

Analysis of the JCR Survey

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Prepared for:

JCR Committee 2004-5

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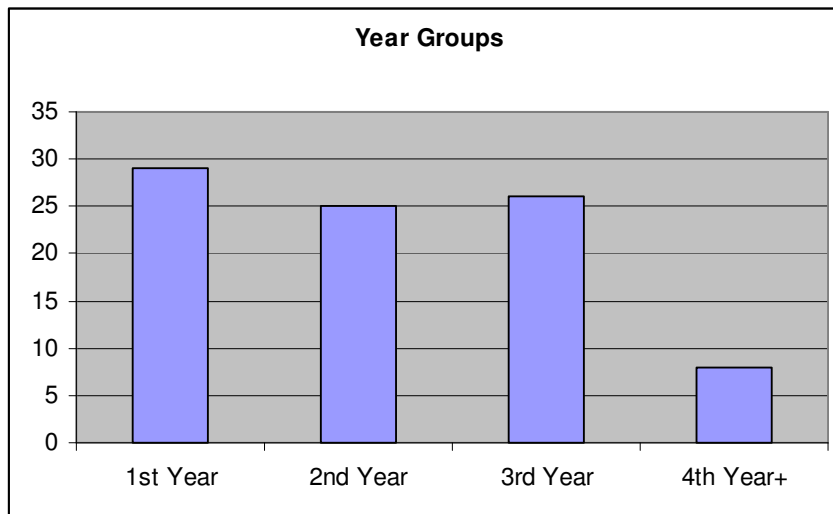
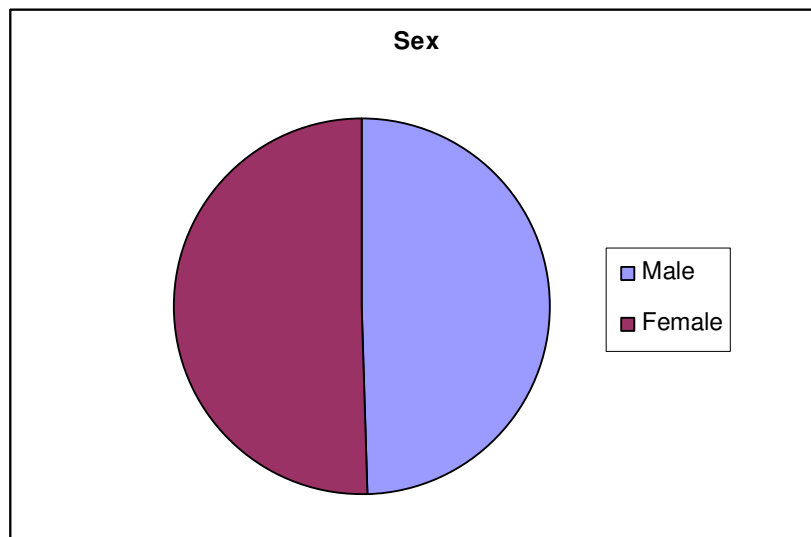
i. Introduction

We conducted a survey of all JCR members (undergraduates) in Easter Term 2004. There were 92 respondents – approximately one fifth of the Downing College undergraduate body.

The survey was mainly multiple choice (see Appendix A), and covered the areas of Entertainments, Welfare, the College Bar and Academic Affairs.

ii. Survey Demographics

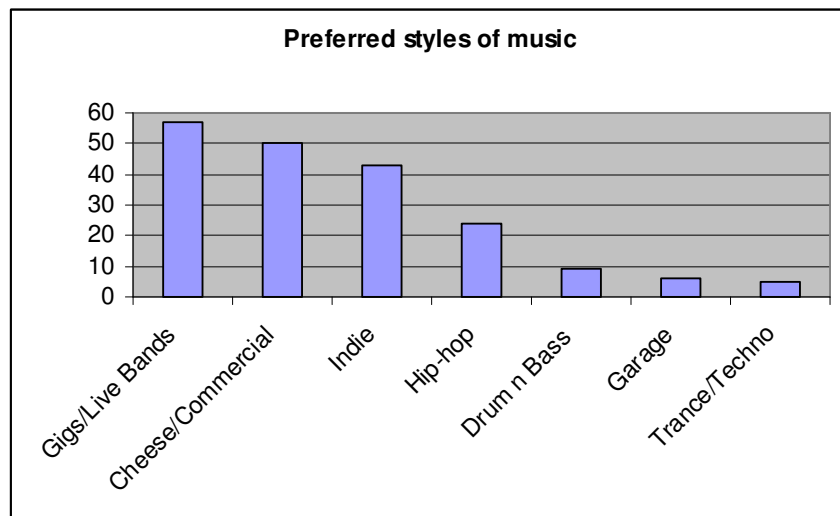
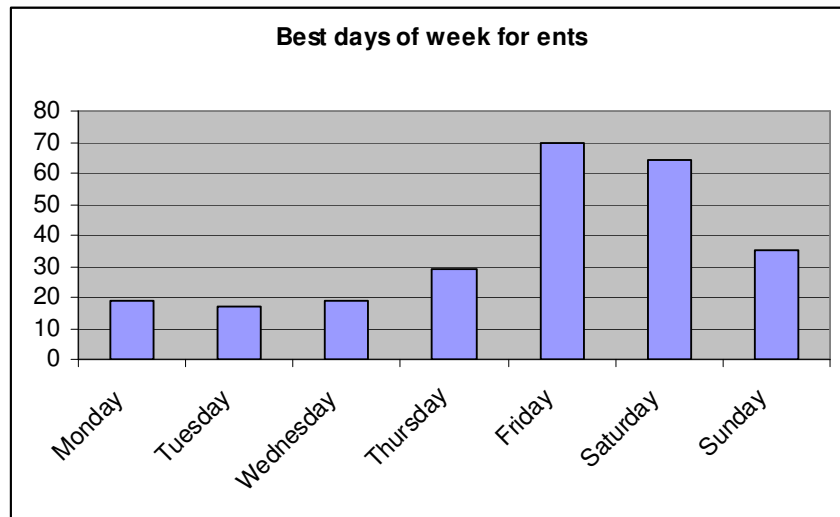
These responses came from a fairly representative sample of the College – there was an even split of males and females, and also a fairly even distribution across the year groups.



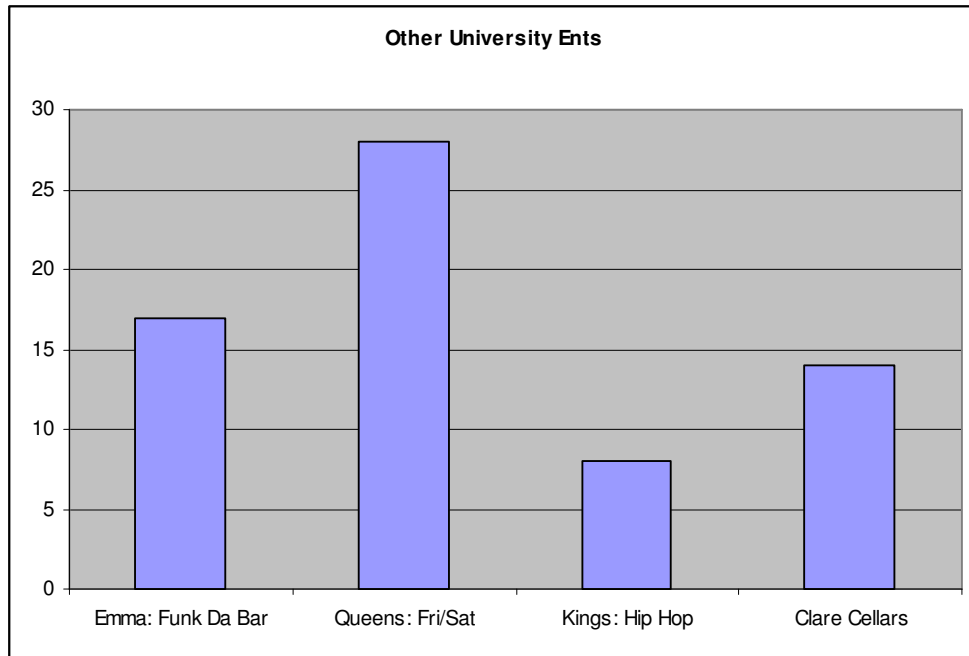
iii. Ents

It was clear that the best nights of the week to run Ents are Friday and Saturday. These are then followed by Thursday and Sunday.

Most people preferred Gigs/Live Bands and Cheese/Commercial Dance. Indie was also strongly supported, with the named dance genres receiving little widespread attention.



The final chart shows the number of respondents who said they had been to four named college nights/ents.



Formal Themes

There were lots of suggestions for themed formals:

- Harry Potter. Pride and Prejudice
- Transvestite Evening
- Murder Mystery Night
- Gangsters
- Formals with around the world food
- Respectable formal. Teetotalers formal.
- Film characters, Easter bunnies, 50s or 20s
- White Tie
- International nights eg Indian
- Miami vice night, Australian night
- Theme fellows
- Slave-auctions
- Traffic lights night (i.e. green/orange/red = single/maybe/taken)
- Vicars and whores formal
- Disney, 20s superheros
- More themed formals, rock/metal/punk
- Pirates
- 70s Disco

Other comments:

- Advertise them early, have them on fridays
- Themed formals are a bad idea as are off-putting if anything

iv. Welfare

Rape Alarms

Overall, 36% of respondents would carry a rape alarm and feel safer at night, if they were provided for free. This was 23% of males and 50% of females.

Emergency Taxi System

Overall, 53% supported an emergency taxi system. This would allow you to get back to Downing if you felt unsafe, either for free or in a subsidised taxi. This was 39% of males and 67% of females.

Security Measures

- Lighting on the paddock: this was very popular and mentioned by dozens of respondents.
- Cameras: Many also suggested there should be more cameras, better cameras. One person suggested there should be a camera which monitors the Downing Site entrance.
- Swipe-card Access: Some suggested that this could replace coded gate access. Others wanted it for their accommodation blocks, the gym and library.

Lensfield Rd/Gonville Place improvements:

- Better window locks, door locks & door spy holes on Lensfield Rd
- Gonville houses windows are really easy to break into.
- Easier method for those in Lensfield to contact the plodge, especially in an emergency.
- Bottom floor houses on Lensfield road over look the road and desks are in windows with computers on display, they should install laptop security cables.

Other Security Comments

- Staircase codes are easy to get.
- Ensure that gates and doors are always locked
- Make sure the doors will actually close behind you.
- Gates actually to be closed at 11pm as previously agreed.
- Earlier gate hours - everyone knows the codes anyway.
- A radio to the porters lodge from outside the gate
- Use the p'lodge entrance for after hours access
- Porters should be more aware of people coming and going in their cars
- Dick Taplin should work as a bouncer

Suggested Revision Break De-stress Activities

Film nights were by far the most popular suggestion.

Also suggested – games and sports:

- Pool tournament
- Card nights
- Games - board games. Dancing girls.
- Treasure Hunt
- Quiz
- Juggling workshops
- Talent nights
- Themed nights in the bar
- Convert Howard Building into a brothel

- Sports on the Paddock
- Informal sports?
- Volley ball was good last year
- Bouncy castle on paddock
- Barbeque on paddock
- Inter-subject sports e.g. English vs Natsci 5-a-side
- Laser quest trips
- Frisbee

Some suggestions to chill-out to:

- Chill-out evenings
- Yoga classes
- Relaxation sessions
- Something not requiring to get 'dressed up'

And some final thoughts:

- A reading week
- Do not use the bar during exam term as it disturbs those in the library
- Longer bar hours

v. Bar

Overall Suggestions For Improvement

Many respondents complained about the current seating layout. The problems include there not being enough seating; the seats aren't comfortable; the seats being too big; the seats being so far apart that they do not allow a conversation. Somebody also suggested bar stools at the bar.

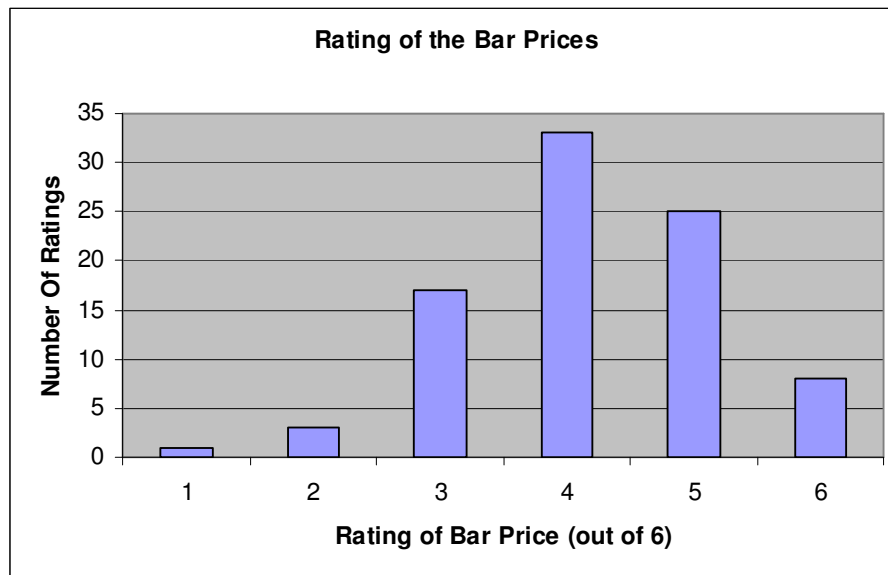
Some suggested that the Party Room be opened up for use on busy bar nights. Others suggested that the Pool Table etc. is moved into the Party Room to create more space.

There were also a lot of people who suggested that the music level is turned down when the bar is busy so that people can hear each other better.

Bar Price

The average rating of the 'bar pricing' was 4.17 (neutral = 3.50) so people appear to be happy about the pricing in general.

The only comment about bar pricing suggested that more offers are run on drinks e.g. shots.

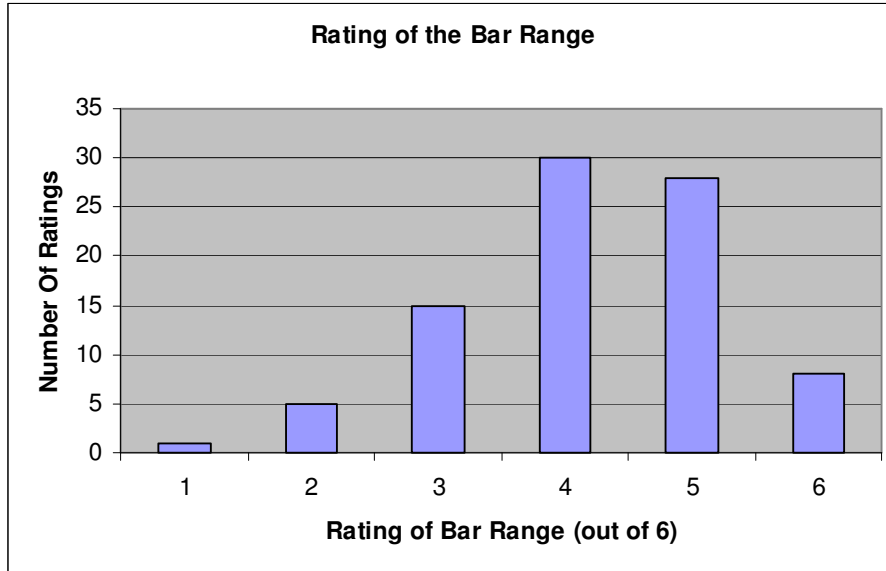


Range Of Drinks

The average rating of the 'range of drinks' was 4.18 (neutral = 3.50). This is just higher than the rating of the bar prices, and is again a clear positive message.

Suggestions made to improve the range of drinks were:

- Budvar on tap
- Better non-alcoholic drinks
- No plastic glasses
- Different lagers

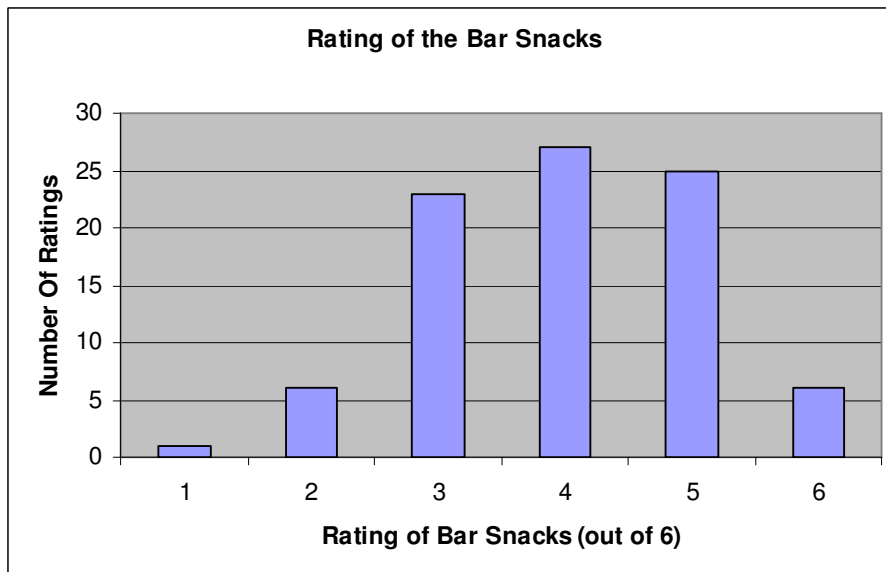


Bar Snacks

The average rating of the 'bar snacks' was 3.99 (neutral = 3.50). There is definitely some mild dissatisfaction in college with the snacks on offer but the rating is still positive.

The comments about improving the range of snacks were to serve:

- Hot snacks if possible
- Fruit

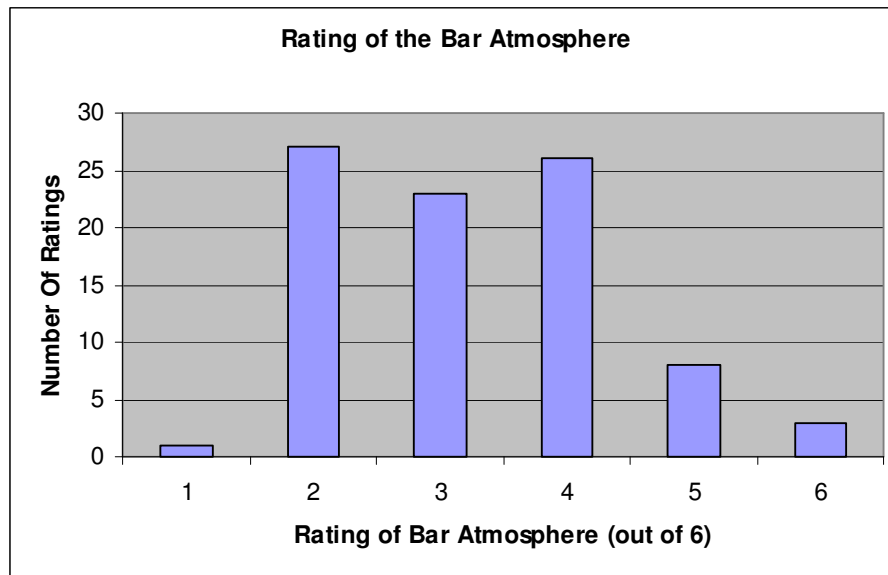


Atmosphere

The average rating of the 'bar atmosphere' was 3.25 (neutral = 3.50). This was the worst rated aspect of the bar and swings well towards dissatisfaction.

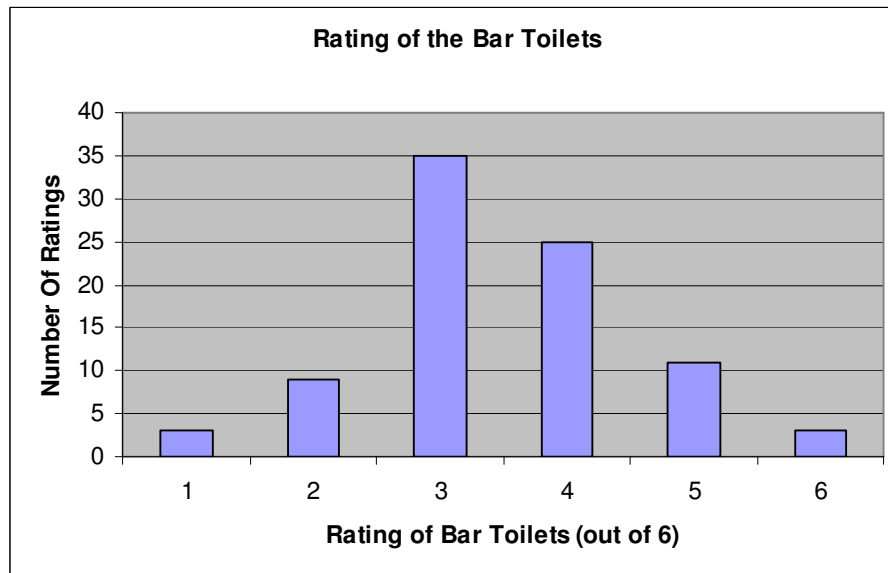
There was a lot of feedback suggested in addition to the seating and music:

- Better ventilation
- Improve lighting and music for a more relaxed feel
- Team photos on the walls
- Themed nights
- "Redecorate - its too plastic in there - too sterile and not dirty enough"
- More live music
- "FTSE"/variable pricing nights
- Less tacky furniture
- No smoking



Toilets

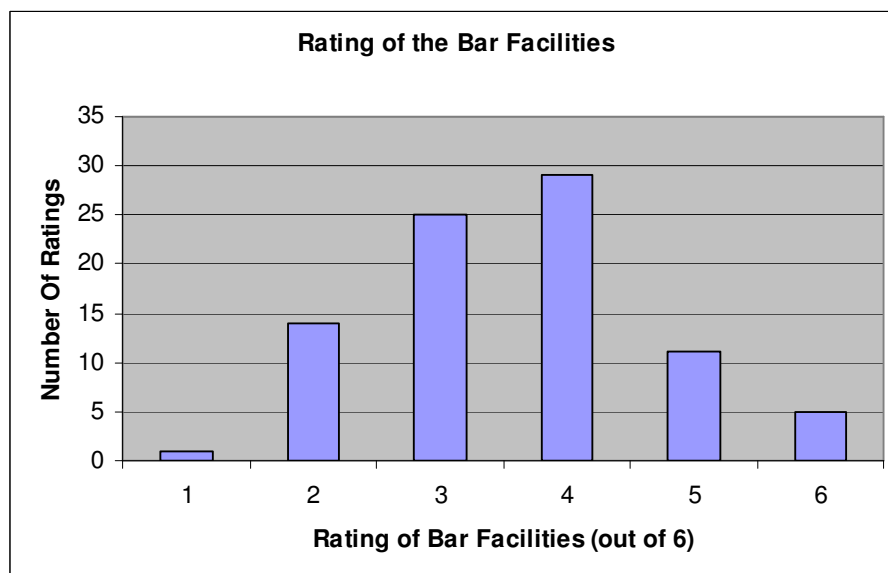
The average rating of the toilets was 3.48 (neutral = 3.50). The graph shows a mixed reaction but the majority felt the toilets were pretty average – not particularly good nor particularly bad.



Facilities

The average rating of the toilets was 3.58 (neutral = 3.50). This rating is still quite low and some suggestions included:

- Packs of cards
- Bring back the jukebox (or allow music requests)
- Dart board
- Fruit machine
- Bean bags for party room
- Sky TV for live sporting events



vi. Academic Affairs

Alternative To Library

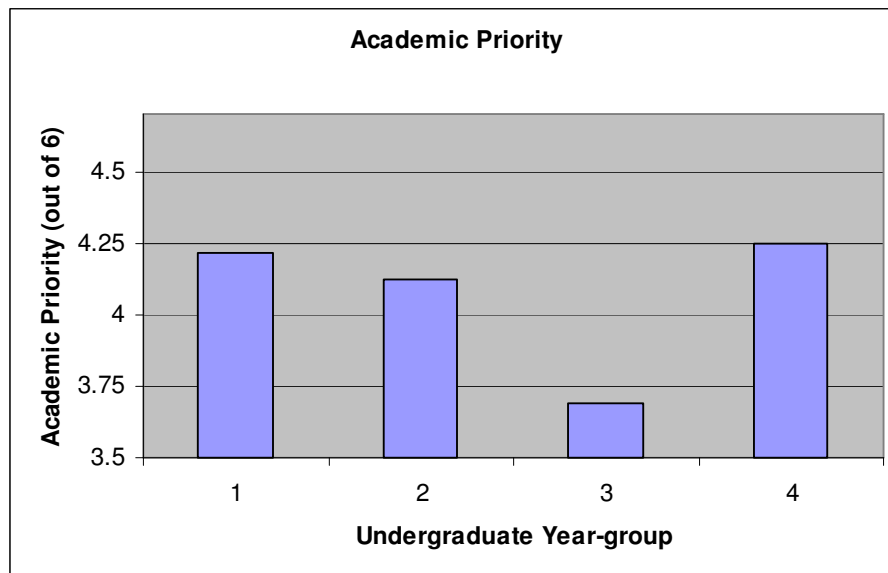
58% of students said that they would use an alternative area to the library for quiet study during exam term.

MCR Grandparenting Scheme

46% had heard of the MCR grandparenting scheme. Nobody had used the scheme.

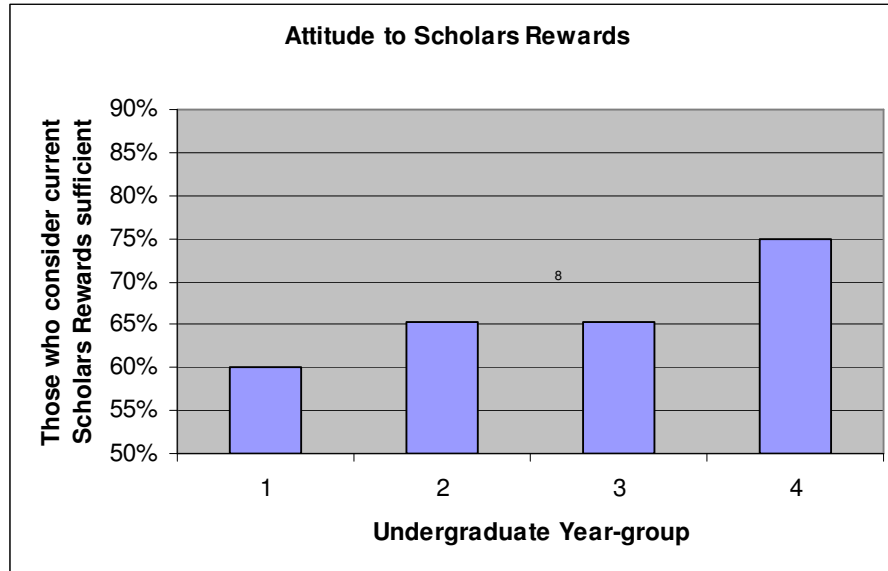
Academic Priority

Third year respondents were significantly less interested in their academic studies compared with other years. The overall average (scores out of 6, mid-point = 3.5) was 4.03 – a figure which sways more towards being important than not. With third years the priority fell to 3.7, but all other years were around 4.2.



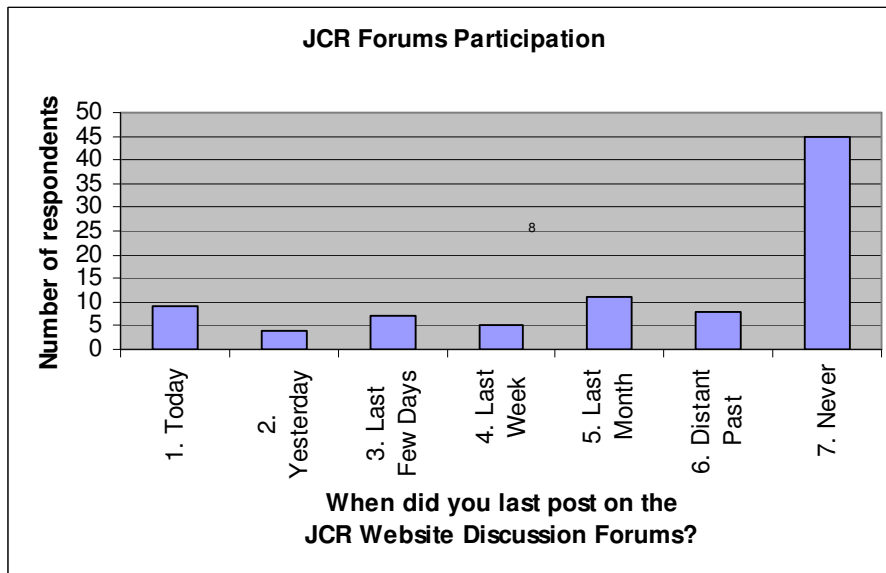
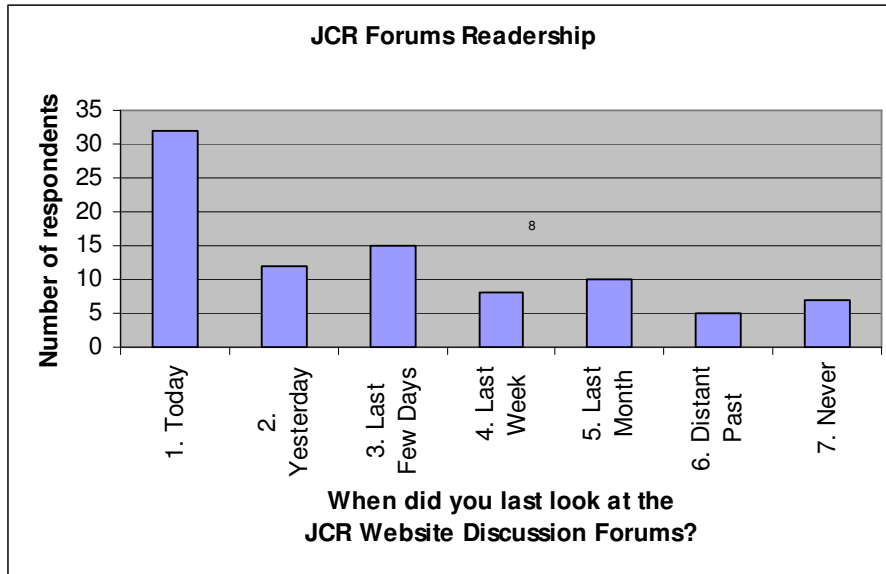
Scholars Rewards

The percentage of students who think that Scholars are already shown enough reward in Downing rises from 60% amongst first year students (first column) to 75% amongst fourth year students (last column). Overall 63% of respondents believed that scholars were adequately rewarded.



vii. Downing JCR Website

It is clear from these graphs that the majority of students read the forums regularly but it is only a striking minority who post (second graph).



viii. Other Suggestions

- A JCR room where people can play board games/watch TV/use vending machines i.e. like the MCR
- Sports pictures in the bar
- Make the gym induction compulsory, and provide all those that have paid to be a member a key.
- Providing a coffee shop facility where one can relax whilst talking to friends.
- Hot drinks machine or being served in Butterfield & slops.
- Better promotion of RAG by JCR
- KFC & rents too high
- What happened to the 38 week lease options on Lensfield Rd / Gonville Pl
- Improve the film soc (give them more money)
- More ents
- You really need to think about bedders and their cost effectiveness.
- Why does the vegetarian option of formal not cost less
- More live music in party room to make it associated with cool and not school disco.
- I would like to have pictures of the porters and their names in the plodge on the board

Appendix A: Survey Questions

To help us make sense of the feedback we receive, are you:

Male

Female

1st Year

3rd Year

2nd Year

4th Year (or more)

Ents

1. What days of the week would you be most likely to come to the bar or attend a Downing ent?

Monday

Friday

Tuesday

Saturday

Wednesday

Sunday

Thursday

2. What types of music would you like to hear?

Hip-Hop

Cheese/Commercial Dance

Trance/Techno

Garage

Drum n' Bass

House/Progressive

Indie

Gigs/Live Bands

3. Do you have any suggestions for themed formals or themed nights?
-

4. Which of these university ents have you been to in the last term?

Emma: Funk Da Bar

Kings: Hip Hop

Queens': Fri/Sat Night

Clare Cellars: Various Themes

For Queens'/Clare Cellars please say which night you went to:

Welfare

5. Would you carry a rape/attack alarm with you and feel safer when you went out if they were provided free or at a low cost? (*note: please answer even if you are male!*)

No

Yes

6. Do you think an emergency taxi system is necessary at Downing? This would allow you to get back to Downing if you felt unsafe, either for free or in a subsidised taxi.

No

Yes

7. Are there any additional security measures you can think of that you would like to see introduced in Downing?
-

8. Can you think of any activities you would like to see next term as a break from revision?
-

Bar

9. How would you rate the college bar?

	Very Poor				Excellent	
	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥
<u>Price:</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Range of Drinks:</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Range of Snacks:</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Atmosphere:</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Toilets:</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Facilities:</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

10. Can you think of any realistic improvements that could be made?

Academic Affairs

11. If there is an alternative area (to the library) for quiet study during exam term would you use it?

No **Yes**

12. Have you heard of the MCR grandparenting scheme?

No **Yes**

If 'yes', have you ever used it?

No **Yes**

...and if you have used it, was it useful?

No **Yes**

13. How much of a priority are your academic studies to you during your time in Cambridge?

Not Very Important			Extremely Important		
①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

14. Do you think Scholars are shown enough reward in Downing?

No **Yes**

Website

15. When was the last time you looked at the JCR website **Discussion Forums**?

Today **Last month**
 Yesterday **Distant past**
 Last few days **Never**
 Last week

16. When was the last time you remember posting a message on the forums?

Today **Last month**
 Yesterday **Distant past**
 Last few days **Never**
 Last week

Any Other Comments

If you have anything else which you think we should look into please say so here!
