

# ST CATHARINE'S COLLEGE JCR

## JCR Meeting Minutes

**Date and Time:** 27.02.2022 at 5pm in the JCR Room

### ***CN : Ukraine Mentioned in Any Other Business Section***

**Present:** President (AV), VP (KB), Treasurer (AH), Communications (OA), Accommodation (AF), BAME (AP + SK), Environmental and Ethical (EW), Fresher Rep (JR + SP), Welfare (AC + FO) Academic (NS), Access (RD), Catering (KZ), Ents (MH + RP), International (JW), International (HYW), LGBT+ (RA+ JM), Sports and Societies (SC), Women's and NB (JF)

**Apologies for Absence:** VP (JR), Environment and Ethical (ZB)

**Ordinary Members:** DM, RC

### **News and Updates**

#### Updating Instagram Names

- Suggestion to streamline the names of all Catz related Instagram's for clarity
- Aim to have the explicit name "Catz" in each name
- KB (VP) to look into relevant social media channels where this may not be the case already

#### Neurodiversity Awareness Week

- AV (President) outlined the importance of this week with the aim of raising awareness of neurodivergence and the support mechanisms but also how neurotypical students can help
- There will be a week at the end of this term in which there will be talks and events and sunflower lanyards will be given out for free
- AV (President) and an MCR member will be speaking to supervisors before a dinner regarding this issue to work with them to support neurodivergent students; if you have any experiences you would like to share or would like to be further involved in the project please contact AV or complete a form coming out later this week.
- The committee gave various suggestions from using pidges and welfare mechanisms to odd sock days. Another suggestion involved creating an interactive section on the website, committee members to consider further.

#### College Flag Policy

- Concerns have been raised by members of the JCR regarding an incident this week which has been reported to college and the staff member involved has apologised
- College has acknowledged the need to review the flag policy which was not clearly communicated
- The JCR next week will discuss our view on the policy and any ideas we have to submit to the Dean
- When the policy is decided the committee will review it thoroughly
- Please do get in touch with JR or RA (LGBT+ Officers) or use the anonymous form for any suggestions regarding this
- However, for the moment college is able to request flags be taken down however they may not enter a student's room to do so.
- Any concerns, issues or incidents please get in touch as soon as possible.

## **Issues Raised**

### International Women's Day

- March is Women's history month and 8<sup>th</sup> March is International Women's day
- JF (Women's and Non-Binary) relayed information from a meeting with college staff which included ideas such as an academic seminar and discussion on this issue where college fellows and students will be invited to contribute their ideas.
- Further suggestions included: life drawing, safe spaces for women, a movie night and a welfare tea.
- SK and AP (BAME) raised further ideas regarding library exhibitions and an interactive board. NP (Academic) to work with SK and AP (BAME) and JF (Women's and Non-Binary) on looking at using the library.
- Other officers strongly supported the excellent variety of ideas and discussed a themed drink and potential bop.
- JF (Women's and Non-Binary) to finalise plans with college.
- Please get in touch with JF to raise any ideas.

### G and H Accommodation issues

- Concerns raised over moving of students in these blocks to other accommodation including at different colleges during exam term
- The committee noted the previous experiences of students and difficulties regarding communication and building works over the past year
- AF (Accommodation) to clarify plans with college and get further information, however anyone with any concerns should please contact AF as soon as possible.
- Also, concerns were raised about future building projects such as the Chads Renovation Project; AF (accommodation) to again get further clarity from college before bringing findings back to the committee
- However, the committee noted the need for clarity and commitment from college over building works now and in the future.

### Staff Equality Training

- Given recent incidents over equality with staff, HH (Operations Director) has confirmed to AV (President) that all relevant staff will be offered unconscious bias training
- AV (President) to follow up with further questions regarding the specific nature and requirements of this training to relay to officers as soon as possible

### **Issues Not Raised**

#### SU Motion on Fossil Fuels

- Due to time constraints this will be voted on next week

#### Drinks available on tap in the Bar

- \_\_\_ Due to time constraints this will be discussed next week

#### JCR Common Room

- This is now open – please ask the porters to unlock your CamCard for access

#### Elections

- Elections for unfilled positions will be hosted soon

#### College Policy in Facemasks and LFTs

- College is changing this policy to link to new government guidelines
- Please expect a document outlining the college's stance on these issues from HH (Operations Director)

#### Court Booking System

- \_\_\_ Court booking form is now up and running again, please use this link: [Booking System - St Catharine's College | Skedda](#)
- \_\_\_ Any issues please contact OA

### **Any Other Business**

#### Crisis in Ukraine

- The committee were alerted to the lack of action from the college and JCR as a whole regarding the crisis in Ukraine
- The committee would like to express gratitude to the member for educating the committee and helping us further understand the nature and severity of the situation

- The committee discussed the issues and would like to express our support and solidarity with all students affected by the invasion
- We would like to urge anyone in need of support regarding the conflict to get in touch with anyone they feel comfortable with but some key options include: AC and FO, the College Welfare Team of Mary, Janette and Ally or their tutor
- We would urge all members of the community to check up on their friends and try their best to support friends; if you need advice or support please do get in touch with the College Welfare Team of AC and FO
- Committee members discussed the approach that should be taken with suggestions about the welfare, education and statement we should offer as a JCR.
- AC and FO (welfare officers) will contact the Cambridge University Ukrainian Society to get further understanding on what will help students from a welfare and education perspective
- Committee to begin drafting a statement from the JCR
- The committee would urge any member with ideas or concerns to get in touch via the anonymous form or directly contacting officers using email or Facebook.

If you have any suggestions or feedback you'd like to give the JCR, please get in touch by emailing [JCR Vice Pres](#) or using the [Meeting Suggestions Form](#).

*OA, 2022-2023 JCR Comms Officer*