

St John's College Junior Common Room

The People's Republic of St Giles

Agenda for the 4th meeting of Trinity Term 2015
7th of June 2015, 8.30pm, JCR

i/ Minutes of the previous meeting

ii/ Matters arising from the minutes

iii/ Officers' reports

Academic Affairs Officer: Peter Blenkharn

Last seen under a mountain of pizza, Pete has been attempting to create life from different combinations of Dominos and Papa Johns so that it can self-replicate and provide him with an unlimited, if unethical, supply of cheesy, tomatoey goodness. (To be delivered.)

Access & Admissions Officer: Alex Manby

The last two weeks have been quite busy. I attended equality committee in 5th week, where we discussed gym hours and sexual consent workshops. I've also been working with Blathnaid as part of the freshers' week committee to help put together the initial timetable. On the access front, I attended OUSU Access Forum where I met with access officers from across the university to discuss different colleges' outreach schemes. Within college I've been busy planning the roadshow. College has agreed to extend it this year to visit our London partner region (yay!) so I've been working on lots of presentations/resources. I've also been working with Sarah Jones to prepare for open days and re-print the alternative prospectus. Between the roadshow and the open days I'm going to be working on making some new material for the college website so if you're around in college at the beginning of 10th week and want to help then let me know! If you have any ideas, concerns, or issues about either Access or Outreac, just ping me an email - always happy to help!

Discounts Officer: Silas Elliot

Free scoops finished, thanks "Finalists". Looking ahead, need helpers for the fresher's fair stall.. Please message me if you fancy it.

Domestic Officers: Alice Smalley & Colette Snape

Guest dinner planning, we had jcr desserts on Thursday, continuing to run campbed scheme

Entz Officers: Kim Myton & Sssuna Golooba-Mutebi

Environment & Ethics Officers: Sally Hayward & Jen Lord

We've set up a box in the JCR for people to put unwanted parts of bop costumes in for reuse when bops start again in Michaelmas.

Equality & Diversity Officer: Claudia Haavik

Claudia has taken on the mantle of the Caped Crusader, taking the first flight out to Gotham last week to fight inequality in all its heinous forms. (To be delivered.)

Welfare Officers: Beth Candlin & Charles Goodman

We have been busy as ever with the usual sexual health product supplying, welfare lunch organisation and TW Tea. Currently we are starting the organisation of college families, having held the marriage ceremony just a while ago. In the last few weeks, we have been working closely with the Freshers' Committee, having selected this year's helpers and helping compose the timetable of events. We would also like to wish the best of luck to everyone with remaining finals and/or prelims; please don't forget to contact the chocolate fairy if you know of anyone who needs a revision pick me up! As ever, feel free to contact either of us or any of the peer supporters of you have anything that you'd like to talk about, exam-related or otherwise.

Women's Officer: Lidia Fanzo

Over the last two weeks I have been organising First Respondent Training and Sexual Consent Workshop Facilitator Training. I have attended LibCom, hosted Women's Lunch and held a Women's Self care evening. xxx

Treasurer: Vicky Skornia

"I don't need to write a report - I have all the money! Mwuhahahaha!" (To be delivered.)

Vice-President: Blathnaid McCullagh

Blathnaid was unfortunately caught by MI5 not hours ago for trying to overthrow the monarchy and install Ronald McDonald as supreme leader... again. Honestly Blathnaid. (To be delivered.)

Secretary: Danny Waldman

Heyho,

Rent negotiation continues (exciting!), as does constitutional reform - there's been something of a hiccup here as the last fortnight has been exceedingly busy but fret not, you will have your shiny constitution in good time. Secretary love x

President: Christina St Clair

"Be yourself, everyone else is taken." (To be delivered.)

iv/ Reps' reports

Alumni & Development Rep: Beth Gregory

Beth has done so much development that there quite simply is no more to be done - dissatisfied with this situation, Beth has set about breaking into the 4th dimension to see if there's anything more to be done in there instead. (To be delivered.)

Art Rep: Fania Weatherby & Lauren Kennedy

We recently attended the Visual Arts meeting with the President, Senior Tutor and other members of the MCR and SCR. As well as announcing the artists in residence for next year, the possibility of the Kendrew Barn being open for students to book was also discussed.

Bike Rep: Edmund Woolliams

Ed is now a bike. We didn't think the Bike Scheme could get any more serious, but we were wrong. We were always wrong. (To be delivered.)

Charities Rep: Cecilia Peker & Meredith Hood

Hey guys - Thanks to everyone who came to the college comedy night, we hope you enjoyed it and a big thanks to everyone who donated!!! We've faced a few minor setbacks in organizing a joint barbecue event with Somerville college, but we're working with some of the other reps to try and find a way to make it work! We've also been helping choose charities for the 2000 Women event in

college this summer; if anybody has any suggestions of charities that are concerned with women's education then do get in touch. Charity Love, M & C xxx

Computer Rep: Eliot Ball

Drop a beat.

I'm the Computer Rep and I'm here to say,
I wrote a computer rap today.
I've been a rep for the longest time;
Now I'm going to spit a rhyme.
My attendance to meetings has been zero;
Some still say I am a hero.
When people need help with their laptops,
I help them for free and their problem stops.
When eduroam made people complain,
Emails to college — I made 'em rain.
When I'm trying to make a wifi connection,
I don't settle for less than perfection.
I don't actually know about rap;
Hence I'm producing this total crap.
Can raps really use the word "hence"?
I have to tell you: I'm on the fence.
I'm sorry to say this is my last report
I have to graduate with my cohort.
Recruiting an all new Computer Rep —
That's the committee's very next step.

Computer rep, out.

Drops mic.

Disabilities Action Rep: Thomas Wadsworth

I have been working closely with OSDC (OUSU's Disabilities Campaign), and on their committee, to come up with a lot of different ideas. Some of them are being put forward at this meeting while there are many others to come.

DVD Rep: Charles Clegg

The D.V.D.s come in and out of the Collection like the eternal lapping of the waves. To enable, however, a little more freedom on my part to expand the Collection for the sake of our borrowers, I have put forward a financial motion to request £100 extra this year. If you like entertainment and joy, vote for it; if you don't vote for it, I will be forced to conclude you are pure evil: there is utterly no grey area in this matter.

Ethnic Minorities Rep: Cameron Joshi

Cap'ns log, 6th week

I attended a Campaign for Racial Awareness and Equality meeting in Corpus Christi college on Wednesday along with another member of the JCR, in order to learn how to facilitate race workshops. I also scheduled some of these CRAE organised raced workshops to take place during freshers week, liaising with the freshers committee

and then i went to parkend

International Students Reps: Syrie Byfield

Syrie was unable to make a report as she is currently involved in high-level negotiations with KFC in a bid to take over the company. Fair play, we say. (To be delivered.)

LGBTQ Reps: Flora Sheldon & Jamie Jackson

Prrrrrride! It's been pride week and there's been lots going on in Oxford. We have a couple of fun events coming up including a social on Tues of 8th. Feel free to come and say hi to Jamie or Flora at anytime time! Much love xxxx

OUSU Rep: Blagovest Gospodinov

An excellent man, like precious metal, is in every way invariable; A villain, like the beams of a balance, is always varying, upwards and downwards. (To be delivered.)

PRAT: Ed Evans

You've got your pizza, haven't you?! What more could you want, leave the poor man alone! (To be eaten, err, delivered.)

Returning Officer: Will van Duzer

The by-election should be finished with by now - thanks to everyone who was involved, especially the candidates. Even if you weren't successful, please don't be discouraged from getting involved with the JCR - you're all extremely worthy candidates and there are plenty of ways to get still get involved (such as lots of rep ratifications at this meeting!)

v/ Ratifications

All Reps will need to be ratified.

vi/ Items for discussion

vii/ Agenda Items

a/ Disabilities Rep to Officer Motion

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

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 create a new termly levy of £12 to equalise the cost of prescriptions for all students, significantly reducing the burden on students whose costs exceed the average (**Open for debate - the £12 levy should cover all costs without the JCR having to pay anything extra. If we can spend some of the JCR budget each term instead then this levy can be reduced.**)
- n. To review the efficacy of this levy at the end of each year.

c/ Begging Motion

Proposer: Charlie Clegg

Seconder: Beth Candlin

This JCR notes, believes, and resolves:

As D.V.D. Rep', I'm in charge of an already generous £200 annual budget to spend on D.V.D.s. This year, however, I'm very close to over-spending and with requests coming in frequently, I'll need more money to keep up with these. I believe what I have purchased thus far this year has greatly furnished the collection as a means of educating (with box sets like 'Shoah'); entertaining (what is 'Frozen' if not entertainment?); and providing a top notch collection of high quality film and television (with 'Borgen' and 'Lawrence of Arabia' as notable examples). I emphasise that this request is a one-off and I will be happy to see how the usual budget pans out next year. If you pass this motion, you'll be able to enjoy the D.V.D. collection that little bit better as I'll be a little freer to add what you want to watch.

d/ The "Sports Rep" Motion

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/ Thank You and Farewell :(

Proposer: Danny Waldman

Seconded: Turlough O'Hagan

This JCR notes that:

- a. The JCR typically buys a dinner for their Committee and the end of their term.
- b. One of our Welfare Officers, the Women's Officer, and the Academic Affairs Officer will not be here when the Committee's term ends in Michaelmas.
- c. These Officers have done good work over their two terms in office.
- d. The Academic Affairs Officer's opposition to providing meals to Officers.

This JCR believes that:

- e. We should thank our Officers for their work, regardless of whether they are here when we typically show our thanks.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- f. Buy Beth Candlin and Lidia Fanzo a meal, or vouchers for takeaway, or a G&Ds bloodbath, or something of equivalent value that takes their fancy to say thank you for the work they've done, up to a value of £25 per head.

f/ Union Cocktail Motion

Proposer: Ameen Chekroud Seconder: Rochelle Morrison

The St John's College JCR notes: The Oxford Union has produced a cocktail making light of colonialism and slavery. This JCR opposes racism and colonialism and is committed to creating an inclusive environment.

This JCR believes: Imagery and behaviour of this kind by a prestigious organisation with close ties to the university must be condemned by this JCR in order to contribute to the creation of an inclusive environment in the JCR.

This JCR also condemns the Union's failure to engage and communicate with its BME representative, both after the discovery of the cocktail, and during the representative's entire time in the position.

This JCR believes this lack of engagement with the Liberation reps suggests that their positions are being treated more as figures for political correctness, rather than a means for marginalised voices to be given a say in the Union.

This JCR resolves: To formally condemn the behaviour of the Oxford Union and to have the executive committee contact both the Union and the Student papers to publicise its condemnation.

This JCR also resolves to have the executive committee contact the OUSU president to request the Union is barred from using OSSL (The student email service run by OUSU). Failing this the executive is to request a list of the Union scandals is distributed alongside it's advertising emails.

viii/ Any other business

Danny Waldman
JCR Secretary
6/6/2015