

TCSU committee meeting minutes 14/2/21

Chair: Serena Cole

Absent: None

Introduction

President gave an introduction to TCSU.

Budgets

Treasurer says that previous treasurer has not yet handed over the account. This might take a while as signatures are required which is difficult to do remotely. Treasurer will give a run-down of the budget once she has access to accounts.

Freshers' Week

Entertainments officer suggests that committee members have a look at last year's timetable. He says committee members should start thinking about possible virtual events as well as in person events and highlights the possible use of the new building Newton's cradle. He explains that there is a separate freshers' week budget so committee members shouldn't stress about money. President mentions that committee will have a specific freshers' week meeting later.

E&D officer thinks making environmental workshop compulsory is important.

Women's officer outlines plan for consent workshops. Freshers will have workshop like usual in their first week. Previous women's officer suggested to have follow up workshop on issues that aren't covered in first workshop in first week of Lent. Hopefully by then people who are more interested will sign up.

May Ball

Vice President confirms that this year's May Ball is cancelled and conveys a message from the Senior Tutor that plans for a replacement event cannot be made until closer to the time. However Senior Tutor has said that a replacement garden party can be planned at short notice. Entertainments officer describes a possible May Ball alternative that could be held across Newton's cradle, college bar and JCR. He said feedback on the TCSU garden party in the past has not been favourable, but it can be made into a bigger and better event this year.

Term cards

Entertainments officer brought up TCSU making a term card at the start of each term outlining the events we're planning to run, to avoid congestion in later weeks and spread

out events more evenly. President said committee members should think of potential events for Easter term in upcoming weeks,

Constitution

President explains that there is a plan to modify the TCSU constitution using BA society constitution as a template. She suggests that law student TCSU members can contribute to wording. She suggests that committee member should amend the current description of their role on the constitution by end of term. She would like to start process of rewriting constitution before summer.

Accommodation

Vice President highlights that normally accommodation ballot occurs at this time of year and explains the process of room selection to 1st year members of the committee. He also explains the possibility of current 3rd year students going into 4th year being top of the ballot due to being scholars as a result of their first-year examinations.

Committee generally agrees that that ballot should be delayed due to lack of urgency and also because current accommodation guides are insufficiently detailed. Entertainments Officer suggests that ballot should be delayed until after exams in Easter term. Discussion begins on an informal TCSU accommodation guide to rooms and courts, which would be especially useful for freshers. Committee agrees that students who are scholars due to exams done two years ago should not be put top of the ballot for the upcoming year.

TCSU Website

Computing officer says that TCSU website has been updated with descriptions and photos of new committee members with a few exceptions. Committee group photo will be done later.

Welfare room.

Male and female welfare officers raise issues with the current welfare room, after conversations with the previous welfare officers. They explain that the walls are too thin which makes it difficult to have confidential conversations. They also say the room is too small, especially while social distancing has to be observed. Discussion begins and Newton's cradle and hall are suggested as alternatives for hosting welfare tea. The welfare room could be kept for private conversations with the welfare officers.

Tutor student engagement.

Welfare officers say students would like tutors to feel more involved. Students currently get 3-minute window in tutor meetings. They suggest maybe could get longer or more frequent meetings and they want tutors to be more involved as currently students feel disillusioned with them. Female welfare highlights that tutorial sides are currently very large and suggests possibly getting more fellows to be tutors so there is a more personal relationship.

Treasurer says there are drop in sessions with tutors available, but President says they aren't really advertised. Entertainments officer says tutors aren't involved because people don't really want to talk to them. President says tutors are more of a signpost for other people who can help such as counsellors and mental health advisors. Treasurer suggests future events like drinks with your tutor to improve the relationship. MH&DS officer says the tutor-student relationship builds up when students reach out but it's hard to initiate the relationship. She says maybe open discussions with Senior Tutor about tutors catching mental health issues early in students.

Trinity website article

President explains that Head of Communications asked for article about new committee. She says this would publicise committee with fellows and staff. Can be done now with individual photos or can wait till Easter term and take photo together. Overseas and Male welfare officers highlight that the people who need to know the committee do already, so the article is not that urgent. Committee generally agrees.

Sexual misconduct

Vice President passes on advice from college about how to deal with sexual misconduct cases, including how to avoid contaminating evidence and which qualified professionals to refer people to. President highlights conflict resolution training available to welfare officers.

Bulletins

Vice President outlines plan to include google form for anonymous student feedback in TCSU email bulletin from next week.

TCSU Facebook page

Whole committee have been made editors.

Stash

Vice President explains that a committee member has to order custom red TCSU jumpers before freshers' week. Treasurer volunteers.

BME and women's formal alternatives

Overseas welfare officer asks why Michaelmas formals didn't happen. Treasurer says government regulations said only absolutely necessary meals were allowed. Also, more risk for staff as waiters.

BME and women's officers would like to organise alternatives to BME and women's formals. Could use marquee. Women's officer suggests something online giving out vouchers for food. Treasurer says she still hasn't seen the budget but TCSU is spending a lot less this term so it is possible.

Week 5 chocolate

MH&DS officer asks how week 5 chocolate works. President explains. Women's officer suggests putting a big box in Porters' lodge and getting students in residence to collect, giving the porters the spares. MH&DS and women's officers are in residence and will try to organise week 5 chocolate this week.

Closing comments

Entertainments officer asks committee members in residence if you can swipe card to get access to welfare room and TCSU committee room yet.

Computing officer says he will send an email to committee outlining how to use TCSU emails.