

## St Hugh's JCR Meeting Minutes

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2017, 4<sup>th</sup> 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:

- Rent negotiations with college, must pass through one more meeting of Governing Body. managed to get it down to below inflation for the first time ever! Rent increase next year should be 2.5% not the 3.5% proposed by college. Inflation is 3.1%.
- Attended OUSU Council.
- Working with Sophie to get an academic feedback process established.

Vice-President – Ed Piggott:

- Sorted the room ballot.

Secretary – Curtis Crowley:

- Attended OUSU Council. Proposed a motion based on Radim's motion from the last JCR meeting. This passed, so OUSU will be writing to the UK Foreign Secretary, and President and Prime Minister of Hungary regarding the Central European University.
- Evening of Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May there will be a hust here at Hugh's for the candidates for our constituency, OxWAb. Some of the candidates (i.e. Layla Moran) are keen to come to the JCR afterwards so that members of the JCR can speak to them if they wish. Would you like me to invite them? *Mood of the room is yes.*

Treasurer – James Brown:

- Nothing to report.

AccAff – Sophie Roche:

- Organised more college tours.
- Thea didn't win her OUSU award.
- Library Committee.
- Spoke to Luke Jackson-Ross about how to improve college outreach, i.e. funding travel costs for schools that need it, and making some places available on summer schools for students who can't afford to pay.

Welfare and Equal Opportunities – Rosie Tabor and Cameron East:

- OUSU order.
- Held a welfare tea today, very successful.

- Went to the first #timetotalk meeting about mental health, which seemed to go really well.

International Students' Rep – Tatjana Marks:

- Held 3 events: international film night, spring festival event, and German bread event.

LGBTQ Rep – Elise Page:

- Threw the LGBTQ party last weekend. Please don't make a mess again.
- Elected as LGBTQ Rep on OUSU's Class Act, a new campaign to support and improve welfare structures etc. of low income, state educated, working class and first generation students at Oxford. Let me know if there's anything I can do, if you have any ideas, etc.

Entz Reps – James Atkey and Nathan Peters:

- Had a bop yesterday.
- There will be no more events due to the Entz ban.

Charities & Communities Rep – Hannah Taylor:

- Organising the Rag Ball Committee. Please apply.
- Charity formal happened. Lots of money was collected for Oxford Homeless Pathways.

Environment & Ethics Rep – Ben Jones:

- Compiled a list of all the places where Hugh's is wasting lots of energy in lighting or heating.
- Meeting with the Domestic Bursar to discuss this soon.

Sports and Societies Rep – Harry Thomas:

- Yoga session went really well. There's still room for more to join.
- Bought white chocolate for the fountain.
- Punting slips are going well.

Careers Officer – Olayemi Eso:

- Met with the Development Office.
- Now has a list of 800 alumni, and their careers, who are willing to be contacted.

DODO – Hannah Choi:

- JCR events calendar on the JCR door. Everything coming up is on there.
- We have a new functioning TV in the JCR.
- Yemi is on the notice board.
- Sorting out the clubs or societies. Those who haven't got in touch yet to confirm your society is still going, please do so I can update the website.

Freshers' Rep – Theo Davies-Lewis:

- Booked all the rooms with conference.
- T-shirts arrived.
- Met with the Dean to talk about dodgems, which is a possibility.
- Meeting with people in the Ashmolean etc. to organize some cultural events too.

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.

Motion a) Board games for the JCR (amended)

The JCR notes:

1. The JCR currently owns several video games, but no board games
2. There is space in the JCR to store board games

The JCR believes:

1. Board games are fun
2. They would incentivise people to spend more time in the JCR

The JCR resolves:

1. To set aside £150 to be used by the current International Rep to buy Board games
2. The board games to be purchased would be decided on by a Facebook poll on the JCR Facebook page and by an email send around to all JCR members

Proposer: Tatjana Marks

Seconder: Ana Pavlova

No short factual point.

Points of debate:

Tom Barringer: This will help people during interviews. Could the vote not just be on Facebook, since lots of finalists have turned Facebook off!

Jo Lee: You could send out an email as well.

Elise Page suggests the amendment to *The JCR resolves* point 2 from '*The board games to be purchased would be decided on by a Facebook poll on the JCR Facebook page*' to '*The board games to be purchased would be decided on by a Facebook poll on the JCR Facebook page and by an email send around to all JCR members*'

This is taken as friendly by the proposer.

Curtis Crowley: You could also let people donate games to the JCR.

Could we add a couple of games each term as standard?

Dan de Wijze: Just like the DVD library. The treasurer could budget in an amount each term to spend on board games. Also, where would you store them?

Harry Thomas: £150 is a lot of board games.

Tom Barringer: Will they be secure? It's a lot of money's worth.

James Brown: We already have lots of PS4 games and controllers which don't get nicked.

Ben Jones: We don't want people to have to ask a Committee member for a key just to play a board game.

We could mark the boxes to make them feel guilty if they steal them.

Once all of the motions asking for funding are read out, the motion passes with 1 abstention.

#### Motion b) St Hugh's Table Football

The JCR Notes:

- That St Hugh's doesn't have a free to play table football in the JCR

The JCR believes:

- Table football is a great activity that should be free to play
- That a table football would attract more people to the JCR and create a better atmosphere

The JCR resolves:

- To put aside £125 from the termly motions budget in order to buy a table football for the JCR.

Proposer: James Brown

Secunder: Hannah Taylor

No short factual points.

Points of debate:

Ben Jones: Are the balls apart of the table? Could they be stolen?

James Brown: Yes, they could be stolen.

Jo Lee: How much would it be to attach the bit on the side of the table to keep the balls safe?

James: I don't know.

The motion passes with 1 abstention.

#### **4. Action motions for debate not asking for funding.**

##### Motion c) What's a pound? What difference could an extra pound make from your ball ticket?

The JCR notes:

- That college balls are a great time to celebrate the excellent atmosphere, camaraderie and successes brought through college life.
- That St Hugh's Ball is an excellent but, lavish event for which students spend over a hundred pounds.
- That our college balls only occur once every 2 years and thus we are currently unable to pledge to the 'What's a pound?' scheme.

The JCR believes:

- That despite our luxuries, such as college balls, we shouldn't forget the inequality that surrounds us every day.
- Charitable giving is an important aspect of life, especially given privileges such as our biannual balls.

- That students in a financial position to spend £100 are in a position where spending one more pound would not be problematic to them.
- That supporting the 'What's a pound?' campaign would be in line with JCR attitudes and the net amount of money raised would have significant impact for a charity of our Ball Committee's choosing.

The JCR resolves:

- To pledge that our next elected Ball President and their committee will consider the 'What's a pound?' campaign and hopefully be able to pledge to get involved.
- That we as St Hugh's JCR support the 'What's a pound?' campaign and hope that it will be feasible for our next Ball Committee to get us involved in any and every way that we can.
- To contact the 'What's a pound?' campaign coordinators so as they can keep track of our college's progress and be updated when our next Ball Committee are elected.

Proposed: Hannah Taylor

Seconded: Bryan Leighton

Short factual points:

Tom Barringer: Is the extra pound compulsory?

Hannah: It's quite flexible for each ball committee to decide whether it's opt in or opt out or compulsory.

No points of debate.

The motion passes with 1 abstention.

Motion d) Anonymous motions and statements. Part 2. (The result of the original motion being split into 2 motions.)

The JCR Notes

1. Members of the JCR may feel uncomfortable or intimidated speaking in front of fellow members of the JCR

The JCR Believes

1. That every member of the JCR has a right to submit motions
2. That fear of speaking in public or presenting a potentially controversial motion should not prevent important issues that concern the JCR being debated and discussed
3. That the JCR encourages freedom of speech and freedom of opinion

The JCR Resolves

1. To add to the standing orders a clause stating that "Any member of the JCR may submit to a member of the JCR Committee a short (200 words max) statement, short factual question, short factual point or point of debate which they wish to be read anonymously by the Independent Chair at the next JCR Meeting. As long as it does not include any personal attacks or hate speech, the Independent Chair will read it at the JCR meeting in a neutral tone of voice at the appropriate point in the meeting."

Proposed: Ana Pavlova

Seconded: Curtis Crowley

Short factual points:

Tom Barringer: What prompted this?

Ana Pavolva: We were emailed by a JCR member asking us to look into how we could make JCR meetings more accessible. The suggestion was to stream meetings live online. We did not think this was a good idea, so we came up with this idea as an alternative.

Elise Page: Don't we constitutionally need a proposer and seconder?

Curtis Crowley: Under these proposals we still would have, and I can't see anything which would make this unconstitutional.

Tom: Do any other common rooms or democratic institutions allow this?

Curtis: No, except perhaps motions of no confidence.

Samuel Dicks: Who would decide whether it constituted the speech or personal attacks?

Curtis: Me or whichever committee member received it. Just like any motion at present, I would use my judgement and challenge anything which I thought was hate speech or a personal attack anyway.

Tom: We have a policy called anonymous points of debate already.

Tom raises a procedural motion to split the motion in two, so that we can vote on *The JCR resolves* points 1 and 2 separately. This is accepted by the proposer and seconder.

#### Points of debate:

Nathan Peters: How will the proposer and seconder argue for their motion if they want to be anonymous?

Curtis: Other people might agree with it and argue for it. Or they might turn up, but not put their name to it.

Elise: How would this be compatible with the system we already have? Doesn't the proposer need to be present?

Tom: If the proposer isn't present to argue for it, we run the risk of misinterpreting it, especially if they put it forward anonymously because it's controversial, because if it's controversial they might need to explain things in person, which is hard to do in a few paragraphs. There was a motion at OUSU Council last term. The proposer didn't show up, so there was no one to answer short factual questions knowledgeably. So it fell, and was a waste of time. Wouldn't anonymous motions just solve a problem that doesn't exist? If it's simple enough, Ana or Curtis could propose a motion based on it. If it's complex or controversial, then we need a proper debate, and someone who can answer questions on it.

Samuel: (quoting a friend who wished to be anonymous) 'There's legit no free speech at Hugh's right now, unless you conform... there's no room except for hard-left views at St Hugh's' There is an issue whereby people are afraid they can't air their views at JCR meetings for fear of how they are perceived.

Tom: There's a difference between free speech and freedom from accountability for that speech. Anyone is free to say what they like in the JCR as long as it's not illegal. I do not recognise the JCR that that person describes. I've never seen anyone shouted down, jeered, personally attacked in this JCR. Some people's perceptions of the JCR are just wrong.

Samuel: I can only speak from experience of events on the JCR Facebook page, where someone has said something controversial and it hasn't gone down well...

Hannah: I get that and know what you're talking about. The Facebook group is a very different space to a JCR meeting, which is chaired by an independent chair to ensure that everyone can speak.

Anyone is welcome. It's very unlike a Facebook page where it feels like everyone is dividing in on your comments.

Dominic Clark: If people have the courage to say something controversial on the JCR Facebook page, why wouldn't they say it in a JCR meeting?

Samuel: It's not about conduct in the meeting itself, it's about how people treat you afterwards.

If the fear is that people will disagree with your views, then we'd need to change the whole system to make everything anonymous.

Elise: Raising views that people don't like is part of life. But in this motion, we are only dealing with what we can, what happens in these meetings.

The motion passes with 4 abstentions.

Motion d) Anonymous motions and statements. Part 1. (The result of the original motion being split into 2 motions.)

The JCR Notes

1. Members of the JCR may feel uncomfortable or intimidated speaking in front of fellow members of the JCR

The JCR Believes

1. That every member of the JCR has a right to submit motions
2. That fear of speaking in public or presenting a potentially controversial motion should not prevent important issues that concern the JCR being debated and discussed
3. That the JCR encourages freedom of speech and freedom of opinion

The JCR Resolves

1. To add to the Standing Orders a clause stating that "Any member of the JCR may submit an anonymous motion to the JCR Secretary, or, if preferred, another member of the JCR Committee, who may forward it to the JCR Secretary without disclosing the proposer or seconder. As long as the motion does not include any personal attacks or hate speech, the motion will appear in the agenda, be read by the Independent Chair at the next JCR Meeting and be treated just like any other motion, except that the names of the proposer and seconder will not be made public to the JCR."

Proposed: Ana Pavlova

Seconded: Curtis Crowley

Short factual points and points of debate: see above.

The motion falls with 7 votes in favour, 9 against and 15 abstaining.

Motion e) The alpacas this college deserves. (amended)

The JCR notes:

1. The MCR Welfare Rep organised alpacas at St Hugh's College

2. Everyone in college at the time enjoyed the alpacas immensely as evidenced by the number of Facebook posts and Instagram photos (see #hughsalpacas for evidence)
3. Alpacas are fluffy and cute and adorable and basically represent everything good in this world
4. As a result seeing them on a daily basis would significantly increase student welfare
5. Many colleges have a college pet including but not limited to tortoises (Regent's Park, Corpus Christi), cats, deer (Magdalen) and ducks & swans (Worcester)
6. St Hugh's does not have a college pet

The JCR believes:

1. People not in college at the time missed out on the alpacas and were sad
2. Seeing alpacas on a daily basis would make everyone happy
3. Alpacas are great

The JCR resolves:

1. To mandate the JCR Committee to look into getting 2 alpacas as a college pet
2. To mandate the JCR Committee to look into the practical elements and care required for having alpacas permanently on college
3. To have the JCR Committee report on their findings at the next JCR Meeting
4. To in the meantime source alpaca onesies for both the Welfare Reps to lovingly wear around college whenever they choose as a close substitute for a real alpaca, and to encourage the Welfare Reps to wear them at all Committee Meetings

Proposer: Ana Pavlova

Secunder: Rosie Tabor

Short factual points:

Ana Pavlova amends her motion so that under *The JCR resolves* point 1 it reads '2 alpacas', not 1, since alpacas are herd animals, and so that under *The JCR resolves* point 4 it reads '*To in the meantime source alpaca onesies for both the Welfare Reps to lovingly wear around college whenever they choose as a close substitute for a real alpaca*' instead of '*To in the meantime source an alpaca onesie for the female Welfare Rep to lovingly wear around college whenever she chooses as a close substitute for a real alpaca*'

Ben Jones: How much would this cost?

Ana: This is why it says 'source', so that we can find out how much it would cost, before reporting back to the JCR.

Would they roam freely?

Ana: This is open to discussion with college.

Elise Page: Pretty flowers are bad for alpacas' tummies. This could be a serious barrier.

Natha Peters: How would you use the alpaca fur? This could pay for itself.

Ana: We could use it for new college stash!

Charis Virgo: The reality is that alpacas poop a lot. This is ridiculous.

Hannah Taylor: It could be a source of manure for the gardeners to use.

Jo Lee: Would we need an Alpaca Rep?

Sophie Roche: Alpaca manure has a lot of value in the garden, though it is lower in organic matter than other traditional materials.

#### Points of debate:

Harry Thomas: This would cost an awful amount.

Ana: It's a motion to look into it getting alpacas, not to buy alpacas.

What is the lifespan of an alpaca? (To general awing, but hysterics from Tom Barringer.)

Ana: Alpacas live 20 years.

Theo Davies-Lewis: Would they need to become members of the university, be given Bod cards, matriculate, etc.?

Ana amends the motion again, so that the Welfare Reps are encouraged to wear the onesies at all Committee Meetings.

Motion passes with 26 votes for, 4 against and 1 abstention.

5. Statement motions for debate.

6. Items for discussion.

7. Any other business.