**Minutes Meeting 04.03.02 JCR EGM**

SH noted the need for people to run for JCR Treasurer.

SH elected a Vice Chair (LE)

Officer Reports

1. Sports and Societies Officer

KB noted that she is currently planning the varsity matches, which will be on the17th/18th June, and states that the date for photo day will be the 7th May. She also noted that she will be having a meeting with the van Mildert SSO regarding the future of the Van Maidan’s Women’s Rugby team.

1. Shop Chair

AM noted that the air fryer will be up and running before the end of term.

1. Publicity Officer

RB noted she had little to report, but urged those attending to engage with the social media pages.

1. Senior Frep

WJ also noted that she had little to report, but stated that she had to cancel the St Aidan’s engagement with the Post Offer Visit Days due to difficulty getting food for the volunteers.

1. Bar Steward

SP noted she she is currently preparing for Summer Fest, and that she is going to try to convince the students at Van Mildert College to join us. She also noted the flood in the bar, which led to the Bar being closed on Wednesday evening.

1. Welfare Officer

NG noted that two of the newly reformed Welfare Committee roles will be going up next week, and has planned some events this week but raised little money.

1. Outreach Chair

LE noted that she is working with the Fashion Show Society and that the Moving On event in the JCR had a big turnout. She further stated that next term, she will engage with more charity work and outreach, and that part of her role is winding down for now.

1. JCR Chair

SH noted that EC (Tech Chair) and MS (Compliance Officer) were unable to attend this meeting. She further noted the difficulties the CIS system are causing with the voting, that the Eco Chair, Shop Chair and JCR Chair roles will be going up next meeting, and urged people to run for these. She further states that emails regarding Welfare Committee interviews will be going out next week.

Motions

1. **Motion to reform role of Sports and Societies Officer**

Proposed by KB

KB proposed that a Vice Sports and Societies Officer should be added to the Sub-Exec. She noted that due to the increase in societies in the past year, there is an increased workload for the SSO, however there is not enough work to justify creating a dedicated Societies Officer. Therefore, work surrounding Societies will be delegated to the Vice SSO.

Vice sports and societies officer to be added to Sports and Socs Committee.

There were no comments, amendments or questions.

This motion passed.

Elections

1. **Tech Chair**

Candidate 1: Harvey Balaam, 1st year Computer Science

HB’s hust can be summarised as follows:

* HB wants to make an up-to-date website.
* He wants to reform Aidan’s Jukebox.
* He wants to provide tech for Soccom events.

SH asked how HB would get more people involved in tech?

HB reposed by saying that he would make it as easy as possible to get people involved, which would be achieved through group training sessions, with a focus on freshers engagement.

SH asked if the candidate was a piece of tech, what would you be?

HB answered that he would be a USB-C adapter since it is versatile.

JE noted that Tech Chair would make decisions about tech around the college, and asked what do you bring to the exec and wider issues?

HB answered that he has experience on Soccom and similar roles at school. He also noted that he studies computer science, which demonstrated his interest in Tech.

LE wishes to ask a question, but is unable to due to temporarily acting as Vice-Chair.

1. **Wellbeing Officer**

Candidate 1:Thomas Borrill, 1st year Accounting and Finance

TB’s hust can be summarised as follows:

* TB noted that although he does not have a lot of experience in welfare, he wants to be active in the role.
* He has completed various training, such as being an anti-drug ambassador, mental health ambassador, prefect, amongst other roles.
* He wants to introduce more wellbeing hours in freshers week and additional support as well as introduce the Welfare Team earlier on.
* He also wants there to be more presence in the welfare room, such as making it more of an independent study space and social space.

NG asked the following questions:

NG - How would you separate your personal life and work?

TB answered that he would keep strong boundaries and utilise a strong support network.

NG - Another part of role is signposting; what would you like to signpost to?

TB answered that he would use the welfare events to advertise the various campaign weeks, such as Masculinity Week and Pride. He would also use Instagram and posters.

NG - If you could be any piece of food what would you be?

TB – the ham and cheese toastie from Aidan’s Shop

Other Questions

Q – You’ve not been involved in Welfare, but what else?

TB answered that he is Operations Manager for Team Eco.

Moitreyo asked TB what his approach would be towards drug issues?

TB responded that the focus of anti-drug ambassador isn’t anti-drug use, bur rather focuses on moving towards recovery.

1. **JCR President**

Candidate 1: Joseph Eaton, graduate, French and Russian

JE’s hust can be summarised as follows:

* As current JCR President, JE noted that he would speak from experience.
* He reflected on his performance this year, and noted some things he could improve on, such as his work-life balance, difficult emails towards Helen and Susan, keeping a paper diary and insufficient replies to SH. He also noted that the planning for Michaelmas Ball started too late.
* He noted that he really cares about the JCR, and is running again due to the lack of applications.

SH’s questions for JE

SH noted that the relationship between the JCR and Susan and Helen is difficult, and asked how would JE solve this?

JE noted that Jeremy Cooke says that the college-JCR relationship is most important thing, but he disagrees. JE stated that he would always stand up for JCR officers (volunteers). He noted that sometimes the College (Susan) purposefully make things difficult, and prevent him from fixing issues. He further noted that he will call them out when they are in the wrong, but stressed the importance of a working relationship.

SH asked how will you work with the Exec to bring back what college spirit was like pre-Covid?

JE noted that participation is not decreasing and we have 12 active societies, in comparison to 1 last year, as well as a full Finance Committee and Shop Committee.

JE spoke about when he was interviewed by a journalist, and how that reframed his perspective on the JCR.

SH asked what country leader JE would be and why ?

JE asked whether it has to be a head of state. He responded that he would be Tony Blair in his second term.

Other questions

How does Jeaton feel about the low turnout from 2nd years and 3rd years?

JE commented on current lack of alternative presidents being a product of COVID year being the current 3rd years, and attributed part of a lack of JCR engagement to that. Additionally, JE outlined preliminary ideas to bring up engagement.

JE was asked what his favourite thing from this year was.

JE responded with the return of Aidan’s college theatre, and his involvement in sitting on Participation Committee, which is the definition of what the JCR should be.

Mentioned in manifesto, like implementing prevent policy.

JE noted Prevent policy is required for the JCR to have by law as a registered charity. Although the policy may be problematic in nature, the JCR doesn’t have the authority to exclude this legally required policy. Should people want to raise a route wherein this policy can be removed, that would be best done through the avenue of the SU, where the objection to the legally required policy can be more effectively motioned. Prevent Policy is a box ticking exercise that the JCR as an independent charity has to implement.

Eddie asked about the possible disadvantages to having the same President as last year.

JE noted that since he has done the job before, he has extensive knowledge. However, a disadvantage wold be that he is not a fresh set of eyes, and there is not a candidate with a fresh approach.

Vidipt Dhasmana asked how we would avoid the same problem (lack of JCR President candidates) next year?

JE explained that due to the pandemic, the relevant year group experienced low JCR engagement.

Henry Bashford asked a question regarding working with Prescomm and the University as a whole.

JE noted the struggle with the divide between in college vs out of college. As the role of JCR president requires two major divisions, where he must decide how much time to spend internally on Aidan’s issues and externally on university wide issues. Next year, as a more experienced Pres, JE believes he would be more able to balance both of these two aspects. He noted he wants to run to be chair of Independent Common Room Committee and wants to sit on the Sex Misconduct and Violence Group.

Gherensi asked how big of a majority will it be if JE is elected again, regarding the working group of the alumni network.

JE noted how let down he was by the lack of alumni association, which is so important, especially since most other colleges have them.

Q - what JE would do again differently/focus on going forwards?

JE – Focus on ensuring that the effort spent into acquiring independence as a JCR is worth it. It was done to avoid as many issues and vetos from college, and so JE is eager as an independent JCR not to let College keep treating us like a body that they can veto. Thus, establishing clear precedents of boundaries in the early years of independence. That generates a lot of conflict. JE highlights that currently the College-JCR relationship is at a major low point. There are plans to openly publish a roadmap to improve the relationship with college, following JE’s conversations with Jeremy. JE contrasts his stance with that of Jeremy. Jeremy says the College-JCR relationship must be preserved at all costs. JE disagrees, as JCR president it is his role to represent the JCR, and will not stand for abuse of volunteers by college, even if that does affect the relationship.

Vidipt Dhasmana asked since Soccomm is no longer involved in formals, how will freshers pay the levy if it’s not subsidised?

JE noted that the JCR needs to diversify income since it is too levy dependent. Tech hires and the shop should be significantly supplementing income more than it is currently. He noted that in his manifesto, he stated he wants to invest shop profits into the JCR to be cooperative; 50p in JCR reserves, 50 p in SSO events, etc. He wants a lower levy that is affordable and does not want the JCR levy to price people out of participation. He noted that Durham Grant recipients receive a reduced JCR Levy. He wants to reorient core activities, refocus Soccomm onto bops and smaller events within the JCR, such as live lounges, instead of formals.

JE - Increase live lounge budget from £100 to like £2000. He noted this would also help with the cost of living crisis, since attendance would be free.

JE - Wants to abolish parts of sub exec like arts coordinator, and move the music coordinator onto Soccom.

Any other business

There was no other business.

Notices

SP noted the Pub quiz on 05.03.23 and the fashion show.

It was also noted that quorum was not met, therefore this needs to be ratified at the next meeting.