

MINUTES



of the 1st ordinary JCR meeting of Trinity Term 2015

1. MATTERS ARISING

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Battels bills – have until Wednesday to pay them. The smoking bench under staircase 18 is staying for the foreseeable future. You are also allowed to eat on second quad officially. Undergrads might also now be able to book the Ship Street Centre. They are thinking about it.

Leo interjects to give Tom Roberts a briefcase with a copy of George Osbourne's book inside it.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

Forecast income was around £8000. We have saved money and we are working on paying back charities with this money. If anyone has problems with accounts ask Tom about it.

5. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Come to the JCR photo a week on Sunday.

6. OUSU REPORT

Motion about the NUS conference. The big thing coming up this term is the referendum on subfusc. There are two of these. There is also a referendum on when NUS positions should be elected. We are having husts at Jesus on Sunday of 4th about which decision to take at these.

7. SOCIAL REPORT

Bop on Friday.

8. WELFARE REPORT

Welfare weekend is weekend of fourth week.

9. ACCESS REPORT

Spoken to a few people about the alternative prospectus. If there is anything to be put in it, send stuff to Sam and he will put stuff in.

10. ACADEMIC REPORT

Library group last week. Big things that came out of it: fourth years cannot use the graduate reading room. We are also looking into getting more lockers. The periodicals is no longer a place to dump your stuff, and so the lockers are now full. Looking into opening up the bar area to put your stuff in. Hot food is banned in the library, please do not bring it in. Might be problems with rodents if this carries on. Librarian also encouraged everyone to get out of the library sometimes.

If you are not using the locker regularly please take the lock off it.

11. EQUAL OPPS REPORT

Nothing to report

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12. ARTS REPORT

Nothing to report.

13. SPORTS REPORT

Nothing to report.

14. CHARITIES REPORT

Emailed accountant with all opt-out requests. If these haven't been put on your battels then tell Jon and he will sort it out. The charities ballot: supposed to be done at the end of last term, but it wasn't, and Jon thought it would be simpler to leave it. This isn't the case, because of cost. Plus it isn't long until the next elections. Instead, JCR is proposing to put last term's and this term's charity money into a ballot that will take place at the normal time this term.

Jess Gould: Will it be double the amount of charities?

Jon: It depends how many are nominated. We will consult you on it, when it comes to it. We have sorted out back payments, and have paid off most of our charities debt.

15. GREEN REPORT

Introducing food waste bins in Stevens and Barts. A few concerns about rodents and how they will be implemented. One concern is whether people will be responsible with them. Will keep you updated on what happens.

16. BAR AND FOOD REPORT

Next week there will be another poetry night in the bar. There is an event on facebook about this. There will be free drinks going round. With the JCR photos in the bar there might be a new one going up soon. If anyone knows how to fix the boxing machine please let Tim know.

17. IT REPORT

Nothing to report.

18. QUESTIONING PERIOD

19. BEER BOAT FUNDING

20. BUCKETS

21. JUNIOR MEMBER SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING

22. INTER-FAITH RESOURCES

23. DIVESTMENT CAMPAIGN

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19. Beer Boat Funding

This JCR notes:

- i. That this year's beer boat entry for the upcoming boat race have encountered unusual costs and administrative charges that have not occurred in the past.
- ii. These new charges are seemingly to discourage the entry of a beer boat despite the long tradition of the beer boat and the enjoyment it brings to members of the JCR, participants and spectators alike. This is a chance for those not as committed to the sport of rowing to experience the camaraderie and teamwork that this event represents.
- iii. This event has traditionally been an inclusive one around which the whole college has rallied. Consequently all spaces on the boat have been made open to JCR members that have done a swim test. This year also marks the first occasion on which we anticipate to field a mixed boat and it would be great if the JCR could throw its weight behind such an effort.

It therefore proposes:

- iv. To provide the Beer Boat team with £100 to cover administrative costs, entry fees, equipment and liability incurred that would otherwise have been covered by the boat club.

Proposed: Harry Newberry

Seconded: Ben Woodyear

Harry: it is a bit of a tradition to enter a boat with complete amateurs. There are also places still open, if you fancy it email Harry.

Leo: Is this allowed yet? In the past when we tried to use JCR to acquire a cox box, but couldn't because of amalgamated clubs rules. Often problems in terms of sports funding.

Hugo Manson: Thanks Harry for expressing interest in rowing. Reason boat club cannot pay this year is because they are prioritizing training of the real teams. Also beer boat do not pay subs. The entry fee is £50.

Harry: Hopefully the extra £50 won't be used.

Hugo Markland: What are you doing for insurance, because if you are not members of the boat club you are not insured. Also it looks like the JCR is supporting dangerous behaviour if the money is used for fines.

Harry: It's seemed to work fine previously, but I will look into it.

James Chapman: a) rowers pay subs to take place in rowing throughout the year. The girls who are doing a regatta next week are paying £10 entry. Why should the beer boat therefore be subsidised? It's not a huge JCR event.

Harry: It's more on the tradition side than just wanting to go for a row.

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Laura Neilson: Didn't realise it was a tradition for the beer boat to be full of people who hadn't rowed.

Leo: You are confusing Vikings with the Beer Boat.

Jon Hubbert: The fines are not £50. The fines can either be for turning in the wrong place, £10. If there is a bigger problem e.g. jumping in the river, then the fine can be bigger, can be up to £50. As someone jumped out the beer boat last year, we could be banned from summer eights if it happened again.

Sam Skillcorn: How do you think this relates to giving money to other sports clubs?

Harry Newberry: You can get money for fans coming to watch e.g. a rugby match.

Sam Skillcorn: Is the aim to get people to come and watch?

Harry: Yes, and for those who want to row, just not too seriously.

Andy Everell: Funding is usually for teams who have been training all year.

Eduin: It is quite problematic. How about pay for it yourself, and then we will give you money after if all goes smoothly.

Jon Hubbert: Would the money be transferred to the boat club?

Jessy: No, money would be transferred to Harry and then to the boat club afterwards.

In favour: 6

Against: 27

Abstentions: 15

Motions falls.

20. Buckets

This JCR notes:

- i. Buckets
- ii. Trashings
- iii. Water
- iv. Finalists
- v. The old-school minute format
- vi. Excessive levels

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vii. £20

- viii. That there is a shortage of i) when it comes to ii).
- ix. That having more i) to fill with iii) to throw over iv) at ii) would be good.
- x. That whilst v) has been used to vi) within this motion, vi) of i) and iii) will make for better ii) for iv).

It therefore *proposes*:

- xi. To provide Leo Gebbie with vii) in order to purchase i) for ii).

Proposed: Leo Gebbie

Seconded: Sam Skillcorn

Leo: Wanted a reason to use the old school minute format.

Verity: If we get the buckets, where will we keep them? It has taken ages to find them in the past.

Jessy: Keep them in the JCR office which is usually locked.

Leo: Going to buy some from Wickes, they're £1 each.

Jess Gould: The buckets that boptails are made in, what happens to them?

Tim: They are used for trashings.

Motion passes unanimously.

21. Junior Membership Scholarship Funding

This JCR *notes*:

- i. The Junior Members Scholarship currently funds a scholar from Gaza to study at Jesus College.
- ii. The JCR and MCR currently donate £3.90 per term on their battels towards the Junior Members Scholarship.
- iii. This has not been increased with inflation since at least 2012.
- iv. A previous motion was passed to increase the scholar's maintenance funding to twelve months of the year rather than nine.
- v. This year's extra funding has been sourced from the surplus in the account.
- vi. From next year the scholarship's twelve months a year maintenance grant would be self-sustainable with an increase in donations to £4.30 per term, which is also in line with

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It therefore *proposes*:

- vii. To increase the termly donations to the scholarship on battels to £4.30, still functioning on the current termly opt out system.

Proposed: Verity Sherwin

Seconded: Ima Bishop

Verity: Haven't had an increase in inflation, so this is now in line with it. The current opt-out rate is only 3% and an increase of only 40p shouldn't change this much. Also have managed to increase funding from 9 months to 12.

Motion passes unanimously

22. Inter-Faith Resources

This JCR *notes*:

- i. That on its website and in handbooks the College states that it 'welcomes those of any faith or none', and that inter-faith dialogue and acceptance within any community is of great importance.
- ii. That Christians have a prominent presence within the College, but other faiths are not as visibly acknowledged or celebrated.
- iii. That though there are many spiritual resources available for Christians (for example Bibles) there are no such equivalents available for use for those of other faiths.
- iv. That the Equal Opps sub-committee has been in dialogue with members of College who have alternative faiths to Christianity, such as Jewish, Muslim, Quaker, and Hindu students, to identify spiritual resources that they feel would be used by members of their faith in College
- v. That as a result of these conversations, a list of spiritual resources has been made, including items such as prayer mats and religious texts
- vi. That these items could be used by individuals to either practice their faith or for faith-based exploration.
- vii. That a similar motion is being proposed by Lizzy Harnett in the MCR, such that the cost and use of these items might be shared between both Undergraduates and Graduates within College.

It therefore *proposes*:

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- viii. To give £60 to the Equal Opps sub-committee to buy these faith-based resources.

Proposed: Louise Williams

Seconded: Ima Bishop

Louise: Fairly self-explanatory. All suggestions are welcome.

Marcin: I'm a Pastafarian. Will my religion be respected? We will have to keep sponsoring this in the future.

Louise: Hopefully these resources will be in college for years to come, and we won't keep have to buying them. It's nice to resources in college.

Verity: Where will resources be kept?

Louise: In a chapel cupboard? But not conducive to other religions. Maybe the nurse's waiting room.

One against. Motion passes.

23. Divestment Campaign

This JCR notes:

- i. In September 2013 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported that in order to stay below a one-third probability of a devastating global temperature rise of 2°C, cumulative carbon emissions cannot exceed a “budget” of about 800 gigatons. Over-shooting this by just 5% increases the chance of exceeding 2°C to 50%. Over 500 gigatons has already been emitted. *[IPCC]*
- ii. Current fossil fuel reserves amount to nearly **four times** the remaining carbon budget. Therefore around 80% of reserves must stay in the ground. *[CarbonTracker.org]*
- iii. Despite this, the top 200 coal, oil and gas companies spent almost \$700billion in the last 12 months finding and developing even more reserves. *[CarbonTracker.org]*
- iv. It's estimated that UK Universities invest around £2k per student in fossil fuel companies. Oxford hasn't released a detailed breakdown but has no specific policy on FF investment so it is likely to be around the UK average. *[350.org]*
- v. There is a growing international campaign for fossil fuel divestment, which has spread to the UK, notably through the Fossil Free UK campaign. There are currently student-led divestment campaigns in 20 UK universities as well as many other institutions. Notably in July 2014, Oxford City Council voted to stop any direct investments in fossil fuels, and in October 2014, Glasgow University voted to divest its endowment by stopping any new

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investments in fossil fuels and phasing out existing investments, making it the first UK university to do so.

- vi. Oxford University has the second largest endowment of any UK university (3.6 billion).
- vii. Oxford University's Socially Responsible Investment Review Committee is meant to enforce the Policy on SRI, stating that the university aims to: negatively or positively screen investments on ethical grounds, where this does not reduce the financial return on investment, but with the proviso that, if the activities of a company are, on ethical grounds, inconsistent with the educational and/or research objectives of the University, then the University may choose not to invest even though this may reduce returns. [University Policy on SRI 1.b]
- viii. OUSU's student-led Environment & Ethics Campaign has now been campaigning in favour of divestment for over a year.
- ix. The University's Socially Responsible Investment Review Committee held a consultation to inform their stance on divestment.
- x. OUSU's E&E Campaign has submitted a report to SRIRC entitled 'Averting a Climate Crisis' requesting that the University:
 - Systematically evaluate carbon risk across the entire investment portfolio;
 - Actively manage the carbon risk exposure of its portfolio with the aim of steadily shifting investments away from high-risk, carbon-intensive assets and toward low-carbon opportunities;
 - Remove from its portfolio all direct investments in coal and tar sands oil assets as soon as possible;
 - Develop a strategy to effectively engage with policy-makers, financial regulators and corporate management, notably by becoming a member of the Institutional Investors' Group on Climate Change (IIGCC).
- xi. SRIRC produced their own recommendations in response to the consultation on divestment. These have been discussed by General Purposes Committee (GPC), the most senior committee in the university, and on March 16th the recommendations of GPC on fossil fuel divestment will go to University Council.
- xii. There is a week left to demonstrate widespread student support for the campaign, and apply pressure to University Council to support divestment.

It therefore proposes:

- xiii. To support the OUSU Environment & Ethics Campaign, by mandating the CR President to email cara.turton-chambers@hertford.ox.ac.uk with the subject line "[College Name] [J/M]CR supports the OUSU E&E Divestment Campaign"
- xiv. To mandate the JCR President to raise the beliefs above at an appropriate college forum and request divestment of college investments from fossil fuel companies.

Proposed: Eduin Boater Latimer

Seconded: Evie Stretch

Eduin: Summarises it.

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Hugo: Fossil fuel companies are the biggest investors in green research.

Eduin: Don't think green research will suffer. A lot of their research money goes into biofuel. They also haven't started to engage on carbon storage. If we dug up all the stuff in the ground and burnt it all we will have catastrophic climate change. We cannot carry on digging stuff stuff up.

Lizzy Harnett: Divestment campaigns don't work. Other people will just invest in the companies instead. A better thing to do will be to actually talk to the university to ask them to work with the companies to try and be greener. Can't just get rid of fossil fuels, because we don't have enough renewables to support energy that we need.

Eduin: We shouldn't divest, we should just try and have shareholding influence? This generally doesn't work. It is also already a political issue, what we invest in is politicised. Full on divestment might not be the totally right course, but we can still have an influence.

Tim: A lot of the companies do invest in research etc. here. Will they still invest after the divestment campaign?

Eduin: Oxford already has a good name; divestment probably won't have a huge impact on their decisions.

Alice Raw: Quakers who divested found an increase in their returns.

Eduin: Unsure what percentage of funds where. Divestment campaign also looking for more transparency on what Oxford invests in. The Council meeting is on Monday 18 May.

Andy: Companies do invest stuff in research. Can there be any mandate for Oxford to reinvest into research?

Eduin: If this gets to University Council, then they will start considering this, and they will want to protect their research.

Alex Proudfoot: Big fossil fuel companies will often block research, as they have other interests at heart.

Tim: Hard to know if the university invests any money in fossil fuels, or none.

15 for; 7 against; 20 abstentions. *Motion passes.*

24. ANNOUNCEMENTS PERIOD

25. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Millie: Please be considerate in third quad about noise. If just chatting the noise still gets really loud. Not very fair.

Laura: Shame that people have to avoid the Jesus library because there are no desks. It is acceptable that everyone can leave their belongings on their desk, because they live out. However, it isn't a workable system if people have desks which are solely theirs, and which are always 24/7 cluttered with stuff. It means that if

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you go into the library wanting to work for a few hours you don't know if the desk will ever be free. Is there another workable solution? The current guidance from librarians is to put a sign saying 'Please leave'. There is no question of how long you can leave belongings. Start thinking about how we can improve this system.

Verity: There is no perfect solution, but maybe one thing could be more detailed 'Please leave' notes. e.g. please leave, back at 2pm. If there are books there, you'd be reluctant to leave because people might come back in 20 minutes.

Jessy: Librarians are looking into getting boxes in the library to leave possessions in, rather than just leaving them on desks.

Emilia: After collections, when the tables were split in Periodicals, the capacity was much greater. Maybe do this again? Also Periodicals has such a reputation for being a chatty place, impossible to work there.

Andy: One possibility to put stuff in might be some pidges outside the library area where you can stick your stuff for a few hours. Sometimes people leave things in e.g. Periodicals and then come back and chat loudly.

Laura: Another alternative solution would be if you're not there for more than an hour, then clear your desk, and say when you'll be back. What happens is stuff just gets left indefinitely.

Jessy: There will be no actual solution, finite space. It will be a social thing.

Dan: Other business: who would be interested in getting ear plugs in the library?

Tom: On the library issue, can we just move desks apart?

Jessy: We shouldn't, but Hugo will move desks apart.

Verity: A bit about JMS in addition. If you have opted out of JMS they often aren't put into Battels, so email Verity and she will sort it out. Also had a good chat with Development about using the scholarship as advertisement for the college as it looks great. If anyone has any quotes, personal thoughts about it etc. then send Verity an email. Also need another person for the scholarship. Running a discussion group in 4th or 5th week about the scholarship and where we should focus on.

Jon Clingman: The Living Wage badges are finally here. They will be distributed. Jessy and Jon will have a meeting about this soon.

26. NEXT MEETING