

# Constitutional Amendments 2016

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## 1/ The “Constitutional Sticking Plaster” (Constitutional Motion)

Proposer: Alastair Graham

Seconded: Katy Haigh

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

- a. The Constitution is currently undergoing reform and consultation.
- b. The Constitution still thinks we use paper ballots for by-elections and opens voting after hustings and then closes voting at midnight.
- c. A motion in Michaelmas 2014 changed the gender requirements for Women’s Officer from female to ‘women and transfeminine’ because ‘female’ was considered exclusionary to transgender students.
- d. The Constitution only allows female students to vote for or pass a motion of confidence in the Women’s Officer which creates a discrepancy.
- e. Sports Rep was ratified and was never given a formal role description.

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

- f. The Constitution is important for legal reasons and for fair operation of the JCR.
- g. Short voting hours will not help participation in the JCR.
- h. The Constitution should be consistent in what is meant by ‘woman’ and ‘female’.
- i. The Sports Rep role should be made along the lines of the original motion’s intentions.
- j. Until the Constitution is fully rewritten, this sticking plaster motion shall be useful.

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

- k. Delete Standing Order Table 3A, Clause 7 parts a to d.
- l. Add clause “7. a. In the case of an online voting system being used, polling should be opened within an hour of the close of hustings and shall remain open for a period of 24 hours.”
- m. Add clause “7. b. In the case of a paper ballot system being used in an emergency, polling should be opened on the following day satisfying the same requirements as a normal election as stated in clause 14 parts a to d of Table Three.”
- n. Add a new sentence at the end of the Preamble - “The terms ‘woman’ and ‘female’ shall both be defined as someone who identifies wholly or partially as a woman and/or as transfeminine.”
- o. Add clause to Standing Order Table 2 B, Clause 2 m: “The Sports Rep(s) are a point of call for all the sports teams in college and liaise with college on matters about the facilities. They shall promote use of the gym, sports grounds and the fitness classes in college and look to promote exercise and healthy lifestyles. They encourage all sports in college and publicise their achievements.”

Alastair Graham  
JCR Secretary  
(HT15-MT16)