JCR Meeting 12/02/2023

Officer Reports:

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

1. Welfare Officer

FK noted that it is her last week in her role, and listed some of the events Welfare are running as part of SHAG week.

1. Bar Steward

SP noted she was currently planning Summer Fest, and that she was in contact with some of the former Aidan’s students. She also asked if anyone had any plastic cups to please return them to the bar.

1. Senior Frep

WJ noted that he is currently organising the Post Offer Visit Days.

1. Publicity Officer

RB discussed the new Instagram for Journalism Committee.

1. Social Chair

IY noted that the St Valentine’s Formal was cancelled. Instead, College marriages will be happening in the Bailey Room alongside a bop in the JCR with £1 entry on the 16th February.

1. Outreach Chair

LE noted that we just had the first stash drop and she is in the process of organising some sports stash. She also noted that she is currently involved in charitable duties with the Fashion Show.

1. Shop Chair

AM noted that the Shop will be buying a deep fryer.

1. Tech Chair

EC noted we've had a few hires.

1. Compliance Officer

MS noted that she had an action meeting with JE and the Chair of Trustees, and had some actions to complete resulting from that.

1. JCR President

JE noted that the Fashion Show will be on the 14th March. We will also be having the ‘Ally Pally’ Darts event on the 25th Feb. He noted we had a Live Lounge yesterday and the next is taking place on the 11th March. He also announced that the President of the Drama Society stepped down, and for those interested in running to keep an eye out for announcements.

1. JCR SSO

Not in attendance.

1. JCR Chair

Not in attendance.

1. Martyn Richards, Chair of Trustees

MR explained what his role is within the JCR and introduced himself.

Agenda:

1. **Motion to Unify Welfare Roles**

Proposed by Fern Kennard, 3rd Year, Health and Human Sciences

Seconded by Welfare Committee

FK noted that Welfare Reps at the moment don’t require training. This motion would make sure that everyone who is a Welfare Rep in the various societies would also need to stand on the Welfare Committee, and therefore receive the sufficient training.

**Questions, comments or amendments:**

LE commented that it can be harmful for people who haven’t had any welfare training to claim to be a Welfare rep.

There were no questions or amendments.

The motion passed unanimously on a general aye.

1. **Motion to restructure Welfare Committee**

Proposed by FK

Seconded by Welfare Committee

FK noted that the two objectives of Welfare Comm is to run events and to maintain good mental health within the College. The aim of this motion is to replace the 3 Assistant Officers with an Events Officer, who will focus on events, and Wellbeing Officer, who would work on ensuring everyone is trained and that the welfare hours run smoothly.

**Questions, comments or amendments:**

Ben Steer commented that in their role as Welfare Officer, they have had no specific duties, therefore it makes more sense for Officers to have their own responsibilities, and they support this motion.

There were no questions or amendments.

This motion was passed unanimously.

1. **Motion to restructure Sports and Societies Committee**

Proposed by KB

Seconded by JE

JE noted that we want to make it easier for societies to run. This motion would establish two roles on the Exec, Sports Officer and Societies Officer, to replace the Sports and Societies officer. He noted the large increase in societies this year.

**Questions, comments or amendments:**

FK noted that as a Sports Captain and a Society President, the two are run very different, therefore having that support will be very useful.

There were no questions or amendments.

The motion passed unanimously.

1. **Motion to ratify SACAFC v STFC Ultras Society**

Proposed by Dylan McLaren and JE

JE noted that Collingwood also do a similar thing. They want to send the Football Club down to Spennymoor to watch and support the football and use this society to apply to the equivalent Durham society, which would reduce the price of the ticket to watch. This would involve being present in the community.

He also noticed the concern regarding Durham students travelling down to a primarily working-class town, and emphasised the importance of being aware of the space they are in.

**Questions, comments or amendments:**

Harry Trice commented that as an international student, local football was something he wanted to get involved with.

IY asked how often Spennymoor play.

JE responded that they play every week (but they will not go and watch every week, but just when they wish) but there are other competitions as well.

There were no amendments.

The motion passed unanimously.

1. **Motion to edit the chants**

Proposed by LE

Seconded by FK

LE noted that as an Exec, we have had conversations about other colleges’ traditions, and we have reflected on our own. She noted that a specific line in our College chants is problematic and can be seen as offensive. She would like to currently take out the line, to be replaced later.

**Questions, comments or amendments:**

Erika Hewett asked whether anyone has expressed concern regarding the chant.

LE noted that although no one has specifically spoken out, it’s something we ought to reflect on.

Amine Gherensi noted that only a small minority would have an issue with the line.

LE responded that we should be reflective of our past and should be able to act on that.

George Sleight asked what minority this line is offensive to.

LE responded that she did not want to speculate.

Alex (stepping down as Vice-Chair) noted that even if it’s offensive to one person, then it’s not much of a big deal to simply remove it.

AG noted that the line is simply ‘sounds’, and that if we wish to remove the line, it sets a precedent for removing other things.

Jaime Glinoga noted that it seems ridiculous to remove the line. It would be different if it was the same as the slurs, but it is not.

FK responded to Jaime saying that just because he has not been offended by the line, doesn’t mean no one else has, and we shouldn’t invalidate that experience.

**Votes:**

15 people voted for the motion.

17 people voted against the motion.

9 people abstained.

The motion has not been passed.

1. **Motion to add Eco Chair to the JCR Executive Committee**

Proposed by Amine Gherensi

Seconded by Severino Bonvini

This position should be made to show that St Aidan’s care about the environment. He also noted that other colleges have this position.

FL noted in a point of information that if this does pass, the Chair will have to be re-elected.

**Questions, comments or amendments:**

LE noted that the environmental issues in college have not had much discourse, which she feels is partly due to the lack of Eco Chair.

Harry Trice noted that having an Eco Chair on the Exec will help bring environmental issues to light.

Euan Barker commented that he felt it is a good thing to set a precedent of having environmental care within St Aidan’s.

Fahad Omer noted his support for the motion.

Abdul further shared his support for this motion.

Isam Shendi noted that he likes the idea, but he felt that it makes the JCR more bureaucratic and we already have positions on the Exec that aren’t being filled, such as JCR President, and we should keep the role on the sub-Exec.

Angus noted that the Society need to prove themselves before joining the Exec.

FK wanted to clarify that other colleges have the Eco Chair on their sub-Exec, not their core Exec, which is the same as in St Aidan’s currently.

Ben Steer asked what would be different in making it a Committee rather than a Society, and why do we need a Chair. What will it look like in practice?

AG noted that the Chair will be involved in the decision making processes of the JCR.

SB also noted that having a Chair will make the Society more visible.

GS noted that the issues surrounding the society regarding it being a ‘drinking society’ is more involved with the society rather than the Committee.

WJ asked if Eco Chair did become a member of the Exec Comm, what other responsibilities would be ascribed to the Eco Chair, since currently the role is not responsible for a lot of things.

AG responded by saying that he will run events.

IS noted that it sounds like a ‘waste of space’ and the position is not that important, and everything that it does can be done on the Sub-Exec.

LE noted that there needs to be more justifications for having an Eco Chair.

Joe McGarry noted that this motion may contravene the Education Act 2011, but this was not confirmed.

34 people voted in favour.

22 people voted against.

7 people abstained.

The motion passed.

1. **Election of an ‘MS’ President**

Candidate 1: Oscar Sill, Post-Graduate, Research Masters in Psychology

OS’s hust is summarised as follows:

* He wants to bridge the gap between undergraduates and postgraduates
* He wants to set up information resources on what postgraduate life is like
* He noted the difficulty in finding accommodation at College as a postgraduate
* He wants to set up a base for this new organization and ensure the postgraduates are intermingled with the undergraduates

**Questions, comments or amendments:**

JE asked what the candidate’s experience has been like and what the difference is between being an undergraduate and a postgraduate.

JE asked what OS is going to do in the role.

OS responded that he will be a face that everyone recognises and will be there to liaise and work together.

JE asked that if MCR didn’t stand for ‘Middle Common Room’, what would it stand for?

OS responded ‘My Chemical Romance.’

Jeremy Fosten asked whether OS thinks this is something the JCR is concerned with, considering we are mostly made up of undergraduates.

OS responded by saying that his role will affect the undergrads too since they will sit on the JCR Exec. He also noted that since it is new, we can make it what we want it to be.

Ben Steer noted that a lot of postgraduates don’t feel welcome at JCR events, and asked how to bridge the gap.

OS noted that a lot of people are not aware of JCR events and he wishes to share information.

1. **Election of a Senior Welfare Officer**

Candidate no 1: Benjamin Steer, 2nd Year, Liberal Arts

BS’s hust is summarised as follows:

* BS wants to decentralize the power within the JCR, and encourage people in the Welfare Committee and St Aidan’s as a whole.
* They want to empower people and communities

Candidate no 2: Natalie Gaunt, 3rd Year, Chemistry

NG’s hust is summarised as follows:

* She noted that she has lots of experience in working in a team and is organised
* She also has experience in making Instagram posts
* She wants to make the Welfare Room a bookable space and encourage its use
* She would also like to run events in addition to campaign weeks

**Questions:**

FK asked what has been their favourite memory whilst working with Welfare.

NG responded with the animals.

BS said the painting.

FK asked how they would look after themselves within the role and establish boundaries.

BS said that they are good at keeping their distance and not taking it personally. They also said that they would ask the people disclosing to meet at a specified time and place to work through the problem.

NG stated that she would take time for herself and signpost when necessary.

FK asked what they are most looking forward to in the role.

NG responded with running the campaign weeks.

BS responded with engaging with the students and communities.

LE asked the candidates what knowledge they have on contraception and how they would remove the stigma surrounding it.

BS wants to ensure the Welfare Room is fully stocked. They said that accessibility is the main issue.

NG also said that she should make social media posts about contraception.

JE noted that it is risky for unprofessionals to give advice, so how would the candidates mitigate this risk?

NG said that she would ensure that everyone on Welfare knows where to signpost and what they can and cannot say.

BS said that they would look at additional training and resources.

WJ noted that they will be expected to Frep. What will they prioritise during Fresher’s Week?

BS noted that they would want to make it more accessible for international students.

NG said that she would try to run two welfare sessions each day and ensure that there is always someone available to talk to.

Joseph McGarry noted the discomfort that some St Aidan’s students may feel about disclosing issues and talking to another St Aidan’s student, and asked how the candidates may solve this.

NG noted that she could do a swap with another College, but also that there are many people on welfare, so you won’t necessarily be speaking to someone you know.

BS responded by saying that they would make sure that a variety of people were on welfare.

LE asked what is their previous experience with money and asked how they would use the budget effectively.

BS noted that a lot of training is free.

NG noted she is a treasurer for the Women’s Rugby team, so has experience through that. She would send out free resources.

FK noted that the role would sit on Participation Committee, and asked the candidates hwo they would effectively work with the other members.

NG responded saying she wants ensure that everyone on the committee feels heard.

BS wants to have a personal connection with the other reps and they want to empower voices.

1. **Motion to ratify Eco Society**

Proposed by Amine Gherensi

AG noted that the Society would be less serious than the Committee.

**Questions, comments or amendments:**

Harry Trice noted that this will suit casual members.

Joseph McGarry noted that if they made a Committee, they could have a Team Eco rather than an Eco Society, like other committees do.

NG asked what other activities the Eco Society would partake in other than socials?

AG responded they would have discussions about the environement.

FK asked AG to clarify the difference between the Committee and the Society?

AG said that the Committee is the decision-maker.

MS asked whether by having two groups, the Eco Society and the Eco Committee, is AG not doubling the work load of the group?

AG said that communication between the two would be fluid.

Joseph McGarry proposed an amendment to make the Society a Team, to be linked with the Committee.

AG seconded JM’s amendment.

Harry Trice commented that making it a Team Eco would limit the membership.

22 people voted for the amendment

2 people voted against the amendment

No abstentions

25 people voted for the motion

3 people voted against the motion

No abstentions

The motion passed with the amendment.

Any other business

JE noted who the new presidents of College Drama are.

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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 -,