

# Minutes of the JCR Committee Meeting

## Thursday 11th March 2010 - 5pm

### I. Present

Ali McWhirter (President), Erin Young (Vice President), Karim Javeri (Treasurer), Gary Horlock (Communications), Samantha Hawley (Services), Jonathan Evans (Men's Welfare), Sam Turner (Access), James McGinnigle (Internet), Timur Kary-Niyazov (International), Dean Ryan (LBGT), Emma Genders (Griffin), Moya Stirrup (Griffin), Emily Wakeford (Ents), Anna Herlihy (Ents), Rob Legg (Sport).

### II. Apologies

Sandy and Georgie (Head Freshers' Reps), Louwai Muhammed (Academic Affairs), Samantha Osborne (Women's Welfare), Helen Picot (Green).

### III. Opening Remarks

- Congratulations to the newly elected committee members. Discuss the arrangements for committee meetings.
- Ali has met with Basil to discuss the agenda for the General Body meeting tomorrow.
- Erin has attended a CUSU meeting which served mostly as hustings for the council elections. CUSU are offering for bike lights to be sold in P'lodges.

### IV. Ents

- The ent on Friday went really well.
- Maintenance are going to carry out electrical checks on all of the equipment in the ents cupboard.
- Meeting with the Bar to discuss the Freshers' ent - the cost to be split between ents and Freshers' week budget. Meeting with catering to discuss the role of ents.
- Not sure whether to organise an ent next term. It is difficult to find a date when people will want to go to an ent that is not too close to other events e.g. Marriage Formal.

### V. JCR Garden Party

- Possibility of moving the date forward as it was late last year and people were tired by the time it came around. Need to check that it would not clash with things going on elsewhere in the university. Need to find out who organises the marquee.
- Want to arrange something fun for the garden party - giant inflatables.
- Investigate who pays for the garden party - Ents, JCR or College?
- It is probably best to have a lose theme e.g. 'Strawberries and Cream' from last year.

### VI. Facebook Group

- The JCR should have a Facebook group as another way to communicate with the students. Will be useful for advertising open meetings as well as CUSU stuff.

### VII. The Griffin

- The magazine has been handed over to the new editors who have been investigating sponsorship. Need to raise about £400 or £600 for colour. Will discuss sponsorship with Sandy and Georgie who will also be seeking it.

- Consider bringing forward the next issue of the Griffin as it was too late in May Week last year.

### **VIII. Access**

- Sam has attended a CUSU access meeting to discuss and explain the shadowing scheme. He has arranged to visit his old school and another school in his area to discuss Oxbidge applications.
- Need to organise the access mailing list - find out if people still want to be volunteers and seek new ones.

### **IX. Internet**

- Looking in to changing the website server as it is currently hosted by an old-boy. Will meet with Rob to discuss. Hopefully the college will be able to host, otherwise the JCR could purchase its own hosting.
- No major changes will be made until the summer - mostly content updates until then including putting up the new committee details.
- Ali has found the passwords for the Downing Ents website so this can begin to be used again.

### **X. Sports**

- Rob has not heard from the Griffins as to whether he will be on the committee.
- He is finishing compiling a list of the sports captains and finding relevant areas of the website that need to be brought up to date.
- Questions about how equipment in the sports cupboard in the P'Lodge is funded.

### **XI. Finances**

- Karim has spoken to the bursar about the possibility of reducing rents in holiday periods but the bursar does not seem keen. If people are struggling with the cost then forms are available in Tutorial and Admissions for help. Has asked for figures relating to room usage in the vacations.
- There were plans to update some of the houses but due to lack of funds this is not possible. There is capacity for 24 rooms in office space above Pizza Express but these plans were put on hold following the financial crash. College is looking to pursue them again.

### **XII. International**

- The deposit system for international storage is now in place and people seem happy with it. Keeping in mind the possibility of requesting another room over the summer for storage if necessary.
- The Ethnic Minorities role has been merged with the International Officer for this year. The role does not require very much.

### **XIII. Welfare**

- The exam term evening went well and was better attended than was expected. Feedback suggests that it was useful.
- The University Counselling Service will train 6-8 students as welfare officers for a £2000 affiliation fee. This is expensive and unnecessary considering the support already available from tutors and JCR welfare officers.

#### **XIV. Services**

- The ceiling in the TV room is to be painted over the holidays. There is still potentially £900 left in the TV room budget. Discussed the possibility of purchasing a games console for the TV room.
- Will need to see how college would feel about this in exam term. The TV would need to have priority. There would be practical issues in deciding which games to buy and how to prevent wireless controllers from being stolen.
- The possibility of putting a lock on the door and requiring the key to be signed out from the P'Lodge; would increase accountability for the state of the room.
- One of the residents of 65 Lensfield is ill and there is a suggestion that this is due to damp in the house. College is looking in to the problem.

#### **XV. Freshers' Reps**

- Sandy and Georgie have done loads. They have sorted out the buildings and menus for marriage formal and cleared this with the dean. They have written letters requesting sponsorship.

**Minutes taken by Gary Horlock**