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Minutes of the
JCR Committee Meeting
Monday 9th March 2009 - 7pm

Prepared for:
Downing JCR committee 2008/09

Prepared by:
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JCR communications officer

I. Present

Katie Marshall (President), Katie Brown (Vice President), Matt Halford (Treasurer), James McGinnigle (Communications), Kat Warmington (Services), Matthew Sinclair-Thomson (Academic Affairs), Laurence Feeney (Men's Welfare), Lauren Juster (Women's Welfare), Jason Mann (Internet), Timur Kary-Niyazov (International), Ameera Patel (Ethnic Minorities), Tom Leather (LGBT), Anthony Hitchin (Access), Helen Picot (Green), Andy Corley (Sport), Dan Barker (Ents), Aditi Rao (Griffin), Francesca Bonner-Evans (Head Freshers' Rep), Harry Thomson (Head Freshers' Rep), Craig Sawyer (Bar Senior Treasurer)

II. Apologies

Rhemayo Brooks (Ents), Orlando Delange (Griffin)

III. Ball Update

- Chris Hughes (Ball President) and Jo Maddison (Ball Vice President) gave the committee an update as to how the ball was going.
- It is going on schedule, with expected eventual ticket sales of 1400-1500, originally 1000 sales were budgeted for but these sold out in 4 days and so it was re-budgeted.
- Helen (JCR Green Officer) wants to get involved to help out with ethical and environmental concerns. She and Chris agreed to discuss this via email.
- Long term plans are to keep the ball as a biennial event, but the cycle the ball is currently in has more competition, so it was proposed to do one next year.
- The JCR generally agreed this would be a good idea, and Katie M and Chris said they would talk to the Domus Bursar about it.

IV. Committee Position Concerns

- Lauren, Jason, Timur, Helen and Andy have not yet received their JCR handover documents. This is to be sorted via email with the previous committee members.
- It was noted that the Bar President should be present at JCR meetings and this has not been regularly happening, but this is going to be rectified for future meetings.
- It was decided that there is no need to have a second, female LGBT officer but that it is useful that Tom has a female willing to provide help where necessary.

V. Dying Societies

- Table football - Andy received an email from the table football captain who graduates this year, asking whether anyone wishes to carry the society on. It will be included in the next JCR newsletter to see if anyone does wish to keep it going.
- Blake society - This society no longer appears to be active. The JCR agreed this is an important society for Downing, and that it needs to have a new committee that can self-elect and continue in future years. Matthew agreed to contact the previous president who has now graduated, to see if he can shed light on the situation and help find a new committee.

VI. International Storage Discussion

- College are unhappy with the volume of items left in P staircase cellar and if it is going to continue to be used it will need to be cleared out.
- It is due to be cleared out in the upcoming week, so Katie M will make further announcements on the website and via email to let international students know they need to move their things out.
- College has considered stopping offering international storage altogether. The committee agreed this should not happen, especially with the vast majority of other colleges offering adequate solutions. Suggestions to improve use of the rooms included clearing them out more regularly and making access to the key more restricted (eg. Only certain committee members can take it out of the Porter's Lodge).

VII. The JCR Website

- Jason plans to update the website content over the Easter break. All committee members were requested to email him with updates to content related to their roles, and to send him a picture and write a small description of their role for the committee section of the site.
- There are also plans to do a big update of the website over the summer. It was agreed that the whole structure is somewhat confusing at the moment, especially with regards to news/events/ents. A rethink about the Fresher's forum moderation was also discussed, perhaps allowing Fresher's Reps only to post replies to questions. Other suggestions were requested to be sent to Jason by email.

VIII. Other Business

- Matthew has been to one education meeting, and the only thing worthy of note is that women will be underrepresented in Downing this year, with 62% of undergraduate intake being male. It is noted that this is largely due to the fact that a lot fewer girls applied.
- Katie M and Katie B said they were going to be unable to make CUSU council this week, Laurence and Lauren offered to go as proxies. Katie B said she would email the appropriate people and let them know.
- The colour of committee stash was decided on, to be a pinky purple. Frankie and Harry are going to sort it out.