

JCR Committee Meeting 8 – Minutes

HT21, Sunday 7th March



Treasurer's Business (Dilan):

- The Welfare Levy:
 - We usually spend £800 of the Welfare budget per term, but we already have more than that set aside for TT21 without the addition of the Welfare Levy (£4 per student, per term).
 - If we have money left in the budget at the end of term, college will reduce the budget next year – we want to avoid this
 - Proposes that we remove the levy from JCR students' battles in Trinity term (for this academic year only)
 - If we don't do this, the students may end up paying for services that college could have funded.
 - Removing the levy will not affect the current standard of welfare services we are providing, and we will still have funds for future events
 - However, if you have any suggestions as to how we can use the excess Levy money, we can keep the Levy.
 - RW- suggest we spend the welfare budget on a MT21 JCR Committee Welfare Crew date celebrating our hard work.
 - SM- were these savings collected due to the pandemic or is there too much money in the budget generally?
 - It's because of the pandemic (no welfare tea's to cater or stuff to purchase for in-person events)
 - Will be careful when phrasing this proposal to the JCR, we don't want to make it look like we are compromising our Welfare services
 - ATM – From experience, we know how collecting money we don't need can be a burden, particularly as you can't redistribute it to other areas. In favour of removing the levy this term.
 - MW – concerned about reducing the money we could have for Welfare events. It's not that we necessarily don't need it, more that we just haven't got ideas on how to use it yet.
 - If you have any ideas, let Dilan know.
 - SM – The Pres Chat has come up with some good welfare activities we can use it for, such as supplying postcards and pot-plants to students.
 - SM – When do we have to make this choice? We don't have enough committee members in this meeting to take a vote.
 - The deadline for making a decision is 0th week, TT21.
 - Dilan to send Sanaa the budget breakdown.
 - SM – Even if we are not all back onsite next term, we will still need money to fund events (possibly catering for a student body split between onsite and remote learning)

- AL – If we were onsite, and we advertised it more, the sanitary product scheme could be quite expensive. If we have extra money, it could be redirected to making this scheme more accessible and wide-reaching next year.
 - Dilan to put this in handover notes to the JCR Bursar elect

President's Business (Sanaa):

- Equalities Week
 - The JCR has been asked to organize an equalities week
 - Each Equalities Rep will host a different event, or have an allocated day of activities
 - Chloe to take the lead on this
 - This will be a good opportunity to provide an action-packed week for the JCR.
 - As most of these events will be remotely accessible, we could invite students from other colleges as well.

- Update on college's plans for Easter Vac:
 - The department of education has released statement saying that students can legally move back home during a travel window at the end of term (they just can't move between locations more than once)
 - College will be sending out a message regarding this policy update shortly.
 - We still need to make sure that students who can't travel home receive a reduced vac rent. This has been communicated to John Banbrook and he has promised to pass it onto John Ford.
 - This potential rent reduction will probably come in the form of a grant.

- Updates on college's plans for Trinity Term:
 - Student's currently onsite for welfare-related reasons will not need to reapply for accommodation next term. They are cleared to return to the college site for TT21.
 - Applications will reopen for students who were working from home this term but need to be back onsite for welfare reasons next term.
 - As whether or not we can return to university is a national concern, it's very difficult to make an affective campaign at the college level.
 - However, our concerns about working from home and the general consensus among students that we should be back onsite for TT21, has still been relayed to Helen King.
 - No matter what the decision is, will need to step-up our game even more to make sure our JCR is being looked after throughout next term.

Disabilities Business (Pippa):

- Website accessibility information:
 - The recent Access Audit brought up the fact that we don't have any accessibility information on our website – this needs to be fixed.
 - Ideas about how to start updating the website?

- Ed to be liaised with (after his exams)
 - RT – Jay Gilbert is your first point of call. Development is usually open to any website updates and will be happy to accommodate your ideas. However, it may take a few weeks for the content to appear on the website, as it has to pass through several different people.
 - RW – The accessibility webpage will have a much needed updated in 10th week. Rachel Busby is the one to contact about this.
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Any other business:

- **Alumnae Story Display (Amy)**
 - Has now collated the alumnae stories
 - Wants to display them in a magazine-style form (like The JAR)
 - Both hard and electronic copies to me made available
 - Will appeal to the JCR for creatives to assist/advise.
 - Will also be doing a ‘Women in STEM’ Instagram Takeover on International Women’s day
 - Will discuss ideas with Rebecca.
- **Open Forum with College Officials (Orly)**
 - Can we ask college to release written answers to questions that are not answered on the forum (due to time constraints)
 - If we only communicate one thing to the JCR it should be that, at present, nothing is certain. It’s completely fine, if not desirable, to admit that we won’t have any absolute answers until the education department makes their decision.
 - Sanaa to express this to Helen
- **Accommodation Renovation Update (Bilal)**
 - College are considering removing the 3-year accommodation guarantee due to Bevington Road renovations and general over-subscription. See previous minutes.
 - A sub-committee containing senior tutors and JCR committee members (such as Vice-Pres and Domestic Affairs’ Rep) will be created.
 - This will also include the elects for next year’s committee as this process will take time and create an overlap
 - This committee is still in its early stages. Bilal will have an update for us next term.