

TO: Assembly

FROM: Samuel Thomas – Castle, Union and Societies Officer

RE: Policy to introduce management and leadership training for select Common Room executive and non-executive officers.

DATE: 12 March 2019

Assembly Notes:

1. That colleges are the centre of the university experience for most Durham students – especially with respect to Welfare, Balls and other services and events organised through College Common Rooms.
2. That thousands of hours a year are volunteered by College Common Room members to provide world class social environments.
3. That some JCR members lead large teams and undertake very complex projects.
4. That whilst college life is all about jumping in at the deep end and trying your best, managerial and leadership failures from individuals and groups mean that the college experience is sometimes compromised at the expense of the student population.
5. That JCR Presidents/Senior Students already receive some training from the DSU.
6. That the Durham SU's '2018 – 2020' strategy document (P.12) states that by 2020, "We'll champion autonomous, successful student organisations...".
7. That college College Common Rooms are autonomous, successful student organisations
8. That the strategy document also states that by 2022 (p.15) "We'll deliver meaningful development opportunities for all student leaders at Durham...".

Assembly Believes

1. That leadership and management training would be a 'meaningful development opportunity' which would benefit both the individual student leader volunteers and the College Common Rooms they serve.
2. That it would be both possible and beneficial for a number of students from each college to take part in a leadership and management programme at the beginning of term 1.
3. That this could take the form of a day of seminars/lectures/workshops etc
4. That as spaces will inevitably College Common Rooms could decide amongst themselves would benefit the most, both personally and for the College Common Room, from attending.
5. That the training should result in certification so that the recipients of the training have something to show for it.

6. That by operating through the Opportunities Officer's remit of 'Common Room Development', the SU currently has the framework and capacity to organise such an event for these student volunteers.
7. That this event would be a very good start for building better relations with common rooms across the university.
8. That if well publicised by the DSU and common rooms then this will be a coup for increasing the satisfaction that students feel towards the DSU at this common-room-dominated university.

Assembly Resolves

1. To mandate the Opportunities Officer to organise a leadership and management training session at the beginning of every year for students coming into executive and non-executive positions in their College Common Rooms.
2. To mandate the Opportunities Officer to liaise with JCR and MCR Presidents' Committees and SU reps to gauge how many students from each college should and could take part in this and when exactly the training should take place.
3. To mandate the Opportunities Officer to report back to the final Assembly of the year on the status of this project.