

Magdalene College JCR

Committee meeting on 15th January at 13.00

1. TOWN HALL MEETING (15/01)

President: has anyone received any comm about getting back from students?

Welfare(F/nb): yes – mainly how long communication is taking from Magdalen. Students feel stuck in limbo

President: previously emailed tutors requesting more lenient approach and remove two week waiting period to see if problems worsen. Useless system if someone needs to return in two weeks they should be able to return now

Disability: – agrees that common theme is the length of time taking to hear from college

President – needs to be raised in town hall meeting

President – also need to address why college going over gov rules?

Welfare (F/nb) : anyone know what happens with domestic staff – furloughed or still working in close proximity

Charities: zoom with Scott – 400 in college – reduced capacity – few isolating students therefore fewer deliveries

President : do you know if any have been furloughed ?

Charities: not catering

President : going to governing body meeting in two week - anything needed to be raised to body can be asked there

President : many staff still in college, college argument is that it is not able to support students coming back – number of staff working suggests capacity – reduced should be able

Disability: what constitutes basic services – food deliveries? Buttery/ bin empties/ cleaning? For people in residence over vacation cleaning isn't done; should be able to do our selves

President : cleaning is not legitimate reason to stop people returning

Secretary: some colleges cleaning services stopped cleaning at start of last term

President : mainly ones with bedders as that is very unsafe – justifiable to stop gyp cleaning and bin emptying – not valid argument to stop people returning

VP: Jesus, Johns and Girton stopped cleaning – supplies given to students instead

President : Isn't Girton a college with more relaxed policy ?

VP: Yes, Girton fill out form and provide reason – don't need to justify and not rejected

President : good system – but unlikely to be able to persuade to use that system – we should bring up that other colleges have more relaxed policies – mental health/ study people can self justify

Disability: requiring evidence is ridiculous and takes ages still to hear back

President : what points do we bring up in town hall? - what's our top priority?

Disability: college policy vs uni wide policies. Relax requirement for medical evidence – unfair system – sometimes hard to get evidence if needed

President : invasive system and still denying return – what exactly do they need? tab article “hardship Olympics”

Disability: unreasonable pressure - change needed internally asap

President : need to ask what is limiting number of students? How many are returning?

Disability: is there a numerical cap

President: ask about cap? Why is it the value?

Disability: likely have done calculations – how did they do them?

President: large number college staff need spacing out to make covid safe – not limited by what uni have said- perhaps college limited by size? Lack of physical space?

VP: covered in meeting notes – will send post meeting

William: is there concern about transmitting and how the college/students are perceived by community – bad rep for spreading covid? Times article from Cam Uni states no significant spread to community from students

President: big concern about imported cases – risk to staff providing services

Disability: asymptomatic testing still happening - catch majority of cases

VP: In some colleges students isolate until they can provide negative test

President: bought up with test to release in previous meeting – problem is cannot do asymptomatic testing in iso and cannot get NHS test without symptoms – can only get one privately £100

Treasurer: can people test before travel?

Disability: can't access for free unless symptomatic

President: problem with symptomatic testing only, is if test positive when actually asymptomatic, any contacts have to isolate

Welfare (F/nb): asymptomatic testing for schools using gov funding?

President – gov ignores student/university

Secretary: lateral flow testing like in other unis?

President: uni decided against using then cannot use – would need change of uni policy

Disability: unreasonable to ask everyone else to test/isolate after people already returned

President: good point – shouldn't try to accidentally push for quarantine for two weeks

Disability: asymptomatic testing already above gov standards – Magd one of highest for uptake – seems like college not trusting program to catch cases. Feels like not a lot of trust in both students and testing. With students not trusting to make decision about return, why they're using intrusive method of justifying return.

President: tutors aren't best at identifying mental health problems

Disability: have people had mental health training to assess evidence/ case for return ?

President: interesting point – raise at town hall

William: college likely to use emotional arguments involving fellows affected by covid despite students not making a big difference to this as no contact with fellows

President: point that comes up a lot – people returning will covid risk however not true as covid already present in Cambridge

William: only hearsay but two fellows died from covid ?

President: 1x honorary fellow died, mentioned at governing body meeting however no connections to cam – so unless resident fellows' health is only an emotive argument

Access: how confidential is evidence / info

Disability: tutors good at confidentiality so sharing of info should be kept to minimum. The main problem is demanding evidence at all

LGBT: all is too little too late as moving back in term is not ideal

President: would have preferred this to happen earlier. first meeting w/ disability and welfare already after issues arose. Seems like college didn't consider consulting students/JCR until after complaints. If this had been done earlier delay would've been avoided.

President: also waiting two weeks means return students would have to move during term

Disability: As if they want people to get to point where they can't be bothered to return

Olivia: college have suggested that national change occur for people to return - what would have to change ?

President: when situation is worse nationwide college makes policy harsher then don't seem to actually relax as situ improved

Disability: good point to make – in previous term there was no relaxation other than access to outdoors when isolating

President: however that technical wasn't relaxation as nothing illegal about going outside on private property

Disability: Need to address difference between policies between college/uni and college to college

President: problem is that vague policies provided by uni are interpreted by college

Disability: academic impact of working from home also should be pointed out

President: yes, including stress and screen fatigue – supervisions likely to be highly disrupted

Olivia: no safety net – how can examiner take into account the situation ?

President: yes, doesn't make sense – not good enough – uni/departments look at alternative assessment

Disability:- make sure not forced into intermissions – not heard of in magd but in other colleges. If it is a choice between intermitting and return then student should come back

Access: access to library / study spaces in college in lent – will ramsay hall / library be open?

President: not sure about that – library been mentioned in student information sheet

Disability: under review – non-contact areas may open

President: supervision rooms open – should be start of term

Disability: not allowing support bubbles needs to be addressed

Access – printer access?

Disability: – some supo rooms have printers ?

President- email Helen

2. AOB

Disability: – rent with disabled students

VP: vote for charity?

Charities : unsure how to proceed as most people not in college and charities only changed recently. Due to vote on charities soon, people need to send suggestions. JCR fb post and vote for 3 (local national international)

President; could delay until Michaelmas, gives full year to current charities. Change system (academic not calendar)

Charities: good idea – no objections as will able to raise more for current charities

Welfare(F/nb) – pink week 2021? Formal last year was enjoyed – online event this year – drink and draw

President: emails? Secretary to sort out with Will/IT