes.

KP: I can talk to GL about it.

DH: Yeah, make sure you consider how much discount you actually get.

KP: What about Gold Pass?

DH: That’s always £5 less than Platinum.