

Lent Week 9 – Full Committee Meeting – 15th March 2017

In attendance

- Abi Sommers
- Georgia Gridley
- Katie McCoshan
- Carl Martin
- Tara Ahluwalia
- Isabel Cocker
- Katie Bryden
- Reuben Andrews
- Tom Benn
- Danielle Jefferies
- Charlotte Coventon
- Tom Knight
- Beth Edwards

Apologetic

- Niveditha Yalamarathi
- Charlie Jonas
- Becca Tomlinson
- Emily Young
- Dan Walsh
- Ramnik Uppal

Unapologetic

- Alisha Levermore
- Matt Hill
- Millie Morgan
- Savannah Adeniyani
- Andrew Carey

Elected members of sports and societies were also warmly invited to attend. Henry Clifford (gym officer) in attendance.

1. Housing ballot discussion

Shadow ballot

- The shadow ballot was very useful, particularly for second years, as it reduced stress and panic on the day of the ballot
- *Future suggestions*
 - o Encourage Freshers to use the shadow ballot more, as very few filled it out
 - o Formalise and include the shadow ballot in official documentation

Amount of information given

- There was uncertainty about how many people there were to a corridor
 - o However, this information was available in the form of a map on the room ballot website that Katie linked to in her emails

- There were a number of very obvious questions being asked, perhaps because people were not reading the entirety of Katie's emails.
- The amount of communication during the ballot was roughly fine, however first years feel that they would have benefitted from hearing about it earlier
- *Future recommendations*
 - o Send out an email at the beginning of Lent about how the ballot will work, if possible, so that first years are aware

Houses

- Traditionally, only second years have gone into houses and a rule has been enforced that prohibits current freshers from pulling up into corridors until all houses are filled
 - o The rule was not enforced this year, and unfilled houses (89 Oxford Road and the top floor of 75 Oxford Road) will be filled by unconfirmed fourth years
- Freshers did not want to go into houses because they perceived them as being too far from college
 - o However, it remains unclear whether this is a one-off occurrence for this year only, or whether it will be repeated in future years

Pulling up system

- The current pulling up system favours large friendship groups
- *Future recommendations:*
 - o Group balloting system: groups convene before ballot, submit their names and then be entered into the ballot as one and choose rooms simultaneously
 - The number of people in a group could be capped, eg at 4 (same size as smallest house to encourage freshers to opt for houses) or 9 (in accordance with the number of people in the largest corridor)
 - There is a possibility that numbers will not always work out appropriately, though this is already an inherent risk of the pulling up system
 - o Limit pulling up to half a corridor with the intention of reducing conflicts and stop the system from being skewed in favour of large friendship groups.

Scholar's ballot

- Fitz is one of seven colleges that still has the scholar's ballot
- Some JCR members suggest that there is an anti-scholar's ballot atmosphere in Fitz and that it may be time to amend the system to reduce the advantage given to scholars without completely taking it away
 - o Justification for scholar's ballot is that it is a tradition that encourages people to achieve firsts, very much supported by senior fellowship
 - o Suggested that the scholar's ballot is unfair because:
 - Certain subjects (such as Natural Sciences) get more firsts because of the way marks are scaled and given.
 - Language students have two runs at getting a scholarship to be counted in the ballot

- Engineer scholars typically pull up many of their friends from the third year ballot, which is below the second year ballot, breaking the order of the ballot
- *Future recommendations*
 - Organise the scholar's ballot by year groups so that third year scholars are put below current second years, but above current third years
 - Limit scholar's pulling up to a single person
 - This has the potential to create a divide between scholars and non-scholars both physically (all scholars living in the same few blocks that tend to be most popular in the ballot) and socially
 - Should there be a move towards a group-based system, any scholars in particular groups would be able to choose their room first
 - However, there is no problem when it comes to choosing rooms among groups; the greatest conflict of interest arises when deciding where the group lives collectively

2. Fitz Society

- The Fitz Society provides funding for societies that apply for it. This year, there were three applications from the JCR, and no applications from the MCR. One group has been given funding.
- The Society wants to know why there weren't many applicants, and whether there is anything they can do to improve visibility?
- Suggested that Fitz already has a number of societies set up, and therefore people may be unlikely to apply unless they have a particular project in mind.
 - Perhaps the fund could be expanded to include projects that are to impact or take place elsewhere in Cambridge

3. Fresher's Week

- College would like a plan of Fresher's Week by Week 2 of Easter term
- Georgia has sent out an email about helping out for Fresher's Week and about four people have gotten back to her.
- A survey was run at the end of Fresher's Week this year, and suggested that there need to be more events for non-drinkers, particularly on nights *other* than the ones where drinking events are occurring
 - The rationale for this is that few people attend the non-drinking events when major drinking events (such as the bar crawl) are going on, in order to avoid missing out on opportunities to make friends
 - It may be a good idea to have nights where the main event is non-drinking
- *Actions to be taken*
 - The **Ents** team will continue to assemble a Fresher's Committee, comprising of about ten people
 - **Carl** will send **Ents** information from the survey
 - **Katie** will send **Ents** a template timetable from last year

4. Exec/Officer Updates

Publications Officer

- Has planned everything for this term's issue of the Goat Post: has written two articles, and has four people writing other articles
- Will be formatting during the Telephone Campaign period, printing over the Easter Vacation and then distributing it

Green Officer

- Successfully organised Fairtrade formal and wine tasting
- Fitz Off finished yesterday: in the process of determining the winners

Ents

- Working on organising Fresher's Week (see item 3)
- A number of JCR members would (preliminarily) be able to come up to Cambridge a few days early in Michaelmas to help with international and home Fresher's Week

Charities Officer

- Will be taking the food collection box to the food bank tomorrow
- Currently in the midst of the worst humanitarian crisis in the history of the UN: famine
 - o Suggested that we could have a fundraising event or set up money collections
- *Actions to be taken*
 - o **Tom** will look into making the food collection box a weekly fixture, and into doing something to raise money to tackle famine

International

- Creating preliminary international Fresher's week plans
- Received a reply on the breakdown of college fees paid by international and privately funded students
- *Actions to be taken*
 - o **Charlie** will include a link to the college fee breakdown on the website

Gym Officer

- A large amount of new gym equipment is being delivered
- Sent out a survey about what people would like from the gym moving forward
- Concern about people making noise and dropping weights in the gym
 - o Could propose a timetabling system that encourages people to be quiet during certain hours, but allows them to drop weights during others
 - o This could be complicated, because we don't want to encourage people to make too much noise
- The porters would like to get a colour-coded sign that has all of the gym rules, including those about appropriate footwear, noise levels, and drinks

Webmaster

- Concerns were raised about the college's intra-Fitzwilliam mailing system, as individuals have had mail (including supervision work) placed in the wrong pigeonhole on several occasions and have received letters from the college dated October in March.

- Actions to be taken
 - **Carl** will raise this with the relevant parties.