

Minutes of the 1st JCR Meeting of Hilary Term – 30/01/15

President's report: sorted out the smoking area. It is temporarily back until the college put more benches, lights and cover behind the JCR conservatory. Once that's done can't smoke at the stench anymore.

Treasurer's report: we don't have as much money as last year. This year's budget is projected on what was spent last year. Our budget is £25,000. Tom can send a copy of the breakdown of the budget to anyone who is interested. Anything that we don't end up spending can be spent on an Enrichment Fund or our charities debt.

Secretary: nothing to report

OUSU: Went to an OUSU meeting, a few new offices were elected. There might still be OUSU positions going.

Social report: Come to the bop. Have to buy tickets. Come to the bar between 7.30 and 9 tonight.

Welfare: The university has updated its harassment policy and college is aligning their policy to match this. Welfare tampons are also a thing now. Email if you need one. There will hopefully also be a welfare locker that people can access.

Leo Gebbie interjects: Last year space was cleared at the bottom of the stairs in the library.

Tom R: This doesn't work anymore. Thanks Leo.

Kathy: Welfare tea on Sunday, the junior dean has been invited to get to know everyone. Welfare tea also starts tomorrow. Email the welfare team if you think someone you know needs a welfare treat in their pigeonhole. Deadline for this will be Sunday evening. Also going to a meeting with Megan and the nurse to make the waiting room nicer, as it is unfriendly and uncomfortable at the moment. Bean bags might be moved into it. It may also be made into a peer support area.

Dan: There is a welfare library in there as well, with lots of books.

Access: Nothing to report.

Academic affairs: Nothing to report.

Equal ops: New committee is working towards Equal Ops week. Also working towards an inter-faith discussion group. There is also some JMS changes to funding.

Arts: Equal ops art zine is being put together and the deadline for submissions is Monday of 4th.

Sports: Rebecca Caves has got in touch with Ima to do an event about gender inequality in sport. Also on Saturday there will be sports training at 1.30 in uni parks, and one at 2.30 speed conditioning in Barts.

Charities: Charities battels fund has been sorted. There will also be a fundraising thing around TSAF.

Green: Student Switch Off is happening. Last year Jesus came fourth. This year we are coming second bottom. Basically you have to sign up online to show you care about switching off things

(appliances, people etc.) We win 100 tubs of Ben and Jerry's if we win. There will be more information about it later.

Bar and food: Bar is open at 7pm tonight. First 10 sheepbites are £2 off. If there are any ideas for something to do in the bar on Mondays hit Tim up.

IT: Are people still having wifi problems in periodicals?

Everyone: Yes.

Questioning period: Nothing.

Motions:

Bike Shed Problems

Chloe: It is a massive hassle especially for non-early risers. Apparently capacity has been reduced recently?

Jessy: Basically college does not know what to do. They are thinking of making a shed for people to leave bikes, if they don't use them much. e.g. a storage space that is somewhere else in college. Potentially the Fellow's Garden will be used for this.

Tom R: They are also trying to make Tutors and Fellows use a different shed.

Jessy: They may trial a new bike scheme when five bikes are available for everyone to use, and then freshers can't bring their own.

Laura Neilson: They tried a similar scheme before and it failed.

Leo: Anyone who has ever tried to do a bike scheme has failed.

Jessy: some colleges have vaguely successful ones e.g. New and Catz. OUSU may fund this. I have already spoken to college about it, but shall I continue?

Motion passes unanimously.

Equal Opportunities Week Funding

Ima: Self-explanatory. Equal Ops won't need much other money, so this is the big expenditure of the year. The magazine is bumping up the cost, the rest will go towards speakers' travel. May not need all this money.

Motion passes unanimously.

Choir Concert Drinks

James Bowstead: This is a slightly shitty situation. I emailed Leo and said, can the JCR and catering organise drinks for the event? Clearly wasn't clear enough and Leo didn't understand it. It was also a busy time of term. It took a while for Leo to respond to the email. There was no understanding reached on who would pay.

Leo: Nothing was ever discussed or arranged.

James: No I wasn't clear enough.

Chris Mansfield: How many people attended?

James: about 50, the amount we asked college to provide for. Most were JCR members.

Chris: Seems like a big bill not to clear in advance.

James: Yes I was surprised by the cost. College didn't say how much it would cost. I never intended that I would spend this money and then ask the JCR to pay retrospectively. It just came down to a breakdown in communication.

Tom R: Out of interest, if it doesn't pass, how will you pay.

James: I don't know. Chapel can't pay this. If motion doesn't pass, it will go on my battels. Some fault on my part, but not really anybody's fault.

Hugo: What about contacting college? Will they pay?

James: It would depend which department of college will pay.

Hugo: Ask college first? Then come back.

Leo: College probably won't pay.

Huw Jones: Had exactly the same thing. College paid for this out of the blue. They were not clear we'd have to pay for it beforehand. College then paid.

Laura: How much is the sherry budget each week, we can use that money instead?

James: Maybe, don't know.

Chris: Maybe divide the bill between the choir?

Tim: Some of the opposition is because it is retrospective. People will be more receptive if it wasn't retrospective.

Verity: Seems unfair that the choir should pay, as they performed for the JCR to enjoy on the last day of term. It wasn't a religious service, it was to entertain.

Toby Swift: Mulled wine from Tesco costs £4.

Leo: It should not have been retrospective. This would have otherwise gone through.

Motion passes.

JCR Austerity

Leo: nothing to add.

Tom Roberts: to clarify, we will have pizza next term.

Elena Ruiz: How much do these briefcases cost?

Leo: Probably cheap.

Tom R: Have a spare briefcase that could be painted.

Leo: gave Tom the option to veto this.

Motion passes.

Cymdeithas Dafydd ap Gwilym

Huw: We are the Welsh society of the university. It is a place to socialise in Welsh. Also a lot of events in college. There is a Welsh carol service. There are three competitions from schools in Wales to encourage them to send stuff in and invite them to Oxford and then present them with prizes.

Anna TM: is there a subscription that has to be paid?

Huw: probably keep it as yearly donations, rather than setting up a subscription.

Tim: OUSU clubs and societies also has funding you can apply for.

Motion passes unanimously.

Castle Mill

Ima: This is graduate accommodation between Port Meadow and the railway lines. New blocks of flats are causing an issue, as they are ruining the view (apparently). The university is now saying this damage must be mitigated. The solution they are going for is to remove the top floor of these flats, which will cost £30 million. There is disability access there, and families live there. This will put pressure on Oxford housing market as well. Another option would be to plant trees and make everything aesthetically pleasing, which will just cost £6 million.

Damien (MCR president): Rent prices will go up which will affect you. There will be 400 extra people in the rent market. You also may be a graduate student in the future so this is useful for you. It is very difficult for international students to enter the letting market. Sometimes up to six months of rent must be given in advance. There is a Facebook page for supporting this movement. Talk to your tutors if you're interested in helping out.

Tom R: college doesn't have a stance on this issue and most are indifferent.

Jessy: One Jesus fellow has already signed for removing the top floor.

Tom R: Most are indifferent, so it will make a difference if we pass it.

Damien: The £30 million will come from graduate funding.

Motion passes.

Posters for the JCR

Leo: Think this is a great idea.

Tom R: Email Joel with submissions. Amending the motion, to:

To give Joel Nelson £60 to purchase posters suggested by fellow members of the JCR for the beautification of our common room. Joel will present the suggestions that are made at the next JCR meeting and then the JCR members present will vote on their poster choice.

Luke: How will we protect them?

Elena Ruiz: Possible lamination.

Motion passes.

Any Other Business

Tom R: Cancel Sky TV as it does not work. Will begin a new subscription when it starts working. This will save £100 a month.

Also, newspapers: we pay £5,000 on newspapers. This may be reduced further. The library may provide money for daily newspapers. Also the SCR might share their posters from the day before. This will reduce the number of newspapers we buy each day.

Verity: Ensure there are crosswords to do.

Llewelyn: Is this international newspapers as well?

Tom R: Potentially. Everyone has a say in this. Last summer we voted on what to keep. i.e. we got rid of the Daily Mail, the Sun and the Mirror.

Elena: How much are online subscriptions?

Tom R: we get most free from the university. Definitely Financial Times. Will just try and find ways to stop us paying so much for them.

Jess Gould: Can we buy less of the student newspapers?

Tom R: Probably not. Will check it out.

Jessy: I think we can only buy them in bulk.

Jess Gould: Maybe share a subscription with Exeter?

Tom looks ecstatic.

Tom: Excellent idea. Also, we have a charity debt of £10,000 due to a mix up of whose responsibility it was. We literally don't have enough money to pay that now. Don't want to cut other expenditure too much to pay this off. Will work on this Jon (Clingman).

Verity: The Junior Members Scholarship. Verity now running this. It pays for students from places

that don't traditionally send people to Oxford. However, the maintenance grant provided for our scholar is not very high, and so in discussions with Alex Lumbers on how to raise the amount of money. The JCR pays 50% of the scholarship fund, and college pays the other 50%. Lumbers said that if the fund was raised, the money might not go straight to Rawan (Gaza scholar).

Chloe: She stayed over Christmas, and that means her flatmates are covering her heating bills over Christmas, which is also a tricky situation.

Verity: This could also be covered by her maintenance grant, if it was raised. Lumbers is suggesting that Rawan works in the holidays, but this would not be very useful. If the JCR is against raising the amount they contribute to the scholarship by 40 p then Verity will stop arguing with Lumbers. After talking to Alex Lumbers this will be put into a motion to be voted on, and the rest of the JCR will be emailed.

Jessy: Meat-free Mondays! MCR have talked about this.

Damien: MCR did not want to introduce meat-free Mondays, but maybe just try something different. e.g. Make the vegetarian option delicious on that day.

Beth Jones: Last year there was a motion about meat-free Mondays. Have two veggie options and one meat option on Mondays. This was passed last year, but doesn't seem to be happening.

Jessy: Is it worth passing?

General assent.

Hugo: Recently suggested that college would bring paninis into the hatch.

Jessy: We are having JCR meetings weeks 2,3,5,7. Next week Debbie from Hall is coming to talk to us about possibilities of putting things in the hatch and changing salads and other stuff. So for next week, make sure you are there if you want to discuss food.