

JCR Meeting: 4th week, TT '11

Chair: Jack Evans (President)

Secretary: Sophie Cass (Vice President)

JCR members present (excluding Chair and Secretary): 25

Sunday 22nd May 2011

Meeting opens at 7.39pm

Preliminary Business

Present:

President, Jack Evans;
Vice President, Sophie Cass;
Treasurer, Alex Franklin;
Clubs and societies officer, Joe Mohan;
Domestic officer, Donal O'Hara;
Equal Opportunities officer, Olivia Chinwokwu;
Female welfare, Juliet Zani;
International Students' officer: Jan Willem Scholten
Male welfare, Mike Hardy;
OUSU/NUS delegate, Felix Neate;

Minutes from JCR meeting in 2nd week, Trinity term 2011, signed off without opposition

Officers' Reports

Academic Affairs officer, Megan McCullagh

Nothing to report

Access and Admissions officer, Mek Mesfin

Nothing to report.

Accommodation Officer, Alix Harmer

Nothing to report

Clubs and Societies Officer, Joe Mohan

Nothing to report

Domestic Officer, Donal O'Hara

Nothing to report.

Ethics and Environment Officer, Imogen Jones

Did tortoise fair
Researched biodiversity in our garden
Got a lot of leaflets
Won raffle yay!

Equal Opps Officer, Oliva Chinwokwu

Nothing to report.

Entz President, Kamillah Ismail

Nothing to report.

NUS/OUSU officer, Felix Neate

Nothing to report.

Welfare Officers, Mike Hardy and Juliet Zani

Nothing to report.

Vice President, Sophie Cass

Sent out information re: Trinity term elections
Sent out call for motions for 4th week meeting and compiled agenda
Started compiling a timetable of Corpuscles' exam start/finish dates

President, Jack Evans

Academic feedback sessions – should be passed in academic committee on Weds

Rent proposal is 4.18%

Tortoise fair raised around £2,000 – profit of £1,700. Biggest before today was £900.
Applause for Alex C

Shiny new Spectrum flag.

Summary of actions

- To give a pro-rate loan of £300 to the production.
- To go and see the show if members are going to the Festival.
- To mandate the Clubs & Socs Officer to purchase a new bbq for no more than £120.
- **That half the cost should come from the clubs and socs budget.**
- To mandate the JCR President to arrange for Univ to pay us back, and to write up an agreement whereby they have to accept responsibility if they break it, as would we.
- To arrange a fun-filled day out at our JOINT sportsground so that both colleges can come together in a blissful harmony of students/non-competitive sports/free food.
- To mandate the clubs & socs officer to purchase a set of goals for the college.
- One goal can be paid for from the remaining clubs & socs budget, the other from the jcr.
- To mandate the clubs & socs officer to spend no more than £90 per goal, ensuring we get the best quality for the price being paid.
- To mandate the clubs & socs officer to look into the possibility of combining future sportsground parties with a 5-a-side tournament.
- To support the academics motion of no confidence in the policies of the Minister for Higher Education.
- To mandate the JCR President to lobby academics in Corpus to vote on said motion.
- To support the OUSU President in his efforts to ensure the passage of this motion.
- **That everyone should watch Jack on 'Newsnight'**

Motions

Motion 1: Edinburgh Fringe

This JCR Notes:

- Members of the Corpus JCR and MCR (Colm Ó Siochrú and David Jones) will be performing at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival this summer.
- Their show, 'The Pirates of Penzance' will go up with Royal College of Surgeons in the last week of August.
- The full cost of the show will be approximately £3500.
- Two years ago, a similar show with an almost identical cast at the same venue for the same length of time, made a profit of over £600.
- The pro-rata loan sought can be repaid by October 2011 and thus be available for funding new projects next year.

This JCR Believes:

- Corpus has some very talented members whose work deserves a wide audience.

- Raising the profile of the College's arts scene will be very attractive to potential new members.
- That this will be a good investment opportunity - not just a benevolent gesture.

This JCR Resolves:

- To give a pro-rate loan of £300 to the production.
- To go and see the show if members are going to the Festival.

Proposed: ~~Jacob Diggle~~ Mike Hardy

Seconded: ~~Colm Ó Siochrú~~ Jess Lewis

- [Short factual questions](#)
- Colette Weston – why aren't they here?
- Mike – Diggle's girlfriend was mugged
- Colette – no, the MCR people involved
- Mike – don't know
- Matilda Curtis – David's ill.
- Mike – don't know where Colm is
- Gareth Langley – is this from the arts budget?
- Mike – general JCR funds
- Colette – pro rata?
- Mike – yes
- JW – might make profit, what percentage coming to us?
- Alex Franklin – same percentage as we give to them
- [Points of Debate](#)
- Alex - amendment, change his mind. But thinks Jacob should pay JCR back for Year of the Rat
- Mike – Jacob is planning to, would have been here apart from whole girlfriend-mugging issue...

MOVE TO VOTE

For: overwhelming

Motion passes

[Matilda asks if we're quorate, and if she can go to bed. Told she can't go yet. Sorry.]

Motion 2: Corpus/Univ barbecue

This JCR Notes:

- That the barrel bbq that was housed at our old sportsground (RIP) has been lost/stolen/destroyed.
- That our new sportsground does not have a bbq on site.
- That the tortoise fair is imminent, and as such a lot of people will be turning up expecting to get their fill of burgers/sausages/veggie alternatives.
- Univ would also benefit from having a bbq at the sportsground.

This JCR Believes:

- Burnt bbq food is great.
- Having a snazzy new bbq down at the sportsground will enhance events held there.
- That with the tortoise fair imminent (I know it will have already happened by the time this has come up in the meeting), it offers a good excuse to purchase a bbq.
- Univ have informally agreed to go halves with us on a bbq, willing to pay up to £60.

This JCR Resolves:

- To mandate the Clubs & Socs Officer to purchase a new bbq for no more than £120.
- **That half the cost should come from the clubs and socs budget.**
- To mandate the JCR President to arrange for Univ to pay us back, and to write up an agreement whereby they have to accept responsibility if they break it, as would we.
- To arrange a fun-filled day out at our JOINT sportsground so that both colleges can come together in a blissful harmony of students/non-competitive sports/free food.

Proposed: Joe Mohan

Seconded: Donal O'Hara

Short Factual Questions

[Jonny Earl walks past the door. Called into JCR and told he has to stay so that Matilda can go to bed. She disappears; a confused Jonny is told to sit down and have a beer. He does so, and motion proceeds.]

- Gareth – as have lost lots of stuff in this move, why aren't college paying?
- Joe Mohan – because they won't accept responsibility. CH said we could use one at Liddell, they're small and don't belong to us and we got told off for using them.
- Daniel Stubbins – is this the barbecue that at tortoise fair?
- Joe – yes

Debate

- **Amendment proposed: to add a second resolve, "that half the cost should come from the clubs and socs budget."**

- **Proposed: Alex Franklin**
- **Seconded: Gregory Yates**
 - **Accepted as friendly**
- Greg – can we get veggie food that isn't just veggie burgers for future events?
- Jack – yes, am writing it down. Stella McCartney?
- Megan McCullagh - *Linda* McCartney, Jack...
- Jack – We love the McCartneys....

MOVE TO VOTE

For: overwhelming

Motion passes

Motion 3: Welfare football

This JCR Notes: Welfare football

- Welfare football is becoming increasingly popular, as can be judged from the frequent welfare football e-mails (often disguised by some other title eg. a proposal for the uncoordinated).
- Using shoes/wallets/jumpers as posts is not very practical.
- Having to run and fetch your shot wastes time/energy.
- Scoring a goal should not be seen as a negative thing.
- That the college football teams do not have anywhere to train in the summer.

This JCR Believes:

- That welfare football is good for you (physical exercise/extracurricular activity/social bonding).
- That 5-a-side goals would encourage people to attend welfare football.
- That poor performances on the pitch can be attributed to a lack of cohesion in our football team, which can in turn be attributed to a lack of quality training.
- That there is ample space at our sportsground in the summer to set up a 5-a-side pitch alongside the cricket field.
- That good quality, portable goals can be bought at a reasonable price.
- That a number of people would be interested in a 5-a-side tournament in the summer.
- That, since this is a welfare/clubs & socs issue, we can come to some compromise on the purchase of goals.

This JCR Resolves:

- To mandate the clubs & socs officer to purchase a set of goals for the college.

- One goal can be paid for from the remaining clubs & socs budget, the other from the jcr.
- To mandate the clubs & socs officer to spend no more than £90 per goal, ensuring we get the best quality for the price being paid.
- To mandate the clubs & socs officer to look into the possibility of combining future sportsground parties with a 5-a-side tournament.

Proposed: Joe Mohan

Seconded: ~~John Beresford~~ Mek Mesfin

Short Factual Questions

- Gareth – isn't £90 quite a lot?
- Joe – not in the grand scheme of things, these will last a good long time
- Rachel Dellar – when you say 'popular', have heard otherwise. How many people come?
- Sam Kelly – like 25 people every Friday

Debate

- Greg – if have a lot of people and get these goals, can you pitch to amateurs more. like playing football but I'm whack.
- Joe – Make it clear that it's for everybody, as will five-a-side tournament
- Colette – rest of clubs and socs budget going to barbecue?
- Joe – taken into account
- JW – is it really necessary? Can put in five-a-side thing to make it more acceptable; surely can do that anyway using jumpers; £180 quite a lot; if popular than why can't everyone chip in a fiver and that would be an incentive;
- Joe – would also be for football team to train, we're spending more than cost of goals on cost of five-a-side pitch
- Jonny Earl – we could all chip in, but if JCR pays then goals that last which can be used by future members
- Alex – and if only people who already play pay, then disincentivises anyone else to come
- Greg – JW. *Boatclub*. Not asking for much in comparison.
- Gareth – if being kept at sportsground, how to stop Univ from using them?
- Joe – won't buy until get confirmation that we will keep here, or he will install them and we will get a key to actual sportsground

MOVE TO VOTE

For: overwhelming

Motion passes

[We have a JCR Presidential candidate from St. Catz present...

Jack – this is Benson, as part of his hustings he has to take something from us and return it later.

Benson – don't know about returning it....

Mike – take Scoof [Secretary notes: that's me.]

Secretary –no.

Alex – suggests a photo

General JCR – settle on a tortoise fair poster and a mug

Benson – tries to ask about the tortoise fair. We hurry him along and tell him to go away before people get bored and leave, making us not quorate. He does so.

Goodbye and good luck, Benson!]

Jack Evans cedes the chair temporarily to Donal O'Hara

Motion 4: Supporting academics

This JCR Notes:

- A motion has been submitted to Congregation in 6th week which reads 'Congregation instructs Council to communicate to Government that the University of Oxford has no confidence in the policies of the Minister for Higher Education'.

This JCR Believes:

- That it is time for the academics of Oxford to stand up and be counted.

This JCR Resolves:

- To support the academics motion of no confidence in the policies of the Minister for Higher Education.
- To mandate the JCR President to lobby academics in Corpus to vote on said motion.
- To support the OUSU President in his efforts to ensure the passage of this motion.
- **That everyone should watch Jack on 'Newsnight'**

Proposed: Jack Evans

Seconded: Alex Franklin

Short Factual Questions

- Donal – where's David Barclay?
- Jack – don't know, have texted him.
- Donal – David Miliband all over again...
- JW – why is he not here?
- Jack – ummm....

Debate

- Gareth – considering already passed motion to support academics in current pensions crisis, we should pass this as well.
- Jack – says something about how this motion as a JCR transcends all HE discussions we've had before. *[JCR looks at him slightly bemused.]*
- Joe – is that in the record?
- Donal – can we strike that from the record?
- Greg – what do we have to do to 'lobby'?
- Jack – we've got a can of gasoline...lol, no. *[Secretary notes: maybe this should be stuck from the records....]* Stand up to say support them
- Alex – Jack gets taken extremely seriously in Governing Body and they show him a lot of respect.
- Jack – last time this happened was when Margaret Thatcher awarded honorary doctorate
- Donal – Jack might get to be on Newsnight of something
- **Alex proposes an amendment to add to the resolves that everyone should watch Jack on 'Newsnight'**
 - **Seconded by the room in general**
 - **Taken as friendly**
- *[Donal makes worrying sound to get everyone to shut up. Has the desired effect.]*
- Speech in opposition
- Sam – don't want to lobby for this, personal.
- Speech in proposition
- Jack: we'd do this for any minister, he's incompetent. Within half working day and two weekend days we got half a dozen academics to sign up

MOVE TO VOTE

For: overwhelming

Motion passes

Any Other Business

Rent

- The SCR Rent proposal is 4.18%.
- This proposal is Van Noorden.
- CPI is 4.5%
- RPI is 5.2
- Student loans are being frozen in the 2011/12 academic year

The JCR President proposes accepting this offer, but negotiating to include fringe benefits to members eg. On the sportsground issue.

Discuss.

Jack – nice discussion, we're not going to pass anything.

[Greg makes announcement: The Prestige on at 8.45pm for Corpus Cinema this evening.]

SCR rent proposal is 4.18%. Been difficult year for UK economy – sluggish growth, high interest rates.

Lots of rent increases - Exeter are 12%; St John's are going for 2% after three years at 0.3% - anarchy

SCR said that without bursar, will stick to Van Noorden – 4.18 – 4.48. SCR gone for lower end of Van Noorden. Considering everything, not the worst rent proposal in the world. But have to take into account that student loans frozen next year.

Felix Neate – that sounds reasonable, proposing accepting but negotiating extra benefits. Can't say accept if you want extra, should say you want such and such.

Jack – Corpus never actually submitted rent proposal until last year, want to keep that up but be reasonable and get benefits like using JCR during Easter vac. Green Action plan: energy costs we save redistributed in JCR

Gareth – fringe benefits, also need to hit hard on standard of accommodation. Things like microwaves and freezers are standard in every other rental market, should be getting those as well. Should be getting median standard for median price.

[Mike's phone goes off with chirpy sound. Apologises to Gareth].

Jack – top secret proposals, will be announced later.

Greg – can we not have it as given that increasing rent is standard when college has millions; when academics getting all this free stuff. SCR gets free coffee and biscuits, can we not start with that?

Colette – worried that people at telethon make us loads of money, massively successful this year and beat almost every other college (Well done, Mek in the corner). We make them so much money, why do then need to always have that rent increase.

Greg – can we withdraw service?

Jack – that's the Apocalypse Option. This is quite nice, don't want to screw over my successor.

JW – we're already being screwed over, like internationals don't get any storage room at all.

Dellar – go for zero, or even less.

George Simms – to what extent do former members of college pay attention to stuff like this? What extent does rent depend on quality of the room?

Jack – old members do take interest; last year, Miliband recorded video for us. And if they squeeze money out of us now, we're not going to want to give it back later. Used to be really low rent, then when Liddell came up it went up 30%.

Mike – and that's stupid, it's all geographical for grade of rooms; I was charged A last year just because I was in Magpie, when my room wasn't all that great, had mould.

Sam – energy increase because of increased costs, or because we're more energy inefficient?

Jack – mainly costs.

Felix – not entirely unreasonable that would move mould.

Jack – you are meant to contact us if there is mould....

Gareth – harking back to why don't SCR contribute to perks, if look at average, Oxford academic paid a lot below what would get elsewhere. Secondly, we need a much better grading system. In Balliol there's six of seven different categories so wide range.

Jack – that would need to be a JCR motion.

Gareth – but we should sort that out and send a proposal.

Dellar – know college want to put up rent but there's loads we can do to screw them over

JW – set the college on fire...

Dellar – can we undermine them on telethon, get alumni to pay for us?

Mek – we can't call alumni, college sends them a letter.

Dellar – we can get the alumni. They would help us.

Jack – next year when they put rent up by 10%, then we can go nuclear.

Della – but if we do hardline now, we can make them reconsider trying to put rent up again next year.

Greg – if we get 4.18% we're not going to get 4.18% increase in service, we all know that. It's not even a question of who would win if we all say "we're not going to pay that", they can't throw us all out. If end comes to end, we can stop this. We're the main sort of income

Sophie – 40% of income actually comes from conferences [*Secretary notes: I got this figure wrong – it's actually 11%*]

JW – when are we going to discuss this, can someone come with you? We know you want to keep things amenable (and Greg if you go in, it won't stay like that, with all due respect). Are we only allowed to send one person?

Jack – technically, yeah.

Dellar – they should be coming to us.

Jack – I can arrange a meeting.

Felix – perhaps we should be more moderate now, rather than going completely extreme now; then where do we go next year if they put it up loads.

Alex – fair point, but reason not getting hit with higher point now is we don't have a bursar right now. So if we did have a bursar, then would possibly have a larger increase next year, This is the year to be moderate.

Jack – bit of a thing when I talked to Colin Holmes that Bursar is dead.

Felix – that's their problem, not ours.

Dan – what was increase last year?

Jack – 5%, then to median (which turned out to be same). This is the lowest increase in three years.

Gareth – we negotiated them down last year without going crazy.

Dellar – still need to be aware that we can do more.

Gareth – college can do more, can refuse to give degree.

Jacl – I don't know how united JCR is on this point.

Gareth – maintenance support

Colette – can't do anything academically, that's separate to accommodation fees. Secondly, how are we in relation to other colleges in last several years.

Jack – we've gone from bottom two, to median.

Greg – I have to leave, but not doing a Jeremy Lloyd.

Felipe – I'm not even a British citizen and I'm charged the same as any of you, I'm very grateful and don't find it ethical to ask them to pay less. I wouldn't support this.

Mike – In terms of 'going nuclear' and extreme v moderate; when they say Bursar is dead. I'm in support of hardcore action if Bursar in place; but there isn't, they can't handle any other sort of calculations, so there's no sense in going crazy and trying to change rent. It's just a waste of our trump card, there's no scope for change. Save this for next year.

Mek – College are proposing we stay at median level, going up at lower Van Noorden. Do we have any evidence about quality of accommodation where Corpus lies on the scale. Without clear evidence that we are below the median on quality while paying the median, there's no way that JCR is going to be united. We need evidence for why this is really unjustified.

Dellar – our rent increase is one of the highest over the last few years.

Jack – current plan is to remain at median, then it will go up when New New Building is built.

Mek – does anyone of idea how good our accommodation is.

Colette – Can we ask them to put into position what happens when something happens where Bursar can't fulfil position that there is a proxy Bursar.

Jack – Colin Holmes.

Colette – obviously not good enough.

George – Can you negotiate long term changes in price? *General feeling is that there is a sentiment that we are discussing rent increases way in advance.* More sensible to wait until new Bursar?

Gareht - when we had deflation, rent still went up.

Jck – that was when chasing median, now we are at median. Where do we go from here. Do we want to reject this proposal?

General room:.....no....not worth it now, leave it for next year. Express reservations that have been raised; like that we're not being treated seriously.

Want to instill idea of debate.

Jack: we'll come up with a JCR proposal and bring it up in 6th week meeting where we can vote on it. General room thinks yes.

Colette – we want to look into quality, that should be reflected by price.

Jack – OUSU should be looking at quality across colleges.

Colette – 80% of our rooms, in my opinion, are at lower standard. Eg painted more, better showers etc.

Mek – are we running on a profit in college?

[Secretary notes: college has been running in a deficit for the last few years, and this is projected to continue until 2014/15]

Secretary – points out roof costs, almost half a million pounds unexpected costs, plus have discovered more issues that need resolving.

Dellar – unnecessary costs, eg my scout comes every day. We should choose our own perks.

Jack – this has been very productive, thank you.

Meeting closes: 20.38
