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**TREVELYAN COLLEGE JCR MINUTES**

JCR Executive Committee Meeting 2023

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**PRESENT**

George Little **President**

Thomas Hewitt **Vice President**

Hugo Fung **International Rep**

Alysia Orbell **Welfare Officer**

Matthew Hall **Welfare Officer**

Kush Pandey **Treasurer**

Patricia Moreno-González **Social Chair**

Samawiya Asim **Services Officer**

Tennyson Godsell **Publicity Officer**

James Taylor **Buttery Chair**

Akshita Singh **Chair**

George Scholey **Bar Sabb**

**INDIVIDUAL REPORTS**

MH & AO: In the middle of our housing campaign, doing daily posts. Drop-ins are happening roughly 5 times a week (ran by the Welfare Officers, Assistants Welfare Officers, and other Welfare Tier 2s).

GS: The bar is running. Applications will open with Buttery applications.

HF: Thinking about the next language café next Tuesday. I’ll prepare a snack list and send it to KP. It will probably be a Mahjong session.

AS: Are you handling the Global Gormal?

SA: We’ve been planning activites for after the formal together.

TG: Had a few issues sending out the newsletter – have emailed IT about it so should hopefully be resolved soon.

PMG: Nothing much at the moment. I’ll start working on Winter Ball soon – might reach out to photographers this week. Waiting for Events Committee to be elected before we start knuckling down with preparations.

KP: Accounts looking good, everything has been reconciled. We’re working on the subs for various societies and clubs. Tier 2s know what they’re doing. Had some treasurer training earlier in the week.

GL: What’s happening with Finance Committee?

KP: Applications will open at the end of the month.

JT: Some of the football teams have been having issues getting the referees to sign the receipt. How strict are you on that?

KP: They should try their best as I can’t really hunt the referee’s down. I know some of the new captains were panicking a bit as they were struggling to get them to.

GL: We’re not too strict.

JT: Buttery applications have been delegated to GL. Really good sales recently, so we’re expanding opening hours on Thursdays.

TH: Stash is now open for a week. This round of stash is the standard set and LGBTQ+ set. If this works well, we’ll continue running it in this way. The boards in the Lower JCR have also been updated. Do we know if the MCR boards have been updated?
GL: I don’t think so.

SA: Done with Landing and Academic formals. Now focusing on Global Formal. Menu has been decided and publicised. We have a collaborative, multi-cultural playlist which people have been adding songs to. I’m planning on inviting the President of the Durham PoC Association to attend.

AS: The Trevs JCR mailing list has been updated. What’s our plan for updating this mailing list as people sign up for JCR membership?

KP: I’ll send updates every two weeks.

AS: Great. Elections are opening soon. I do need to confirm the date. There’ll be a JCR Meeting on October 22nd.

GL: I’ve been working with the rugby team on a legal contract for sponsorship, but that won’t be going ahead unfortunately. Parenting applications are ongoing, and I will meet with Welfare Officers and VP to approve them and arrange the academic families next week. We’ve also got the housing talk tomorrow. Regarding the catering changes, I’ve not got an update at the moment. I’m trying to organising a meeting with the staff with the Castle President.

**ROLE OF THE COLLEGE PLACEHOLDER IN TREVS JCR (President)**

GL: Last year the SU voted to get rid of the JCR DSU Rep. Instead, we have a college placeholder to sit on the SU assembly to vote and bring up motions. What I wanted to discuss is that any member of college can go for it, regardless of JCR membership. If someone goes for college placeholder, do we want to integrate them into the exec? Some people in the SU don’t like this change and want to reverse it, so I’m meeting with Will Brown (SU Undergraduate (UG Academic Officer) tomorrow to discuss this. If it looks likely, we can probably hold off. The key question is do we want to invite the college placeholder onto the exec in an exofficio capacity?

TH: At the moment we have no obligation to. Informally it would be great to have good communication with them. AS or GL could definitely reach out to them to invite them to an exec meeting if there’s a big SU issue. In my view, formally integrating them isn’t the best course of action.

JT: We don’t need to make this decision now.

GL: Last year they didn’t have many colleges fill this role, though Trevs has always been good at SU engagement.

GS: It’s probably worth waiting to see if anyone actually runs for it.

AS: When do nominations close?

GL: On October 19th – a week tomorrow.

TH: I saw Cuth’s have a separate arrangement with the SU.

GL: I was approached about that. Essentialy what it would mean is that we’d run the election but SU rules still apply, so it would just be more work for the JCR. They didn’t give colleges much time to consider it. It doesn’t make loads of difference as long as we can promote it.

AS: We’ll just leave it for now and might bring it up in the next JCR meeting. Do we want to bring this up as a discussion point? On a constitutional level, I’m unsure that we as an exec appoint them as a Tier 1 without JCR members voting.

**ELECTION TIMELINE FINAL DISCUSSION (Chair)**

AS: In the final meeting of last year, we discussed a motion changing the election timeline because a lot of freshers and students last year felt there were too many elections and meetings, leading to a loss of interest. We’ve been struggling to fill all Tier 1 positions, so I feel we need to revitalize the culture. We created a preliminary timeline. I do need two volunteers from the exec to draft the motion which will be put forward at the JCR meeting (October 22nd). If the motion passes, we can implement the new schedule going forward.

TH: I’ll propose.

GL: I’ll second.

AS: I can send you guys the details we agreed upon. The upcoming election this term will just be for Tier 3 positions (committees) and any unfilled Tier 1 and 2 positions, as well as Summer Ball Chair. Please promote these as much as possible. Once the motion is drafted, it would be great if you could send it into the exec chat so we can refine it, as this is all preliminary at the moment.

TH: I guess our main aims are making elections more coherent and boosting participation, so I think we should make those our guiding principals.

AS: We definitely need a big election this term to get the buzz going and gage how successful the new timeline is. We’re only adding two more exec positions to the first term.

MH: The positions in first term don’t normally have freshers running for them.

AS: We also have President in Epiphany, which could be difficult to deal with if no runs for it. Once the motion is drafted, we can discuss the specifics in more detail next week. Some other colleges have only two elections a year - I know Castle do it like that. I think its worth giving this change a shot as we’ve had low voting and meeting turnouts. JCR meetings can still be independent from elections – maybe one per term if issues come up and with a more informal vibe. Any questions?

KP: I think the informal JCR meeting would be a bad idea as people often come just for the hustings. We might struggle to get enough people.

GS: If there’s good discussion points, I think enough people should come.

KP: Generally we have low turn out though. We’d need a juicy discussion point or motion.

AS: If the husts go on too long, we don’t really want the meeting to go too long with lots of motions, as people often complain they’re too long.

GL: We could develop a build up of motions without an extra meeting.

MH: Could we just make it so we don’t have motions for meetings with husts? We could advertise it as hustings and discussion points – no motions.

AS: Fair enough. I think in the last meeting, we discussed people wanting enough time to consider running for positions.

KP: We also want to give Tier 1 electees enough time to get to know the role and speak to current exec members.

AS: Handover Formal is March 12th, so they should have enough time.

GL: I think it’s got potential, we just need to execute it.

AS: There was also a question as to whether we need hustings for Tier 2s.

PMG: I know a lot of people are held back by the hustings.

KP: What is the purpose of a hust?

GS: A chance for people to ask questions.

GL: They’re a key part in assessing their plans and ideas, and whether they have a good grasp on the role.

AS: The thing is the majority of voters don’t attend the husts.

MH: Could we just do a Q&A instead of a hust?

AS: That change would definitely have to be passed as a motion. I do think husts play a very important role in contested elections.

TH: That makes it sound like uncontested elections aren’t important.

GS: The point is you get more of a understanding of someone’s character. At the end of the day, your role requires you to talk to a lot of people.

SA: I think husts show your commitment.

MH: Could we reduce the time for Tier 2s?

AS: I’ll keep an eye on the number of questions and keeping things timely. It would be helpful if TH could sit with me and we can talk through things so we have something concrete to present

TH: Yep.

**SUMMER BALL LOCATION DISCUSSION (President)**

GL: Just trying to gage opinions on hypothetical situations for Summer Ball. The only feasible place at the moment would be Hardwick Hall, or maybe Beamish but that’s unlikely. Essentialy, there’s an option to have a marquis on the race course, which could give us a lot more money to pump into the event. We’d need to sort a bar out, though.

GS: I know place that could manage that.

GL: The location is obviously very contained and limits where you can go and what we can do. It would remove coach costs.

GS: Could we get rides down there?

GL: Probably.

KP: Can we get the formal meal there?

GL: Yep, we could get a catering company in, or the university could sort it. It would be different, but I don’t know if going somewhere outside of Durham is part of the appeal.

MH: Castle do it on the green.

GL: A lot of colleges do it within Durham.

GS: Would it be worth asking other colleges to split the cost of the marquis?

GL: With Hardwick, we can often split costs with other colleges as a lot of colleges go to the same place. Do we think people would be interested?

GS: I think it’s worth looking into, depending on how much we’re saving.

TH: What would we invest the saved money in?

GS: We would need to sort out food, rides, and if we’re not splitting costs with any other colleges, we might not be saving money at all. Also we don’t have as many photo locations.

JT: Yeah, putting it simply, we’re choosing between hotels and manors or a tent.

MH: It would be very weather dependant.

GS: My main concern is everyone will just disappear home at whatever time rather than congregating at Trevs. They’ll just head to Jimmy’s. We could keep the bar open to 2am if we apply now and the dates fully confirmed.

GL: That won’t be done until next term. I just wanted to gage thoughts.

JT: It feels like it could potentially become even more expensive.

GL: The advantage of a venue like Hardwick Hall is they organise the events for you, which removes some of the work and legal obligations.

**FORMALS PROCEDURE FOR EXEC (President)**

GL: Last year there was a discussion as to how the exec work formals. We agreed five exec working every formals, always including the President and VP. I was just wondering how we do this in the most fair way. Do we want to actually plan this out, or just leave it on a voluntary basis?

KP: Are we going to give the exec free formals if they’re working?

GL: Yep.

KP: That comes out of the catering budget. Could we just do a sign-up basis and fill in any gaps closer to the date?

PMG: What does working a formal actually entail?

GL: Giving out tokens and manning the door. After the formal, tidy the wine glasses and keep an eye on the bar night, and just help out a bit and keep an eye out.

MH: You are sat on the end of the table, and won’t be with other exec.

GL: Does anyone want to work the formal next week?

(SA, AS and TG agree)

GL: You can drink if you’re working it so long as you’re still able to help out.

**AOB**

TH: Is it proposed that Wednesday becomes the regular time?

GS: Preferably not as it’s a busy night for me.

AS: Also E Meeting Room is booked on Wednesday’s from 19:30. What are people’s preferences?

GL: Last year we did Tuesday?

MH: It could be a formal day though.

GL: We can be slightly flexible.

PMG & SA: We have things until 6pm. We could do 6:30pm.

AS: So 18:30 every Tuesday?

(general agreement)

MH: We might have to change next term as STEM timetables change.