

# JCR Meeting Minutes – Sunday 4<sup>nd</sup> week TT09

Chair: Preeti Dhillon (JCR President)

Secretary: Nikki Hutchison (JCR VP)

JCR Members (excluding Chair and Secretary) present: 27

MEETING STARTS: 7.40PM

## Summary of Actions:

### Resolves:

To create an Equal Opportunities committee (Subject to this motion being passed a second time) which would consist of the Equal Opportunities Officer, the two Welfare Officers, the Admissions and Access Officer and non-committee reps to represent minority groups within the JCR: LGBTQ, Gender, BME (Black Minority and Ethnic), Disabilities; to change the Constitution and Standing Orders accordingly; and to mandate the Equal Ops officer to review the new system at the end of Michaelmas Term 09.

### Money:

To give Emily Barritt and Meera Desai £60 for evening of relaxing activities for those approaching their finals.

## Preliminary Business

Officer's Reports were put on the Corpus notice board after the meeting (VP apologises for this; it should have been done by Sunday morning but some reports were a little late in.)

Summary of Actions from the last meeting are read; Preeti notes that the OUSU motion was tabled in the last meeting 'indefinitely' while JCRs are consulted; probably until next term; the committee members will keep their mandates with regards to this motion but will update the JCR if any other changes are made.

### Present:

President – Preeti Dhillon; Vice President – Nikki Hutchison; Treasurer – Tom Barker; Male Welfare Officer – Adam Salt; Female Welfare Officer – Meera Desai; Access & Admissions – Laura Lee-Rodgers; International Student's Officer – Jane Sancinito; LGBT Officer – Adam Hadley; Domestic Officer – Ned Gramich; Libraries and Academic Officer – Katie Bayliss; Entz' President – Naomi Ofori; Equal Opps Officer – Lisa Blundell; Clubs & Socs – Francis Carr; Returning Officer - Katie Johnston

### Apologies:

Accommodation Officer – Sophie Rees; OUSU Officer – David Giles;

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Emily Barritt proposes moving her motion to going first, as it is very short. No objections.

## 2. Finalist Care

### This JCR notes:

1. That the finalists need looking after

### **This JCR believes**

1. That Corpus is noted for being a caring college.

### **This JCR Resolves:**

1. To give Emily Barritt and Meera Desai £60 so that they can host an evening of relaxing activities for those approaching their finals.

Proposed; Emily Barritt

Seconded: Meera Desai

### **SFQS**

What is the £60 for? It will pay for a masseuse, biscuits, hot chocolate etc. It probably won't come to £60, but we'll give back the change.

Tom Barker asks if it could come out of the welfare budget; Meera Desai answers that it could do, but this is covering them in case the welfare budget doesn't cover it.

### **NO OPPOSITION**

### **MOTION PASSES**

## **1. The introduction of an Equal Opportunities Committee (First Reading)**

Summary:

Proposed is the creation of an Equal Opportunities committee, which would consist of the Equal Opportunities Officer, the two Welfare Officers, the Admissions and Access Officer and reps to represent minority groups within the JCR. We are proposing the introduction of four permanent reps:

LGBTQ rep

Gender rep

BME (Black Minority and Ethnic) rep

Disabilities rep

The introduction of such a committee would involve a rearrangement of some of the JCR committee positions and duties.

### **This JCR notes:**

1. That current provision for minorities in college is provided by the LGBT Officer and the Equal Opportunities Officer, who both sit on JCR Committee
2. That there is currently no similar specific provision for students from other minority groups such as BME students or students with disabilities

### **This JCR believes:**

1. That the JCR should be, and is, committed to providing support and representation for all students in college.
2. That having a nominated individual with responsibility for the interests of a particular group will lead to more balanced and effective representation and support for that group.

### **This JCR resolves:**

1. To amend the JCR Constitution so that the Sub-clause (iii) of Clause 27– Timing (*The position of the LGBT Officer shall be an elected post, voted for by all members of the JCR. If no candidate is elected for the post, it shall be taken by either of the JCR Welfare Officers*) is changed to **“The Equal Opportunity Officers shall be elected posts, voted for by all members of the JCR. If no candidate is elected for the post, it shall be filled, by default, by either the Equal Opportunity Officer or the JCR Welfare Officers.”**
2. To amend the JCR Constitution so that the words *“apart from those circumstances outlined by clause 28 (iii) above”* are removed from Clause 30 – Eligibility, Sub-clause (iv).

3. To amend the JCR Constitution so that the words "*the LGBT Officer,*" are removed from the list of JCR Committee members in Clause 2 - JCR Committee and Officers, Sub-clause (i).
4. To amend the JCR Constitution so that the words "*LGBT Officer,*" are replaced with "**Equal Opportunities Committee representatives**" from the list of positions to be elected in Trinity term in Clause 27 - Timing, Sub-clause (ii).
5. To add the following to (the relevant section) in the JCR Constitution:

*"The Equal Opportunities Committee.*

- i) The Equal Opportunities Committee shall be led by the Equal Opportunities Officer and shall meet informally at least twice per term.*
- ii) The Welfare Officer (Male), Welfare Officer (Female) and the Admissions and Access Officer shall be members.*
- iii) There shall be Representative members of the Committee to represent minority groups within the JCR. There will be four permanent positions: LGBTQ rep, BME rep, Disabilities rep and Gender rep.*
- iv) New representative members of the Equal Opportunities Committee can be added by the normal constitutional change process.*
- v) Representative members shall be elected by members of the JCR in the following manner:*

- a) Each post shall be elected within one week of its creation or at the resignation of an incumbent officer, and in each subsequent Trinity Term.*
- b) The Equal Opportunities Officer shall call elections in accordance with (a), giving at least 96 hours notice.*
- c) Nominations shall be accepted by the Equal Opportunities Officer up to 48 hours before the election is due to take place.*
- d) The Equal Opportunities Officer shall publish the list of candidates at least 24 hours in advance of the election*
- e) Any posts with only one candidate shall be elected immediately.*
- f) . The elections shall take place on paper alongside the other 7<sup>th</sup> week elections.*
- g) Members of the JCR may vote in person or in proxy.*
- i) Any member of the JCR may request a secret ballot.*
- j) The Committee shall be responsible for the provision of welfare and representation particular to all minority groups within the JCR. Each Representative member shall have a mandate to lead the provision for the group that they represent, at the instruction of the Committee. This may include organising social events, making available relevant information and attending relevant OUSU meetings.*
- k) The Committee shall stay within financial limits set by the JCR."*

6. To make the following changes to the standing orders for the Equal Opportunities Officer:
  - i) to add:

*"vii) To lead the Equal Opportunities Committee with the aim of carrying out these tasks.*

*viii) To publicise each term the potential for individuals within college to take up these positions."*

- ii) To add "*Equal Opportunities Committee*" to the committees to be attended by: Equal Opportunities Officer, both Welfare Officers and Admissions and Access Officer.
- iii) To add "*College Welfare Committee*" (Welfare lunch) to the committees to be attended by the Equal Opportunities officer.

7. To make the following changes to the standing orders for the LGBT Officer, which would then subsequently become the standing order for the LGBTQ Rep:
  - i) to change i) to "*to provide a focal point for student welfare in college, with a particular emphasis on LGBT issues, and act as a signpost to LGBT related welfare services in college, in the university and more broadly."*
  - ii) To replace "JCR committee" with "*Equal Opportunities Committee*" on the committees to be attended by the LGBT rep
  - iii) To change v) to "*to liaise with all other Equal Opportunities Committee Members, convening a meeting at least twice a term, so as to co-ordinate activities and better serve undergraduate members*"

8. To create the following standing orders:

**BME Rep**

Elected: Trinity

Term of Office: One year

Committees: Equal Opportunities Committee

Duties:

1. to provide a focal point for student welfare in college, with a particular emphasis on BME issues, and act as a signpost to BME related welfare services in college, in the university and more broadly
2. to publish in College all BME welfare-related information from College/University/OUSU/NUS/CRAE campaign via the welfare board, JCR cupboard and JCR welfare website
3. to liaise with OUSU in connection with its BME welfare services, including attendance at any OUSU BME-focused welfare groups
4. to liaise with the appropriate university societies, distributing any related information about entz or welfare
5. to liaise with all other Equal Opportunities Committee Members, attending a meeting at least twice a term, so as to co-ordinate activities and better serve undergraduate members

**Disabilities Rep**

Elected: Trinity

Term of Office: One year

Committees: Equal Opportunities Committee

Duties:

1. to provide a focal point for student welfare in college, with a particular emphasis on issues for disabled students, and act as a signpost to welfare services in college, in the university and more broadly available for disabled students.
2. to publish in College all welfare-related information for disabled students from College/University/OUSU/NUS via the welfare board, JCR cupboard and JCR welfare website
3. to liaise with OUSU in connection with its welfare services for disabled students, including attendance at any OUSU welfare groups that discuss issues facing disabled students
4. to liaise with all other Equal Opportunities Committee Members, attending a meeting at least twice a term, so as to co-ordinate activities and better serve undergraduate members.

**Gender Rep**

Elected: Trinity

Term of Office: One year

Committees: Equal Opportunities Committee

Duties:

1. to provide a focal point for student welfare in college, with a particular emphasis on gender issues, and act as a signpost to gender related welfare services in college, in the university and more broadly
2. to publish in College all gender welfare-related information from College/University/OUSU/NUS via the welfare board, JCR cupboard and JCR welfare website
3. to liaise with OUSU in connection with its gender welfare services, including attendance at any OUSU gender-focused welfare groups
4. to liaise with the appropriate university society, distributing any related information about entz or welfare
5. to liaise with all other Equal Opportunities Committee Members, attending a meeting at least twice a term, so as to co-ordinate activities and better serve undergraduate members
9. To let the LGBT Officer elected at the forthcoming (Trinity) elections hold office under the system detailed above as a Representative Member of the Equal Opportunities Committee for LGBT.
10. To Mandate the Equal Ops officer to bring a general report to the JCR on how the subcommittee is working, the meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> week MT09.

Proposed: Lisa Blundell

Seconded: Katie Johnston

## SFQS

Adam Hadley asks if the proposers are aware of the controversy last time a motion like this was proposed? Lisa B says they are; they've changed it to address the concerns that people had last time.

Adam H asks when they came up with this motion. Lisa has wanted to do it since starting her role; both she and Katie talked about it in their husts. They actually drafted the motion last Sunday.

Joe Fallon points out that last time a similar motion was proposed the JCR was consulted; this time no such consultation has taken place.

## POD

Adam H says he is annoyed that this has been raised now, when he has finals, as has many others that objected to the motion last time. Lisa B replied she did not deliberately arrange the motion being put forward in this way; she herself had exams last term. Ed Brown points out that there are actually a lot of people at the meeting, though some contests that those present are representative.

Adam H lists his objections: that it appears to be a duplication of the last motion (which was not passed); that it's unnecessary; that it won't be effective; and that it's complacent.

Joe F says that the current system is flexible; we don't need a committee, and as there aren't people who currently want to run for the posts then there is no need for them surely? Lisa B says that the problem is she can't represent e.g. someone with disabilities as well as someone who actually has a knowledge of disabilities. Meera D points out that it's also an access issue; we want people in these groups to apply. Just because someone isn't currently voicing that they want the post doesn't mean they wouldn't use it; she gets talked to by people as a Welfare Officer that might not have realised they wanted one if she wasn't there.

Katie B thinks this will actually decreased representation, because having these positions as 'non-committee' will reduce the number of people that will run for them. Adam H agrees. Katie J says it's not a magical position, being on committee. But, Adam H says, it's more formal; people are more likely to take it seriously. You're effectively saying these posts aren't important enough to be on the committee. (Adam H also points out that the position of LGBT rep is different to the others listed as it's also a welfare issue – gay people have to come out to friends and family in a way that no other minority group does - it shouldn't be reduced to an equalities issue. Oxford is one of the best places to be gay, and we should value that.) Katie J says they are not saying they are subsidiary, its' just for efficiency purposes. Rhiannon ward asks why these posts can't just be on the committee? (Adam H points out that he has drafted an amendment proposing just that.) Meera D says that they have a meeting with the SCR in college (the welfare lunch, where the Female and Male Welfare officers, the Equal opps officer, the JCR President, MCR representative, the counselling service and SCR welfare roles meet to discuss issues) – we simply won't be taken serious if we suddenly add four more people to this. Lisa B thinks that this will increase representation in college, as adding roles to the committee gets ridiculous – it'll get stupidly big – but adding roles to the sub-committee would be much better. Naomi O says not being on the committee shouldn't stop people running if they care about the issues.

Rhiannon W asks if Meera, Adam S and Adam H think they can't just communicate fine now, without the need for a committee to talk to each other? Adam S says size is an issue; it's easy for him to text Meera, but to communicate with 7 other people is much more difficult.

Adam H describes his proposed amendment: to make all the proposed new reps Committee roles, thus removing the need for an equal opps officer so removing that post, and adding to the LGBT standing orders and all the proposed new Officers' standing order: 'To liaise with the [other officers].' He doesn't think there need to be a formal committee. Meera D think it would better to have an enforced meeting time, as otherwise – Oxford is busy – people

might not make time, and also that when you get people together, important things come up and are discussed that might not have otherwise arisen. Also issues that one of them might have come across that related to another's role can be passed on etc.

Ed Brown adds (going be to the 'change in representation' issue) that there is no change in the representation of LGBT; in fact you're more likely to get your voice heard on a smaller committee of 7 than a larger one of 26. Katie J adds that the JCR Committee is simply not a space where you bring up issue like this, and discuss policy etc. Rhiannon W says it's a principle – put the roles as non-committee is saying they are less important, they won't have a t-shirt in Freshers week for example – this is refuted, these roles could easily be given t-shirt for freshers to see who they are.

Laura LR says that from the Admission and Access point of view, she hadn't even thought about these issues in the light of access until Lisa had approached her; the committee would be really useful for her.

Katie B says she doesn't see why people who doesn't have direct experience of being in a minority can't represent that minority (as it was previously argues that the equal opps officer simply can't represent as well all the different minorities as they won't have experience of them all) – for example she's not passionate about water bottle but she can still organise them for the library. It is argues that these are different sorts of jobs.

Katie D says that currently non-committee officers are listened to well, but in the future they might not be.

Adam H sees it as silly to have at arranged as an equal Ops officer with minion. Suggests the necessity of positions for the other minorities Lisa B proposes as simply a personal projection? (Laura LR, Leanne Price and Lisa B strongly disagree with the implication that LGBT is more important than BME or dyslexia etc.) Ed B can see how LGBT would be different, but doesn't see how its representation is being diminished. Nikki H and Adam S point out non-committee officers and committee offers aren't really that different; you simply (for non-comm) don't have the obligation of turning up to meetings every other week when there is no need. James T agrees with Adam that gay rights is potentially more important to represent because it is still a live issue in the UK, where some groups still show dissention about it; other minorities rights are fairly firmly established.

Joe F asks whether a clause could be inserted that if no-one runs for the roles etc, they'll be abolished. It's pointed out this was one of the reason the similar motion failed previously; people were worried there would be a loss of representation.

Adam S clarifies Adam H's reasoning; 2 things: extra welfare component to LGBT, and the principle of making a statement that it *is* important. He asks for an **informal poll** to be taken of the JCR of what people currently want.

**Those for staying with the system we currently have now: 8**

**Those for changing it *somehow*: much more (Secretary estimates ~15)**

How Adam H's alternative/amendment might be formatted is discussed; including instead having several equal opps offers with their speciality in brackets beside their title is proposed, and largely rejected on ground that if one minority was not represented in the brackets it will be seen by applicants as not mattering to the college.

**Another unofficial poll** is taken on solely the issue of having the roles as committee or subcommittee:

**In favour of JCR Committee roles: 6**

**In Favour of having a subcommittee: majority (secretary estimate ~20)**

Adam H is saddened by this.

MTV

Joe F Objects: suggests having a review in MT09; proposes adding '10: Mandating the Equal opps officer to bring a general report to the JCR on how the subcommittee is working, the meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> week MT09.' Accepted as friendly.

MTV

**FOR: 20**

**AGAINST: 5**

**ABSTENTIONS: 1**

**MOTION PASSES**

Adam H resigns of his role of LGBT Officer.

Meeting ends at 9.05pm