**JCR Meeting Minutes**

**Michaelmas 2015 Week 2**

## Chair: Bethany Currie

## Secretary: Ed Green

## Returning Officer: Henner Petin

# Report from the President

John Harrison (college bursar) has asked me to inform you that the JCR is in a very poor fiscal state. It is important that the JCR limits its spending, so no motions for Time Crisis Machines or suits of armour please. This does not mean don’t bring monetary motions, just that you have to think about it when you do.

# Reports/Questions to Officers

No questions to officers.

# Reading from the Poet Laureate

It was a lovely poem.

# Ratifications from Previous Meetings

Minutes ratified.

# Constitutional Amendments

**1. Oh so boring**

**This JCR notes:**

1. Concerning the JCR Levy, Article 3, part 7 of the JCR Constitution reads: “The amount of the levy will be set every academic year by the JCR Treasurer, subject to approval by a two thirds majority vote at two consecutive JCR Meetings. The level of the levy shall be submitted at the 4th week Trinity JCR Meeting, and ratified at the 6th. Failure to reach an approved sum shall mean the amount of the previous academic year’s levy is carried over.”;
2. Article 8, part 12 reads “The level of the JCR Levy may be changed by a motion passed in two consecutive JCR meetings by a two thirds majority.”

**This JCR believes:**

1. The JCR constitution is confusing and self-contradictory.
2. Frequent changes to the amount of the levy would be disruptive and undesirable but the Trinity deadline is pretty arbitrary, and too restrictive when the financial situation of the JCR can change significantly during the course of a year.
3. The JCR should be able, by passing a motion with a two thirds majority in consecutive JCR meetings, to change the level of the JCR levy during any term.

**This JCR resolves:**

1. To strike Article 3, Part 7.
2. To amend Article 8, Part 12 to read: “The level of the JCR Levy may be changed only by a motion brought by the JCR Treasurer and passed in two consecutive JCR meetings by a two thirds majority. Such a motion may only be brought once a term. If no motion is passed, the amount of the previous term’s levy shall be carried over.”

**Proposed: Kate Ogden**

**Seconded: Adrian Matthew**

### Short Factual Questions

Jem: Is there a reason why the motion would only grant the power to change the Levy to the JCR Treasurer?

Kate: It is so that a member of the JCR cannot independently change the Levy to something like 50p and bankrupt the JCR.

### Debate

No debate.

### Move to vote

Overwhelming majority.

### MOTION PASSES

# Motions of No Confidence

# Charities Motions

# Monetary Motions

**1. Winter is Coming**

**This JCR notes:**

1. It’s time for a new budget.

**This JCR believes:**

1. Budgets are good (and constitutionally required).
2. Debate about them is also good.
3. In the context of previous budgets, this one is pretty conservative.

**This JCR resolves:**

1. To pass the following budget for Michaelmas 2015:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ACADEMIC | £20.00 |
| DOMESTIC | £250.00 |
| NEWSPAPERS | £600.00 |
| PEER SUPPORT | £50.00 |
| MEETINGS | £260.00 |
| ENTZ (inc. cinema and games) | £150.00 |
| WELFARE | £700.00 |
| COMPUTING | £20.00 |
| ARTS | £50.00 |
| EQUAL OPPS | £50.00 |
| ENVIRONMENT AND ETHICS | £50.00 |
| ACCESS | £15.00 |
| RO/ADMIN | £20.00 |
|  |  |
| Direct Expenditure | £2,273.00 |
|  |  |
| CHARITIES | £3,000.00 |
|  |  |
| Total Expenditure | £5,273.00 |

**Proposed: Kate Ogden**

**Seconded: Paul Ritchie**

### Short Factual Questions

Jack: Can you explain the current financial standing of the JCR?

Kate: The graphs show that we spend a lot more than we get in, particularly in the last term. The Freshers’ Week budget was passed last term, and we lost money on that. We keep spending money in motions etc. and the numbers just do not add up. Ian’s tenure saw a £7000 deficit. If we adopt this budget and the increase in the Levy later, then we can run a slight deficit next term, but nothing too drastic.

Adrian: Why is the grant £2000 less than it should be?

Kate: They took money this term for Sky, milk etc. They also took £900 to train the Peer Supporters training, and £900 for performing rights that we share the MCR and the SCR (although we pay the vast majority). These costs are unpredictable, and so we are arranging a meeting with the SCR to ask them why they have served us with them all this term.

Adrian: How does this compare to other budgets, particularly MT14?

Kate: [Provides an answer, but I have included the MT14 budget below for comparison]

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Michaelmas 2014 Budget |  |
|  |  |
| ACADEMIC | £70.00 |
| DOMESTIC | £500.00 |
| NEWSPAPERS | £740.00 |
| PEER SUPPORT | £75.00 |
| MEETINGS | £300.00 |
| ENTZ (inc cinema and games) | £450.00 |
| MALE AND FEMALE WELFARE | £900.00 |
| COMPUTING | £20.00 |
| ARTS | £100.00 |
| EQUAL OPPS | £165.00 |
| ENVIRONMENT AND ETHICS | £50.00 |
| INTERNATIONAL | £30.00 |
| ACCESS | £20.00 |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| CLUBS AND SOCS | £250.00 |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Direct Expenditure | £3,920.00 |
|  |  |
| CHARITIES | £3,000.00 |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Total Expenditure | £6,360.00 |

Cameron: To what extent are college cooperating with us knowing that lots of it isn’t the fault of the current student body?

Kate: We haven’t had a meeting with them yet, but I don’t think that it will be particularly helpful.

Cameron: Is there a way for the JCR to actually have some control over the money that college takes, rather than just have it taken from us?

Kate: We cannot forecast what we’re actually going to get charged, but I want the SCR to help us spread out big payments and an annual list of payments of what to expect.

Mary: Is the newspapers budget a little high?

Kate: We cut it quite a lot last term after the review, but it should be about £520 this term for the daily papers, but with the OxStu and Cherwell thrown in it should be about £600.

Lottie: How many of each newspaper do we get?

Kate: We get one copy of each.

Lily: Can we question Peer Support costs?

Beth: We are going to, it has gone up over the last couple of years, so it seems like something we should know about in advance.

Akshay: Where are the newspapers?

Beth: In the JCR President’s pidge, the porters or me bring them over

### Debate:

Kate: Amends the motion to include all of the expenditure as below –

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ACADEMIC | £20.00 |
| DOMESTIC | £250.00 |
| NEWSPAPERS | £600.00 |
| PEER SUPPORT | £50.00 |
| MEETINGS | £260.00 |
| ENTZ (inc cinema and games) | £150.00 |
| WELFARE | £700.00 |
| COMPUTING | £20.00 |
| ARTS | £50.00 |
| EQUAL OPPS | £50.00 |
| ENVIRONMENT AND ETHICS | £50.00 |
|  |  |
| ACCESS | £15.00 |
| COMMITTEE MEAL | £200.00 |
|  |  |
| RO/ADMIN | £20.00 |
| TV LICENSE | £38.00 |
|  |  |
| Direct Expenditure | £2,473.00 |
|  |  |
| CHARITIES | £3,000.00 |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Total Expenditure | £5,473.00 |

### Move to vote

**Overwhelming majority pass the motion**

**2. aLEVYating the Deficit**

**This JCR notes:**

1. The JCR levy has not been revised in the lifetime of most JCR members; it was set at £5 in 1996. Inflation means it is now worth 59.6% of what it was when it was set (calculated using UK RPI);
2. According to the college’s audit, the JCR ran a deficit last calendar year of £7883.49, reducing our surplus from £12018.69 to £4135.20. The JCR’s expenditure has exceeded its income over the last 2 terms;
3. Corpus’ levy is low compared to those of other JCRs in Oxford; the majority set their levy at £10 a term.

**This JCR believes:**

1. The JCR’s current financial situation is unsustainable;
2. Budget cuts help but can only go so far; if we want nice things we have to pay for them;
3. The chance of negotiating an increase in the college grant is slim; other funding options (such as corporate sponsorship) can be looked at but also seem unlikely to be successful;
4. Many JCR members will not notice an additional £3 a term, but the impact on the JCR’s finances will be significant and positive (generating an additional £700 a term);
5. The opt-out system will be continued, so any students who would be unable to afford the additional expense would not be forced to pay it.

**This JCR resolves:**

1. To mandate the President and/or Treasurer to ask the Bursary to consider increasing the College Grant, and to look at alternative funding options;
2. To increase the termly JCR levy from £5 to £8.

**Proposed: Kate Ogden**

**Seconded: Nikhil Venkatesh**

### Short Factual Questions

Cameron: Can Kate as JCR Treasurer do this?

Henner/Ed: There are two constitutional methods of doing so yes.

Finn: How do you opt out?

Kate: You send an email to me about wanting to opt out confidentially, and then you forfeit some rights like JCR tea, standing for JCR office etc.

Finn: What if the person is on a means tested bursary?

Kate: It’s unrelated to the means tested bursary.

Lottie: Is the raise in the Levy going to get us more for our money or maintain the same level?

Kate: Raising the Levy to this level will keep services the same.

Paul: What would corporate sponsorship of the JCR involve?

Sandy: A corporation would sponsor a JCR if they thought that it would get them some employees further down the line. The solution if you wanted to go that way would probably be an old member who wanted to contribute to the JCR.

### Debate:

Nikhil: Amend resolves (1) so that it reads:

1. To mandate the President and/or Treasurer to ask the Bursary to consider increasing the College Grant, and to look at alternative funding options **and to review the way in which charges are deducted from the Levy.** [amendment in highlighted text].

### Taken as friendly

Cameron: Amend resolves (2) so that it reads:

1. To increase the termly JCR levy from £5 to **£10.**

### Taken as unfriendly

### Debate on the Amendment Begins

Jack: We should have a poll

Sandy: Would the change to £10 make a practical difference.

Kate: It would help, but everything would help.

Adrian: It is important to consider that Kate has already reduced it from the actual rate of inflation, and maybe we should put it at £10 and then not have to revisit the issue every year.

Lottie: Is £8 enough?

Kate: really hard to say, I don’t know how much we’re going to spend. Monetary motions/charges make it difficult. £10 would be lovely.

Sammy: If we change the Levy to £10 then would there be a way to leave the option to pay £5? It might be problematic to implement as then everyone could pay £5.

Kate: Don’t know how it would work in practice, but it is an option to consider.

Jem: I think that the thing that Adrian was saying if we should make it thinking that we need it later. Don’t know if we should pay now for other JCRs. The Treasurer setting the Levy every year would work.

Tom: Making it £30 a year would be a reasonable amount of money, and maybe it would be exclusionary to some people considering you can’t go to JCR Tea if you don’t pay.

Kate: The majority of the people on the opt-out list don’t actually come into college or participate in college life.

Mary: Is there a way that we can change the rights of the people who have opted-out?

Beth: Yes, an amendment to the Constitution would be the appropriate method.

Nikhil: It was my understanding that the JCR’s financial situation would still result in a deficit if the Levy is £8

Kate: The estimate says so yes, at a small loss.

Nikhil: The JCR could do with as much money as it could, and it gives out an awful lot. To continue doing so, it needs as much money as it can right now. Most other colleges in Oxford charge £10, and I don’t think there’s a huge desire in other colleges to reduce their Levy. £10 seems pretty reasonable, and we could maybe leave the opt-out debate, as it is tangential to the amendment at hand.

Luke: The opt-out process is not tangential, if we raise it and don’t change the opt-out procedure then there might be a problem. When these rights were taken away, it was my first meeting in first year, and the motivation was to take rights away from those who they believed weren’t contributing enough.

Nikhil: £10 a term is 16p a day

### Move to vote on amendment:

### Overwhelming majority pass the amendment.

### Cameron is the new proposer

### Debate returns to the original motion

Noni: This money isn’t going into Beth’s pockets; you directly profit from it. There should be a procedure to opt-out if you don’t get anything from contributing to the JCR, but the money is going towards us.

Sandy: College knows about your financial situation and will work it out. There is a clear discretionary power at both the college and the JCR level in terms of finances. The motion to include the opt-out forfeits was actually passed was certain people in the JCR figured out that they could get away with not paying the Levy and getting the benefits of membership.

Nikhil: I think the JCR Levy should be increased because I don’t want to see Welfare Tea cut, free bops etc. and thus the JCR needs to have a solid financial foundation.

Cameron: I disagree that the Levy is independent to the opt-out. At the same time this belongs in a separate motion.

Jem: It is very important to point out all the things that the JCR does for you, and that £10 is a good deal when you don’t have a lot of food. The Officers also do a lot of work and the Levy facilitates this.

### Move to vote; no opposition

The motion stands as follows:

**This JCR notes:**

1. The JCR levy has not been revised in the lifetime of most JCR members; it was set at £5 in 1996. Inflation means it is now worth 59.6% of what it was when it was set (calculated using UK RPI);
2. According to the college’s audit, the JCR ran a deficit last calendar year of £7883.49, reducing our surplus from £12018.69 to £4135.20. The JCR’s expenditure has exceeded its income over the last 2 terms;
3. Corpus’ levy is low compared to those of other JCRs in Oxford; the majority set their levy at £10 a term.

**This JCR believes:**

1. The JCR’s current financial situation is unsustainable;
2. Budget cuts help but can only go so far; if we want nice things we have to pay for them;
3. The chance of negotiating an increase in the college grant is slim; other funding options (such as corporate sponsorship) can be looked at but also seem unlikely to be successful;
4. Many JCR members will not notice an additional £3 a term, but the impact on the JCR’s finances will be significant and positive (generating an additional £700 a term);
5. The opt-out system will be continued, so any students who would be unable to afford the additional expense would not be forced to pay it.

**This JCR resolves:**

1. To mandate the President and/or Treasurer to ask the Bursary to consider increasing the College Grant, and to look at alternative funding options and to review the way in which charges are deducted from the Levy;
2. To increase the termly JCR levy from £5 to £10.

### Overwhelming majority pass the motion

1. **Subscribing to The Oxymoron**

**This JCR notes:**

1. The Oxymoron is a satirical magazine produced by Oxford students that comes out once a term;
2. A termly subscription to The Oxymoron costs £15 for 25 copies;
3. Past issues of The Oxymoron can be found at <http://www.theoxymoron.co.uk/>.

**This JCR believes:**

1. That The Oxymoron is highly amusing;
2. That £15 is a good price to pay to get lots of laughs.

**This JCR resolves:**

1. Buy this term’s issue of The Oxymoron.
2. Mandate the Treasurer (Kate) to renew our subscription for as long as he or she feels it is worth the subscription fee, or until a new JCR motion is passed to stop the subscription.

**Proposed: Jack Holland now Nikhil**

**Seconded: Nikhil Venkatesh now Cameron**

**{IN JACK HOLLAND’S ABSENCE, NIKHIL BECOMES THE NEW PROPOSER OF THE MOTION AND CAMERON BECOMES THE NEW SECONDER OF THE MOTION}**

### Short Factual Questions

Adrian: Do we have to get 25? Can we afford it?

Nikhil: 25 is the minimum amount that can be ordered.

Kate: The JCR can afford it.

Sandy: Can we split it with another college? Christ Church perhaps?

Nikhil: Possibly, I’ll look into it.

### No Debate

### Vote:

For: 18

Abstentions: 9

Against: 1

### The motion passes

# Motions as Submitted

**1.** [**CorpusJCR.org**](http://corpusjcr.org)

**This JCR notes:**

1. Quite a lot of the pages on corpusjcr.org have been under construction since incoming Freshers applied;
2. Prior to the website’s renovations, there was a lot of information at said URL.

**This JCR believes:**

1. [corpusjcr.org](http://corpusjcr.org/) is very important for access reasons;
2. It’s also sick for people excited about coming up with nothing better to do all summer;
3. It makes the JCR look good to have a cool website with information and stuff.

**This JCR resolves:**

1. Mandate the President to redirect incomplete pages to the original [www.corpusjcr.org](http://www.corpusjcr.org) design as found on the Web Archive (“Wayback Machine”), or to delegate said power to somebody else;
2. Alternatively copy & paste information from the Web Archives onto the new website as a temporary measure (or delegate).

**Proposed: Akshay Bilolikar**

**Seconded: Finn Lees**

### This motion was withdrawn

# Emergency Motions

1. **BME rep by-election**

**This JCR notes:**

1. That as a result of Kiran Benipal’s absence, the JCR currently has no BME rep as required by the JCR constitution Article 6, Section 26.
2. That Jin Kim is the only nominee to fill this position.

**This JCR believes:**

1. That Jin Kim would make an excellent BME rep and the JCR should be happy to have him in this position.

**This JCR resolves**

1. To let Jin Kim take up the position of BME rep without election.

**Proposed: Henner Petin (Returning Officer, cf. Article 6, Section 4)**

**Seconded: Leila Parsa**

**{IN THE ABSENCE OF LEILA, AND BECAUSE THE CONSTITUTION REQUIRES TWO COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO PROPOSE AND SECOND THIS MOTION, KATE OGDEN BECOME THE SECONDER}**

### Short Factual Questions:

Nikhil: What are your plans for the role?

Jin: There is a lack of awareness about racial diversity in Corpus and minority groups are a very small number. I’m planning on sending out surveys so people can talk anonymously about what they have experienced, and we could make a video to send out to the Freshers’ on the same topic.

Rose: What about BME-specific welfare?

Jin: We could organise a welfare tea, and could talk there about welfare issues.

Mary: Does this mean there is no hust?

Henner: Yes, passing this motion constitutes election of the candidate.

Kate: Have you had/do you have plans to rename it?

Jin: BME is about equality, and therefore I think having just Black in the title is not equal

Nikhil: Would you commit to coming to CRAE one afternoon a term?

Jin: If I have the time, yes.

Iona: Would these surveys prioritise BME people?

Jin: I don’t think that you can classify a group of BME people and therefore I’d send it to everyone.

### Debate:

Sammy: Despite what the Constitution says, there should still be a formal vote to elect him. There is a very small portion of the JCR in this room.

Mary: Did people know that it would be the election?

Ed: It’s in the email, but that is by no means a guarantee.

Nikhil: I think that there are not two thirds majority of people in this room are BME, and so we should have a full vote.

Adrian: Could we have a normal vote?

Henner: The Constitution says that this is the way that it should happen. If the motion falls, then nominations will be reopened and candidates can reapply (including Jin)

Jemimah: I had to hust for RAG Officer and I think it would be demeaning not to have a hust for the BME Rep. I think it’s worthy of a full vote and a hust, and then the candidates can be accountable for what they promise.

### Move to vote; no objections

### Vote is conducted by secret ballot

For: 5

Against: 28

Spoilt: 1

### Motion Falls

# Any Other Business