JCR Meeting 04/06/2023

Officer Reports:

Each member of the Executive Committee gave an officer report summarising their contributions since the previous meeting and sharing any updates.

1. Social Chair

IY noted that Summer Ball is approaching. She stated that there will be 2 post-exam gigs, the tickets for which cost £2.50. There will be musicians, performers, candy floss, popcorn, and the potential of winning a free Summer Ball ticket.

1. JCR SSO

LB noted that the sports teams did well today at the Festival of Sports, and reminded the JCR to keep an eye out for a post on the Facebook about collecting half-colour awards.

1. Welfare Officer

NG noted the new days for Welfare Hours.

1. Tech Chair

HB noted that he is creating a new website, and to let him know if anyone wants anything specific added to it.

1. Senior Frep

WJ noted that Frep tests are coming up.

1. Outreach Chair

LE noted that stash should be here by next week, and there is some left from last term, so to please pick that up. She also noted that she is working on a project with DASH.

1. Publicity Officer

RB noted that she will be working on the Fresher’s Handbook for next year, and stated that the Big Fat Quiz of the Year is happening next week.

1. Shop Chair

VD noted he met with College to discuss the terms of the Agreement. There were complaints that the queues were too long at the Shop during Summer Fest. Further, there are Starbucks drinks available at the Shop, as well as a new ‘Bossman’ toastie special. Soon, Shop Chair may go back up. He also noted that the new Casual Workers policy does not apply to Shop workers. During exam season, there were strikes accrued to Shop workers for being late and not turning up, which led to other people covering their shifts. Since this was during exam season, strikes will not be given that did not affect food and safety standards.

1. Bar Steward

SP hoped that everyone had a great time at Summer Fest yesterday. She noted that there is some Summer Fest stock left to buy at the Bar.

1. MCR President

OS noted that a new Research Conference has been launched for everyone at St Aidan’s, which is a great opportunity to practice speaking in front of people. Students can use any research that they have done, and submit a form through the Postgrads instagram to get involved. Students are able to simply attend, but they must register.

1. Compliance Officer

MS noted that she attended meetings with JE and Martyn (Chair of Trustees) and has been busy completely other administrative duties.

1. JCR Chair

SH noted that the Vice Chair is going up during this meeting.

1. JCR President

There was nothing to report.

Agenda

1. **Motion to suspend the requirement for 8 members for Local Students Society**

Proposed by Alfred Gibadulin, year?, course?

Seconded by Joseph Eaton, JCR President

AG noted that: currently the Society has less than 8 members, and so a change in the rules is necessary to get the society up and running.

**Questions, comments or amendments:**

Benjamin Steer asked whether it would better to find more people and get them together for the society, rather than change the rules.

IY noted that there are not many students from the North East, and they want to get the Society running before Fresher’s Week next year so that the freshers can join.

There were no amendments.

The motion passed unanimously.

1. **Motion to ratify the St Aidan’s Local Students Society**

Proposed by Alfred Gibadulin

Seconded by Joseph Eaton, JCR President

AG noted that: there is a low number of local students at Durham University, and this would be a great way to get together and get involved in the community.

**Questions, comments or amendments:**

George Sleight asked whether the society is just for Durham University students, to which AG responded yes.

There were no amendments.

The motion passed unanimously. There were 36 votes.

1. **Motion to consider the renaming of the JCR’s MCR Committee, MCR roles and MCR membership status at the request of the Principal**

Proposed by Joseph Eaton, JCR President

Seconded by Oscar Sill, MCR President

OS noted that: the College Principal would like the JCR to rename the MCR Committee. She has suggested ‘Mature Students Committee’, but this does not necessarily accurately reflect what the MCR does.

**Questions, comments or amendments:**

JE spoke against this motion.

There were no questions.

There were no amendments.

The motion failed. There were 38 votes against the motion. There were 2 abstentions.

1. **Motion to officially oppose the mis-management of student casual workers engaged in casual work by St Aidan’s College**

Proposed by Ffion Rees, 3rd year

Seconded by Arthur March

**P**

FR noted (FR was absent, but her statement was read out) that: she has been working at the College Bar for a long time. She feels let down by the changes made to the employment system, and all the casual workers in College are affected by this. She noted how workers losing their jobs means they will struggle to pay for rent and other necessities. This disproportionately impacts low-income students. She also emphasized that this news came in the middle of the exam period, which caused further stress.

**Questions, comments or amendments:**

Benjamin Steer asked what the changes were.

OS explained that there was an email sent out that explained the College’s changes. They have established a ‘fire, re-hire’ system. He emphasised the negative impact this has had on the workers.

Sarah Appleby noted that the Bar workers were not warned before the email was sent out, hence she was informed that she would not have her job next year by having her own job advertised to her. She also noted the other negative things that have happened to the Bar Staff at the hands of the College.

A group of freshers came up to the front, and noted that implementing this policy would detract from the College experience. They stated that the College’s actions constitute white saviourism and the College’s positive discrimination is patronising to people of colour.

Jamie Wildman noted that ‘fire, re-hire’ cases are against working class people. He stated that employers who classify themselves as the ‘Rainbow College’ should not treat their workers in this way.

Anton surname? noted that potentially this system was intended to improve access to these jobs, since it gives more people the opportunity to work for the bar.

OS noted that if people are incompetent in their job, then there is a strike system and every year he has worked at the Bar, there have been re-hires. Further, he noted that if every year the experienced workers got sacked, then the new workers would have to be trained.

SA added that the college should have treated the current staff better, even if these changes should be implemented.

Amine Gherensi asked how the JCR would get the College to change the policy.

JE noted that hopefully our opinions on the new policy will cause the College to re-think their policy. Although we cannot directly change the policy, we can tell the people who can and the negative impact this policy has had.

There were no amendments.

The motion passed. There were 49 votes for this motion. There were no votes against. There was 1 vote of abstention.

1. **Motion to ratify Chinese, Curry and Wine Society**

Proposed by Joseph Eaton, JCR President

Seconded by Vidipt Dhasmana, 1st year, Law

JE noted that: this is a society for those students who remain at St Aidan’s out of term time, when there is no more catering and the JCR Shop is closed. During this time, many students make their own meals or buy takeaways, and eat together in the JCR.

VD emphasised the sense of community this society would bring, and how takeaways are a staple part of British culture.

**Questions, comments or amendments:**

There were no questions.

George Sleight commented that the big thing he missed when living out was being social and eating meals with friends. He stressed that this society is a good thing.

Amine Gherensi asked whether the society would work to integrate the international students further into college life.

VD noted that this would be a great way for international students to interact with the JCR.

JE also noted that they spoke with Jaime - the President of the International Society - who expressed support and said he could find people to teach the members how to make some traditional Chinese dishes.

Anton noted how much he looked forward to meal times.

There were no amendments.

The motion passed unanimously. There were 49 votes for this motion. There were no votes against or abstentions.

1. **Election of Vice Chair**

Candidate no 1: Charlotte Aulton, 1st year, Geophysics

CA’s hust is summarised as follows:

* CA stated that she enjoys JCR meetings and has volunteered to act as Vice Chair the past 2 meetings
* She has leadership experience
* She is active in the JCR through sports teams

SH asked if an interviewer was being biased, what would she do?

CA responded that she would ensure both candidates were asked the same questions.

SH asked in the event that the JCR Chair was being partial and biased, what would she do?

CA noted that there is a part in the Standing Orders that explains what to do in this event.

There were 44 votes in favour.

1. **Election of Compliance Officer**

Candidate no 1: Joshua Cilliers, 1st year, Mathematics

JC’s hust is summarised as follows:

* He is an active member of the JCR, through many sports
* He wants to give back to the JCR
* He is an administrator of his Crickets club, which entails transferable skills
* He demonstrated his knowledge surrounding the Charity Commission

Candidate no 2: Jamie Wildman, 1st year, Economics and Politics

JW’s hust is summarised as follows:

* JW noted his institutional skills. He worked in a school and worked with the governors
* He has an eye for detail, which his degree helps with
* He is dedicated
* He wants to learn about the structure of the JCR
* He wants to make improvements, particularly for those students from working class backgrounds
* He wants to push the JCR to keep the College scrutinised

MS asked: a big part of the role is liaising with the Trustee Board, and sending out documents on certain days. How would the candidates balance this alongside their degree?

JC stated that he has experience managing different duties.

JW responded that during his job last year, he received many emails, therefore he has experience with keeping organised and dealing with these.

MS asked: you’ll be sitting on the Trustee Board of the St Aidan’s JCR CIO. What does CIO stand for?

JC gave the correct answer - Charitable Incorporated Organisation. JW answered Charitable Independent Organisation.

JE asked how the candidates would keep the president in line?

JC responded that he would continue attending JCR meetings. He also stated he can have a conversation with the President if needed.

JW said that talking is the best solution. He will scrutinise the decisions of the President. He will ensure that they are both on the same page.

**Election of Eco Chair**

Candidate no 1: Amine Gherensi, 1st year, History and Classics

AG’s hust is summarised as follows:

* He noted the increase in numbers that the Committee has experienced.
* He noted that their policy to remove plastic cups was successful.
* He noted some of his aims, including introducing sauce dispensers to replace the individual packets.
* He addressed the rumours surrounding his lack of seriousness and the drinking culture within the Committee.

JE asked the candidate how he will engage new students in taking part in events and the society.

AG noted that they will run a plant sale during Fresher’s Week.

JE noted at the next JCR meeting, we will be passing the budget. He asked the candidate what the Eco Comm’s budget should be.

AG responded that it should be £200 because the bird boxes they wish to purchase cost around £20 for 4.

Rohan asked what ‘Eco’ stands for.

AG responded with ecological.

WJ noted that Exec members must also be Freps. He asked the candidate what qualities would make him a good Frep.

AG noted that he has experience as a Fresher.

IY asked the candidate why he wants to be the Eco Chair and sit on the Exec, rather than just being on Team Eco.

AG noted that the DU Environmental Society encourage colleges to put this role on the Exec. He should fill this role because he has a vision.

**Election of JCR Treasurer**

Candidate no 1: Vidipt Dhasmana, 1st year, Law

VD’s hust is summarised as follows:

* He noted the experience he has acquired through his role as Shop Chair, which involved dealing with the Shop’s finances.
* He will be dedicated to this role.

JE asked the candidate what he thinks is the JCR’s biggest area of risk?

VD answered the boat club because of the insurance. Further the Shop, which made a lot of loss prior to independence.

JE stated the JCR has £100K less than other colleges. If JE gave him £1000 and told him to make some money with it, what would he do?

VD is a part of the Finance Forum. He would put it into the Shop.

JE provided a hypothetical situation, in which the candidate gave the card details for the JCR bank account to the Shop Chair. He notices that there are Uber payments on the bank statements. What would the candidate do?

VD would ask the Shop Chair what these payments are. If it is not related to the JCR, it will need to be reimbursed.

JE noted that the JCR levies subsidise sports, but players still have to pay subs. Sometimes non-levy players still play sports. How do we fix this problem?

VD responded that he would explain to the Sports Captains how important it is that players pay subs. He would create a new payment plan.

JE asked the candidate, in his opinion, how much money does he think is sitting in the JCR account to the nearest £5K?

VD guessed £50K. The correct answer was £80K.

**Election of Socials Chair**

Candidate no 1: Emily Martin, 1st year, Politics

EM’s hust is summarised as follows:

* She has spent a lot of time on Soccomm, and currently fulfils the role of Vice Chair
* She has helped a lot with the Balls, including marketing and ticket prices
* She would like to have 2 events per term in college, and use the profits to keep Ball ticket prices down

IY asked what new ideas the candidate will bring to the role.

EM stated that we have not had a lot of smaller events, so she would like to run more of these.

IY noted that a big part of the role is Health and Safety. What are the 3 most important documents required for this?

EM stated the event plan, risk assessment and contact document are most important.

IY asked the candidate if she was to describe herself as an ‘ent’, what would she be?

A fairground ride.

**Election of JCR Chair**

Candidate no 1: Erika Hewitt, 1st year, Archeology

EH’s hust is summarised as follows:

* She has low contact hours, so she will be able to dedicate a lot of time to the JCR
* She has been very involved in the JCR through sports

SH asked the candidate what she would do if a member of the Exec has acted inappropriately in their role.

EH would make sure that they were aware and hold a constructive meeting to address it.

SH asked the candidate what she would do if two members of the Exec were in dispute.

EH would hold a constructive meeting and remain unbiased.

SH asked the candidate what OPPs stand for?

EH was unable to answer.

SH asked the candidate if she could be any chair, what type would she be?

EH responded a chaise longue.

AG asked the candidate how she was able to maintain the minutes in Eco Comm.

EH responded that she posted them within the day and kept them concise.

JE asked the candidate what a member of the JCR would need to do if they wanted to alter the constitution.

EH responded that they would need to propose a motion.

Any other business

Ben Steer noted that there is an election for the exec of LGBTQ Society.

EM noted that Aidan’s Cheer have their first performance next week.

JE stated the dates of the Live Lounges and other events.

Francesca Laven, on behalf of Aidan’s Wardrobe, noted they will be running another session for people to come along and look at the clothes they have on offer on the 10th. She also noted that on the 18th June there is joint pride event, and they are running a craft stall.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Copy and paste structures:

1. **Motion to xxxx**

Proposed by xx, year?, course?

Seconded by xx, year?, course?

XX noted that:

**Questions, comments or amendments:**

There were no questions / XX (Y?/C?) asked….

There were no comments / XX (Y?/C?) commented that….

There were no amendments / XX (Y?/C?) proposed that..

The amendment passed unanimously / The amendment failed

The motion passed unanimously / the motion failed

1. **Election of xxx**

Candidate no 1: Name, year, course

XX’s hust is summarised as follows:

* XX will
* XX is
* XX won’t

Candidate no 2

XX’s hust is summarised as follows:

* XX will
* XX is
* XX won’t

Candidate no 3: Name, year, course

XX’s hust is summarised as follows:

* XX will
* XX is
* XX won’t

**Questions:**

There were no questions / XX (Y?/C?) asked….

There were no comments / XX (Y?/C?) commented that….

SH noted that voting would be online / A vote was held and the results were: For - , Against -, Abstain -,