

St John's College Junior Common Room

The People's Republic of St Giles

Agenda for the 3rd meeting of Trinity Term 2015
24th of May 2015, 8.30pm, JCR

i/ Minutes of the previous meeting

ii/ Matters arising from the minutes

iii/ Officers' reports

Academic Affairs Officer: Peter Blenkharn

Now that I've finished my Thesis and am back in the world, I've been putting together all the notes from the academic feedback sessions ready to submit to college in a detailed report. I've had a huge range of feedback from everyone, but unfortunately a lot has been negative - particularly with regards to the severe lack of organisation and consistency of tutors. That said I'll be including a series of recommendations to the college to improve upon those areas where students felt they were being let down, or ways in which they could make better use of tutors' time. Lastly, with everyone's permission, I'd like to utilise the AcAff budget to buy some presents for a handful of tutors who stood out as particularly supportive, helpful or engaging. Based on the feedback I have I'll draw up a list and post on the JCR page, after which I invite the relevant students to contact me with suggestions for a present.

Access & Admissions Officer: Alex Manby

Alex has shed his mortal form to become Accessman. Now he flies from rooftop to rooftop, distributing alternative prospectuses and dropping myth-debunking notes down chimneys. (To be delivered.)

Discounts Officer: Silas Elliot

The g&Ds finalist deal will run again in 6th week. And do check out the new Jimbobs offer for 25% off smile emoticon

Domestic Officers: Alice Smalley & Colette Snape

Last seen scuttling around the President's garden, MI5 have reason to suspect this nefarious duo are planning a heist - but what they're after, who knows? (To be delivered.)

Entz Officers: Kim Myton & Sssuna Golooba-Mutebi

We hope that everyone who came to Cartoon BOPwork had a great time and wish everyone with Prelims/Finals good luck!!!

Environment & Ethics Officers: Sally Hayward & Jen Lord

We had our last fairtrade brunch of the term, which was a success. The librarian is ordering biodegradable bags to replace the plastic bags in the library.

Equality & Diversity Officer: Claudia Haavik

In a risky political manoeuvre, Claudia has seized control of the Beehive and declared independence. Beehive college's admissions tests will consist solely of tests of physical agility,

such as diving through hoops and playing Bop it. No data yet available on their academic performance. (To be delivered.)

Welfare Officers: Beth Candlin & Charles Goodman

Angry that they don't have their own independent patch of college land, the Welfare Officers proclaimed themselves the rulers of the Buttery, and are even now engaged in ruthless negotiation with a starving College Office. We don't know what they're after but it's probably edible. (To be delivered.)

Women's Officer: Lidia Fanzo

Over the last two weeks I have been busy organising the Oxford Speak Out programme, an exciting event for 5th week, Women's lunch, sanitary products and First Respondent Training (sorry that didn't happen!).

Treasurer: Vicky Skornia

This week, alongside the usual reimbursements and payments, I have been starting to work with Christina and Danny (with the help of some fantastic freshers - Tom Wadsworth, Jess Colston, Anna Bozzo and Alastair Graham - thank you so much!) to produce the rents and charges proposal. Punt club is still going strong, with fantastic uptake from the MCR and SCR.

Vice-President: Blathnaid McCullagh

Blathnaid is currently competing in an underground gladiatorial ring. (To be delivered.)

Secretary: Danny Waldman

Heyho,

Constitutional reform marches on (compiling is starting - exciting!). We had a rents and charges meeting with the bursar and they basically told us about college's finances (I didn't really understand it I just wrote the minutes - hard to look at numbers and write every word everyone says at the same time ya know). Also helped run Ciaran's charity BBQ (not strictly JCR but there were burgers so it counts). Also wrote a disappointing number of stories for reports this week - you can tell it starts to flag pretty early on...! x

President: Christina St Clair

We are the forty-fi- wait what?! (To be delivered.)

iv/ Reps' reports

Alumni & Development Rep: Beth Gregory

The last we heard from Beth was that she was going to try and improve the alumni participation from those who have since decided to live underwater - we wish her luck! (To be delivered.)

Art Rep: Fania Weatherby & Lauren Kennedy

Nothing to report but a reminder that our Artist-in-Residence's work can be seen on this website http://www.mkgallery.org/exhibitions/gareth_jones/

Bike Rep: Edmund Woolliams

The saga of the Bike Scheme and its various incarnations is really quite gripping reading - so much so that HBO have been in contact about making a series, Game of Spokes. (To be delivered.)

Charities Rep: Cecilia Pekar & Meredith Hood

In a show of true philanthropy, the Charity Reps have donated themselves to Oxfam. We believe they are to be worn as hats or used as board games, depending on the circumstances - either way we're very proud of them. (To be delivered).

Computer Rep: Eliot Ball

The Computer Rep has become something more than an individual - Eliot has become an idea. Sadly it looks like ideas don't write rep reports. (To be delivered.)

Disabilities Action Rep: Thomas Wadsworth

Tom has been working diligently to keep all the soil in the gardens well fertilised. It's really great that he's taken it upon himself to do this, but nobody's quite sure what prompted him to start... (To be delivered.)

DVD Rep: Charles Clegg

I have no report.//Wherefore, failing this function://Here is a haiku.

Ethnic Minorities Rep: Cameron Joshi

Cap'n's log: 4th week:

Laid on an excellent booze and bacon fest for ethnic minorities drinks this week. Issues were discussed, merriment was had, bacon was consumed. Overall a complete success and an abnormally high turnout compared to previous BME events.

Signed,

Cap'n of black and minority ethnicities

International Students Reps: Syrie Byfield

Continuing the rather erratic behaviour of our reps this week, Syrie has spent the last 24 hours running at full pelt around Canterbury quad. It's very impressive but we worry she might need a drink of water soon? (To be delivered.)

LGBTQ Reps: Flora Sheldon & Jamie Jackson

We held a successful JCR/MCR picnic lunch on Saturday - great to see so many of you ther. We're busy planning our outing to London for later this term, and we're also working on updating college's policies about supporting students transitioning while at university. Let us know if there is anything we can do to support or help you! If anyone is interested in running for LGBTQ rep for next term, please come and speak to us xxx

OUSU Rep: Blagovest Gospodinov

OUSU have taken the result of the referenda in something of an unorthodox fashion - they are now campaigning the university to push for full fusc, not just keeping sub fusc, which means students will have to purchase their own suits of armour starting next Michaelmas. (To be delivered.)

PRAT: Ed Evans

"Too many cooks spoils the broth". (To be delivered.)

Returning Officer: Will van Duzer

The nominations for the by-election are now open! Budding Academic affairs, Women's and Welfare officers, you can now e-mail your nomination forms to william.vanduzer@sjc.ox.ac.uk to run for a position. We'll be holding the by-election as an online vote on Saturday of 6th week, and nominations will close at noon on Sunday 31st May. As soon as nominations close, you'll be able to begin your campaign! Hustings will take place during/after the TW tea in 6th week. Best of luck to everyone involved.

v/ Ratifications

vi/ Items for discussion

a/ Trinity Bops/Entz Ban

vii/ Agenda Items

a/ The Dark Matter Motion

Proposer: Flora Sheldon

Seconded: Claudia Haavik

This JCR notes that:

- a) DARKMATTER is an incredible art/activist duo made up of Janani Balasubramanian and Alok Vaid-Menon, two trans south Asian poets
- b) DARKMATTER is a hit in the US, regularly performing to sold-out houses
- c) They are due to perform in Oxford on June 8th to run both a workshop and perform their #ItGetsBitter tour
- d) We need to raise a £1500 honorarium, alongside expenses incurred in travel, publicity, and accommodation

This JCR believes that:

- a) DARKMATTER's visit demonstrates a commitment to intersectional queer liberation
- b) It is important that events such as this are supported at Oxford as dissenting voices against the often-oppressed mainstream in academia

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- a) Donate £200 towards DARKMATTER's visit, workshop, and performance

b/ Save St Catz Financial Motion

Proposer: Christina St Clair

Seconded: Vicky Skornia

This JCR Notes:

1. St. Catherine's College Finance Committee has recently removed fiscal autonomy from St Catherine's JCR.
2. St. Catherine's College has not transferred the termly £5400 JCR allowance to the JCR current account, leaving the JCR committee c.£2000 out of pocket.
3. St Catherine's College will only give the JCR money if they submit receipts to the college finance office after they have made purchases.
4. The problems this system causes is:
 - a. It is slow.
 - b. It gives college the opportunity to veto any JCR purchases.
 - c. It means the committee must be able to go for long periods of time waiting for reimbursement.
 - d. It could potentially exclude JCR members from being on committee if they cannot afford to be out of pocket.
5. St. Catherine's JCR requires control of funding to operate on a day to day basis and to organise big projects like freshers' week.
6. St Catherine's JCR President and JCR Committee are undertaking a variety of actions to overcome these problems and to secure funding for the future.
7. St John's JCR has a lot of money in reserves.

8. Corpus Christi JCR has already loaned St Catz JCR £500, and other JCRs are also proposing motions to lend money to St Catz (including Balliol, Univ, Magdalen, Mansfield, St Peter's, Wadham, St Anne's, Jesus, Brasenose, Exeter and Worcester).
9. St Catz has voted to accept loans from other JCRs up to the amount that they would have expected to receive from college and not more.
10. St Catz JCR has enough money to repay these loans in its reserve account but the treasurer does not currently have access to this account.

11.

This JCR Believes:

1. That St John's JCR should support our fellow students at St. Catherine's as they attempt to regain funding and fiscal autonomy.
2. St Catz JCR would lend us money if we were facing this problem.
3. It is no inconvenience to the JCR Committee or the JCR to lend money to St Catz.
- 4.

This JCR therefore resolves:

1. To loan St. Catherine's JCR £1000 (interest free) from the JCR reserve account to allow them to operate while the college withholds funding.
2. To sign an agreement with St Catz JCR reps before any money is transferred, which will indicate that the money is an interest-free loan and that it is expected to be paid back within three years (by end of Hilary 2018) but that there will be no sanctions if it is not.
3. To leave a clear note that this money has been loaned in the President and Treasurer handover documents so that future Presidents, Treasurers and Committees do not forget about the loan.

c/ Motion: Support topical, original student film in Oxford by donating to the production of 'Amore'.

Proposer: Silas Elliott Seconder: Felix Grainger

The JCR notes that

- The number of students making films in Oxford is smaller than it should be.
- Independent films are an exciting and important medium of art, often underrated yet crucial to emerging filmmakers and those working with a tighter budget or experimenting with new skills
- Though the student film-making industry at Oxford is modest in size, it is largely dominated by drama or experimental genres. 'Amore', scripted by 2nd years Felix Grainger and Silas Elliott, is by contrast a dark comedy exploring the dystopian consequences of online and mobile dating apps taken to their terrifying logical extreme. In this respect, it not only centres on topical material, but presents it through an under - represented genre.
- St John's has more students involved in the production team of 'Amore' than any other college, with plenty of opportunity for more students to get involved. St John's has recently been lacking as a leader of cultural broadcasting and there is great potential for the production to open the door for future SJCTv productions. For instance, at St Hugh's last Trinity, the college enjoyed the screening of an original short, produced by Old Hughsies, that attracted considerable undergraduate attention. A screening of 'Amore' in the auditorium could help encourage future productions.

- Support for teams of new student filmmakers is crucial because the cost of producing a film is high: lighting and camera equipment, costume design, set design and props, equipment transportation expenses, insurance, etc. Unlike theatre, there is no return on this cost.
- This production is unique in that more than half the team are new to filmmaking, coming from backgrounds in events, art, theatre and music. Development of skills is at the heart of the project.
- The intended submission of the film to National Film Festivals serves only to increase the profile of film at Oxford and the groups most responsible for facilitating it.

2. The JCR believes that

- St John's should support the production of the film 'Amore' in order to encourage and support the growing student film industry in Oxford.
- St John's should support and encourage its members and others in pursuing projects related to film, and attending screenings by the Oxford Broadcasting Association.

3. The JCR therefore resolves to:

- Donate £200 to 'De Novo Film' team, to support the production of 'Amore'.

d/ Good Night Out Campaign

Proposer: Katy Haigh Seconded: Lidia Fanzo

This JCR notes:

1. There have recently been several instances of harassment of LGBTQ couples by staff in clubs
2. Harassment of women in clubs is an ongoing problem, and Oxford is no exception
3. The Good Night Out campaign aims to minimise such instances and the ignorance from which they can originate by training bar and club staff to deal with these situations.

This JCR believes:

1. Everybody has the right to feel safe and at ease when on nights out in Oxford
2. Raising awareness among venue staff is an effective way of eliminating both discriminatory behavior from them and harassment from other guests
3. Connecting with a nationwide campaign would make Oxford part of a useful network of institutions similarly committed to eliminating harassment of LGBTQ people and women in bars and clubs.

This JCR resolves:

1. To give [£150] to the Good Night Out Oxford campaign towards the training of student volunteers who will then in turn run training sessions for club and bar staff in the main student venues in Oxford

viii/ Any other business

Danny Waldman
JCR Secretary
23/5/2015