

## Minutes for Emergency Open Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> February- JCR

### **Junior bursar –**

- There will be no distinction between scholars and non in the proposal for Easter Vacation.
- Significant subsidy - 53%-58%. Scholars 28%-40%.
- Highest number of discounts/level of subsidy in two bottom bands of rooms.
- Proposal is workable.
- Time is pressing - students need to make own decisions. Students need to know whether option is available or not.
- Pressure on college - need to get systems up by Monday. Can't be discussion beyond that point.
- If using this scheme (keeping things in room but not remaining in residence), there is a three week period students must vacate for - have to meet cost for entire three week period. Won't be prevented from remaining in college if they want to remain.
- Roughly 1/3 of the 25 people present would consider using the scheme.
- Some argue this scheme is too expensive.
- JB says there are c. 600 rooms for undergrads. Don't know how many people will take up this and don't know other numbers. If part of room time crosses over with other part, eliminates use of room.

**Laura** - what were the objections to the weekly scheme proposed

**JB** - complicates everything. Given short amount of time need to get something set up now. Stress this is a trial for college as much as students.

**Cornelius** - would college be prepared to reduce the price later on? Matter of efficiency. What if there's 20% take up now?

**JB** - looked at possibility of excluding certain parts of college however it is not equitable. Arguments as to why this is desirable applies across all years.

- Historically, how many rooms have been needed?

**JB** - Christmas holiday - lots of admissions candidates. Lots of access events and increase in number of student staying in college over years

- Would be unfair to arbitrarily exclude some people. Could you just decide before the room ballot in future? In future, would you just be prepared to mark half of rooms as needing to be vacated?

**JB** - retiring imminently. Personally wouldn't exclude anything. Interesting alternative model of 9 month license to occupy at John's. Pay rent and room charges accordingly as you please. Not supported by other senior members of fellowship.

Their reason?

**JB**: would have to speak for themselves. Too late to look at that sort of restructuring for next year.

**JB**: need to make a decision tomorrow. Tell people to amend the forms tomorrow. Convey tomorrow (Friday 26<sup>th</sup>) whether you're happy.

**Martin:** College won't negotiate.

**Cornelius:** This has been going on for over a year. Several meetings - agreed prices etc.

**Martin** – Junior Bursar interpreted it differently. Wasn't agreement.

**Cornelius** - need to look fundamentally at take up rate.

- College isn't going to do anything about our new plans.
- **Cornelius-** things don't look terrible. But scope for more negotiations. Good idea for trial but TCSU needs to keep working on it. Perhaps they could free up some specific rooms for people to put their stuff in.
- **Martin-** junior bursar interpreted Cornelius's last plan wrong.
- Proposal was all done quite late, not much choice. Martin was only emailed a few days ago.
- VOTE!! 26 in favour of keeping proposal. 1 against proposal.
- **James-** college actually need rooms during the holidays- problems with cleaning etc.
- Junior Bursar has said to establish a working group with the accommodation/IT/house keeping/TCSU.
- Discussion about whether we should push for maximum take up.
- Argument that there are administration costs.
- Maximum take up isn't a goal as can't be the policy as the College needs rooms so during vacation. And room balloting can get out of control as certain students might be priced out.
- Maybe a 90 mile radius to prioritise who gets the rooms over the vacation.
- How many rooms are needed in the vacation? College needs to tell us.
- College could increase revenue for college based on maximising demand.
- College is keen to do trial in order to collect data on how many people take it up.
- Administrative problems might be greater if people actually stay in their rooms.
- Is freedom to leave stuff in rooms restricted to those it's hardest to take stuff home?
- Lots of hidden costs in college we are not aware of so hard to speculate how much profit would be made.
- Discussions whether it is more difficult for some than others to pack up room.
- This meeting was how we are reacting to college's policy but now we are talking about long term plans. More fair to have another meeting about long term plans.

**Cornelius-** initial proposal was to pass the petition on Change.org. Also directed at giving issue priority it deserves. Wants TCSU to carry on negotiating on this issue.

Motion to continue negotiations urgently and insist they happen now on basis outlined - insistence on lower prices and this won't set a precedent with details to be given at next meeting and implementation.

Unanimous.