

JCR Meeting Minutes

Michaelmas 2015 Week 4

Chair: Bethany Currie

Secretary: Edward Green

Returning Officer: Henner Petin

I. Report from the President

Beth: The government are in the process of changing the constituency boundaries, you need to reregister now in your university address to make sure that the population density is accounted for. If you don't register here now, then people in five years will have their vote devalued as a consequence.

II. Reports/Questions to Officers

Cameron: Can you explain the letter that you sent around, can you explain why cheques were backdated?

Kate: Not sure; when a cheque is cashed in another term than it was offered

Cameron: Lots of our money was apparently unaccounted for? Do we know what's going on with the money in the JCR?

Kate: No. The bursary got a carrier bag full of receipts that they were quite unhappy with. I think it was disorganised rather than embezzlement.

Paul: Can you explain the current state of the JCR finances?

Kate: Bit better, we got some money back which solves our immediate cash flow problems. Wait until the end of the meeting for a number.

III. Reading from the Poet Laureate

IV. Ratifications from Previous Meetings

Notes from previous meeting ratified.

V. Constitutional Amendments

1. I Just Can't Chair This Anymore!

This JCR Notes:

1. The RO is given power to interpret and enforce the constitution and yet is an unelected position;
2. That in many other JCRs the president is allowed to speak during meetings with the chair being a separate, elected position;
3. That the President is likely to have key knowledge about workings of the College, OUSU and their campaigns, etc. that can be useful in JCR meetings;

This JCR Believes:

1. That the RO should be an elected position;

2. It would be beneficial for the President to be allowed to talk in JCR meetings freely;

This JCR Resolves:

1. To amend the standing orders of the returning officer to read "Elected." Rather than "Appointed";
2. To amend article 4, paragraph 2, sub-paragraph i to read: "JCR Vice President, Returning Officer" and from "Welfare Officer (Male)" to read as before;
3. To strike from the constitution: Article 4, paragraph 45. Which concerns the appointment of the RO by the Executive;
4. To strike from the constitution: Article 6, paragraph article 72, paragraph 72, which states that the President must cede the chair in order to submit a motion.
5. To amend Article 6, paragraph 11 of the constitution to read:
"Should the Returning Officer fail to call an Extraordinary Meeting of the JCR within the required time frame, the JCR President shall be required to bring a motion of no confidence in them at the next Ordinary JCR meeting.";
6. To amend article 6, paragraph 63 of the constitution to read: "The Chair shall ensure the meeting is conducted within the bounds of the constitution.";
7. To amend the following paragraphs of Article 6 of the constitution such that all instances of "JCR President" are replaced with "Returning Officer":

4 - Admitting emergency motions

5 - Admitting emergency motions backed by 35 signatures

8 - Calling emergency meetings

9 - Publishing the time and agenda of an emergency meeting

20 - Emergency motions (again)

60 - Actually makes RO the chair

62 - Concerning a temporary chair

Proposed: Cameron McGarry

Seconded: Arthur Harris

Short Factual Questions: None

Debate:

Noni: Why would we make RO elected? I think it's a good idea not to have the President chairing, but why the RO?

Cameron: I feel that the RO has the final say on how the Constitution is interpreted, and that it doesn't make sense for them to be appointed by the Executive.

Sammy: How would you hush for the position of RO? It's not a job that you can revolutionise or change every year, so how would you be able to differentiate between the people?

Henner: Reinforce Sammy's point that the RO isn't supposed to be somebody who has a personal opinion on the Constitution, having somebody who does that who is

not on the Exec is a good thing. Wouldn't make sense if I had to hust for it. Not a great idea, nor to have it Chair the Meeting.

Akshay: Doesn't make sense for the RO to be appointed, but you could have solutions to that, like maybe having the RO appointed by an outgoing President.

Kate: I see a problem with it, but maybe could have people proposed then confirmed by the JCR?

Ed: How would you decide between the candidates and what to vote based on?

Kate: Because you can't make promises, it's more a question of do you have the capacity to do the job.

Noni: I don't think that's anything necessarily counterintuitive about having the RO appointed by the people who they police, it is something that is used practically in the real world.

Redha: Can the Exec remove the RO? If not, then there's actually no reason to elect it, as they have security of tenure. Making it elected and more partisan does not make sense, Henner could feel free to make the decisions that he thought best without having to worry about his job.

Henner: I would be under the same scrutiny and removable in the way that any Officer is, so I'm not dependent on the agreement or consent of the Executive.

Cameron: Yeah you're technically right that the Exec wanted to elect the people who would be neutral, but it could be used in the wrong way and exploited.

Akshay: I agree that there is a problem, but I don't think that this is the right solution

Sammy: If we know that Beth and Ed can override him, then what you've said is contradictory, as electing them would not actually solve the problem.

Redha:

Amendment: Instead of electing the RO, we should ratify the appointment.

[Strike Resolves 1, 2, and makes Resolves (3) To amend Article 4, paragraph 45 to read:

45. The Returning Officer shall be appointed by the President, Vice-President and Treasurer at the end of the 2nd week meeting in Trinity term. The Returning Officer shall be chosen via simple majority amongst the appointing panel. This decision shall be ratified by the JCR at the 2nd week meeting by a simple majority. If the candidate is not ratified, then the appointing committee shall appoint another candidate in 4th week and submit them for ratification, and this shall continue until a candidate is appointed.

Taken as friendly

Akshay: What are your opinions on making the RO Chair of the meeting?

Henner: I'm not in favour, I think that it's mixing two different jobs.

Paul: When we were discussing the Constitution, Henner had to check it furiously in the corner so it might not be the best thing to force the chairing of the meeting on him as well.

Cameron: Makes sense to one person doing more things, it makes sense to have him Chairing and interpreting, makes sense to give him consolidated power, so that everyone else can get on with the discussion and allows the President to take part in the discussion.

Noni: Who should be chairing the meeting? In many cases it's the VP, hand in our college Ed collects the agenda so it fits naturally. Maybe the VP should chair the Meeting?

Beth: We have a loose interpretation of the Constitution; we may let them cede the chair if the President wishes to bring a motion/take a very active role in discussion?

Akshay: Maybe we should let this motion fail and reintroduce it at another point when we've thought about it more?

Kate: I like the idea of the RO being appointed and ratified, all these roles need doing, and they need to be done by separate people to be done efficiently.

Lucie: So far there seems to be a consensus that Beth should speak, but the solution so far is doubling up the role, so we might need a new position, the Chair.

Julian: The Exec role that we haven't talked about is the Treasurer, could they chair?

Kate: The Treasurer has no power, maybe shouldn't stop them speaking on monetary motions?

Arthur: Plenty of other JCRs do merge ROs and Chairs (Somerville and LMH do).

Cameron: Basically if we add another Committee Position, who we elect just to do the Chairing. We could elect a Chair, that would be their only job, doesn't make sense for it not to be committee

Ed: Other JCRs have RO and Chair as the same, but are their constitutions as muddled as ours?

Noni: Given that who Chairs seems as though it might make and break the motion to break the motion into bits.

[Move to vote: opposed]

Akshay: We might as well make it so the RO is appointed by the outgoing Exec.

Vote on the move to vote: Overwhelming

A procedural motion is then passed to take the motion in parts, and thus the resolves are divided in [1, 2, and 3] and [4, 5, 6, 7]

Resolves 1,2,3 passed are passed with overwhelming majority.

Short Factual Questions on 4, 5, 6, and 7.

Julian: Is there anything that would practically stop us from changing it to a speaking role?

Lucie: How much power does the Chair have?

Cameron: Arguably the most power, but also the least power.

Jemimah: In other colleges the VP Chairs, who does the minutes?

Noni: The Secretary [a different position entirely]

Move to debate; no opposition.

Cameron's amendment: creates a resolves 8;

"The overturning of a Chair's ruling requires a two thirds majority (except as in 44 below). The outcome of other procedural motions shall be decided by a simple majority. During consideration of Motions of No Confidence in the Chair, and of Motions to Overturn a Ruling of the Chair, the Chair shall pass to the Vice-President or, if they are the proposer of the Motion in question, to the treasurer."

Automatically taken as friendly

Lucie: Could you have a non-elected Chair so that the President can speak?

Sammy: Maybe rotating it through Committee Members each meeting?

Kate: Problem with rotating is that you actually need to know all the bits of the Constitution, not sure that this would work.

Alice: I guess whenever you elect anyone as head as anything they become the figurehead, since Beth's been elected as the figurehead, don't see that there's really any problem.

Cameron: Don't think that Beth would be questioned as head of the JCR. If you were to rotate them it wouldn't make sense, don't often have motions for specific roles,

but is there an ad hoc procedure if they're chairing and something comes up. Entz don't often have motions that directly affect them, then they would have to cede the Chair.

Julian: The President has been the Chair and has often spoken. Has that actually been a real problem?

Arthur: I think it's a bad idea to have the Chair involved in the meeting in any capacity.

Lucie: Would it be a significant problem to have a Chair who is appointed by the Committee who would do it every week?

Cameron: Like the idea of ratification by the JCR, on it's own no. If you want to bring a new position, I think you should vote down this one and bring a new motion.

Kate: It just sort of works as it does.

Move to vote: no opposition

For 5: Against: 18 Abstain: just Graham [pick a side and stick with it Graham]

Motion falls

2. Creation of a Staff Liaison Officer

This JCR notes:

1. The vital contribution made by college staff to student happiness and wellbeing at Oxford;
2. That staff pay and working conditions can be inadequate and vulnerable to top-down change;
3. The impressive success of the Oxford Living Wage campaign in advancing the living wage and accreditation over 2014-15;
4. The difficulties faced by groups such as the Oxford Living Wage campaign in establishing reliable channels of communication with college hierarchies on staff-related issues;
5. The potential conflict of interests involved for the JCR Treasurer in working to improve staff pay and conditions given their close professional cooperation with college employers/the Domestic Bursar.

This JCR believes:

1. In solidarity between the students and staff – academic and non-academic - in our community;
2. The Oxford Living Wage campaign has proved itself an effective vehicle of workplace improvement across Oxford University;
3. To avoid paternalist connotations, solidarity action needs to actively communicate with and include the workforce;
4. Positive workplace change is best achieved and secured with the direct participation of the workers in efforts to achieve it;

5. Student efforts to improve our staff's pay and conditions should not be defeated by college obstructionism;
6. In order to better support the Corpus Christi College workforce and give it the respect it deserves as such an important contributor to our daily wellbeing, we need a JCR Officer specially designated as a liaison between the student community and the non-academic staff.

This JCR resolves:

1. To create the non-Committee position of a "Staff Liaison Officer", elected in the Michaelmas term elections;
2. To create the following standing orders for the "Staff Liaison Officer"
 1. To attend all non-academic staff meetings and Living Wage meetings as the JCR's representative;
 2. To report back to the JCR on these meetings;
 3. To act as a point of contact for students concerned with staff-related issues and help organise joint student-staff activities on behalf of the JCR;
3. To update the Constitution to reflect this new position.

Proposed: Bethany Currie

Seconded: Jem Jones/Jamie Wells

The chair cedes the chair and the vice president now chairs the meeting.

Amendments to this motion proposed and taken as friendly by Beth are included in the reading of this motion. It therefore reads as follows:

This JCR notes:

1. The vital contribution made by college staff to student happiness and wellbeing at Oxford
2. That staff pay and working conditions can be inadequate and vulnerable to topdown change
3. The impressive success of the Oxford Living Wage campaign in advancing the living wage and accreditation over 2014-15
4. The difficulties faced by groups such as the Oxford Living Wage campaign in establishing reliable channels of communication with college hierarchies on staff-related issues
5. That other colleges (such as Wadham, St Hugh's and LMH) run events to let the staff know how much the students appreciate them

This JCR believes:

1. In solidarity between the students and staff – academic and non-academic – in our community
2. The Oxford Living Wage campaign has proved itself an effective vehicle of workplace improvement across Oxford University
3. To avoid paternalist connotations, solidarity action needs to actively communicate with and include the workforce

4. Positive workplace change is best achieved and secured with the direct participation of the workers in efforts to achieve it
5. In order to better support the Corpus Christi College workforce and give it the respect it deserves as such an important contributor to our daily wellbeing, we need a JCR Officer specially designated as a liaison between the student community and the non-academic staff
6. That our staff are all completely terrific and deserve to know how much we appreciate them

This JCR resolves:

1. To create the non-Committee position of a “Staff Liaison Officer”, elected in the Michaelmas term elections;
2. To create the following standing orders for the “Staff Liaison Officer”
 1. To attend Living Wage meetings as the JCR’s representative
 2. To organise meetings at least once a month with the heads of all non-academic staff departments in college to talk through any issues that have arisen
 3. To report back to the JCR on these meetings
 4. To act as a point of contact for students concerned with staff-related issues and help organise joint student-staff activities on behalf of the JCR, specifically arranging at least one coffee morning with the staff each term.
3. To update the Constitution to reflect this new position.
4. To mandate the JCR President to organise this term’s coffee morning in 8th week, given that we will not be able to elect someone into the role in time

Short factual questions:

Paul requests another reading of resolves 1.

New seconder: Jamie

Sammy: Why not a Committee position?

Beth: The committee is big enough.

Kate: It would also be more expensive.

Cameron: Why can the DO not do it?

Beth: Too much to do. They have to deal with college superiors already, this shouldn’t be involved with the same people and so we wouldn’t want crossover.

[Move to Debate; no opposition](#)

Akshay: I’m not convinced that the DO shouldn’t do it. Doesn’t make sense for the Officer not to be committee.

Arthur: DO essentially biscuit monitor. Strong difference between the two jobs.

Sammy: DO has a lot.

Kate: Amendment: add resolves (4) to include a budget of max. £100

Taken as friendly

Rose: What if the staff don't come?

Beth: It'll be their morning break, Hannah said it will also be paid work time.

Redha: Could you brief us on the meeting you had with Hannah?

Beth: Spoke to Hannah; happy discuss all issues; she puts on 'thank you' event anyway; she knew about problems that I didn't know about either. So, agreement that there should be an approachable person. There should be a monthly meeting with college staff anyway.

Q: What about staff meetings?

Beth: This would be separate.

Move to vote: no opposition

For: 23, Against: 0.

The motion passes.

The chair passes back to the President, and the minutes pass back to the Vice-President

VI. Motions of No Confidence

VII. Charities Motions

VIII. Monetary Motions

1. Funding the GNO Campaign

This JCR notes:

1. There have been several instances of harassment of LGBTQ couples by staff in clubs in Oxford in the past year;
2. Harassment of women in clubs is an ongoing problem, and Oxford is no exception;
3. People of colour often face discrimination and abuse in clubs and bars;
4. People with disabilities also face discrimination and experience difficulties with club staff and patrons;
5. The Good Night Out campaign aims to minimise such incidents and the ignorance from which they originate by training bar and club staff to deal with these situations.

This JCR believes:

1. Everybody has the right to feel safe and at ease when on nights out in Oxford;
2. Raising awareness among venue staff is an effective way of eliminating both discriminatory behaviour from them and harassment from other guests;
3. Connecting with a nationwide campaign would make Oxford part of a useful network of institutions similarly committed to eliminating harassment of LGBTQ people, women, people of colour and people with disabilities in bars and clubs.

This JCR resolves:

1. To give £100 to the Good Night Out Oxford campaign towards the training of student volunteers, who will then in turn run training sessions for club and bar staff in the main student venues in Oxford.

Proposed: Noni Csogor

Seconded: Edmund Little

Short Factual Questions:

Paul: Is there any reason why the venues would attend these sessions?

Noni: No, they've had a pretty good response, but if they said no then there's nothing we could do about it.

Sammy: Where does the £100 come from?

Noni: They were asking to commit £250 last term, but this is the recommended figure from the GNO Campaign for JCRs.

Lucie: What kind of success does the GNO have?

Noni: Not too clued into it, held a couple of events, Edmund can tell you more.

Ed: Had nine students at St. Johns last term to do the training, we've trained Wahoo and someone else and got positive feedback towards it. They didn't like being told by uppity students, it was patronising to be told how to do their jobs, but they clearly got something out of it.

Noni: Training is happening again this term

???: Do we know which clubs said yes and which ones said no?

Sandy: Plush said yes enthusiastically, Wahoo will get involved, Bridge are maybes, Atik haven't replied. All depends on the managers of the clubs

Frances: Can we afford the £100?

Kate: If this is what you want to spend money on then we will be fine

Noni: How much money have we spent this term on monetary motions?

Kate: Will be a different answer at the end of this meeting, but we're quite light at the moment in terms of spending.

Debate; no opposition

Vote; no opposition.

Motion passes.

2. No Committee Meal No Cry

This JCR notes:

1. That the JCR officers put a lot of effort into their positions

2. That one of the perks for some officers is the committee meals that cost the JCR £600 per year
3. That we are living in times of austerity - the Treasurer has said that there is only £500 to spend on monetary motions per term even after significant budget cut

This JCR believes:

1. In rewarding its officers
2. That this expenditure is excessive

This JCR resolves:

1. To award an annual committee meal in Michaelmas term budgeted at £10.53 for each committee member who attends instead of the current arrangement, to take effect from Hilary term 2016.

Proposed: Arthur Harris

Seconded: Cameron McGarry

Short factual questions:

Kate: Where does £10.53 come from?

Arthur: That was the number of people who are on committee divided by the £200 that was the budget for each term.

Sammy: How much is our budget this term?

Kate: Works out to £200 if we have 18 people attend

Graham: Where do you intend to go for £10.53?

Kate: This term we're going to Pierre Victoire

Graham: What about McDonalds/Ahmeds?

Debate:

Julian: Not necessarily opposed to this, but I was not able to go to last terms or this term, and I don't feel as connected to the committee as I might be. It does help if the Committee know each other well as they can work together.

Sammy: There are behind the scenes roles that are a substantial time commitment, and it is one of the only things that the Committee actually get. They are quite a nice thing, if we cut it down to one maybe it could be one big one?

Lucie: If you're making it once a term could it be a formal hall a term and a meal?

Lottie: Committee get priority for formal hall anyway? Would giving them a formal not undermine the role of the priority pass?

Sammy: I don't think most Committee use the priority because it's tricky to use as it doesn't cover groups

Frances: Could you extend Committee privilege to groups and then do a meal once a year?

Julian: Formal pass is a perk of Committee rather than a method of giving the committee a reward, they're two separate things.

Kate: Not opposed to having it once a year, it's a bit sad that you don't want to give us a committee meal

Jamie: I would support once a term, if you are going to take it down I think you should take it down to two a year because there are actually two committees a year. Part of the reason was to actually encourage people to participate, and this seems to be scaling it back and therefore making it less likely that people would actually run for positions.

Lottie: Would you be kind of scared that the JCR would take away your meal each term?

Kate: You can do that now if you want to; it goes on the budget each term and you can vote it off if you want to.

Arthur: When the budget was sent around, the committee meal actually wasn't on there.

Kate: It was in one of the documents that I sent you

Arthur:

Amendment to resolves (1);

To strongly recommend that the Treasurer does not put a committee meal on the Hilary and Trinity, but to strongly endorse it in Michaelmas.

Automatically taken as friendly

Sammy:

Amendment to resolves (1) I think we should have one in Trinity and Michaelmas as well {hostile}

Lucie: I think it sounds good

Arthur: Raising the costs again, is it worth £400?

Kate: You set the budget, it doesn't have to be £400

Cameron: The issue is having the extra meal in Trinity is you can either have it at the start of the term, but you should really do it at the end of term, but that's exam territory.

Sammy: We had it before and it's worked fine.

Sammy: This motion is not committing you to a monetary figure.

Redha: Why is the committee meal not put into a separate motion?

Kate: Nothing is automatically put into the budget, because it's a precedent I put it in and the JCR voted on it.

Cameron: Seems to be that most Committees in other societies pay for it themselves. If the committee really wants a meal for themselves, they should pay for it.

Sammy: It is meant to be a reward for the Committee and might exclude those who can't afford to pay for it.

Jamie: Don't underestimate the cost of going out for some people.

Jemimah: You've forgotten the whole thing of giving people a reward for good work.

Kate: That we have a Committee Meal is a convention, we could just not have one. The JCR could remove it, we don't need guidance, this motion does not really do anything at all.

Arthur: Slipped through loads of budgets, term's worth of spending gone. It's good to have a discussion on what the JCR has spent its money on and what we want to do. Hopefully after this more questions will be asked.

Josh: It is possible to slip through, it would be interesting to see who is actually for and against it.

Paul: Has the motion been amended to currently advise? Won't we just have this discussion next term.

Vote on amendment; no opposition

For: 18, Against: 5, Abstentions: 0

Amendment passes; Sammy is now proposer of the motion, Lucie is seconding it

Cameron:

Amendment: to resolves (1) to strongly advise all non-committee members be invited to the meeting and pay for them as well.

Sammy: This seems contradictory; subsidising the committee officers reflects the responsibility and time commitment that they have put in.

Lucie: How many people are non-committee?

Kate: 14 people. Where can you book for 33 people?

Cameron: Appreciate the non-committee position workload, but I put together the JCR's website and I'm non-committee.

Akshay: Website's not complete

[Amendment falls in the absence of Cameron and no-one stepping in to propose it]

Sammy: What will come about? If this motion does not pass, then you can turn up to the meeting where the budget is debated and vote on that.

Move to vote: no opposition
For: 18 Against: 6, no abstentions.
Motion passes

3. Christmas Tree

This JCR Notes:

1. Oxmas is less than 2 weeks away.
2. There has already been Christmas music heard in the JCR.
3. We usually get a Christmas tree for the Quad.

This JCR Believes:

1. It's cold and wet and about time we had some festive spirit around here.
2. Last year's tree was a bit underwhelming (sorry Erika). When it comes to Christmas Trees, size does matter.
3. It's also pretty sad when the tree falls over.

This JCR Resolves:

1. To mandate the JCR President to purchase a Christmas Tree for the Quad using no more than £100 of the JCR's money, and to ask the MCR if they would like to contribute so we can get an even bigger tree.
2. To mandate the Domestic Officer to investigate whether we still have a tree stand or can borrow one from college; if we cannot, to mandate the Domestic Officer to spend up to £25 on a tree stand.
3. To mandate the JCR Arts Officer to spend up to £15 on decorations for the JCR.

Proposed: Kate Ogden

Seconded: Iona Caseby / Redha Rubaie

Short Factual Questions:

Finn: How big is it likely to be?

Kate: As big as it could possibly be.

Edmund: Can Iona decorate the tree?

Debate:

Akshay:

Amendment: Can we make it secular?

Taken as friendly

Move to vote; no opposition

Vote: no opposition.

Motion passes.

4. Santa's Grotto

This JCR notes:

1. It is nearly Christmas
2. *Everyone* loves Father Christmas

This JCR believes:

1. Although he must be very busy at the moment, it would be great if he could come to visit our JCR

This JCR resolves:

1. To spend up to £50 on a Santa's grotto

Proposed: Arthur Harris

Seconded: Redha Rubaie

Short Factual Questions:

Kate: Do we have decorations?

Arthur: Yes

Lucie: What is a Santa's Grotto?

Arthur: We decorate the JCR Office and Santa comes sometimes

Edmund: can we guarantee that both of the doors will be left open?

Arthur: Yes we can.



Move to debate; no opposition.

Vote: For: Overwhelming majority.

Motion passes.

The meeting is suspended in the absence of quorum.

IX. Motions as Submitted

1. Four Birds, One Stone

This JCR notes:

1. That the JCR office is a complete mess (even disregarding the bikes).

2. That the mess is preventing College from installing a new boiler (which we desperately need for JCR tea).
3. That the mess is blocking the disabled access to the JCR.
4. There have been numerous cases of JCR officers failing to carry out their JCR teas.

This JCR believes:

1. That all four of these issues can be resolved in one simple motion.
2. In maintaining a happy and harmonious JCR in which the Officers can be relied upon to fulfil their duties

This JCR resolves:

1. To mandate the JCR President to oversee the disposal of all items in the JCR office which are not JCR property, by means including, but in no way limited to: sale, donation to charity, recycle, and refuse by Sunday of 3rd week HT16.
2. To mandate all JCR committee members who fail to do their JCR tea or fail to arrange an appropriate substitution between Sunday of 0th week HT16 and Sunday of 2nd week HT16 to tidy the JCR office before Sunday of 3rd week HT16. to mandate the JCR President to ensure that the disabled access to the JCR is kept clear.
3. To mandate the JCR President to liaise with college by Sunday of 8th week MT15 to ensure that they replace the JCR office boiler after the office has been cleaned in HT16.
4. To acknowledge the contribution of Arthur Harris, who has done many many teas when he hasn't had to.

Proposed: Ed Little

Seconded: Cameron McGarry

X. [Emergency Motions](#)

XI. [Any Other Business](#)