

JCR meeting: 8th week, TT '11

Chair: Jack Evans (President)

Secretary: Sophie Cass (Vice President)

JCR members present (excluding Chair and Secretary): 25

Sunday 19th June, 2011

Meeting opens: 19.37

Present:

President, Jack Evans

Vice President, Sophie Cass

Treasurer, Alex Franklin

Access and Admissions officer, Mek Mesfin

Accommodation officer, Alix Harmer

Careers officer, Ed Lundy

Domestic officer, Donal O'Hara

International Students' Officer, Jan Willem Scholten

Male welfare officer, Mike Hardy

Female welfare officer, Jules Zani

Minutes from JCR meeting in 6th week, Trinity term 2011, signed off without opposition

Reports

Jack:

- Messy JCR
- Rent proposal
- Felix stuff, hopefully won't see him back....

Maisie, Spectrum rep:

- We had a Pride flag which was up there (points to welfare board) which was bought for JCR after Maisie gave hers which got taken, which she doesn't think is malicious. But the new one was in the JCR and is now gone. Sent multiple emails and still not been returned. This flag is so important for LGBT

people, it's a big deal, a symbol. Cannot believe that someone has taken it; if you know where it is, give it back, or buy another one. This is the second time this has happened, really disrespectful, feels not very happy with the JCR. Please, please return it, or if you know what has happened please come speak. If it doesn't come back, then we'll have to discuss something like a spot fine on the JCR. Really disappointed.

The President announces that this is the Secretary's final meeting as JCR Vice-President, and thanks her for her work. Presents her with a bottle of wine – forgetting she's teetotal – but the Secretary appreciates the thought and is sorry to be leaving.

We also say goodbye to all the outgoing members of committee: Jacob Diggle (Clubs and Socs); Jules Zani (Female welfare); Alix Harmer (Accommodation);

Mek Mesfin, Access and Admissions Officer

- Lots of people announced their marriages already
- We're also integrating the Stanford students, so if you feel you would be especially good with Stanford children please get in touch!

Poet Laureate (elect) reads out a new poem

Summary of motions

- To provide the editor of the peli-post with £10/term to print 25 peli-posts a fortnight for use in the JCR.
- Safeguard the freedom of the press and editorial independence in perpetuity.
- To have enough news a fortnight to make the peli-post an interesting read.
- To appoint at least one AFS assistant by election to share the workload with the JCR President and Academic Affairs Officer
- To provide the Entz rep with a £2000 Freshers' Week budget for buying tickets etc...
- To attend Freshers' events and do all we can to make this the best Freshers' Week yet.
- To provide the welfare team with a £200 Freshers' Week budget to put on the 'Big Night In', other events like late night hot chocolate and a bumper men's/women's tea at the end of the week.

Motions

Motion 1: Peli-Post Budget and Editorial Independence

This JCR Notes:

- The Peli-Post has been recently revived and is now a strong fortnightly publication.
- People enjoy reading the news in the Peli-Post, particularly if it is informative/humorous.
- The Peli-Post currently has to go through the JCR President in order to be printed.
- This procedure has led the president to 'doctor' some editions of the Peli-Post.
- That even Rupert Murdoch doesn't get involved in the content of the Daily Times.

This JCR Believes:

- The President has no right to infringe on the editorial independence of the College Newspaper
- That the president (Jack) said some hilarious things about Felix Neate that really should be free for people to read.
- The freedom of the press is something that safeguards democracy against the tyranny of the executive.
- One day, there will be something important to report, and when that day comes we will rejoice in the passing of this motion
- That Colonel Gadhafi censors the press, and he is a bad man.

This JCR Resolves:

- To provide the editor of the peli-post with £10/term to print 25 peli-posts a fortnight for use in the JCR.
- Safeguard the freedom of the press and editorial independence in perpetuity.
- To have enough news a fortnight to make the peli-post an interesting read.

Proposed: Samuel Robberts

Seconded: Nick Dickinson

Short factual questions

- Maisie - £25?
- Alex – exactly how much it would print if doing on JCR printers, but now Sam can do it. And it's £10 a term

Debate

- Mek – what if you defame someone?
- Sam – another meeting. I promise not to.
- Greg- but you could write something that's quite hurtful; do we have the power to stop you?
- Sam – yes, you can stop me being editor.
- Jacob – what's the Daily Times?
- Sam – I'm sorry, don't know.

- Donal – where do I send my letters to the editor
- Sam – to me
- Dellar – is it actually independent if he’s VP?
- Sam – as only person who can’t give an opinion, only person who could be neutral?

MOVE TO VOTE

For: overwhelming

Motion passes

Motion 2 – Academic Feedback Session Assistant

Chair ceded to Donal O’Hara

This JCR notes:

- There is a poor response rate to the College-organised annual teaching questionnaire
- JCR-led Academic Feedback Sessions (AFS) are an exciting new JCR initiative which has recently been passed as a trial scheme by Governing Body
- AFS will start in MT11
- AFS consist of a relatively informal meeting between students and their tutor where views can be expressed and concerns addressed
- The JCR President and the Academic Affairs Officer will be present at these sessions to collate these views and concerns and present the issues raised in a report to be written for Governing Body
- This requires a large time commitment from the JCR President and Academic Affairs Officer

This JCR believes:

- AFS will be hugely important in improving academic provision at Corpus
- AFS will help to raise JCR interest in academic feedback
- The roles of the JCR President and Academic Affairs Officer already involve other time commitments
- The time commitment required for AFS if shared only between the JCR President and Academic Affairs Officer may have a negative impact on either their own existing commitments or on the success of AFS

This JCR resolves:

- To appoint at least one AFS assistant by election to share the workload with the JCR President and Academic Affairs Officer

OR

- ~~To add to the roles of selected existing JCR committee members so they also play a role in the co-ordinating of AFS~~

Proposed: Megan McCullagh (Academic Affairs Officer)

Seconded: ~~Jack Evans (JCR President)~~ Alex Franklin (Treasurer)

Short factual questions

- Seconded by Alex now
- Gareth – if second option to committee members, which? Standing orders or would you pick?
- Megan – would have a discussion in committee, see who is happy, where it would best fit in.
- Gareth – would it be fluid for the first two, and then put into standing orders?
- Megan – hopefully, AFS is still a trial scheme at the minute. Not sure if deffo will continue
- Colette – why President been chosen to go along?
- Megan – JCR President there to help officers with their won roles as well, and Jack and I have worked on the AFS from the beginning and it has been put through governing body and academic body that it will be the two of us doing it
- Colette – but it won't be Jack, it'll be the new Pres. So they take over half way through?
- Megan – yes, but academic affairs will continue
- Greg – does poor response rate refer to poor response from JCR or poor response from on high.
- Megan – JCR
- Jonny Earl– would attendance by students be compulsory?
- Megan – no, but we think it would be in their best interests so we hope it would be well attended
- Jack – and we have a quorate number, 2/3 of the subject group have to be there.
- Maisie – what did you say about quorate, that you have to have 2/3 now?
- Jack – no, but we do for trial session to prove
- Greg – to clarify; 2/3 of JCR has to participate for this to be quorate. Optimistic?
- Megan - because tutors will be there too, it'll be more like a tute across the years
- Greg – not obligatory, 2/3 too much?
- Jack – more than two thirds came out for 2009 review
- Colette – how many of tutors attending? Which?
- Megan – no limit, main tutor.
- Colette – old form had section to go to Senior Tutor so you could talk about any tutors

- Megan – going to be own tutors, but annual questionnaire will still exist and will be option to pass on concerns in other ways.
- Colette – if have these session, and then questionnaire on top, won't some people not do it?
- Jack – questionnaire for extreme circumstances
- Gareth – 2/3 of people currently in tutorial teaching process, does it include 4th year psychs etc?
- Jack – will be for 1st/2nd/3rd years
- Gareth – no point for 4th years to turn up, as don't have tutorials
- Jack – each feedback session will be tailored to subject grouping, more valuable
- Livvy Elder – some subjects have more people doing, so will all subjects be all years together? Might affect how people prepared to talk, different if 3 or 39
- Megan – easier to do one session per subject, but this is a trial so things can ben adjusted at end of year
- Mike Hardy – assumedly joint schools go to both?
- Jack – still to be sorted out, idea to have a joint school forum
- JW – don't we have stuff to do this already, like collections at end of term, and see tutors once a week – why can't do this then? Maybe Neil M wants to get ahead, but won't tutors be annoyed, when could sort it out individually
- Megan – been passed by governing body, which is attended by your tutors. Thing is no real feedback system that is working at the minute between JCR and college.
- Felix Neate – wouldn't it be simpler to make questionnaire compulsory?
- Meg – never really been considered, but no
- Jack – focus group more valuable in terms of making report and discussion things
- Megan – easier to discuss with peers
- Anthony Collins – no effective system; but several classicists in our year complained about a certain tutor, and now they've changed it so we don't have to be taught by her. People quite content, that's why they don't answer questionnaire.
- Megan – college needs to know that you are content. Positive feedback as important as negative feedback.
- Jack – need to have community of academics.
- Anthony – but you're not going to say anything negative with tutors
- Donal – don't really see how this can be a bad thing
- *Chair ceded to Donal as President answering so many questions*
- Maisie – conflicts of interest, some of tutors – *debate point*
- JW – why are we debating AFS? It's ben passed.
- Meg – this is actually about getting an AFS assistant
- Mike – would this assistant be purely for AFS, or would this be an Academic affairs assistant?
- Meg – solely for AFS
- Debate
- Greg – agree with what JW said, that if your tutor was so bad that you would go through college; if everything was okay then would mention in tutorial – so when say this is considerable time commitment and need new position. But as already established, this isn't a massive survival imperative, just a trial scheme. Big time commitment to put an election on
- Megan – spoken to senior tutor, he insists on it.

- Rachel Dellar – seems to be quite a lot of debate about AFS. Should we maybe bring it up before it passes.
- *[Secretary note: AFS already been passed by JCR a few weeks ago]*
- Maisie – some conflict of interest if people’s tutors are high up members of governing body?
- Gareth – a lot of points are things to worry about afterwards, can’t go back and raise stuff, this has already been passed. Let’s go with it, and as it is a trial period no point in electing someone and find people in JCR committee/subject reps to run it this year.
- Megan – Neil doesn’t want subject ambassadors to be doing this, thinks would be more beneficial to have one person present through out all sessions, keep continuity.
- Mek – can we decide which of these we are going to do, elect someone or pick someone? Do a speedy election, or forcing it on someone?
- Megan – thought to get careers officer involved, not the current one, but could incorporate it into their SO.
- **Megan amends to remove second resolve**

MOVE TO VOTE

Objections

Meg:

Proposition – Neil pretty much absolutely insisted that Jack and I not put under this pressure; can only be a good thing; for benefit of JCR

Greg ; don’t need election

For: overwhelming

Motion passes

Motion 3 – Freshers’ Week budget

This JCR Notes:

- Freshers’ Week has to happen.
- Freshers’ Week costs money.
- No money has yet been set aside for Freshers’ Week.

This JCR Believes:

- The incoming freshers will probably not be terrible people, and deserve a good welcome.
- Freshers’ Week is something that all year groups can enjoy.
- Millie Ismail could put on the best Freshers’ Week of all time. Of All Time.

- Since money spent on Freshers' Week is largely made back in ticket sales, there's not much to lose.

This JCR Resolves:

- To provide the Entz rep with a £2000 Freshers' Week budget for buying tickets etc...
- To attend Freshers' events and do all we can to make this the best Freshers' Week yet.

Proposed: Alex Franklin

Seconded: Millie Ismail

Short factual questions

- Greg – as a technical member of Entz team (cinema curator); why haven't been consulted, any of that coming out of budget for dvds?
- Alex – no
- Gareth – how much of this £2000 are we getting back, how much have we got back in previous years
- Millie – sold every ticket last year, didn't get all the money back because bad system. We should technically get back every single pound.
- Alex – problem last year not going to happen again.
- Dellar – buying and selling at cost price?
- Millie – yes
- Sam – will look into sponsorship for t shirts
- JW – so if £400 on t shirts, what spend rest on?
- Alex – to buy tickets which we then sell back to JCR
- Debate
- Dellar – have to buy tickets every week for people to go clubbing, and the way she does it is she pays and then collects money off other people, sort of £50 later. Can we keep some of this money back for normal Entz stuff
- Alex – Entz budget bigger next term than has been, so that should be fine.

MOVE TO VOTE

For: overwhelming

Motion passes

Motion 4 – Freshers' Welfare Budget

This JCR Notes:

- The Jackole welfare team put on Corpus's first 'Big Night In' last Freshers' Week.

- Mike and Jess [Mess/Miss/Jeke/Jike? We'll get there] have expressed an interest in repeating the 'Big Night In', along with organising other welfare related events for freshers.

This JCR Believes:

- The first 'Big Night In' was a success.
- Events in Corpus are as important a part of Freshers' Week as events in town.

This JCR Resolves:

- To provide the welfare team with a £200 Freshers' Week budget to put on the 'Big Night In', other events like late night hot chocolate and a bumper men's/women's tea at the end of the week.

Proposed: Alex Franklin

Seconded: Mike Hardy

- *Short factual questions*
- *Greg – which was big night in?*
- *General – speed dating, pub quiz etc*
- *Debate*
- *No debate*

MOVE TO VOTE

For: overwhelming

Motion passes

Meeting closes: 8.20pm
