

St Hugh's JCR - TT19 Meeting 1 - Agenda

Sunday 5th May 2019, 8pm, 2nd Week TT19, 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 this meeting
3. Late motions for admission
4. Action motions for debate asking for funding
5. Action motions for debate not asking for funding
6. Statement motions for debate
7. Items for discussion
8. Elections taking place in the JCR
9. Any other business

1. Reports from members of the JCR Committee.

President - Emma O'Callaghan

Vice President - Alice Worsley

Secretary - Oscar Baker

Treasurer - Vaibhav Chandak

Access - Maddie Mann

Welfare and Equal Opportunities - Lana Firth, Joseph Uhlar, and Rita Kimijima-Dennemeyer

Careers and Academic Affairs Rep - Harrison Engler

Entz Reps - Kavana Crossley and Aluet Nyuon

LGBTQ+ Rep - Katya Turchin

International Students' Rep - Aman Modi

Charities & Communities Rep - Laura Bishop

Environment & Ethics Rep - Jiaqi Li

Sports and Societies Rep - Viv Leong

DoDO - Leon Sui

Freshers' Rep - Morayo Adesina

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. Late motions for admission

Late Motion A: Plush Accessibility Campaign

THE JCR NOTES:

- Plush is Oxford's only club for the LGBTQ+ community and provides it with a safe space for LGBTQ+ people to be themselves.
- Prior to its move to Frewin Court, Plush was the only level-access club in Oxford, not to mention the only level-access LGBTQ+ venue in Oxford.
- LGBTQ+ people already struggle to find safe spaces, adding disability to the mix makes this even harder.
- Although efforts have been made to increase Plush's accessibility where it can given limited funds, such as providing a ramp indoors and a disabled toilet, a key piece of infrastructure is missing - a chair lift.
- Plush was forced to move premises recently and repurposing the new venue to make it accessible inside cost a lot of money. Despite this, it has already put £5,000 towards the new chairlift, which it has got the Oxford Union to match.
- Even with this huge contribution, Plush is financially unable to fund a chair lift for over a year as £8,500 is still needed.
- Extensive discussions with Plush, in consultation with LGBTQ+ Society, LGBTQ+ Campaign, including our Disability Reps, have come to the conclusion that accessibility for wheelchair users is indispensable and an immediate priority.
- This has led to the decision for a fundraiser to put in a chairlift as soon as possible, as otherwise there would be a delay of over a whole year.
- Money raised in this motion will go towards building the chair lift and buying house wheelchairs for those whose wheelchairs can't go down the stairs.
- Other colleges have donated to the cause already, with Wadham giving £1000 and Keble giving £300.
- 'Wheelchair users constantly have to ask "but is it accessible?" whenever invited out, and choose whether to be left out of the nightlife or risk injury trying to get into an inaccessible space, either by climbing, being carried, or walking. Adding a stair lift to Plush's new venue will mean no wheelchair user or ambulatory disabled person in Oxford

has to sit out another night, or be hurt trying to get in. Inclusive spaces are invaluable to the queer community, and too often disabled people get left out of the equation. Not in Oxford.' - Testimonial from Quin, LGBTQ+ Society Rep, and wheelchair user

- 'Much of the fundraising initiative has been about whether the LGBTQ+ community should be required to pay for accessibility. What this fails to grasp, though, is that able-bodied people who are allies to the disabled community - including LGBTQ+ able bodied people - should help their disabled peers remove structurally oppressive barriers to their full participation in social life. This is not about whether the LGBTQ+ Community should be paying for accessibility. It is about whether able-bodied allies to disabled people should be willing to contribute to the removal of a major obstacle to disabled people. To that question, the answer is an unequivocal yes.' - Testimonial from Alex, LGBTQ+ Campaign Disability Rep

THE JCR BELIEVES:

- Diversity and inclusion are core values of this JCR and worth striving for.
- Disabled people should not be excluded from LGBTQ+ spaces, and that making these spaces accessible once again is a priority.
- That showing solidarity and support for a wheelchair-friendly Plush would benefit both students and the local community and be in line with St Hugh's core principles and beliefs.
- Given that it would take Plush over a whole year to raise enough funds by itself (after its expensive forced relocation), able-bodied and LGBTQ+ allies need to show solidarity by donating, so disabled people are not forced to pay for their own accessibility.

THE JCR RESOLVES:

- To make a gift of £200 to Plush for this specific purpose.

Proposed by: Katya Turchin (JCR LGBTQ+ Rep)

Seconded by: Joseph Uhlar (JCR Welfare Rep)

Short factual points and debate:

- *J. Whalley asked whether this was a commercially run business. The LGBTQ+ Rep stated that this was the case, but the company cared deeply about improving accessibility at the club.*
- *J. Whalley: we should look at a loan at the market rate. The LGBTQ+ Rep says she will review this but this is a wider campaign asking for funding from JCRs.*
- *H. Hall echoed J. Whalley's concerns and noted that it was the same principle as giving to a company like BP. It would be better, surely, to offer contributions to charity.*
- *S. Hyland said this is not just about economic gain but also about improving experience for disabled people*
- *The Welfare Rep (L. Firth) echoed these points and recommended the motion.*
- *The LGBTQ+ Rep also said that wheelchair does not usually increase profits but about including people usually excluded from clubbing.*
- *The Secretary also noted that charitable donations directly from the JCR's motion budget was unconstitutional, but that this motion was entirely compatible.*

Vote:

20 in favour, 0 against, 10 abstentions.

THE MOTION PASSES.

Late Motion B: Clare Sports Day - Football and Lacrosse

THE JCR NOTES:

- Clare College are coming to Oxford for the inaugural Sports Day between St. Hugh's and our sister Cambridge college
- The day is full of activities open for all JCR spectators, and involves multiple sports.
- This event requires extra costs not foreseen as part of amalgamated funding grants, since this event has been finalised after the deadline for those applications.
- The Sports Ground Football Pitch, usually free to use and available to JCR Sports Clubs, is out of bounds due to it being Trinity Term. Therefore, to use a football pitch for football and mixed lacrosse requires hiring a public pitch to the north of College.

THE JCR BELIEVES:

- This event is for the benefit of all involved in College, no matter whether members are competing in sports or not
- To this end, the social event in the evening is open to all and everyone is welcome.
- We should help JCR sports clubs participate in the events by assisting in meeting unforeseen costs where these are proportionate, small and of a one-off nature. These should especially be met where facilities — usually free to use and available at our Sports Grounds — are out of bounds, thanks to it being a different season of the year.

THE JCR RESOLVES:

- To spend £33 of its motion budget in assisting the JCR Men's Football Club and JCR Mixed Lacrosse Club in hiring the pitch for use on the Clare-St. Hugh's Sports Day.
- To return any money not spent immediately to the JCR Motion Budget.

Proposed: Matt D'Aloisio

Seconded: Alice Worsley (JCR Vice-President)

Short factual points:

There were none.

Points of debate:

There were none.

Vote:

29 for, 1 against, 1 abstention

THE MOTION PASSES.

4. Action motions for debate asking for funding.

Motion A: 'How to Use a Washing Machine' National Tour

THE JCR NOTES:

- 'How to Use a Washing Machine' is an Oxford student production touring Oxford, Manchester, and Edinburgh during July and August following a successful run at the Burton Taylor Studio in Trinity 2018.
- 'How to Use a Washing Machine' is a funny and moving new musical by Oxford students about getting to grips with adulthood and the major choices and responsibilities it entails.
- 'How to Use a Washing Machine' is being led by college student Christina Hill as producer.
- The play is being made available in Relaxed Performances. These are performances specially adapted to provide a suitable environment for people with an autism spectrum condition, sensory or communication disorder, or other learning difficulty. Only around 1.1% of this year's Edinburgh Fringe shows offer such performances.
- The play is being performed exclusively at level-access venues, of which there are few in Edinburgh.
- This company is a member of the Staging Change network, an initiative created to promote greener theatre. As part of this group, we are striving to promote less waste and energy consumption in making and marketing theatre.
- The company runs an education and outreach initiative, which proved successful when run alongside our Michaelmas production of 'The Threepenny Opera'. It is in the early stages of reaching out to schools, community groups, and Oxford summer schools local to the venues to offer workshops and discounted tickets.
- Putting on a touring show is expensive, and the show is expected to cost £6800 to produce, most of which is due up front.
- The pro rata loans system which usually fund Oxford theatre is inadequate to fund tours and Fringe productions since they rarely make a return – only two out of around fifteen Oxford shows to go to Edinburgh in 2017 broke even. Many funding bodies will not accept applications to fund fringe shows.
- It's also expensive to take part in a touring show, with travel and accommodation costs running up to £770 per person.

THE JCR BELIEVES:

- It is important and valuable to individuals and the community to fund student artistic projects, and to give college members the opportunity to showcase their work across the country as representatives of the University and the college.
- It is good to support widening accessibility in the arts by promoting Relaxed Performances
- Student touring productions must gather money from a wide variety of sources, preferably as grants, given the nature of taking a show around the country.

THE JCR RESOLVES:

- To fund the touring production of 'How to Use a Washing Machine' with a grant to the amount of £100 toward the production costs.

Proposed: Christina Hill

Seconded: Kavana Crossley (JCR Entz Rep)

Short factual points:

There were none.

Points of debate:

There were none.

Vote: 18 vote, 1 against, 8 abstentions

THE MOTION PASSES.

Motion B: Ruskin Degree Show TT19

THE JCR NOTES:

- The Ruskin Degree Show is an annual event that third year Fine Art students exhibit their work in.
- The Ruskin Degree Show includes a Private View on the Friday of 8th week (21st June). This includes music, drinks and is a public celebration of the artist's work.
- The Show and Private View can be attended by any student at Hugh's, across the university, the Oxford community and the wider public.
- As part of this year's Degree Show Programme, we are also inviting school students, from the Oxfordshire area, in for student-led workshops.
- Members of Hugh's are Fine Artists.
- The Ruskin Degree Show is funded from various fundraising sources including the successful Ruskin Drawing Sales but most importantly, financial contributions from fine artist's college JCR's.

THE JCR BELIEVES:

- The Ruskin Degree Show is an important opportunity for exposing the talent of young artists and gaining recognition within the arts.
- The introduction of workshops and tours in the programme is essential in providing access to the arts for a wide range of communities (school and university students, the public)
- It is important to support the creative work of Hugh's students and the creative work of school students that will be produced within workshops.
- The Private View will be a great opportunity for Hugh's students to engage and connect with the art school that is located on Bullingdon Road in Cowley.

THE JCR RESOLVES:

- To give £200 to contribute to the Ruskin Degree Show in TT19 in return for acknowledgement of support in the Ruskin Degree Show catalogue.

Proposed: Molly Foulkes

Seconded: Charlotte Acheson

Short factual points:

No factual points

Points of debate:

J. Whalley argued that £200 is a lot to pay for acknowledgement. J. Whalley later floated a amendment to revise the motion to ask for just £100. This amendment was later withdrawn.

The Secretary noted wider concerns that it seemed unsatisfactory that the proposer of the motion asking for 25% of the motion budget was not present at the meeting, nor in the seconder.

General questions were asked about whether it would be better to have this vote once Molly Foulkes (The Proposer) is here, such that she can ask questions about the exhibition. Further questions about a proposed amendment to revise the amount down to £100 were also put.

The Secretary moved to vote, seconded by the President. The motion was defeated, but suggested that it be resubmitted by the proposer, such that their presence would ensure better and more informed debate.

Vote: 4 in favour, 21 against, 4 abstentions

THE MOTION FAILS.

5. Action motions for debate not asking for funding.

Motion A: Creation of a JCR Liaison Officer

THE JCR NOTES:

- St. Hugh's college currently pays scouts £9 p/a
- This is below the Oxford living wage, as calculated by the city council which currently stands at £10.02
- The cost of living in Oxford is very expensive, and has been found to be among the most expensive places in the country
- The Student Union currently operates a living wage campaign
- Other colleges have launched campaigns to pay their staff the Oxford living wage

THE JCR BELIEVES:

- Scouts, housekeepers and everyone else employed by St. Hugh's ought to be paid at least the Oxford living wage
- The JCR should support and stand in solidarity with workers at St Hugh's
- The JCR should seek to organise, lobby and take whatever action necessary to improve the wages of the workers at St. Hugh's
- A spirit of solidarity and activism among the JCR will be beneficial for members of the college

THE JCR RESOLVES:

- To create a new position on the JCR committee under the title of 'Liaison Officer' whose role is to liaise with college staff and help promote the Living Wage in college
- To launch a campaign for the Oxford Living Wage at St. Hugh's and seek to utilise creative methods to pressure college into improving pay conditions for staff

Proposed: Joe Higton

Seconded: Silvia Mills

Short factual points:

Questions were asked about the filling of this proposed JCR position. The Secretary noted that there will be a by-election, following two successful passages of the motion in line with the Constitution. This will be added to the bottom of the JCR Committee ballot positions, and will not impact this year's room ballot procedure, which was ongoing at the time of the meeting.

Points of debate:

The President spoke on behalf of the JCR Committee, following their Committee Meeting just before the Full JCR Meeting, at which the majority of points raised were in opposition to the motion. The President stressed that the role of the JCR Committee is to represent students: the essential nature of a representative function is that the representative is elected by those they represent. The President argued that this is not possible in this case, and also argued that the motion appears to be quite patronising. However, the President made it clear that the importance of the campaign should not be underemphasised as we can be more active in campaigning for changes towards the Oxford Living Wage.

J. Higton (The Proposer) argued that the representative function argument has been overdone; this motion is aimed more about raising awareness. In practice, J. Higton argued that he was not sure what the drawback of this would be. J. Higton also argued that the JCR interests would surely not run in contrast to paying staff more per hour. This seems the best way to keep constant focus on this issue going forward.

The President stressed it was important that the person sitting on College's committees is best placed to raise this issue, and that students could not fulfil this. The Secretary noted potentially incompatible conflicts of interest between the JCR and the Liaison Officer's role with regard to the setting of student rent levels, since college have stressed staff wages as a key argument for proposed rent raises in the past and during this year's rent negotiation.

J. Higton maintained that this motion was not patronising, but was simply backing staff members in line with the Living Wage Campaign.

J. Whalley suggested an amendment to remove the officer position.

The Welfare Rep (Joe Uhlar) disagreed, arguing that removing the officer position would take away from the motion's stated purpose. This was to make sure that simply agreeing a JCR policy in favour of the Oxford Living Wage does not become an anodyne action.

The proposer, Joe Higton, moved the motion to an online vote. Since this requires only singular proposition, this will be acted on accordingly.

Vote:

An online vote was held. The results were published and circulated to all JCR members. The votes for were 26, those against were 39 and there were no abstention.

THE MOTION FAILS, IN THE FIRST INSTANCE.

This motion requires double passage, and can be resubmitted at a later JCR meeting.

6. Statement motions for debate.

None submitted

7. Items for discussion.

None declared

8. Elections taking place in the JCR

There were none.

9. Any other business.

There was no other business.

Any questions regarding the running of this meeting should be directed to the Independent Chair, Paddy Byfield.