**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY JCR MEETING**

**Sunday 6th Week HT12**

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

**Secretary:** Peter Fitzsimons

**Returning Officer**: Gareth Langley

**JCR Members present:** 34

**17th February 2013**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

**Present:**  
JCR President – Patricia Stephenson  
JCR Vice-President – Peter Fitzsimons  
JCR Treasurer – Gege Parthasarathy  
Access and Admissions Officer – Blessing Ingyang  
Clubs and Socs Officer – Sam Hodgson  
Domestic Officer – Chris Davies  
Environment & Ethics Officer – Rosie Oxbury

Entz President – Midori Takenaka  
OUSU Officer – Nick Dickinson  
Returning Officer – Gareth Langley  
Welfare Officer (Male) – Sam Newhouse  
Welfare Officer (Female) Hannah Murphy

**Not Present:**  
Academic Affairs Officer – Olivia Thompson  
Accommodation Officer – Sam Robberts  
Arts Officer – Ian Headley  
Careers Officer – Grace Holland  
Equal Opportunities Officer – Abigail Burman  
International Students Officer – Erika Pheby  
RAG/Charities Officer – Nam Phuong Din

**Procedural Motion to move emergency motion one to front of meeting**. No opposition, **procedural motion passes.**

**Emergency Motion 1. Challenge monies**

Notes: The challenge is still great, but costs money

Believes: That college should pay for pitches but if they don’t the challenge needs more money

Resolves: To increase the budget by £400 to £2000 (this is still much lower than the cost of last year’s challenge).

Proposed: Sam Hodgson  
Seconded: Gareth Hodgson

**No Short Factual Questions:**

**No Debate**

**Vote**

No opposition, **motion passes**

**1. GoPro**

**This JCR Notes:**  
- The GoPro camera is widely used by the JCR and helps Access  
- The case had to be replaced over the vacation

**This JCR Believes:**  
- Access is good  
- Corpus IS cool

**This JCR Resolves:**  
To purchase the replacement from Alistair for £35

**Proposed:** Alistair Nichols  
**Seconded:** Blessing Inyang (Access & Admissions Officer)

**No Short Factual Questions**

**No Debate**

**Vote**

No opposition, **motion passes**

**2. Sam Henry is leaving**

**This JCR Notes:**  
- Sam Henry has been the Corpus bar man for 4/5 years  
- Sam Henry is leaving at the end of this term  
- Sam Henry created the Pelican, a revolutionary cocktail that shall go down in history  
- Sam Henry is a wonderful and efficient bar man, who is loved by all

**This JCR Believes:**  
- Sam Henry deserves to be thanked for his hard work  
- Sam Henry will be sorely missed

**This JCR Resolves:**  
- To give up to £100 for a thank you/leaving gift for Sam Henry, including a card to be put in the JCR for all members to sign, to be given to Sam at the last bop of this term (his last day)  
- To officially rename the Pelican 'Sam's Pelican' and for people to start ordering a 'Sam's'

**Proposed:** Midori Takenaka  
**Seconder:** ~~Sam Robberts~~ Sam Hodgson

Sam Robberts not present, Sam Hodgson seconds.

**Short Factual Questions**

Rachel Dellar: He’s actually been here 3 years.

**Debate**

**Amendment, Kezia Lock**: Add to resolves: we buy a card and out it in the JCR for everyone to sign it. Taken as friendly.

Rachel Dellar: Should it be a Sam’s or a Henry’s? Confusion with other Sams?

**Vote**

No opposition, **motion passes**

**3. Blanket Coverage Fun-draiser**

**This JCR Notes:**- That Oxford is hard and blankets are soft  
- That blanket forts are fun  
- That building forts can grant students valuable life skills

**This JCR Believes:**- That Charities deserve blanket coverage  
- That deep down everyone wants to rediscover their inner child  
- That building forts out of pillows and blankets would help to relieve stress amongst the student body and could form a positive contribution towards student welfare  
- That if you give someone a pillow, they can sleep for the night, but if you give someone a multitude of pillows, they can build a pillow fort!

**This JCR Resolves:**- To host a college-wide competition in which (groups of) students can construct pillow and/or blanket forts in return for an entry fee which would then be donated to a construction-based charity  
- To award a prize to the most successful forts as judged by certain pre-determined criteria in order to justify the endeavour

**Proposed**: Amber Barton  
**Seconded**: Ben Reinders

**Short Factual Questions**

Midori Takenaka: What is the prize?

Amber Barton: Bottle of wine, or printed cushion/pillow.

Dom Mcgovern: Do people bring their own pillows?

Amber: Yes.

**Debate**

**Vote**

No opposition, **motion passes**

**4. OUSU Council BDS**

**This JCR Notes:**  
- OUSU 5th week council discussed a motion (appendix 1) which proposed submitting a motion to NUS conference in support of the BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) movement.   
- Due to the controversial nature of this motion, council resolved to delay decision on this issue until 7th week in order to allow JCRs to consult their members and (if necessary) mandate their officers to vote a certain way.

**This JCR Believes:**  
- Whether we believe this is an important issue or not, OUSU’s decision on this question, one way or the other, will affect how this university and its students are viewed.  
- That Corpus JCR should thus take some stance on this issue and direct its officers accordingly.

**This JCR Resolves:**  
To mandate its officers in attendance at OUSU council so that one votes in favour of the BDS motion and 2 vote against the motion.[[1]](#footnote-1)

**Proposed:** Nick Dickinson  
**Seconded:** Aled Jones

**Short Factual Questions**

Felipe Monge-Imedio: Why?

Nick Dickinsons: Vote was delayed originally to allow JCR’s to express their opinion to OUSU delegates.

**Debate:**

Rachel Dellar: Quite arbitrary, lots of countries act in a similar fashion.

Kezia Lock: No reason for 3 delegates to OUSU council to vote as a block. If JCR is not unanimous, delegates could vote separately.

Ivan Dimov: Why are we only taking measures only against Israel?

**Speech in Opposition, Felipe Monge Imedio:** Israel is a democracy, Palestine is not. They are not equivalent, but this motion makes Israel look worse.

**Speech in Proposition, Nick Dickinson:** BDS is an innovative attempt to resolve this conflict where other means have failed.

**Vote**

9 in favour

14 against

2 delegates will vote against the motion, 1 will vote for the motion

**Appendix (as attached to agenda)**

**The BDS motion as submitted to OUSU council**

6. BOYCOTT, DIVESTMENT AND SANCTIONS

OUSU COUNCIL NOTES

1. That OUSU is affiliated to the National Union of Students.

2. That the policy of the National Union of Students is set in its annual Conference, which will occur in April 2013.

3. That 5 delegates to the NUS Conference were elected by and from the students of Oxford during the elections in Michaelmas Term 2012 (in addition to the current President and the President-elect who are automatically delegates under Standing Orders Sch 1 M 2.1)

4. That the draft agenda for the NUS Conference is available at [www.nusconnect.org.uk/pageassets/conference/about/NC2013\_CD5a\_Zoneproposals.pdf](http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/pageassets/conference/about/NC2013_CD5a_Zoneproposals.pdf)

5. That, once a final agenda is compiled in response to amendments and new motions from the NUS’s constituent student unions, OUSU’s 7 NUS delegates will be called on to vote at the NUS Conference on the various motions proposed therein.

OUSU COUNCIL RESOLVES

1. To introduce the following motion:

*“Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions*

*Conference believes*

*1. Since 1948 hundreds of UN resolutions have condemned the government of Israel’s colonial and discriminatory policies as illegal.*

*2. On the 31st January 2013 the UN Human Right’s Council said the government of Israel was in violation of article 49 of the fourth Geneva Convention, which forbids the transfer of civilian populations to occupied territory.*

*3. The Israeli government practices a policy of collective punishment and killing against the people of Gaza. This has included an illegal siege on Gaza in November 2012 which created a devastating humanitarian crisis for the 1.5 million people trapped there. Contrary to media reports this is not a proportionate response of self-defence.*

*4. Palestine is also responsible for violence and the killing of innocent civilians.*

*Conference further believes*

*1. All forms of international intervention and peace-making have until now failed to convince or force Israel to comply with humanitarian law, to respect fundamental human rights and to end its occupation and oppression of the people of Palestine.*

*2. We have a moral responsibility to fight injustice.*

*3. Palestinian civil society, including organisations in Gaza, has called for a campaign of boycotts, divestment and sanctions (BDS) against Israel until it complies with international law. Compliance is understood as follows: 1) Ending its occupation and colonization of all Arab lands and dismantling the Wall 2) Recognizing the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality; and 3) Respecting, protecting and promoting the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in UN resolution 194. More information about this movement is available here:* [*http://www.bdsmovement.net/call*](http://www.bdsmovement.net/call)

*4. These are non-violent punitive measures.*

*5. Supporters of the campaign include Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the UK Green Party and filmmaker Ken Loach, and motions in support of BDS initiatives have been passed at universities across the UK, the National Union of Students, the University of London Union (ULU) and by the Trades Union Congress.*

*Conference resolves*

*1. Condemn violence and successive breaches of international law by both Israel and Palestine*

*2. Join the global movement for Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) against Israel until it ends the occupation and complies with international law.*

*3. Conduct Research into Higher Education institutions’ contacts, relations, investments and commercial relationships that may be implicated in violating Palestinian human rights as stated by the BDS movement.”*

Proposed: Emily Cousens (Wadham College)  
Seconded: Yulin Zhang (Wolfson College)

1. For simplicity and to avoid the need to amend the motion one way or the other, I propose that the JCR voting down this motion can be treated as a mandate to oppose the BDS motion in council. If any JCR member feels strongly in favour of abstention however, they should feel free to propose an amendment to the motion accordingly. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)