

# ST CATHARINE'S COLLEGE JCR

## JCR Meeting Minutes

**Date and Time:** Saturday 20th November 2021 at 4pm in the Upper Octagon

**Present:** President (AV), VP (SS), Communications (DL), Disabilities (AA), Welfare (AM & AB), Charities (NW), Catering (JD), Ents (AW & VM)

**Apologies for Absence:** Treasurer (KP), BAME (SO), Academic (CD), Access (ES), International (JK), LGBT+ (MT & IW), Women's and NB (GS), Environment and Ethical (AD).

**Absence without Apologies:** Accommodation (LM), Environment and Ethical (AO), Fresher reps (DT & EG), Catering (HP), International (AT), Sports and Societies (RM),

**Ordinary Members:** RC

**College Members:** The Rev'd AB, Dr LW

**Matters arising from the minutes of last meeting**

**News and Updates**

St Catharine's Day and Bridgemas (25th November)

- From 5-6pm there will be a bake sale with the location to be confirmed. All profits will be donated to Women's Aid Cambridge and promotion will take place closer to the event.

**Issues Raised**

EDI Working Group

Today's meeting was based around what the EDI working group has been doing and making their workings more transparent to the JCR going forward - the rest of the

agenda will be covered in the next meeting.

The EDI working group stands for the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion working group which is a relatively informal group that talks about all issues relating to EDI and things that can be done to promote it more in the College which was set up just over a year ago. It is made up of 4 JCR students, 4 MCR students, members of Staff and fellows including The Rev'd AB, Dr LW, all members of the group can be found [here](#). The EDI working group meets twice a term with a report of the meeting being sent to all heads of departments and the JCR too. There were four main questions answers to which were discussed in the meeting:

How EDI matter relate to your JCR committee roles currently and what the EDIWG are doing:

- Making papers dyslexia friendly whether that be to increase the font size and breakdown larger bodies of text to bullet points. This has been done to the JCR Constitution for example. There should be a formal policy in place to be followed for students with learning and developmental disabilities to not be disadvantaged.
- DL (Communications) to check whether the JCR website can be altered to include a function that allows you to change the font size, colours of the website, adding alternate captions to images and text to speech options to accommodate this as well.

How do sports approach EDI matters?

- The EDIWG previously got sports captains to be resourced better to think through EDI matters and work with them because they have widespread contact and influence within the JCR community.
- For example before the pandemic started bystander training was provided which the EDIWG would like to run again for the new sets of captains.

Anything in particular the JCR committee would like the EDIWG to look at when going forward/Anything the EDIWG are currently working on?

- Currently there aren't great provisions for prayer rooms in College, AB (Chaplain) has offered up her own room for the time being to be used.
- They are working with College to design and create a multifaith prayer room considering specifics such as flooring, direction it faces, where the wash facilities are located and with the provision of movable divider screens for gender

segregation praying if necessary. The new prayer room is part of the central spaces project and will probably be camcard or key accessible and probably accessible 24/7. All suggestions from the form sent out last academic year have been taken into consideration but if there is something that you believe is important when designing the new prayer room please email AB

- The EDIWG are looking to work with the Ents and Freps when the new committee is elected to go through ideas of how alternate non drinking activities can be integrated into freshers week, since freshers week sets the tone for events that will happen all year. Other events to consider include those that are introvert friendly and/or not so crowded too.
- The EDIWG have been creating a diversity calendar whereby they have been collating religious or faith based events that occur throughout the year and are working on ways to include that into the student community.
- AccessAble was brought up as something the College should give second thought to and AB (Chaplain) has said it is something that will definitely go ahead once the central spaces project is finished as that is the current obstacle in joining the scheme. The accessibility audit can also go alongside the other audits due to take place after the central spaces project finishes.
- AB (Welfare) brought up the issue some students have with formals being quite strange and this further aggravating the imposter syndrome that students already may have. AB (Chaplain) brought up the idea of creating informal student and staff led videos explaining the different parts of a formal and why certain practices are done, but also reinforcing the message that this is definitely something that is specific to older UK universities like Cambridge and quite odd to everyone who joins.
- With workshops held in Freshers week, there should be a clearer divide on which should be student only led and which should be a combination of staff and students, the anti racism workshop for example. AB (Chaplain) is also working on how to educate the JCR further on issues such as how to approach instances of racial assault, what are microaggressions and why they matter.

### Library Space Update

- CD (Academic) had a meeting with CH (Librarian) this week and the main takeaway from the meeting is that CH is actively pushing for full capacity in the library (which would add about 25 spaces). This could either be possible by the end of term or the start of next term.
- The 2 hour 'away from desk' slips policy was something that was implemented upon student request by the JCR 3-4 years ago so is something that can be

changed, but will be voted on in the next meeting when more members are present. If belongings are left and there is no slip, belongings are removed - this is something that is already done to address the space issue.

- CD (Academic) will also be advertising the uni wide library directory soon so students are aware of potential alternate study spaces.
- The librarians are working with the Bar to make it more study friendly during the day.

### **Issues Not Raised**

### **Any Other Business**

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*