**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY JCR MEETING**

**Sunday 2th Week HT12**

**Chair:** Patricia Stephenson (JCR President)

**Secretary:** Peter Fitzsimons

**Returning Officer**: Gareth Langley

**JCR Members present:** 26

**20th January 2013**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

**Present:**

JCR President- Patricia Stephenson

JCR Treasurer- Gege Parthasarathy

Access & Admissions Officer- Blessing Ingyang

Clubs & Societies Officer- Sam Hodgson

Domestic Officer- Chris Davies

Environment and Ethics Officer- Rosie Oxbury

Entz President – Midori Takenaka

Equal Ops President- Abigail Burman

OUSU Officer- Nick Dickinson

Returning Officer- Gareth Langley

Welfare Officer (Male)- Sam Newhouse

**Apologies:**

Accommodation Officer- Sam Robberts  
International Students’ Officer- Erika Pheby

Charities & RAG Officer- Nam Phuong Ding

Welfare Officer (Female)- Hannah Murphy

Positions of Academic Affairs Officer & Arts Officer unfilled at the start of the meeting; filled by paper ballot during the meeting.

**HUSTS AND PAPER BALLOT**

Procedural motion introduces Husts for the position of JCR Poet Laureate. Candidates are:  
- Il-Kweon Sir  
- Tom White

who each present their husts in the form of a poem.

Procedural motion introduces a paper ballot for the JCR Committee positions of Academic Affairs Officer & Arts Officer.

Candidates are:  
Academic Affairs Officer: Olivia Thompson, NOTA  
Arts Officer: Ian Headley, NOTA

**MOTIONS­­**

Procedural motion to move Emergency Motions 1 & 2 forward.

**Emergency Motion 1. Corpus Challenge**

**This JCR Notes:**  
The Corpus Challenge is great fun for everyone in the JCR.

**This JCR Believes:**  
That having the challenge will brighten up everybody’s sixth week.

**This JCR Resolves:**To give the Clubs and Societies Officer up to £1600 to pay for all incurred costs associated with hosting the challenge (formal hall, pitch bookings, referees, a BBQ etc.)

Proposed: Sam Hodgson  
Seconded: Chris Davies

**Short Factual Questions:**

Andrew Dickinson: Do we have this much?

Gege Parthasarathy, JCR Treasurer: Yes, discretionary budget is £2500.

**No debate**

**Vote**

No opposition, **motion passes**

**Emergency Motion 2. Budget**

**This JCR Notes:**- We need to spend money.  
- A budget is a good way of allocating expenditure.

**This JCR Believes:**We should pass a budget.

**This JCR Resolves:**  
To pass the following budget for Hilary 2013:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Academic | £20.00 |
| OUSU/Environment | £10.00 |
| Clubs & Societies | £150.00 |
| Domestic | £400.00 |
| Newspapers | £750.00 |
| Welfare | £50.00 |
| Meetings | £160.00 |
| Entz (including cinema curator and games) | £450.00 |
| Male and Female Welfare | £550.00 |
| Committee | £50.00 |
| Computing | £20.00 |
| Arts | ~~£50.00~~ £100.00 |
| Spectrum | £50.00 |
| Charities | £3,000.00 |
| Punts | £3,500.00 |
|  |  |
| Total Expenditure | £9,210.00 |

Proposed: Gege Pathasarathy, JCR Treasurer  
Seconded: Sam Newhouse

**Short Factual Questions:**

Dom McGovern: Any budget changes from last term?

Gege Parthasarthy, JCR Treasurer: Changes to budgets for Arts, Domestic, Male & Female Welfare. No funds for International Students’ Officer this term as there is no International Students Dinner.

Chris Davies: How much was Domestic budget last term?

Patricia Stephenson, JCR President: £400.

Abigail Burman, Equal Ops President: Is there any funding for Equal Opportunities?

Gege P: There is funding for Spectrum.

Daniel Shearer: How much will be left over?

Gege P: We have £8500 in bank account, £2100 spent + grant and JCR levy + rebates (=£2340)

Ian Headley: Was Corpus arts week held last year?

Gege P: Every term?

Rosie Oxbury, Environment and Ethics Officer: Does Environment & Ethics have budget?

Nick Dickinson, OUSU Officer: E&E shares £10 budget with OUSU. I never spend this budget.

**Debate:**

**Amendment, Ian Headley:** Change the Arts Budget to £100.00. Taken as friendly

Gege P: There will be a motion to reduce number of newspapers in JCR in 2 weeks.

**Vote**

No opposition, **motion passes**

**1. Careers on Committee (1st reading)**

**This JCR Notes:**- That many of us are spending a significant amount of time looking for jobs and internships.  
- The role of Careers Officer is not currently a committee position.

**This JCR Believes:**- That the role of Careers Officer should be given more priority.  
- That Careers-related interests should be represented on the Committee.

**This JCR Resolves:**To change the constitution so that Careers Officer is a committee position.

**Proposed**: Blessing Inyang  
**Seconded**: Sam Newhouse

**No Short Factual Questions**

**No Debate**

**Vote**

No opposition, **motion passes**

**2. Sky (+HD?)**

**This JCR Notes:**- That Sky was very popular when we had it.  
- That we can now get it for £68.50 + VAT per month.  
- That in order to get the charity rate we need college to buy it, and we’ll reimburse them.

**This JCR Believes:**That it will thoroughly enjoy having Sky back.

**This JCR Resolves:**-To mandate the Treasurer to ask the Bursar to buy Sky for the JCR.  
- To reimburse college £68.50 + VAT per month.

**Proposed:** Sam Newhouse  
**Seconded:** Blessing Inyang

**Amendment**

**This JCR Notes:**

I see skies of blue …. Clouds of white

**This JCR Believes:**

In, Bright blessed days….dark sacred nights

**This JCR Resolves:**

- To think to ourselves….. what a wonderful world

- To subscribe to Sky+HD, with the sports and movie package for no more than £1500 per annum

**Proposed:** Chris Davies

**Seconded:** Dom McGovern

**Short Factual Questions:**

Amendment withdrawn.

Sam Hodgson: How much does this cost per year? Can it be paid per month or not?

Patricia Stephenson: I don’t know.

Chris Davies: Where is figure from?

Patricia S: From Prescom.

Nick Dickinson: We can’t get movies package on charity rate.

Dom McGovern: Does it include sky sports?

Patricia S: Yes, but no movies.

**No Debate**

**Vote**

No opposition, **motion passes**

Procedural motion to move emergency motion 3 forward.

**Emergency Motion 3. Connectivity in TV Room**

This JCR Notes:  
~~- We can get Sky ‘On Demand’ by paying £21.95 for a wireless On Demand Box to connect to our router downstairs.  
- Sky on Demand would also provide the ability to watch catch-up TV (iPlayer etc)  
- Films and TV boxsets are available on Sky On Demand (but are seemingly more restricted in choice than Netflix/Lovefilm.~~

- Alternatively, we can subscribe to Netflix/Lovefilm via the new Xbox (which already has a wireless router built in) for a monthly cost of £5.99, following an initial payment of £32.99.  
- Netflix/Lovefilm subscription would offer the JCR a larger variety of TV boxsets/films  
- This option would also offer those who play the Xbox games the ability to play online, download updates etc

This JCR Believes:  
Movies and films on demand are good and would enhance our subscription to Sky for a nominal fee.

This JCR Resolves:  
- Following debate at the meeting, the JCR should decide if one (or both or none) of the above connectivity packages would offer good value for money and would be worth investing  
- To mandate whoever is in charge of re-installing Sky to follow the JCR’s wishes with regards to enhancing the subscription.  
- To buy Xbox Live gold membership.  
- To mandate the JCR Treasurer to get a one month free trial for both Netflix and Lovefilm and subscribe to one at the end of the trial.’

Proposed: Dom McGovern  
Seconded: Chris Davies

**No Short Factual Questions**

**Debate:**

Sam Hodgson: We can get iPlayer through Xbox, but not ITV player or 4od.

Olivia Thompson: TV catch-up is only on for an extra week, is it worth it?

Gege Parthasarathy: £6 per month will be paid when we aren’t here.

Dom McGovern: Netflix can be cancelled whenever.

Nick Dickinson: To watch iPlayer/ITVPlayer/4oD in TV room, we can always plug in a laptop. Netflix is better idea.

Olivia T: Half of the time stuff they have is unavailable. We can do 1 month trial for free on both.

Dom McG: Still need to pay for Xbox live membership. Could pay £5.99 per month for membership.

**Amendment, Nick Dickinson:** Do not buy Sky On Demand. Taken as friendly.

**Amendment, Dom McGovern:** Add to resolves: ‘To buy Xbox Live gold membership’ and ‘To mandate the JCR Treasurer to get a one month free trial for both Netflix and Lovefilm and subscribe to one at the end of the trial.’

**Vote**

No opposition, **motion passes**

**3. Staff Party**

**This JCR Notes:**- That we like the staff at Corpus.  
- That we traditionally contribute £250 to the Corpus staff party.

**This JCR Believes:**That they deserve a party.

**This JCR Resolves:**To contribute £250 to the Corpus staff party.

**Proposed**: Blessing Inyang  
**Seconded**: Sam Newhouse

**No Short Factual Questions**

**No Debate**

**Vote**

No opposition, **motion passes**

**4. Handover guides**

**This JCR Notes:**- That sometimes it’s tricky to know what to do when you first start a JCR position.  
- That officers often benefit from their predecessors’ experience.

**This JCR Believes:**  
- That a handover guide would be helpful for people starting JCR positions.

**This JCR Resolves:**- To mandate all JCR officers to produce a handover guide for their successors when they finish their terms.  
- To mandate the Domestic Officer to create a guide to inform JCR Committee members how to organise JCR tea.  
- To mandate the President to inform JCR Committee members about committee meetings.

**Proposed:** Sam Newhouse  
**Seconded:** Blessing Inyang

**No Short Factual Questions**

**Debate**

Felipe Monge Imedio: Is there any need for this?

Nick Dickinson: Not for Entz, but very useful for everyone.

Felipe M I: If I had to at Entz, I would have hated everyone. Dom McGovern didn’t struggle too much with learning how to do Clubs and Socs.

Sam Newhouse, Welfare Officer (Male): It’s very important for some positions e.g. welfare. Rosie [Oxbury, Environment and Ethics Officer] didn’t know what to do when she started.

Dan Shearer: Could it be verbal rather than written down?

Il-Kweon Sir: Let officers choose whether to communicate through conversation or writing.

**Amendment, Rosie Oxbury:** Create guides for how to do tea, committee meetings etc. Taken as friendly.

Nav Sachdev: Written guides can be passed on with small modifications made each time.

Abigail Burman: Guides are useful for logistics.

Gege P: Guides are useful for hustings, letting those standing for election know what is expected.

**Vote**

No opposition, **motion passes**

**5. Manifestos (1st reading)**

**This JCR Notes:**- That posters don’t usually say much about policies.  
- That not everybody can come to husts.

**This JCR Believes:**That JCR elections would be fairer if everybody knew the policies of those running.

**This JCR Resolves:**- To mandate all candidates for JCR President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Domestic Officer, and Welfare Officers to produce an A4 page manifesto, to be circulated around the entire JCR and MCR after husts.  
- To add to the constitution, under Article 4: Elections, Sub-heading: Electioneering, Clause 18b) the phrase, “All candidates for President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Domestic Officer and Welfare Officer are expected to produce an A4 page manifesto.”’

**Proposed:** Sam Newhouse  
**Seconded:** Blessing Inyang

**Short Factual Questions:**

Dom McGovern: How to be enforced? Prevent those who do not from running?

Gege Parthasarthy: It looks bad if they don’t.

Il-Kweon Sir: How will manifestos be circulated?

Sam Newhouse: Links to manifestos when you vote, as OUSU does?

**Debate:**

Gareth Langley, Returning Officer: You can’t mandate people who haven’t been elected. Suggests following amendment:

**Amendment, Sam Newhouse**: Add to resolves, ‘To add to the constitution, under Article 4: Elections, Sub-heading: Electioneering, Clause 18b) the phrase, “All candidates for President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Domestic Officer and Welfare Officer are expected to produce a A4 page manifesto.”’

Alex Rankine: Does it affect people running?

Gareth: No.

**Vote**

No opposition, **motion passes**

**6. No platform for Julian Assange**

**This JCR Notes**:  
- That Julian Assange is evading extradition to Sweden for questioning in cases of rape by seeking asylum in the Ecuadorian Embassy.  
- That Mr Assange’s lawyer has not disputed the women’s accounts of what happened, and that what they describe happening to them is clearly sexual assault, in both Sweden and the UK.  
- That Mr Assange’s legal team nonetheless claims the rape allegations were created in order that Sweden might extradite him to the United States where he would face severe legal prosecution for his involvement in WikiLeaks.  
- That Mr Assange has been invited by The Oxford Union Society to speak via video link at an awards ceremony by on the 23rd January 2013 (2nd week) concerning his involvement in whistle blowing.  
- That rape and sexual assault are severely under-reported crimes due to lack of belief, evidence collection, legal procedures, and low conviction rates as well as social stigma and blame.  
- That false accusations of rape are no higher than false accusations of other crimes, at approximately 3%[[1]](#footnote-1), but reporting rates are much, much lower, with a government study estimating that between 75 and 95 percent of rapes go unreported[[2]](#footnote-2).

**This JCR Believes:**  
- That freedom of speech is essential and should be respected, but a commitment to freedom of speech does not require the Oxford Union to provide a prestigious platform to all voices.  
- That the criminal processing system is essential and should be respected, and that if Mr Assange is going to be questioned by anyone about the crime it should be by the Swedish police.  
- That the invitation to Mr Assange strengthens the misbelief that rape and sexual assault allegations are false and should be ignored, contributing to under-reporting.  
- That the invitation to Mr Assange is disrespectful to survivors of rape and sexual assault by silently affirming the myth that rape reports are false and propagating the malicious idea that rape and sexual assault survivors are to blame.  
- That contributions to revealing government misconduct do not excuse rape, and Mr Assange should still stand trial.

**This JCR Resolves:**  
~~- To call on The Oxford Union Society to withdraw the invite to Mr Assange.  
- To mandate the Women’s Officer Equal Opportunities Officer to write to the President of the Oxford Union expressing this opinion.~~   
- To mandate the President to write to the Union encouraging them to make a statement to the effect that the Union do not support anyone fleeing rape allegations and do not condone sexual assault and rape under any circumstances.  Should be made clear that the Union are purely trying to recognise the positive contribution made by Julian Assange’

**Proposed:** Abigail Burman  
**Seconded:** ~~Steph Cherrill~~ Sam Newhouse

Steph Cherill not present, Sam Newhouse seconds the motion.

**Short Factual Questions:**

Rachel Dellar: Who has passed this?

Trish: OUSU and Wadham. Other colleges are planning to introduce this.

**Debate:**

Dan Shearer: Do we have to get involved?

Abigail Burman: There are still valid allegations, it does affect us, students at Oxford have been victims of sexual assault etc.

Rosie Oxbury: Opting out when others opt in looks like we oppose it.

Rachel D: Something we have power over, it is relevant to us. I don’t think we should follow what other colleges do.

Felipe Monge Imedio: So many people are in favour in Julian Assange, this iscensoring what he has to say.

Dan S: The Union is about free speech.

Veronica Heney: Unsure whether we would be supporting Julian if he was he wanted for murder or grievous bodily harm. Not okay for Union to treat sexual assault differently.

Il-Kweon Sir: He hasn’t been convicted, and we would treat him the same if he was wanted for murder or GBH. It is not about us supporting him or not.

Abigail B: Shouldn’t invite him as supporter of human rights if he is violating females’ rights. Other comparable speakers are invited when the audience recognise what they’ve done is wrong.

Nick Dickinson: Would feel better if Assange was answering from Sweden. He’s a fugitive from justice. When Nick Griffin is invited, he’s invited for his abhorrent political views.

Dan S: This is making criminals second class citizens.

Sam Hodgson: Do the people who run the Union even care what we say?

Olivia Thompson: Issues of victim-blaming culture aren’t relevant here.

Chris Davies: We don’t have a ‘Women’s Officer’.

**Amendment Abigail Burman:** Change resolves so the letter is written by the Equal Opportunities Officer, not the ‘Women’s Officer’.

Ian Headley: Union is so prestigious, adds another tone to argument. Appearing at the Union gives weight to what he says.

Alex Coupe: Many members of Corpus have paid for Union, we should have a say. We should attempt to create a precedent. Union can’t invite whoever the hell they like.

Rosie O: No opt-out of giving an opinion here; can’t stay neutral on the issue and not passing this motion is still sending out a message.

Sam Newhouse: Financial punishment of Union could be helped by this motion.

Jack Worlidge: Uncomfortable with ‘no platform’ language.

Felipe M I: Lots of other speakers are controversial e.g. John McCain, Chinese ambassador.

Abigail B: Rape not taken seriously in society, other crimes are.

Tom Heaps: Not about whether he’s guilty of rape. He hasn’t been prosecuted or convicted. He has contributed positively to the world. Sit sounds like we’re pre-judging him.

**Amendment, Tom Heaps**: Replaces resolves with ‘To mandate the President to write to the Union encouraging them to make a statement to the effect that the Union do not support anyone fleeing rape allegations and do not condone sexual assault and rape under any circumstances.  Should be made clear that the Union are purely trying to recognise the positive contribution made by Julian Assange’. Taken as hostile.

**Debate on the amendment:**

Nick D: There is a legitimate point about our connection to this. Very strongly connected to our JCR, we have a responsibility to mention it. Things can be platforms to a greater or lesser degree.

Dom McGovern: JCR President represents whole community, so shouldn’t write this. JCR members should write personal letters because this issue is divisive.

Alex Rankine: The issue is not clear-cut because you are raising issues with freedom of speech etc. Does this invitation legitimise rape? No. This should be made clear by Union.

**Move to vote**

Abigail B: There are other people in WikiLeaks, other people could be invited. Letting Assange talk shows that we overlook rape.

Tom H: Mistaken notion that Union inviting someone is a legitimization. Speakers that the Union invites do not reflect opinions of Union. This statement does not have enough legitimacy from the few JCR members here.

Alex Coupe: The Union aren’t impartial, they decide which people to invite and which debates to hold. Union says Assange’s important because of one thing and not another. Also, as far as the rest of country is concerned, the Union represents Oxford.

**Vote on amendment**

17 for

10 against

**Amendment passes**

**Amendment, Dom McGovern**: President should draft letter and get JCR members to sign. Expresses what Tom said. Taken as hostile.

**Debate on amendment:**

Rachel D: People who do not come to meetings being spoken for is a flaw in JCR democracy. If people care, they can come. Amendment withdrawn.

Move to vote.

Speaking in favour of move to vote, Nick Dickinson**:** If not we’ll be here forever.

Speaking against move to vote, Felipe Monge Imedio**:** There’s still things to debate.

**Speech in Proposition, Tom Heaps**: We can all back this, not as strong as people wanted but whole JCR can back it. Doesn’t mean that individual JCR members can’t work to communicate with the Union.

**Speech in Opposition, Alex Coupe**: Not nearly as forceful, Union has chosen issue and chosen Assange. Issue chosen which avoids rape allegations, but relies on controversy related to rape.

**Vote**

16 for

6 against

**Motion passes**

**7. Merton bells!**

**This JCR Notes:**  
- That Merton College Bell frequently sounds every quarter of an hour.

- That whilst Merton's bell is entirely Merton's property, people in and around Corpus Christi College hear the bell and are affected by its chimes just as much as the Mertonians.

**This JCR Believes:**  
That Corpuscles have the right not to be disturbed by chimes at such regular intervals.

**This JCR Resolves:**  
- To try to encourage college to request that Merton only ring its bell once every hour.

- To suggest that Merton JCR adopt a similar motion.

**Proposed:** Alexander Rankine

**Seconded:** Abigail Burman

**Short Factual Questions**

Rachel Dellar: Can you withdraw this please? We’ll have no influence over Merton.

Move to vote.

**Vote**

Overwhelming opposition, **motion falls.**

1. Home Office Research Study no.293 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <http://www.hmic.gov.uk/media/without-consent-20061231.pdf>, Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary [↑](#footnote-ref-2)