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**TREVELYAN COLLEGE JCR MINUTES**

JCR 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**

Patri Moreno-González **Social Chair**

Tennyson Godsell **Publicity Officer**

James Taylor **Buttery Chair**

Akshita Singh **Chair**

George Scholey **Bar Sabb**

**Apologies:**

Samawiya Asim **Services Officer**

**EXEC REPORTS**

GL: I’m President, I oversee everything and work with the exec to organise things like Freshers Week. This term, I’m planning things like the parenting scheme, so if any returners want to sign up, please do.

TH: I’m Vice President, my main responsibilities are regarding formal discipline, stash (orders opening soon), and Trevs Talks.

MH & AO: We’ve been organising all the welfare stuff for freshers week. Keep an eye out for all the welfare campaigns coming up throughout the year.

PMG: As Social Chair, I’m in charge of events, decorations and activities. I’ll be planning Winter Ball which is the big event at the end of term, so be sure to join Events Committee if you’d like to help out.

TG: I’m Publicity Officer, so my main responsibilities are running Trevs JCR social media accounts on Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, and TikTok. I also manage the JCR noticeboards around college, the JCR website and minute exec and JCR meetings (which is why I’m up here aggressively typing).

AS: I’m Chair. I host these meetings 2-3 times a term, and run elections for JCR positions throughout the year. Tier 3 elections will be opening soon, so please take part (no husts!).

JT: I’m in charge of the Buttery. I apologise for lack of paper plates at the minute. You can buy toasties, snacks and other essentials from us, and job applications will be opening soon.

HF: I’m the International Rep. International freshers week went well, thank you to all the freps who helped. More and more cultural events are coming up this year, like language cafes, formals and a concert.

GS: I run the bar, job applications will be opening soon. I help out with a lot of events so if anyone has any ideas let me know.

KP: I’m the Treasurer, so I’m in charge of financial stuff in the JCR and selling platinum passes, JCR levys and those type of things. I’m also in charge of Finance Committee (FinComm), so please sign up when elections open. I also oversee all the JCR financial support schemes. I basically am responsible for anything expense-related to do with the JCR. Feel free to email me if you have any questions.

AS: So we are the exec. Please feel free to come up to any of us around college or at drop-ins if you have any issues or would like to have have a chat.

**FINANCE REPORT**

*Presented by: Kush Pandey (Treasurer)*

KP: A lot of you have paid the JCR levy, gym membership, platinum passes, etc, so you may be asking, where has all my money gone? I’m here to explain how your money has been used. Going over last year’s expenses, we made a big profit on Winter Ball. Trevs Night was excellent, but Summer Ball less so – though it was still an improvement on the previous year. This was largely due to a lower than expected attendance, so please do come along. As our biggest event, we invest more in it and typically expect to come up at a loss. As a smaller college, our finances are a bit tighter, but we can work around that.

The budget for the upcoming year is sectioned into two parts. The first part is split into ‘money in’ and ‘money out.’ ‘Money in’ constitutes university grants and JCR levys, and also any MCR contributions to events. This is how we fund our committees, societies, and events, which are our main expenditures. Committees are assigned a certain amount of money at the start of the year (e.g. FinComm gets £5000). We as a JCR also contribute a small amount to other events like the sports and musicians dinners. We also have financial support schemes like TBAGS. The next big chunk goes to GL’s salary, but we have started making steps towards keeping this money in the JCR. Other expenditures include things like the airbeds in the JCR office which we loan out, or the pizzas for JCR meetings.

Activities 2 is the extra stuff alongside our main events. What we’re looking for by the end of the year is to lose approximately £6.8K, which isn’t too bad and is less than last year. In the long run, it will allow us to make changes. Here’s a pie chart on expenses. GL takes a lot as President, FinComm takes a fair amount to funnel into Trevs societies. Events takes up a big part as well. Obviously we can’t hire out for every event as it’s too expensive. It contributes to decorations, ENTs, food, and so on. Catering, admin expenses, music, welfare, and the likes take up a part of it. We’re trying to make sure what you paid for gets back to you, and is used to enhance your Trevs experience.

Our opening balance is £35K. Clubs and societies also own £14K (approx.) and we have £20K in our reserve balance, which we may dip in to if desperate but we should be fine. Our finances are looking strong all things considered. Since COVID, our finances as a college have been a mess. My key aims for the year ahead are accountability and sustainability. If we lose money every year, we’ll lose the JCR, so we want to minimise losses to prevent this and keep the JCR going for future Trevs students.

*(AS asks for any questions but none are asked)*

**DISCUSSION POINT: Catering Changes**

*Proposed by: George Little (President)*

GL: I just wanted to say there has been some changes to catering this year. Since most livers in are first years and don’t know any different, I just wanted to let you know what it used to be. Desserts used to be every day, but are now once a week. We used to have a sandwhich bar and a more extensive salad bar for lunches. Roast dinners have also gone down to once every three weeks as opposed to once a week. We’re going to be discussing these changes at President Committee (Pres Comm) in the coming weeks so I just wanted to try and gauge support from first years.

AS: Hopefully next JCR meeting we’ll have a concrete plan after talking to other colleges. It’s not fair to you guys, but we’ll have another discussion over this.

**MOTION 1: Frep Thank You Dinner**

*Proposed by: James Koo (JK)*

*Seconded by: Clemie Vong (CV)*

JK: First things first, round of applause for the frep team please. *[applause]* For all our hard work, we’d like to propose this motion where we get a dinner for our work. The frep team have been working tirelessly for the last fortnight, the exec and head freps for months. It’s just a way to thank the freps for their hard work.

***MOTION PASSED BY VOTE***

AS: Could you maybe elaborate on what you guys as head freps and the rest of the frep team have been working on?

JK: Talking to college staff, external companies, a lot of coordinating, trying to communicate with the freps. Throughout freshers week we’ve been overseeing the frep team, organising move-in, getting freshers to matriculation, organising and running activities.

As head freps, we’ve been talking to and co-ordinating plans and events for Freshers Week between college staff, externak companies, and the frep team. Throughout Freshers Week, we’ve been overseeing the frep team, organising move-in day and matriculation, along with organising and running the various activities in college.

CV: We also have Tier 2 members have also been a big help, like the Music Reps who helped with Unplugged yesterday.

**MOTION 2: Financial Support Scheme Transparency**

*Proposed by: Kush Pandey*

*Seconded by: George Little*

KP: Update standing orders to include financial support schemes the JCR offers. I would like amend the standing orders to resolve this. The main changes were adding a TCUP section and a TBAGS section and an Expeditions section. Hopefully raising awareness of these schemes will promote their use?

AS: Any questions of clarity or substance? [none]

***MOTION PASSED BY VOTE***

**MOTION 3: Formal Rules Review**

*Proposed by: Thomas Hewitt*

*Seconded by: Samawiya Asim*

TH: We always review formal rules at the start of the academic year. This agreement is shared between the JCR, MCR and SCR. We’ve had feedback from the past few cohorts, in JCR Committee, and in exec and JCR meetings, about the need to amend formal rules and negotiated to have a change to these rules. At the moment, if anyone leaves the formal for any reason, they can’t come back in, even in cases of mental or physical well-being. The agreement we’ve got from college is they can leave with permission from the Vice President, and must be sought outside of periods where food is being served by the catering staff. It’s not an open door policy – only exceptional circumstances. You may think an open-door policy is preferred, but college aren’t willing to accept this at the moment. This is only temporary for Michaelmas term, and we’ll review it after and permanately agree to them as long as they aren’t abused. Again, we’ve based this on feedback from previous years.

AS: Any questions of clarity or substance?

Question 1: So if this were passed, would it be best for people to email you beforehand?

TH: In terms of how it will work in practice, you can flag me at the door. If an emergency happens within the formal, you can just come up to me – it doesn’t need to be an email.

Question 2: Considering we don’t have a Disabilities Rep at the moment, I’d like to ask if we could re-word the phrasing, ‘exceptional circumstances,’ as this could create an additional barrier to people?

TH: Definitely, we’ve got the whole of this term to agree upon wording. You can suggest more appropriate wording to college more or myself. We want formals to be as inclusive as possible, and the wording should reflect that.

Question 3: How do you judge what is valid reason and what isn’t?

TH: It would essentially be a trust system. It’s important that this sytem is not abused as otherwise college may shut it down. If people do mislead myself, we could punish people in some way.

Question 4: What is the issue staff have with people leaving?

TH: Part of it is tradition. We’re one of the only colleges with such draconian rules and the agreement hasn’t been changed in years. Staff believe its traditional and teaches life skills and discipline. Also our formals are rarely over an hour long, where larger colleges with more flexible policies have longer formals. Allowing people to come and go all the time somewhat defeats the purpose of the rule. Perhaps college will become more lenient in future years.

Question 5: How do you plan to ascertain why people need to leave without having them have to expose personal details?

TH: It needs only be a brief explanation. I’m not expecting a full medical history. It will just be done on a trust basis.

Question 6: When the high table finishes a meal, it shifts for everyone else. Is there anyway we can extend that time or standardise it, as I couldn’t finish my soup because of timing reasons.

TH: It’s not a formal thing, just a matter of procedure and courtesy. We can informally speak to college staff about this. Was this an issue for other people?

*[general agreement]*

JCR Member: Our table got served towards the end, so we had a lot less time.

AS: We can definitely give feedback to college staff about your feelings regarding formals.

***MOTION PASSED BY VOTE (2 against)***

**SUGGESTIONS AND GRIEVANCES**

JCR Member: I live in Shoichi Hall. Is it possible to get a ping pong table as you guys have a pool table?

KP: We don’t own Shoichi Hall, it’s owned by the university and we hire them out. I’d speak to Madeline there. You can also apply through FinComm, and I can speak to college about it.

MH: You could also see if Mary’s would be willing to contribute, as they share the space.

AS: Feel free to email college staff as well if you’re passionate about it.

JCR Member: There are a lot of different rules regarding posters and putting things up on the walls. Could we make this more uniform?

AS: College is very strict and they do a maintenance check when you move out. It’s up to your discretion. I get what you mean by wanting one standardised policy, but that would most likely be college’s strictest policy.

JCR Member: They’ve been taking things off walls when we’ve been out.

GL: I’m meeting the Operations Manager so can talk to them about it.

AS: We’ll discuss it in the next exec meeting.

MH: It’s always been a general policy that they’re stricter with corridors and communal spaces, and less so with rooms and personal spaces.

CV: I do feel it would be better to have a uniform policy.

JCR Member: They said we could put stuff up, but not too much, and didn’t really provide much clarity. They don’t seem to know what’s right, and neither do we.

AS: I’m sure GL can bring it up when he meets with the Operations Manager.

JCR Member: We’ve had some issues with black mould in bedrooms.

GL: I haven’t heard about this. If I can catch you after we can sort it out.

AS: The JCR isn’t responsible for these kind of issues, but we can bring it up with college.

JCR Member: Why didn’t we get an agenda emailed out before this meeting?

AS: The JCR mailing list still needs to be updated. Next time we will circulate the agenda ahead of time.