

JCR Meeting 4 – 3rd March 2019

Present

Ellie Brain (President), Emily Insanally (Vice President), Becky Reilly, Alex Burns, Henry Sainsbury, Alexandra Nikolin, Cerian Craske, Poppy Blackshaw, Ben Tudor, Harriet Bradnock, George Richmond, Irene Jessel, Marc Foxhall, Justin Yu, Finn Manders, Connor Dwyer, Dmitry Bashtanov

Apologies

Dan Carter, Yaron Bernstein, Daniel Ellis, Priya Kaler, Emily Baker-Thurston, Ben Bristow, Duessa Banteen, Caolan McConnaughie, Zayn Richards, Rob Watts, Leon Reason, Iona Mac, Andrew Salkeld

1. Round The Room

President – Brought up changes to JMA Standing Orders to make them gender neutral

VP – Has completed the room ballot

Ents - £10 raised for RAG from the Charity Pub Quiz. A successful Fitz Sessions was held. Ents meeting held which has restructured Ents team, giving more responsibility to Officers. Feedback on selling of club tickets; we should focus on freshers week and superbops, not just general club nights

Technical – The bar jukebox should be open to student use after the Easter break

LGBT – Application sent to Fitzwilliam Society for a Gender Recognition Fund

Women/NB – FemSoc was a success, a walking group to Reclaim The Night is being arranged. Finalising International Women's Day formal.

International – Karaoke night didn't have much Fitz turnout, but was a good night and successful event.

T&A – Access Forum held. Facebook page to be set up.

Food and Bevs – New form submissions have been passed on, and currently arranging another meeting with Catering.

Welfare – Massages have gone well, and yoga is back on this week. Fitz Tutorial survey will be kept active due to low response rate so far.

Ethical - Carrying on with gaining evidence for Green Impact. Posters to be issued for laundry and recycling. Going to GPC about composting. Next term, Fitz is changing the company which composts with us, meaning that from then on everything compostable will be composted. All Execs have approved the Environmental Guidelines.

2. Scholar's Ballot

Poppy – Education Committee is concerned that the JCR view on the scholar's ballot is not that of the wider student body. Solution is to hold a referendum on it next term. First Fitz Debate Society debate next term will be on the scholar's ballot as a hustings.

President – Informs the JCR that Pembroke lost a referendum but St John’s won a referendum on this.

3. Student Satisfaction

President - Will type up the full findings of the survey, however, generally comments that the findings were quite positive for accommodation. This is the highest turnout we’ve had recently for this survey, and lots of small complaints have come up which have come to college’s attention. Attitudes on divestment were split, but heavily in favour of demilitarisation. On the Living Wage almost everyone in principle supports this, even in reducing quality of accommodation and services.

4. JMA Technical

Dmitry - A promise of money for new equipment has been given, so that we can have our own equipment we can use when there are other events on. We need to replace equipment that no longer works.

Vote on approving the use of a pot of money for new equipment:

For – 16

Against – 0

Abstain – 1

The vote passes.

5. Environmental Guidelines

All Execs agree to them. These will be posted on Official Fitz Group to show how the JCR is acting in a green way.

Henry – asks if these guidelines could be added to the official governing documents of the JCR.

President – will look into this

6. Toilet Signage

Alex – Inspired by Churchill’s policy where the toilets are still split male/female/disabled, but the college says people can use whichever toilet best matches their identities, and this is made clear on signage.

Finn – we could add to this ‘invisible disabilities’ to the disabled toilet signage.

Vote on supporting changes to toilet signage to the proposed above:

For – 17

Against – 0

Abstain – 0

The motion passes unanimously

7. Welfare Officer Titles

President – This has come up at President’s Conference. A lot of colleges have male and female welfare, but this makes people think they can only talk to the welfare officer relating to their gender, and it is problematic for NB people. We could change to just electing two welfare officers, who will be called just ‘Welfare Officers’, but with the requirement that one is Female/NB and the other is Male/NB.

Vote on this proposal:

For – 17

Against – 0

Abstain – 0

The motion passes unanimously, with effect from the next JCR elections.

8. Staff in External Housing

Becky – Staff and workmen are coming into college-owned housing without notification and without knocking on doors. This is an issue if people are not in a state where they are comfortable to be seen by people outside their house.

Henry – points out that landlords have to give 24 hours notice

President – however, our contracts don’t say this

Points were made by multiple people about timings of workmen entering their accommodation.

President – proposes either 24 hour advance notice, or at least workmen or staff knock on the door.

Alex/Becky – Ask that it be 24 hours notice, except for emergency callouts

Dmitry/Connor – This should be applied to all accommodation, not just external housing.

Vote on calling for 24 hour notice for workmen and staff entering accommodation:

For – 16

Against – 0

Abstain – 1

The motion passes.

9. Supporting CHOP

President – Presents an open letter to join colleges helping support homeless people and charities (eg. by giving away surplus food etc.). Asks if the JCR will support the letter and CHOP.

Rensa (non-JCR Committee observer) – says that this will help in getting fundraising activities to happen, since college have been slow to support efforts for CHOP and Jimmy's.

Alex – proposes we could put collection boxes in the JCR since it is the JCR Committee's room

Vote on supporting CHOP

For – 17

Against – 0

Abstain – 0

Vote passes unanimously

10. CUSU Motions

Motion for a Cashpoint to be installed at Sidgwick Site

Henry – asks if we could also lobby for minimum card charges to be removed from Sidgwick Site cafes

Vote:

For – 16

Against – 1

Abstain – 0

The motion passes

Motion to create a Blues-style award for student leadership

Dmitry – raises the issue of mentioning theatre as part of this. Highlights that theatre is already a very stressful and competitive environment which may become even more pressured if awards are offered.

President – Claims that Cambridge already puts too much pressure on students to then add more incentive and pressure to partake in extra activities.

Alex – This will create more welfare problems. Extra-curriculars should be a choice and a way of getting away from pressure.

Dmitry – CUSU may not be the best method for this anyway, it should be down to clubs and societies themselves.

Vote:

For – 0

Against – 15

Abstain – 2

The motion fails.

Motion to introduce transparent voting

Henry – This will be good for democracy in colleges and keeping track of when their representatives are attending CUSU and a good way of challenging those who don't.

Finn – Good for accountability when it comes to elections, as you can track what people have done in their roles.

(Multiple) – make points that there should be a way of doing this for the JCR too. Keeping track of if people have voted with their manifesto pledges.

President – highlights that there will be a document coming soon showing how far people have achieved their manifestos on JCR

Alex/Finn/Connor – We need to discuss if and when we use secret ballots then. This can be an item for the next meeting.

President – A transparency motion shall be put forward to the next JCR meeting.

Vote (on original CUSU motion):

For – 17

Against – 0

Abstain – 0

The motion passes unanimously.

CUSU Budget Approval

Rensa (Non-JCR Committee observer) – highlights the lowering amount for individual campaigns, but this is for putting money into a fund that any campaign can apply to.

Henry – budget doesn't specify how much money should be given to each campaign, and instead CUSU seem to decide among themselves. They should set out clearly what each campaign gets.

Vote to approve budget:

For – 3

Against – 4

Abstain – 10

The motion shall be abstained upon.

Motion to mandate development of CamSpire

Vote:

For – 12

Against – 0

Abstain – 5

Approval of Disabled Student's Campaign Constitution Changes

Rensa (Non-JCR Committee Observer) – Explained to the JCR that the changes include remote voting, member description to standing orders so that more roles can be added, and that the DSC can have access to CUSU's Returning Officer.

Alex/Connor – assure the JCR that the changes are necessary, reasonable and uncontroversial.

Vote:

For – 17

Against – 0

Abstain – 0

The changes are supported unanimously.

11. AOB

Henry – Asks if the JCR support using money reserved for a hockey table to make progress with getting a hockey table. The JCR approves.

Dmitry – Asks to move some equipment to a new room. JCR approve.

George – Asks for people to fill in the tutorial form.

Andrew – Notes we have money, and asks JCR members to fill in the jumper form.