

# St John's College Junior Common Room

## The People's Republic of St Giles

Agenda for the 1st meeting of Michaelmas Term 2015  
10<sup>th</sup> of October 2015, 8.30pm, JCR

### i/ Minutes of the previous meeting

### ii/ Matters arising from the minutes

### iii/ Officers' reports

### iv/ Reps' reports

Your Secretary regrets to inform you that, after a heart-achingly long summer away from all things JCR, he has rather got out of practice. Motions will be found below spick and span, but to my great embarrassment the Officers and Reps were not asked for their reports as usual. In penance, atonement, and out of sheer desperation for your forgiveness, I pledge to wear a Bop costume worthy of your amusement this evening.

### v/ Ratifications

### vi/ Items for discussion

### vii/ Agenda Items

#### a/ Disabilities Rep to Officer Motion - second reading

Proposer: Thomas Wadsworth      Seconder: Katy Haigh

The JCR notes that:

- a. Ableist language and accessibility issues are a common occurrence around Oxford and the college, and this drastically lowers the welfare of those affected
- b. There is currently a women's officer on the committee who represents only one of the liberation campaigns
- c. The MCR have the Disabled Students Officer on their committee
- d. Intersectionality is important
- e. The position of the disabilities rep is overlooked for those on the committee when people wish to go to someone for information
- f. It can be difficult to get people to run for rep roles, especially when they are mandated to do a lot

The JCR believes that:

- g. There is a lot that needs to be done in college to resolve and represent disabilities issues
- h. All liberation groups deserve equal support and have the recognition and ability to carry out the needed actions

i. The liberation groups should be represented by someone who identifies as such with the movement

The JCR therefore resolves to:

j. Mandate the JCR disabilities rep/student disabilities officer to hold a disabilities discussion group/surgery at least once every two weeks for a 1 hour minimum

k. Mandate the JCR disabilities rep/student disabilities officer to raise awareness of the role and the informational facilities it provides

l. Mandate the JCR disabilities rep/student disabilities officer to hold a disabilities awareness event at least once a term

m. Mandate the JCR disabilities rep/student disabilities officer to improve the accessibility of events held by the JCR to the best of their ability

n. Mandate the JCR disabilities rep/student disabilities officer to run and organise a disabilities buddy system (along the same lines as the college parents system but with paired volunteers and freshers with similar disabilities)

o. Remove all of Table Two B. 2f (The Disabilities Action Rep shall be responsible for the promotion of disability issues within College and for disabilities action campaigns. S/he shall work closely with the Access and Equal Opportunities Officer to increase awareness of disability issues, including access, and to promote applications from disabled people. S/he shall normally attend OUSU Disabilities Action Committee. Appointed by the JCR Committee and ratified by a JCR meeting. S/he shall report to the Access and Equal Opportunity Officer.)

p. Add a new paragraph reading: The Student Disabilities Officer shall represent and support the views and issues around disabilities in the JCR, when sitting on the JCR committee, the Equality Committee, any other committees appointed to on a college or wider university level, and in their work around college. They should provide an arena for discussion, holding a disabilities awareness event at least once a term, as well as providing a space to talk through a designated discussion group/surgery. This should be held at least once every two weeks for a minimum of an hour. They should represent the college in OSDC, through contacting the OSDC president and trying, to the best of their ability, to get involved through socials and on the committee. The student disabilities officer should also strive to make sure that all events are held in accessible environments, and where they cannot, try to improve it to the best extent they can. They should also work closely with the MCR officers to help improve the situation in college further.

q. Add d) to Table Three: Standard Orders for the Election of Officers 1. - Only full members of the JCR who identify as disabled should stand for the position of student disabilities officer.

r. Add a clause stating that anyone can vote for the position but adding a conscience clause stating that people should think about whether the position is actually relevant to them and whether they should actually vote for it

s. Leave the exact wording up to the constitutional reform committee - as long as any wording changes are non-functional

#### **b/ Prescription Costs Motion - second reading**

Proposer: Thomas Wadsworth

Seconder: Jess Colston

The JCR notes:

- a. That prescription charges in England are currently set at £8.20 per medicine or appliance dispensed.
- b. That the majority of students are over 18 and therefore not eligible for free prescriptions unless on the NHS low income scheme.
- c. That although students may be eligible for help with healthcare costs through the NHS Low Income Scheme (LIS), the complex application process is a barrier for disabled students particularly during high-stress Oxford terms.
- d. That Prescription Prepayment Certificates (PPCs) can reduce prescription charge costs but still represent an often impossible financial burden, with a three month certificate at £29.10 and an annual certificate at £104
- e. That a survey conducted of 84 Wadham students found that roughly 31% of students have regular prescriptions without using the LIS or PPCs. A further 7% have 3 or 12 month PPC. (I don't have the data or time to conduct one at John's but I imagine the figures are relatively close to this)

The JCR believes:

- f. That prescription charges often force students to choose between medication and other living costs and are therefore a barrier to healthcare.
- g. That the foundational principle of the NHS -- that treatment should be free at the point of delivery -- should be defended at any cost.
- h. That we cannot allow students to face unfair additional charges for basic necessities.
- i. That disabled students face unique and under-acknowledged challenges, including hidden costs that accompany being disabled at university, and that we stand in solidarity with them.

The JCR resolves to:

- j. To mandate the Disabilities Rep to create a committee to judge the best method of reimbursing prescription charges and prescription prepayment certificates for all members of the JCR.
- k. To mandate the Disabilities Rep Officer to act on the findings of said committee.
- l. To mandate the Disabilities Rep to make information about the NHS Low Income Scheme (LIS) available and to help students who may wish to apply or to refer them to the Welfare Advisor.
- m. To have the JCR pay £X (tbc in the meeting) towards prescription costs
- n. To set up a scheme whereby beneficiaries will pay back the money received once they redeem it from the NHS

#### d/ The "Sports Rep" Motion - second reading

Proposer: Jennifer Smith

Seconded: Zoe Carmichael

**This JCR notes that:**

- a. The JCR has no Sports Rep.
- b. Other colleges (New, Oriel, Regent's Park and Jesus) have a Sports Rep.

**This JCR believes that:**

- c. A Sports Rep. would be a point of call for all the sports teams in college to have a go to person.
- d. A Sports Rep. could promote use of the gym, sports grounds and the fitness classes in college.
- e. A Sports Rep. could liaise with college on matters about the facilities.

- f. A Sports Rep. could come up with ways to promote exercise and healthy lifestyles.
- g. A Sports Rep. could encourage all sports in college.

**This JCR therefore resolves to:**

- h. Ratify a Sports Rep.

**e/ The “Turl Street Orchestra - please help us, we’re only little” Financial Motion**

Proposer: Caitlin Jones

Seconded: Andrew Phillips

**This JCR notes that:**

- a. The Turl Street Orchestra (TSO) is an inclusive non-auditioning orchestra open to all
- b. TSO does not charge any membership fee
- c. TSO holds accessible termly concerts free of charge
- d. TSO does not receive any funding from OUSU or other central bodies
- e. Renting a stall at OUSU Freshers’ Fair is a significant cost to a small society (£90 for 2 tables)
- f. There are other costs involved in running an orchestra, such as hiring rooms and purchasing music
- g. Several St John’s members are involved with TSO

**This JCR believes that:**

- h. Supporting the interests of JCR members is important
- i. Student societies should be widely accessible
- j. More should be done to support small student societies in Oxford

**This JCR therefore resolves to:**

- k. Give £150 to the Turl Street Orchestra
- l. Mandate the JCR President to raise the issue of supporting smaller societies with OUSU in the appropriate forum

**f/ WomFit (Financial Motion)**

Proposer: Jennifer Smith

Seconder: Katy Haigh

**This JCR notes that:**

- 1. We have women’s only gym hours.
- 2. We have a Women’s Fitness Society.
- 3. To be able to run as a society a budget is needed.
- 4. Claiming from the sports treasurer would take until December and this would mean the Women’s Fitness Society would lose momentum.
- 5. The JCR has funded other societies.

**This JCR believes that:**

- 1. A Women’s Fitness Society should be treated the same as other societies and given the opportunity to use the JCR budget.

This JCR resolves:

1. To give £375 to Jennifer Smith (WomFit founder) in order to fund the start-up costs of the society:
  - Stash
  - Membership cards
  - Water bottles

viii/ Any other business

Danny Waldman  
JCR Secretary  
10/10/2015