

# Minutes of the JCR Open Meeting

## Monday 21st October 2010 - 7pm

### I. Apologies:

Sam Hawley (Services Officer), Dean Ryan (LBGT Officer), Emily Wakeford (Ents Officer), James McGinnigle (Internet Officer)

### II. President

- No matters arising
- Has had a meeting with Dick Taplin, Marcus Tomalin and Librarian re water fountains. Looking to have a water fountain installed in the basement.
- Health and Safety meeting. Concern about the use of international plug converters that do not meet requirements. Looking to convert plugs on relevant appliances or force people to buy adapters and have examples in the P'lodge.
- Fireworks on 5th November. Want to encourage people to attend.
- Complaints about heating. JCR previously agreed hours of 8-10 and 3:30-8:30. You wont be able to get a heater outside of those times. If you have an illness then you can contact the nurse who will be able to arrange heating.
  - Currently outside these times but looking to cut down.
- If you have issues with rooms being cold then contact green officer who may be able to pester college to insulate windows.
- CUSU keen to get people to sign up to the rally against the Browne Review. CUSU providing 4 coaches and subsidising the cost.

### III. Vice-president

- Re Browne Review we have decided not to take combined action in Downing.

### IV. Academic Affairs

- Education committee meeting. Sorting out websites for individual subjects on the Downing website.
- There is a discrepancy on how boys and girls do in tripos exams. Boys tend to get more first but also more thirds. This is because boys tend to do science subjects where more firsts and thirds are available.
- College is going to be involved in courses for individual subjects.
- University Challenge team - going to send out an email and have a trial and interviews.

### V. Sports

- Going to append a results email to other JCR emails.

### VI. Treasurer

- Sports now has a budget
- Let the treasurer know about any problems with catering which can be raised at a meeting.

Point raised: Rent costs page on the dow.cam.ac.uk is out of date. Needs to be updated.

Question: What is happening with rent increases?

- Agreed with college that there would be a 30% increase over 4 years. +6.5% last year. College also agreed to reduce costs in cleaning and maintenance and other costs savings. Will make sure that they keep to their part of the bargain.

Question: Why is the increase above inflation?

- Because the college is a charity there is a limit on how much it can subsidise accommodation.

## **VII. Ents**

- Shipwrecked went really well, made a profit.
- Night at the Races unfortunately had to be cancelled.
- Booking for Halloween Formal starts tomorrow.
- Had lots of equipment fixed over the summer.

## **VIII. Green**

- Drafted a green website for college to develop; hopefully it will be up and running soon. This will allow for real-time data from meters in staircases and hostels.
- MCR Green Officer did a PhD based on Downing's performance. Pushing students to alter their behaviour.

## **IX. Freps**

- Finishing closing up the accounts and then they are done.
- Going to be organising demo-boxes for next years students which were missed out last time round.

## **X. Welfare**

- A few things planned for next term.
  - Drop-in session worked well. Food and Wii are good incentives.
  - May do something in week 6 to counter-act week 6 blues.
  - World Aids Day is coming up. Some suggestions that the JCR should publicise it. Going to coordinate with ents. Sex themed AIDS party.
    - Needs to incorporate facts etc; people need to learn something.
  - Going to sort out chlamydia testing.

## **XI. Griffin**

- Drafted an email about a meeting with those interested in the publication. Email is too impersonal.
- May have a cake sale to raise money.

## **XII. Access**

- Sent out an email for volunteers. Added 25 new people to the list.
- Pushing the e-mentoring scheme. People signed up and are linked with applicants to give information to.
- CUSU access meeting, the main theme is pushing the Browne spending review and the higher education funding protest in London.
- Deadline for bursaries is soon.

## **XIII. Motions**

- Unfortunately there is not quorum but going to field the motion anyway to gauge opinions.

- The international officer/ethnic minorities officer has had to drop out. It is not in our interest to hold an election for a single position.

“The JCR notes that currently there is no International Officer.

The JCR believes that there should be some representation of International Students, but that holding an election for only one position is not feasible.

The JCR resolves that the current ICUSU officers in Downing should perform the role of International Officer until the next election, but will not have voting rights on the JCR committee.

Proposed by Alasdair McWhirter

Seconded by Vincent Yeung”

Questions:

- Are the iCUSU officers keen. Yes.

Vote:

- 19 would have been in favour. But quorum is not met.

### **XIII. Other Matters**

Can people think of any incentives to improve turn-out at open meetings.

- Immediately after the slops in the hall?
- Sweets/chocolate?