

Minutes – Exec Meeting – 12th February 2017

Apologies Sent

- Katie Bryden
- Reuben Andrews
- Millie Morgan
- Katie McCoshan
- Alisha Levermore

In attendance:

- Carl Martin
- Tara Ahluwalia
- Nivvi Yalamarathi
- Emily Young
- Matt Hill
- Tom Benn

1. Rent negotiations

- The JCR agreed last week to aim for a 4.0% increase in base rent, a % increase in KFC at or less than inflation, and agreed not to prioritise internet
- Base level of increase will be 4.0%
 - o The MCR wants more Internet, therefore there will be an additional 0.2% increase to allow for unlimited Internet
 - There will be a 0.2% increase in Internet charges each year for the next three years to spread costs
 - o Kitchen fixed charge will increase by either GBP2/1/0.5
 - o Total increase will be 4.2%, within reason of what the JCR has accepted
- *Actions to be taken*
 - o **Carl** will post an information snippet on the JCR group asking for committee members to voice their opinions, should they feel strongly about any aspect of the negotiations

2. Scholar's ballot

- Katie met with Paul Chirico, and he is open to a modification of the scholar's ballot so that instead of being able to pull up half a corridors, scholars can either (a) enter the scholar's ballot and choose their own room, or (b) ballot with their friends in the normal ballot
- However, this is still in the ideas stage and needs to be discussed further
- *Actions to be taken:*
 - o If **Katie** decides to take this forward, a final decision will need to be made by the end of Week 5 at the latest
 - She will collate information on the issue and on both sides of the argument by Saturday
 - The JCR will then need to discuss the topic and vote on it on Sunday

- Should the JCR pass the motion, an open meeting will need to be held on Monday, followed by a referendum on Tuesday or Wednesday

3. First year ballot

- Katie and Dr. Chirico discussed the current gap in freshers accommodation between Blocks A, B, and C and Blocks E, F, and M. It was suggested that either (a) groups with larger contingents of E, F and M residents have a priority in the houses ballot or (b) E, F and M residents be given priority in the selection of individual rooms within each house
- However, we do not believe that this is sustainable as, from next year onwards, freshers will be able to choose whether or not they want to live in the nicer, more expensive accommodation or the cheaper, but still nice accommodation
- Will make the ballot system more confusing and will also lead to more competition
 - Last year, there wasn't one occasion where Carl had to force people to pick a room
 - Friend groups will likely figure out room allocations amongst themselves
- *Actions to be taken*
 - Will be discussed further at the full committee meeting on Sunday

4. Storage

- Northern Ireland/Scotland don't get international storage, even though Paris is closer than Edinburgh
- There's enough space in international storage
- Could potentially put a deadline by which internationals have to have put their belongings in storage and then open it up to Scottish/Northern Irish students to avoid international students losing out on space
- *Actions to be taken:*
 - **Tom** will send an email to Stuart to ask whether Scottish/Northern Irish students can use international storage

5. Ergonomics feedback

- The health and safety committee decided, based on a feedback comment, to send out a student survey on ergonomics (the study of people's efficiency in their working environments) and the general comfort of seats, as the one's in the library may need to be replaced
- Suggested that chairs in the library, if replaced, could be moved into rooms because some of the chairs in rooms are also quite old
- No actions to be taken because it sounds like the health and safety committee itself will be responsible for the survey vs. the JCR

6. Library committee

- Nivvi will be attending a library committee next week

- They would like to send out a survey to library users but are unsure of what to ask:
 - We suggest asking how often people use the library and what they use it for to assess what services may need to be focused on (i.e. if people are using the computers a lot, it may be worth installing new computers)
- Also suggested that the library publicises the fact that they have a Financial Times subscription more because many students are unaware of it
- Potential changes to library regulations:
 - Being allowed to bring in hot drinks
 - This is possible at Christ's and at the SPS library, as long as they are in appropriate cups
 - Has been brought up previously, and the library has been reluctant to change, however Nivvi will bring it up again
 - Introducing fines *only* when books have been recalled so that people don't hoard books that may be needed by other students
- *Actions to be taken:*
 - **Nivvi** will bring the above up at the library committee meeting.