

ST CATHARINE'S COLLEGE JCR

JCR Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: 30/10/2021 at 3pm in the Upper Octagon at St Chad's

Present: President (RC), VP (SS), Treasurer (KP), Disabilities (AA), Environment and Ethical (AD), Fresher reps (DT), Welfare (AM & AB), Academic (CD), Charities (NW), Catering (JD) Ents (AW & VM), International (JK), LGBT+ (IW), Women's and NB (GS)

Apologies for Absence: Environmental and Ethical (AO), Communications (DL), Sports and Societies (RM), BAME (SO), International (EG), Access (ES)

Absence without Apologies: Freshers Rep (EG), Catering (HP), International (JK), Accommodations (LM), LGBTQ+ (MT)

Ordinary Members: AV (First Year)

News and Updates

SU meeting

- The motion on the nightclub safety appeal (which we voted in favour of) passed
- UCU Strikes were voted to go ahead, though Catz abstained because of the complexity of the situation and different interests that had been expressed to us. The arguments were too complicated either way - we are meant to represent students who have already missed out on many, many contact hours in the last 18 months, but there are also good reasons for the strike. We did not feel that we could confidently represent the views of all students either way. For your interest, these were the arguments that were raised
 - The SU represents postgraduate students who are sometimes also staff
 - Undergraduates may pursue a career in academia
 - Staff working conditions are student learning conditions

- Potential disruption to students and staff
- The motion had sections addressing exams but someone pointed out that they are here to actually learn and engage with material, not just pass exams
- Further disruption to students after already very disruptive past few years
- There could be better uses of the money to improve the student experience which is more relevant to the SU's role
- Hypocritical to campaign for fair working conditions in other situations and not for our own academic staff
- If we are trying to decolonise academia, we need to provide opportunities for more diverse types of academic staff from a range of different backgrounds and this needs to be supported by fair wages and pensions to make these jobs worthwhile
- Some members voiced that they had had a lot of support from the students in their constituencies in favour whilst others said they had had support against
- We will be very open to hearing about your support for or opposition to the strikes to inform us better in future - however, as a JCR, there is a limited amount we can actually do about them.
- Also, please note, *the strikes are not necessarily going ahead* - the UCU haven't even voted to strike yet. The SU just preemptively voted to support them. So we will just have to see what happens.

SU Ethical Affairs meeting

- RC (President) and AD (E&E) attended and presented Freshly Planted - got a lot of support from the SU as well as some very helpful feedback on the policies we have. Mostly related to some of the longer term commitments (e.g. 'Go plant-based by 2032' might be too big a commitment) and on people with limited diets. Feedback will be incorporated into policies, discussions will be had with other students and College, and then we will work on an open letter.

Boycott Barclays

- AD (E&E) had a meeting with Christ's and Catz and will release a new motion on 1st Nov to sign by 1st Dec. We at Catz are continuing with our own boycott of Barclays and will be moving to a new bank soon. When Catz have boycotted Barclays, we will be more likely to be able to convince other Colleges to do so - since we will be able to troubleshoot with them.
- There is actually a sizeable Oxford interest in the campaign that Catz are producing, which is brilliant! (Even though it puts Cambridge to shame somewhat... get your friends at other Colleges on board!)
- The name of the campaign will be something like "Boycott Banks' Destruction", but open to suggestions on this.

Club boycott

- This went well - Cambridge streets were very empty, and it sent a message to Cambridge clubs that people care. This was supported in the last few weeks by Catz JCR who joined an inter-Collegiate campaign for safer clubs. Mash has posted new policies on their Instagram, for instance. GS (Women's and NB Officer) is going to an SU meeting on 4th regarding women's and NB issues generally where this will be discussed more.
- Note on clubs: Glitterbomb is moving from Mash to Vinyl because Vinyl hasn't been talking much to LGBT+ or BAME reps, and Mash is more accessible.

Welfairies

- Check your pidges!!

First aid training provided to the JCR

- This will be some time next weekend or early next week, still waiting on confirmation! We will advertise this widely - please do turn up. First aid skills are really important and there have been a few more cases recently of situations around Cambridge where students have felt unable to respond properly because of lack of first aid training.

Issues Raised

Encouraging people to use the bar!

- AW (Entz) raised that Robinson have a Happy Hour where drinks are cheaper - this could be implemented to encourage people to use the bar for Pres on club nights, perhaps, or during bops.
- We appreciate also that people have commented there should be more alcohol-free events, and more alcohol-free drinks in the bar - this is being worked on partly through our Alternative Bops scheme and also through conversations with the Bar staff and Catering procurement team.
- We have also seen suggestions about the bar needing chiller music, dimmer lights in the evening, etc. - these are being passed on.
- Could have people in hi-vis jackets to offer help to people and control doors, etc - essentially, bouncers. These roles could be incentivised by offering (perhaps) free/subsidised tickets to different events. Only if we feel the need for extra safety and precautions, as it is difficult for AW and VM by themselves to manage an entire bop with dozens or 100+ people there and ensure everybody is safe.
- We are also aware that the bar gets understaffed when there's a large event because there's a rule of only 3 people at the bar at any one time. This is one for the Bar staff to solve internally, but also one for students to be aware of if the Bar is very busy and operating at capacity.
- There have been numerous constructive suggestions for the operation of the bar in recent times (to be expected, as our new student Bar team has taken over! They are doing a fantastic job - but there are some ways we can make their lives easier) so we will try to set up a conversation between JMCR, Catering, and Bar staff.

Free period products

- These will be restocked soon. GS (Women's & NB) is just looking into some details about them, and working with our Green Officers to check for sustainability accreditation of any products we do buy in. Probably will come out of Welfare budget.

International Women's Day dinner

- This is on the 8th of March and should be happening this year! We just need to figure out budgets, or whether it's on the individual to pay, or whether we subsidise in part.

Bar toilets are very hot

- Truly sweltering. We will find somebody to talk to about this.

Bike repair (and bike sale!!)

- So, the bike stands at Chad's and underneath the Fellow's Carpark are both somewhat dilapidated in terms of resources and also because there are many bikes that have been left there for years (coated in dust, falling apart, etc.)
- We will look into getting new bike repair equipment AND information (in the form of posters about how to look after your bike, fix punctures, etc, as it has been suggested to us that this would be useful).
- We are thinking about a date for the bike sale. Before Christmas? After Christmas? We need time to go around and tie tags on all the eligible unregistered bikes, and then to tell people to go and take the tags off again, and give them a few weeks to do so. So, at this rate, it looks like it'll be around the vacation either way. Thoughts on schedule are welcomed.
- The bikes that we don't sell/that we receive back from people who are swapping out their bikes will go to a charitable scheme teaching prisoners mechanical skills to fix up their own bikes.

Sexual health supplies

- There was a condom dispenser in the toilets underneath Plodge, which apparently belonged to the JCR - however, the JCR did not know it

belonged to us! Neither current nor former Welfare Officers for the last 3 years have had the keys for it. It doesn't matter now because College are getting rid of the machine because the room is being turned into a baby changing room.

- To replace it, we are going to have a fishbowl of condoms, femidoms, and lube in (probably) the Pidge room, as well as perhaps a similar thing at Chad's and/or elsewhere.
- Also, we are hoping to, in the next stash order, advertise our very own Catz-themed condoms. These are obviously more expensive than normal condoms (which we get for free from the SU), so we won't provide them ourselves (it would be incredibly expensive, given how outrageously popular they will inevitably be), but we feel it is important that this is at least offered to those students who feel that Catz-themed condoms are the one thing missing from their sex lives.

RAG knitting welfare scheme

- RAG are running a knit-your-own-hat scheme which costs £10 to sign up to, the proceeds of which go to charity, and you get the materials and resources to actually make a beanie hat, which is cool.
- However, we decided not to opt for it as a JCR because (1) it's quite expensive for us to buy everyone's materials, (2) the JCR was recently graced with the Yarn Society which has used lots of funding to buy yarn that you can use at socials for free for things like knitting hats, and they can teach you various yarn crafts.
- So, if you're keen on the RAG scheme, please get in touch with them via social media! If you're just interested in yarn crafts generally, I guess, go to Yarn Soc :)

Issues Not Raised

- If your issue has not been raised here, please see the JCR Tracker (https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1is7NLM-Xm77Lf0liRlrO1ARRdY_tGbMMC98XhzFxx0/edit?usp=sharing) - all issues not raised should've been discussed here, and if they haven't, please give us a kick! (Metaphorically, of course)

Any Other Business

- Wine is going to be included in Three-Quarters-Way Hall, the Halfway Hall for third years - some people have asked.
- There is a section at the back left of the library with books to take out just for a chill read! Not academic or stressful books. Some self-help books. We recommend these highly for anyone who might need a quiet distress!
- Thinking about hosting Catz events for COP26, especially to do with the Climate Fair on Nov 6th - keep an eye out for this!
- The Catz University Challenge team will be competing again on a show to be aired in the bar on November 8th @ 8:30 - so make sure to get down there to go and watch them!!!!!!!!!!!!
- Presidency applications are still open - there is time for a few more applicants if you're at all interested! Current applicants will be announced along with their manifestos on Wednesday/Thursday this week, and from there we will go into campaigning, Hustings, and then the election. Expect more precise details in due course.

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](#).

*RC, Ex-Comms Officer (2020) and 2020-2021
President, just filling in for our usual Comms Officer for
this week. It's nice to be back <3*