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Minutes of the  
JCR Open Meeting  
Monday 2nd October 2009 - 8:30pm

Prepared for:  
**Downing JCR committee 2008/09**

Prepared by:  
**James McGinnigle**  
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), Anthony Hitchin (Access), Jason Mann (Internet), Timur Kary-Niyazov (International), Ameera Patel (Ethnic Minorities), Tom Leather (LGBT), Lauren Juster (Women's Welfare), Rhemayo Brooks (Ents), Helen Picot (Green), Andy Corley (Sport), Orlando Delange (Griffin), Aditi Rao (Griffin)

## **II. Apologies**

Dan Barker (Ents), Francesca Bonner-Evans (Head Freshers' Rep), Harry Thomson (Head Freshers' Rep)

## **III. Officer Reports and questions to the JCR**

### **a) President**

- The TV room renovation is underway and it was suggested and noted that considering the current green issues that it should be made as energy efficient as possible.
- Katie reminded everyone that there are many bursaries and schemes available for students in financial need - there is more info on the college website.
- Also everyone should have swine flu friends, and they get symptoms they need to tell the porters.
- Katie in discussion with James and Jason has been looking at the moderation policy of the JCR forums. Proposed changes were read out including automatic notification of post moderation or deletion by email and the ability for moderators to remove or edit posts that reference posts that can be moderated under the current policy. All the comments were noted and the policy will be rethought about and redrafted to bring up as a motion in a future open meeting.

### **b) Green**

- Helen mentioned that the complaint about not having the correct recycling bins on Lensfield Road has been dealt with and the council has now changed them.
- With the heating cuts there will be temporary insulation available if needed, but this may need to be installed by students.
- College staff and fellows are getting training on being energy aware.
- The bursar wants to introduce an incentive scheme based on electricity usage. One idea that porters/cleaners should note what is being used when students are not in their rooms was widely opposed. Other ideas such as electricity meter monitoring for entire houses/corridors were suggested as they would be less intrusive and encourage a "team spirit" attitude to being more efficient, but nothing certain was decided.
- Multiple people mentioned issues with lights/heating never switching off and nothing being done even after maintenance requests, and that it was a bit hypocritical to ask students to cut down their use when College wants to spend nothing on fixing these problems. Helen said she is doing everything she can to chase up these issues.

- Helen reminded people who are interested to join the green mailing list to receive regular email updates.
- CUSU green week is coming up, Helen may be putting on a bike workshop in college - watch this space.

#### c) LGBT

- Not many freshers have joined the mailing list as yet, hoping more will throughout the year.

#### d) Welfare

- Tea Sundays in the Butterfield have been very successful so far.
- Laurence planned to get Darren Flood in to do Chlamydia tests at the last ent, but he didn't turn up - however Laurence will have some tests within the next 2 weeks - if anyone wants one let him know!
- Lauren has applied to be a university sexpert.

#### e) Services

- Kat and catering are looking into organizing a Halloween formal, hopefully with Halloween fancy dress.
- After the success of the Indian night, more themed serverly menus are planned.
- The TV room budget has been approved and as stated the renovation is now underway. The JCR is waiting on College before decorators can be gotten in to paint it.

#### f) Vice-President

- This week is "Stand up against stuff" week.
- CUSU is backing the campaign to get a sports centre in Cambridge after 800 years without one.
- More CUSU news will be put in Katie's JCR blog.

#### g) Sports

- Needs to hear from team captains of athletics, mens football, squash, volleyball and lacrosse to get a complete list, if Andy does not hear from them - they will be removed from the site.

#### h) Internet

- The banner competition has finished - the winning design will be put up on the site.
- Some freshers are having trouble with their Raven logins on the site - Jason is looking into it.

#### i) Access

- Ant is looking for volunteers for the shadowing scheme.
- The government is looking into increasing or removing the tuition fees cap.

#### k) Treasurer

- The budget has been passed!

#### l) International

- All the old, unclaimed items in international storage were cleaned out over summer and the new system Timur put in place generally worked well.
- There is a CUSU international formal coming up and a swap with Jesus on the 10<sup>th</sup> October.

#### m) Ethnic Minorities

- The ethnic minorities' careers fair is coming up - more info will be in Ameera's blog.
- There have been no issues with freshers or at the open days so far.

#### n) Academic Affairs

- A new security system should come in within a few years also allowing self checkout of books.
- The library heating has been fixed but there have still been some complaints about lighting which is being looked into.
- University challenge selection is going to be run officially this year with MST, Katie M and the captain of the Downing 2001 team heading up the selection process.
- MST's full report is in the index.

#### o) Griffin

- The next edition is being worked on!

#### p) Communications

- James has been working on the site, sorting posters, writing minutes, putting slides on the screen, sending emails and generally doing all the standard communication-y things his role involves.

#### q) Ents

- Pens ent went well, Halloween one is due to happen after Halloween formal.
- Some people have had issues with music choice - they can't cater to everyone and do their best!
- Superformal should be happening next term as the theatre opens.
- If people are in London in the Christmas break, Rhemayo said he can get them on guestlists for some top clubs, so message him if you're interested.

#### **IV. Motions**

- No motions were submitted.

#### **V. Any other business**

- No other business

## **Appendix**

### **A1. Academic Affairs Report**

Matthew Sinclair-Thomson  
JCR Academic Affairs Officer  
22/10/09

JCR Academic Division Report

## JCR ACADEMIC DIVISION REPORT – 2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2009

### **Academic Affairs Officer College Education Committee**

The College Education Committee met on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2009 and once again a highly important issue for the JCR was a discussion of the statistics for students in the 2009 Matriculation Year, alongside the newly compiled application statistics for 2009. The imbalance of male and female students, with males accounting for over 60% of matriculating students in 2009 was thought to be a real concern. The Education Committee will continue to monitor this in the future. The application statistics for 2009 also show a slight bias towards males (accounting for 55%), which is higher than in previous years. Once University statistics are made available, further comment and any other measures that may be required to redress this imbalance will be considered.

The admissions requirements for the 2010 Matriculation Year have been discussed and decided since the last JCR Open Meeting and it is worth noting that the University's standard offer of A\*AA at A Level will come into effect for students applying for the sciences, whilst arts students will be offered at the previous AAA criterion. This reflects the performance of existing undergraduates in the College and will help to alleviate the pressure on interviewers. It was also noted that due to the large number of applicants this year and the increasing trend, it will be necessary to use more stringent (pre-interview) deselection criteria in the future.

Also of high interest was the proposal, which the Education Committee voted to pass to the College Finance Committee, to replace the current Electro-Magnetic (EM) security system in the library with a new Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) system. As well as updating and renewing security before the current EM system becomes obsolete, this will allow for a hearing loop to be added in the library (which is currently impossible due to interference from the EM system) as well as for the self-issue of books.

### **College Library Committee**

Although there has not yet been a College Library Committee meeting that the Academic Affairs Officer has been able to attend, it is worth noting the recent events affecting the library.

#### **Heating and Lighting Arrangements**

It was noted in the last Academic Division Report that desk lamps, using energy saving bulbs, should be used in conjunction with the ceiling lights in order to reduce the library's carbon emissions. However, there have been some complaints regarding the lack of sufficient lighting and heating in the

library so far this term. Although the latter was primarily due to a fault that has now been remedied, these issues will be raised at the next Library Committee meeting.

### Orientation Tours for Freshers

As a member of the Freshers' Representative Committee, I was very pleased to have had the opportunity to ensure that all of the freshers were given an induction to the library (or at least the opportunity to attend one) during freshers' week this year. I hope that it will prove to have been beneficial, although as the issue of students not being inducted was raised at the Education Committee meeting at the end of the previous academic year, it should be noted that the Directors of Studies in each subject have taken a more prominent role in ensuring that all new students are oriented to the facilities in the library.

## **University Challenge**

This year's University Challenge application will be handled by the Academic Affairs Officer, who has volunteered to run the selection process, with support from the College. Law Fellow Amy Goymour has very helpfully suggested that one of the college's bye-fellows, Peter Kitson, may be available to help as well. Peter had some success as the captain of the Downing University Challenge team in 2001-02 and has very kindly agreed to help prepare and select the team once it has been short-listed by our initial selection quiz.

## **Access Officer**

Nothing to report.

## **Ethnic Minorities Officer**

See JCR blogs for information.