

JCR Meeting: 2nd week of HT '11

Chair: Jack Evans (President)

Secretary: Sophie Cass (Vice President)

JCR members present (excluding Chair and Secretary): 28

Sunday 23rd January 2011

Meeting opens at 7.32pm

Preliminary Business

Present:

President, Jack Evans;
Vice President, Sophie Cass;
Treasurer, Alex Franklin;
Female welfare, Juliet Zani;
Male welfare, Mike Hardy;
Accommodation officer, Alix Harmer;
Domestic officer, Donal O'Hara;
Academic affairs officer, Megan McCullagh
Clubs and societies officer, Joe Mohan;
OUSU/NUS delegate, Felix Neate;
Equal Opportunities officer, Olivia Chinwokwu;

Minutes from JCR meeting in 8th week, Michaelmas term 2010, signed off without opposition

Officers' Reports

Academic Affairs officer, Megan McCullagh

- Passed graduate mentor scheme – study buddy scheme where graduates will be paid to mentor undergraduates who are struggling. Can either request a mentor, or be given one by your tutor.
 - (Jack E. points out how hard Megan has worked on this, gives her well deserved credit)
- Third years have to do the NSS survey. 50% of people have to give feedback in order for uni to be represented
- Submitted report on study buddies to John Watts
- Attended Academic Committee

Accommodation Officer, Alix Harmer

- Discussed potential of microwaves with grill/oven features for quad staircases/JCR with Domestic Bursar, who said these would cause a significant fire risk and therefore unsuitable for the old buildings on the main site.
- Emailed JCR about the ballot system.
- Arranged schedule for ballot with Domestic Bursar: Ballot - 3rd week; Group Accommodation - 4th week; Individual accommodation - 5th week.

Clubs and Societies Officer, Joe Mohan

- Corpus challenge date is set to be the 6th of March, just waiting to hear back from Cambridge.
- More info to come soon.
- As always, anybody who wishes to get involved in a club or society e-mail me

Equal Opps Officer, Oliva Chinwokwu

- Held the first Equal Opps committee meeting of term
- Made plans for 'Food Opps' (working title, more info soon, get excited)
- Currently working on the Chinese New Year Formal (Friday 4th Feb)

Entz President, Kamillah Ismail

- Organised and held first Bop of term - pirate/pilot/milkman/whatever took your fancy themed.
- Potential problem with speakers so will be testing them out and, if necessary, looking into repairing them or the cost of buying or hiring other ones.
- Have been organising the second Bop of term, a joint Valentine's Bop with Brasenose JCR, off-site. Plans will be finalised later this week, but keep Sunday 13th February free my lovers!

Vice President, Sophie Cass

- Helped Jack redecorate the JCR
- Sent out an email re: International Students' Officer by-election; put up the sign up sheets; sent out details re: hustings
- Minuted 1st week and 2nd week committee meetings
- Updated Policy Document
- In process of updating Standing Orders
- Helped draft and finalise new Constitution
- Been made President of the Wedding Committee in light of the royal engagement (of the college tortoises....)

President, Jack Evans

It's been a very busy first fortnight in the job and I think I've got off to a good start. I have managed to establish my priorities for the next year with the SCR, as well as hopefully adding to a lighter hearted mood within the JCR after some of the heaviness of last term. I have also had to cope with a wonky room which has been weird. Fallen off my chair a couple of times- not very Presidential.

Thanks to Seb Baird for handing me over a healthy JCR. The feedback of his Presidency from the SCR has been impressive- I shall try and do his legacy proud....

- Any issues or suggestions (or to hold me accountable)
email: jack.evans@ccc.ox.ac.uk
- Over the past fortnight I've:
 - Redecorated the JCR.
 - Met the Bursar and President to try and establish a personal relationship taking us forward to the rent dispute and others.
 - Over the vac cleaned out the JCR Office. Majorly.
 - Pushed the SCR to sign a pledge to pay all staff at least the Living Wage. They have accepted this request and should be signing said pledge shortly.
 - Updated the JCR Website with all our lovely new committee members.
 - Set up a Corpus twitter account. Wow. Go to @corpusjcr
 - Attended Academic Committee. Discovered Val Cunningham! Now seems a certainty the Graduate mentoring scheme will be passed at Governing Body this week. Thanks to Megan (JCR Academic Affairs Officer) and Senior Tutor (John Watts) for all their hard work on this.
 - Met the OUSU President David Barclay.
 - Went to a JCR President's Training day.
 - Went to OUSU Council. Baptism of fire for Felix.
 - Had a very productive first JCR Committee meeting. High attendance.
 - Attending JCR Committee handover lunch.
 - Met with Alex Bulfin (OUSU VP Access and Academic) and joined the exec of Target Schools to ensure my Presidency is defined by pushing as a JCR for a better access scheme.
 - Met with OUSU President David Barclay (and talked to President-Elect Martha MacKenzie) regarding mandating OUSU to push for an Oxford University fee level below £9,000. We will discuss this in depth at our first JCR Meeting of term.
 - Signed up NUS President, Aaron Porter, to come and speak to the JCR with OULC. Thanks to all who came. Let's not mention the trifle. Ever again.
 - Arranged a meeting with the Dean, Jay Sexton, to renegotiate disciplinary system, moving from a system of fines to a system of disciplinary service.
 - Booked with Millie the Valentine's Bop which will be held with Brasenose College. Should be better than last years!
 - Worked with Clubs and Socs officer to book date for Corpus Challenge. It will be the 6th March. To prevent contention surrounding the date again, the weekend of 7th week will be enshrined as "Corpus Challenge" week.
 - Talked to Alix Harmer last term about moving room ballot earlier in Hilary, and she has managed to move it to 4th week. Huge kudos to her. Committee member of the fortnight!
 - Managed to get the President to accept Fox's marriage proposal to Oldham. Double Wedding on the day of the Royal Wedding will now happen! Everyone from Corpus is invited to celebrate.
 - Set up and re-established the Peli Post. The first edition of this meeting should be available to all now. Enjoy it! If you want to get involved in the next edition speak to me or Sophie Fitzmaurice.

Over the next two weeks my priorities will be:

- Finish off the Graduate Mentoring programme preparations; hand that work over to the SCR to implement in practise.
 - Talk with Senior Tutor regarding new maintenance arrangements for students.
 - Attend my first Prescom.
 - Ensure the Room ballot process begins smoothly with Alix.
 - Begin serious preparations for the Corpus Challenge, hopefully ensuring some kind of sponsorship.
 - Have the first meeting of Food Committee and Royal Wedding Committee.
 - Meet with Jay to discuss disciplinary system.
 - Attend first Governing Body of term.
 - Push the SCR for the Equality Committee to meet this term.
 - Set up some kind of JCR Committee dinner to get to know each other a bit better.
 - Begin the embryonic proceedings of the 2012 Ball.
 - Chair my first JCR Meeting well!
- And a very important announcement: the engagement is announced between the college tortoises, Fox and Oldham. The wedding will take place on Friday 29th April (Friday of 0th week of Trinity) and will be organised by the Wedding Committee, headed up by Sophie Cass, and Alix Harmer (3rd year); Emma Fouracre-Reid (2nd year); and Livvy Elder (1st year) -

***Here Comes The Bride* comes blasting through the computer speakers and interrupts the announcement....**

Poem read by Gareth Langley on behalf of Jimmy Beestone, Poet Laureate.

Summary of actions

1. To adopt the new Constitution (attached)
2. To approve the budget for HT 2011
3. To give the Corpus Symposium £10 per meeting to cover the cost drinks and nibbles
4. To mandate the OUSU Executive to lobby the University to set a fee level significantly below £9000 for Home/EU undergraduate students for the year 2012/13.
5. To mandate the OUSU Executive to lobby the University to establish fee wavers for students from the lowest income backgrounds, such that for school students who are eligible for free school meals at least one year of their Oxford tuition will be free.

Motions

1. New JCR Constitution

This JCR Notes:

1. Many changes have been made to the structure of JCR and how it serves its members over the last couple of years.
2. The current JCR Constitution is outdated, self-contradictory and confusing.
3. Lots of work and wide consultation has gone into the drafting of a new, improved constitutional document.

This JCR Believes:

1. It is essential that the JCR have clearly laid out rules and regulations to ensure it operates effectively.
2. A new constitution will make the JCR more efficient, accountable, and representative.

This JCR Resolves:

1. To adopt the new Constitution (attached)

Proposed: Jack Evans (President)

Seconded: ~~Sophie Cass (Vice President)~~ Alex Franklin (Treasurer)

- Jack Evans cedes the chair to Donal O'Hara for one motion only
- Short factual questions
- Gareth Langley- what's the biggest change
- Jack - more accessible as a document, also will be online so will be more easily navigated, gets rid of old committee structure in terms of Exec and Non-Exec - all that's gone. Now it's just one big committee, including RAG Officer. Doesn't apply to Tortoise Keeper or Poet Laureate. Equal Opps have their own committee
- Ed McGovern - Was JCR levy compulsory before
- Jack - no
- Ed - Is it still opt out?
- Jack - yes. But you're a bad person if you opt out. Everyone uses the JCR, should pay the levy.
- Ed - so do you not be part of the JCR?
- Jack - No, you don't. But you should.
- Alex Franklin - but you don't *have* to pay the levy, mandated to tell you that.
- Jack - Constitution also enshrines the right of poet laureate to read a poem each week
- Donal - (joking) Not legit, I didn't call on you to speak.
- Points of Debate
- Gareth - You didn't ask poet laureate before changing his standing orders
- Jack - I emailed him
- Gareth - To tell him to do it, not asking him to

MOVE TO VOTE

For: overwhelming

Motion passes

2. The Budget

This JCR Resolves:

1. To approve the budget for HT 2011

OUT

OUSU/ECO £10.00
CLUBS+SOCS £150.00
CHARITIES £3,000.00
COFFEE/TEA £500.00
NEWSPAPERS £500.00
TV £300.00
WELFARE £50.00
MEETINGS £100.00
ENTZ £350.00
MALE £250.00
FEMALE £250.00
ISO £100.00
COMMITTEE £20.00
COMPUTING £20.00
ARTS £200.00
PUNTS £3,500.00

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- £9,300.00

In

GRANT £3333.33
CHARITIES LEVY £3000.00
JCR LEVY £1500.00
REBATES £166.67
PUNTS £3500.00

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+ £11,500.00

Proposed: Alex Franklin (Treasurer)

- Franklin reads out – explains welfare budget changed so up to discretion
- JCR meeting pizza budget was the biggest cut, as costs lots of money
- Jack – James Pontifex got grant raised to £3333.33
- Short factual questions
- Rachel Dellar – why does it say punts out and in
- Franklin – spend £3,500 but get it from punt levies
- Donal – what was the hardest cut to make
- Franklin – pizza, I have to be here every week now so that hurt
- Gareth - is there a specific budget for Corpus challenge
- Franklin – no, that will be done through future motions. £150 budget for clubs and socs will probably all be spent on the stash alone

MOVE TO VOTE

For: overwhelming

Motion passes

3. Corpus Symposium

This JCR notes:

1. Corpus Symposium has been going for two terms and has a programme prepared for HT 2011

This JCR believes:

1. Corpus Symposium has been a roaring success so far and should continue to be supported.

This JCR proposes:

1. To give the Corpus Symposium £10 per meeting to cover the cost drinks and nibbles

Proposed: Jahan Meeran

Seconded: ~~Sophie FitzMaurice~~ Alex Franklin

- [Short Factual Questions](#)
- Joe Mohan – Has the Symposium got a budget from Clubs and Socs?
- Jahan – Nope.
- [Debate](#)
- Franklin – proposes amendment, to cover whether previous motion already covered – taken as friendly
- Ed – how much is welfare?
- Franklin - £50
- Ed – seems a bit excessive to be spending more on Symposium than welfare, when trying to be frugal
- Jack – spent £120 for Corpus cares week

MOVE TO VOTE

For: overwhelming

Motion passes

4. Tuition fees

This JCR Notes:

1. The House of Commons vote on the 9th December 2010 and the House of Lords vote

on 14th December 2010 to raise the cap on Home/EU undergraduate tuition fees to £9000.

2. That the University of Oxford will at the 9th week University Council of Hillary term 2011 set an undergraduate Home/EU fee level for the 2012/13 year.
3. That because of the concurrent cuts to Government funding for Undergraduate Teaching, all Universities will need to charge approximately £7200 p/a in order to maintain the status quo of teaching funding.
4. That the University estimates that it costs £16,000 p/a to teach the average undergraduate student.
5. That the University as a whole is not operating a structural deficit, but that it is unable in its current financial situation to make the necessary investment in order to compete with the top Universities worldwide.
6. The current recalibration of the Oxford Thinking Campaign, which has recently passed its original target of raising £1.25 billion.

This JCR Believes:

- 1) That the Government's reforms are likely to exercise a significant deterrent effect on school students from low-income backgrounds applying to Oxford.
- 2) That Oxford University should take radical steps to try to redress this deterrent effect and to promote the widening access agenda under the new funding arrangements.
- 3) That charging less than the £9000 maximum for Home/EU undergraduates will make a real difference to the image of Oxford in the public view and the ability of the University to attract students from low-income backgrounds.
- 4) That even if the University were to charge £9000, this would not represent a long-term solution to the University's inability to compete on a world-level in terms of investment in teaching and resources.
- 5) That fee wavers for students from the lowest income families have the potential to attract talented individuals who would otherwise be deterred by the level of student loan debt.
- 6) That the recalibrated Oxford Thinking Campaign should focus heavily on widening participation in the new national funding context.
- 7) That all Oxford undergraduate courses should have the same fee level for Home/EU students.

This JCR Resolves:

- 1) To mandate the OUSU Executive to lobby the University to set a fee level significantly below £9000 for Home/EU undergraduate students for the year 2012/13.
- 2) To mandate the OUSU Executive to lobby the University to establish fee wavers for students from the lowest income backgrounds, such that for school students who are eligible for free school meals at least one year of their Oxford tuition will be free.

Proposed: Jack Evans

Seconded: ~~Jacob Diggle~~ Mike Hardy

- **Chair ceded to Donal O'Hara for duration of motion**

- Jack summarises:
 - Higher Education Bill passed in Parliament so can now charge up to £9000 – Oxford seen as one of the unis that will charge full whack
 - Motion mandates OUSU to push uni to lower limit to £5,2000? – the amount it needs to be to break even.
 - At the moment uni has a structural deficit – OUSU says could be cuts, and more reliance on Oxford Thining Campaign
- Questions
- Taff- future of OOB?
- Jack – Bursary will be expanded, currently in process of review
- Nick – OUSU pushing for cuts in teaching budget rather than increasing tuition fees?
- Jack – point of motion is to get feel, that's one of the motions put forward by OUSU; also, degrees being charged at different rates so that humanities are charged £9000 while science are £7,200
- Debate
- Gareth – thinks we need to think about science versus humanities, should be a set price across university; especially as science costs more
- Felix- OUSU says difference in cost of science degree is difference in cost of budget?
- Taff – Scientists can cause a lot of cost depending on what they break easily £200 or £300 while dropping glass, a historian drops a book that's no problem
- Colette – points out that some of the pottery she handles is worth half a million. If that gets dropped, it's expensive.
- Taff- and how often does that happen?
- Colette – twice.
- Filipe – in order not to discriminate, why not charge everyone £8,100 as that's the average
- Jack – set price is what everyone wants?
- *yup*
- Taff – mentioned at NUS the other night, need to make sure that ask how student loans company will be reformed in current structure.; especially as people will go from Scotland to England and vice versa, and Wales etc. Uni has to lobby in right places

MOVE TO A VOTE

For: overwhelming

Motion passes

Meeting ends at 7.55pm

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Meeting re-opens at 7.55 pm and 15 seconds as we forgot the beard poll

The Question of Mike's Beard...

- 72 votes cast – 22 more than for OUSU referendum
- If this STV election – Franklin's beard won
- 2nd position 23.6 -- yes I love bearded men
- 3rd – 20.8 – why am I being asked this
- 4th – No- I prefer smooth faced Mike, 10 people

Meeting closes (again) at 7.58pm
