

ST CATHARINE'S COLLEGE JCR

JCR Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: Saturday 22nd January 2022 at 4pm in the
Upper Octagon

Present: VP (SS), Communications (DL), Accommodation (LM), BAME (SO), Environment and Ethical (AD & AO), Welfare (AM & AB), Academic (CD), Access (ES), Charities (NW), Catering (JD & HP), International (AT & JK)

Apologies for Absence: President (AV), Treasurer (KP), Disabilities (AA), Ents (VM),

Absence without Apologies: Fresher reps (DT & EG), Ents (AW), LGBT+ (MT & IW), Sports and Societies (RM), Women's and NB (GS)

Ordinary Members: TH, SP, JR, KB

Matters arising from the minutes of last meeting

News and Updates

General Estates Committee Meeting 19/01/2022

- Currently there is an issue with the fire alarm at St Chad's going off as students are making their dinner and there being no porter on duty to turn it off. The adjustment of the porters own dinner break was ruled out - however the committee agreed a porter from Main Site (even if there is only one) must leave immediately for St Chad's and turn it off.
- The committee was informed of the request for windows at Main Site to be cleaned because of the residue on them due to the building works.
- The path leading to the back gate at St Chad's is quite slippery so the committee was requested to look into it being cleared.
- The printer at St Chad's has now been fixed and can be used (for now) via the computers in the computer room.
- The request for security cameras in the pidge room was raised however it was agreed that it wouldn't be effective as the pidges are quite small and would be

unidentifiable on a camera.

Allocating JCR Charities Money

- The JCR has an allocated amount of money that can be donated to a selection of charities of choice. NW (Charities) will be sending out communication in due course for individuals to suggest a charity by Wednesday 26th January which they would like to see the JCR donating to and one which complies with the guidelines set out.
- The week after, an email will be sent out where you can vote for the charities you would like the JCR donating to.

CamSU Shadowing Scheme

- This begins on Wednesday 26th January and will run for 3 weeks. It has been moved online due to covid and will include a couple of sessions each week for the period including college life sessions.
- SS (VP) to follow up with CamSU to send out further instructions regarding those involved with the scheme.

New editorial house style guidance

- DL (Communications) shared the new editorial house style guidance set by the College with the rest of the JCR committee. It involves guidance of things to be aware of when writing about St Catharine's to ensure consistent and clear communication.

JCR Discounts

- KP (Treasurer) has secured a £1.50 discount with the Crepe Van available everyday when your Camcard is shown.
- This discount is in addition to the 20% Jack Gelato discount Catz JCR currently has on Wednesdays - the discount code for which can be found in Catz JCR facebook group.

Issues Raised

University of Sanctuary

- University of Sanctuary is a campaign run by Cambridge students involving making the University of Cambridge a safe and accessible place better suited to support scholars and academics that are asylum seekers, refugees and other sanctuary seekers. See the motion here: [Sanctuary JCR Motion](#)
- For more information visit: <https://universities.cityofsanctuary.org/>
- The JCR committee voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Representation in the JCR Committee

- There was an issue raised by a student that due to the role descriptions of 'Female or Non Binary', 'Male or Non Binary' attached to JCR roles, it comes across as Non Binary individuals' needs are excluded and that there should therefore be a Non Binary officer on the committee.
- The JCR Committee agreed with the suggestion and will be raising it with the EDI Working Group who will hopefully be able to run a substantive review of the issue.
- The committee itself agreed whilst welfare does fall under the LGBTQ+ officers' remit, a 3rd Non Binary Welfare officer is a feasible option at the elections. To address the issue of it potentially not being filled, following elections we would simply remain with the 2 existing welfare roles - but with the titles not suggesting exclusionary responsibilities.
- Another alternative that would not require further committee expansion (as it is quite large already) suggested is a voting system whereby the 'Female or Non Binary' and 'Male or Non Binary' title is scrapped and students choose to run simply as a 'Welfare Officer'. Following interest, candidates are grouped into Female identifying, Male Identifying and Non Binary. Students then vote for their top 3 candidates and the 2 candidates with the most votes are elected as welfare officers - conditional on them not identifying the same. AM (Welfare) will be following up with the feasibility of this.
- Further in alignment with this, the gender specific title roles associated with the Fresher's Representatives will also be scrapped.

Encouraging students to run in the upcoming JCR Committee elections

- Each year there is an issue of not being able to generate enough interest for all JCR roles to have enough candidates running.
- The JCR Committee aims to resolve this by
 - Creating clearer transparency regarding the officer is not expected to carry out everything alone because there is an equivalent college contact who will be guiding and helping them where required.

- Showing why the roles are rewarding by showcasing the achievements of each officer.
- Talking to college about introducing incentives such as a free formal and being repositioned to their advantage on the accommodation ballot.
- Generally circulating more information of what the role requires.
- If you are currently thinking about running in the election, feel free to email any of the officers to learn more about their roles! Each officer's name, role and contact can be found on the website: <https://www.catzjcr.com/committee>. If you are not sure where to start have a look at the committee introduction video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KSQdXVHtjZs>. Alternatively visit the Catz JCR instagram page where you can find detailed role introductions via the takeovers in the highlights that each officer did over the summer!

The anonymous form

- Currently due to the anonymity of the JCR meeting suggestion form, students who raise issues do so in a disrespectful manner.
- To resolve this issue, DL (Communications) will be contacting College to organise a way to integrate the anonymous messaging platform part of the old website into either the new website, or the College website itself. This platform currently allows for a two way conversation between the relevant officer and the individual anonymously regarding an issue. The committee believes that this two way communication will enable students to think carefully about their choice of language.
- Once this is successful, the JCR Meeting Suggestion form will remain open but will no longer be anonymous and will log the individual's email address, with wider issues' answers still being answered anonymously on the tracker for all to see.

Issues Not Raised

- Please tag your bikes!
- The gym is currently in the lower Octagon at Chad's, you can speak to the porters about having your Camcard enabled for access
- The JCR Committee does not organise the May Ball. You can get in touch with the May Ball committee directly if you have any questions or suggestions - mayball.president@caths.cam.ac.uk
- The college education committee will be meeting soon to discuss library space and we will raise concerns about the availability of computers too
- A reminder that you can log issues for the maintenance and IT team directly through the ticket system

- If your issue has not been raised here, please see the JCR Tracker (https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1is7NLM-Xm77Lf0liRlrO1ARRdY_tGb_MMC98XhzFxx0/edit?usp=sharing)

Any Other Business

Storage Space

- LM (Accommodations) attended a meeting at the end of last term regarding the issue of a lack of storage space for international students and students who wish to keep belongings in College over the holidays too.
- The computer rooms will be reutilised as domestic students' vacation storage space and have been cleared.
- The Trunk rooms will be cleared out for international students vacation storage space.
- Students who wish to use either will be required to fill out a form which will be circulated before each vacation period. If any belongings are not claimed by the indicated date - they will be removed each term. This will be trialled for Easter Vacation.
- The JCR store cupboard also requires a clear out.

College Condoms

- College Condoms have been approved and will be sold in due course. All proceeds will be going to charity.

Ballot Day

- Ballot day for current 1st and 2nd years will be held in late February.
- There will be an email soon informing students of the open meeting to be held with 1st years for them to talk about the building works due to take place at St Chads next academic year.
- Predicted rent bands for each room will be released before the ballot itself. If the actual rent ends up being lower than the predicted value, it will be decreased before residency starts. If it results in being higher than the predicted value, it will not be increased until the next cohort.

Halfway Hall and Valentines Formal

- The current 2nd years will be having Halfway Hall scheduled for the 18th February and it will be fully funded.
- JD and HP (Catering) will be contacting College about running a highly requested Valentines Day formal for College Married couples as was done pre Covid.

If you have any suggestions or feedback you'd like to give the JCR, please get in touch by emailing [SS](#) or using the [anonymous messaging platform](#).

DL, 2021-2022 JCR Comms Officer