

# Constitutional Amendments 2014

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## 1/ The Online Voting Motion (Constitutional) (Ratified 23/02/14)

Proposer: Andrew Riddles Seconded: Isobel Priest

### **This JCR notes that:**

- a. JCR Officers are currently elected by a secret ballot using paper ballot papers.
- b. The Constitution requires the ballot box to be supervised for as long as polls are open.
- c. The ballot papers must then be counted by hand.
- d. The MCR recently passed a motion to elect Officers by the same online voting system used by OUSU instead.
- e. The 'mi-vote' system is free for JCRs to use (according to OUSU's Returning Officer).
- f. The Standing Orders which detail how elections should be run are repetitive or unclear in some areas.

### **This JCR believes that:**

- g. The Returning Officer has other things they'd like to be doing on election day, such as cracking down on unlicensed #hashtag use.
- h. Counting ballots by hand is subject to human error, while online balloting is not.
- i. Online balloting can increase turnout by allowing members (especially the denizens of Kendrew) to vote from the comfort of their rooms, rather than having to venture into Tommy White to cast their vote.

### **This JCR therefore resolves to:**

- j. Elect JCR Officers by the 'mi-vote' online voting system, available via OUSU.
- k. Move the contents of §45-47 (Electoral Malpractice) to the end of Standing Order Table 3.
- l. Replace §45 with: "The definition of electoral malpractice, and procedure for dealing with allegations of electoral malpractice, shall be defined in the Standing Orders."
- m. Replace Standing Order Tables 3, 3A and 3B with the new versions attached as Appendix A to this agenda.
- n. Delete §8 from Standing Order Table 4. (Annual Charities Vote)
- o. Delete "The counting of...JCR committee votes" from §9 of SO4. (Annual Charities Vote)

## 2/ The "Ain't Nobody Got Time For That" Motion (Ratified 12/10/14)

Proposer: Abigail Legge Seconded: Edward Rarity

### **This JCR notes that:**

- a. In order to discuss a 'motion to amend the rules', it must be accompanied by a petition of support signed by at least 40 full members of the JCR
- b. This petition must subsequently be made available for public scrutiny
- c. Without it, motions cannot even be discussed, let alone voted on

### **This JCR believes that:**

- d. Collecting 40 signatures, often several times in one meeting, is a waste of time for everyone present

- e. Motions are currently being rejected purely because not enough people sign the form to discuss them at JCR meetings
- f. We are a progressive society, and all motions deserve to be treated equally

**This JCR therefore resolves to:**

- g. Remove the clause in the JCR constitution which states that a motion to amend the rules must be “accompanied by a petition of support signed by at least 40 full members; the petition must consist of 40 clear names with signatures. Subsequently, this petition must be made available for public scrutiny.”

### 3/ OUSU – Rep not Officer Constitutional Motion (Ratified 26/10/14)

Proposer: Danny Waldman Seconded: Cameron Joshi

**This JCR notes that:**

- a. There is a significant imbalance of responsibilities within the JCR Committee concerning the NUS/OUSU Officer, namely that the NUS/OUSU has an extremely limited amount of responsibilities/requirements
- b. Current Rep positions equal and even exceed the workload of the NUS/OUSU Officer
- c. Colleges no longer send delegates to NUS directly, and haven’t done so for years

**This JCR believes that:**

- d. The distinction between higher-commitment Officer roles and termly Rep roles should be clear
- e. The Committee should not hold an excess Officer position simply because the role previously had more significance
- f. The position remains on the Committee as a relic from when colleges would send NUS delegates directly to NUS Conference

**This JCR therefore resolves to:**

- g. Amend the following sections of the Constitution to read as follows:

**s.21:** The General Committee shall consist of the following officers of the JCR, as indicated in the Standing Orders, who shall contain the President, the Vice-President, the Treasurer, the Academic Affairs Officer, the Access and Equal Opportunities Officer, the Discounts Officer, the Domestic Officer, the Entertainment Officers, the Environment and Ethics Officer, the Welfare Officer (Female) and the Welfare Officer (male); and the Women’s Officer, who shall be a woman.

**Table Two B, 1.n:** The JCR President, OUSU Rep, and either a member of the JCR committee or a JCR member ratified in the meeting directly preceding OUSU Council, if there is a meeting, shall normally attend OUSU Council.

- h. Delete the following sections of the Constitution:

**Table Two B, 1.k** (The NUS/OUSU Officer)

- i. Add the following sections to the Constitution:

**Table Two B, 2.m** The OUSU Rep shall be publicise events organised OUSU, and shall attend OUSU Council, voting on behalf of the JCR and representing its views.

- j. Replace all remaining references to the “NUS/OUSU Officer” with “OUSU Rep”

#### **4/ The 'Gender Pronoun' Motion (Constitutional) Motion (Ratified 09/11/14)**

Proposer: Flora Sheldon Seconded: Samuel Horsley

**This JCR notes that:**

- a. It cannot be assumed that all members of the JCR are comfortable using the gender pronouns she or he.
- b. Currently all officer mandates use these gender pronouns: 's/he' is used in the constitution.

**This JCR believes that:**

- c. We should not exclude members of our community who choose not to associate with the gender pronouns she or he.

**This JCR therefore resolves to:**

- d. Rewrite the constitution using the neutral pronoun 'they'.
- e. When referring to Officers and Reps, use "this Officer/this Rep".

#### **5/ The Equality Motion (Constitutional) Motion (Ratified 09/11/14)**

Proposer: Flora Sheldon Seconded: Thomas Beauchamp

**This JCR notes that:**

- a. JCR elections are fast approaching and it is good to reflect on how effective the positions are - both in the constitution and in practise.
- b. 'Access and Equal Opportunities' was a role created in 2011, having split 'Access and Academic Affairs' and 'Welfare and Equal Opportunities'.
- c. This model works well at other colleges, for e.g. Jesus College and Corpus Christi

**This JCR believes that:**

- d. The role as it stands contains too large a mandate for one person.
- e. There is a lot to be, and that should be, done in college - both with regards to Access and Admissions, and Equal Opportunities.

**This JCR therefore resolves to:**

- f. Split the role of 'Access and Equal Opportunities' (see current constitutional mandate in Appendix A) into two separate roles: 'Access and Admissions' Officer and 'Equality and Diversity' Officer with the constitutional mandates as can be seen in Appendix B.

#### **Appendix A**

**The Access & Equal Opportunities Officer** shall work in conjunction with the Schools Liaison Officer and Tutor for Admissions to co-ordinate and promote the Student Ambassador Scheme and other initiatives for access to the College. S/he will undertake SAS training at the first available opportunity. S/he shall also be responsible for the updating of the Alternative Prospectus for distribution at summer open days. S/he shall be mandated to be present for the interview period in the December following their term of office. S/he shall assist with open days wherever possible, and encourage other volunteers. S/he shall attend Equality Forum and represent the JCR at Equality Committee. S/he shall attend OUSU Access Committee and OUSU Equal Opportunities Committee. S/he will also be responsible for the organisation of a school visit road trip. The Access & Equal Opportunities Officer shall

seek to address issues of inequality within the College, liaising with the College Equality Officer. S/he shall liaise with the Welfare Officers to co-ordinate the work of the Disabilities Action Rep(s), Ethnic Minorities Rep(s), LGBTQ Rep(s) and International Students Rep(s).

#### Appendix B

**The Access & Admissions Officer** shall work in conjunction with the Schools Liaison Officer and Tutor for Admissions to co-ordinate and promote the Student Ambassador Scheme and other initiatives for access to the College. They will undertake SAS training at the first available opportunity, if not already an Ambassador. They shall also be responsible for the updating of the Alternative Prospectus for distribution at summer open days, if necessary. They shall be mandated to be present for the interview period in the December following their term of office. They shall assist with open days wherever possible, and encourage other volunteers. They shall attend OUSU Access Committee. They will also be responsible for the organisation of the annual school visit road trip. They will liaise with the college web officer to help organise photo shoots, and act as a point of contact between the web officer and the JCR.

**The Equality & Diversity Officer** shall seek to address issues of inequality within the College, liaising with the College Equality Officer. They shall chair Equality and Diversity Sub-Committee – to be made up of the 4 liberation reps - Disabilities Action Rep(s), Ethnic Minorities Rep(s), LGBTQ Rep(s) and International Students Rep(s), which shall meet twice a term. They shall represent the views of these reps at committee meetings and to college. They shall attend Equality Forum and represent the JCR at Equality Committee. They shall liaise with OUSU and encourage college participation in OUSU campaigns, such as CRAE, Mind Your Head, and On Your Doorstep. They shall encourage the E & D sub-committee to hold events to raise awareness, and shall hold an annual awareness raising event.

## 6/ The 'Welfare and Women's Officers title and Sex/Gender Requirements' (Constitutional) Motion (Ratified 23/11/14)

Proposer: Christina St Clair Seconded: Joe Price

### **This JCR notes that:**

- a. As the constitution currently stands, trans people and people of minority genders are not eligible to become Welfare Officers or Women's Officer.

[See Standing Order Three of the constitution:

- a. Only male full members of the JCR may stand for the position of Welfare Officer (Male).
- b. Only female full members of the JCR may stand for the position of Welfare Officer (Female).
- c. Only female full members of the JCR may stand for the position of Women's Officer.]

- b. Also the role title Welfare Officer (Male) and Welfare Officer (Female) are often misleading in that they give the indication that Welfare Officers only care for welfare of their own sex.

**This JCR believes that:**

- c. We should be inclusive of all members of the JCR and as such we should not exclude trans people from becoming welfare officers or women's officer.  
d. Only allowing female students to stand for women's officer is a confusion of sex and gender.  
e. We should make it clear that Welfare Officers care for the welfare of all JCR members.

**This JCR therefore resolves to:**

- f. Change the title of the Welfare Officer (Male) and Welfare Officer (Female) to Welfare Officer and change the welfare officer email addresses.  
g. Change the sex/gender requirements of each of these three officers:
  - allowing "men or people of minority genders" to run for one Welfare Officer position
  - allowing "women or people of minority genders" to run for one Welfare Officer position
  - allowing "women or transfeminine people" to run for Women's Officer.

## 7/ The "SJC Board Game Society" (Constitutional/ Financial) Motion (Passed 09/11/14)

Proposer: Thomas Beauchamp Seconded: Matilda Lindqvist

**This JCR notes that:**

- a. In Trinity 2013 the JCR passed a motion mandating the PRAT to set up a system of distributing the JCR board game collection, currently in the library.  
b. In addition, 'adequate budget' was given to the PRAT to purchase new games.  
c. There is a number of people unaware of this fact, and/ or who would like to play more board games.

**This JCR believes that:**

- d. A dedicated society could do a better job of deciding on new games/ maintaining the current system.  
e. Additionally, a dedicated society would have more autonomy to hold events in college/ trips to the board game cafe on Gloucester Green.

**This JCR therefore resolves to:**

- f. Create a society called "The SJC Board Games Society"  
g. Remove "The PRAT shall be responsible for ensuring that the Toys and Games collection is properly catalogued and available for borrowing." from the description of the PRAT in the JCR constitution.  
h. Add to the Associated Organisations section of appendix 1 of the constitution "The SJC Board Games Society - Exists to promote and facilitate the playing and enjoyment of Board games in the JCR community, and to maintain and expand the JCR board games collection."  
i. Allocate a yearly budget of £200 to The SJC Board Games Society to allow it to function.

## 8/ The 'Keeping up with the Balliols' (Financial) Motion (Passed 09/11/15)

Proposer: David Cesar-Heymann Seconded: Charlie Nourse

### **This JCR notes that:**

a. College societies are an excellent way for students to further their interests in particular subjects and enrich college. Currently there doesn't seem exist a society focused on centre left politics. The JCR – as demonstrated by the vote to allow for funding for the free education demo, despite not endorsing it – is keen on allowing for students who would like to be politically engage to be so. Other colleges, such as Balliol have societies of this kind, and benefit from it, and SJC students should have the opportunity to be politically engaged in a relaxed setting.

### **This JCR believes that:**

b. A caucus would be a nice, inclusive place for like-minded (and not so like-minded) people to discuss issues and policy, socialize, and meet speakers. A caucus would enrich college life, and be a space in college where students can be politically engaged.

### **This JCR therefore resolves to:**

c. Establish a SJC Caucus – with its aim to foster discussion around centre left issues and policy, holding speaker events etc.

d. Fund the caucus with 200 pounds per year – so as to enable it to publish a free yearly publication with a wide range of primarily college contributors and cover the costs of running a society.

e. To require the society to hold at least three events per term – so as the college gets its money's worth.

f. To require a yearly report to be submitted to the Secretary about what events have happened and what the money has been spent on.

(Please note that 7 and 8 were not ratified and the societies in question were treated as Associated Organisations, although not formally put into the Constitution until 8/12/15)

Alastair Graham  
JCR Secretary  
(HT15-MT16)