

St John's College Junior Common Room

The People's Republic of St Giles

Agenda for the 1st meeting of Trinity Term 2015
26th of April 2015, 8.30pm, JCR

i/ Minutes of the previous meeting

ii/ Matters arising from the minutes

iii/ Officers' reports

Academic Affairs Officer: Peter Blenkharn

(To be delivered.)

Access & Admissions Officer: Alex Manby

Sorry I can't make it to this week's meeting, I'm in Tenerife measuring rocks and stuff. Over the vac I organised an access training event with TeachFirst and Target Schools for third week and begun organising the Brighton Roadshow (more details to follow). I'm also working on a few changes to the alternative prospectus before the summer open days. The start date of the new SLO has been confirmed for the 11th May. Also wanted to say a massive thanks to everyone who helped with tours, visits and pathways events last term!

Discounts Officer: Silas Elliot

Hi,

Can't make the meeting because finals on Monday (Y) but here's report:

Free ice cream for finalists! We've teamed up with G&D's (again), to give free scoops to finalists.. Stay tuned to the discount scheme Facebook page for more info.

Domestic Officers: Alice Smalley & Colette Snape

we have been putting together plans for the upcoming guest dinners, organised the May Day breakfast and will shortly be putting up a sign up sheet, and we have ordered the camp beds for the JCR, which I will be arranging a system for, available from Monday of 1st week

Entz Officers: Kim Myton & Sssuna Golooba-Mutebi

Environment & Ethics Officers: Sally Hayward & Jen Lord

We've been in contact with the buttry about improving recycling in hall, particularly at breakfast, and are meeting with the librarian in the next couple of weeks to talk about the plastic bags used in the library.

Equality & Diversity Officer: Claudia Haavik

(To be delivered.)

Welfare Officers: Beth Candlin & Charles Goodman

(To be delivered.)

Women's Officer: Lidia Fanzo

Over Easter I have been organising the speakers for Women's Lunches and helping to put together the Finals Forum. I have put in the first order for our Sanitary Products and have started to do research into how we could further subsidise the system. I have also been looking into have trained JCR First Responders at Bops.

Treasurer: Vicky Skornia

Money is still flowing to those who have bought things for the JCR. Also a reminder that sign up sheets for our 3 punts are in the pidge room!

Vice-President: Blathnaid McCullagh

Been recovering from the room ballot. Also Christina and I have been looking over Fresher's Week Committee applications.

Secretary: Danny Waldman

Rent negotiations coming up, aside from this made a termcard and continued speaking with MCR people (they changed committee last term so it's been slow getting up to speed) about a physio.

President: Christina St Clair

Collections have been a pain but they're over so it's all JCR commitments from now on. Rents and charges planning underway, freshers committee apps rolling in, helping to plan 2000 women party, sourcing new reps, trying to organise my tutorials for the term has been taking up all of my will power and emotional capital because it's been so difficult so that's all i can be bothered reporting. ask me questions. love you.

iv/ Reps' reports

Alumni & Development Rep: Beth Gregory

(To be delivered.)

Art Rep: Helen McCombie

(To be delivered.)

Bike Rep: Anatoly Smirnov

(To be delivered.)

Charities Rep: Cecilia Peker & Meredith Hood

Over the break we've been organising lots of fun events for this term! We are talking with the Entz and Domestic secs about having a joint summer party/bbq with Somerville as well as coordinating with Trinity's college sweatshirts project. Don't forget to order yours! The Oxford Dignity Drive is happening in 2nd week - do go to the events if you can, and donate as much as you are willing and able to! We will also be having a college comedy night in 4th week. Any events you would like to suggest or for us to be involved let us know!!

Computer Rep: Eliot Ball

This week I have been overseeing some significant upgrades to the college network. With students returning for Trinity term the college recognised that eduroam is under an unacceptable amount of pressure. Spotting an opportunity to add extra bureaucracy, college held a contest where rival companies would bid with their solutions, in a similar way to big government contracts. The winning bid was entered by two students from a local primary school who have designed an ingenious "multi-threaded network system". Under the system, each room will be fitted with an aluminium can, one end of which has been removed. This can will then be connected via a taut piece of string to another can, at one of several switchboard locations throughout college. Instead

of using wires and airwaves to communicate, each computer will transmit its messages as audible taps in morse code into the can. This will be done through the use of small USB “string instruments”. When the morse code reaches the switchboard, a college employee will determine where the message should go, and repeat the transmission into the appropriate next can. The staff will be roped in from other areas of college where they are no longer needed, raising the bar in terms of job opportunities for college staff. College decided to go ahead with such a large-scale project in order to avoid a situation where staff are tied up in a whole string of incremental improvements over the next few years, which would not be the best use of their time. The college, as always, will be consulting students about the proposal over the next few weeks and then reading some of their comments out during some kind of meeting.

Disabilities Action Rep: Thomas Wadsworth

(To be delivered.)

DVD Rep: Charles Clegg

(To be delivered.)

Ethnic Minorities Rep: Cameron Joshi

Cap'n's log

Currently working with the Entz Reps to put on a bangin' Ethnic Minorities drinks on Friday of Third Week.

International Students Reps: Charlie Vaughan

(To be delivered.)

LGBTQ Reps: Flora Sheldon & Jamie Jackson

(To be delivered.)

OUSU Rep: Blagovest Gospodinov

(To be delivered.)

PRAT: Ed Evans

Pizza yay

Returning Officer: Will van Duzer

After the long slumber of the Easter vac, it's now time to start preparing for college elections. Forget the election to decide on which coalition will be running the UK - in sixth week we'll be voting in a new welfare officer, women's officer and academic affairs officer. You'll even be able to vote from the comfort of your own room. The constitution requires us to have an online vote, but we don't currently have a subscription to any online voting systems - please pass the motion on Sunday which will set this straight!

v/ Ratifications

a/ Bike Rep

b/ Art Rep

c/ International Students Rep

vi/ Items for discussion

vii/ Agenda Items

a/ The motion to support Students for Happiness

Proposer: Cecilia Herbert

Seconded: Georgina Berriman

This JCR notes That...

although we are educated on an infinite array of subjects at Oxford and school, we are rarely taught anything about happiness, well-being and mental health. In response to this educational deficit, the non-profit organization Students for Happiness - that is partially run by students in Oxford and in St John's itself - looks to provide invigorating and thought-provoking intellectual discussions surrounding this crucial topic. Our vision is to create a movement for positive social change with no commercial, religious or political affiliations in order to reduce the stigma of mental health issues and readdress our attitude towards happiness. Our discussions draw on the latest research in the fields of psychology, philosophy, politics, the arts, science and economics, approaching the idea of happiness from a myriad of perspectives. We have garnered the support of various influential figures and organisations, including Professor AC Grayling, Dr. Rowan Williams, Alain de Botton, The School of Life (www.theschooloflife.com), Action for Happiness (www.actionforhappiness.org), Mental Wealth UK (www.mentalwealthuk.com), The Oxford Mindfulness Centre and The Empathy and Compassion in Society Conference.

This JCR believes That...

not only is it vitally important to foster worthwhile organisations about the well-being of students, in which St John's students have an active role in, but it is also incredibly important that the university provides education in the field of mental health, happiness and well-being. Well-being, happiness and mental health can sometimes be compromised or worsened in the pressurized university environment, and it is important that education plays a key role in combatting the issue and focusing on non-clinical forms of unhappiness, on top of the medical support services at the university. Students for Happiness believes that people should prioritise well being and place greater emphasis on collaborative ways of living, which value positive relationships, fulfillment and altruism, all of which have been proven to create greater long-term happiness, by engaging with issues concerning well being, happiness and mindfulness in an intellectual capacity.

This JCR therefore resolves to...

assist in the start-up of the first Students for Happiness event in Oxford in May 2015, which will be a panel discussion including speakers such as Dr. Mark Williams of the Oxford Mindfulness Centre (confirmed speaker), Nic Marks (confirmed speaker) who runs the New Economics Foundation and the Centre for Well Being and Dr Sophie Bostock. In October, Oxford Students for Happiness will also welcome to Oxford, Dr Ilona Boniwell (confirmed speaker) who is a leading international positive psychologist and Dr Barry Schwartz, who is a leading psychologist in social theory and social action and whose TED talks have had over 10 million views. This JCR proposes assistance in the form of funding for hiring a venue for this incredibly insightful panel in May & October in St John's College, accessible to all students here and at other colleges, which is estimated at the cost of £500.

b/ The 'No More Old Skool Elections' Financial Motion

Proposed: Will Van Duzer, seconded: Silas Elliott

This JCR notes that:

a. Its constitution requires all JCR elections and referendums to be held by an online vote.

- b. OUSU no longer supports JCRs by providing membership to the online voting system 'Mi-Voice'.
- c. Despite the NUS affiliation referendum scandal at OUSU, Mi-Voice is easy to use and allows voting by the AV system; free alternatives do not offer this. The second choice is Electionbuddy, which would cost £30 per election/referendum. This system has less support, looks less sleek and would require lots of pesky financial motions.

This JCR believes that:

- d. JCR elections should be easy to vote in and that Mi-Voice would facilitate this.
- e. JCR election polls should look professional and be easy to manage.
- f. Online JCR elections should be secure.

This JCR resolves to:

- g. Increase the yearly budget of the Returning Officer by £175 to pay for a subscription to the Mi-Voice voting system, with immediate effect.

c/ The “Entertainment Facilities” Motion

Proposer: Alasdair Lennon Second: Daniel Waldman

This JCR notes that: *(Facts about the current situation)*

- a) Several of our entertainment fixtures have been deteriorating including but not limited to:
 - a. The pool table (broken cues and problematic table)
 - b. The darts board (lack of darts)
 - c. The air hockey table (currently defective and inoperable)
 - d. The table tennis table (lack of bats and balls)
 - e. BOP audio visual equipment (currently only one light works and some of the music equipment needs repair)
- b) The deterioration is in cases making these facilities unusable
- c) Funds and attention to these facilities has been lacking

This JCR believes that: *(Why the situation should be changed)*

- a) The use of these facilities benefits all members of the JCR
- b) Following the investment of the past two committees it would be to the detriment of all JCR members not to repair and rejuvenate these facilities.
- c) Having usable entertainment facilities promotes socialising and relaxation among students
- d) Officers need significant autonomy in order to achieve the restoration of facilities in reasonable time.

This JCR therefore resolves to: *(What do you propose we do?)*

- a) To allocate up to £600 for the President, Entz Reps and other officers to use as they see fit to restore the facilities and others not listed to working order.
- b) To empower the relevant JCR officers to sort out supporting mechanisms to ensure the longevity of these facilities (e.g. arranging with the bar to look after table tennis equipment).
- c) To allow the President to delegate these tasks to other persons and officers as they see fit.

d/ Sky Box Boxing financial motion

Proposer: Tim Ang Seconded: Danny Waldman (ex officio)

This JCR notes that:

- a) Lots of people want to watch the boxing
- b) Watching boxing costs money

This JCR believes that:

- a) The JCR should allow people to watch things if they are very popular

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- b) Mandate the Treasurer to liaise with the Proposer in ensuring the boxing can be watched

e/ The "Gender-Only Kendrew Gym Hours" Motion

Proposer: Jennifer Smith

Seconded: Lidia Fanzo

This JCR notes that:

- a. There are no gender-only hours in the Kendrew gym.
- b. Women can feel intimidated into not using weight machines when men are there.
- c. This could be remedied by having a women-only and men-only hours in the main gym.

This JCR believes that:

- d. Members of the JCR may feel more comfortable using the gym in a time slot specific to the gender that they identify with.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- e. Allocate a weekly time slot for members of the JCR identifying as women and a separate time slot identifying as men.
- f. Members who do not identify with a particular gender or are gender fluid/gender non-binary may attend whichever session they feel more comfortable at, with the possibility of creating a separate time for them if necessary.
- g. Consult the JCR on a time slot for members who do not identify with a particular gender or are gender fluid/ gender non-binary. These people could have a specific hour separate to the women's-only/men's-only hour or could be welcomed to attend either or both as they choose.
- h. The time slot could be an hour, half an hour or two hours.
- i. Suggested times:

Any week day: 7-9am or 7-9pm

Weekends: 8-9:30am

Cleaning is from 9:30-10:30 and these times should avoid lectures and meal times.

f/ When the Saints Go Marching In... Again. (Financial Motion)

Proposed: Tom Finch Seconded: Phil Lucas

This JCR notes that:

- a) For the second year in a row, St Anne's / St John's RFC (aka 'The Saints') have made a Cuppers Final, in this case the Plate Final (5.30 KO, 30th April/Thursday 1st Week).

- b) Last year, the supporters who came down to back the Saints not only had a fantastic time, but were collectively a critical factor in helping the Saints emerge victorious.
- c) This exuberant support from the fans was aided by a financial motion subsidising a purchase of drinks for all John's supporters to enjoy.
- d) Alcohol from off-premises is not permitted at Iffley Road on Cuppers Finals Day.

This JCR believes that:

- e) College sporting events, such as Cuppers Finals or Summer Eights, are an invaluable way to promote the college to come together as a whole, supporters and players, SCR, MCR, JCR and staff alike.
- f) This Final will provide an excellent opportunity for St John's students to participate in May Day celebrations, with the added advantage of an earlier kick-off time meaning a more inclusive experience for finalists and those who might not want to party into the early hours of the morning.
- g) All steps should be taken to ensure that the Saints fans have the best possible experience on match-day.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- h) Provide £175 for the purchasing of drinks from OURFC for consumption by John's supporters.

g/ The OUSU E&E Divestment Motion

Proposer: Sally Hayward

Seconded: Jen Lord

This CR notes that:

In September 2013 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported that in order to stay below a one-third probability of a devastating global temperature rise of 2°C, cumulative carbon emissions cannot exceed a "budget" of 886 gigatons. Over-shooting this by just 5% increases the chance of exceeding 2°C to 50%. [IPCC]

Current fossil fuel reserves amount to nearly five times the remaining carbon budget. Therefore around 80% of reserves must stay in the ground. Proven reserves: 2795 Gt. Remaining budget: 565 Gt. [CarbonTracker.org]

Despite this, the top 200 coal, oil and gas companies spent almost \$700billion in the last 12 months finding and developing even more reserves. [CarbonTracker.org]

It's estimated that UK Universities invest around £2k per student in fossil fuel companies. Oxford hasn't released a detailed breakdown but has no specific policy on FF investment so it is likely to be around the UK average. [350.org]

There is a growing international campaign for fossil fuel divestment, which has spread to the UK, notably through the Fossil Free UK campaign. There are currently student-led divestment campaigns in 20 UK universities, including Cambridge where in November 2013 the student union passed a motion calling on the university to divest from fossil fuels.

Oxford University has the second largest endowment of any UK university (3.6 billion).

Oxford University's Socially Responsible Investment Review Committee is meant to enforce the Policy on SRI, stating that the university aims to: negatively or positively screen investments on ethical grounds, where this does not reduce the financial return on investment, but with the proviso that, if the activities of a company are, on ethical grounds, inconsistent with the educational and/or research objectives of the University, then the University may choose not to invest even though this may reduce returns. [University Policy on SRI 1.b]

OUSU's student-led Environment & Ethics Campaign is now campaigning in favour of divestment. It

is planning to request that the University: a) apply a negative screening process to fossil fuel investments; b) divulge, on request, information relating to past or present investments in fossil fuels.

For the purposes of divestment, by 'fossil fuel company', this motion means any company involved in expanding the coal, oil or gas reserves.

This CR believes that:

The actions of companies that search for new fossil fuel reserves is unethical.

Investment made by the University into such companies is socially irresponsible and inconsistent with the educational objectives of the University.

Divestment is an effective means of protest against unethical corporate behaviour.

Actions taken by Oxford University can attract substantial national media coverage. Divestment would encourage other UK universities to divest.

This CR resolves to:

Support the divestment campaign, by mandating the CR President to email eande.secretary@ousu.org with the subject line "[College Name] [J/M]CR supports the OUSU E&E Divestment Campaign"

Mandate the CR President to raise the beliefs above at an appropriate college forum and request divestment of college investments from fossil fuel companies.

viii/ Any other business

Danny Waldman
JCR Secretary
25/4/2015