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Minutes of the JCR Open Meeting

Thursday 9th November 2006, 7.00pm

Prepared for:

JCR Committee 2006-7

Prepared by:

Adrien Motte

JCR Communications Officer

11th November 2006

i. Present

Amy Froomberg (President), Sara Lloyd-Jones (Vice-President), Jamie Saunders (*Treasurer*), Adrien Motte (Communications), Laura Bellinger (Academic Affairs), Edward Taylor (Ents)

Apologies: Ollie Fielding (Welfare), Ali Williams (Services)

ii. Approval of minutes of the last meeting

VOTE:

45 in favour

0 against

0 abstentions

45 votes cast therefore the minutes of the last meeting were approved with quorum

iii. Officers Reports and Questions

a. President's Report:

AF wished to discuss most of her report during the DCAC Open Meeting later that evening, but noted that she had been busy recently with the organisation of the various ents, dinners and formals occurring this term around college, and the organisation of the Griffin newspaper, following an unsuccessful by-election for Griffin editor. New members have nonetheless joined the Griffin subcommittee, and there are numerous articles ready to be collated, so expect a copy soon!

b. Vice-President's Report:

SLJ has most recently been busy drafting all the JCR/DCAC constitutional changes that are being proposed tonight. She has also had to organise the Griffin by-election, and has been liaising increasingly with CUSU, sharing all sorts of information (i.e. rent banding, catering) in order to build a Cambridge-wide source of information and comparison amongst colleges.

c. Treasurer's Report:

JS has spent quite some time doing the DCAC accounts, which have been approved last week, and drafting the DCAC budget, which will be presented later that evening. JS has also been busy attending JCR meetings and college finance meetings.

d. Academic Affairs Officer's Report:

LB reports the usual academic query answering, and is currently working towards getting the library catalogue online, although this will probably prove to be slow process due to technical difficulties.

e. Communications Officer's Report:

AM has been busy managing the online bookings for the past few events – with a few technical glitches! He's also been advertising various events around college (e.g. Downing Enterprise) and working with college to try and get the catering menus online. He also wanted to take this opportunity to remind everyone that the online maintenance request system was fully operational, and that Maintenance printed out the requests every morning.

f. Ents Officer's Report:

ET reports that the Halloween and Fireworks formals and ents were very successful, and that Ents are currently planning the Xmas ents.

g. Welfare Officer's Report:

N/A

h. Services Officer's Report:

N/A

iv. JCR Ordinary Motions

The motions are given in full in Appendix A.

a. Renaming of Officer Positions:

SLJ outlined the case for the renaming of the JCR GEEMA and Target officer positions (see Appendix A). No questions were raised.

VOTE:

44 in favour

0 against

2 abstentions

46 votes cast therefore the motion **passed** with quorum.

b. Merging of Welfare and Equal Opportunities Positions:

SLJ outlined the case for the merging of the JCR Welfare, Equal Opportunities, Men's and Women's officer positions into a set of 'dual' Male/Female 'Welfare and Equal Opportunities' officer positions (see Appendix A).

OF noted that as current Welfare Officer, he'd spent a lot of time thinking about this motion, but was confident that streamlining the JCR committee and removing so many blurred boundaries would benefit everyone.

Dan Jackson inquired as to whom would be organising the JCR Garden Party, and AF answered that the Garden Party would now be organised by Ents.

VOTE:

42 in favour

1 against

1 abstentions

44 votes cast therefore the motion **passed** with quorum.

c. Subcommittee size and appointment:

SLJ outlined the case for reorganising the Ents, Griffin and Welfare subcommittees, to allow for greater flexibility and remove the need for elections (see Appendix A).

Shamini Bundell asked if having elections for the positions, then appointments if needed would be a better idea? SLJ answered that consistency would be better preserved if only appointments were used. ET added that the Ents subcommittee had always been about asking people to join anyway, since none of the volunteers wanted to go through all the hassle of elections for the positions. SLJ also added that co-opting isn't as fair as open applications in terms of diversity and who gets the positions.

Davy Kurnaiwan inquired as to when the applications for the subcommittee positions would occur? SLJ answered that the system would mimic that already used by the Head Freshers reps and Ball Committee appointments: once elected, the officer in charge will open up applications to the entire college.

Shamini Bundell raised a concern about the process, and how preferential treatment would be avoided when it came to positions on the subcommittee. ET answered that in the current state of affairs, the Ents subcommittee was forced to actively recruit anyways, whereas an official application process would make it much fairer. OF added that the JCR Committee had been elected by college members, and as a whole are diverse enough to represent the best interests of college – not their own friendship groups. Heather Murphy (Equal Opportunities Officer) noted that the tasks at hand would be very different to those linked to the Freshers committee, and as a result would not attract the same risk of preferential treatment.

VOTE:

Ents subcommittee: 46 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions

46 votes cast therefore the motion **passed** with quorum.

Griffin subcommittee: 46 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention

48 votes cast therefore the motion **passed** with quorum.

Welfare subcommittee: 40 in favour, 2 against, 5 abstentions

47 votes cast therefore the motion **passed** with quorum.

d. Allowing Ents Officer position to be held by two people:

ET explained that the role of the Ents officer was extremely large, especially in the run-up to ents. The jobs can easily be divided during the night, but allowing two officers to hold the position (as per the Head Freshers reps) would lead to more flexibility and better Ents.

Paul Hunt inquired if both Ents officers would become senior officers. AF answered that such would be the case – but that being a pair was not a requirement for the position either.

VOTE:

47 in favour

9 against

1 abstention

57 votes cast therefore the motion **passed** with quorum.

e. Quorum at JCR Open Meetings:

SLJ outlined the case for reducing the JCR Open Meeting quorum from 40 to 35 (see Appendix A). The main point was the recurrent situation where motions could not be passed at previous open meetings due to 2 or 3 people missing.

Lucia Li asked where would the line be drawn – when would quorum become no longer representative? AF answered that this isn't a dramatic reduction, and that the value of 40 had been around for a long time already. The only motions that need to go through the Open Meetings are constitutional changes.

VOTE:

32 in favour

9 against

5 abstentions

46 votes cast therefore the motion **passed** with quorum.

v. Any Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

vi. Next Meeting

The next Open Meeting will be held in Lent Term 2007.

vii. Appendix A

(a) C1 (i): Renaming of Officer Positions:

The JCR notes:

- That currently the positions of GEEMA and TARGET are unclear as to their roles at present – many freshers may misunderstand them and therefore not use the resources available to them through JCR representation

The JCR resolves:

- To replace GEEMA (in C:1) with 'Ethnic Minorities Officer'
- To replace TARGET (in C:1) with 'JCR Access Officer'

Proposed by: Sara Lloyd-Jones (JCR Vice-President)

Seconded by: Amy Froomberg (JCR President)

(b) C1 and C4: Merging of Welfare and Equal Opportunities:

The JCR notes:

- Constitutional changes last year brought into existence an Equal Opportunities Officer, and an equal opportunities sub-committee under which men's, women's and LBG officers sit.
- The relationship between welfare and equal opportunities is significant, and many of their roles overlap.
- Furthermore, the men' and women's officers find their roles are often taken up by Welfare or Equal Opportunities.
- Many other colleges have a much more streamlined system of welfare and equal opportunities which limits the size of their committees and makes the roles more clearly defined

The JCR resolves:

- To replace the current system (at the next election) with one whereby two officers, a) Male Welfare and Equal Opportunities and b) Female Welfare and Equal Opportunities, share the work of Welfare and Equal Opportunities, and deal with specific men's and women's matters when they arise
- Both of these Officers will sit on the Senior Committee
- They will have a sub-committee consisting of: LBG, International and Ethnic Minorities

Proposed: Sara Lloyd-Jones (JCR Vice-President)

Seconded: Oliver Fielding (JCR Welfare Officer) & Heather Murphy (JCR Equal Opps Officer)

(c) Subcommittee size and appointment:

The JCR notes:

- Currently the ball committee, freshers' committee, and bar committee are chosen by application to the relevant officer.
- Membership to the Ents sub-committee, Welfare and Equal Opportunities sub-committee and Griffin sub-committee is by election by the entire JCR.
- This discourages some people to run for certain positions, and other sub-committee positions are highly contested which prevents students from getting involved in the JCR at sub-committee level.
- The limits on the number of positions within the Ents and Griffin sub-committees are restricting, and the Officers would often appreciate the help of more than 3 willing volunteers!

The JCR resolves:

- To replace the election of Ents sub-committee, Griffin sub-committee and Welfare and Equal Opportunities sub-committee (If II passed at OM, now comprising International, LBG and Ethnic minorities) with appointment by each relevant elected officer by a fair and open process, overseen by the JCR executive.

Proposed: Sara Lloyd-Jones (JCR Vice-President) and Amy Froomberg (JCR President)

Seconded: Edward Taylor (JCR Ents Officer) and Oliver Fielding (JCR Welfare Officer)

(d) C3: Allowing the position of Ents officer to be held by two people:

The JCR notes:

- That currently the only position open for co-election is that of Freshers' Reps, who, like Ents, run large scale events in college with a committee.
- That the workload of a position such as Ents is not evenly spread throughout the year; the larger events demand a lot of time and energy - a 50/50 split of the responsibility could make the job a lot easier

The JCR resolves:

- To keep only one position open for election, but allow the opportunity for pairs to run, as is with freshers' officers.

Proposed: Edward Taylor (JCR Ents Officer)

Seconded: Sara Lloyd-Jones (JCR Vice-President)

(e) M2 (ix): Quorum at JCR Open Meetings:

The JCR notes:

- Currently the JRC Open Meetings require 40 persons to be present in order to reach quorum
- This is often difficult to reach, resulting in motions passing convincingly by all who are there but underneath quorum, which is frustrating for those proposing and seconding motions

The JCR resolves:

- To lower the quorum number to 35 persons
- To continue working on incentives to attract a higher turnout at Open Meetings

Proposed: Sara Lloyd-Jones (JCR Vice-President)

Seconded: Jamie Saunders (JCR Treasurer)