

St John's College Junior Common Room

The People's Republic of St Giles

Minutes for the 1st meeting of Michaelmas Term 2015
10th of October 2015, 8.30pm, JCR

i/ Minutes of the previous meeting

ii/ Matters arising from the minutes

Christina began the meeting by welcoming everyone back after the long vacation, saying hello to the new freshers and explaining the format of JCR meetings.

iii/ Officers' reports

iv/ Reps' reports

v/ Ratifications

Computer Rep - Marius was ratified, explaining that as the only Computer Scientist he was best placed to perform this job.

vi/ Items for discussion

vii/ Agenda Items

a/ Disabilities Rep to Officer Motion - second reading

Proposer: Thomas Wadsworth Seconder: Katy Haigh

Tom explained the motion succinctly.

Cecilia asked when this would come into force - Christina clarified after the next election.

Motion PASSES by clear majority

b/ Prescription Costs Motion - second reading

Proposer: Thomas Wadsworth Seconder: Jess Colston

Tom outlined the motion again.

Claudia asked if this would be paid for by JCR money or levy - Tom answered levy.

Caitlin asked how we get the money back - Tom said there would be incentives, and a clause saying the money must be given back. Anton asked how much a 3 month prescription cost is - Tom responded it could be quite high, with figures.

Matt asked if, by passing this motion, we would be accepting the decision of the sub-committee set up to run this.

Jake put a procedural motion for Ali Lennon, ex-JCR member, to be allowed to attend and speak at the meeting, which clearly passed.

Alice asked who would be on the committee - Tom said people could run for it.

Marius asked why we should pass an incomplete motion - why not fall this one, and come back once we have a way of ensuring people pay the JCR back once they get their money from the NHS.

Alastair asked how internal disagreement within the committee would be dealt with.

Your Secretary noted that he rarely comments on motions, but that this was an exception. What we have is a motion which disincentivises people from claiming money back from the NHS, and furthermore the form by which this done is not that complicated. If the issue is purely liquidity at the point of purchase, college offers a Hardship grant specifically for this purpose.

Jake said that this mythical sub-committee, which would solve the problem of people claiming from the JCR then doing no more, will not be able to find the answer and we cannot merely pin our hopes on it. This would waste money.

Claudia asked why people don't use the Hardship grant, saying this motion is a lovely idea but fundamentally not for the JCR to be dealing with.

Tom said that the NHS forms work over a long stretch, and so it does incentivise people for the future. People will help you fill in the form - the motion may be incomplete but we can come back and vote on it later. Furthermore, not everyone can claim the Hardship grant.

Claudia responded to the final point that everyone can. Silas explains how it works, saying it's very easy to claim and that college moves very quickly to ensure you are not left hanging.

Matthew said that this would essentially be setting up a credit facility for JCR members, which legally is very risky. Very complicated financial ramifications, all kinds of protections being granted to JCR members claiming against the JCR, and the only way we can enforce our right is to go to court where costs orders may be made against us, and in every case we will lose more than we gain. Legally disastrous.

Jess said that this motion really will help JCR members, and that we need a committee to sort the problems.

Turlough asked if JCR members could potentially run a profit on this, claiming JCR money and NHS money and getting their prescription - the answer was yes.

Jake further argued that this motion is incomplete, would amount to 20% of our financial motions budget, and that if 100 people claimed it would all be gone. Motion fails to address these issues.

Your Secretary further reinforced that, legally, this is a dead end and no committee could ever overcome that.

Tom said that even if we do lose a little money, so what? We spend £200 here and there on a play nobody will attend - the hardship fund takes too long, let's pass this.

Motion FALLS 14 for, 31 against, 16 abstaining

d/ The "Sports Rep" Motion - second reading

Proposer: Jennifer Smith

Seconded: Zoe Carmichael

PASSES by clear majority with almost no discussion

e/ The "Turl Street Orchestra - please help us, we're only little" Financial Motion

Proposer: Caitlin Jones

Seconded: Andrew Phillips

Your Secretary asked what the benefit to John's JCR would be - Caitlin answered that John's often forms a good proportion of the orchestra. Christina asked that the part mandating her to lobby OUSU for club support be removed, and your Secretary chipped in that a Common Room Support Officer and Clubs & Socs funding already exists, and to ask them instead. This amendment was taken as friendly.

PASSES by clear majority

f/ WomFit (Financial Motion)

Proposer: Jennifer Smith

Seconder: Katy Haigh

Jenny outlined the motion. Matt asked why membership cards – Jenny said it made it feel exclusive. Charles cited the motion, saying there are both more significant things and the more “trivial” – would this motion be exclusively for the “trivial” (quoting the motion) stuff? Jenny replied that this would cover startup costs, and we would look again in December.

Jake asked if any sports clubs got free stash, and if it would be personalised, as the college rule is that college money can't be used for personalised stash.

Daniil asked if the stash would be used as an incentive for joining, or a reward for commitment? Jenny said it was to foster community spirit.

Claudia said that all other sports clubs don't have personalised kit, and that college doesn't support that. She didn't think it was right that £375 be spent on that, and other “trivial” (motion quote) things, when it could better be spent on having instructors come in, getting nutritionist advice and so on. She said that money is not the same as momentum, and momentum could be achieved by getting events going and getting everyone together.

Louise said it's a good idea, momentum is a good thing, but free stash is not. Callum supported Claudia and Louise.

Jenny said the stash would not be free, and that we're trying to reach people who might never before have gone to the gym and a t-shirt might do the trick.

Jamie said it might well be worth withdrawing the motion for now and rethinking it, and having a better idea of where the money's going. Cecilia said why not direct the money towards more significant things, such as a bulk order of protein (Christina: “bulk” order of protein LOL).

Jenny amended the motion to remove all mention of stash, and instead to say the money would be used to encourage participation.

PASSES by clear majority

viii/ Any other business

Ssuuna clarified the position on Entz as follows:

Every now and then the JCR forgets how to talk to people. Kim was very upset by people's comments, we're all human beings. During freshers week, not many people went out, and as not many people clicked attending on the bop event we thought it might not be as big a thing this year. We thought fewer people would come. We got the same amount of alcohol as always regardless, just because it was in a different box doesn't mean the volume of liquid changed. We had the same number of bop juice containers as we have always had, and bop juice has never run out before - this was a one-off.

RE: doing a Tesco run, which costs double what we pay at the wholesalers and is not doable. RE: pizza, we forgot this time, but generally it is a massive hassle as people swarm it as it enters, once it was actually stolen by somebody claiming to be me, and so from here on we won't be doing bop pizza. For everyone who said it was a bad bop, people stayed until past 1am, so clearly wasn't that bad.

We didn't break the speakers, they were lent out to somebody over the summer and one has since come back broken and we're on it.

Turlough asked if volunteers could organise bop pizza, Anna said perhaps the PRAT, who asked if there could be a budget for this. Harry said we needed to re-evaluate the pizza distribution system.

Mike said that he recognises Entz have a shit job, but that it's not out of the question for a Tesco run to be made. This was avoidable. Silas said space could be made for spare alcohol in the bop room.

Meeting closed 22:28

Danny Waldman
JCR Secretary
20/10/2015