

KCSU Exec meeting minutes, Sunday 17th January 2010

Apologies: Oscar, Anna

AWOL: None.

Julien (representing the Library committee): College asked every dept to reduce spending by £10,000. Further this year. Library already struggling. Being asked to cut on employment, particularly student helpers. Library staff will have to do all shelving – less time to repair books. Major cost on employment budget. Worst thing: Cutting use of extra rooms in library during Easter term – considering how cramped it gets, this is an issue. Finance committee – Rikesh – bring this up. Also talked with Librarian to see how we can work with them.

Rikesh: Finance committee goes through budget, decides on nec. Cuts. Has to go through council, but finance committee make decisions to be ratified.

Julien: This has hit book budget quite hard.

Standing Committees

Lotte: What's been done about the standing committees?

Juan: Susan Amis got in touch.

Barnaby: She seemed very insistent that it all got done very very quickly, so I just sorted it out. Most of the positions seemed obviously ex-officio. The others I just rushed – we can open it up again next week if people want.

Lotte: It should be open really.

Week behind/Week ahead

Lotte: Attended council dinner. Months ahead – annual congregation. Provost's motion got passed, hardly any fellows spoke up for students. All other student reps made their points as best as they could. Has to pass a second time at Gov Body. Depressing. Spoke to Provost about it. We only elect one council member. We could just not change our constitution.

Aris: Jacob's item about KCSU/KCGS.

Jacob: Met with Aris and talked about trying to hold big meeting. A couple of weeks before Feb 12th. Have to lobby all of fellows in college, target specific powerful ones, those who speak most in Gov. Body etc. Working out a list of important people. Bryony did a similar thing, contacting supervisors skills. We're going to have to build for that. We'll have time. Needs to be a priority. CUSU council on tues – some motions about cuts. Meeting in Keynes. Motions: 3 different motions, on cuts/course closures nationally. Luke Hawksbee: This is the situation, different courses, Mandleson etc. "We think course closures are a bad thing, national conventions against course closures are a bad thing, we should support UCL's February convention. Wide network from people coming from across the country. Good chance to learn from struggles of other universities. Another similar one. Leeds LUU fiasco. UCU lecturers' union, balloting in Leeds for strike action after huge redundancy measures put on the table. Sabbatical officers campaigning *against* UCU, saying on no account should they strike

due to detriment on students' education – Demonstrates utter ignorance on how this stuff actually works. Also a huge motion calling for new autonomous campaign for CUSU for disabled students. On basis that as Mental Health officer, people need a forum etc. New constitution.. wrangling. Probably pretty formulaic. Don't see on what grounds we could deny this. Autonomous campaigns = subsets of CUSU that aren't bound by CUSU. CUSU council can send observers to their meetings, but they can't vote. They can lobby CUSU.

Juan: Recommend that everyone read emails.

Jacob: Aris has brokered meeting with Juan, Aris, Jess and I to meet Robin Osborne about Formal hall prices. If anyone has any input, please email us.

Louisa: Has price of halfway hall been raised?

Juan: I asked ten third years, some said it was free.

Louisa: This seems unfair.

Juan: I'll bring it up.

Lotte: Two years ago it was free.

Hannah: Mostly been doing women's event. Same price as formal, no KCSU/KCGS money has to go to food/drink. All our money goes to panel discussion (men can come), been working on getting speakers for that. Email me if you want anything brought up.

Sho: Party yesterday. Will be talking more about ents/cellar bar relations. Was going to do Talent show, Barber said "Interesting idea, let's talk about it" I have a feeling he's going to grill me on it. I think I pissed him off. I tried to stretch cellar bar times to its opening times. Apparently Head Porter not heard about this, meeting him on Monday to re-establish rules. I'm guessing all of you would agree to extend hours. No alcohol in cellar bar at the moment, when people pour into cellar, can't get drink, so go to their rooms and get portered. Karl said – bad argument, students will get booze from their room. Either cellar committee toughen up..

Juan: If we're holding events, we should be involved in policing this.

Jihye: I've been getting constitution sorted, too late for this meeting.

Jade: Been doing noticeboard but it all got thrown away. Send me your blurb and photos. Will work out info/announce email rules.

Nina: Getting minutes of boathouse meeting. They're thinking about sharing the boathouse with Young Offenders in Cambridge. There's been some controversy. Will talk about that more next week. Also, with erging room, rowing club are very "It's our space", we're actually all allowed to use this.

Jacob: Who is the young offender's scheme is proposed by?

Nina: I'm waiting for more details.

Jacob: Do we really think young offenders want to row?

Andy: This depends on details.

Bayu: Posted thing on website about sending suggestions. Will send out KCSU announce instead. Week ahead, starting filming for access video. One-minute embedded video on website. Day in life of natsci, philosopher etc. Sending out email for volunteers. Also, showing different accommodations etc. Casual profile. Series of videos. Mainly for website.

Barnaby: In email, mention website.

Chad: Put it all in signatures.

Jonny: We found Kords. Discussing room ballot. Should be in 2nd half of Feb. Market's going to be open for next year, looks fantastic. Start at band 3. Band 3 rooms have no ensuite.

Tindall: Can we see it first?

Jonny: See blueprints.

Jihye: What about band 2 and below?

Rikesh: What about what they're doing to Bodleys. Staircases out of action etc?

Jonny: I'll find out about that. Cranmer and Grasshopper are coming off. We're getting both sofas and kitchen! Packman will talk to me about new budget. He's being friendly.

Bono: New website online. Not everybody uses it. That's it for me. Maintain mailing list, file space, website.

Tindall: We should try and increase traffic.

Jonny: If we reduce what's on info and announce, people can use website.

Louisa: Lists of DVD libraries etc. More likely to go back.

Jihye: Go back to issue of college running out of band 2 rooms. Inflation for international students. Something needs to be done.

Jonny: Rent increase this year smallest.

Lotte: But still massive if proportion doesn't stay the same.

Juan: Who to speak to?

Jihye: This means only TCR has bands 1 and 2.

Jacob: In terms of physicality, very difficult to suddenly get them to make small, worse rooms. Things will be continually upgrading unless parameters of bands go up. Means they're going to have to redistribute rooms. A lot easier than saying "Can you make some other rooms please?" At the moment it's ridiculous.

Louisa: Is college committed to having certain numbers?

Jonny: No.

Louisa: Could we commit them to this?

Lotte: We can bring that up in council.

Louisa: Surely they're not losing money by opting a few rooms into band 2.

Bayu: Presumably they're fixing market this high because it's nice, but is this more of a bursary thing? Email Monday?

Juan: Schedule meeting with Munday.

Tindall: This is a massive issue. Daunting, across lots of people's mandates. We really need to actually work towards this. We need to demand that either college drops room prices, or commits to building more rooms to correct ratios. Dropping rooms on condition that it's changed later.

Louisa: Everything Cambridge is criticised for.

Jacob: We can't argue on their terms. We need to say they've got to find funding. Nice to know what the parameters are for rooms.

Tindall: A lot of band 1 rooms don't differ that much from band 2 rooms.

Bayu: Are you saying we should just push for cheaper rooms, Jacob? We can't just say "Give us more money"

Juan: Benefit of speaking to bursar. If we know how much money they're making.

Chad: More important to make sure there are cheap rooms. If they don't want to change anything, demand they make more rooms.

Tindall: Not something we should argue for unless we have to.

Aris: Included paper with comparison of rents with KC and another 8 universities. Take lowest band, compare it to lowest rent. If basis is that they offer low rents, bad. We can address this point. Ratio matters.

Tindall: Something we can't tolerate.

Shayan: Jonny – get more details.

Jacob: I'll get details from externals, other colleges.

Louisa: Important to emphasise that there are students currently here being affected. Can affect people coming back.

Bayu: I applied for guarantee of lower rent band. This is the turning point - they'll realise they don't have enough rooms.

Louisa: On top of that, apparently international applications have been higher than ever before this year. SPS gone from 50 to 75. Even more people finding themselves in this situation than ever before.

Juan: Jonny will find out more information, we will meet with Munday, I will meet with Osborne.

Tindall: We should make sure whole college knows about this.

Juan: We should resolve it first.

Lotte: On Tuesday, will be discussed.

Jacob: Anyone else work with J and J? Bayu, Jihye, Lotte.

Cameron: I met Christina, grad rep. Formal. We thought of setting up event drinks on Tuesdays. Tea afternoon and film night. Next week, I've got a budget proposal for open meeting. Possibility of cellar night.

Juan: Speak to Sho and Dickie.

Cameron: Still a bit fluid.

Jacob: But no drink!

Hannah: Do we have to wait 'til after certain time.

Chad: Been called out a lot to unclog a clogged condom machine. I noticed all other JCR welfare sections and copied some CUSU website stuff over to the website. Next week, try and write good website.

Rikesh: Went to first finance committee meeting on Friday. Now market is finished college has to look at fixing Gibb's and Bodley's before they fall down. Saving stupid amounts of money, huge cuts including possibly fellows!!!!!! Asking fellows to cut their own funding, going to be hard for us to get more money out of them.

Jonny: Finding asbestos everywhere..

Jacob: CUSU meeting.

Rikesh: Probably won't be new developments.. Trying to sort out TV license that we're paying for. Wondering if Jonny could ask Packman. Noone seems sure what arrangement is. No documentation.. all I know is we've been paying for a TV. Tomorrow I'm going to Co-Op, see the exact details, see if they can offer us services college obliges us to have.

Louisa: Week ahead, meet with Chad and Hannah, work out our concrete aims.

Jihye: Printing credit.

Barnaby: Open meetings. Thursday.. where can we use?

Jacob: A Staircase TV room?

[general assent]

Tindall: Green week. CUSU have booked loads of minor things everywhere, stopping us using our rooms. I've been emailing speakers because Saturday still is free. Selling in the bar, storage in KCSU offices? Week ahead, Re-establishing KC's Fairtrade status.

Juan: Over the holidays, website. Weekly meeting with Barber henceforth. Heads-up. KCSU/KCGS drinks next Sunday in Grad Suite. Long term aims.

Inventory

Rikesh: Supposed to have constantly updated every year. Anything of value that we own. E.g. Ents equipment, serial numbers etc. DVD libraries etc. TVs.

Juan: So anyone in charge of anything of value.

Chad: KCSU Office?

Juan: Barnaby and I.

Tindall: Does boat club stuff come under that?

Rikesh: No.

KCSU / KCGS

I'd like meeting to be one that opposes these measures. Tactics have to be proportionate. Who do we have to talk to, who's going to do it, etc?

Tindall: When is joint meeting?

Jacob: Going to talk to Aris.

Condom Machine

Chad: Is condom machine ours or college's? It's broken. It jams all the time. Only jams with Pasante. CUSU sell me Pasante. I could buy new condom machine / carry on unblocking it every day.

Jacob: Get other condoms from NUS. Sell cheap shit to other unions.

Chad: Buy new condom machine or switch to *really* expensive vegan condoms. Can't unjam it from outside without two pens and a mirror. It's a question of whether I want to stick a tool into the condom machine! [general laughter] Bit stupid having a broken machine.

Tindall: Not the most *fluid* easy to use machine. Maybe I'm just frustrated.

Juan: We need a machine. Could you try with pleasuremax?

Chad: I'll try and make a durable enough stick to jam it.

Juan: Ask tutorial office about whether we own it. Ask Robin Osborne. Or just imply it's theirs and ask them to replace it.

Jonny: I won't ask then.

Long term projects

Juan: Basically, well-worth each of us to have 3 things to leave as legacy. This is the term that we'll get the most done. Think about what your legacy for this position's going to be. Could be something you set up for your successor. I want everyone to have 3 or 4 of their own things. Stuff like KCSU website. Fact that we did it = a success we should be proud of. Other things like Kords, archiving, film thing. We shouldn't get tied down in day-to-day emergencies.

AOB

None.

[Meeting adjourned]