**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY JCR MEETING**

**Sunday 8th Week HT13**

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

**Secretary:** Peter Fitzsimons

**Returning Officer**: Daniel Shearer

**JCR Members present:** 30

**3rd February 2013**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

**Present:**  
JCR President – Patricia Stephenson  
JCR Vice-President – Peter Fitzsimons  
Access and Admissions Officer – Blessing Ingyang  
Arts Officer – Ian Headley  
Careers Officer – Grace Holland  
Clubs and Socs Officer – Sam Hodgson  
Domestic Officer – Chris Davies  
Entz President – Midori Takenaka  
Environment & Ethics Officer – Rosie Oxbury  
Equal Opportunities Officer – Abigail Burman  
OUSU Officer – Nick Dickinson  
RAG/Charities Officer – Nam Phuong Din  
Returning Officer – Dan Shearer  
Welfare Officer (Male) – Sam Newhouse  
Welfare Officer (Female) Hannah Murphy

**Not Present:**  
Academic Affairs Officer – Olivia Thompson  
Accommodation Officer – Sam Robberts  
International Students Officer – Erika Pheby  
JCR Treasurer – Gege Parthasarathy

**THE MEETING**

Poet Laureate Tom White reads a poem about the ballot.

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

**Emergency motion 1. JCR Coffee Machine**

**This JCR Notes:**  
Coffee contains Caffeine

**This JCR Believes:**  
Caffeine is a stimulant.

**This JCR Resolves:**  
~~To purchase or rent a coffee machine.  
For it to be cleaned by the people that use it.~~  
To raise the Domestic Budget by £30.  
To mandate the Domestic Officer to come back after Easter with shortlist of coffee machines for purchase and a rota for cleaning them.

**Proposed:** Chris Davies  
**Seconded:** Felipe Monge Imedio

**No Short Factual Questions:**

Chris Davies: We can either buy/rent a coffee machine or buy instant coffee.

**Debate:  
Amendment, Kezia Lock:** Amend first resolves to ‘To purchase a coffee machine.’ Taken as friendly.

Dom McGovern: Coffee machine would need to be cleaned.

Felipe Monge Imedio: Coffee is a necessity, we need a good machine.

Kezia L: As a compromise, we can buy filter coffee and use cafetieres.

Nick D: Note that coffee machines make better coffee.

Dom McG: We would need to spend around £1000 on industrial coffee machine. We spend £500 a year on coffee already.

Chris D: We shouldn’t spend so much money when Gege (JCR Treasurer) isn’t here. Furthermore, Ball Committee often given £2000 at start of trinity.

**Amendment, Sam Hodgson:** Amend resolves to : ‘To mandate the Domestic Officer to come back after Easter with shortlist of coffee machines for purchase and a rota for cleaning them.’ Taken as friendly.

Chris D: We can get instant coffee in the meantime.

Ivan Dimov: Could we get company to sponsor coffee machine?

**Amendment, Chris Davies:** Strike the original resolves. Add to resolves: ‘To raise the Domestic Budget by £30.’

Move to vote.

**Vote:**

No opposition, **motion passes**

**1. Sexual Violence Policy (see appendix for final version of proposed college sexual violence policy)**

**This JCR Notes:**  
- That sexual violence is a tremendous issue in the population as a whole, but particularly at universities.  
- Underreporting is also a huge issue, with over 40% of survivors of rape or attempted rape telling no one at all, under 10% telling their GP, and 10% telling the police. In cases of sexual assault, even fewer reports are made to the police and the institution.   
- That the college itself currently has no articulated policy for responding to sexual violence.

**This JCR Believes:**  
- That it’s important to give survivors of sexual violence as many avenues as possible to report incidents of sexual violence and get the support they need.   
- That the college needs to lay out a clear definition of sexual violence and a clear protocol for responding to it.

**This JCR Resolves:**  
To mandate the JCR president to write to the Chaplain, expressing the JCR’s support for the adoption of some version of the attached definitions, procedures, and practices by the college.

**Proposed:** Abigail Burman  
**Seconded:** ~~Hannah Murphy~~ Sam Newhouse

Hannah Murphy not present, Sam Newhouse seconds.

**Short Factual Questions:**

Sam Hodgson: How does this differ from the law?

Abigail Burman: Basically the same as the 2003 revised sexual offences law. Recognises that people can be incapable of giving consent while still being conscious. Does require verbal consent standard which the law does not necessarily, as it recognises that body language is so variable. Law says that consent is an affirmative act. Rape, penetration and sexual assault are put under the umbrella term of sexual violence in the policy.

Sam Newhouse: What the policy for?

Abigail B: Makes clear who people go to after sexual assault, and what the college will do.

Toby Abbot: What’s meant by incapacitated?

Abigail B: Decided on a case by case basis.

**Debate:**

**Amendment, Chris Davies:** Remove everything in the third section (‘consent’) in the proposed version of the policy. Taken as hostile.

Kezia Lock seconds the amendment.

**Debate on amendment.**

Rachel Dellar: One has a responsibility to ensure consent.

Dan Parker: This is just saying that we believe in the standards in the law.

Nick Dickinson: This is not defining consent in terms of discipline.

Chris Davies: We should have a procedure, those who feel victims will not look up college definition of sexual violence.

Kezia Lock: ‘When you haven’t consented’ is enough for this document. We have consent workshops and JCR discussion of consent. It’s not helpful to define consent.

Rachel D: That’s okay if people have been informed about consent. Giving things a definition can be empowering.

Abigail B: Definitions really do matter, we have an image of sexual violence is which is not correct. Definition incredibly valuable to victims. Gives guide just for survivors. What we should be aspiring to as a JCR.

Grace Holland: It confuses things to define consent the way it is here. Consent is so individual that all should be considered case-by-case.

Sam N: Definitions given are quite ambiguous in the policy. Certain guidelines therefore can be used on a case-by-case basis. Also lets people go to college and get help without fearing that college will dismiss them.

Chris D: Definitions are ‘wishy-washy’ at the moment; it’s a very serious issue.

Ivan Dimov: Someone can be coerced into giving ‘formal’ verbal consent. Therefore could we change definition of consent to something that includes that?

Ian Headley: We aren’t looking for a perfect definition of consent. At college/university level there is currently nothing, just the word ‘consent’; this makes it clear that colleges support it. This type of document exists in the US, but nowhere in UK, and Abigail is trying to spread this round the university. The motion would lose a lot if we lose definition of consent.

Abigail B: We need to know what we’re aiming for. It’s written like this so college can work on it.

Felipe Monge Imedio: Does this motion improve our lives or not? These conditions of consent are so restrictive; might make us think that we are rapists.

Kezia Lock: not everyone in JCR is happy with this. Can’t both have the definition and then claim that the definition isn’t important. Plus if this is JCR policy we really need people to be unanimous.

Rachel D: The real utility of it is for people who are unsure of whether they are victims.

**Nick Dickinson: move to vote. Seconded.**

Vote on amendment.

15 for

12 against

**Amendment passes**

**Amendment, Sam Newhouse:** Reinstate everything removed in the amendment except the section on verbal consent (The second bullet point, ‘Explicit’, in the Consent Section) in the proposed version of the policy. Taken as friendly.

Dom McG: We should get specific examples of what sexual assault is, it’s so hard to define.

Abigail B: We’ve been working with college, college are looking for some sign that JCR wants something done about sexual violence and takes the initiative. Important implications are services for survivors and recording methods, this is about supporting survivors. Spoke with college OUSU officer and University sexual violence campaign director, head of UK Violence Against Women, read case studies of other policy, reading on legal theory, college doctor and welfare body, among others, in preparing the policy.

Felipe M I: Is this part of your Equal Opportunities job?

Abigail B: Yes.

**Amendment, Midori Takenaka:** Strike recommendation to make named perpetrators move room and/or change schedule in the proposed version of the policy (Remove Section 5 [‘Services’], subsection 3 [‘What college can do immediately’], bullet point 2, sub-bullet 1 [‘If the report has named an alleged perpetrator, they are the ones whose rooms will be changed’] and bullet point 4, sub-bullet 1. [‘If the report named an alleged perpetrator, they are the ones whose schedules will be changed’]) Taken as friendly.

Abigail: US Justice Department just released a report agreeing generally, we should guarantee civility. Interests of survivor come first. False recording rate is so low.

Arthur: 2-3% is not a low figure.

**Move to vote.**

**Vote:**

Overwhelming in favour, **motion passes**

**2. This Means WAR**

**This JCR Notes:**  
- Merton bells can be extremely annoying.  
- Merton bells can prove adverse to relaxation, and thus contribute to a detrimental effect upon students within the college living in Thomas building or new building.  
- Other colleges, namely St Hilda’s and St Catz have already declared war on Magdalen for aggressions made by Magdalen which equate to the annoyance of the Merton bells.  
- Now would be a good time to declare war on Merton, as is the mood of Oxford at the moment.  
- That Merton Cathedral is closer to Corpus accommodation than to Merton accommodation.

**This JCR Believes:**  
- We could find allies in Oriel, and possibly Univ, two other colleges that have experienced the chimes of Merton cathedral (albeit not to a greater extent than Corpus has).  
- This war would be more a symbolic action by the JCR; which would alert Merton to the fact that we are serious about them cutting down on their belling activities.  
- Students at Merton may side with Corpus if they feel the same way about the bells.  
- We have a real chance to stop the bells by doing this.

**This JCR Resolves:**  
- To declare war on Merton College, for the purpose of stopping, or minimizing the bells produced by Merton College.  
- To accept Merton’s surrender on condition that the bells are either stopped fully, or to a reasonable level.  
- To possibly form alliances with colleges nearby, or side with either Magdalen or the St Catz-Hilda’s alliance in order to give Corpus an advantage in the conflict.  
- To form a war committee, who would think of (and carry out) ways to adequately annoy Mertonians in a similar way we are annoyed by Merton Cathedral’s bells.

**Proposed:** Dan Shearer  
**Seconded:** Barney Parker

**No Short Factual Questions**

**No Debate**

**Vote:**

Overwhelming opposition, **motion falls**

**APPENDIX**

**Proposed Sexual Violence Policy (after amendment)**

**Draft copy produced for the JCR’s use by members of the JCR. The following are a set of suggested definitions, practices, and procedures. This document is intended not to lay out specific wordings for policies, but rather to lay out a set of suggested policy aims.**

**Sexual violence**

* The following are the College’s definitions of sexual consent and sexual violence. These definitions reflect the College’s expectation of its members and the college’s community standards. This policy also lays out the options for people who have experienced sexual violence in college, ranging from their options for reporting to the services they have a right to. There is a wide range of ways to report sexual violence, including anonymous reporting, and the college strongly encourages anyone who has experience sexual violence to make some kind of report. This includes making reports to avenues outside of the college, such as the police, GPs, and university services. However, people absolutely do not have to make any reports that they do not feel comfortable making, and the college will support them whatever their choice.
* For the purposes of the college, sexual violence (with rape and sexual assault being a subcategories of sexual violence), is defined as
  + Nonconsensual oral, anal, or genital penetration and intentional, nonconsensual sexual touching.
    - This holds true regardless of the sex or gender of the perpetrator or the victim.
  + An act is nonconsensual when consent (according to the below definition) has not been given.
  + The only thing at issue when determining whether or not sexual violence has occurred is the presence of sexual consent.
  + Sexual violence can occur anywhere and be carried out by anyone. In most cases the survivor will actually know the perpetrator, and this does not make the violence any less serious.
  + Sexual violence is included in the broader category of violence.
* Consent is the explicit communication of mutual approval for the sexual act that people are involved in. Consent is:
  + Affirmative
    - Lack or verbal or physical resistance is not consent.
    - Silence is not consent.
  + ~~Explicit~~
    - ~~Body language, which differs from person to person, is not an effective means of obtaining consent.~~
    - ~~Explicit consent is verbal, unless the people involved have previously negotiated another, mutually understood and equally explicit, means of communication.~~
  + Freely given
    - Consent that is coerced through the use of manipulation, pressure, threats, intimidation, or force is not consent.
    - Consent cannot be given by someone who is mentally or physically incapacitated by alcohol or drug use.
    - Consent cannot be given by someone who is unconscious.
  + A process
    - Consent must be obtained each time an act occurs.
    - Consent can be revoked at any time.
    - Consent to subsequent acts does not imply consent to previous acts, nor does consent to previous acts imply consent to subsequent acts.
* Reporting
  + To college
    - Sexual violence can be reported at any time. Although the college encourages people to report as soon as they can, the college recognizes that reporting may understandably be delayed, as emotions involved in sexual violence can be very difficult.
    - Making a report is independent from setting a police report in motion. It is also independent from setting the college disciplinary process in motion. However, reporting to college helps to keep these option open, should the person want later want them, and allows the college to help people access any services they may need.
    - It is possible to make a report without naming the perpetrator, although people are encouraged to do so.
    - The name of the person making the report, as well as the details of the report, will be kept strictly confidential. The recipient of the report will not disclose the name of the person making the report unless they have explicit permission from this person to do so. However, there are two narrow exceptions to this:
      * Information will be shared with the appropriate officials if there is reason to believe that the person who made the report is in danger of harming themselves or others.
      * Information will be shared with appropriate officials if there is reason to believe that the person named in the report as a perpetrator of sexual violence is in danger of harming themselves or others.
    - People who report sexual violence will be granted immunity from other violations of college policy (such as drug use) that were involved in the incident(s) reported.
    - To report an incident of sexual violence to the college, call or make an appointment with one of the following.
      * Dean
      * Junior Deans
      * Tutor for Men
      * Tutor for Women
    - The Dean, Junior Deans, tutors for men, women, and graduates will be fully trained in how to best support survivors and handle cases of sexual violence.
  + To the police
    - The college recognizes that the choice to report to the police is a highly personal one, and there are a number of reasons why people may not want to make a report. The college will support any decision students make about reporting to the police.
    - The college will be available to support people through the process of reporting to the police. For more on this, please see the sections on services.
  + Anonymous and third-party reports
    - If people would not like to make an official report to the college or the police, they are strongly encouraged to make an anonymous report to the college, one that gives neither their name nor the name of the perpetrator.
      * This type of report can make it easier to give a formal report later.
    - People may also file an anonymous report if they have witnessed or received a first hand account of sexual violence.
    - Anonymous reports can be made at XXXXX.com or by filling out the form available at both XXXXXX.com and in the Equal Opps Officer’s pidge and pidging it to the tutor for men, the tutor for women, the tutor for graduates, or the Dean.
* Services
  + There are a variety of services that the college can offer to support people who have experienced sexual violence. Utilizing these services in no way requires that a police report be made.
  + For the purposes of this document, the welfare team includes
    - Senior members of the college welfare group.
    - JCR and MCR welfare officers
    - The JCR Equal Opportunities President
    - Peer Supporters
  + What the college can do immediately
    - It is recommended that people who have been the victims of sexual violence go to the Geritourinary Medicine clinic as soon as they can. If they want forensics to be done, they will need to go to the Solace Center in Slough.
      * College will cover the costs of transportation there.
      * A member of the welfare team can accompany the student to the police station or the Genitourinary Clinic, or any other services they feel they immediately need.
    - Students can have their rooms changed.
      * ~~If the report has named an alleged perpetrator, they are the ones whose rooms will be changed.~~
    - If desired, students can immediately begin a leave of absence.
    - Where it is within the college’s power, immediate schedule changes can be made.
      * ~~If the report named an alleged perpetrator, they are the ones whose schedules will be changed.~~
    - In cases where someone accuses a specific person, the alleged perpetrator may, at the discretion of the Dean, be banned from having any contact with the person making the accusation.
  + What the college can do in the longer-term
    - Students can move rooms.
    - The college will also assist them if they wish to move colleges.
    - Schedule changes can be made.
    - If a student wishes to remain within college, a work schedule will be arranged that fits the student’s needs.
    - If a student chooses to remain within college, the college will help them access any medical or mental health care that they need, including covering transportation costs and helping them find providers.
    - If a student needs to take a leave of absence from college, the college will work with them to ensure that their academic standing is not endangered and that their return to college is as smooth as possible.
    - The college can also liaise with the student’s department, to encourage the department to support the student and meet their needs.
  + Any member of the welfare team may, with the explicit permission of the student, liaise with the appropriate members of the faculty and staff to make the above changes and arrangements.
    - The details of the case will not be disclosed without the student’s explicit permission.
  + Students may ask any member of welfare team to accompany them to any meetings or appointments connected with the incident(s).
    - This includes making a report to the police or to the university.
  + The college will also do its utmost to accommodate any other needs of students who have experienced sexual violence.
  + All members of the faculty and staff will keep the student’s personal information, including the specifics of their case, confidential, unless the student gives them explicit permission to do otherwise.
    - General data, without any identifying information, may be collected and shared in order to inform prevention efforts and future policy reforms.
  + A further listing of resources outside of the college available to survivors of sexual assault can be found on the JCR and MCR website, and shall be updated as needed by the Welfare and Equal Opportunities officers.
* Accountability
* Given how hard it is to handle sexual assault claims in a manner that is fair and respectful, and given the groundbreaking nature of this policy, we would like to appoint a senior member of the college who is not on the welfare team to be an independent overseer. This person would be responsible for assessing the performance of everyone involved every two years and will handle any complaints. They will also release an annual report of the number and type of sexual assaults that occurred on campus, how they were reported, and how they were dealt with.
* We would also like there to external advisors who specialize in issues of sexual violence and can be called on as experts to discuss policy and be used as a resource by the college community. Dr. Alison Phipps, Director of Gender Studies at the University of Sussex and one of the advisors to the NUS Hidden Marks report on violence against women at university, had kindly offered her services for this role.