

ST. CATHARINE'S COLLEGE JCR

JCR Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: 20/02/2021 at 4pm via Zoom

Present: President (RC), VP (SS), Treasurer (KP), Communications (DL), Accommodation (LM), BME (SO), Disabilities (AA), Environment and Ethical (AD & AO), Fresher reps (DT & EG), Welfare (AM & AB), Academic (CD), Access (ES), Charities (NW), Catering (JD & HP) Ents (AW & VM), International (JK), LGBT+ (MT & IW), Sports and Societies (RM), Women's and NB (GS)

Apologies for absence: International (AT)

Ordinary Members: BK

Matters arising from the minutes of last meeting

- The CatzConnect platform is a platform of Catz alumni that connects current students with professionals. The last meeting provided the wrong statistics, the up-to-date ones are that there are 794 alumni, 187 students of which 22 are currently using the platform.

News and Updates

CamSu Meeting 15/02/2021

- CamSU president BM looked into refining the proposal on student workloads. The proposal can be found here: <https://www.cambridgesu.co.uk/news/article/jobs/Student-Workloads-A-New-Approach/> . This is discussed further under 'Issues Raised'.
- A motion was supported in the meeting in favour of greater sexual health training and resources provided to members of the university. Sexual Health training workshops are already provided to Welfare Officers and consent training given to women's officers. But we want to expand sexual health training to be given as a part of consent workshop training to women's officers as well as to include LGBT+ officers as well. These will be part of the consent workshops that are provided at the beginning of Michaelmas term.

- A motion in support of the CamSU providing support to colleges to join the AccessAble scheme. Disability officer AA will follow up this week with the College and encourage them to apply to the scheme. Deadline is the 28th. See here for details: <https://www.accessable.co.uk/>
- A motion was passed by the SU to provide a more centralised response to support and promote the rights of transgender students in education, gender neutral toilets and a gender expression fund to be created centrally in colleges. (NB: Catz currently already has a gender expression fund of £125.)

Catz Social Media Policy Meeting

- A social media policy is going to be put up regarding college related posts to make sure JCR is being more responsible and aware of what we are posting online. Not a policy of espionage: most of the policy relates to harassment/bullying protocol.

College Hub Meeting Regarding Lifts

- A meeting took place to decide whether a glass, solid or hybrid lift should be installed. In conclusion the college will be getting a solid lift installed in Chapel Court.

Tutors Committee meeting

- 3 major issues had been raised by the student body that were discussed
 1. Students have said relationships have been hard to build with tutors
 - a. It is hard to build a relationship with your tutor to be able to express an issue personally affecting you comfortably to them due to the current method of email communication which is impersonal and formal.
 - b. Tutors are currently thinking of ways to build closer relationships with their students methods for which were discussed by the JCR Committee. This includes greater effort being provided by tutors to email throughout the term to check up on students and make sure they are doing well. Also perhaps to encourage greater use of Microsoft Teams as an informal messaging platform to use at any time to remove the formality that surrounds the use of emails.
 - c. The Tutors also encourage students to reach out about *good* things too: talking about careers, work experience, things that are going well, etc.
 2. Greater mental health support needs to be signposted
 - a. Currently we have a great welfare team consisting of AB the college

Chaplain, MS the Welfare officer and DW the college nurse who anyone in need of support should contact. Emails and contact numbers of whom are on the welfare page on the website here:

<https://www.caths.cam.ac.uk/welfarehub>

- b. The university currently provides welfare resources through the CamSU that students can use if in need which can be found here:
<https://www.cambridgesu.co.uk/support/advice/wellbeing/>
 - c. Students from different cultural backgrounds have raised issues with facing stigma asking for help so the international, welfare and BME officers will be making future use to promote mental health resources and looking into ways to encourage greater use of them.
3. Catz position on the university offer deferral terms and conditions
- a. Catz will not be deferring entry of any students come results and everyone who had received an offer and meets it will be joining the college Michaelmas 2021

Catering, Conferencing and Events meeting

- 3 points were raised
1. The McGrath centre will be used for external events from 2022 to cover its costs
 - a. Students will be kept in mind and cooperated with when events are booked into the centre and they will not override any students events already occurring.
 - b. There should not be an issue regarding noise for Gostlin/E block from prior experience
 2. The bar will be providing a takeaway service throughout the day from Michaelmas 2021
 - a. Students will book and pay for their food using UPay. If the Entz officers want to make use of this service for events they will have to stagger the timings of groups who use the service.
 3. A 10p donation system is being looked into to support Cambridge's Homeless Outreach Program (CHOP)
 - a. This is a system where a minimum 10p donation can be added to each Hall meal and the donations will add to the fund given to the homeless in Cambridge.
 - b. A survey will be sent out to the rest of the JCR to check whether it should be made into an opt in/opt out system especially since it may become an Access issue where meals will become more expensive.
 - c. Perhaps it could be made into a 'rounding up' system to make the

donation more passive.

- d. An issue was raised that it may be hard to always remember to opt in every time you get a meal so perhaps a consent form can be sent out at the beginning of each term to ask whether an individual is happy to donate 10p to each meal throughout the term. It will then automatically be added to the total each time you take out a meal.

Colleges Forum Meeting 18/02/2021

- 3 issues were raised
 1. Some students across the university are concerned about the balloting process. They want to be assured that if they do not want to live near another person for personal reasons they will be able to choose to live away from them, an issue that the balloting process does not guarantee. Previous accommodations manager AY and College Accommodations Manager AR will be consulted to check how situations like these were dealt with in the past.
 2. Mental Health support has been a priority for colleges to address. Catz currently has a dedicated welfare made up of AB, MS and DW; we also have access to external councillors. AB and AM (JCR Welfare Officers), will be conducting a future audit regarding welfare support. Greater signposting of support will be carried out to provide help of how to get help outside of office hours and currently students can use the college welfare flowchart to see where they can find help: <https://www.caths.cam.ac.uk/sites/default/files/files/Student%20issues%20flow%20chart%20version%205%20student%20facing.pdf>
 3. There has been greater opting out of the university wide asymptomatic testing program. It is not sure whether the university will continue to run the testing but in the meantime it is required that positive messages are spread surrounding testing. Catz is currently quite good in this area since we have dedicated socialising times for those in isolation, so the issue of not being able to meet others when testing positive isn't something that Catz students need to worry about.

Exams Mitigation 15/02/2021

- G Virgo sent out an email on the 15/02/2021 highlighting the 5 things the university is doing to support students when it comes to exams, in brief these are:
 1. A system of cohort equity where all students will be marked in correspondence to the bell curve of results that have been seen in the past 3 years

2. There will be automatic progression for first and second year tripos students who take their required assessments
3. Faculties and departments will be providing extensions of up to 14 days to essay/dissertation deadlines wherever deemed appropriate
4. Students who are submitting dissertations may choose to include an impact statement detailing how lockdown has prevented them accessing materials
5. Faculties and departments will be considering in consultation with students reps possible adaptations to examinations and coursework requirements
 - In order to raise any concerns about their exams, students should go to the CamSu website to find their tripos representative and raise their concerns with them. You can find out who your representatives are here:
<https://www.cambridgesu.co.uk/yourvoice/academicreps/findmyrep/>

Issues Raised

CamSU plans to change the structure of the term with a reading week

- The CamSu plans to implement a reading week into the middle of term and make the Cambridge week Monday to Sunday instead of Thursday to Wednesday. Since the term will not be extended by a significant amount, rents should not be affected. The main concern is that supervisors will see this as a way to set more work and so it should be made mandatory that no additional work is set during this time period which should be policed throughout the term. There is a trend amongst faculties that they are taking more intervention in what supervisors do, but it is difficult to see how they can check up on every single supervisor for every single supervision. Supervisors may also set unofficial work or set work earlier in the term knowing there is a week to catch up on it. There is also an Access issue if rents are affected as a result of a longer term. Benefits of this reading week include minimising stress and workload from a welfare perspective and encouraging time for socialising/exploring Cambridge to make university not just a time for studying. The Committee will look into setting up a poll to ensure the JCR's opinions regarding the reading week are taken into account.
- See proposal here:
<https://www.cambridgesu.co.uk/news/article/jobs/Student-Workloads-A-New-Approach/>

What can each officer contribute to an Instagram upload schedule?

- A regular rota will be set up rotating posts between officers making sure content

is spread out and encourages consistent engagement from all officers. The Vice President (SS) will be setting up a rota. AB and AM (Welfare) are looking into posting welfare related posts regularly offering welfare tips, for example. Posts will be prioritised depending on roles, upcoming events and at least one officer will take over the platform each week. Minutes can be posted in short form on the page to encourage greater engagement from members and any gaps in schedules can be filled to update the JCR on CamSU events.

Coordinating Surveys

- As part of their manifestos many officers have included sending out a survey to the JCR to enhance their aims in their role. So that the JCR is not overwhelmed with surveys a rota will be set up based on how essential the survey is. Current surveys in consideration include:
 - BME: What events BME students in the JCR are interested in seeing this year
 - Charities: Which charity the JCR would like funds to proceed towards
 - International: How students feel about remote learning and issues with regards to returning to Cambridge depending on Boris Johnson's announcement on Monday.
 - Catering: What people think about the opt in/opt out donation system and how students believe the Catzebo is working
 - Welfare: Gathering qualitative data regarding how people are feeling with regards to lockdowns and covid so that a mental health plan can be generated
 - FReps: Survey to find out who is college married to organise events to encourage meeting new people in Easter term.
 - Entz: Survey for entz events JCR wants to see this year
 - Accomodations: A termly grievance form maybe urgent because balloting is coming up
 - Treasurer: An opinion on Sky Sports quotes mentioned further below

BME Opportunities and prayer rooms

- Currently due to construction and after ballot day it needs to be looked into where prayer rooms can be, based on rooms that are empty and potentially we will need to hire a room out. Using the Chapel as a prayer area had been ruled out as Christian iconography might be inappropriate for many. The JCR needs to be asked what they wish to see in the prayer rooms and what should be a particular

focus of the room.

- There is an opportunity to set up an alumni BME network, potentially using CatzConnect, to make students feel supported and tackle any imposter syndrome they may feel. SO (BAME) will be looking into contacting alumni to ask who is interested and advertising this on social media.

Sky Sports/Movies package for the JCR

- KP (Treasurer) will be getting in contact with College to discuss the need to install a permanent dish. JCR will be treated as a household client given the room is used by JCR members only. Two quotes have been created whereby the JCR will get a Sky Q box compatible with Netflix and YouTube that is £45.60 monthly with Sky Sports and Cinema, £58.80 monthly with BT Sports as well which will incorporate a wider variety of sports. This will probably come into force Lent 2022. Issues raised are since the TV already has Netflix and YouTube capabilities we could potentially look into a way of just getting Sky Sports; but we will need to make sure the JCR does not just turn into a 'lads' space. The box cannot be installed in the bar or McGrath centre since they are owned formally by the college which will not make us a household client anymore. A survey will be sent out nearer the time regarding JCR preferences.

Where to put the JCR Michaelmas 2021

- Potential areas explored were the Ramsden Room, MCR, the Bar or the Rushmore room. MCR has been ruled out due to covid risk and postgraduate mixing, the Rushmore room would create too much noise in Gostlin and Bull households. The Bar has been seen to be the most favoured alternative with Bar staff agreeing it should potentially be fine and it will encourage greater use of the bar as well given the bar takeaway service will also come into force during the same time.

Divestment Open letter

- Catz currently has a pretty good ethical investment portfolio which is the result of a long year of work by our Bursar and we are fully divested across fossil fuel and armaments, modern slavery and tobacco (e.g.), however we are not fully divested. Where we are so, we are making use of moral leverage over firms to encourage greater ethical and environmental standards and since we are a Cambridge College our lobbying currently carries a lot of weight. Catz Bursar had

threatened to seize banking with Barclays within the next 9 months due to their bad standards on the oil front unless we experience change. In comparison to other colleges, Catz is doing quite well and the JCR voted unanimously in favour of signing the open letter found here:

https://docs.google.com/document/u/0/d/1S6umN-AI5l61DOriKpQzfVth_uYvioszlmkleysDG3M/mobilebasic?fbclid=IwAR3JMi1mjbNlr3Q279qeYKmxwvN7_ppXP6CJWIFaFHAAOJ6frHyIUYOEMZE

- An issue with the letter is that it is asking for full divestment which may not succeed depending on particular college ethos, but by signing this letter other college ethical and environmental representatives can make use of it as leverage to firmly encourage their colleges to change their standards and remove any loopholes that currently exist. One issue with full divestment that was pointed out is that you lose influence over the firms and sell those stocks to immoral/amoral parties. Maybe pushing for flat out complete divestment isn't feasible and we will probably meet a middle compromise which will be a good result nevertheless.

Issues Not Raised

- 3rd year ballot, ability to see who has chosen which room for household purposes - this system is already in place, you will be able to see who has chosen which room as the ballot happens as in previous years. For those who don't want to be visible on the ballot, message LM (Accommodation). The ballot will not be accessible after ballot day itself, so your location is not searchable.
- Allowing students not on long contracts to stay in college over Easter if permitted - College has already said this will be the case if government guidelines permit. There will be a Government announcement on 22/2/2020.

Any Other Business

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

DL, 2021-2022 JCR Comms Officer