

ST CATHARINE'S COLLEGE JCR

JCR Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: 22/05/21 at 4pm via Zoom

Present: President (RC), VP (SS), Disabilities (AA), Environment and Ethical (AD), Fresher reps (EG), Welfare (AM & AB), Academic (CD), Access (ES), Charities (NW), Catering (JD & HP), Entz (AW & VM), International (JK), LGBT+ (MT & IW)

Apologies for absence: Women's/NB (GS), Sports & Societies (RM), Treasurer (KP), Communications (DL), BAME (SO), International (AT), Environmental and Ethical (AO), Fresher rep (DT), Accommodation (LM)

Matters arising from the minutes of last meeting

- Visitor Policy – Sorry for sending out the wrong Visitor Policy last week! The minutes on 15/05 indeed had the March 2021 policy, and not the May 2021 policy.

News and Updates

SU Meeting (17/05)

- Emergency motion raised by the Palestine Soc on supporting Palestinian students. The motion to support Palestinian students was passed, though no similar amendment was accepted to support Jewish students, although an informal arrangement was made to reach out to Jewish students around campaign to help combat antisemitism.
- Much of the debate around this was because the meeting was taking place during Shavuot where many Jews abstain from using technology and thus could not make their voices heard. As a result of this, as well feeling that we could not confidently represent the views of the Catz JCR on such a motion, we voted in the end to abstain.
- The Justice for Workers Campaign motion passed, and a motion for Women & NB only gym hours across Uni gym passed. Public statement on access to medicine passed, the Barclays motion raised for discussion and will be voted on next time. All the motions that were discussed in depth and results can be seen on the CambridgeSU website.
- CambridgeSU Palestine statement:
<https://www.cambridgesu.co.uk/news/article/jobs/Statement-on-ongoing-violence-in-Palestine/>

CCC meeting 17/05

- **Student-run bar.** The college are looking at getting a student-run bar in Michaelmas Term. Current proposal is that we would run the bar 6 evenings a

week, though there is flexibility. It would be open later than it currently is (until around midnight, but this is flexible too).

- Students would have more say as to what is served and how everything runs.
- Catering staff bar team will still do behind the scenes things, will be about 6 undergrads and 6 postgrads that will work there. Undergraduates cannot work more than 6 hours per week, though postgraduates can be more flexible.
- There will likely be one or two MCR bar manager(s), who are paid more by hour because they will be sorting out rota and take on more responsibility. Many of the specifics are still being ironed out.
- Asked about redecorations for the bar – turns out that College were looking at this a while ago, but it got side-tracked because of the pandemic. They seemed open to the long-term idea of redecoration.
- Music for the bar. Entz (AW) trying to get some things sorted out with respect to music and ambience of the bar. Music restrictions may be due to licensing issues due to being a bar – we will look into this.
- Potential takeaway app to order bar food to-go also to be discussed in the meeting this week.

EDI 19/05

- Care+ was passed by St Catharine's – we are now one of the first 5 colleges to have passed this policy in Cambridge.
- We will have an LGBT+ page specifically on the St Catharine's website aimed at diversity and inclusion. There will also be a Care+ contact within the Fellowship at College who will lead a small group of people to further LGBT+ welfare and interests in College. LGBT+ Officers (IW & MT) are going to find a time to celebrate the Care+ policy passing – with potential rainbow cupcakes mentioned!

Accommodation disruption and noise updates

- **Noisy works** - there are a few developments which you can see in an email from College on 21/05. Please see the construction workers timetable if you are concerned about works occurring during your exams. It will be published there just before the weekend, before the coming week, so what the workers will be doing can be seen on the website. You can find this here: <https://www.caths.cam.ac.uk/major-building-projects/status/week-ahead>
- Furthermore, you can book spaces to study or to sit exams. A spreadsheet details everywhere that can be booked out as a study space and all the rooms across various college properties for this, with directions and other details. This can be found here: <https://www.caths.cam.ac.uk/space-booking-form-examinations-and-study>
- 40 ear-defenders were bought and are to be found in plodge. Generally good reception. Please go and pick these up – you can wear ear buds beneath them. Apparently they squeeze your head a bit, but some very enthusiastic feedback has told us they are very successful for some, at least. If they do not work for you, for whatever reason, please get in touch with us. Also, if we run out, please get in touch with us and we will order more.

- **L&M.** For various reasons, none of the proposed solutions that we tried to come to with College were feasible. Open meetings were held this week with the students of L&M and College to air grievances and discuss solutions or ameliorations. A number of action points are being taken away by College and information is being given by the students to figure out where best to put them and with whom. A proposal for a further rent reduction for these students is also being put forward at this time, above the 5 days' worth of free lodging that was initially offered.

Careers society

- Due to the pandemic, the Careers Society has been inactive at Catz in recent times. It is now being relaunched – RC (President) and RM (Sports and Societies) are the new President and Vice-President of the St Catharine's College Careers Society, at least for this interim period. Alumni development office have alumni working in various fields who are keen to come to Catz and talk about Careers, either on 08/06 or 15/06.
- Keep an eye out for social media and advertising on all our platforms for this careers talk! First Careers' Society event in 2/3 years. Alumni will give 5-10 minute talks on what they do/how they do it – and then rather than just being a talk, hopefully this will be the start of conversations long-term between students and our alumni to get mentoring, coaching, opportunities, CV checks, and other forms of advice.

George Floyd vigil

- There will be a fundraiser after George Floyd vigil on 25/05 where doughnuts will be sold in the bar for INQUEST: <https://www.inquest.org.uk/>. Please see the email from SO (BAME) on 18/05 for details.

Donating sanitary products to the homeless around Cambridge

- Boxes will be set out next week for donating and collecting sanitary products for homeless people, working with the charity Embrace. Keep an eye out on further communications from us on this!

Target Schools program

- Target Schools is an access scheme run by CambridgeSU which encourages student to go back to their old schools to give talks about University, Cambridge, applying, etc. We will be pushing this on our social media soon and helping students organise their return to school!

Issues Raised

Preventing prevent pledge

- For essentially the same arguments essentially given in the previous meeting's Minutes (15/05), the Committee have since read the documents put out by the SU and voted unanimously to sign the Preventing Prevent pledge and to raise awareness of the problems of the policy.

Constitutional amendments

- SS (VP) has led the constitutional amendments, which need to be done every 5 years.
- A summary of the changes include: tidying up the officer roles; officer portfolios; clarified a couple of parts, e.g. what happens if people resign or get kicked out of office; language is now gender-neutral and consistent; grammar checks. Additional information for JCR common law VP will be worked on over the summer. Constitution to go to governing body with a vote of unanimous support from the Committee.

Palestine Soc letter

- This letter was written and distributed before the ceasefire agreement, to denounce excessive Israeli force against Palestinians as well as reviewing ties with companies involved in Israeli conflict, such as BAE systems, as well as demanding that the Uni support Palestinian students and Palestinian student activism. SU debate was very contentious.
- AD (E&E) thinks we ought to support this, as, for one, there's been a longstanding campaign in universities to divest from arms deals anyway, thus BAE systems should be funded even irrespective of the recent conflict. Further, the letter we have been asked to sign isn't anti-Israel, but is anti-human-rights-abuses – about supporting both Israelis and Palestinians. As members of an important institution with prestige, we ought to support this motion against human rights abuses and support the effort to divest from arms.
- AM (Welfare) said that, as someone that went to that SU meeting, this is a less controversial motion than the one that was passed to the SU, doesn't make the same claims as that letter. It's the right thing to be signing, in his opinion.
- AB (Welfare) said that, if we don't sign this on the grounds of misrepresenting the Israeli population, it is a misinterpretation of the conflict and ignorant about who the conflict is between.
- Unanimous support for the motion by the Committee.

Masks in the library

- Complaint about masks in the library. CD (Academic) emailed the librarian to ask, but Catz will not change the policy as the university policy is to still wear masks everywhere indoors.
- While the librarian recognises other colleges are no longer following this, they are nonetheless still firm on the decision because the ventilation in the library is not good enough to allow not wearing masks for the time being according to the risk assessment.

Freshers visiting Chad's

- Suggestion was given that Freshers be allowed to visit Chad's at the end of the year to come and look around. We will start organising this towards the end of the year in an informal capacity – flats at Chad's who are happy to have people looking around can be put in touch with their future residents to sort out a time, as this will be in line with the 'two households under one roof' or 'rule of six' COVID restriction, though at this time (after 21 June) these restrictions might not even be in place anymore. We will look more into this when the time comes.

Halfway Hall/St Chad's Dinner

- RC (President) has been talking to catering about having a replacement Halfway Hall on 24 June. This would have been a Two-Thirds Hall, but this is unfair on International students and other students who have not been able to return. Instead, we could hold a replacement St Chad's Day Dinner (which evolved into Halfway Hall many years ago) for the residents of St Chad's, and a proper 2/3 or 3/4 Hall in Michaelmas Term of 2021 when everybody is back.
- JK (International) thinks it would be a good idea to have more formals and to have more events for internationals. AB (Welfare) thinks we could have St Chad's Day Dinner at the end of the term and send something by mail to the absent internationals. MT (LGBT+) pointed out that if we only do one formal, and that being in Michaelmas Term, students on their Year Abroad will miss out.
- The suggested solution is thus to have an end-of-year St Chad's Day formal on the 24 June, and either a 2/3 or 3/4 Hall in Michaelmas Term for all second years. This means both international students and MML/AMES/other YA students can attend at least one of the formals for second years.

Issues Not Raised

- Visitor rules - please see the email from College for the new guidance.
- Non-transparent/non-white rubbish bags - we have emailed housekeeping, who said that they have fairly thick white bin bags that they are using at the moment and do not think that they are transparent. They are aware of the issue now, however, so we will keep talking to them if students persistently disagree that the bags used are not appropriate.
- Community Spirit Awards - some nominations have already been considered and the recipients notified. Please continue to nominate people and we'll take another look at the submissions before the end of term!

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](#).

AA, 2021-2022 JCR Disabilities Officer