

St Hugh's JCR Meeting Minutes

Sunday 29th October, 4th week MT 2017, The JCR

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:

- Met with Vicki (the Bursar) to discuss the bike rack situation, it's looking like it could potentially happen;
- Met the Oxford SU Pres;
- Sent an email setting out the JCR elections schedule;
- Attended finance committee, discussed new Wolfson project;
- Attended Oxford SU Council
- Had lunch as a Committee with the Junior Deans.

Vice-President – Ed Piggott:

- Spoke to hall about early hall being cancelled with short notice;
- We're guaranteed to get 36 hours' notice of hall cancellation;
- Where possible, they will still hold early hall before a formal.

Secretary – Curtis Crowley:

- Attended Oxford SU Council, which has made funding available for any who wish to attend a protest at Yarls Wood detention centre;
- My usual minutes, agendas and emails;
- Will be sending an email out tomorrow opening the nominations for JCR Pres, as I will be acting as the Returning Officer for the election.

Treasurer – James Brown:

- The usual payments, and preparing handover stuff.

AccAff – Sophie Roche:

- Attended library committee;
- Spoke to Luke Jackson Ross about holding an interview workshop for year 13s (who would otherwise struggle with interviews);
- He was appropriately keen, but it would need to be student led, so let me know if you're keen to have a chat to some year 13s.

Welfare and Equal Opportunities – Rosie Tabor and Cameron East:

- Held a welfare tea today;

- There was a great turnout;
- Spoke to Ben Gibbons (MCR Male Welfare Rep) about working together to push for college to get special Welfare Deans.

International Students' Rep – Tatjana Marks:

- Created Facebook event for G&Ds ice-cream event I'll be holding next week.

LGBTQ Rep – Elise Page:

- Spoke to some people who'd like to be LGBTQ Rep.

Entz Reps – James Atkey and Nathan Peters:

- Handed out pumpkins today for Halloween;
- Please bring back your carved pumpkins on Tuesday;
- Did cupcake decorating today;
- Had a bop.

Charities & Communities Rep – Hannah Taylor:

- Raised a lot of money for MIND at the comedy night;
- DFO headlining RAG Ball, sold a lot of tickets, do get one if you haven't already.

Environment & Ethics Rep – Ben Jones:

- Got recycling bins for people who lacked them;
- Signed St Hugh's up for the Student Switch Off campaign;
- Let everyone know about the veggie pledge;
- Expects us to win again this year, so get on and make a veggie pledge;
- Has a meeting to discuss introduction of food waste bins.

Sports and Societies Rep – Harry Thomas:

- Dealing with the chocolate fountain tonight.

Careers Officer – Olayemi Eso:

- Working on producing a form to allow her to keep updating the pathways document.

DODO – Hannah Choi:

- Set up Netflix on the PS4.

Freshers' Rep – Theo Davies-Lewis:

- Nothing to report.

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.

£528

3. Action motions for debate asking for funding.

Motion a) Support female-led student film 'Retrospect'.

The JCR notes that:

1. The number of students making films in Oxford is smaller than it should be.
2. Independent films are an exciting and important medium of art, often underrated yet crucial to emerging filmmakers and those working with a tighter budget or experimenting with new skills.
3. 'Retrospect' is a thought-provoking script, with all female LGBTQ characters, and largely female production team.
4. This project is pertinent to the college as there is some involvement in it of students from the college, namely Molly Carlin, who is producing the film. It is clearly of interest and important to the JCR to continue the tradition of supporting its students and alumni so that they may be able to help others get involved in film in the future.
5. Support for teams of new student filmmakers is crucial because the cost of producing a film is high: lighting and camera equipment, costume design, set design and props, equipment transportation expenses, insurance, etc.
6. Funding for student film is much more difficult to obtain than some other art forms, and thus is heavily reliant on support from those involved in the production.

The JCR believes that:

1. The JCR should support and encourage the artistic pursuits of college members, including the production of short film 'Retrospect';
2. The film industry is notoriously difficult for those identifying as women to get in to, and is lacking in representation of LGBTQ stories.

The JCR resolves:

1. To donate £100 to the production of this promising student film.

Proposer: Molly Carlin

Secunder: Marine Lello

Short factual points:

Sophie: What's the total budget?

Molly: £150-200.

Hannah Taylor: Sounds great, what other sources of funding have you looking into?

Molly: Everyone's tried to ask for money from their JCRs.

Harrison: What happens if you don't get the money?

Molly: Not sure, but probably can't go ahead.

Curtis: Did you speak to Art Soc?

Molly: Christina said there's only one bid a term, so there's a pretty slim likelihood of us getting it and it wouldn't be in time for the film anyway.

No points of debate.

Move to vote.

67 votes in favour, 0 against, 7 abstentions.

The motion passes.

Motion b) JCR Camera

The JCR Notes

1. That a new Photography Group has been created by the JCR Entz;
2. That the group aims to bring together amateur photographers to capture moments from various JCR Events;
3. A Facebook Group, Hugh's Photos JCR, has been set up to publish photos;
4. That currently the group relies on volunteers using their own cameras, which makes it difficult to upload the photos in a central place;
5. That the JCR President is investigating the possibility of using/purchasing a noticeboard for the JCR/bar on which to put up physical photos of JCR members at JCR events;
6. That, based on a preliminary investigation, a Sony 20.1MP camera costs £69.

The JCR Believes

1. That having a JCR owned camera would aid this new initiative by
 - a. allowing students without their own camera to participate and take photos of JCR events
 - b. allowing the photos to be uploaded to the Facebook page by someone other than the original photographer.

The JCR Resolves

1. To spend £70 to buy a camera for members of the JCR to borrow for periods agreed upon with the Entz Reps to take photos of JCR events;
2. To store the camera when not in use in the JCR Committee Room.

Proposed: Ana Pavlova

Seconded: Nathan Peters

Short factual points:

Ed: Does it cover the cost of a removable memory card?

Ana: I'm not sure but I think the memory card is included in the price.

Roxy: Would it cover the cost of printing the photos?

Curtis: The Treasurer in his budget sets aside a stationery budget for costs just like this.

Point of debate:

Sidney: If it only costs £70, it won't be a very good camera.

Ana: The number of pixels is high enough that the picture quality will be better than you get with a smart phone. It would also be used mainly to take pictures of small groups of people, so we don't need the biggest/best camera. If we bought a more expensive camera, it could get damaged. This is a compromise solution.

Move to vote.

49 votes in favour, 3 against, 20 abstentions.

The motion passes.

Motion c) Help cover the costs of a charity bake sale for MIND (a late motion accepted by the Chair, and amended slightly by the proposer in the meeting)

The JCR Notes...

1. Currently it is estimated that 75% of those suffering from mental health problems, suffer in silence without the support they require.
2. MIND is a national charity dedicated to working towards the goal; nobody goes through these problems alone. They work on an individual as well as a policy level to try and get everyone the support they need.
3. We are planning on showing The Great British Bake Off final in the JCR this coming Tuesday.

The JCR believes...

1. That showing Great British Bake Off finale in the JCR gives us the perfect opportunity to also help charity by running a charity bake sale. After all what is better than using cake to make a difference?
2. Here at St Hugh's we have a great welfare team, however many people across the country are not as fortunate and have to suffer from mental health problems in silence without the help they need. This simply is not good enough.
3. We should therefore utilise our fortunate position to try and improve the lives of others.
4. Financial support from the JCR would mean that students would be able to bake and donate their time to the bake sale without having to worry about the financial cost it might place upon them, and would hopefully encourage more people to participate.

The JCR resolves...

1. To give St Hugh's representatives of MIND up to £50 to reimburse people for the ingredients bought to bake cakes for the bake sale, on providing their receipts to the proposer.

Proposed by: Jennifer Holmes

Seconded by: Elise Page

Short factual points:

Hannah: Charity is my thing, and this is super! Jennifer I'll help you out.

Jennifer: It was very last minute, but great!

Roxy: Could you use the Entz budget instead?

Nathan: I'd have to check our budget, and like all official Entz events it would need approval by college, which might not happen in time.

Jennifer: Also, I thought it would be more suitable for this motion to go through the JCR since some of the money will go to charity.

Harrison: Where did you get that figure from?

Jennifer: I asked Elise's advice.

Elise: It would be enough to cover the cost of ingredients. We have a group of bakers lined up, but do get in touch if you want to join in.

Ana: It's a tricky legal issue for the JCR (a charity) to give directly to another charity.

Curtis: I'm sure James can get around it.

Roxy: refund people for their ingredients?

Dan: You could tweak the resolution so that it says 'up to £50'.

Jennifer: I'll make sure to get receipts from people.

Govind: This will mean there's lots of cake, which is a good thing!

The Secretary has understood the proposer, after agreeing with the points raised above that the JCR directly giving to charity is problematic, and that the whole £50 might not be needed, has amended resolves 1) of her motion:

from

'To give St Hugh's representatives of MIND £50 to go towards ingredients for the bake sale; any money not used will be added to sales money and donated to the charity.'

to

'To give St Hugh's representatives of MIND up to £50 to reimburse people for the ingredients bought to bake cakes for the bake sale, on providing their receipts to the proposer.'

No points of debate.

Move to vote.

None against, 1 abstention, all others in favour.

4. Action motions for debate not asking for funding.

Motion d) Policy on Aung San Suu Kyi

The JCR Notes that:

- 1) The Aung San Suu Kyi motion brought to the last JCR Meeting passed;
- 2) The beliefs and resolutions of said motion were critical, not supportive, of Aung San Suu Kyi;
- 3) The second resolution of said motion mandated the JCR Committee to petition college to write a letter of condemnation to Aung San Suu Kyi;
- 4) The JCR currently has a policy on Burma which was renewed January 22nd 2017 and is due to expire 2 years after that;

- 5) The exact wording of said policy is: *'The JCR expresses its support for Aung San Suu Kyi and the Burmese people in their struggle for democracy and human rights in Burma.'*
- 6) Said policy clearly contradicts the beliefs and resolutions of the Aung San Suu Kyi motion which was brought to the last JCR Meeting;
- 7) The JCR Committee has been mandated to act in a way which is incompatible with said current policy;
- 8) Any change to policy requires a supermajority to pass.

The JCR Believes that:

- 1) This contradiction should be resolved;
- 2) The outcome of last week's vote should take precedent over a policy renewed 9 months ago.

The JCR Resolves as a matter of policy:

- 1) To replace the existing JCR policy on Burma with the following with immediate effect: *'The JCR expresses its support for all the people of Burma, and especially all Burmese minority groups such as the Rohingya which face intolerable persecution, in their struggle for democracy and human rights in Burma.'*

Proposed: Curtis Crowley (JCR Secretary)

Seconded: Affnafee Rahman

Short factual points:

Cameron Marnoch: Why Burma not Myanmar?

Curtis: I don't know, both are used, and it says 'Burma' in the current policy.

Patrick: We had a vote that contradicted this policy, so why did it not just change automatically?

Curtis: For technical reasons, it just doesn't work like that.

No points of debate.

Move to vote.

49 votes for, 8 abstentions, none against.

The motion passes with the required supermajority.

The JCR Policy Book has been updated by the Secretary accordingly.

Motion e) Fixing the constitution (1st reading)

The JCR notes:

1. Neither the JCR Constitution nor Appendix A of the JCR Constitution (Terms of Reference for the JCR Committee) specifies how many JCR Committee Meetings should be held per term, nor indeed that any JCR Committee Meeting need be held at all;
2. The only specification is that all JCR Committee Members shall attend all JCR Committee Meetings;

3. The JCR Secretary has looked through the above constitutional documents carefully and is certain that this is the case;
4. The precedent set by the current JCR Committee and previous St Hugh's JCR Committees has been to hold a JCR Committee Meeting once a week during term-time i.e. to hold eight meetings per term.

The JCR believes:

1. The JCR Committee should be expressly mandated to hold at least eight Committee Meetings per term;
2. This is essential for the JCR Committee to function as effectively as possible.

The JCR resolves:

1. To add the following clause to Appendix A of the JCR Constitution:

'No fewer than eight JCR Committee Meetings shall be held during each Full Term (as defined by the University). Exactly when these meetings are held shall be at the discretion of the JCR President in consultation with the rest of the JCR Committee, although the JCR President should aim for JCR Committee Meetings to be held weekly.'

Proposer: Curtis Crowley (JCR Secretary)

Secunder: Ana Pavlova (JCR President)

Short factual points:

Ana: The handover documents from our predecessors told us to have 8 per term, and it's up to me to decide when. Basically, there's a gap in the constitution, since although we've been doing it, it's not officially binding to have 8 Committee Meetings per term.

Patrick: Why bother, aren't you bound to follow precedent anyway?

Elise: The point is to make it official.

Alex: What changes here?

Curtis: In future, we might potentially have really lazy Committees that might choose to meet once a term. This isn't good enough for the JCR. This motion prevents that, and it's what we've been doing anyway.

Roxy: Are there any negative repercussions if a Committee Member doesn't attend?

Curtis: If you have a good reason, you can just inform the President, and that'll be fine. You can submit a report even if you can't make it to the Meeting.

Nathan: There are also constitutional consequences for repeated non-attendance.

Cameron: You could still have lazy committees, that meet but hardly discuss anything in the meeting, so what does this achieve?

Curtis: Even if there's not much to decide on, it's still important for the Committee to make their reports to each other on what they've been doing which is still very valuable.

Elise: Even if the whole Committee doesn't have something to say, it gives everyone a chance to speak, and some at least will have some important stuff to raise.

Move to vote.

47 votes in favour, 4 against, 3 abstentions.

The motion passes.

5. Statement motions for debate.

6. Items for discussion.

Last Meeting's Aung San Suu Kyi motion, and what happens next - i.e. *Committee's petitioning of the principal/college to write a letter of condemnation*

N.B. These are just some of the points the Secretary managed to record and minute. They are by no means word-for-word, and probably not in the correct order, but convey the gist of some of the main points raised.

Kieran: The word 'complicit' was used in the original motion. It means an act to encourage or abet the perpetrator of a crime. This does not apply to ASSK, so the Committee shouldn't use it in the letter they write to the Principle.

Cameron: Her statements are enough to manifest support and abetting of the military and its actions. She has actively spread untruths, which is a form of complicity.

Alex: When will you be petitioning College? Will you be consulting us at the next JCR Meeting first?

Curtis: We will draft a case to present to college this week. College will almost definitely refuse or turn it down the first time. We will consult the JCR as much as we can, but we want to make speedy progress on this, and if we waited until the next JCR meeting it would drag on and probably never reach a conclusion.

Somebody: Who will be writing a letter? I'm confused.

Curtis: The Committee will write a letter petitioning the college to write a letter of condemnation of ASSK. It will be a joint effort by the Committee, using the arguments and points expressed in the motion and anything else that is brought to our attention.

Kieran: If we are concerned about the atrocities happening in Myanmar, we should condemn the other parties responsible as well, especially the military leader responsible for the violence against the Rohingya.

Harrison: We can't send letters to everyone.

Kieran: He is evil though.

Cameron: The letter should be focused on Aung San Suu Kyi, due to her connection with St Hugh's.

Curtis: Anything else you think could help us, please get in touch.

Hilau: What objections do you think college will raise?

Curtis: I think they expect quite a legally compelling case, because this is a big thing for the college to comment on, as it will have an impact on how the college is perceived, its relationship with its alumni, and of course the impact it could have on ASSK and her government.

Charlotte: Why not just write something ourselves?

Dan: This would not have the same impact as a letter from the college, but would be an option available if college were to refuse to do anything further.

Patrick: Is this still the ASSK room?

Ana: The renaming is in the works, as it has to go through the official channels. Once it does, the sign can be taken down.

Patrick: Will renaming it be discussed at the next meeting?

Dan: You could submit a motion at the time suggesting a new name.

7. Any other business.