**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY JCR MEETING**

**Sunday 8th Week MT12**

**Chair:** Kezia Lock (JCR President)

**Secretary:** Peter Fitzsimons

**Returning Officer**: Gareth Langley

**25th November 2012**

**1. Anonymously-Submitted Motions (2nd reading)**

**This JCR Notes:**  
- that proposing some motions can have negative consequences for the proposer  
- that the identity of the proposer or seconder of a motion might affect whether a motion passes or not

**This JCR Believes:**  
- motions should be passed on merit alone.  
- controversial motions should be able to be brought forward and discussed fairly without risk of backlash

**This JCR Resolves:**   
- to allow members of the JCR to propose motions to JCR meetings anonymously  
- to allow JCR members to nominate any other member of the JCR, including themselves, as a proxy for proposing/seconding a motion. The de facto proxy is the JCR President or Vice-President. If submitted, a written argument in favour of the motion will be read out by the JCR President.  
- to ensure that anonymous motions are approved by the President or a list of 35 signatures.  
- to create an anonymous email account which JCR members can use to submit anonymous motions.  
- to mandate the President to email out to the JCR any anonymously-submitted motions which have been deemed controversial.  
- to allow JCR members to submit anonymous motions either via email or by putting them in the President’s pidge.

Proposed: Noah Evans-Harding  
Seconded: Peter Fitzsimons

**Vote**

No opposition, **motion passes**

**2. HP Formal (moved forward by procedural motion)**

**This JCR Notes:**  
- Everyone loves Harry Potter Formal.  
- Harry Potter formal costs a leeetle bit of monies.

**This JCR Believes:**  
We love giving the maximum to charity.

**This JCR Resolves:**To reimburse Joe and team for the cost of HP formal - £12.58.

Proposed: Joe McCrudden

Seconded: Vicki Halsall

**Vote**

No opposition, **motion passes**

**3. Mindfulness Funding**

**This JCR Notes:**- Corpus and the University have great support *once* you get a problem, but there aren’t many effective preventative measures available.- Oxford is a very stressful and difficult place sometimes.- Mindfulness-based Cognitive Therapy is a scientifically proven way of improving mental well-being, and preventing anxiety and depression – two sources of much pain and disruption for present and past Corpuscles.- The Oxford Mindfulness Centre (part of the Psychiatry department of the University) offer an 8-week course of coping methods, centred around meditation, to colleges for £30 per person.- A few Corpuscles already practice Mindfulness.- We have had provisional interest from roughly 35 people in the JCR for such a course.- The Oxford Mindfulness Centre are reserving a place for us for Trinity term or next Michaelmas, but are booked for Hilary. **-** We would have liked to ask the JCR to pay only £10 of this fee but college won’t give contribute any money.

**This JCR Believes:  
-** That it should do all it can to protect and improve the mental well-being of its members.  
- That £30 may discourage or prevent some members from taking the course, who could benefit from it, but cannot afford it or are not convinced sufficiently to pay £30.  
- That Trinity term is probably best for this – since it would allow 1st years to make use of the course before prelims, and might be able to help some 3rd/ 4th years with late finals or who are staying after their finals.

**This JCR Resolves:  
-** To pay ~~£20~~ £10 of the fee for every participant, lowering the price to ~~£10~~ £20 per person (paying an estimate of ~~£20 x 35 = £700~~ £10 x 35 = £350).  
- To confirm that we would like to book a course at Corpus for Trinity term.

- To mandate JCR welfare officers to speak to the MCR welfare officers about funding it and extending to members of the MCR

Proposed: Sam Newhouse  
Seconded: Jess Lewis

**Short Factual Questions**

Andrew Dickinson: How effective?

Sam Newhouse: Works on everybody, significant amount of research shows it is very effective. Works as well as antidepressants for treating depression and reduces risk of relapse up to 40%. Will organise a taster session.

Arthur Graham-Dickson: Only 35 can do it?

Sam N: Not capped. Work out a prioritising system if more sign up, priority on a year by year system.

Karolin Kreuzer: If loads of people do it, might college fund it?

Sam N: Yeah.

Kezia: Might persuade college to fund it in future if successful.

Joe Rolleston: Do we pay in advance?

Sam N: Per person, but fees paid before term.

Rachel Dellar: Have you asked MCR?

Sam N: No I haven’t. But they were interested.

**Debate**

Arthur G-Dr: Mental health’s important, already sufficiently subsidized, other important health issues. Funding someone else’s self-improvement.

Rachel D: We always spend money to subsidize other people’s interests, not an issue.

Nick Dickinson: College will fund this if its shown to be effective. I’d prefer that we subsidize the amount that we were always going to subsidize.

**Amendment, Nick D**: Spend £10 per person. Taken as hostile.

**Debate on amendment.**

Sam N: £20 might put off people, it might not work for everybody, some might only turn up to a few.

Jess Lewis: Other mindfulness courses charge around 16-£21 over a term, people don’t seem to mind.

Barney Parker: Could college reimburse afterwards?

Sam N: Unlikely.

Nick D: We want maximal participation, but we need to cut off at some point. It’s also a lot of money. Could subsidize depending on number of people.

Rachel D: Spend money for meals for Ball Committee, JCR Committee, same sort of amount.

Joe Rolleston: A minority will benefit, £350 is more reasonable. A good deal at £20 each.

Kezia: Konrad thinks £10 per person from JCR is “more than reasonable.”

Sam N: I’m not sure we can spend this money on anything more productive.

James Taylor: If this service is available, then JCR doing this is supplementary.

Sam N: Very overbooked, can be very expensive.

Kezia: This comes from Dom McGovern offering to teach around 10 people, but 35-40 signed up and he didn’t feel comfortable teaching it.

Move to vote on amendment.

**Speaking in Proposition, Nick Dickinson**: Reasons already been said.

**Speaking in Opposition, Sam Newhouse**: No better way of spending money.

**Vote on Amendment**

14 for

8 against

Amendment passes

Sam Hodgson: We should have a list of everyone who will definitely do it, bring this motion back cos we don’t know how much we might spend.

Alex Coupe: £30 can be quite significant. Symbolic: mindfulness is very important, Oxford has a bad problem with mental health issues.

Joe R: We should get concrete commitment first.

Sam N: Price will affect how many people will apply. Clear commitment of 35 people without a price. Do it early enough to react.

Zack Hall: Oxford is stressful, should help people. Have a duty to help JCR members.

Arthur G-D: We shouldn’t pay for things which are already affordable.

**Kezia gives chair to Trish**

Kezia: We spend £3,000 on Corpus Challenge, this is a tenth of that, and will help lots of people.

**Chair taken back**

James T: Very indefinite vague commitment. We should go and get definite numbers, put a cap on it.

**Amendment, James T**aylor: to get a more concrete estimation based on £10 subsidy per head, and based on that, put a cap on it. Taken as hostile, withdrawn.

Nick D: We can do that anyway, this is the best way of limiting JCR exposure, assuming less than 35 will come.

**Amendment, Rachel Dellar**: Add to resolves ‘ To mandate JCR welfare officers to speak to the MCR welfare officers about funding it and extending to members of the MCR.’ Taken as friendly.

Move to vote.

Speaking in Proposition, Nick Dickinson:

No speech in opposition.

**Vote**

20 in favour

2 against

**Motion passes.**

**4. Democracy Presents**

**This JCR Notes:**  
- That Abigail Burman and Cora Salkovskis are the first Freshers to submit a motion to the JCR  
- That the already-passed budget doesn’t include funds for encouraging democracy.

**This JCR Believes:**- In encouraging democracy, especially among Freshers.  
- That giving a small gift to Abigail and Cora would be a good way to achieve this.

**This JCR Resolves:**  
To mandate the JCR Vice-President to spend no more than £10 on a gift (e.g. wine) for Abigail and Cora

Proposed: Joe Rolleston  
Seconded: Midori Takenaka

**Debate:**

Suggestion, buy Xmas cake

Rachel D: Really?

Sam Newhouse: Nice precedent to set.

Joe Rolleston: Symbolism. Nice gesture.

Midori Takenaka: So many nice gestures we could make, why this? What’s the point?

**Vote**

8 in favour

7 against

**Motion falls.**

**5. End of the Grey Book?**

**This JCR Notes:**  
- Every fresher currently receives a copy of the Examination Regulations (the Grey Book) when they begin their course.  
- At a generous estimate, under 80 of the 1125 pages are relevant to any one student.  
- Individual subject regulations change from year to year, so the Grey Book is not reliable beyond first year.  
- The whole up-to-date text of the Regulations is available online.  
- Every member of the JCR has access to the internet in College.  
  
**This JCR Believes:**  
- While the Grey Book may be useful as a doorstop or paperweight, these functions could be performed just as well by a rock.  
- At £45 and 1.2kg a copy, providing every fresher with one is a huge expenditure of money and paper.  
- We are committed to environmentally friendly practices within College, and that entails aiming not wasting money or paper.  
  
**This JCR Resolves:**  
- To mandate the JCR President to request the College cease to provide every fresher with a copy of the Grey Book, instead providing a reference copy to the Library (for the nostalgic) and directing Freshers to the online edition.  
- To mandate the JCR president to raise at PresCom, reminding OUSU that they should do so.  
- To support any OUSU initiative to get the book taken out.­  
  
Proposed: Gege Parthasarathy  
Seconded: Patricia Stephenson

**Short Factual Questions**

**Amendment, Gege Parthasarathy**: add to resolves: ‘To mandate the JCR president to raise at PresCom, reminding OUSU that they should do so and ‘To support any OUSU initiative to get the book taken out.’

Nick D: OUSU have passed 2 motions in the past, university backs this policy. They have a contract with printing companies, it’s been dealt with.

**No Debate**

**Vote**

Overwhelmingly in favour, **motion passes**