

Constitutional Amendments 2015

1/ The “Remember: they’re just houses!” (Constitutional) Motion (Ratified 15/02/15 at EGM)

Proposer: Alex Manby Seconded: Bláthnaid McCullagh

This JCR notes that:

- a. The current museum road housing ballot procedure is unfair. Currently groups of equal size balloting for houses of the same size do not have the same chance of getting a house since groups ballot for specific houses not specific house size.
- b. Houses of the same size are all similar to one another.
- c. The current system has proven divisive with individuals ‘claiming’ houses (for example, on social media or in person) before the ballot. Sometimes this results in bullying, intimidation and a bad atmosphere amongst the year group and the college.

This JCR believes that:

- d. All groups of equal size should have an equal chance of getting a house of that size.
- e. The JCR has a duty to minimise friction among its members.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- f. Amend the following sections of the constitution (see current constitutional excerpt in **Appendix A**) to read as follows:

Table 6: Item 11

- a) A list of available houses shall be publicly displayed or circulated via JCR email to junior members prior to the House Ballot.
- b) JCR members can form housing groups and must notify the JCR Vice-President of their group size at the start of the ballot. Groups will only be allowed to participate in first round balloting for one house size.
- c) [Removed by amendment]
- d) Separate ballots will commence for each house size. Ballots will take place in descending order of house size.
- e) At the start of the ballot for each house size, identically sized groups will be ranked by random selection.
- f) Identically sized groups will then select a specific house number in rank order until all the houses of that size have been selected
- g) Ballots for the other house sizes will then occur by the same process.
- h) If there are any houses remaining once the ballots for all house sizes has taken place, those in groups who were unsuccessful in initially balloting will be given the chance to reform groups and ballot for the remaining houses using the same method as above.
- i) Any hostility, bullying or intimidation associated with the house ballot will not be tolerated.

Appendix A - This is the current wording of the constitution and current protocol for the housing ballot

Table 6: Item 11

- a. A list of available houses shall be publicly displayed or circulated via JCR email to junior members prior to the House Ballot.
- b. Groups will choose their preferred choice of house in order, from the largest to smallest group. Identically sized groups will be separated by random selection.
- c. Once all groups have expressed their preferred choice any contested houses will be allocated to the groups who most successfully fill the house. If houses are still contested, they will be allocated by the toss of a coin.
- d. Losing groups will be offered any leftover houses at the end of the ballot before returning to their original positions in their respective ballots.

2/ Disabilities Rep to Officer Motion (Ratified 11/10/15)

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 and an 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 disabilitea and an 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
- t. Hold the election for the Disabilities Officer along with the rest of the Committee elections in Michaelmas Term 2015.

3/ The "Sports Rep" Motion (Ratified 11/10/15)

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.

Alastair Graham
JCR Secretary
(HT15-MT16)