

TW: Mention of Suicide in News and Updates - Student Council Meeting 24/01

ST CATHARINE'S COLLEGE JCR

JCR Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: Saturday 29th January 2022 at 4pm in the
Upper Octagon

Present: President (AV), VP (SS), Treasurer (KP), Communications (DL), BAME (SO), Environment and Ethical (AD), Welfare (AM), Academic (CD), Access (ES), Charities (NW), Catering (HP)

Apologies for Absence: Environment and Ethical (AO), Catering (JD), Ents (AW & VM), International (JK), Women's and NB (GS)

Absence without Apologies: Accommodation (LM), Disabilities (AA), Fresher reps (DT & EG), Welfare (AB), International (AT), LGBT+ (MT & IW), Sports and Societies (RM),

Matters arising from the minutes of last meeting

CamSU Shadowing Scheme

- Catz has pulled out of the Shadowing scheme due its lack of organisation.
- ES (Access) will be having a meeting with College to see what can be done to replace it at Catz.

News and Updates

Student Council Meeting 24/01

- There is Student Union run accessibility training being provided to the disabilities and welfare officers of each college. This may come under the remit of the new JCR committee at Catz.
- Green Week is taking place on the week beginning 21st February.
- Nominations for CamSU Women's Officer have closed and everyone will be notified once voting opens.

- The SU would like consultation on a uni wide suicide prevention policy, including topics such as what sorts of issues should be flagged, what accountability procedures should there be etc. Anyone with suggestions should email [CamSU UG President](#)

Vote for a charity for the JCR to donate to

- Following NW (Charities) email asking for suggestions of charities which the JCR's allocated budget will be donated to, Alzheimer's Research UK, Cancer Research UK, Christian Aid and Save the Children have been shortlisted based on St Catharine's College's Charitable aims.
- The money will be split between the top 2 or 3 charities and to vote, please follow the link sent via email by NW on the 27th January.

Issues Raised

Open Letter Calling for the end of the University's relationship with Schlumberger

- [Schlumberger out open letter | XR Cambridge](#)
- The University of Cambridge is currently heavily involved with Schlumberger which is one of the biggest fossil fuel extraction research companies in the world, providing the gear itself to other companies to extract fossil fuels.
- Cambridge's own engineering department has a Schlumberger research facility and Schlumberger itself donates the university, and funds PhD research too, which they in turn use. Schlumberger has also been involved in many scandals.
- The Open letter which can be found above includes demands such as asking the University to stop accepting donations and converting the West Cambridge site to one more appropriate research.
- The JCR Committee decided to postpone the vote on signing this letter until next week as AD (Environmental and Ethical) will be conducting some due diligence to find out where alternative funding for PhD students will come from if Schlumberger are asked to stop donating.

The Anonymous JCR Meeting Suggestion Form

- Last week there seemed to be some misunderstanding regarding the decision made by the JCR regarding the current anonymous meeting suggestion form. It was decided that the Anonymous Messaging Platform (which can be found here currently: <http://www.jcr.caths.cam.ac.uk/messaging/> and one that is **separate** to

the Anonymous Meeting Suggestion Form) will be attempted to be transferred to the new website (www.catzjcr.com) so that the student body can send an **anonymous** email to the relevant officer directly. This would help not only resolve the issue the committee had with rude complaints but also allowed the officers to engage in two way conversation (*again, anonymously*) to resolve smaller issues but also help identify ways they can help with larger issues too (e.g. making sure they can provide welfare support to those with traumatic experiences that they wished to anonymously report - which is impossible to currently do via just the meeting suggestion form). Upon making this possible, the committee had decided they would only then make the current meeting suggestion form log email addresses. So to clarify, only upon retaining an anonymous contact platform, would the current meeting suggestion form be changed.

- The issue with rude anonymous complaints was not one that only the JCR Committee has had an issue with, but is also one the College themselves have been facing on their own Anonymous Feedback Form. As a result of this the College almost themselves took the matter to the College Consultative Committee.
- Despite this, a new plan has been devised to try and resolve the issue at the JCR level. The current form has now been edited to include a message about Catz' friendly and supportive community and drop down list for directing the suggestion at a relevant officer, in order to subconsciously allow a reporter to think about the officer before they write a complaint. This is already proving successful and the committee is very grateful for the nicer responses!
- If however in the future this is not successful, then separate forms will be made for each officer and will be linked to their images on the JCR Committee Page so that students will be able to associate a familiar face with the suggestion they wish to make. The College will also be further informed and the creation of a Community Charter will be looked into.
- If the issue is still not resolved only then will the anonymous messaging platform be attempted to be moved to the new website and the current form scrapped of its anonymity.
- If the issue persists further, it will be raised to the College who will take issues to the College Consultative Committee who will create a cross community consensus on what to do about all anonymous reporting (College and JCR included). However we hope that the committee will not have to resort to this.

Final JCR Committee Projects before/being passed on in the handover process

- AD and AO (Environmental and Ethical) officers will be looking into updates on the previously discussed green week ideas. These included holding a green week formal, zero waste sale, kitchenware sale etc
- Updates have been asked regarding LGBTeas that used to run before the pandemic - current LGBTQ+ officers do not know the logistics of running it so it may take some time - perhaps therefore it may fall under the remit of the next LGBTQ+ officers, but will be brought back.
- Updates have been asked of what will be taking place to celebrate LGBT history month.
- Organising a similar scheme to welfairies but instead for valentines/palentine's day. This may include sending a note/small treat to others' pidges and will be looked into by AM (Welfare).
- The constitutional amendments will be followed up by SS (Vice President) including those taking away the gender association with the welfare roles and holding a College meeting regarding restructuring the committee and associating fellows with committee members. This must be done in order to progress to the new committee elections.

Issues Not Raised

- If you're interested in running for the Committee this term, please reach out to a current officer to let them know. We're all happy to answer any questions
- Comments about difficulty navigating the College Website have been passed onto College.
- If your issue has not been raised here, please see the [JCR Tracker](#). Please note some issues take longer to resolve so please give us a week to look into the response before giving us another nudge via the form.

Any Other Business

- AV (President) reminds everyone that anyone who requires the need to use the College Hardship funds for medical or other uses should speak to their tutor (or any tutor).
- The Education Committee meeting took place on 25th January. Colin (Librarian) is looking into increasing the library to full capacity and the computer shortage issue too.
- JCR Committee Internal expenses will be sorted out as soon as AV (President)

sorts out the online banking issue.

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 meeting suggestion form](#).

DL, 2021-2022 JCR Comms Officer