

St Hugh's JCR Meeting Minutes

Sunday 30th April 2017, 2nd week TT17, JCR Aung San Suu Kyi Room

1. Reports from members of the JCR Committee 2. Statement by the JCR Treasurer of the balance of the term's motion budget and the balance of any other budget relevant to that meeting 3. Action motions for debate asking for funding 4. Action motions for debate not asking for funding. 5. Statement motions for debate 6. Items for discussion 7. Any other business

1. Reports from members of the JCR Committee.

President – Ana Pavlova:

- Sent out usual weekly emails;
- Attended a non-exciting governing body meeting;
- Working with the so-called 'COWPATS' group, which is made up of students to give feedback and share their ideas/concerns on the Wolfson development, please join;
- Attended OUSU Council;
- Working with Harry Thomas to set up a free yoga club, which should start next Monday in the MGA lecture room;
- The JCR calendar of events this term will be going up on the door to the JCR very soon;
- Negotiating rent with college at the moment;
- Looking to create a new academic feedback system for St Hugh's, please share your thoughts.

Vice-President – Ed Piggott:

- Sorting out the room ballot;
- The schedule will be as before, with the group ballot at the end of 2nd week, and the individual ballot the following weekend;
- Will send out the full ballot list tomorrow hopefully;
- Fish Fridays are no longer a thing, because hall was failing to reach its targets, and throwing lots of food away;
- Speaking to Carl about getting Meat Free Mondays going next term, which should give him plenty of time to plan.

Secretary – Curtis Crowley:

- Working on usual emails, agendas and minutes;
- Attended OUSU Council;
- OUSU is launching a new campaign, called Class Act;
- Don't forget to vote in the local elections, or to register to vote before the general election if you haven't done so already.

Treasurer – James Brown:

- Paid lots of invoices and reimbursements;
- Bought the new croquet mallets which can now be used;

- Still chasing Karen Peake for the money for new pool cues.

AccAff – Sophie Roche:

Apologises for her absence. She has exams.

Welfare and Equal Opportunities – Rosie Tabor and Cameron East:

Cameron apologises for his absence. He also has exams.

- Set up 'Boost St Hugh's' with George Anderson and it's really taken off, do join.

International Students' Rep – Tatjana Marks:

- Spoke to Thea about having Freshers helpers in college before 0th so that they are there for the international students when they arrive;
- She was very onboard with this idea;
- Put together and emailed out the events list for this term.

LGBTQ Rep – Elise Page:

- Spoke to the MCR Welfare Rep about a 2nd LGBTQ party for Saturday of 2nd week with free drinks and snacks;
- No matter who you are, there is love and welfare for you at St Hugh's;
- Is organising a transition fund for trans people;
- Has a budget for that, but there are ways to increase the fund, so don't hold back from asking to use it.

Entz Reps – James Atkey and Nathan Peters:

- Had a bop and a film night;
- Have organised a lawn party for Saturday 6th May;
- There will be lots of Pimms, burgers, a bouncy castle, sunshine...

Charities & Communities Rep – Hannah Taylor:

- Fixed the charity formal for 3rd week;
- Recruiting for RAG Ball Committee, please get involved, it would be a great experience.

Environment & Ethics Rep – Ben Jones:

- Working on the Student Switch Off campaign.

Sports and Societies Rep – Harry Thomas:

- Organised the two punts;
- Organised the yoga with Ana;
- Sorted the chocolate fountain.
- Careers Officer – Olayemi Eso:
- Met the development office;
- Research and investigation now ongoing to detail alumni destinations;
- Ran first careers event with representatives of the Careers Service.

DODO – Hannah Choi:

- Purchased two more PS4 controllers;
- Sorted stuff out for the new Careers Officer, i.e. the anonymous feedback page on the JCR website;
- Please don't take down the photos on the JCR noticeboard;
- Will be getting in touch with clubs and societies to check they still run and to get more info on them for the JCR website.

Freshers' Rep – Theo Davies-Lewis:

- Met with Walters r.e. sub-fusc;
- Checked the timetable with Thea Crapper;
- Discussing having dodgems;
- Will be meeting with the Dean this week;
- Emailed out about the St Hugh's Freshers' Fair;
- Ordered the Freshers' Week t-shirts;
- Booked the rooms needed for Freshers' Week;
- Printed accounts for last two years.

2. Statement by the JCR Treasurer of the balance of the term's motion budget and the balance of any other budget relevant to this meeting.

£800.

3. Action motions for debate asking for funding.

None.

4. Action motions for debate not asking for funding.

Motion a) #WeStandWithCEU (The Central European University)

The JCR notes:

- The Central European University is a private university founded and financed by George Soros. It is seen as one of the most prestigious universities in Central Europe for social sciences and humanities.
- On April 4, 2017, a piece of legislation was adopted by the Hungarian Parliament amending the National Higher Education Act that would, if implemented, force the Central European University in Budapest to close.
- The Rector of the university Michael Ignatieff is noted as saying that the proposed law "would make it impossible for CEU to continue its operations as an institution of higher education in Hungary authorized to grant degrees accredited in both Hungary and the United States. As we see it, this is legislation targeted at one institution and one institution only. It is discriminatory. It strikes at the heart of what we have been doing at CEU for over two decades. We are in full conformity with Hungarian law and have been for more than two decades."
- Protests erupted in Hungary in support of the university. Many see this initiative of Viktor Orbán's government as an affront to academic freedom and as a step designed to silence opposition voices.

The JCR believes:

- That this move by the Hungarian government constitutes an attack on the values of academic freedom, democracy, and open society.
- That, by this act, prime minister Viktor Orbán and his party FIDESZ have proved themselves to be a danger to Hungarian democracy.
- That the closure of the CEU should be prevented.

The JCR resolves:

- That the following proclamation be published:

We, the Junior Common Room of St Hugh's College Oxford, believe in the values of free academic endeavour, of free exchange of ideas, and of a democratic and open society. We are strongly committed to defending them. We condemn the actions taken against the Central European University by the Prime Minister of Hungary Viktor Orbán and his government. We believe that this constitutes an affront to the values we stand for.

We voice our concerns about the authoritative direction that, through enacting this legislation, the current Hungarian government is heading.

Finally, we express solidarity with the students and faculty members of the Central European University. We appeal to the conscience of the members of the Hungarian National Assembly and of the Hungarian government to reconsider this legislation. We urge them to respect the values of academic freedom and of a democratic and open society.

#WeStandWithCEU

Proposer: Radim Lacina

Seconded: Elise Page

Short Factual Points:

Tom Barringer: Would you like this to be a full university thing? You could take it to OUSU.

Radim: Yes that would be great.

Curtis Crowley: I would happily propose it on your behalf.

Radim: Over the past five years, the Hungarian government has been steadily becoming more authoritarian, with nationalist rhetoric, the building of border walls to prevent refugees coming through Hungary, and has been trying to get rid of this university for a long time, since it is an institution which for example teaches human rights. The law is called Lex CEU because it is clearly and specifically aimed at shutting down the Central European University. Students and faculties across the world have expressed solidarity with CEU.

James Brown: How exactly will the law bring down the university?

Radim: It's a combination of clauses in the law which would cause the university to have to close, in particular by damaging their finances.

Curtis: Where and how should we publish this?

Radim: As an open letter.

Tom: Common rooms often release such statements to the student press.

Theo Davies-Lewis: I am writing a piece on CEU already, so could include this too.

Tom: If it is brought to OUSU, that will further the attention it gets too.

Curtis: We could also write to the Prime Minister directly.

Radim: Yes we should do that.

Dan de Wijze: You could also ask Dame Elish if she and perhaps other college staff would like to sign the letter too.

Points of debate:

None.

The motion passes unanimously.

5. Statement motions for debate.

None.

6. Items for discussion.

None.

7. Any other business.

Radim: The college grounds would be perfect for pétanque/boules. This might be worth spending some money on.