**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY JCR MEETING**

**Sunday 4th Week TT13**

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

**Secretary:** Peter Fitzsimons

**Returning Officer**: Daniel Shearer

**JCR Members present:** 39

**12th May 2013**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

**Present:**JCR President – Patricia Stephenson  
JCR Vice-President – Peter Fitzsimons  
JCR Treasurer – Gege Parthasarathy  
Access and Admissions Officer – Blessing Ingyang  
Arts Officer – Ian Headley  
Careers Officer – Grace Holland  
Domestic Officer – George Simms  
Environment & Ethics Officer – Rosie Oxbury  
Equal Opportunities Officer – Abigail Burman  
OUSU Officer – Nick Dickinson  
Returning Officer – Dan Shearer  
Welfare Officer (Male) – Jamie Wells  
Welfare Officer (Female) Hannah Murphy

**Not Present:**  
Academic Affairs Officer – Olivia Thompson  
Accommodation Officer –Vickie Halsall  
Entz President – Midori Takenaka  
International Students Officer – Erika Pheby  
RAG/Charities Officer – Nam Phuong Din

**Apologies:**  
Clubs and Socs Officer – Sam Hodgson

**COMMITTEE MEETING**

Hannah Murphy: Corpus Cares all went well; would do the same again.

Abigail Burman: College have not accepted our proposed consent policy, although University taking training and disciplinary matter side (not welfare) more seriously. Not 100% sure what they will do, we’re still advocating the pastoral policy. University consent workshop. Hoping to put on equalities week in 2nd week of Michaelmas, maybe in conjunction with environmental week.

Ian Headley: Arts week going well, plan to do bigger but less frequent ones e.g. next Michaelmas £200 budget? Also, very valuable art in the collection, but some need care urgently.

**JCR MEETING**

Poem from Tom White, JCR Poet Laureate, about Corpus Cares Week.

Ball Committee Report, from Ball President Gina Yea.  
Governing Body has allowed us to increase capacity and ticket prices compared to last year.

**1. Amendments for the RO (1st reading)**

**This JCR Notes:** That manifestos and RO help with committee voting are not fully in the constitution or standing orders.

**This JCR Believes:** That we should include them.

**This JCR Resolves:**

- To add to the constitution in Electioneering, paragraph 18 of Article 4, Elections: “Manifestos will be sent to the Returning Officer at least 24 hours before the relevant hustings begin. It shall be the responsibility of the Returning Officer to distribute these documents by email before voting begins, and it shall be the responsibility of delegates to distribute paper copies at hustings when approved by the returning officer.”

- To add to the Standing Orders of the Returning Officer: “To help any members of the JCR committee with any poll or election they may wish to take a vote on.”

**Proposed:** Daniel Shearer **Seconded:** Rosie Oxbury

**No Short Factual Questions**

**No Debate**

**Vote:**

No opposition, **motion passes**

**2. Rowing Blades**

**This JCR Notes:**  
- Rowing is a major sport in Corpus  
- Last term is the first time W1 and W2 have both won blades in the same competition  
- Blades are expensive to buy and have painted (£190 each)  
- Each member of a blades winning crew purchases their own blade  
- It is traditional to hang a blade in the boathouse to commemorate a crew’s success  
- Not all crew members can afford to split the cost of a blade for the boathouse on top of purchasing their own  
- College will not contribute towards the cost of the boathouse blades  
- The Boat Club had to replace an expensive coxbox last term, so cannot afford to subsidise the cost of the blades

**This JCR Believes:**- It is important to celebrate the success of Corpus sports teams  
- The boathouse should proudly display the blades of its winning crews

**This JCR Resolves:**  
- To spend £200 subsidising the cost of two blades to hang in the boathouse, and ask the winning crews to pay the remaining £180.  
- To take as much of this money from any unneeded Clubs and Societies budget, and the rest from JCR discretionary budget.

**Proposed:** Clare Franklin  
**Seconded:** Chloe Farrar

**Short Factual Questions:**

Gege Parthasarathy: Possible to take out of Clubs and Socs Budget? Clubs & Socs Officer not at the meeting.

**Debate:**

**Amendment, Gege Parthasarathy**: Take as much of the £200 from the Clubs and Socs budget, with the rest coming from JCR. Taken as friendly.

**Vote:**

No opposition, **motion passes**

**3. Vac Res Grants**

**This JCR Notes:**  
That grants are good

**This JCR Believes:**   
Grants are particularly important if you can't afford accommodation costs

**This JCR Resolves:  
-** To support a Two Year Plan proposed (on the basis of JCR support) put forward by the Senior Tutor, Domestic Bursar and JCR President for Vac Res Grant system to be reformed.   
- Proposed changes: That we remove the extra 28 days for scholars and 21 for exhibitioners to allow for the number of nights available to ALL finalists to increase above 14. To increase the vac res grant from £10.53 to £12.61 (the actual cost of a vac res night). To have a separate application form for people to request more vac res grants based around financial need. It won't be a means tested application form, but will be ask questions about financial situation.

**Proposed:** Patricia Stephenson  
**Seconded:** Nick Dickinson

**Short Factual Questions:**

Rachel Dellar: Does Neil McLynn support this?

Patricia Stephenson: Yes. Everything apart from reduction in scholar grant will occur even without JCR support.

Sam Robberts: Will this just be for 3rd and 4th years?

Patricia: At the moment. Might move to 2nd years in future.

George Simms: Will those cover students who have extended terms?

Patricia: Yes. Financial application to Neils discretion.

Carolin Kreuzer: Subjects with part of finals in 2nd year allowed?

Patricia: Not at the moment.

Patricia: We won’t able to give all finalists 28 days of grant. This will be a 2 year plan, implemented next year. College response to accommodation issue.

Rosie Oxbury: What will happen after the 2 years are up?

Patricia: We don’t know, depends on Governing Body.

**Debate:**

Rachel D: Really good idea, financial rewards not that important in motivating students. Giving scholars extra grant widens gap. 2nd year scholars don’t need/use it.

Livvy Elder: Don’t support the motion. Two issues; 1) can college pay for everyone. 2) fairness issue. If we are concerned about fairness, this should be a separate motion.

Patricia: We’re all going to work as hard as we’re going to work. Rewarding scholars based on need for library does not change this.

**Move to vote, Sam Robberts**. Seconded by Sam Newhouse.

**Vote:**

Overwhelming majority, **motion passes**

**4. Measuring jug and containers**

**This JCR Notes:**- The JCR maintains sugar and teabags.  
- From time to time sugar and transfer become mouldy by not being kept in an airtight container.  
- It is good for the coffee machine to be kept in good repair.  
- It would be a bad idea to use the same jug for descaler as for food purposes.

**This JCR Believes:**  
- It is good for sugar to be kept in good repair.  
- Cleaning the coffee machine requires a measuring jug for descaler.

**This JCR Resolves:  
-** To reimburse and mandate the Domestic officer to purchase two airtight containers for the storage of sugar and teabags for no more than £5 each.  
- To reimburse and mandate the Domestic Officer to purchase a measuring jug for no more than £5.  
- To mandate the Domestic Officer to buy a big tub for everything in the cupboard to fit inside.

**Proposed:** George Simms **Seconded:** Blessing Inyang

**No Short Factual Questions**

**No Debate**

Patricia Stephenson (JCR President) cedes the Chair to Gege Parthasarthy (JCR Treasurer)

**Amendment, Patricia Stephenson:** Should get big tub for everything that fits in cupboard (to prevent rats etc from being attracted to the food). Taken as friendly.

**Vote:**

No opposition, **motion passes**

**5. Ice Ice Baby**

**This JCR Notes:** Some regions of college, such as New Building, lack freezers.

**This JCR Resolves:** To reimburse and mandate the Domestic Officer to purchase two ice cube trays for no more than £4 each.

**Proposed:** George Simms **Seconded:** Rosie Oxbury

**Short Factual Questions:**

Rosie Oxbury: Where will we keep them?

George Simms: Keep in JCR.

Chris Ewing: We’ll only use them in summer.

Livvy Elder: Shouldn’t this be part of the budget?

George: Prefer to use budget for regular expenditure.

**No Debate**

**Vote:**

No opposition, **motion passes**

**6. Sunbathing**

**This JCR Notes:** The JCR likes sunbathing.

**This JCR Believes:** The JCR does not like sunburn.

**This JCR Resolves:** To ~~use~~ mandate Hannah Murphy to spend up to ~~£15-£25~~ £40 from ~~Welfare Budget/~~JCR Budget to purchase 1 bottle of SPF 15, 1 bottle of SPF 30, 1 bottle of SPF 50 from a brand known not to test on animals ~~Boots/Superdrug~~ ~~(and tanning oil, you know you want it).~~

**Proposed:** ~~Arthur Graham-Dixon~~ Rachel Dellar  
**Seconded:** ~~Dom McGovern~~ Aled Jones

Rachel Dellar proposes.  
Aled Jones seconds.

**Short Factual Questions:**

Blessing Inyang: Why?

Rachel Dellar: We don’t want people getting skin cancer, sun cream is expensive.

**Debate:**

Chris Ewing: It’s going to rain for the rest of term.

**Amendment, Hannah Murphy:** Expenditure out of JCR budget. Taken as friendly.

**Amendment Rosie Oxbury**: Get it from Mark & Spencer: they don’t test on animals. Taken as friendly.

**Amendment, Rachel Dellar**: Mandate Hannah Murphy to do it.

Jamie Wells: It will cost more than the price in the motion.

**Amendment, Jamie Wells**: remove tanning oil. Taken as friendly.

**Amendment, Hannah Murphy**: get cheapest up to £40. Taken as friendly.

**Move to vote**, Chris Ewing and Sam Newhouse.

**Vote:**

21 against  
8 in favour  
**motion falls**

**7. Wrapping Paper**

**This JCR Notes:** The JCR boards have horrible wrapping paper on them. One of them looks like a turquoise Mr. Blobby outfit. Lots of them have tears/holes.

**This JCR Believes:** Raising awareness about sexual/mental health, general wellbeing, charity, access schemes etc. is hugely important but, especially in relation to the first two of these, if isolated can become oppressing and even create a visual environment of paranoia.

**This JCR Resolves:**  
- To mandate ~~the elected committee member for each board~~ the JCR Vice-President to select new wrapping paper ~~they feel is appropriate (and preferably aesthetically pleasing).~~ which is either dark green or dark red.  
- To mandate each elected committee member to look at his/her board and try to add more (optimistic preferably) content. Mostly proposed to create debate as to what people would like from these boards as they feel slightly disused and neglected.

**Proposed:** Arthur Graham-Dixon  
**Seconded:** Dom McGovern

**Short Factual Questions:**

Gege Parthasarthy: Replace all wrapping paper?

Arthur Graham-Dixon: Depends.

**Debate:**

Sam R: Because JCR is dark, we should try this.

**Amendment, Sam Robberts:** Only dark reds and dark greens. Taken as friendly.

Hannah Murphy (JCR Welfare Officer): Welfare posters are from OUSU, some are useful, but won’t insist on keeping them up if JCR are against.

Rachel Dellar: Arthur actually wants more posters, dilute the negative posters with positive posters.

**Amendment, Arthur-Graham Dixon**: To mandate the JCR Vice-President to purchase the wrapping paper.

Move to vote, Chris Ewing

**Vote:**

No opposition, **motion passes**

**Any Other Business**

Patricia Stephenson and Tom Heaps discussed the rent negotiations:

College thinks negotiations are over. JCR received room regrading, washing machines in every property, refurbishment of JCR Office (including kitchen) and vac res changes. No increase in JCR bloc grant, but JCR account has £12,000. 3.1% increase in rent, which is the V&I Oxford inflation rate (used by all colleges to determine inflation in Oxford).

Patricia annoyed at college’s lack of willingness to listen to JCR views. Ignored JCR opinion on agreement over rent increase, and made decision regardless, even before negotiation. College is not concerned with JCR views at all. Other members of the JCR also objected to college disregarding JCR views, including members of the welfare committee. Others mentioned that we should recognise the positive aspects, especially when dealing with individuals and the fact JCR got most of the rent concessions it wanted. How should the JCR best object? Discussions of various methods of doing this, which will start with a petition. Our discussions shouldn’t be leaked to the newspapers as this will weaken our bargaining position.