

Constitutional Amendments 2011

c/ The Bumper, Holiday Edition Constitutional Clean-up Motion: Part I (Constitutional): 30/01/11

Proposer: Helen Brooks

Secunder: David Messling

This JCR notes that:

- a. We have a constitution.

This JCR believes that:

- b. Our constitution needs a spring clean.
- c. There are some aspects which need to be dealt with separately (electoral malpractice, charities regulations, Academic Affairs and Access etc), and so should not be included in this motion.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- d. Mandate the secretary to amend the constitution as follows:
 - i. Under §13e, insert after "...Extraordinary General Meeting" "or if the officer being censured is not present."
 - ii. §19 shall read "All officers shall present reports at the start of every General Meeting. If an officer is unable to attend, s/he shall send a written report and their apologies to the committee in advance of the meeting. All reps shall either submit a report in advance of a meeting, or present one at the meeting itself."
 - iii. §22c shall be amended to include: "S/he shall be responsible for creating and distributing a JCR term card and contact sheet at the beginning of each term."
 - iv. §22d: strike "S/he shall assist the Domestic Secretary on" and replace with "S/he will deal with".
 - v. §22f: amend "...shall oversee the college laundries and the maintenance of vending machines" to "shall oversee the college laundries and the maintenance of vending machines, excluding condom machines, which shall be maintained by the Welfare and Equal Opportunities Officers."
 - vi. §22h: Strike "Decanal Policy Committee, Equality forum, Joint council meetings, and"
 - vii. §22h: Strike "they must ensure SJC TV maintains an appropriate welfare focus and content, in addition to allowing it to be shown at bi-termly Welfare Nights. As such they will be directors ensuring content is accessible to all, not offensive or insulting to individuals and will look after the separate, dedicated SJC TV budget."
 - viii. §22i. Amend "basement" to "bop venue".
 - ix. §22j. Strike "s/he will be appointed by the JCR Committee and ratified by a JCR Meeting."
 - x. Amend §22j to include "S/he shall create and distribute a discount card to all JCR members."
 - xi. Amend §23a to include "These committees shall make available their accounts to the JCR."
 - xii. §23a: amend "The Chair of any such committee shall become an official of the JCR and report to the General Committee or a General Meeting as required." to "The Chair of any such committee shall report to the General Committee or a General Meeting as required."
 - xiii. Amend §28 from "...two officials who shall thus become officials of the JCR and who shall report to a General Meeting as required" to "...two officials who shall report to a General Meeting as required".
 - xiv. Strike "paying for all undergraduate members to be affiliated" from §33.
 - xv. Amend §36 to read "The JCRs affiliation to each named external organisation shall be reviewed after a written request containing 40 signatures of full members of the JCR."
 - xvi. Amend §40 from "OUSU and NUS Representatives" to "The NUS/OUSU Officer".

- xvii. §45: strike everything under this section after “by means of a charities motion” and replace with “or the annual charities vote, except in the case of a Disaster Emergency Committee appeal being launched after the deadline for motions for the last OGM of term, and before the start of the next full term. In such a case, money should be donated £200 at a time from the buffer in the charities fund as detailed in Part Three, table 5, 2.i. This shall be dealt with as an emergency charities resolution and donated immediately.”
- xviii. Amend Part Three, Table One, 14 to include “All motions shall be given in writing to the chair, except procedural motion j, which may be given verbally.”
- xix. Part Three, Table One, 14j: strike “clauses a. to f. and j. require a two-thirds majority. Clauses g. and h. and i. shall require a simple majority, provided there is no substantial change to the motion.”
- xx. Insert a subsection under Part Three, Table One, 15 – above the current 15a: “Clauses a, c, d, e, and f shall require a two-thirds majority. Clauses g, h, i and j shall require a simple majority. Clause b shall require a simple majority if there as an objection to a move to vote.
- xxi. Amend Part Three, Table One, 15e to read “if procedural motions e, f or g are put, speeches for and against shall be allowed so that the issues involved are reasonably discussed.”
- xxii. Strike Part Three, Table One, 15f, g and h. Replace with one subsection: “Procedural motions h, i, and j are to be voted on immediately.”
- xxiii. Strike from Part Three, Table One, 15i: “Following a pun, any member may *verbally* put procedural motion j.. An immediate vote shall be taken and the motion requires a simple majority to pass.”
- xxiv. Amend Part Three, Table One, 15i from “If the motion passes” to “If procedural motion j passes”.
- xxv. Amend Part Three, Table One, 20a from “S.O.17” to “S.O.18”.
- xxvi. Insert under Part Four, Appendix I, PRAT Rex/Regina Regni Fabarum, King/Queen of the Kingdom of Beans “The PRAT shall also buy toy(s) for each JCR meeting. These toys shall be donated to ~~Helen and Douglas House~~ a charity for children, to be decided in that meeting by a simple majority vote, at the end of each term.”
- xxvii. Strike “Responsibility for the care and storage of the JCR Television, VCR and DVD player” from Part Four, Appendix I, JCR Video & DVD Rep.
- xxviii. Amend Part Four, Appendix I, ‘JCR Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rep’ to read ‘JCR LGBTQ Rep’
- xxix. Insert under Part Four, Appendix I, ‘JCR Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rep’ “The LGBTQ Rep shall be responsible for the promotion of LGBTQ issues within college and for LGBTQ campaigns. S/he shall work closely with the Welfare & Equal Opportunities Officers to increase awareness of LGBTQ issues.”
- xxx. Remove the ~~JCR Art Rep(s)~~, ‘Newspaper Rep’ and ‘Games Room Rep’ from Part Four Appendix I.
- xxxi. Amend Appendix III – JCR Representatives on College Committees to include “Equality Forum – President, Vice-President, Secretary, Welfare & Equal Opportunities Officers, and all other interested Committee Members.”
- xxxii. Renumber all sections as appropriate.
- xxxiii: Correct all spelling and grammar insofar as it does not alter the meaning in any way.

e/ The Bike Rep Motion (Constitutional): 30/01/11

Proposer: David Messling

Seconded: Chris Sykes

This JCR notes that:

- a. Lots of St John’s students have bikes.
- b. Bikes are an important tool in college life.

- c. Bikes break down.

This JCR believes that:

- d. Working bikes are better than broken ones.
- e. Some people like mending bikes, and are good at it.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- f. Amend the constitution as follows to create a Bike Rep position:
 - i. Amend Part Four, Appendix I (JCR Representatives) to include the following paragraph:
Bike Rep

Appointed by the JCR Committee and ratified by a JCR meeting. The Bike rep shall be responsible for organising the maintenance and repair of the bikes of JCR members. S/he shall keep spares and tools, available for the use of the JCR. S/he shall be furnished with a budget for tools, spares, helmets and lights. S/he shall normally run at least two bike maintenance workshops per term, ideally more. S/he shall try to keep aware of all bike related issues in college. S/he shall also maintain an up-to-date list of all those willing to mend bikes in college.

**f/ The Ethnic Minorities and Disabilities Action Reps Motion (Constitutional):
30/01/11**

Proposer: Helen Brooks Seconded: David Messling

This JCR notes that:

- a. The Ethnic Minorities Rep (EMR) and Disabilities Action Rep (DAR) are currently elected by a secret ballot of full members of the JCR, at the same time as the election of JCR Officers.
- b. We have sometimes struggled to fill these roles in the past.
- c. If the DAR remains an elected position, we must hold another by-election to fill it in 2-6 weeks' time.
- d. Other rep positions which cater to a similar or larger proportion of JCR members (LGBT, International Students) are ratified positions.
- e. By electing these two positions at the same time as the officers, we are preventing those who are unsuccessful in obtaining an officer position, and who might be interested in going for either EMR or DAR, from doing so.

This JCR believes that:

- f. All reps should be chosen after the officer positions have been decided.
- g. The procedure of electing these two positions removes the flexibility necessary for a rep's role.
- h. Choosing these roles by election rather than ratification might put some people off who would take the role seriously, but are intimidated or discouraged by an election.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- i. Amend the constitution as follows to change the Disabilities Action rep and Ethnic Minorities rep to ratified positions:
 - i. Strike "the Ethnic Minorities Representative and the Disabilities Action Representative" from "The term of office for members of the General Committee, the Ethnic Minorities Representative and the Disabilities Action Representative shall run from the last day of Michaelmas term for one year", §38.
 - ii. Strike "the Ethnic Minorities Representative and the Disabilities Action Representative" from "The election of all other Officers, the Ethnic Minorities Representative and the Disabilities Action Representative shall take place in 8th week of Michaelmas term each year", §38.

- iii. Strike “the Ethnic Minorities Representative and the Disabilities Action Representative” from “Table Three: Standing Orders for the Election of Officers, the Ethnic Minorities Representative and the Disabilities Action Representative”.
- iv. Strike “the Ethnic Minorities representative and the Disabilities Action representative” from “Table Three A: Standing orders for by-elections following vacancies after the Michaelmas Term elections of Officers, the Ethnic Minorities representative and the Disabilities Action representative”.
- v. Amend “S/he shall be elected by a secret ballot of full members of the JCR, at the same time as the election of JCR Officers” under the description of JCR Ethnic Minorities Rep (Appendix I) to say “Appointed by the JCR Committee and ratified by a JCR meeting”.
- vi. Amend “S/he shall be elected by a secret ballot of full members of the JCR, at the same time as the election of JCR Officers” under the description of JCR Disabilities Action Rep (Appendix I) to say “Appointed by the JCR Committee and ratified by a JCR meeting”.

h/ The Chocolate Faerie Motion (Constitutional): 30/01/11

Proposer: Helen Austin Seconded: Helen Brooks

This JCR notes that:

- a. At the last meeting, a motion to create a Chocolate Faerie Rep position failed.
- b. There is currently no provision in the constitution for the care of Johanna.
- c. The peer support team, along with the JCR Welfare Officers, are responsible for the welfare of the JCR.
- d. Johanna was originally a peer support innovation.

This JCR believes that:

- e. Chocolate is good.
- f. Faeries are good.
- g. Johanna vastly improves the welfare of JCR members and deserves our special care and attention.
- h. The peer support team, supervised by the welfare officers, should be responsible for looking after Johanna.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- i. Amend § 22h. of the constitution to include:
The welfare officers shall supervise the peer support team in looking after Johanna, the St. John’s chocolate faerie. The welfare officers shall nominate one or more peer supporters each term, who shall collate nominations by regularly checking and maintaining Johanna’s e-mail address and her facebook page. S/he shall help Johanna to arrange chocolate (or other sugar-based treat, depending on dietary requirements), deliveries in the pidge room, a minimum of twice per term. Expenses are to be covered by the Welfare budget. S/he shall generally be responsible for ensuring Johanna’s health and wellbeing.

b/ The OUSU Third Vote Flexibility Motion (Constitutional): 13/02/11

Proposer: Simon Mattus Seconded: Tabassum Rasheed

This JCR notes that:

- a. The JCR has 3 votes in OUSU council.
- b. The constitution specifies that the President, Vice-President, and NUS/OUSU Officer “normally” attend OUSU Council.

This JCR believes that:

- c. Any member of the JCR should be allowed to attend OUSU Council as a voting member.
- d. It shall be the responsibility of the NUS/OUSU Officer to ensure that the third vote reflects, insofar as is possible, the overall view of the JCR.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- e. Amend 22m. of the constitution, “The JCR President, Vice-President and NUS/OUSU Officer shall normally attend OUSU Council.” to say “The JCR President, NUS/OUSU Officer, ~~and member of the JCR appointed by the NUS/OUSU Officer shall normally attend OUSU Council~~ and either a member of the JCR committee or a JCR member ratified in the meeting directly preceding OUSU Council, if there is a meeting.”

a/ The JCR Office Motion (Part 2) (Constitutional): 29/05/11

Proposer: Helen Brooks Secunder: David Messling

This JCR notes that:

- a. In the last meeting, it was agreed to give all files in the office prior to 1996 to the college archivist.
- b. It was also agreed that the Secretary would draft a constitutional amendment for future provision.

This JCR believes that:

- c. You can never have enough constitutional amendments...

This JCR resolves to:

- d. Mandate the JCR Secretary to amend the constitution as follows:
 - a. Between Part Two: 51 and Part Two: 52, insert:

The JCR Office

52. The JCR Office is located in North Quad, 3/2. It contains files and equipment for use by the committee. The JCR Secretary is responsible for ensuring that the office remains in good order.

53. Committee files shall be stored in the office for 15 years, after which point the JCR Secretary shall be in charge of handing them over to the College Archivist. The files will then be housed in the college archives, though the committee can still request to view them.

b/ The JCR/MCR Independence Motion (Constitutional): 29/05/11

Proposer: Helen Brooks Secunder: David Messling

This JCR notes that:

- a. The JCR constitution currently states that “full membership of the JCR shall be automatic for all members of College *in statu pupillari*” (Part Two: 6).
- b. It is defined neither in the constitution, nor in the college or university statutes precisely what *in statu pupillari* means.
- c. The MCR passed a motion last term acknowledging this, and renouncing “all claim to membership of the Junior Common Room of St John’s College, on condition that services hitherto provided by the JCR to all JCR members (i.e. graduates and undergraduates) without distinction, should henceforth be provided to all JCR and MCR members without distinction”.
- d. The only benefit that the MCR would lose by not being defined as ‘full members’ of the JCR, constitutionally, is the right to stand for and vote in elections and JCR meetings or referenda.

This JCR believes that:

- e. This motion will not damage the sound relationship between the JCR and MCR, but will clear up some ambiguities.

This JCR resolves to:

- f. Mandate the JCR Secretary to amend the constitution as follows:
 - a. Part One, “The JCR is the collective body of all members of the College *in statu puillari*, all of whom shall be deemed full members of the JCR” shall be amended to read “The JCR is the collective body of all undergraduate members of the College, all of whom shall be deemed full members of the JCR”.
 - b. Part Two: 6, “Full membership of the JCR shall be automatic for all members of College *in statu pupillari*” shall read “Full membership of the JCR shall be automatic for all undergraduate members of College”.

g/ The ‘Got any bread?’ Motion (Constitutional): 29/05/11

Proposer: Helen Brooks

Secunder: Helen Austin

This JCR notes that:

- a. The ducks on TW lawn were recently christened Sir Michael and Lady Duck.
- b. Sir Michael and Lady Duck are seen around college more often than most finalists.
- c. We have a section in our constitution devoted to honorary members.

This JCR believes that:

- d. Duck is delicious.
- e. Sir Michael and Lady Duck risk being cooked and eaten.
- f. As far as we know, it is unconstitutional to cook and eat members of the JCR.

This JCR resolves to:

- g. Grant honorary membership of The People’s Republic of St Giles to Sir Michael and Lady Duck.
- h. Mandate the committee to buy them some fancy bread to celebrate.

b/ The ‘I’ve got a massive election’ motion (Constitutional): 09/10/11

Proposer: Tom Preston

Secunder: Helen Brooks

This JCR notes that:

- a. This term, the JCR will be electing the new committee for next year.
- b. Last year there was some confusion over what precisely constituted electoral malpractice.

This JCR believes that:

- c. The constitution should be clear and unambiguous.

This JCR resolves to:

- d. Mandate the secretary to amend the constitution as follows:

- i. Amend §43 e to read “The publication, in print or online, of unsubstantiated statements regarding the integrity or candidature of any candidate. This includes publication of statements concerning potential candidates before the close of nominations.”
- ii. Amend §43 to include:
 - “h. Canvassing, advertising or advising voters before the close of nominations.
 - i. Removing manifestos, posters, or electoral material of another candidate in an attempt to secure or hinder the election of any candidate.
 - j. Canvassing, advertising or advising voters for the general committee election held in 8th week by the president elect or vice-president elect.”
- iii. Insert a new subsection beneath §44:

“45. Specific use of the internet and social networking sites shall be decided by the Returning Officer at his/her discretion and circulated by the President via the JCR mailing list prior to the opening of nominations.”
- iv. Renumber the constitution as appropriate.

c/ The ‘I’d like to Access her Academic Affairs’ Motion (Constitutional): 23/10/11

Proposer: Sarah Wonham

Seconder: Helen Brooks

This JCR notes that:

- d. We have an Access and Academic Affairs Officer.
- e. Because the Acc&AcAff Officer is responsible for both access related matters and all things academic, it’s difficult for him/her to focus on either one properly.
- f. We also have some Welfare Officers, who are technically (constitutionally) ‘Welfare and Equal Opportunities Officers’
- g. The ‘welfare’ part of Welfare and Equal Opps takes up so much time that it’s hard for the Welfare Officers to prioritise the equal opps aspect of their role.

This JCR believes that:

- h. Creating two new positions, ‘Access and Equal Opportunities Officer’ and ‘Academic Affairs Officer’, in place of the old ‘Access and Academic Affairs Officer’ position, would solve these problems.
- i. AccEquOpps sounds like an awesome name for a dinosaur.

This JCR resolves to:

- j. Mandate the JCR Secretary to amend the constitution as follows:
 - i. Alter Part Two, §22)e to read:

The Academic Affairs Officer shall try to assist members of the JCR with academic-related problems they may have. S/he shall, if required, make representations on behalf of such members to the relevant authorities. S/he shall also represent the JCR at Educational Policy Committee, Library Committee and at OUSU Academic Affairs Committee. S/he shall oversee the careers advice available to JCR members, liaise with the Careers Service Advisor for St John’s, and arrange at least one Careers Service event in College per term. S/he shall oversee the scholarships and support available to JCR members. S/he shall run Academic Feedback sessions each year in Hilary Term, producing individual tutor reports and a thematic report for presentation at Education Policy Committee. S/he shall, with the NUS/OUSU Officer, communicate the appropriate Academic Feedback material to JCC reps in College.

- ii. Insert beneath Part Two, §22)e:

The Access & Equal Opportunities Officer shall work in conjunction with the Schools Liaison Officer and

Tutor for Admissions to co-ordinate and promote the Student Ambassador Scheme and other initiatives for access to the College. S/he will undertake SAS training at the first available opportunity. S/he shall also be responsible for the annual updating of the Alternative Prospectus for distribution at summer open days. S/he shall be mandated to be present for the interview period in the December following their term of office. S/he shall assist with open days wherever possible, and encourage other volunteers. S/he shall attend Equality Forum and represent the JCR at Equality Committee and Educational Policy Committee. S/he shall attend OUSU Access Committee and OUSU Equal Opportunities Committee. The Access & Equal Opportunities Officer shall seek to address issues of inequality within the College, liaising with the College Equality Officer. S/he shall liaise with the Welfare Officers to co-ordinate the work of the Disabilities Action Rep(s), Ethnic Minorities Rep(s), LGBTQ Rep(s) and International Students Rep(s).

- iii. Alter all instances of “Welfare and Equal Opportunities” to “Welfare”.
- iv. Adjust ‘Appendix III – JCR Representatives on College Committees’ as appropriate.

d/ The ‘Two Entz are better than one’ Motion (Constitutional): 23/10/11

Proposer: Helen Brooks

Seconder: Alex Winchester

This JCR notes that:

- a. According to the constitution, we have an Entz Officer (Venue) and an Entz Officer (Events), each with distinctly defined roles.
- b. In practice, the Entz Officers work together on all aspects of their job.
- c. Those running for Entz (Venue) and Entz (Events) usually run as a pair, informally.

This JCR believes that:

- d. The constitution should reflect current practice.

This JCR resolves to:

- e. Mandate the JCR Secretary to amend the constitution as follows:
 - i. Under Part Two, §17, following “Officers' posts may not be held by more than one person at a time, except for the positions of Environment & Ethics Officer and Domestic Secretary, which may be held jointly between two people, if this is to the benefit of the JCR”, insert “, and the position of Entertainment Officer, which must be held by two people at a time”.
 - ii. Delete from Part Two, §22)i “Entz Officer (Venue) will have primary responsibility for bops; Entz Officer (Events) shall have primary responsibility for all other events. However, all college events will be considered to be a joint effort between the two Entz Officers.”, and insert “, including bops” after “shall organize all college entz”.