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**TREVELYAN COLLEGE JCR MINUTES**

JCR Meeting 2023

26/11/23 18:30

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**PRESENT**

George Little **President**

Thomas Hewitt **Vice President**

Alysia Orbell **Welfare Officer**

Matthew Hall **Welfare Officer**

Kush Pandey **Treasurer**

Tennyson Godsell **Publicity Officer**

Isaac Chan **Clubs & Societies Officer**

James Taylor **Buttery Chair**

Akshita Singh **Chair**

George Scholey **Bar Sabb**

**Apologies:**

Hugo Fung **International Rep**

Patri Moreno-González **Social Chair**

Samawiya Asim **Services Officer**

**EXEC REPORTS**

IC: So far, I’ve been focusing on supporting my Tier 2s and making myself aware of what they’re up to and their goals. I’ve been talking to Patrick (Sports Rep) about the Sports Dinner and with Oli & Robbie (Charity Officers) about the Charity Ball. Besides that, I’ve been helping David (Art Rep) develop their position, as it hasn’t been filled for years. I’ll be focusing on the sports societies and trying to boost their engagement with the JCR.

JT: Buttery is going alright, we’ve hired new applicants and training’s ongoing. We’ve got Winter Ball next week which we’ll be working.

KP: Subs have been coming in for various societies, so please make sure you’ve paid these if you’re in any socieites. I’ve opened TBAGS applications for Winter Ball, the deadline is tomorrow at midnight. Been looking over payments for the Edinburgh Trip, Winter Ball and Live on the Hill (LotH). TCUPS opens next week.

TH: Stash arrived next week and has been distributed, please collect it by the end of term. JCR Committee is undergoing a JCR engagement and satisfaction review and will be running a table on Wednesday in the Cobbles to get feedback.

MH: Starting tomorrow, we’ve got our Welfaremas campaign until the end of term – we’ve got a post up about what’s going on.

GL: Working on the end of term, lots of Christmas events like Winter Ball – it’s looking to be a really good event. Edinburgh Trip on Sunday, a few tickets still available. Christmas Formal has been very popular. I’ve been communitcating a lot with the wider university about housing, catering changes, and I’m now starting to focus on next term.

AS: I’ve had a reduced workload with the changes to the elections timeline. I had my first meeting with Steering Committee, in which we discussed working on elections and promoting them for next term.

TG: I’ve been doing a lot of small things promoting things around college, mostly posters, the whiteboard, the newsletter, the website, and social media along with Ben (Assistant Publicity Officer). Main focus has been promoting Winter Ball. I’ve also started using the bulletin board in the Cobbles as a physical weekly timetable of events in college.

AS: PMG has sent her apologies. She has been preparing for Winter Ball, and wanted to remind everyone ticket sales close on Wednesday but some may be available on the door on the night. Any Tier 2 reports?

DW (Music Rep): LotH raised £2000 for charity which is amazing. Faced no issues running it.

RR (Environment Officer): I had a clothes swap which went well, hopefully another one later this year.

HN (Livers Out Rep): Was going to try and do a pizza evening for Livers Out in college. That will probably be happening next term but I’ll submit a funding application this week.

**DISUCSSION POINT: Update from LGBTQ+ Rep**

*Proposed by: Charlie Morris (CM)*

CM: I just wanted to have a chat about some issues people are having in college and I wanted to gage opinions on how people are feeling. The main point has been college staff misgendering people – around 3 people have approached me about this. I understand this may not be the best environment but feel free to come to my drop-in if you want to discuss this more privately. Also, we have LGBTQ+ history month in February, so please let me know if you have any ideas of events we could organise. Our bar night went pretty successfully so we’ll probably have a few more. I believe the theme is ‘Queer People in Medicine,’ and Hannah (Assistant Principal) and I have been looking at getting different speakers in.

GL: Was there any specific staff?

CM: A lot of the catering staff – everyone who’s come up to me has mentioned them, and I don’t think gendering is necessary when serving food.

AS: Please feel free to approach Charlie if you see them around, in their drop-ins or just on Instagram. GL can take it higher up.

MH: You can come to other drop-ins and we can pass the message along.

**MOTION 1: Trevelyan College Environment & Sustainablity Policy**

*Proposed by: Rosie Rochester (RR)*

*Seconded by: Thomas Hewitt (TH)*

RR: I’m your Environment Officer (EO). I’ve worked on this policy with other college’s Environment Officers. We’re just trying to make JCR’s recognise we’re in a climate emergency and we need to do something about it. It changes the EO’s role a little bit. We declare a climate emergency, need to be more environmentally conscious, and create a forum where JCR members and college staff meet to discuss environmental issues within college. The EO would have a termly meeting with the exec to ensure we’re on the same page and working on environmental sustainability, and working with Events Committee to ensure transparency and accountability when organising events. We just want to make sure the JCR is being environmentally conscious and keeping these issues in mind. There aren’t many long-term commitments for now. The other thing is that the EO in mandated to make an Environmental Report at the end of their term on environmental concenrs in college, like food waste and waste generated by events. I’m unsure what this specifically would consititue but it will develop with time. This motion would also change the EO’s title to Environment & Sustainability Officer (ESO), and set more specific goals and responsibilities for the ESO going forward. It would also change the name from Environment Committee to Eco Committee to reflect its less formal nature, and then Environment Committee will be the forum with JCR members and college staff.

AS: Any questions?

Question 1: I was just wondering if you’d considered making the ESO a Tier 1 position?

RR: I discussed this last year with the previous exec. I think in terms of priorities it should be up there, but the workload isn’t necessarily as intense. I changed it so the role would be under the Vice President rather than the Servies Officer, since Tier 1s fill the roles of any unfilled Tier 2 positions under them, and the Vice President doesn’t have any others so is more available to fulfil these duties.

AS: We’ll go to to vote.

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

**MOTION 2: JCR Sustainability Policy Motion**

*Proposed by: Rosie Rochester (RR)
Seconded by: Thomas Hewitt (TH)*

RR: This is the official motion to officially adopt what was outlined in the policy. I guess the most significant detail would be making an Environmental Sustainablity Clause part of society ratification, basically holding them accountable to environmental conscienceousness.

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

**MOTION 3: Removal of TCUP and Expeditions from the Annual Budget**

*Proposed by: George Little (GL)*

*Seconded by: Kush Pandey (KP)*

GL: This is not a motion we wanted to submit, but we feel it’s necessary. The JCR offers a range of financial support, including Expeditions (to fund academic and volunteering efforts over the holidays) and TCUP (for sports participation). The JCR finances are under a massive strain at the moment so we’re having to make cuts. This is an area we want to keep as we want to be able to support all our members, but it’s just not sustainable. Myself and KP met with Martin (Vice Principal) and Kunle (Principal) to discuss this, and we found that college and the JCR have a lot of overlap in the financial support we offer. College schemes are often undersubscribed and JCR schemes oversubscribed, so the motion is essentially to remove TCUP and Expeditions from our annual budget as a hopefully temporary measure, since college offer very similar funds. We hope these schemes will be brought back in the future, but it’s just not sustainable at the moment.

Question 1: How much money would this save? Is it significant?

GL: Our annual budget is projected for us to lose around £7500. We would save £3500 by axing this schemes. College are prepared to increase their student support budget.

Question 2: What is TCUPS?

GL: TCUPS is for helping out with subs and wider university participation. It would be great to continue it, but given the current state of finances, we need to focus on the JCR.

Question 3: Why would we approve this if we’re still losing money?

GL: We’re looking into other cuts, but most of these can be agreed upon between the Treasurer, Finance Committee and myself as President. These one’s are major so we thought we should bring them to the JCR. We do have reserves to cover this year, but we need to starting working on our financial sustainability.

KP: If we don’t make cuts on this, we’d have to cut budget for events, which is one of the main services the JCR offers. Stuff like balls and Unplugged’s comes out of the JCR budget, so those would be drastically affected if we can’t make these cuts. College has an Explore Fund which is essentially a broader TCUP, and Expeditions is covered by their various funds given out during Easter term. They have much more financial resources, and can support more people than we can.

Question 4: If college are so eager to support these activities, have discussions started regarding college giving money to the JCR to help run these schemes?

GL: It was discussed, but since it’s their money, they want to decide and be responsible for what is done with it. The goal would be for us a JCR to promote college schemes, and the more engagement they get this year, the more budget these funds will get going forward.

Question 5: If you’re talking to college about finances, could you discuss the cost of formals to staff and other things like that?

GL: It’s been discussed, but since catering was centralised across the university, this has proven to be very difficult to change.

JCR Member: There’s only so much leeway with formals.

GL: College are interested in financial support for students.

Question 6: Why are Trevs events so much smaller and done internally for the most part? It feels like we’re missing out when a lot of the Bailey colleges are doing their Winter Balls externally.

GL: I personally don’t feel that we’d have enough interest for something like that. We are the third smallest college in Durham, so we need a higher level of engagement to fund these bigger external events. We do have Summer Ball at the end of the year as a bigger, external event.

JCR Member: It does feel annoying seeing the big-scale events of other colleges compared to our smaller-scale events.

GL: It’s a difficult line to walk.

Question 7: You mentioned further cuts. How much are you expecting to save from these and could we shave these from things suh as Fin Comm? Is that easier than taking straight from events?

GL: We’re still analysing which cuts would be most appropriate. We don’t have anything concrete yet.

JCR Member: Regarding Winter Ball, I know of people who can’t afford to go to ours this year, even on a smaller scale. From a welfare perspective, that feeling of not being able to afford events can be quite alienating.

Question 8: Could we write into the motion that we will promote and advertise these college support schemes to ensure future execs?

AS: We could add it to the Treasurer’s job description, as I don’t think it would come under this motion.

***MOTION PASSED BY VOTE (unaniomously)***

**SUGGESTIONS & GRIEVANCES**

JCR Member: When’s the hot water in the Buttery being fixed?

JT: I’ll talk to Janice (Operations Manager) about it.