

Constitutional Amendments 2017

Culling of the JCR Facebook group membership Constitutional motion (Ratified 29/01/17)

Proposer: Amelia Wrigley, JCR President 2017

Seconded: Alistair Hankey, JCR Vice-President 2017

This JCR notes that:

- a. The membership of the JCR Facebook group includes many alumni.
- b. The Executive committee of the JCR have started removing alumni from the JCR Facebook group.
- c. There is currently no provision in the constitution of the JCR mandating the Executive Committee to carry out this action.
- d. If the motion is not passed the Executive Committee will still be able to remove alumni from the JCR group.

This JCR believes that:

- e. It is important that JCR members have a place to post notices that cannot be seen by alumni.
- f. It is important that the membership of the JCR Facebook be culled every year.
- g. The Executive Committee should be required to carry this out during 0th Week of Michaelmas term.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- h. Insert in Standing Order Table Two of the Constitution, under 1 a. The President, the following, and ask the Secretary to renumber the section accordingly:
“vii. To lead the annual review of JCR Facebook group membership with other administrators each 0th Week Michaelmas Term to remove alumni who have graduated more than one year ago.”

The Punt Club Constitutional Motion (Ratified 29/01/17)

Proposer: Dan Sowood, JCR Treasurer 2017

Seconded: Alistair Hankey, JCR Vice-President 2017

This JCR notes that:

- a. The Treasurer has usually run the punting club, despite it not being constitutionally required of the role in the past.
- b. Amendments from members of the JCR are welcomed.

This JCR believes that:

- c. A requirement for the Treasurer to run the punting club should be included in the constitution.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- d. Insert in Standing Order Table Two of the Constitution, under 1 d. The Treasurer, the following, and ask the Secretary to renumber the section accordingly:
“vii. Responsible for running the Punting Club of St. John’s College.”

The “Room Ballot Constitutional Improvement” Motion (Ratified 07/05/17)

Proposer: Alistair Hankey, JCR Vice-President

Seconded: Sofia Winifred Kirwan-Baez

This JCR notes that:

- a. The Constitution outlines how the Room and Housing Ballots should be run
- b. Currently the Museum Road Houses and TW5 Floors are balloted for separately
- c. Both the houses and the floors are usually oversubscribed
- d. The organisation of ballot groups can be quite a stressful experience.

This JCR believes that:

- e. The Housing Ballot should be as straightforward and fair as possible.
- f. We should seek to limit the emotional trauma house balloters may experience.
- g. In the last Housing Ballot there were four houses of eight and one of seven. From a statistical perspective this meant that the house of eight had to have eight groups balloting for it (with four groups missing out), before the odds were better for another group to ballot for the single house of seven. This is unfair as it effectively guarantees a house to the first group to state their intention to ballot for the house of seven.
- h. Whereas the majority of houses have eight rooms, the TW5 floors mostly have seven rooms. This means that groups formed to ballot for houses have to undergo the unenviable task of removing one of their members or otherwise reforming the groups. This can cause emotional trauma and should be avoided.
- i. If the TW5 floors were ballot for as if they were houses, along with the houses, in the most recent ballot there would have been 4 units of size 8 and four units of size 7 in the initially ballot. This would mean a far larger number of balloters would get accommodation in their original ballot groups, meaning the emotional trauma of reforming groups would be avoided.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- j. Replace Standing Order 6 Article 17 (“Further iterations may be held if necessary, and groups unsuccessful in obtaining a house may, depending on the list of rooms college provides the JCR with, be eligible to ballot as a group in another part of college as notified by the Vice President. Groups may withdraw from this process at any point and all who do so will feature on the appropriate room ballot.”) with: *“Further iterations of the ballot may be held if necessary, and groups may withdraw from this process at any point and all who do so will feature on the appropriate room ballot”*.
- k. Insert a new sub article under Article 13 reading; *“If Staircase 5 of Thomas White Quad, or a part thereof, is made available for JCR accommodation, its floors shall be included in the housing ballot, and balloted for in the same ballot as Museum Road houses of their particular size”*
- l. Insert another sub article after this one reading: *“if another similar part of college is made available for the room ballot it may also be split into floors or other units and added to the housing ballot at the Vice-President’s discretion.”*

The Fair trade certification Motion (21/05/17)

Proposer: Nyasha Mbewe , JCR Environment and Ethics Officer

Seconded: Hadassah Buechner, JCR Environment and Ethics Officer

This JCR notes that:

- a. St John’s used to be a Fair trade certified college.

- b. A few years ago, our certification wasn't renewed, meaning that we have lost our status as a Fair trade college.
- c. This means that college is not obliged to provide a selection of Fair trade products at college events, or carry out the other ethical practices associated with certification, and prevents Oxford from having a university-wide Fair trade status.
- d. This used to be a part of the Officer role description for the Environment and Ethics Officers prior to the large scale edit of the constitution in 2016.

This JCR believes that:

- e. St John's should be at the forefront of setting an example of ethical practice regarding trade.
- f. Although Fair trade certification is only a starting point, it would bring attention to the choices that college makes when selecting products for events and encourages an ethical mindset.
- g. It would also contribute to a current motion to make the whole university Fair trade certified, which can only happen if every college participates.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- h. Mandate the Environment and Ethics Officers to work with College to ensure College achieves Fair Trade status.
- i. Insert in Standing Order Table Two of the Constitution, Under the Role of JCR Officials 1 l. The Environment and Ethics Officer, the following, and ask the Secretary to renumber the section accordingly:
 “ii. Maintain the criteria that enables the annual renewal of the Fairtrade Status awarded to College by the Fairtrade foundation.”

The “Handover Documents Don’t Work” Constitutional Motion (Ratified 05/11/17)

Proposer: Jonathan Henry, JCR Discounts Officer

Seconded: James Stebbings, JCR Secretary

This JCR notes that:

- a. Important information, including bank details, has been lost when JCR Officer roles change, despite the creation of handover documents.
- b. JCR Officer email addresses only redirect new messages to the current Officer; there can be a breakdown in communication if important messages are not passed on from the old Officer to the new one.
- c. When JCR Officers subscribe to services such as websites relating to their role using their personal Nexus email or bank details, it can be impossible for new Officers to recover lost information.

This JCR believes that:

- d. We have a duty to ensure that our finances are fully under our control and accounted for.
- e. The handover process for new JCR Officers must include access to all relevant documents, data and information for the position.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- f. Mandate the Secretary to communicate with the College IT staff to discuss whether an alternative arrangement regarding Officer emails, such that messages can be preserved even when the Officer changes, is possible.
- g. Promote the use of portable hard drives for storing documents relating to JCR Officer positions, which can be handed on to new Officers.

h. Add, after s.31 of the constitution, the following:

“32. All Officers, prior to an election for their position, are required to submit a handover document to the Secretary. Each handover document must contain any financial, accounts, email, or contact information relevant to the role as well as anything which the Officer believes would aid an Officer after election to that position.”

i. Add to Standing Order table two of the constitution, under ‘c. The Secretary’, the following:

“vi. Prior to an election for an Officer role collect the handover document for the relevant role.

vii. Ensure that §32 has been fulfilled.

viii. Maintain a record of all handover documents for each Officer.”

j. Direct the Secretary to re-number the constitution accordingly.

The “Polaroids for Posterity” Constitutional Motion (Ratified 05/11/17)

Proposer: Alistair Hankey, JCR Vice-President

Seconded: Sofia Winifred Kirwan-Baez, JCR International Officer

This JCR notes that:

- a. The Constitution outlines the duties of the VP, including Freshers Week.
- b. As a part of the most recent Freshers’ Week the VP organised polaroid pictures to be taken of all the freshers.
- c. The intention is to return these Polaroids to the current freshers upon their graduation.
- d. ‘Everyone’ loves this idea.
- e. By the time these freshers graduate the current VP should have graduated two years previously.

This JCR believes that:

- f. The aforementioned polaroid pictures should be presented to the current freshers when they graduate as a token of their time here at St John’s.
- g. An insertion into the Constitution mandating the incumbent VP to organise the distribution of that year’s crop of finalists’ pictures is the best way to ensure each finalist receive theirs.
- h. This practice of taking Polaroids of the freshers, and presenting them to them as finalists should become a St John’s JCR tradition.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- i. In Standing Order Table Two: roles of JCR officials, insert after 1, b, vi: “Ensure that a Polaroid picture is taken of each new fresher upon arrival at the College, or at some other suitable time soon after their arrival.”
- j. Inset after the above new clause: “Ensure that each finalist who matriculated in 2017 or later receives the Polaroid taken of them as a fresher before they graduate from St John’s.”

The Societies and Clubs Supervision Constitutional Motion (Ratified 05/11/17)

Proposer: Dan Mead, JCR Returning Officer

Seconded: James Stebbings, JCR Secretary

This JCR notes that:

- a. Currently the JCR gives money to a number of societies that are run by members of the JCR
- b. There are no constitutional provisions for these societies and we lack a comprehensive list of affiliated societies

This JCR believes that:

- c. We should follow our obligations under charities law and have mechanisms to ensure that the money given to these societies is applied for the benefit of members of the JCR.
- d. We should be open about who we give money to and how much money we give each society

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- e. Add clause xi to the role of the Vice President, "To ensure that the money given to College Societies is applied in a manner that benefits the members of the JCR"
- f. To create "Appendix X - List of College Societies"
- g. To populate Appendix X with the current list of societies funded by the JCR.
- h. Each entry in Appendix X shall require the name of the society, the purpose of the society, the members of the society's committee, and the amount of money given to the society by the JCR.

The Class Liberation Officer Constitutional Motion (Ratified 05/11/17)

Proposer: Christine Jiang, JCR Equality and Diversity Officer

Seconded: Selin Millward, JCR Access and Admissions Officer

This JCR notes that:

- a. Socio-economically disadvantaged/ working class students are underrepresented both at Oxford and at St John's.
- b. In 2016, Oxford offered 59.2% of places to state school students despite 93% of UK students attending a state school.
- c. At St John's we already have 5 liberation officers representing - LGBTQ officer, Ethnic Minorities Officer, Women's Officer, Disabilities Officer and International Students Officer. However, those from a socio-economically disadvantaged background aren't represented yet.
- d. The Class Act, an Oxford SU campaign, was set up in April last year to support students from working class, low-income, first generation and state comprehensive school backgrounds.
- e. A liberation Officer budget is typically £300.

This JCR believes that:

- f. The Access & Outreach Office's efforts in reaching out to students from socially diverse backgrounds should be backed by in-college support.
- g. Creating an officer position will highlight issues specific to socioeconomically disadvantaged students, echo University-wide efforts to support members of these groups, and create a more inclusive community at St John's.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- h. Create a position of Class Liberation Officer to be elected in the Michaelmas Term JCR Committee elections.
- i. Allocate £300 to the Class Liberation Officer Budget.
- j. Add clause i. to the standing policy, under Budget Amendments.

- k. Add to Part One of the constitution, after “The terms ‘man’ and ‘male’ shall both be defined as someone who identifies wholly or partially as a man and/or as transmasculine.”, the following:

“A socio-economically disadvantaged student shall be defined as a student who is any of the following: working class; from a low income family; state comprehensive school educated; a first generation student.”

- l. Add to s.18(b) of the constitution, before “Disabilities Officer”, “Class Liberation Officer,”.
- m. Add to s.21 of the constitution, after “Access and Admissions Officer”, the role of “Class Liberation Officer”.
- n. Add to s.23 of the constitution, before “Disabilities Liberation Rep”, the role of “Class Liberation Rep”.
- o. Add to Standing Order table two of the constitution the following:

“f. The Class Liberation Officer:

- i. Represent and support the views of all socio-economically disadvantaged students in the JCR, and especially on any college or university committees on which this Officer sits.
 - ii. Organise at least two events per term related to their role, with at least one intersectional event during their tenure.
 - iii. Maintain a strong community within college for socio-economically disadvantaged students and they should work with their liberation reps to do this.
 - iv. Promote applications to Oxford from socio-economically disadvantaged students where possible.”
- p. Add to Standing Order Table two of the constitution the following:
- “d. Candidates for the position of Class Liberation Officer must identify as being a socio-economically disadvantaged student.”
- q. Direct the Secretary to re-number the constitution accordingly.

The “OUSU had a super important rebrand” Constitutional Motion (Ratified 05/11/17)

Proposer: James Stebbings, JCR Secretary
Seconded: Daniel Leroni

This JCR notes that:

- a. Oxford University Student Union had a rebrand this summer.
- b. They used to be called OUSU.
- c. They are now called Oxford SU.
- d. The constitution refers to Oxford University Student Union as OUSU.

This JCR believes that:

- e. The spending £17,490 on an unwanted, unnecessary, and unasked for rebrand is a disgraceful, frivolous and utterly contemptible waste of student union funds.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- f. Amend the constitution by replacing all instances of “OUSU” with “Oxford SU”.

The “Oops!...I did it again” Constitutional Motion (Ratified 19/11/17)

Proposer: James Stebbings, JCR Secretary

Seconded: Christine Jiang, JCR Equality and Diversity Officer

This JCR notes that:

- a. In the last meeting, to be ratified in this meeting, the “Class Liberation Officer” Constitutional motion was passed.
- b. This motion was intended amend the constitution so as to create both a Class Liberation Officer, and a Class Liberation Rep.
- c. This would require an amendment to ‘Standing Order Table Two: Roles Of JCR Officials’, in section 2(b)(i) to include the Class Liberation Officer in the category of Officers with liberation reps.
- d. An amendment to this effect was not included in the motion.

This JCR believes that:

- e. The Secretary should endeavour to make as few mistakes as possible.
- f. Some mistakes are inevitable.
- g. We can forgive this given the Secretary’s really good jokes.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- h. Amend ‘Standing Order Table Two: Roles of JCR Officials’ in section 2(b)(i) by inserting, before “Disabilities Officer”, “Class Liberation Officer,”.

The “so how do committees even work?” Constitutional Motion (Ratified 19/11/17)

Proposer: James Stebbings, JCR Secretary

Seconded: Dan Mead, JCR Returning Officer

This JCR notes that:

- i. The JCR has several committees and sub-committees.
- j. Of these only the Summer Ball Committee has a procedure for appointing its members in the Constitution.
- k. Because there is no procedure for appointing members of committees in the constitution it is impossible for the JCR to elect the members of the committee.

This JCR believes that:

- l. Including a process for appointing the members of JCR Committees and Sub-Committees will increase transparency, which is a valuable goal.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- m. Amend the constitution by replacing “Standing Order Table Eight: Summer Ball Committee Apointment” (Appendix 1) with “Standing Order Table Eight: Appointment to JCR Committees and Sub-Committees” (Appendix 2).
- n. Direct the Secretary to re-number the constitution accordingly.

Appendix 2:

STANDING ORDER TABLE EIGHT: APPOINTMENT TO JCR COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

1. Appointments to JCR committees are to be carried out as follows;

a. The Summer Ball Committee:

- i. In the academic year before the college ball, a special Summer Ball Committee shall be formed comprising of both JCR and MCR members within college, in consultation with college.
- ii. The JCR President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, MCR President and MCR President-elect shall normally form the panel appointing the “Summer Ball Committee Executive” positions of President, Treasurer and Secretary.
 - (i) No-one shall be on the panel while also running for a Ball Executive (henceforth “Executive”) position, so an Officer from the same common room shall replace them.
- iii. All Executive candidates will be interviewed having completed a nomination form beforehand. The panel should ask the same core questions to each candidate for a contested position.
 - (i) Nominations shall normally open on Sunday 7th week of Hilary term and close after a week, with interviews across 8th week.
- iv. The panel may choose to re-open nominations for any position or choose a candidate for a position they did not apply for, if it is decided that is in the best interests of the Summer Ball Committee.
 - (i) The panel should attempt to complete the process of Executive appointments over the vacation if any nominations are re-opened.
- v. Once the Executive is finalised and approved by Governing Body, the panel shall play no further role in the Summer Committee application process.
- vi. The Executive shall form the Summer Ball Committee through an application process similar to this one, using past records as an example of potential roles and descriptions.

b. The ‘1555’ Magazine Committee

- i. Appointments to the committee are at the discretion of the ‘1555’ Magazine committee in consultation with the JCR President.

2. Appointments to JCR sub-committees are to be carried out as follows

a. The Equality and Diversity Sub-Committee

- i. Any person elected to the position of Equality and Diversity Officer, Women’s Officer, Disabilities Officer, Ethnic Minorities Officer, International Students’ Officer, LGBTQ Officer, Welfare Officer, Access and Admissions Officer shall be automatically appointed to the sub-committee for the duration of their term.
- ii. Any person elected to the position of Equality and Diversity Officer shall be the chair of the committee.
 - (i) Where there is no person in the position of Equality and Diversity Officer the JCR President may name any person appointed to the committee as the chair.
 - (ii) Where there is no person appointed to the committee the JCR President shall serve as chair.

- iii. The chair may invite any other person holding the position of JCR Liberation Rep to the sub-committee for the period whilst they are in the role.

b. The Entz Sub-Committee

- i. Those persons elected to the position of Entertainment Officer shall be automatically appointed to the sub-committee and serve as co-chairs.
 - (i) Where there is no person in the position of Entertainment Officer the JCR President may appoint any Official of the JCR to the committee to serve as chair.
- ii. The committee shall consist of the co-chairs, one creative rep, one multimedia rep, one lights and tech rep, one music rep, one food and drinks rep, and two non-bop reps.
- iii. The chairs shall appoint to the committee, any JCR member, to fill these positions.
- iv. Any person, other than the co-chairs, shall be removed from the sub-committee after:
 - (i) The first bop of Hilary term.
 - (ii) Notification, from either of the co-chairs, removal from the committee.

c. The Religions & Beliefs Sub-Committee

- v. Any person elected to the position of Religions & Beliefs Officer shall be appointed to the committee, and serve as its chair.
 - (i) Where there is no person in the position of Religions & Beliefs Officer the JCR President may name any Officer of the JCR as chair.
- vi. The committee will normally consist of between five and ten people.
- vii. Any person wanting to be appointed to the sub-committee as a representative of a particular religion or belief must submit an application to the chair.
- viii. The chair shall consider any application and after consideration may decide whether or not to appoint the person to the sub committee.
- ix. A member of the sub-committee may pass their position as a representative of a particular religion or belief to another member of the JCR by notifying the chair.
 - (i) Where the chair is so notified they shall appoint this person to the sub-committee, and remove the existing representative of the sub-committee.
- x. If an application is rejected the applicant may choose to appeal this decision.
 - (i) In order to appeal the decision of the chair the applicant must notify the Officer that they wish to appeal.
 - (ii) Following such a notification the chair must provide the Returning Officer of the JCR with details of the application, and its rejection.
 - (iii) The Returning Officer must then present a motion at the next Ordinary General Meeting of the JCR to appoint the applicant to the JCR.
 - (iv) If the motion is rejected by the JCR the applicant may not apply to be appointed as a representative on the sub-committee during the same term.

- xi. Apart from section 2(c)(iv)(i) the chair may only remove a member of the sub-committee by submitting a motion at an Ordinary General Meeting of the JCR to do so.