

## JCR Meeting 13/02/16

Present: Namha Adukia (NA), Loic Desplanques (LD), James Antell (JA), Laurence Peplow (LP), Annie Cave (AC), Margot Speed (MS), Chloe Jones (CJ), Chris Bennett (CB), Adam Uddin (AU), Angus Satow (AS), Bella Peters (BP), Plum King (PK)

Apology: Ellen Garry

### **1- College Representation**

JA: Described what the College Governing body is and explained that the Presidents of the MCR and JCR are allowed to attend meetings, but they aren't invited to the reserved meetings, when most important college matters are discussed. Instead, the Senior Bursar goes through the relevant sections from the reserved agenda with JA.

AS: I've researched this, and 22/27 colleges have more than one representative on their college's governing bodies, and generally have a greater knowledge of and say in these meetings. We could see what it is exactly that makes points reserved, some things like staff salaries it is fair enough to be excluded from, but there might be other things that we should discuss.

JA: I'll talk to the MCR President about it and bring it up on Consulting Committee. I imagine they'll mention the meetings with the Senior Bursar though as these go through the reserved agenda fairly comprehensively. But we'd like to find a solution that works for everyone, there are certain advantages to us being there.

AS: Agreed, when we pass motion sit seems nonsensical that we don't get to present them to the Governing Body.

AU: When does JA get the agenda?

JA: I get the open agenda a few days before, but not the reserved.

AS: I propose that we take the first step of pushing for an outline from college on what can and can't be discussed with students and why.

A vote was taken on the motion: "The JCR Committee would like to see greater student representation on the College Governing Body and a clearer process set out as to what is on the reserved agenda and why."

This motion was passed unanimously

## **2- Committee By-elections**

AS: If a member is graduating/ going on a year abroad/ sabbatical, then the current ruling is that the replacement is to be elected in Week 8 of Lent Term but we could do it at the start of Easter Term as this might mean greater participation, given that we had elections earlier this term.

CB: Who would this be for this year?

AS: Me and Simone Fernandes, Women's Officer

If someone resigns from their role, then the Committee is permitted to appoint a replacement. There's a chance that I'll resigning due to other commitments being too much at the end of this term, so this would change matters, but I'll keep you updated with my decision.

In terms of Uni-wide by-elections, we will be forced to do the sitting in the JCR day for the upcoming CUSU elections, despite me trying to stop this at Council.

CB: Why do we have to do this?

AS: It's a hangover from the days of paper voting, that has now been abolished by CUSU, it allegedly raises turnout.

JA: I believe it is a trust relationship between us and CUSU that we'll actually do it.

AS: On another note to do with Magdalene elections, some colleges have half +half JCR elections, so that there is a smoother transition as only half the committee is new at any one time. I was wondering if we would want to consider this, although it would require a change of constitution.

General feeling from Committee that our elections are fine as they are

MS: We could do them a bit earlier in Michaelmas, then shadow our predecessors for one meeting to make handover easier.

CJ: I think an overlap between committees would be very helpful to ease the transition, as there's a lot to learn.

JA: On this point, we have been considering forming some centralised handover notes online so that successive generations of Committee's will know all the standard ways of doing things.

On a separate matter, we're going to talk to College about how they fob certain things off to the JCR when they shouldn't. We need a more clearly defined line between what falls under the remit of the JCR and what is the College's duty.

General agreement that this is a good course of action to pursue

## **3- Committee welfare and welfare consultation**

AS: If Committee members are struggling welfare-wise, not so much to intermit, but enough to need help, what is the procedure?

JA: My initial feeling is that a firm system isn't useful in this instance, and we should judge what to do on a case-by-case basis.

AU: I agree, as long as there is a feeling of confidentiality for people so that they can always find help in a discrete way then we don't need a strict procedure.

AS: On this note, I would like to distribute the task of completing the Mega-survey

A number of people offer to help

AU: CUSU is trying to improve the quality of the University Counselling Service, so a consultation is being had on that, we've got lots of good feedback so far and I'm going to try to keep getting people to take the survey.

#### **4- Drunken student welfare system**

AS: Further to the last meeting, when a scheme involving care for drunk students was brought up, we've been looking deeply into this, and I've looked at the policies of some other colleges. There is no unifying structure of support, various colleges have different provisions for drunk students.

LP: There is a legal issue with us taking responsibility for people as we would do under the student carer scheme.

JA: One idea would be to put a camp bed in the Plodge as well as a sick bucket for times when these are necessary.

There were issues raised about this concerning whether it is right for the Porters to be looking after students/ if the Plodge is the right place to be doing so.

LP: A way forward is to get First Aid reports from College, as they should write them every time First Aid is administered. If we want to really go into this idea we should know what's going on currently.

General agreement with this, and slight favouring of the idea that it would be better for Porters rather than students to be helping, due to numerous issues with student support.

#### **5- JCR Communications**

CB: Too many emails are currently being sent out, I don't want JCR communications to be spammy, because this will make people less likely to read the important ones. Generally, it's fine to send out emails about things that are key to your role, but if it's something that isn't as

major, then it may be better to post on the JCR Facebook page, or give it to me for MagdIN/OUT.

PK: Problem is that not everyone will read MagdIN/OUT, so events such as Thirsty Thursday need more advertisement.

CB: I understand that point, and one email a week about Thirsty Thursday is fine, but generally try not to send any more than one email about one thing, and utilise the facebook page if possible.

AS: Also, the chalkboard is available for use outside the Plodge and do please use it.

## **6- Bedders**

JA: NK and I had a meeting with the Head of the Domestic Office, who is in favour of having Bedders who would clean rooms once a week on a rota. What do we think?

Generally in favour of the idea

AU: There is a potential welfare benefit to this, bedders could look for potential warning signs.

LD: This isn't something I'd like to be charged more for

General agreement with this

NK: We don't think they'd be charging more, but we would obviously clarify.

BP: We should be able to turn them away if we want.

LD: Some people may want their room to be totally private and so would not want a bedder.

JA: Of course the idea would include a possibility to opt-out and if you don't want the bedder on a particular day then you could tell them to go away

Decision made for NK + JA to continue consultation on this as a good idea.

## **7- Formal Hall Prices**

JA: I spoke to the Catering Manager about formals and apparently they're not currently viable, so something will have to change.

AS: We want to see a breakdown of their costs to see why it isn't viable, there have been successive £1 price rises of Hall in the last two years and continuing rises seem doubtful.

JA: I can source this, but it does seem reasonable that they might struggle.

CB: What will change?

JA: He suggested that price of Hall on the first three days of the week rises to £7 and Thursday-Sunday (but not BA) rises to £8.75

General disagreement with this idea

LD: Why don't college pay for this unviability of hall, as it is an institution they'd like to uphold?

JA: This is a possibility, but the catering manager did suggest alternatives, such as reducing the number of formals or having a trigger system such that unless X number of people book in, the formal is cancelled Y days in advance.

LD: The latter system would be deeply inconvenient for booking in advance.

CB: I'm strongly against either reducing the number or increasing the prices of formals, because I think one of the best and most uncommon things about Magdalene is the fact that it has a cheap formal on every day. When comparing quality of food to other Halls, it seems like similar value-for-money so a price rise would be bad, as the quality of food does not need to increase.

General agreement that quality of food is currently fine, no need to improve it.

JA: There are other options for us to look at, for example allowing more guests or societies to book in more dinners, as this fills Hall out.

BP: The number of seats available per day varies, could we look into why?

General resolution that a price rise in Formal Hall should be avoided. Instead, Committee (and specifically James) will try to gain greater transparency of how College pays for formals currently. Also, to try the tactics of allowing more guests, having more themed halls, having more society dinners as well as pressuring College to put more money into it.

## **8- Ballot**

NK- Committee members will have a timetable for when you have to be on the door of the Room ballot helping out with getting people in. I'll put this up on the group presently. I get fewer emails querying the process now so I think it should go smoothly.

## **9- College splitting up sets**

AS- College seems to have split up 10 sets somewhat arbitrarily. Why?

NK: College has taken in more people this year so needs more rooms they say.

AS: Once again, there is a lack of transparency on an issue that concerns students.

MS: Why are they redecorating Cripps Court when there are many higher priority places?

NK: They're renovating Cripps as they go, rather than having to do it in one big batch in the future.

### **10- Bar**

PK: It's usually dead, and drinks are fairly expensive, so no one goes to the Bar. We're thinking of giving it some more coffee shop-esque features, with panini and coffee etc. during the day.

NK: We could also bring in pizzas from Ramsay

PK: We're going to try Ramsay pizzas at a Thirsty Thursday soon to see how they're received.

NK: Also, we're looking into selling wine in the bar pre-formal.

General agreement that all of these are good directions to keep moving forward on.

### **11-Food Recycling**

EG: Could either Angus or Ellen please copy and paste this statement from Ellen in here

BP: Bringing freezers into gyps would help to reduce waste

NK: This won't happen as gyp rooms are 'snack-making facilities' for insurance purposes.

Resolution that Ellen can keep pushing on this issue, but there are difficulties with implementing this.

### **12- Website**

JA: The JCR website needs quite a lot of updating in a numerous areas.

MS: The tutorial times are out of date, this is especially important to be updated.

CJ: The 'Applying to Magdalene' section of the website has an old email for the access officer, needs to be fixed.

Committee resolves that members should send any changes they want on the website to LP, ASAP.

### **13- Any Other Business**

AU: I'd like to raise the issue of meeting frequency and length, so that we can discuss what we'd prefer.

Slight feeling towards having one more closed meeting a term to allow the meetings to be a little shorter.

JA: What's the status on benches in the Fellow's Garden?

NK: This is approved, we just need to ensure that the College follows through, if we go and see the Head Gardener he should be able to approve them coming in.

MS: We could contact alumni to have the benches be dedicated to some of them?

General agreement with this

JA: The last JCR Committee proposed that Bops be free for past JCR members as well as present.

General disagreement on that point.

JA: Currently, punts are not available during May week for a few reasons, we could propose that the JCR Committee members only are allowed to use them during that week, would be a good perk.

Consensus that this is a good idea.

**End of Meeting**