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**TREVELYAN COLLEGE JCR MINUTES**

JCR Meeting 2023

22/10/23 18:30

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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**

Akshita Singh **Chair**

**Apologies:**

Samawiya Asim **Services Officer**

James Taylor **Buttery Chair**

George Scholey **Bar Sab**

**EXEC REPORTS**

KP: Everything looking good financially. Looking busy going ahead. FinComm opening some time this week, so societies and clubs can ask for money to help them run. Quarterly finance meeting with college staff in two weeks time.

PMG: Not many updates. Winter Ball prep will be starting next week.

MH & AO: Housing campaign a few weeks ago and Alcohol Awareness next week.

TH: Stash orders now closed and will arrive early November, will be distrivuted from exec office. The company are offering designer stash for next term so we can think about things we’d want on that – I’ll set up a google form in a few weeks time. College is also organising a Careers in the City event next Saturday so it could be a good opportunity if you’re interested.

AS: Nominations have now been closed, hustings today and elections will be opening tomorrow. Please vote! I’ll be promoting that this week.

GL: Elections for college placeholder with the SU so please vote in that. I’ve been working on the parenting scheme and processing applications. I’ve been talking to the uni about catering, the housing crisis, and financial sustainability on a JCR level, I’ll be meeting with Jeremy Cook to discuss these, and have been liasing with the Charirty Officers on Charity events.

TG: Nothing major to report, just been trying to promote things going on in college through social media, posters, and things like that alongside my assistant, Ben. Had meeting with Martin to discuss how things have been going and he seemed happy with how things have been going.

AS: Any Tier 2 updates?

Lyn (Music Rep): There’s an Halloween-themed Unplugged next Saturday on the 28th of October in Trevs bar – please come!

**MOTION 1: Environment Officer to sit on Finance Committee**

*Proposed by: Rosie Rochester (RR)*

*Seconded by: Kush Pandey (KP)*

RR: This motion is basically to make the Environment Officer (EO) a permanent member on Finance Committee. Other Tier 2s already have this, and adding the EO would help promote sustainability in college and encourage the JCR to think critically about the sustainability and ecological impact of any purchases. I think we should make it so future EO’s can be on that committee without having to be elected. I want to amend the Finance Committee’s description in the Standing Orders to include the EO as well as adding to the EO’s job description.

***MOTION PASSED BY VOTE (unanimously)***

**MOTION 2: JCR Elections Reform**

*Proposed by: Thomas Hewitt (TH)*

*Seconded by: George Little (GL)*

TH: So this motion is proposing to adapt our election system to make it clearer and more easy to understand in hopes of boosting participation. The motion has come about as myself and AS discussed the low turnout in elections in the last few years with Steering Committee in an attempt to address these concerns. At the moment, we have six elections spread out throughout the year, resulting in election fatigue and low participation. This can also lead to people not fully understanding the election process with the various positions spread seemingly randomly throughout the year. This motion hopes to simplify this, having one election in Michaelmas for Tier 3 positions (committees). This would be followed by a Tier 1 election in early Epiphany term, and a Tier 2 election later in Epiphany term. A further election could be held in Easter term for Summer Ball Chair and any unfilled positions, at the discretion of the Chair. We hope that having more positions available will boost engagement and make elections more of an event like in other colleges. Moving all the Tier 1 elections to Epiphany means we give people time to consider whether they want to stand and commit to these positions. One of the other changes is to extend Tier 1 campaigning rules to Tier 2s, as these are often more contested. Another change is that if Tier 2s run as a pair and one drops out, that position would be re-opened for election as they are a joint mandate, since this hasn’t been addressed in the constitution so far. We would amend the standing orders to reflect these changes.

AS: Any questions of clarity or substance?

Question 1: When I ran for a Tier 2 position, I was quite put off by husting. Do you think campaigning could be more daunting for Tier 2 positions?

TH: Campaigning is optional. It’s not a requirement. Campaigning in Trevs has always been quite chill, so I don’t imagine this would change much. Normally Tier 1s only make a poster. The main difference is Tier 1s can ask people to vote for them, but Tier 2s cannot. Neither can conduct any online promotions.

Question 2: Regarding the election of the Summer Ball Chair in Easter term, is that for the current year or the upcoming academic year?

TH: That would be for the upcoming academic year.

Question 3: Have you considered the fact that some people go for the exec depending on who the President is?

TH: Yes, we’ve thought about it. Lots of colleges have President elections in Epiphany and it’s a lot more contested and gets more engagement. Last time we held it in Epiphany, it was contested. If the position isn’t filled, there’ll be another election for it.

Question 4: Coming into the system, the Tier system doesn’t make sense to people. What do they mean?

TH: The tier system is basically about how much responsibility the roles requires, with Tier 3 being the lowest, only giving up a couple of hours a term. Tier 2 takes up more time.

AS: Tier 2s also work more directly with Tier 1s.

MH: In terms of welfare, Tier 1s are in charge of the overall system, and Tier 2 are responsible for more specific things. So the Tier 2 LGBTQ+ Rep organises Pride and stuff like that.

TH: Tier 1 roles are a bigger commitment and have a heavier workload throughout the year, whereas the workload for Tier 2s is generally less intense or more fluctuating.

Question 5: Could we make this distinction clearer, as I was very confused with this round of elections?

AS: Yes. Also anyone can run for any positions regardless of their year.

TH: One point to address is that husts may be considerably longer. There may be a possibility to do a stand alone hust separate from the JCR Meeting, or we could just extend the hust. Not all positions are filled in an election normally, so this quite unlikely and the impact wouldn’t be too major.

***MOTION PASSED BY VOTE (unanimously)***

**MOTION 3: Events Committee Membership**

*Proposed by: Patrcia Moreno-González (PMG)*

*Seconded by: Alysia Orbell (AO)*

PMG: What this motion aims to do is to make Events Committee voluntary rather than elected. People would just come up to the Social Chair and ask to be added to the group chat. It would be a much easier process than having to wait for elections. A lot freshers and other JCR members may not know these elections are running, so this is a lot more flexible. After speaking to people, many students struggle with having to write 150 words on something that is quite relaxed – there isn’t really a criteria. Many committees have a specific amount of positions open. At the moment, we have 7, but the more people we have, the easier events preparations are. Tier 2 and 3 positions helping with events normally get a discount, which could be exploited, so giving out discounts will be up to the Social Chair’s discretion. People who get more involved will get the discount as we do have to keep finance in mind. So the main change to standing order would be opening up the committee to anyone on a voluntary basis.

JCR Member: What’s to stop future Social Chair’s from exploiting the system to get their friends discounts? Maybe a numerical thing like if you attend X amount of meetings you get an X% discount or something?

PMG: I think we just need to have a bit of faith in the Social Chair. I was thinking of having a log of meeting attendance to monitor this. There will be other people on the exec, such as Chair and the Treasurer, and also the Assistant Social Chair to hold the Social Chair accountable.

JCR Member: If we could get an amendment to include something to do with accountability between the SC, ASC, and Treasurer.

(general agreement)

***MOTION PASSED BY VOTE***

**SUGGESTIONS & GRIEVANCES**

JCR Member: Regarding the lack of heating in college, the email we all received essentially told us all to suck it up and stop complaining. Some of us would like a timeline as to how the heating is running, as it is included in the rent according to our contract.

GL: The uni had a lot of issues over the weekend. We can’t give a timeline right now, but if its going to be a significant amount of time, we can looking at seeking action. How many days has it been?

JCR Member: D Block hasn’t received any heating.

JCR Member: Two of our showers haven’t been working and we’ve received no communication about it.

JCR Member: Am I right in saying this isn’t on the JCR?

GL: Yes, but I do work with college. If there are any issues you can talk to me and I can flag it with them.

JCR: Is there a better way of communicating our issues to college?

AS: You can communicate directly with college.

GL: The best person to go to would be the Operations Manager, Janice Ware.

JCR Member: Why isn’t there a college rep in these meetings so they can here what people have to say.

GL: It’s not really their area.

AS: I’m going to invite the Principal to the next meeting so you can express any concerns with them then. They seemed intrested in coming.

JCR: What’s happening with the coffee in the dining hall?

AS: I’d suggest emailing the Services Officer as they have direct communication with the catering team.

JCR: Do we know when the JKH door will be fixed?

GL: I haven’t heard anything but I imagine by tomorrow.

JCR: With the Winter Ball, has the theme been decided? Could we make it clearer as the Freshers Bop wasn’t really made clear or announced ahead of time.

PMG: We’ll meet next week and discuss the theme. I’ll try to get it out as soon as possible.

GL: It’s much easier now people are here.

AS: If anyone has any suggestions, feel free to bring them up to the Social Chair or Publicity Officer.