

Extraordinary JCR Meeting - Wednesday TT20/6

Chair: Matt Carlton

Secretary: Augy Allain-Labon

Returning Officer: Rhiannon Percy

1. Introduction from President

Apology

Meeting with Helen tomorrow - gonna bring up all this

Augy and I had a meeting about how to raise money and sort out

Thank yous - Lil, Collette & Grassam, Welfares, etc.

2. Report from Treasurer on this term's budget

3. Motions

#blacklivesmatter

Affiliation to the George Floyd Memorial Fund

This JCR notes that

1. On 25th May, George Floyd, a black man, was murdered by a white police officer in Minneapolis, Minnesota.
 - a. While Floyd was handcuffed and lying face down on a city street during an arrest, Derek Chauvin, a white police officer kept his knee on Floyd's neck for over 8 minutes.
 - b. Chauvin was charged with 3rd degree murder 4 days after he killed Floyd.
 - c. The other three police officers involved in Floyd's murder have not been charged.
 - d. The murder of George Floyd is not an isolated incident. Despite only making up 13 percent of the US population, Black Americans are two-and-a-half times as likely as white Americans to be killed by the police.
 - e. Floyd's murder has sparked protests across the US against police violence and white supremacy.

- f. Protesters who are arrested and unable to raise bail funds are imprisoned before trial because they are not able to afford bail.
2. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there have been no JCR levies this term.
 - a. This includes the Charities Levy.
 - b. According to section 38, clause 3: 'The Charities Levy shall be the sole fund from which the JCR may donate to registered charities.'
 - c. This means that we cannot donate to any registered charities this term.
 - d. According to section 3, clause 4, subclause B: 'The property and income of the JCR shall not be paid to any charitable organisation or purpose to which the JCR is not affiliated except when the property or income has been raised specifically for charitable purposes, as established in section 38, clause 1'
 - e. As interpreted by the RO on 1/6/2020, for the JCR to become affiliate with a charitable organisation or purpose, the JCR must 'vote on it by plebiscite'. This will affiliate the JCR to the organisation or purpose for one calendar year.
3. The constitution requires a 'plebiscite' in order for the JCR to affiliate with an organisation.
 - a. The same (viz. a plebiscite) is ordinarily required to decide whether the JCR should affiliate with the SU.
 - b. This decision is taken by an ordinary vote in a JCR meeting.
 - c. Therefore, on the precedent of the SU affiliation as described above, the RO has interpreted the constitution such that a vote passing in the JCR meeting, such as this current one, is sufficient to count as a plebiscite.
 - d. In other words, the very passing of this motion satisfies the constitutional need for a plebiscite.
4. The George Floyd Memorial Fund goes towards covering legal fees, counselling, support for his family and funeral costs.

This JCR believes that:

1. The injustice of George Floyd's death is abhorrent.
2. It is not enough to be not racist. We must be anti-racist.
3. We are a privileged student body and should reflect on the power this gives us.
4. We should use this position to amplify the voices of people who are subject to systemic violence and discrimination.
5. Present and incoming students should feel that their JCR stands beside them and not only condemns racism but actively supports anti-racist causes.
6. The only constitutional way to donate to the Black Lives Matter Movement, this term, is to affiliate with a non-registered charitable purpose, such as a GoFundMe campaign.

This JCR resolves to:

1. Mandate the President to affiliate the JCR to the George Floyd Memorial Fund.
2. Mandate the President to make a statement publicising this affiliation.
3. Mandate the RO to add this new affiliation to the Policy Document.

Proposed: Lilya Tata

Seconded: Colette Webber

SFQs:

Florence: the difference between a plebiscite and a referendum

Rhi: plebiscite is this vote, referendum is a referendum

Matt: Cats college have also done this affiliation thing

Tyron: clarity on the contradictory nature of the two motions:

Lil: these are the two different ways we came up with - the motions proposed by Florence originally and mine. We could pass both

Debate:

Zaman: Why this cause?

Amendment (Zaman): to change the George Floyd Memorial Fund to Black Lives Matter

Taken as friendly

Adam: could we just affiliate to the JCR charities fundraiser?

Lil: no, it doesn't send a message, and we are affiliated anyway.

Hannah: what is the conclusion on who we're affiliating to?

Lil: if we can affiliate to a wider movement that would be better

Florence: we can still affiliate to BLM, and then donate to other charities from the charities fundraiser

Celia: doesn't it restrict us to the US? When police brutality happens everywhere?

Rhi: this doesn't restrict us, we can still do that.

Zaman: also fyi 501(c)3 (such as black lives matter) is a nonprofit designation, but the USA does not have a 'charity' designation as such I think

Gemma: just making sure that it's a general affiliation to BLM

Amended motion:

This JCR notes that

5. On 25th May, George Floyd, a black man, was murdered by a white police officer in Minneapolis, Minnesota.
 - a. While Floyd was handcuffed and lying face down on a city street during an arrest, Derek Chauvin, a white police officer kept his knee on Floyd's neck for over 8 minutes.
 - b. Chauvin was charged with 3rd degree murder 4 days after he killed Floyd.
 - c. The other three police officers involved in Floyd's murder have not been charged.
 - d. The murder of George Floyd is not an isolated incident. Despite only making up 13 percent of the US population, Black Americans are two-and-a-half times as likely as white Americans to be killed by the police.
 - e. Floyd's murder has sparked protests across the US against police violence and white supremacy.

- f. Protesters who are arrested and unable to raise bail funds are imprisoned before trial because they are not able to afford bail.
6. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there have been no JCR levies this term.
 - a. This includes the Charities Levy.
 - b. According to section 38, clause 3: 'The Charities Levy shall be the sole fund from which the JCR may donate to registered charities.'
 - c. This means that we cannot donate to any registered charities this term.
 - d. According to section 3, clause 4, subclause B: 'The property and income of the JCR shall not be paid to any charitable organisation or purpose to which the JCR is not affiliated except when the property or income has been raised specifically for charitable purposes, as established in section 38, clause 1'
 - e. As interpreted by the RO on 1/6/2020, for the JCR to become affiliate with a charitable organisation or purpose, the JCR must 'vote on it by plebiscite'. This will affiliate the JCR to the organisation or purpose for one calendar year.
7. The constitution requires a 'plebiscite' in order for the JCR to affiliate with an organisation.
 - a. The same (viz. a plebiscite) is ordinarily required to decide whether the JCR should affiliate with the SU.
 - b. This decision is taken by an ordinary vote in a JCR meeting.
 - c. Therefore, on the precedent of the SU affiliation as described above, the RO has interpreted the constitution such that a vote passing in the JCR meeting, such as this current one, is sufficient to count as a plebiscite.
 - d. In other words, the very passing of this motion satisfies the constitutional need for a plebiscite.
8. The George Floyd Memorial Fund goes towards covering legal fees, counselling, support for his family and funeral costs.

This JCR believes that:

7. The injustice of George Floyd's death is abhorrent.
8. It is not enough to be not racist. We must be anti-racist.
9. We are a privileged student body and should reflect on the power this gives us.
10. We should use this position to amplify the voices of people who are subject to systemic violence and discrimination.
11. Present and incoming students should feel that their JCR stands beside them and not only condemns racism but actively supports anti-racist causes.
12. The only constitutional way to donate to the Black Lives Matter Movement, this term, is to affiliate with a non-registered charitable purpose, such as a GoFundMe campaign.

This JCR resolves to:

4. Mandate the President to affiliate the JCR to the Black Lives Matter Movement.
5. Mandate the President to make a statement publicising this affiliation.
6. Mandate the RO to add this new affiliation to the Policy Document.

Proposed: Lilya Tata

Seconded: Colette Webber

Vote:

40 Yes

1 No

1 Abstention

Motion Passes

George Floyd Memorial Fund donation

This JCR notes:

1. We hopefully have just passed a motion affiliating us with the George Floyd Memorial Fund.
2. The Constitution 1.3.6b sets out our ability to pay money towards the memorial fund, as interpreted by the RO.
3. This marks a key statement by our JCR to note to our students past, our students present, and those yet to join us, that we are an actively anti-racist body.
4. All other key points were summarised in the previous motion.
5. Recently money was given to help provide food for NHS staff on ITU.

This JCR believes:

1. We stand in solidarity to support our fellow humans suffering in the hands of racists.

This JCR resolves to:

1. Annul the liability of the JCR to fulfil its obligation of the aforementioned pizza motion and to redirect those funds towards the George Floyd Memorial Fund, through an online donation platform to be provided by the proposers of the motion.
2. Mandate the Treasurer to pay £500 as soon as possible to the George Floyd Memorial Fund, through an online donation platform to be provided by the proposers of the motion.

Proposer: Lilya Tata

Seconded: Colette Webber

Debate:

Rhi: we need to be careful. The JCR is a kind of trust which Matt and Florence are personally responsible for.

Colette: Passing this would prove that it's relevant to students in the JCR. Refer to Effie's post, speak to reps.

Rhi: Everyone whose money is in the JCR pot should be consulted

Colette: how did we do this with Cellar?

Florence: the only precedent for donating is cellar - which wasn't right, and we have got the money back from that, and could sue Ryan Mamun

C: We should ask people then - people will surely agree

Florence: we expect people will, but we have to check.

Matt: do we need to amend to include a referendum?

Lil: the passing of motions shows JCR is in favour, we pass monetary motions all the time, based on the principle that people who turn up to JCR meetings represent the whole JCR. That amendment wouldn't be taken as friendly. Also, to Tyron's point,

Florence: if it's legally dubious, I'd rather have a referendum

Lil: The upcoming motion allows us to donate to a wider range, so it's better. May withdraw motion.

Hannah: I've studied trust law, are we definitely a trust?

Rhi: We emailed college: we are a 'members' club'. Rhiannon thinks we are a trust

H: We can and do donate to charities through the charities levy, so why can't we give money now?

Rhi and Florence: We can't give money that was given not for a charitable purpose for a charitable purpose

Matty: If this motion still is to stand, having a referendum would convey that the question of whether racism is bad is a question that's worth asking. This is bad.

Lil: someone needs to explain the difference between the two motions.

Florence: Rhiannon said we should need a unanimous decision - but we can't do this.

Tyron: the problem with the trust thing is that it could be exploited in future - but with the next motion that's fine

Gemma: the feasibility of a referendum - we all want this to happen quickly. Not everyone is contactable via the internet.

Colette: We feel we've been put in a corner. We are withdrawing this motion.

Colette: I have some broader points to have at the end.

Motion Withdrawn

Transfer of funds from JCR reserves as replacement for Charities Levy for TT20

This JCR Notes:

1. This term we have had no charities levy due to the exceptional circumstances we find ourselves in.
2. Due to Section 18.iv of the constitution stating that the President and the Treasurer are trustees of the JCR, the JCR is bound by normal fiduciary and trust obligations which explains the constitutional provisions about donating money to charitable purposes.
3. There are ways for the executives to still support charities without breaching their duty.
4. The preamble of the constitution allows the JCR executives to act in a way that promotes the interests of its members.
5. The Charities Officer, as seen previously, is able to raise funds independently of the JCR for charitable causes.
6. The JCR can mandate an officer to spend funds in a certain way, in line with what has been said above.
7. The Treasurer can be mandated to hold a special levy to recoup costs.

This JCR resolves:

1. To mandate the treasurer to run the GoFundMe page in an informal manner similar to that of the charities levy.
2. To mandate the charities officer to carry out the charities ballot as per usual
3. To mandate the Treasurer to donate all the funds raised from the GoFundMe page to the nominated charities of the ballot in the usual proportions
4. To aim to raise as much as we can of the £3000 ordinarily donated as part of the charities levy via a GoFundMe page set up for the JCR (<https://www.gofundme.com/f/corpus-jcr-charities-levies-tt20>).
5. To mandate the president to hold a referendum (which shall be publicised by the end of Thursday if this motion passes) on whether the following mandates should be effected:
 - a. To mandate the Equal Opportunities President to donate up to £1500 to the charities ballot, to be split along the same proportions as the money from the GoFundMe page was/will be split - i.e. according to the results of the charities ballot. Therefore the donation will be clearly in the interests of the JCR members.
 - b. To mandate the Treasurer to add a Special Levy of £5 to next term's battels to recoup the costs. This levy will not apply to freshers or (of course) those leaving the college at the end of this term.

Proposed: Florence Goodrich

Seconded: Lilya Tata

SFQs:

Tyron: this motion is unconstitutional. Even if you're mandating an officer to give money, it's still using JCR funds. If it's an additional levy, this can't be opted out of. I put solutions in my email

Rhi: your idea wouldn't have worked bc we can't change the charities levy

Tyron: we pay now, we recoup the money with charities levy next term - we just take half the charities levy from next term and use it for this term

Florence: this means we can donate more

Rhi: opting out of an additional levy is more difficult to opt out of than the charities levy - lose privileges of being a JCR levy-payer (JCR tea etc.)

Florence: this motion is saying we're borrowing money from the JCR, to be recouped next term. What's the difference?

Tyron: this would come out of the ordinary charities levy

Matt: this means we would have less money to donate next term

Tyron: people wouldn't really be allowed to opt out

Lil: if you opt out of a special levy, you have to opt out of the jcr levy

Florence: I thought we were doing this like a scholars' levy

Matt: can we change our constitution to make it possible?

Hannah: Why can't we just do a constitutional amendment to add this specific levy for these specific circs.

Rhi: it could even be more general - if there is a situation where battels can't be brought, what do we do.

Florence: this is what I thought the motion did anyway

Tyron: this still means we're giving funds which weren't raised for charity. A constitutional amendment means it can't be done until next Michaelmas

Matt: can we take Tyron's amendment, then annul it at the next meeting?

Tyron: Yes, this will allow us to donate now.

Matty: can't we just call another extraordinary meeting?

Rhi: yes, we need 35 signatures as normal

Matty and Lil: then we can go call another extraordinary meeting and sort this all out by the end of the week.

Lil: we can still pass the constitutional amendment (with Tyron's amendment)

Adam: explains how the charity ballot works

Florence: do we need a referendum for this?

Amendment (Tyron):

- To mandate the charities officer to carry out the charities ballot as per usual
- To mandate the Treasurer to donate £1500, in accordance with the charities ballot, to be reduced from Charities Levy money raised the next time battels are issued

Amendment (Lil): to change it to £2000

Taken as friendly

Florence: we can still bring motions in future to say we'll donate to a specific cause

Rhi: from now on, it will all be much easier, once we have a charities levy

Amended Motion:

This JCR Notes:

8. This term we have had no charities levy due to the exceptional circumstances we find ourselves in.
9. Due to Section 18.iv of the constitution stating that the President and the Treasurer are trustees of the JCR, the JCR is bound by normal fiduciary and trust obligations which explains the constitutional provisions about donating money to charitable purposes.
10. There are ways for the executives to still support charities without breaching their duty.
11. The preamble of the constitution allows the JCR executives to act in a way that promotes the interests of its members.
12. The Charities Officer, as seen previously, is able to raise funds independently of the JCR for charitable causes.
13. The JCR can mandate an officer to spend funds in a certain way, in line with what has been said above.
14. The Treasurer can be mandated to hold a special levy to recoup costs.

This JCR resolves:

6. To mandate the treasurer to run the GoFundMe page in an informal manner similar to that of the charities levy.
7. To mandate the charities officer to carry out the charities ballot as per usual
8. To mandate the Treasurer to donate all the funds raised from the GoFundMe page to the nominated charities of the ballot in the usual proportions

9. To aim to raise as much as we can of the £3000 ordinarily donated as part of the charities levy via a GoFundMe page set up for the JCR (<https://www.gofundme.com/f/corpus-jcr-charities-levies-tt20>).
10. To mandate the Treasurer to use £2000 of the future charities levy to fund the charities ballot, to be split along the same proportions as the money from the GoFundMe page was/will be split - i.e. according to the results of the charities ballot. Therefore the donation will be clearly in the interests of the JCR members.

Proposed: Florence Goodrich

Seconded: Lilya Tata

Vote:

37 Yes

1 No

1 Abstain

Interlude - a talk from Colette:

I want to talk about how things happened on Facebook. There were problems with the language used. Alex says now more than ever, we depend on social media to be corpus. I understand things get lost in translation. I regret making it late at night. I've been speaking with Chantelle, Lil and Grassam. Tyron's comment that it wasn't 'good practice' to spend money not directly related to students was problematic. We need to think more about ways to privately avoid having this debate in the future, which, accidentally maybe, debates black students' relevance, which is what happened. Florence several times said 'it would be lovely', 'a nice thing to do' - I found this came across as disconnected. We weren't talking about things that would be 'nice' to do. This is hopefully on behalf of other people as well. I appreciate the apology. We need to think about ways of doing this kind of thing sensibly in future. I'm not under any delusion that lots of other people wanted this to happen. This is just about the way it was dealt. I should've said this isn't appropriate at the time. The language thing is important. This meeting has felt almost deliberately obtuse - it's confusing.

Matt: the constitution is there for a reason. It stops the JCR going too far, even if it wants to do good. It's SO complex to play with the constitution and play with the legality of things, that you're forced to take a step away from the emotion. This was happening in the comments, and here today. I can only apologise for obtuseness; I'm glad we've reached a conclusion now.

C: I'm hoping that something needs to be done so that people can feel like they actually understand what's going on. We should never debate about the value of a particular person's life.

Future emergency charities donations

This JCR notes:

1. Causes sometimes come up when there is insufficient funding remaining in the Charities Budget to be able to support them (as the current COVID/BLM situations are demonstrating).

This JCR believes:

1. We should always be able to support causes that people feel passionate about.

This JCR resolves:

1. To mandate the treasurer to set up a specific charities bank account, which will the charities will be paid into.
2. To insert 36 iii 'the treasurer, president and charities officer shall be co-signatories on the JCR charities bank account. In the event that one of them cannot be a co-signatory, the Vice-President will be a co-signatory. If the Vice-President also cannot be a signatory, then the Executive Committee will nominate a co-signatory;'
3. To insert clause 38 vii 'the charities officer should reserve £400 each term from the Charities levy within the charities bank account each term.'
4. That any funds left in the charities bank account at the end of Michaelmas Term will go into the normal charities ballot for hilary term, thus resettling the fund
5. To amend the constitution to insert clause 8 xi 'a motion can be brought to make a charitable donation up to £100 using the excess £400 by any member of the JCR by special resolution. This motion must be seconded by the charities officer.'
6. 8 xI(i) 'should the charities officer refuse to second the motion, the motion can be seconded by any member of the JCR provided they have 35 signatures.'
7. To mandate the Returning Officer within their usual powers to update the constitution in respect to these changes.

Proposed: Florence Goodrich

Seconded: Adam Winniffrith

SFQs:

Matt: if we have emergency fundraisers like this one, we'll be able to do it easily in future

Zaman: why a separate bank account?

Florence: Apparently we shouldn't have them in the same bank account.

Zaman: why only the 'reset' thing at the end of Michaelmas.

Florence: treasurer's term finishes in Michaelmas

Ryan: the limit of £100 - what's the point?

Florence: it's so that we will always have some money with which we can support emergencies. The £100 means it won't all get used at once. If there are a few causes, we can donate to lots.

Ryan and Florence: it doesn't fix the future, but makes it slightly better

Lil: is this a constitutional amendment? (Yes) and so shouldn't it say something about updating the constitution?

Florence: it does say this.

Matty: the limit should be more than £100. a max of £400 to be distributed at JCR discretion?

Florence: the only thing is, if we had split up the charities level in 3rd week, then 5th week, then we've got nothing left

Lil: we don't need to worry about having all the charities money gone, bc this currently

Amendment (matty): there's no limit to the amount of each donation (other than the £400), and no restriction on the number of donations we have to make each term. Any spare will just run over into next term.

Taken as friendly

1. To amend the constitution to insert clause 8 xi 'motions can be brought by any member of the JCR by special resolution to make charitable donations, totalling to the amount of £400 term. This motion must be seconded by the charities officer.'

Sampada: Why do we need to make the constitution more complex by adding a new bank account?

Florence: the charities bank account is needed to separate the two things so it's a bit simpler and less dodgy. It doesn't add so much complexity that it's unworkable.

Matty: it just gives us a safety net, and flexibility for JCR

Sampada: So what happened in the previous motion? the previous one is for this (weird) term.

Florence: This one allows us to give emergency charities money at short term.

Lil: this prevents future JCRs going through all this again.

Amended motion:

This JCR notes:

1. Causes sometimes come up when there is insufficient funding remaining in the Charities Budget to be able to support them (as the current COVID/BLM situations are demonstrating).

This JCR believes:

1. We should always be able to support causes that people feel passionate about.

This JCR resolves:

1. To mandate the treasurer to set up a specific charities bank account, which will the charities will be paid into.
2. To insert 36 iii 'the treasurer, president and charities officer shall be co-signatories on the JCR charities bank account. In the event that one of them cannot be a co-signatory, the VicePresident will be a co-signatory. If the Vice-President also cannot be a signatory, then the Executive Committee will nominate a co-signatory;'
3. To insert clause 38 vii 'the charities officer should reserve £400 each term from the Charities levy within the charities bank account each term.'
4. That any funds left in the charities bank account at the end of Michaelmas Term will go into the normal charities ballot for hiliary term, thus resettling the fund
5. To amend the constitution to insert clause 8 xi 'motions can be brought by any member of the JCR by special resolution to make charitable donations, totalling to a maximum amount of £400 per term.
6. This motion must be seconded by the charities officer.'
7. 8 xI(i) 'should the charities officer refuse to second the motion, the motion can be seconded by any member of the JCR provided they have 35 signatures.'
8. To mandate the Returning Officer within their usual powers to update the constitution in respect to these changes.

Proposed: Florence Goodrich

Seconded: Adam Winniffrith

Vote:

31 Yes

2 Abstain

BLM T-shirts

This JCR notes:

1. Ideally everyone within Corpus and the wider University would donate directly to good causes.
2. However, t-shirts are also a good way to raise extra awareness and procure funds for these good causes.
3. They are also a way of utilising the modern environment to raise additional funds for good causes.

This JCR believes:

1. The Black Lives Matter movement and its affiliated charities are a cause that should be supported by Corpuses in as many ways as possible.
2. The JCR should be creative in its fundraising methods.

This JCR resolves:

1. To mandate the Arts Officer to design a 'Students Support Black Lives Matter' T-Shirt with the support of the Equal Opportunities Committee.
2. To mandate the Arts Officer and the Charities Officer (and maybe Treasurer) to set up a method of selling the T-Shirts on a uni-wide scale and to donate the proceeds to a BLM affiliated charity(ies).
3. To mandate the president to advertise the selling of these T-Shirts through the platform of President's Committee to other JCRs.

Proposed: Phil Olney, Jessica Fatoye

Seconded: Tyrell Gabriel, Chantelle Richter

SFQs:

Lil: are you in contact with any uni-wide societies? e.g. ACS?

Phil: I'm not personally. I just meant it's not gonna be a single order - but through an external website, so that anyone at all can contribute. It's deliberately vague - not just corpus or oxford

Mandi: I'm in contact with ACS, I can talk to them

Florence: sustainable stash?

Adam: there's one in the UK that prints on demand, we can set up an online store, no big orders. Hopefully that should cover it. Covered by renewable energy, hiring apprentices.

Lil: how much will they cost?

Phil: the design is written by Jessica from her poem (check out on youtube). We need to do research, but 100% of profits will be donated.

Adam: c. £17 - with £5-7 donated

Phil: We would all love people to directly donate - this is a way of getting people who don't donate to donate. It means their money will be going towards an excellent cause too.

Mandi: will all the profits be given to charity?

Phil: yes, I don't want it to go through me, hence why I brought it to the meeting so it can be done through college somehow.

Mandi: how do we choose which charities?

Phil: it's up to discussion. Any suggestions welcome. Jess should have a say bc it's her words.

Mandi: What about the motion previously? How do we decide which charities the money will go to?

Adam: we'll take suggestions, then there will be a ballot out of a shortlist. Then vote based on that. We might be able to e.g. donate to the top 8 and the top 3 get a higher proportion or something.

Mandi: unrelated, how could we do a statement as a JCR?

Matt: you can do a personal one, we can publish on the JCR website, Instagram, etc.

Matty: We can use Humans of Corpus/Humans of Oxford etc.

Mandi: ChCh had a hust where some really insensitive comments were made about BLM and Floyd's murder - a member asked for clarification, then she was silenced. She asked again, and she wasn't able to get clarification. It was allowed to pass. There's an open letter to get JCR presidents to make a president condemning these actions.

Matt: I will discuss this with the ChCh president. This is really shocking.

Lil: You can always talk to the Exec

Hannah: we should get this done really quickly, extraordinary meeting to get this done sooner than 10 days.

Vote:

25 Yes

2 Abstain

See below for design.





