

ST CATHARINE'S COLLEGE JCR

JCR Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: Sunday 10th October at 5pm in The Bar

Present: President (RC), VP (SS), Treasurer (KP), Communications (DL), Accommodation (LM), Disabilities (AA), Environment and Ethical (AD & AO), Fresher rep (DT), Welfare (AM & AB), Academic (CD), Access (ES), Catering (JD & HP), International (JK), LGBT+ (MT & IW), Sports and Societies (RM),

Apologies for absence: BAME (SO), Charities (NW), Women's and NB (GS), International (AT)

No Apologies for Absence: Ents (AW & VM), Freshers Rep (EG),

Ordinary Members: LG, IC, JW

Matters arising from the minutes of last meeting

News and Updates

JCR Budget

- The JCR had an original budget of £13000 which became £100 during the summer. £8000 had been given to the college to aid their debt recovery fund and to pay the JCR's overdue CamSU fees. From this KP (Treasurer) retrieved a years worth of cleaners fees, a result of having been charged for cleaning the JCR (Room) despite the room being closed. We have also recovered up to £5000 from College to cover our significant losses in the past year.
- £300 was retrieved from a cancelled petting farm event from two years ago when the JCR booked a welfare event that was cancelled in the early days of the pandemic.
- Next year's budget is very similar to this year's, see [here](#).
- Potentially JCR subscription fees will need to be increased temporarily in coming years/the coming year to make up for the shortfall, because in a normal year the JCR cleaning fees would need to be paid for - but this won't happen in the

immediate future.

Stash and Committee Stash

- The JCR Committee has hoodies which you may have seen officers wearing around the college in freshers week! These are all sustainably sourced from Ecologie so as not to contribute to fast fashion.
- Catz now has a new more sustainable stash provider, [Redbird](#), the link which can be found here as well as the JCR website and linktree. New ideas that are going to be introduced are Catz themed pyjamas, Christmas jumpers, water bottles and LGBTQ+ stash! If you have any new stash ideas that you would like to pose to the JCR, feel free to let us know in the [anonymous form](#).
- There will be another order coming through within the next few weeks so if you would like to order some Catz stash, keep an eye out on the JCR facebook group! Additionally, the most recent order is all ready and out for delivery soon.

Freshers Week

- The JCR had a very successful freshers' week, a great thank you to DT and EG (Freshers' Reps) for all the hard work they put in. There has been lots of positive feedback from freshers, tutors, staff and even parents!

General Estates Committee Meeting (06/10/2021)

- There is a systemic battery issue with fire alarms in rooms throughout college which are being replaced, if anyone has a flashing or beeping fire alarm please report it to the porters so that it can be fixed.
- There will be a routine fire drill this year (which we did not have last year).
- The sports pavilion has been redecorated which was completed in house by the college maintenance team, saving £5000.
- There is a possibility for heaters to be installed in South Green Lodge or alternatives are being considered depending on viability.
- Russell Street has 2 "accessible" rooms for which the pathway is inaccessible. College are working on how to replace the doors that cause this issue.
- There is an ongoing process of dealing with inaccessibility in College and a comprehensive guide will be made covering what the College are currently doing and what they are considering changing too. This is particularly important for where a student may not have an accessibility requirement but their family member does.

- DD (Head Porter) is temporarily away, so anyone needing to raise any issues with him should contact the [Deputy Head Porter](#), K, instead.
- L&M block issues seem to now be settled and the College's Operations Manager is systematically checking up on students to ensure they have settled in well.
- When the Catzebo comes down Michaelmas 2022, the lawn beneath may potentially be converted to something else. Some ideas (in order of increasing outlandishness) include a wildflower meadow and a duck pond. Future replacement ideas are welcome via the [anonymous form](#).

Halfway Hall replacement for 3rd years

- College Catering have been emailed and an official Halfway Hall will most probably take place on 1st and 2nd November with a cap of 80 students per dinner, therefore they are taking place over 2 evenings.
- A form will be sent out nearer the time confirming attendance arrangements and on which day you would like your Halfway (or Three-Quarter-Way) Hall to be.
- Finances are yet to be finalised, JD and HP (Catering) will raise this with College. The menu will be organised by College Catering and will be released in due course.

First Aid Training Event

- The JCR will receive First Aid training in light of Christian Eriksen's collapse that occurred at the England Denmark match at the Euros earlier this year. This will be held soon in liaison with CUFAS (Cambridge University First Aid Society).
- Depending on whether this will include mental health first aid training as well, the welfare officers will be in touch with Student Minds Cambridge.

Rice Night

- JK (International), SO (BAME), AB (Welfare) are currently in talks to organise a midterm rice night which will include bringing together rice dishes from international cuisine. Details will be sent out nearer the time.

Storage Sorting System

- Over 2021, international students who did not return faced issues with how their belongings were stored over that period of time, with most things being put into the trunk rooms and some belongings being broken in the process.

- JK (International) will be in touch with College to see what other procedures could be introduced to help international students store their belongings safely.

Issues Raised

Contactless (and cashless) payment for washing machines

- Currently washing machines under the staircase in mainsite have contactless payment available however not at all other college machines. In order to change from cash to contactless, College will need to invest in a contactless device or have a card to cash machine.
- Currently contactless costs £2 per wash whilst cash costs £1.80 and LM (Accommodation) is to contact College regarding installing these devices.

Rent Bands

- L&M rent bands are currently largely wrong, with some rooms being overcharged and some being undercharged due to the mismatch that occurred when renumbering the rooms. LM (accommodations) is currently in contact with College regarding this, if you are in this situation please pay your bill for the moment because the difference can be taken away/added onto your next term bill.
- Rent bands at large are to be redefined and this is a job to be done continuously over the next couple of months/years by College. It will allow a standardised pricing system whereby rooms are priced on size, with an added premium for en suites. Ensuite rooms will always be a band 6 or above and unlike previously mentioned, there will be no bands 9 and 10. Thus rent bands will only run from bands 1 through to 8.
- Chad's rent bands potentially will be unaffected because there is not a huge difference between rooms in Chad's for this to be a consideration. Any discrepancies between flat facilities such as corridor size and lighting, will be smoothed out via the ballot system, as those who picked rooms with smaller corridors were most likely at the bottom of the ballot, therefore will get the best pick for 3rd year.
- A new building will be built in St Chad's to replace the postgraduate accommodation that was sold. This will result in a change in natural lighting in some rooms and green areas, but will greatly increase capacity and give us new and better social spaces in Chad's.
- Currently ground floor rooms have little no natural lighting, they are already

accommodated via lower rent bands but potentially a sun lamp may be a method to tackle this issue further.

Hall Meal Issues

- Currently Vegan or Vegetarian food in Hall lacks protein and proper nutrition which needs to be worked on. There are a lack of protein options for which there are multiple alternatives such as tofu and lentils that could easily be incorporated.
- An idea to combat this includes introducing primary school style balanced meal plans, meatless days (although these were unpopular when raised as an idea last year, and they are proven not to be very effective compared to other strategies), alternating days with 2 vegan options and 1 vegan + 1 vegetarian, and hiring a vegan chef next time a vacancy arises so that both nutritious meat and meat free meals are available.
- Last year Catering promised to serve ruminant meat only once a week due to the negative impact it has on the environment, however this week alone it has been served 4 times.
- There is a potential to plan something for Veganuary and JD and HP (Catering) will get in touch with college to discuss ideas. There is also the idea to introduce plant based/green formals where Catering and E&E officers will collaborate.
- AB (Welfare) raised the idea of an Environmental Traffic Light system, whereby each meal on the menu has a 'red', 'amber', or 'green' indicating its impact on the environment to help students make better conscious choices.
- There could also be the option to rearrange the order of meals on the serving counter to vegan/vegetarian followed by the meat options as that has also been proven to make customers more inclined to go with the vegan/vegetarian options presented to them first, as these are better for the environment.
- There is now the option to pick and choose courses for formals as there may be too many for some individuals who may not want to buy or eat starters or dessert, for example.
- AD (Environmental and Ethical) to get in contact with College regarding reordering the UPay Formal's ordering system to have the vegetarian/vegan option at the top.
- RC (President) is writing up these suggestions into an initial draft strategy document to work on with our Environmental and Catering Officers, and to take to the Green Working Group and to Governing Body in the near future in order to try and start pushing for better plant-based options at Catz so that everybody feels there is something for them and to align our consumption with our sustainability and ethical values. Please get in touch especially if you have strong

opinions or ideas on the matter of plant-based food! These will be very useful.

Builders starting before 9am

- We will be in contact with College to potentially organise a form that can be filled out each time builders make any noise at all before 9am. In the meantime, we stress please contact the [Operations Director](#) as many times as this issue occurs!

Issues Not Raised

- Housekeeping arrangements - Housekeeping will be cleaning communal spaces at least 5 days a week. Even before the pandemic, this was the main role of bedders anyway and they only really entered student rooms to vacuum and empty bins. The expectation has always been that students keep their own rooms clean and tidy. We do not believe it is too much to ask students to leave their bin bags outside their doors and collect another bin bag. Vacuums are also available. We do not believe we need to press the bedders to be cleaning student rooms in more depth.
- JCR mailing list - Yoga is a welfare event open to everyone, every week and isn't really a specific society so it is okay those emails go to the entire JCR. There have been a lot of emails from sports and societies due to the start of term but we will certainly encourage these groups to move to more refined mailing lists going forward.
- Updating names on doors around College - We have been round and pidgeed everybody a sticker with their name on it to take and stick on their doors as appropriate. Please collect yours if you haven't done so!

Any Other Business

Upcoming Presidential Elections

- Manifestoes are due to be released for anyone who wishes to run in the next couple of weeks, which will be followed by campaigning, hustings then college wide elections in November which will determine the new JCR President. Anyone interested can start thinking about their campaigns/forming their manifestos!

Master's Dinner: Leadership in the Pandemic

- SS (Vice President) has got in touch with the Master and College to organise a

talk between RC and the Master regarding 'Leadership in the Pandemic'. It will be held potentially with a live audience in College.

Pool Table in the Bar

- Currently there is a charge of 50p to use the pool table, although due to cash issues we will be looking into if its possible to introduce a contactless payment method for this. If not, then an alternative could be to go to the bar and exchange 50p card payment for a coin.

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