**Agenda for the First JCR meeting of Michaelmas Term 2019**

*Sunday 13th October, 7:30pm, Dining Hall*

Apologies are to be submitted to Jonathan, JCR Chair, at jcrapologies@gmail.com or st-marys.chair@durham.ac.uk before 12 noon on the day of the meeting.

**1. The minutes of the last meeting**

These are available on the JCR Website.

**2. Matters Arising**

There are no matters arising.

**3. JCR Announcements**

Announcements from JCR Officers.

The chair welcomed the attendees and ask how everyone is doing.

Recap from what happened at the practice JCR meeting and what the JCR means to students.

“Run by students, for students”.

Please send apologies before the day of the meeting.

He proceeded to pass round the attendance sheets to the first years.

He reminded that you can submit questions over the new google form or send emails to the chair.

Straight to business, there will be pizza. Hopefully 3 per table, one includes pineapple pizza.

**4. Questions of Officers**

Questions should be submitted before 12 noon on the day of the meeting.

**5. Motions**

1. **Motion to ratify the St. Mary’s College Ethnic Minorities Association (Appendix A)**

**Questions**

President: In the motion you’ve mentioned to work with people of colour and African-Caribbean society, would you work with other minority groups or societies in the university

I think it’s because I know one of the presidents and we’ve plans, but I know there’s others like the Latin-American societies and this could extend to any group.

President: Associations can be more pressuring in the uni, how are you going to make sure you work for Mary’s instead of pleasing the uni groups like people of colour?

I think it’s important questions, it’s very useful to have the ethnic minorities rep and the association. It will be an association from Mary’s and it will work under our college and the values it will set out to represent.

**6. Elections, Hustings and Interviews**

1. **IT Representative**

Alice Watson

Proposed by: Milo Stephens

Seconded by: Annie Robertson

Website properly reflects what people do. For example showcasing WAM, LGBT+ or ethnic minorities association.

Allow students to write about college and university wide events.

Maintaining computers in college, make sure printers have toner and information packs to make sure it’s easier for everyone. Making sure there’s telephone numbers to call someone if it’s not working

**Questions**

Will: Last year we were prospective applicants, maybe you could survey us to find out what is going on? How would you improve the website information for prospective students

Talking to all societies and sports to showcase what they do and what people should know about the college before arriving.

1. **Disabilities Representative**

Ben Sharp

Proposed by: Joe Castledine

Seconded by: George Fawbury

Good evening,

I’m Ben Sharp and I would love to be your disabilities rep.

I encountered my disability OCD whilst I was at university and I had to take a year off to recover. This puts me in the position where I’ve had to go through all the disability procedures whilst I was at university, which I would argue puts me in a stronger position to help those who develop or have a disability when they are at university. If elected I would do a variety of things to help those who suffer from a disability.

Firstly, I would Encourage more people to apply for disability support allowance, I would hold drop ins to help people fill out DSA forms which can be quite complex. I was surprised that I qualified for the Disability Support allowance, but it can really benefit you if you do qualify when it comes to your academic studies.

I would also hold drop ins for those who may think they are developing a disability as well as liaising with the welfare team to ensure that proper support is given to those students who may encounter a problem during their time at Durham/or are returning from a break in their studies.

I would promote the unique careers opportunities available for those with a disability-things the Leonard Cheshire trust and Employability. They offer great opportunities for people with long term health conditions including mental health conditions and offer internships and careers with the likes of Barclays, Goldman Sachs and JP Morgan

Hold drop in for those who feel their support from the university is not sufficient enough and feel they may need to be reassessed. I would point them in the right direction and offer them support whilst they are being reassessed.

Work with the SWDA to promote and inform people about the issues those suffering from disabilities represent. This is so important so that we promote the idea that disabilities are not those that are just visible but can also be the ones that are unseen.

Advise people on issues such as gaining exam concessions as well as the process of applying for examination allowances if one’s disability is particularly affecting you during exam season. This is so important, and I certainly benefited from this during my first year. It could be the difference between different grade boundaries and could affect your career chances.

Thank you for listening and I hope I can secure your vote.

**Questions**

Naomi: A big part of disabilities is working with the SU, how would you bring university wide collaboration

Ben: I would work with SFDA, apply it to the mary’s website and group.

Will you be giving prospective students information who need disability support?

Ben: There’s re-freshers fair in March and I would also guide them to the palatine centre for support. I'm not an expert, I would do my best to help.

How would you cater to all the disabilities students may have?

Ben: Drops in every two weeks and encourage a greater community with everyone. If we have a community that’s the best way of working together and supporting everyone. Obviously I’m just one person but if we get a group we can get a better community.

1. **Liver’s Out WAM Officer**

James Callender

Proposed by: Isobel Gostick

Seconded by: Harriet Clark

Becoming part of WAM, offers a new dynamic and allows me to get involved in other campaigns they are running.

Work with Year Abroad rep to focus on housing there too.

Organise a housing talk at college asap, as it’s been too late in previous years.

Coffee shop drop ins designed for livers out, but accessible to all who may not want to head into the JCR and college

Housing drop ins in college

Lead male mental health campaign aim to break down stigma.

Online drop ins via skype for YA students.

Add a new dynamic to wam to try and encourage more males from a sporting background to get involved and open up the conversation related to welfare.

Any questions related to housing I’m happy to help you with.

**Questions**

Naomi: How would you assist people that are on their year abroad?

James: Basically, I’ve done a year abroad, so I would set up online drop in and give advice. I’ve had to deal with landlords and I would like to help them make them feel as part of the community

President: How would you go about promoting your support without overwhelming the freshers without scaring them?

James: During freshers week I’ve had this conversation and my message is do not stress. I’m aware that giving the information is the best way forward, that doesn’t mean they have to do it know but it’s always good to know. So I would provide that as soon as possible.

**7. AOB**

Announcements from the JCR President

President: Please don’t panic about housing, we are hosting a housing talk on the 28th October with the livers out rep. We want to make sure you have the information, please wait until then and don’t rush into it. People start freaking out and get a bit insensitive to others, please try to think about others and their situations, please be nice and considerate

Winter Ball is looking for general committee and executive members.

All you do is do beautiful decorations and you get to give really cool ideas. There’s also publicity, if you’re into creative or art. I met my closest friends at ball committees and it just a way great to meet people. We just want help to run the ball, no experience required and I encourage you to apply before the deadline Tuesday 9pm.

Senior WAM Officer: First WAM meeting tomorrow in the JCR, you can come up with ideas and just getting everyone together to discuss the year ahead.

**Appendix A: Motion to Ratify St. Mary’s College Ethnic Minorities Association**

Proposer: Odi Oladuji
Seconder: Jayna Vis

*This JCR notes:*
Mary’s already has fantastic associations (e.g. the LGBT+ association) which have a valuable and meaningful impact upon college life. This motion aims to build on the sense of community which has already been established within college and create a group which can provide an inclusive space for ethnic minorities.

*This JCR believes:*
This association would be chaired by the Ethnic Minorities Representative and work to ensure that college can continue to be a community that enables individuals to express their culture and personality whilst also providing a platform to meet people who are similar-minded. The association would also be able to hold social and academic events whilst working with the Durham University People of Colour Association and Durham University African Caribbean Society for support.

*This JCR resolves:*
To create a St Mary’s College Ethnic Minorities Association. The association’s description will be as follows:

St Mary’s College Ethnic Minorites Association works to uphold the college’s core values, most notably diversity and respect. The association provides a platform for social and academic integration, adding to the culture that promotes welfare and wellbeing which is pre-existing within Mary’s.