

11/3/17

LENT TERM OPEN MEETING

Chair: TCSU President - Toby

Minutes: TCSU Vice President - Dante

- 23 people are present and entitled to vote, and so the constitutional quorum of 20 attendees is met.
- *Toby proposes a motion to remain affiliated with both CUSU and NUS*

Toby emphasises that, among other aspects, CUSU provides affiliated JCRs with officers' training and an online portal for elections, while NUS membership is particularly valuable due to the related Green Impact program.

The motion is put to a vote and it passes unanimously.

- *Toby proposes a motion to approve the proposed budget*

Joanna, TCSU Treasurer, submits copies of the proposed TCSU budget for the year for the meeting participants to consider.

Clarifications on both the 'Planet Earth' and publicity budget items are offered by TCSU Committee members.

Consensus emerges that TCSU should review whether to continue the BT Sports subscription in the coming months, due to the significant costs involved.

The motion is put to a vote, and it passes with 19 votes in favour.

- *Jovan proposes a motion to use the Wolfson Party Room for society storage, at least until further plans are made*

Jovan informs the meeting participants that talks with the Junior Bursar on this matter have not achieved a satisfactory outcome, and he notes that societies such as Trinema have had to turn down donations of equipment in the past due to the lack of storage for societies.

Toby acknowledges the problem, but notes that TCSU does not currently have jurisdiction over the use of the Wolfson Party Room. It is also pointed out that the Junior Bursar may be planning to use said room as further storage space for international students.

A consensus emerges that what TCSU can and will do is work towards the obtainment of storage space for societies, not necessarily (solely) in the Wolfson Party Room.

- *Jovan proposes a motion to commit TCSU to improving communal spaces and fostering their usage*

Jovan emphasises that even though Trinity is a large college, there is little sense of community and limited intra-college spirit. This is reflected in the limited usage of the JCR rooms.

The need to purchase more board games and a wider number of video games is expressed, in conjunction with the willingness to devise a long-term plan for the development of communal spaces within Trinity.

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Toby is in agreement with the spirit of the discussion, and notes that he will meet with the Junior Bursar in order to work towards the idea of converting the cellars under Whewell's Court to a space where to hold evening events, similar to Clare Cellars, and/or to a bar.

The motion is put to a vote, and it passes with 18 votes in favour.

- *TCSU+*

It is noted that roughly 20 people have already signed up, and that Toby will soon establish a Facebook group as a means of communicating with those interested in joining TCSU+.

- *Vacation storage*

Toby outlines the possibility of having lockable cupboards in each or most rooms, or even simply being provided with locks for existing cupboards, especially seeing as Whewell's Court and Angel Court will soon be renovated.

Jovan reminds the other meeting participants that in the past, during the renovation of New Court, the requests put forward by TCSU were largely disregarded by College, especially with respect to the need for a certain number of functioning kitchens.

Zahra, TCSU BME officer, emphasises that kitchens are particularly necessary for students with dietary requirements.

Toby notes that he will be attending, together with Dante, a meeting specifically on the issue of the needs of students pertaining to the renovations of Whewell's Court and Angel Court.

In the ensuing discussion, several of such needs emerged, to include sinks in toilets, the possibility of having some toilets not in basements in the case of Whewell's Court, better internet connection, preference of single sets over bedsits, and maintenance of, as opposed to a reduction in, the number of double sets.

- *Toby proposes a motion to hold a survey for the accommodation needs of students in the renovation of Whewell's Court and Angel Court*

The motion is put to a vote and it passes unanimously.

- With only 19 students present and entitled to vote, a quorum is no longer present, and so no further motions are voted on during the meeting.

- *Nine-month license to occupy proposal of the Junior Bursar*

Toby details the three different ways in which the pricing system may function as a result, depending on the extent of subsidisation that the College will grant. When moving from the status quo to this possible, alternative system of nine-month leases, the price per week paid by each student may remain constant, thereby increasing the total yearly accommodation costs, or it may be slightly lower, leaving total yearly accommodation costs roughly unchanged, or, finally, fall by so much that the total yearly costs may even fall. It is once again noted that this depends very much on the financial considerations that College will make.

In the ensuing discussion, it is noted that paying a fixed sum for nine months would be a financial incentive for students to remain in residence, which is not necessarily desirable. Also, were total costs per year to then rise, this could be detrimental from an Access perspective. It is however also emphasised that keeping rooms for longer and without interruptions would also make the environment in College more 'homely' and welcoming.

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In light of the adoption by St John's College of a similar lease policy, and of the diversity of accommodation pricing, it is agreed that further research and comparisons among colleges are needed, for instance in order to consider the benefits of an option to leave students with the choice of whether to keep the status quo or select a nine-month lease on an individual basis.

A consensus emerges on the need for holding a survey in order to determine what the position of TCSU members is on accommodation pricing policy. It is however also emphasised that first, figures on the likely prices should be incorporated in the survey.

- *Discounts for Trinity students*

A consensus emerges that the substantial discounts offered by several local businesses, such as Crepe Van, would be beneficial, rather than detrimental, to Trinity students. A deal with a local pub involving discounts for Trinitarians has also been mentioned as a possible, favourable development.

- *The role of the JCR room*

Toby notes that the room is currently significantly underused, and converting it into a games' room with a pool table instead of the table tennis table and more board games in it would benefit Trinitarians.

The various different means of regulating the usage of the pool table are then discussed. After having outlined the advantages and disadvantages of several possible solutions, to include paying a small fee for every match and leaving the cues and balls at the Bar when not used, a consensus emerges that the simplest option would be to keep cues and balls in a SALTO locked cupboard in the JCR room itself.

- *Leaving the JCR in an acceptable state*

Toby conveys the message of the Junior Bursar on this issue; photographic evidence is provided for the meeting participants to consider.

- *Fire drill malingering notice*

Toby conveys the warning of the Dean with respect to this matter.

- *Further discussion on possible activities to be carried out in the JCR*

A consensus emerges for important sport events and tv series to be screened in the upper JCR room, with food and beverages provided by TCSU. It is also noted that this would foster the use of this communal space, in line with the spirit of Jovan's second motion.