

St Hugh's JCR Meeting Minutes

Sunday 15th October, 2nd week MT 2017, 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:

- Meet the Committee event;
- Wolfson Meeting;
- Have been speaking to Dame Elish about an exciting update about welfare in college which I can't make an announcement about just yet;
- Attended Governing Body and Oxford SU Council this week.

Vice-President – Ed Piggott:

- Meet-free Mondays motion passed last year. College are looking into putting a menu together. Progress is being made. Negotiating with MCR and SCR.

Secretary – Curtis Crowley:

- Organising the JCR Meeting;
- Will be setting up a Yearbook Committee;
- Attended Oxford Su Council, let me know if you'd be interested in coming.

Treasurer – James Brown:

- Expenses;
- Termly budget.

AccAff – Sophie Roche:

- Organising tours, let me know if you'd be interested in helping.

Welfare and Equal Opportunities – Rosie Tabor and Cameron East:

- Held the Welfare Tea;
- Contacted SANE (a mental health charity) about organizing some workshops;
- Had first WEQ Committee of the term.

International Students' Rep – Tatjana Marks:

- Put together an International Freshers' Guide;
- Arrived early to help the international Freshers who arrive earlier;
- Organised a pizza night for the Sunday before Freshers' Week;

- Planned term's events.

LGBTQ Rep – Elise Page:

- Get in touch if you missed the LGBTQ workshop during Freshers' Week and want more information;
- We have a Skittles Rep (Hannah Rose Kessler) who will publicise events at PLUSH;
- I have some LGBTQ posters if you want them;
- I have some budget to finance transitions (make-up, binders etc.) if you're transgender;
- I can also help you find clothes-swaps and welfare groups etc.

Entz Reps – James Atkey and Nathan Peters:

- We had the bop last week;
- We have our plan for the term;
- There'll be a film night;
- Will be speaking to college about our pumpkin carving event;
- We'll be holding a Secret Santa too.

Charities & Communities Rep – Hannah Taylor:

- Charity Formal on Tuesday;
- Comedy night with Oxford Imps coming up;
- RAG ball – tickets to be released shortly, should be amazing;
- Get in touch if you want to run an event or get involved in charities.

Environment & Ethics Rep – Ben Jones:

- Working on getting more recycling bins where needed.

Sports and Societies Rep – Harry Thomas:

- Nothing to report.

Careers Officer – Olayemi Eso:

- Over the summer, worked to create the Pathways platform, which you've now been emailed about. It's a huge database of Hugh's alumni who are willing to be contacted. Let me know and we can facilitate putting you in touch. In couple of weeks we'll have set up a proper form.
- I also put some careers guides in your pidges.

DODO – Hannah Choi:

- Lots of work on the JCR website;
- Put all the welfare resources on there – very comprehensive;
- New WEQ Committee page to help you to find people;
- Hall menus all on there, as well as meeting minutes;
- Set up PS4, some games have gone missing over summer, please return them if you borrowed them;
- Setting up Netflix.

Freshers' Rep – Theo Davies-Lewis:

- Organised Freshers' Week;
- Put last steps into matriculation;
- Now just doing finances and administrative tasks.

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 for this term.

3. Action motions for debate asking for funding.

Motion a) Support the SHWFC (St Hugh's Women's Football Club)

The JCR notes:

1. The OUAFC requires every football team to pay £72 by November 11 in order to cover affiliation fees, league entry and cuppers entry.
2. The women's football team at St Hugh's is newly set up and therefore has no money.
3. Applications for college funding do not open until January.

The JCR believes:

- 1) St Hugh's should help the SHWFC establish themselves as an official team in order to allow enthusiastic and dedicated team members to play at a University-wide level.
- 2) It is in the interests of the JCR for the women's team to be involved in official fixtures as it encourages young women to get involved in more sport, which will assist their physical and mental well-being.

The JCR resolves:

- 1) To loan £72 to the SHWFC until the society receives amalgamated funding.

Proposer: Rebecca Shotton

Seconder: Marine Lello

Short factual points:

Loan or gift?

Rebecca: Gift.

Points of debate:

Lewis Waller: It should be a loan, as in January you should receive money. It doesn't set a good precedent if societies don't bother setting up a bank account and applying to college for money.

Joe Higton: JCR has tonnes of money.

Rebecca: We're asking for a small amount of money compared to what is available. We're a new team. An influx at the start would help setting up, since starting from scratch we need equipment and kit etc.

James Brown: Better to be a loan for now, since college has more money. Apply for amalgamated funding.

Cameron Marnoch: Would college pay two years' registration fees at once?

Lewis Waller: Can we amend from 'donate' to 'loan' with the expectation that it will be paid back.

Nick: We should support sports at a grass roots level. We were a women's college. If women like to play sport, then it can be there and the JCR will provide it. A loan would be a partial rejection of this.

Elise: Not a partial rejection. You can still support the motion, even if changed to a loan.

Nathan: College usually has a couple of grand left over from amalgamated funding each year.

Rebecca: We reject the proposed amendment.

Amendment goes to vote.

Amendment passes with 34 in favour.

Move to vote.

Motion passes with but 6 abstentions, and 1 vote against, all others in favour. There were 90+ people present.

Motion b) Football match against Clare College Cambridge

The JCR notes:

1. St Hugh's Men's and Women's Football Clubs are trying to arrange an annual fixture against our sister college, Clare College Cambridge, on the 8th March 2018.

The JCR believes:

1. This is a great opportunity to build a relationship with our sister college through a sporting event, such as a double header football fixture.
2. This is the first of what will hopefully be an annual fixture for the Men's and Women's teams against Clare College, starting with St Hugh's travelling to Clare and from then on the location will alternate. Plans are already being put in place for Clare's return in 2019.
3. Hopefully it can create more opportunities for an increasing number of sporting fixtures against Clare for various St Hugh's clubs.
4. The College Sports Fellow, Professor Rafael Perera, has given his vocal support for the event.
5. The Professor has requested that we hire a coach for transport purposes and after much research the cheapest quote that could be found is £955.
6. This is a quote for a 41-person coach. Seeing as there would be only 30 players travelling to the event it leaves 11 spaces for supporters who would like to be involved.
7. People will pay a fee for the transport, £20 for players and £15 for non-players, however this will not cover the whole cost of the coach.
8. That the event should be fun for both the players and supporters, and we believe that supporters and players can bring joy to, and aid, the other.

9. That this was an unforeseen ambition for the club when they last applied for amalgamated funding, and thus was not considered in the application.

The JCR resolves:

1. To award St Hugh's Football Club £200 to cover the rest of the transport costs.
2. To ensure SHFC provides proof of costs in the form of receipts and that any money left over is given back to the JCR.

Proposer: Alex Hine

Seconder: Rebecca Shotton

Short factual points:

Sophie: Was booking a coach the only way?

Alex: Yes, we ruled out driving in cars due to insurance costs, and because we want everyone to be able to come back safely on Friday morning.

Have you looked at trains?

Alex: Yes, but it's not viable and would be dearer.

Why is this money not coming from College?

James Brown: That process takes place once a year in Hilary. The football club already gets a lot of funding so it might be hard to get more.

Points of debate:

Alex: Financially the club isn't doing too well because we haven't been able to play on our own grounds due to rain. It's £40 a time to hire a pitch. There's been a few things that hadn't been foreseen.

Jo: Why does college have a pitch that we are not able to use?

Alex: I don't want to go into it.

Hilal: It should be a loan.

James Brown: I dispute that's the cheapest option. I looked and found a coach for £700, which is cheaper than £1000.

Alex: I'll have a look but we're sure it was the cheapest. *Rejects amendment from gift to loan.*

Nathan: You should easily be able to get the extra money from college, as we did last year. We could award the money as a loan on the basis you'd get it from amalgamated funding later in the year anyway and could pay us back.

Alex: We spoke to college which saw no reason why we shouldn't self-fund it like other colleges.

Hilal: The football club benefits a minority of the JCR so shouldn't get the money which could be spent on the whole JCR.

Alex: If we get it now we will be in a better position in two years when there's the next fixture.

Joe Higton: Few if any JCR policies help everyone in the JCR equally. St Hugh's profile would be enhanced from playing with Clare College.

Roxy: Anyone can join the football team, so could benefit any member.

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Vote on amending from gift to loan. Amendment falls with 20 votes in favour, 50 against, and 13 abstentions.

Move to vote. Motion passes with 74 votes in favour, 10 against, and 12 abstentions.

Motion c) Greater Change (withdrawn by the proposer)

4. Action motions for debate not asking for funding.

Motion d) Aung San Suu Kyi

The JCR notes:

1. There is a severe humanitarian crisis in Myanmar, especially in the state of Rakhine. This has left hundreds of thousands of innocent people murdered, and forced more than half a million people to seek refuge in Bangladesh alone. Thousands more seek refuge in India, Thailand and elsewhere. This has been documented by the UN, HRW, AI and various other prominent international media outlets. The reports by the UNHCR on the number of Rohingya people fleeing their country are shockingly high.
2. The UN has deemed the Rohingya as the 'most persecuted minority', and more recently has stated that the atrocities being inflicted upon the Rohingya are 'a textbook example of ethnic cleansing'.
3. Nobel Peace laureate, State Chancellor and the de facto leader of Myanmar, Aung San Suu Kyi's response to the crisis both in interviews with the international media and her recent address to the nation in English, following her absence at the UN General Assembly earlier in September.
4. The open letter written to Suu Kyi by 13 Nobel laureates and several eminent global citizens and activists including Professor Muhammad Yunus, Malala Yousafzai (soon to be a matriculated member of this University), Tawakkol Karman, Desmond Tutu, Sir Richard Branson and Sal Khan.
5. Oxford City Council stripped Aung San Suu Kyi of her 'Freedom of Oxford'.
6. St Hugh's has given Suu Kyi the honour of the most notable alumnus of the college.
7. St Hugh's College, until September, displayed a painting of Suu Kyi in the entrance hall in Main Building. This has now been replaced and put in to storage, but other paintings still remain displayed on college property (for example, Mordan Hall, and the college bar).

The JCR believes:

1. Violations of Human Rights anywhere in the world are unambiguously and unapologetically unacceptable and condemnable.
2. Aung San Suu Kyi's inability to condemn the mass murder, gang rape and severe human rights abuses in Rakhine is inexcusable and unacceptable.
3. Aung San Suu Kyi's reluctance to address such crimes is in direct contradiction to statements she made during her Nobel Peace prize acceptance speech. Examples from this speech include: 'Ultimately our aim should be to create a world free from the displaced, the

homeless and the hopeless, a world of which each and every corner is a true sanctuary where the inhabitants will have the freedom and the capacity to live in peace.'

4. Some of Suu Kyi's claims such as 'We want to find out why this exodus is happening' or 'there have been no conflicts since September 5' are shocking.
5. Suu Kyi's claim that her government 'does not fear international scrutiny' is contradictory to the fact that several UN investigations teams have been denied visas.
6. Being students of St Hugh's, the human rights abuses and violence in Myanmar - Aung San Suu Kyi's country - is very relevant to us. As responsible members of the college, believers in humanity and promoters of peace, we must condemn Aung San Suu Kyi's silence and complicity on this issue and her condonation of the human rights offences is her own land. In doing so, she has gone against the very principles and ideals she had once righteously promoted.

The JCR resolves:

1. That the Junior Common Room (the room itself), which is currently named after Aung San Suu Kyi, be unnamed to immediate effect. This is to stand in solidarity with the persecuted and oppressed minority of Myanmar and to make a statement that we condemn crimes against humanity and Aung San Suu Kyi's stance on this issue.
2. To mandate the Junior Common Room Committee to petition the principal of our college, and/or the relevant authorities within college to write an open letter of condemnation to Aung San Suu Kyi on behalf of our college which she once belonged to.

Proposed: Affnafee Rahman

Seconded: Elise Page

Short factual points:

Kieran: How is ASSK complicit in human rights violations?

Affnafee: By ignoring it and being silent, by saying it's not ethnic cleansing, and by saying the blame is on both sides. There are more than 500,000 Rohingya refugees now in Bangladesh.

John: Does the JCR get to control what the JCR is called?

Ana: I have spoken to college about this. Although it is our space, it is still on college property, therefore college can veto our choice of name if it is silly.

Kieran: The motion states that her government doesn't fear international scrutiny. Is it not true that the military control home affairs, borders etc.

Affnafee: She is the State Counsellor and de facto leader.

Kieran: That's the point. She is only de facto leader. She couldn't be president because her children are British.

Davide: Would the JCR remove the sign?

Elise: Probably college in due course.

Points of debate:

Affnafee: Why has ASSK been silent? If she were scared of the military, then why was she so vocal about democracy and human rights before when under house arrest. In a 2013 BBC interview she

denied there was any 'ethnic cleansing' in Myanmar. She's clearly not completely under the military's control else she wouldn't have campaigned for democracy for so long.

Kieran: Her silence is not commendable. Some of the claims in the motion are too strong though. Rohingya are widely considered to be non-citizens by the majority of Burmese, particularly many Buddhist groups. ASSK has to tread more safely because the appalling treatment of the Rohingya is not just supported by the military, but by much of the majority-Buddhist population. Also, many of her state advisers and lawyers have been murdered, and she has set up a working group of various civilian organisations to find a solution to this humanitarian crisis. There are many things to consider with this.

Affnafee: Rohingya are Burmese, and have been for centuries. A lot of it does have to do with religious tensions. There are powerful Buddhist terrorist group which preach hate for the Muslim Rohinga minority. Is the task too difficult for ASSK? No one here would support crimes against humanity, or chose not to act? Nor should ASSK. If she can't make an immediate change she should say something at least, and if she did, the world would support her in it, including her fellow Nobel laureates.

Khalil: We could litigate the facts for years. What really matters to is that if someone is going to be on the JCR of the space we share, it should be someone that represents bravery and stands up and says something? Yes, ASSK is a complex figure, so we need a unifying figure or in the absence of that have the JCR unnamed for now.

A fresher whose name I didn't catch: We freshers have only just arrived. When we applied, and entered St Hugh's in google, ASSK was one of the names that turned up. The political situation is against the spirit of international law, but there is also the gravity of changing the name of this common room to consider. It might be too much to ask for us to change this name when we have only been here 2 weeks. Perhaps it could be discussed at a subsequent meeting first. Many are not familiar with this issue. We're not all PPEists. We need a mechanism to raise awareness of this issue so people can reach a considered response.

Affnafee: No we're not all PPEists, and yes it might be some people's first JCR Meeting, but that's irrelevant. If ASSK doesn't recognise what is happening, we have to speak up. The cost of gangrape, murder, butcheries are too high to be ignored.

Dan de Wijze (the Independent Chair): You can move to postpone or amend the motion, or abstain on the vote.

The above fresher: My intention was not to postpone, but to prolong debate. It is an important name for this room and this college and we shouldn't rush.

Curtis (The Secretary): People can also move to vote by secret ballot, an online vote over several days which would give people time to do their research and think the matter through.

Hilal: I agree with Affnafee. 500, 000 people are suffering because of this, and many are trying to flee through land that is full of land mines. We can't remain silent as it goes against what we all believe in.

Theresa: You don't need to study PPE or politics to know what is a human rights violation. It is a complex situation, but we can still make that distinction. This is still a matter of urgency, and we shouldn't stay silent.

Move to vote by secret ballot.

The vote was conducted online over three days. The outcome was as follows: 115 votes in favour, 45 against, and 11 abstentions.

Motion e) Minimum notice of cancellation of Hall (slightly amended by the proposed)

The JCR notes:

1. Sometimes, before formal hall, students not attending formal can eat in “Early Hall” 5-6pm.
2. When a formal is particularly popular, Early Hall is generally not available, and this is advertised on the menu released at the start of the week to all students and staff.
3. On Friday 9th June (7th week Trinity) 2017, at 10:33am David Hodges emailed all graduate and undergraduate students to inform us that there would be no Early Hall that evening, which differed from the advertised arrangement on the menu publicised at the start of that week.
4. Students therefore had <7 hours’ notice of the cancellation of early hall
5. This email was sent out during exam season, when many students may have had morning and/or afternoon exams on that day and/or the next day.
6. This type of last minute cancellation is not a common occurrence, and we are fortunate to have access to catered food throughout our degree.

The JCR believes:

1. Exam season is a pressured and usually stressful time for most students.
2. Pressure and/or stress can have noticeable and often negative impacts on a person’s appetite, and eating habits
3. Knowing one has access to a hot, balanced meal in hall is of significant benefit to the physical and mental health of students during exam time. And therefore *can* indirectly impact their preparedness for exams.
4. The staff in hall work hard to feed us and formals are a popular occasion of benefit to student morale.
5. It would be preferable for Early Hall to be available less often, but with a guaranteed minimum warning of its cancellation, than available more often but with the risk of it being cancelled at such short notice as this. Especially since such trade-offs are unlikely to be required very often.

The JCR resolves:

1. To mandate the JCR Vice President to discuss with college the introduction of a policy of giving a minimum of 24 hours’ notice for the cancellation of any kind of hall at least during exam season (including out-of-season exam times such as Classics Mods or Psychology Prelims).

Proposer: Jo Lee

Seconder: Rosie Tabor

Short factual points:

Cameron: Do we know what the reason was? Is this rule enforceable

The formal was more popular than expected, so decided last minute not to run it. I'd rather they told us before that it wasn't running so we can plan accordingly.

Points of debate:

Someone proposes amending from '30 hours' notice' to '24 hours' notice' in resolves 1), which is accepted as friendly by the proposer.

Jo: I deliberately left the resolution fairly open to make the negotiation with college easier.

Move to vote.

Motion passes with 65 votes in favour, none against, and 1 abstention.

Motion f) Bike racks to the south of college

The JCR notes:

1. On Thursday 18th May (4th week Trinity) 2017, Will Barton, Building Maintenance Manager at St Hugh's emailed all graduate and undergraduate students requesting we no longer use the bicycle racks on Maplethorpe Lawn to park our bicycles.
2. On Monday 12th June (8th week Trinity) 2017, Robert Lewis, the Head Porter, emailed the same above mailing lists (St Hugh's graduate and undergraduate students) advising that there had been a couple of bike thefts in college over the preceding weekend, and advising us to take extra care in securing our bikes around college grounds.
3. The majority of the bike racks outside of the China Centre/ Dickson Poon building are of the kind designed for locking one wheel to.
4. Access to the bike racks outside Dickson Poon is less closely monitored than those outside main building, and more easily accessible to the public.

The JCR believes:

1. The kind of racks which are in the majority outside Dickson Poon/The Chine Centre, are less secure, since it is much more practically difficult to lock one's frame to the rack.
2. There are not enough bike racks to the North of college (primarily outside of main building) for all students, staff, and visitors to park bicycles during the day or overnight.
3. Users of the China centre may also benefit from a greater number of more secure bike racks outside their building.

The JCR resolves:

1. To mandate the most appropriate member(s) of the JCR committee to initiate a dialogue with college about the potential for and limitations on replacing as many as is

reasonable/practical of these less secure bike racks outside Dickson Poon with the more secure variety as used to be found on the Maplethorpe lawn.

Proposer: Jo Lee

Seconder: Jennifer Davidson

Short factual points:

How would this be funded?

Jo: I expect it would come out of the budget of whoever owns the land (college or university).

Could we add something like adding roofs to the bike racks to protect bikes from the weather?

Jo: This would not be my priority right now, as security is more important.

James Brown: The gates are locked at night.

Khalil: $\frac{3}{4}$ of my bike was stolen despite being locked in college overnight.

Just locking a wheel is much less secure than being able to lock your frame and front wheel.

Nathan: There are more racks on Banbury road. The racks from MTP lawn were just moved there.

Yemi: We initiated a bike registration drive. Does this make college liable if your bike is stolen?

Ana: The scheme is run by the university not college and doesn't make college liable, it just helps police track your bike if stolen.

Points of debate:

Someone offers an amendment to add a resolution about introducing more covered bike racks. This is taken as friendly by the proposer.

Move to vote.

Motion passes with 53 votes in favour, none against, and 6 abstentions.

5. Statement motions for debate.

6. Items for discussion.

Ana: The next JCR Meeting is in two weeks' time. There will be a chocolate fountain and raffles too. It's also Harry Thomas and Ed Piggott's birthdays today.

The JCR sings Happy Birthday.

7. Any other business.