

TCSU committee meeting minutes 21/2/21

Chair: Serena Cole

Absent: None

Environmental and Domestic Officer

College leadership are going to make an announcement on Monday about their commitment to making college more environmentally friendly. E&D officer wants to add an environmental section to the TCSU website. Would be useful for current and prospective students. Other committee members agree, and some suggest adding a link to the college website environmental section to TCSU website.

Junior Steward

JS didn't self-isolate last term so asks for opinions on isolation food provision. Treasurer has a survey that she will send to JS. Overseas Welfare officer asks why the same hot food served in hall that day can't be given to isolating students. Treasurer highlights that food in hall and isolation food have separate stations and isolation food has to be prepared well in advance. She also explains that isolation food system needed to be made quickly and issues were ironed out over course of Michaelmas. E&D officer points out that both food and ingredients purchased through isolation system are very expensive.

Vice President

Asks committee members to prepare accountability statements (checklist of goals that they would like to accomplish over the next year) before this term's open meeting (President suggests provisionally in week 7). These would be checked termly to see the progress that committee members have made.

Asks for volunteers for a JCR renovation sub-team. JS, Treasurer, Entertainments officer, E&D officer, Female Welfare officer, Computing and Publicity officer, Mental Health and Disabled Students Welfare Officer and OW officer all volunteer. They are to think about ideas for renovation before next term, especially for robust items. VP will make a slack group.

Holds vote for whether to sign open letter on period poverty and write to college about AccessAble. SurveyMonkey used to anonymise votes. Majority agree to both. We will sign letter as TCSU, and President and VP will talk to college leadership about AccessAble.

Highlights that in the previous week TCSU events have clashed and asks for suggestions for a system to prevent this in future. Treasurer suggests a slack channel to discuss timing of events and President suggests a shared Google sheet. Both will be used.

Asks for volunteers for a sub-team to rewrite TCSU constitution. Treasurer, BME officer, Ents officer and Women's officer volunteer.

President

Encourages committee members to use TCSU Instagram more often, including making posts for events. Explains that linktree should be used for sharing links on the page.

Access Officer

Suggests making a TCSU TikTok. Would be beneficial for access as would reach a wide audience but can also be used for welfare. First posts could be to introduce the committee as Cambridge ACS did something similar successfully. Can make day in the life posts when back in college.

Male and Female Welfare Officers

Would like to publicise 73-73 challenge for mental health awareness. Involves doing 73 minutes of an activity that brings you joy and donating to a mental health charity. Challenge is launching on 4th of March. Would like to get TCSU to promote the challenge but also to get college leadership involved. Could be posted on new TikTok.

Suggest setting up an emergency contraception refund scheme. Would be relatively easy to do – people would send welfare officers receipts to be reimbursed - and wouldn't put that much of a strain on budgets. Treasurer says current budget for contraception would extend to the scheme.

Treasurer

Still hasn't received control of TCSU bank account. Wants committee members to estimate their expected budget for the upcoming year within the next week if possible. Not including Freshers' which has separate budget. President highlights that previous examples of budgets are on TCSU website.

Regarding online formal replacements, explains that normally TCSU doesn't fund formals and only funds the drinks reception. Might make it hard to run many formals which involve sending students Deliveroo vouchers. Highlights that not all welfare formals are usually in Lent term so may be possible to do a few.

Computing and Publicity Officer

Explains that process of TCSU email handover is almost completed. President explains that sending emails from TCSU account only works from outlook website, not the application. OW officer asks for mailing list with all international students. C&P officer will see what he can find.