The County College JCR
Executive Minutes

Friday 29th January
12:00
Online via Teams

Chair
India Ellis (VP Democracy & Finance)

Attendees
Callum Slater (President); Henry Blackburn (VP Socials, Sports & Events); Elisha Moreton (VP Welfare, Equality & Diversity); Josh Wynn (Media & Communications Officer); Luke Green (Media & Communications Officer); Jess Todd (Socials & Events Officer); Katie Aspin (Socials & Events Officer); Lucy McFegan (Women+ Sports Officer); Matt Houghton (Men+ Sports Officer); Niamh Cartwright (Women+ Welfare Officer); Will Owens (Men+ Welfare Officer); Emmanuel Adeyemi-Abere (Equality & Opportunities Officer); Sonja Dembo (International & Faith Officer)

Apologies
N/A

Absentees
N/A

Agenda item
Introduction and apologies
Presenter
IE

Discussions
No apologies received, all Exec members present.

Agenda item
Matters Arising
Presenter
IE

Discussions
No matters arising from previous meeting. Minutes passed as approved.

Agenda item
Teams Debrief
Presenter
IE

Discussions
IE explained that CS had requested this as a standing item in each meeting agenda, to provide an opportunity to hear from both Exec sub-teams on events from the previous week and looking forward the coming week.

EM shared that the Welfare, Equality and Diversity (WED) team have been continuing work on the Rate My Plate event, for which they had to extend the deadline to encourage more entries. CS noted that engagement shouldn’t be forced, however suggested that the WED team post some example meal ratings to encourage more participation.

NC pointed out that the Dry January Mocktail competition had also struggled with engagement and entries, despite providing example recipes on the post, so questioned whether this would help the Rate My Plate efforts. CS assured that teams shouldn’t be disheartened over lack of engagement in events and competitions, instead learning what students are interested in from our experiences. He also highlighted that the awareness raised by posts is still a positive thing.

HB mentioned the huge success of the County A-Party in Week 12, noting the impressive engagement in the comments section of the stream. He also mentioned the Animal Crossing social, which was not as well attended.
HB informed the Executive that the next two weeks were very busy for the Socials, Sports and Events (SSE) team, with an Among Us social in Week 14 and a range of Valentine’s Day events in Week 15, including a collaborative Take Me Out event with Grizedale. HB also queried whether there was any ruling against him setting up a new Facebook page for the County Cupid event; CS responded that this would be fine.

MH voiced concerns over the upcoming FIFA Tournament not having enough sign-ups to go ahead, and suggested we extend sign-ups for an extra week. CS questioned the lack of participation in this event due to the decent engagement on the original social media post - JW pointed out that the sign-up sheet was not ready to be attached to the original post, resulting in the event losing some initial momentum. IE emphasised that Executive members should use word of mouth to promote our events wherever possible and encouraged the team to do so with the FIFA Tournament. LG suggested that the Instagram stories could be used to encourage sign-ups, where County students could reply to the story to apply rather than having to access the sign-up form.

EM pointed out that the Tu B’Shevat post on the main pages redirected students to the Welfare page for more information when the Welfare page hadn’t made a post about this holy day, and requested that the Media & Communications Officers are more careful over wrongly directing students in future. She also requested that Alt text and image descriptions are added to social media posts going forward.

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### Agenda item: Strategic Plan

**Presenter:** CS

**Discussions**

CS presented the final draft of the Strategic Plan document for approval, with some minor changes based on conversations from the previous meeting. The front cover had been altered to feature a photo of the 2020 International Officer and three 2020 Welcome Reps, in response to EM’s concerns that it previously looked too ‘corporate’ and uninviting to students.

CS expanded on discussions from the previous week about translating the document and confirmed that contact had been made with the Confucius Institute about translation into Chinese languages. He also informed the team that a version in Plain Text would be made available with the published document.

IE noted that the Reps in the front cover image, as well as the 2020 VP Welfare in the back cover image, should be contacted so that they can consent to their images being published under the County College name.

Strategic Plan approved for publishing.

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### Agenda item: College Sports

**Presenter:** LM

**Discussions**

LM reported back from a meeting with other College JCR Sports Officers and the SU VP Sports. She mentioned an intercollege Strava tournament running through February, as well as the potential for daily challenges set by college Sports Officers. She also noted that Paul McCarthy wanted Sports Officers to find out what sports students wanted to see at a college level, and the idea of running mixed sports events was discussed.

LM also highlighted a conversation about moving Legends to a later date in the hope that some in-person activity may become possible, however noted that herself and MH were yet to meet with Fylde’s Sports Officers to discuss this.
SD mentioned that herself, EM, EAA, LM and MH had met to open up discussion around the issue of college sports teams significantly lacking diversity in their composition and expressed hope that these conversations could lead towards positive change.

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<th>Agenda item</th>
<th>Term 3 Major Events</th>
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**Discussions**

CS highlighted that as usual, planning for Term 3 events such as Extrav and Legends should begin this term (Lent), as well as some initial Welcome Week preparation. However, he expressed to the Executive a near certainty that these major events would not go ahead as normal and opened a discussion on the different options that the JCR Executive have in terms of cancelling these major events or finding a good COVID-secure alternative. He also noted that Welcome Week planning for 2021 would be very similar to the approach taken by the 2020 JCR Executive- planning 3 different timetables to cater for different scenarios of varying pandemic restrictions. CS mentioned that the situation could change allowing for these major events to take place as normal, but still stressed the importance of preparing for the likelihood that things do not improve.

WO expressed hope that the Sugarhouse would open for Welcome Week in a similar manner to Welcome Week 2020, offering the option for groups of students to book tables. IE countered this and made the point that when the Sugarhouse reopened as a bar they were not selling enough tables to stay open due to the fact that students could visit bars in town and not have to pay entry, so she did not believe that the club would be able to reopen in the same format.

CS informed the Executive that Pendle had invited us to take part in a cross-college Stay At HomeStrav- JW expressed that collaborating with other colleges for Extrav would be a good idea, in the spirit of bringing people together in some way and also to avoid having eight very similar online Extravs. CS expressed his hope for the possibility of holding an outdoor socially distanced concert type event for Extrav, but again highlighted the importance in scenario planning given the current climate.

IE pointed out the importance of reviewing the way that Welcome Reps are used in the case that Welcome Week 2021 happens in the same format as 2020, due to her feelings that they recruited too many reps and also that they were not always doing their job properly. CS confirmed that himself and EM have planned a meeting to discuss Welcome Reps for 2021.

SD voiced her concerns that the Government’s COVID guidelines do not always reflect what is necessarily the safest option, and that we should be mindful of not putting our students at risk. She also highlighted the risk of losing money through planning a big event only for it to be cancelled due to a sudden change in restrictions. CS reiterated the value of scenario planning to account for changing guidelines. He also noted that any in person events would be thoroughly risk assessed, and expressed concern that if we avoided in-person events when the guidelines permitted us to do so then students would be dissatisfied and disappointed. CS stressed that safety for students is always the top priority however we should find the balance between safety of students and opportunity for events. CS emphasised the negative effect COVID restrictions have had on mental health, specifically in students, and noted that the possibility of in-person events in Summer Term would be a positive thing for struggling students which we should pursue as their student representatives. IE pointed out that it is not the responsibility of the JCR Executive to review the Government’s COVID guidelines, also highlighting that students will make their own individual choices on their personal safety and the best thing that we can do is to give them a choice of attending an event.
IE provided an update on the previous discussions about reallocating the money in the budget line for JCR Executive uniforms. She informed the Exec that after conversations with both the VP Welfare, Equality and Diversity and the VP Socials, Sports and Events, the decision had been made that the funds would remain available for full uniform to be purchased for every officer.

IE confirmed with the Exec that a form will be sent round to collect sizes and preferred names and that uniform will be ordered as soon as possible.

CS reminded the Executive that the deadline for officer training on Moodle is Sunday 31st January, and stressed the importance of every officer completing this on time.

CS requested that teams could pick four Netflix films for our allocated week in the university’s Netflix and Grill event, to be inputted in a poll for students to select. CS suggested that we could select some LGBTQ+ films due to February being LGBTQ+ History Month.

The next meeting will take place on Friday 5th February 12:00 via Microsoft Teams.