

St John's College Junior Common Room

The People's Republic of St Giles

Agenda for the 2nd meeting of Michaelmas Term 2015
25th of October 2015, 8.30pm, JCR

i/ Minutes of the previous meeting

ii/ Matters arising from the minutes

iii/ Officers' reports

Academic Affairs Officer: Jess Colston

This week I've run the first two of the study skills sessions this term. Both went well, much pizza was eaten and I'm looking forward to next weeks sessions. There will be a session on Specific Learning Difficulties on Monday and for Science subjects on Thursday, so hope to see you there! I'd appreciate any help running these as neither of them are areas I know much about, so please get in touch!

I met with the other AcaFF officers across the university and we had a useful debate about how to press forward campaigning on issues relating to suspended students and best practice for academic feedback. I also attended Education Policy Committee on Wednesday, where, among other things, we discussed planning the academic feedback for next year.

In 4th week I will be holding a drop in session if you have any academic issues, but in the meantime just get in touch me if you're having any issue with tutors etc.

Access & Admissions Officer: Alex Manby

At the end of Trinity I led the roadshow to Brighton alongside my fantastic team of helpers. We visited and presented to 16 schools and saw nearly 500 young people. Feedback was really positive, so hopefully we've had an impact. Over summer I helped to organise two sets of open days, made some changes to the SJC and OUSU alternative prospectuses and produced the freshers' guide. Since the start of term I've been working with Sarah and Emma to plan the interview period (applications to be a helper will be open to student ambassadors very soon...) as well as the next round of student ambassador training. This term I'm also working to produce a video for the college website about life in college. This week I also attended a mammoth edu-pol meeting. Access is great- if anyone has any questions, concerns or ideas or is interested in taking on this job next term (I promise it's great), just come and find me or drop me an email

Discounts Officer: Silas Elliot

Silas has cut a deal, whereby the number of reports he has to give this term is discounted (geddit? see the forced joke?? isn't it funny?!) To be delivered.

Domestic Officers: Alice Smalley & Colette Snape

In a fit of pique, the Domestic Officers decided to resign and appoint Turlough and Jack as their successors. "Unforeseen circumstances" loom large in our minds as the next Guest Dinner approaches. To be delivered.

Entz Officers: Kim Myton & Sssuna Golooba-Mutebi

So dedicated to Entz are our officers that they have decided to transform into events themselves - Ssuuna has gone for the tried and tested pub crawl, while Kim is being much more secretive. To be delivered.

Environment & Ethics Officers: Sally Hayward & Jen Lord

This week we've had our first Fairtrade brunch, which was a great success. We have also been getting involved in the campaign for improved vegetarian meals in hall.

The library has now agreed to order biodegradable bags to replace the plastic bags and so reduce the ecological footprint of the college.

Equality & Diversity Officer: Claudia Haavik

As readers will know from Claudia's previous report, she has become the Caped Crusader and brings Equality to the dark corners of Gotham on the weekends. Stuffy, backwards Oxford academics have become the Bane of her existence. To be delivered.

Welfare Officers: Rhiannon Rees & Charles Goodman

Things are ticking on fairly well our end. Tommy white tea and welfare lunches carrying on as normal. Charlie is organising an updated list of trained first respondents and Rhiannon has an updated welfare guide which will be left in the pidge room. Rohan and Louise have also put together a guide and the peer supporters will be dropping it round people's rooms. We will soon be on the hunt for some new peer supporters and OUSU will also be holding an STI testing event in November. Hope everyone is keeping happy in this horrible weather !

Women's Officer: Katy Haigh

Fresher's and 1st week were incredibly busy: A great turn out for sexual consent workshops with 110 of the fresher's attending, and a personal thank you to all the facilitators who gave up their time to help with these.

Thank you to everyone who attended the sanitary product scheme launch evening and to those of you who have filled out the survey: we will now be buying products tax free from OUSU which I will distribute on a fortnightly basis as a somewhat less exciting version of Johanna the chocolate faerie.

Don't forget there are also now products in all communal toilets in college and that menstrual cups can be reimbursed on this scheme.

Liberation reps and officers have met to discuss our aims for this term; plans for more intersectional events in the works.

Apologies that I have not been available in college this week and that I won't be around next week: I have recently had an operation and am quarantined for two weeks. I will return to Oxford before 4th week, until then I will continue to dismantle the patriarchy from my sick-bed.

The first women's self-care evening of term will be on November 1st (provided I am not further detained at home), other events to come over the next two weeks include women's discussion group led by Student Life (more visits from Pam and Ellie yay!) Women's lunch with Elizabeth the chaplain speaking, and more FemSoc events.

Equality love xoxo

Treasurer: Vicky Skornia

"Vicky, please can you provide us with a re-"

"Money!"

"Err, no Vicky, we need a report of what you've been do-"

"Money!!"

"... Vicky can we"

"MONEY!!!"

"Vic-"

"MONEY MONEY MONEY MONEY MONEY MONEY"

To be delivered.

Vice-President: Blathnaid McCullagh

Frightened by the idea that she would have to run the upcoming JCR elections, Blathnaid has constructed a pillow fort. Our fresher Engineers are working on breaching it now so they can put it on their CV. To be delivered.

Secretary: Danny Waldman

Hello all! This week has been extraordinarily heavy work-wise for me so I've just been keeping things ticking over, answering queries and helping people prepare motions as usual. The termcard man has told me he has sent them to me but nothing has appeared in my pidge, and if it doesn't appear soon I will inform him we will be filing for legal action in the Oxford small claims court due to non-performance of contract. I'm really very sorry it's got to this point but I've been pulled from pillar to post by this wretched man and I've really had enough of it, as I am sure you all have!

President: Christina St Clair

Hey everyone,

Freshers' week was a success - hope everyone felt so too. Any feedback much appreciated before it all goes out of your head, especially from freshers. Email me jcr-president@sjc.ox.ac.uk and jcr-vice-president@sjc.ox.ac.uk if you have any comments.

I've been busy. I attended Domestic Committee where we discussed guest dinner prices, I broached the topic of veggie/vegan food in hall. In Educational Policy college seemed pleased with freshers week, welcomed our suggestions about academic feedback and is considering the situation of vacation residence for 4th years (that we brought up during rent negotiations). I attended JCR Presidents Committee on Thursday evening and discusses problems facing other JCRs and OUSU. I also met for a post-2000 women reflection meeting with the President, Tutor for Equality etc to discuss whether aims were met and how to ensure a lasting impact.

We've had some positive and negative feedback on JCR events lately. I'd like to say thank you to everyone who has been in touch. We take feedback very seriously and the committee always talk among itself and to the wider JCR to see how we can improve things. We have taken current criticism on board and we're working on finding solutions. If you have any input at all, please do get in touch with us with your comments and any constructive suggestions for improvement.

Finally, ELECTIONS, nominations for President and Vice-President opened at noon today and will close next Sunday. Please please please get in touch if you're thinking of running, it's a big task and I wouldn't want anyone to be disillusioned about what being President/VP entails. Hope to see lots of names on the ballot paper! I'm happily awaiting a successor!

Elections for other positions also coming up later in term - get in touch with questions!

ALSO SOMEBODY PLEASE STEP UP TO HELP WITH THE ELECTION (IF YOU ARE NOT RUNNING YOURSELF)

CHEERS AND BIG, BIG LOVE,

CHRISTINA xxxx

iv/ Reps' reports

Alumni & Development Rep: VACANT

Art Rep: Fania Weatherby & Lauren Kennedy

Over the summer we finished collecting in art that had not been returned as well as liaising with staff to find some pieces of art that had been left in rather random places around college. We photographed the vast majority of the collection and added it to the art collection facebook page in order to implement a new system for giving out art this year.

Bike Rep: Daniil Demishin

To be delivered.

Charities Rep: Cecilia Peker & Zoe Carmichael

We've had a charity BBQ (where we raised £200), and raised some money at university challenge. We've had a rag meeting with some exciting stuff in the pipeline. We're also planning on sorting a Dementia Friends session, some more jumpers, and another comedy night. Let us know if you have any ideas for us!

Computer Rep: Marius

To be delivered.

Disabilities Action Rep: Thomas Wadsworth

As disabilities rep over the last 2 weeks I have helped a number of people fill out prescription cost forms, and made sure there is a good supply of them in the pidge room at all times. I have also kept liaising with the OUSU disabilities campaign and Mind Your Head (the mental health campaign).

DVD Rep: Charles Clegg

To be delivered.

Ethnic Minorities Rep: Cameron Joshi & Rochelle Morrison

Your BME reps, Cameron and Rochelle, have both engaged the other college liberation reps in an equality committee meeting with the hope of organising the production of St Johns' very own upcoming liberation zine which is now calling for submissions. We have also deliberated with respect to organising potential future movie screenings, drinks events and the creation of an events newsletter detailing interesting events related to issues potentially faced by BME students at the college and interesting events related to the BME liberation cause generally for those who would want to become involved. We have also, more importantly, organised for this term's Ethnic Minorities event which will hopefully serve as a discussion space for BME students focussing on BME issues as well as just a general chat with the aid of tea and assorted nibbles. This will happen this Wednesday in the P&L rooms.

International Students Reps: Syrie Byfield

To be delivered.

LGBTQ Reps: Jacob Brennan & Jamie Jackson

To be delivered.

OUSU Rep: Michael Muir

To be delivered.

PRAT: Alastair Graham

Since the last JCR meeting, Dominos has been reminded about the let down a fortnight ago where there was a 40 minute late delivery so (hopefully!) this will ensure a more prompt delivery this time. In other news, the JCR has also received our newest selection of toys which will be revealed at the start of the meeting. On the subject of toys, the JCR was asked at the end of the last meeting to return all toys to the PRAT. It was very disappointing that one ball was not returned and this will be raised to the JCR at this meeting under "Matters Arising". There will be liaison with the Charities Reps regarding the charity to which our toys will be donated after this term. If you have any good children's charity suggestions then please let us know. The Kingdom of Beans continues to prosper and looks on course to finish the term within the allocated budget.

Peace and long life. \\\

Returning Officer: Will van Duzer

To be delivered.

v/ Ratifications

vi/ Items for discussion

vii/ Agenda Items

a/ The Environment and Ethics Officer to Rep constitutional motion

Proposer: Christina St Clair

Seconded: Rhiannon Rees

This JCR notes that:

- The hard work of the current E&E Officers (Sally Hayward and Jen Lord) and thanks them.
- We have both Officer/Committee positions and rep positions within the JCR
- Environment and Ethics is currently held by one or two people as an Officer position
- The Environment and Ethics Officers do not sit on any College level committees. 12 (of 17) current Officers sit on college level committees (Entz, Discounts and E&E do not)

The JCR believes that:

- The duties of E&E Officers could be successfully fulfilled if E&E were a rep position
- Many Officer positions require a lot of skill learning over time and require a continuity of the Officer for a year.
- E&E does not require the same level of skill learning and continuity as other positions
- Changing to a rep would not negatively impact the awareness of E&E issues. The awareness of campaigns has been effectively raised by reps in the past. For example by LGBTQ reps running LGBTQ history month and by BME reps running Race 101 workshops.
- E&E efforts would not be disrupted by a termly change of rep (similar to Charities efforts)

This JCR resolves to:

- Remove the position of JCR E&E Officer and replace it with E&E Rep(s).
- Keep the current E&E Officers (Sally Hayward and Jen Lord) until the end of their term of Office (MT2015) and ratify new E&E rep(s) in Hilary 2016.
- Exclude E&E Officer in the upcoming JCR election (MT2015)

b/ The “Better Veggie Food” Motion

Proposer: Zoe Carmichael Seconded: Jen Lord and Sally Hayward (E&E Officers)

This JCR notes that:

- a. Vegetarian/vegan options in hall often lack protein, or do not represent a nutritional, balanced meal.
- b. Some members of St John’s JCR are reluctant to eat in hall regularly as a result of a).
- c. There are vegetarians/vegans and non-vegetarians in St John’s JCR who would like the vegetarian options provided by hall to improve regarding a).

This JCR believes that:

- a. Going to hall can be an important part of social life in college and no-one should be excluded from this.
- b. Members of the college who currently choose not to eat meat and/or dairy products for ethical and/or environmental reasons should not be discouraged from eating in hall due to the meals on offer in hall.
- c. Members of the college who are interested in cutting down their meat and/or dairy consumption should not be discouraged from doing so due to the meals on offer in hall.
- d. By passing this motion, the catering staff may be more likely to respond to action directed at improving vegetarian hall food.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- a. Support the efforts of Domestic Secretaries, Environment and Ethics Officers, and other members of college as they talk to college about improving the vegetarian/vegan options hall provides.

c/ The “S.U.R.E” Charities Motion

Proposer: Ria Dinsdale

Seconded: Jake Hurfurt

This JCR notes that:

- a. S.U.R.E Somerset Unit for Radiotherapy Equipment is a Somerset based cancer charity that provides essential radiotherapy equipment to the Beacon Centre at Musgrove Park Hospital. This ends the need for patients to travel long distances for important treatment.
- b. The Beacon Centre needs to purchase a new Big Bore CT Scanner/Simulator as the existing scanner provided by S.U.R.E will reach the end of its life in 2017. The CT Scanner is the first step in planning all radiotherapy treatment, it is used to accurately locate tumors, Replacement in 2017 is essential to avoid patients having to travel to long distances in the future for this first stage in their Radiotherapy treatment.

This JCR believes that:

- c. We should help S.U.R.E reach their £500,000 target to purchase a new Big Bore CT Scanner/Simulator for the Beacon Centre.
- d. We should help S.U.R.E in their work to ensure the Beacon Centre at Musgrove Park Hospital to remain a “Centre of Excellence”

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- e. Donate £300 to S.U.R.E (Somerset Unit for Radiotherapy Equipment)

d/ The “Remembering Not to Forget” Motion

Proposer: Cecilia Pekar

Seconded: Danny Waldman (ex officio)

This JCR notes that:

- a. The term dementia describes a set of symptoms including memory loss, mood changes and problems with communication and reasoning. The progress of the condition gradually robs individuals of everything that makes them who they are.
- b. There are currently 800,000 people living with dementia in the UK, and more than 35 million people worldwide. This number is expected to almost double every 20 years.
- c. One in three people over 65 will develop dementia, but it can also affect younger people; over 40,000 people under 65 are currently living with dementia in the UK, and the number is predicted to be much higher as many people do not receive a diagnosis until much later.
- d. Dementia is not a natural part of the aging process. It is caused by a number of diseases that affect the brain. The most common is Alzheimer's, affecting 62% of those living with dementia, but there are many other kinds.
- e. Dementia research receives far less funding than other conditions of this prevalence.

This JCR believes that:

- f. People living with dementia should be helped to live independently for as long as possible. As the condition progresses everything possible should be done to ensure they have a good quality of life and receive high standards of care.

- g. Families caring for someone with dementia should receive the support they desperately need.
- h. Additional research into treatments or a cure for dementia should be carried out.
- i. Public awareness and understanding of dementia should be raised.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- j. Make a donation of £300 to Remembering Not to Forget (www.rememberingnottoforget.org.uk), a small charity established by Alumni Alison Turnbull (Modern Languages 1998 - 2002) in 2013 with the above stated aims.
- k. Host a Dementia Friends session delivered by Alison Turnbull in Michaelmas term.
- l. Commit to additional fundraising to support this cause.

e/ The Schistosomiasis Control Initiative Charity Motion

Proposer: Zoe Carmichael

Seconded: Tamsin Brown

This JCR notes that:

- a. Neglected tropical diseases kill an estimated 534,000 people worldwide every year
- b. Schistosomiasis Control Initiative (SCI) works in sub-Saharan Africa to supply drugs and health education to protect against schistosomiasis (bilharzia) and other Neglected Tropical Diseases caused by intestinal worms.
- c. SCI is one of a very few charities which focus exclusively on Neglected Tropical Diseases. NTDs are so-called because treatment is cheap and effective, but chronically underfunded due to lack of publicity (and therefore donations).
- d. SCI has a strong track record, and its cost-effectiveness is so high that it has been designated a "best buy" in public health by the World Health Organisation. The cost per treatment is around \$1.23.
- e. SCI is recommended as an effective charity by Giving What We Can, GiveWell and The Life You Can Save.

This JCR believes that:

- f. With people dying every day of preventable diseases, it is critical that we donate to the most effective charities possible.
- g. With further donations SCI will extend its operations, including to new countries like Zimbabwe.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- h. Donate £300 to the Schistosomiasis Control Initiative

f/ Against Malaria Foundation Donation Motion

Proposer: Rune Kvist

Seconded: Dan Sowood

This JCR notes that:

- a. There is clear evidence that some charities are orders of magnitude more effective than others. It also notes that malaria is a disease which i) kills an incredible number of people and ii) is easily avoided through provision of bed nets. It notes that distribution of bed nets is one of the most cost effective ways of saving lives. Lastly, it notes that all lives are equal and thus that money to charity should be spend in the way that helps the most people.

This JCR believes that:

- b. More money should be allocated to charities that are particularly effective at addressing particularly neglected and tractable causes.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- c. Donate £5,000 to the Against Malaria Foundation, which is evaluated to be one of the world's three most effective charities by the independent charity evaluator, GiveWell.org

g/ Self-Defence Class (Financial Motion)

Proposer: Katy Haigh

Seconder: Rhiannon Rees

This JCR notes that:

1. Harassment and violence of varying degrees of severity are ongoing problems in Oxford.
2. Self-defence classes aim to raise awareness of how these situations can arise and offer a means to learn how to best deal with them.
3. The self-defence classes proposed focus on one's natural reactions as well as tailoring the classes to an individual's specific strengths rather than weaknesses.
4. These classes have been highly recommended by Trinity and Mansfield Colleges.

This JCR believes that:

1. Everybody has the right to feel safe and at ease while in Oxford.
2. Equipping members of our JCR with the skills to protect themselves and develop a better sense of self-awareness is important.

This JCR resolves:

1. To give [£600] in order to pay for 4 weeks of self-defence classes provided by the leader of the Krav-Maga society at Oxford Brookes University to be held in Kendrew events on Wednesday evenings of weeks 4, 5, 6 and 7 of Michaelmas Term. **This would be amended to £300 if Balliol agree to split the cost with us.**
2. That two of the four classes will be restricted to those who identify partly or wholly as women: this is in order to ensure some classes are tailored to focus on the scenarios most commonly faced by women. The other two sessions will be open to all genders and cover a wider range of scenarios.

h/ The College leafblower

Proposer: Harriet Stooke

Seconded: Leo Garwood

This JCR notes that:

- a. The college has leafblowers
- b. The leafblowers make noise

- c. The college proceeds to use the leafblowers as early as 8am
- d. Students of the college are woken up as early as 8am as a result of the noise produced by the leafblowers

This JCR believes that:

- e. The leafblowers shouldn't govern when students of the college wake up
- f. There are a number of alternative strategies to leaf management such as using leafblowers at a different time of day and using quieter methods to manage the leaves

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- g. Confer with college and put pressure on them to use an alternative and less disruptive strategy of leaf management

i/ Money and Support for Pro-Grants Demonstration

Proposer: Thomas Wadsworth
 Seconder: Michael Muir

JCR Notes That:

1. That plans to scrap maintenance grants for low income students in September 2016 have been announced
2. That tuition fees and living costs are already very high and cause significant debt for most students
3. That there has been a national demo called in London on November 4th against these cuts to grants and for a free education
4. That this demo is being supported by the NUS national executive committee
5. That a full risk assessment of the demonstration is being undertaken by the NUS and OUSU
6. That NCAFC, working with NUS, have taken measures to ensure that the demo is as accessible as possible and there will be a disabled students' bloc at the front of the demo
7. Last year, OUSU Council voted to support the NUS campaign for free education and put forward £200 to the cost of a coach to the national demonstration. It was also passed by fifteen JCRs. John's also gave money to contribute towards coach costs.
8. At the last OUSU Council in 1st week a motion was passed opposing the abolition of maintenance grants where all but 7 people voted for it.
9. OUSU is currently part of a national lobbying movement against the abolition of maintenance grants
10. That Keeble and Hertford JCRs have already passed £150 each towards the cost of organising Oxford coaches to the demonstration and a motion will be brought to OUSU at the next council
11. We are richer than both Keeble and Hertford and have a long history of allowing a wide variety of political opinions to express themselves

The JCR Believes That:

1. That maintenance grants provide a crucial way for many students to actually access higher education, and as such should not be abolished
2. That cuts to these grants will disproportionately affect marginalised groups, in particular students from working class backgrounds and students with disabilities, for whom the grants are a lifeline
3. Students who want to attend the march and express their opinions should have the ability to do so and cost is a prohibiting factor in this instance

The JCR Resolves To:

1. To pass £200 to go towards funding the two coaches needed to accommodate people to bring them to and from the campaign on the day
2. To mandate the JCR President to email the JCR with information about the demonstration in the next weekly update

viii/ Any other business

Danny Waldman
JCR Secretary
24/10/2015