

JCR Meeting - 18th October 2020 MT20 WK 2

Chair: Matt Carlton

Secretary: Augy Allain-Labon

Returning Officer: Rhiannon Percy

1. Report from the President

Done quite a bit! Freshers week, countless discussions with college (daily with Andy). Positive direction until recently - we'll have to press pause a bit. Please run for E&E.

2. Officer Reports

Florence - Bought things for freshers week/reimbursed people/made the budget

Rhiannon - Started the process of running the by-election for E&E rep. Matt has a plan to take money from the Pelican Fund to give money for Eco stash etc. 151 responses (just JCR and MCR?) to puffer coats form (25% bulk discount). Currently someone has to collect them from B'ham but we can try and get delivered.

Ryan - Measured out lots of chairs in the marquee; helped run/mark Freshers' week quiz; uploaded and updated marquee bar price list on the JCR website; created freshers' fair sign up form and passed on sign ups to clubs and socs; set up QR codes for bar menu and freshers fair; emailed freshers about how the mailing list works; set up, ran and packed up tech for zoom/twitch bop.

Augy - Helped Matt and Freshcom organise Freshers week - tried to organise punting but took the freshers for a walk instead, attended several meetings about Covid with college over summer, organised matriculation photography. Need to collect blue book from porters and collect names.

Emma - organised freshers bbq. reinstated jcr tea - is it still viable? All that planning for nothing? No! The plans are in place for when things get better. Let's put it back online for a bit. Made JCR rota. Joint JCR/MCR tea? Lucy Dreighton might want to put the two together. We can invite them (Lucy) to ours but let's not get too involved. I was in the room when Andy was making decisions about hall. Jimmy's started emailing out the menu to everyone, which invalidates my role. He also hasn't replied to my emails for a while. Biodegradable cutlery no longer? And vegan meals every day? Matt will bring it up with Andy. Formals starting again? No let's keep the status quo, they haven't the staff. Also bins in the marquee - landfill or recycling??

Zaman - Equalities/bystander intervention training. Did the sexual assault evaluation thing that was mandated at the end of Trinity—results are basically that there's not enough public info available about what to do and what happens. Some people skipped the workshops. Motions today have been discussed with equal opps committee. Recent case of a mental health crisis being dealt with very badly by porters. Matt to tell Andy. You'd expect better because they've supposedly had mental health first aid training.

Matty - Nothing to report

Elliot - Nothing to report

Ava - Started Corpus Feminist Society and spoke to some other colleges about joint (online) events. Issue with sanitary bins - none of them seem to be collected. Contact Michelle and Andy

Gaby - Brainstormed for new mental health ideas over summer, equal opps and consent workshops during freshers, currently in conversation with Keen Oxford about delivering more inclusivity workshops not just in freshers week but as an ongoing process

Ellie - Nothing to report

Laura - Nothing to report

Sampada - Made an internationals' freshers guide (separate to the regular freshers handbook). Organised admin of self-isolation for international isolating students (including giving them all cacti!). Made little cards for and gave chocolate to all the international freshers. Held internationals pizza night in freshers week. Also collabed with Emma on new recipes for the kitchen. Relatively chill term from now on.

Sorcha - attended the first OxSU meeting of term - there was much discussion about COVID worries so hopefully those concerns will be taken on a discussed with the uni. will report back on substantial changes to the uni's response as the OxSU hears about it. Nothing happened at the meeting.

Catherine - Nothing to report

Ben - graduated

Sneha - Helen lost FoXe, found him again, now he's hibernating. All good. Would like to say that I have no part in the Tortoise Keeper Welfare Officer position that has been proposed this week.

Welfare (Beth) - hectic! Freshers week Consent workshops - went smoothly. Quite a lot of welfaring going on. Grace has organised isolation bags. Can we ever do welfare tea again? Let's hope so. Extra welfare provision for internationals who've just come out of isolation, then have to go back in now; 4 weeks is half a term; talk to Sampada. We won't take too much of the burden of all this - look after ourselves. We'll start publicising counselling etc soon. Welfare lunch with college didn't go so well - Grace got rather shut down. Any future planning gets poo pooed by Covid.

Melissa - had exams but tomorrow I'll get on the library. They're being drama queens over the booking system. Also the fact that we can't browse is annoying but Joanna gave reasons (bc there's click & collect instead) why not - Matt will forward to Melissa. Also only being able to collect books for 2 hours a day is rubbish. Send queries to Melissa. If they're struggling with Human Resources, student librarians. If they're trying to save money that's not our problem, it's not fair on us. For self-isolators, library puts in lodge, then books should arrive with dinner. This probably hasn't worked yet but it might stabilise over the next week. Suspended students - some kind of termly email to

suspended students from the JCR should be done this term. There seems to be no list that we have access to - M to contact Rachel. Grassam used to hope students would check their emails anyway from JCR mailing list.

Eugenie - Freshers fair in F week; funding for C&S; planning for C&S week this week. More about PDF, etc.

3. Questions to Officers

4. Reading from the Poet Laureate

Quantitative

Stuck between two bits of glass: the reflective
frame and the glass pane opening up
to the world beyond.

Supplanted by the ones-and-zeroes
nosey hole

into people's houses.

Mirror, mirror image:

the malcontent inside who, querulous, nags

"I don't like the way you look",

don't like the way things look out there.

Why does it all boil down, reduction

to numbers?

We hold a fascination with the figures -

whom are we kidding: the fascination grips us -

that define, outline our outlook.

Success is determined by numbers morbose

and morbid counts;

lowering an arbitrary algebraic gloomy known.

Cuts here and deficit there signal loss,
though we try our best to help out and hold on.
In my head the story's different: to lose is gains
and the bonus lies not in the surplus but the difference.
How much has been burnt means I've earned.

If only I could really be fed up with those numbers,
but in twisted reality they keep me,
going, just as much as what they represent:
loathe or love, like or lump.
And in them we trust - stats, as empirically
they stand for facts.

Thank the Lord that quarantine is no longer literal
but figurative,
Forty turned fourteen.
Even then to be confined within
a fortnight sucks.
Badly.
Terribly.
And it feels non-human to be
nameless, boxed in as a case
and identified by the barcode on a vial
where even positivity is bad,
or to pass days by enumerating micro-macroscopically.
Whether of monotonous instant isolation victuals
Or quantities eaten shamefully alone -
we're starting to get sick to our back teeth.

5. Ratifications from Previous Meetings

Special Charities Levy

This JCR Notes:

- We passed the constitutional amendment to allow us to add a special charities levy
- We have donated £2000 from future charities levy money to charity this term meaning we currently have £1000 to donate
- The JCR levy will be £5 from MT20

This JCR believes:

- It would be nice to raise the £2000 back to allow us to donate fully in MT20
- This shouldn't come from the freshers
- Adding a special charities levy of £5 will allow us to raise most of this back and will be in line with the cost levies would've been normally without the JCR levy decrease

This JCR resolves:

- To mandate the treasurer to add a special charities levy of £5 for MT20, which will not be applicable to freshers.

Vote:

Yes 20

No 0

Abstain 9

Motion Passes

6. Constitutional Amendments

BIPoC Welfare Officer

This JCR notes:

- BIPoC students at Corpus, and in the wider university, face specific challenges that non-BIPoC students do not
- such students may feel that it is easier to talk to people with similar experiences about such issues
- issues that relate to one's race can have a negative impact on wellbeing
- with the current three welfare roles, there may not be anyone who is BIPoC in a welfare role, discouraging BIPoC students from talking about the aforementioned issues with any welfare reps
- other colleges, like St Anne's, have created a BME welfare rep role to better support their BIPoC students
- just as some students might feel more comfortable talking to a (specifically) male or female welfare officer, the same may be true for a BIPoC welfare officer
- many colleges (such as Trinity) have five or six welfare officers, as opposed to Corpus's three

This JCR believes:

- it is important that the welfare reps in general reflect the student population at Corpus
- the existence of this BIPoC Welfare Rep role should not serve to preserve the whiteness of other welfare roles, but rather to ensure better representation
- not all people who fall under 'BIPoC' face the same issues at Corpus, but that this role would make it easier to talk to someone with potentially similar experiences or a shared understanding of what it is like to be BIPoC at Oxford

This JCR resolves to:

- Create a new role of "BIPoC Welfare Officer" with the same Standing Orders as the Gender-Neutral Welfare Officer, but specifying that this officer must be BIPoC
- Mandate the Returning Officer to make any necessary adjustments to the Standing Orders and Constitution

Proposed: Zaman Keinath-Esmail

Seconded: Sneha Bansal

SFQ's:

[BIPOC stands for Black and Indigenous Person/People of Colour]

Elliot: Why BIPOC? Isn't that an American thing?

Zaman: The term recognises that there are different types of racism, and is more specific than the other terms.

Solomon: Indigenous means Indigenous to the Americas or indigenous more generally?

Zaman: Indigenous peoples generally. BIPOC people encounter racism in whatever country they are in, so we shouldn't define it too much.

Matt: It's more specific than BME

Debate:

Ryan: If this is put in standing orders, people who are e.g. Celtic British might try and run, which wouldn't be good. We don't want people to apply for this as a joke in future.

Zaman: Minority ethnic is equally ill-defined - technically Celts are a minority in the British Isles, so it's the same issue. Identity specific roles always run the risk of people making a joke out of them, because you can't put people into boxes that easily.

Elliot: I just question the indigenous part - the term is American so it creates some confusion as to what the term means in the UK. Why not BPOC?

Zaman: the original term even in America encompassed all indigenous people. It's important to recognise that BIPOC people face more pernicious forms of racism than other groups. This recognition is behind my use of this term. There was a discussion with college about the use of BME etc. - no acronym will cover all the nuances of racial identity, but we decided BIPOC was better.

Adam: https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/5session_factsheet1.pdf Could we use the UN definition?

Rhi: there would then be two terms in the Constitution referring to the same groups of people, so we should choose one.

Amendment:

Elliot: changing BIPOC to BME for constitutional continuity.

Taken as friendly

Solomon: is 'whiteness' the right term? Or better to say '(positive) bias towards Caucasian students'?

Zaman: we don't want to discourage anyone from running from the existing welfare roles, or create segregation. It's the same as just whiteness

Sol: does 'whiteness' refer to white culture as well as white individuals?

Zaman: whiteness was the best descriptor for the situation that we want to avoid, and the situation as it seems to be now. Caucasian etc. makes things very complicated. We want *at least one* BIPOC person as a welfare officer.

Matt: this is fine.

Elliot: it's really good to have this line in there.

Sol: I was just making sure the terminology is as good as possible.

Matt: something along these lines will be in the standing orders.

Amended Motion:

This JCR notes:

- BME students at Corpus, and in the wider university, face specific challenges that non-BME students do not
- such students may feel that it is easier to talk to people with similar experiences about such issues
- issues that relate to one's race can have a negative impact on wellbeing
- with the current three welfare roles, there may not be anyone who is BME in a welfare role, discouraging BME students from talking about the aforementioned issues with any welfare reps
- other colleges, like St Anne's, have created a BME welfare rep role to better support their BME students
- just as some students might feel more comfortable talking to a (specifically) male or female welfare officer, the same may be true for a BME welfare officer
- many colleges (such as Trinity) have five or six welfare officers, as opposed to Corpus's three

This JCR believes:

- it is important that the welfare reps in general reflect the student population at Corpus

- the existence of this BME Welfare Rep role should not serve to preserve the whiteness of other welfare roles, but rather to ensure better representation
- not all people who fall under 'BME' face the same issues at Corpus, but that this role would make it easier to talk to someone with potentially similar experiences or a shared understanding of what it is like to be BME at Oxford

This JCR resolves to:

- Create a new role of "BME Welfare Officer" with the same Standing Orders as the Gender-Neutral Welfare Officer, but specifying that this officer must be BME
- Mandate the Returning Officer to make any necessary adjustments to the Standing Orders and Constitution

Proposed: Zaman Keinath-Esmail

Seconded: Sneha Bansal

Vote:

29 Yes

4 Abstain

Hibernation Consolation

This JCR notes:

- Tortoise Keeper is a full-time occupation, requiring constant care, attention and commitment to Foxe's every need
- Tortoise-Tortoise Keeper interaction has been stifled by the untimely hibernation of our valiant reptile.
- The anxiety and despair caused by separation from one's tortoise is consummate and sovereign.
- The JCR Tortoise Keeper promised us a virtual tortoise race on 31st May 2020, but no such video has thereafter emerged, implying that our noble Tortoise Keeper is somewhat overworked.

This JCR believes:

- You can't look after your tortoise if you can't look after yourself
- After the stellar success of the internationally acclaimed Great Tortoise Bake Off, the Tortoise Keeper deserves a special treat 
- No JCR officer should have to suffer sleepless nights or whittle away countless days in vain in obeisance to duty

This JCR resolves:

- To amend the Constitution and Standing Orders in time for Michaelmas hustings so as to allow for the inclusion of the new role of Tortoise Keeper Welfare Officer
- To make the Term of Office for the Tortoise Keeper Welfare Officer one year
- To add to the Duties section of the Standing Orders for Tortoise Keeper Welfare Officer the following: '1. To provide welfare for the Tortoise Keeper, whensoever it is needed - or desired'
- That the elections for Tortoise Keeper Welfare Officer should take place in Michaelmas

- That the proverbial 'Chosen One' shall not formally or officially (however much they most certainly shall be in spirit) be part of the JCR Committee or Welfare team
- To give the Tortoise Keeper some much-needed and well-deserved 'Tender Loving Care' in the form of this new officer

Proposed: Wolffgar-Ephraïm Miriam Omar Lambert

Seconded: Eugenie Nevin

SFQs:

Elliot: What does 'Tender Loving Care' mean, considering it's in quotes?

Eugenie: Sneha is the best person. Socially distanced hugs. Compliments. Attention.

Debate:

Elliot: I worry that this opens the floodgates to creating welfare roles for every role, to the point that we have a Tortoise Keeper Welfare Officer Welfare Officer

Oscar: Welfare is a good thing

Zaman: If we make everyone a welfare officer, maybe Judith will give us all Mental Health First Aid training

Nicole: Maybe we could amend to having only one subdivision - only a welfare officer for committee members, then no more beyond that? As in no welfare officers of welfare officers.

Vote:

2 Yes

20 No

5 Abstain

Motion Fails

7. Motions of No Confidence

8. Charities Motions

9. Monetary Motions

An Affordable Ball

This JCR notes:

- as it stands, Ball tickets are unaffordable for many students
- the pay-in-instalments scheme is insufficient, because some students may have a tight budget for the year and therefore still be unable to pay
- the work-subsidy scheme threatens to create a class divide, with some working class students being forced to work at the ball to be able to attend
- many American colleges and universities directly subsidise events for students who cannot afford to pay the full price for tickets

This JCR believes:

- it is wrong to force students to work to be able to afford to go to the Ball
- the Ball should be accessible to all students
- the JCR is well-placed to subsidise the cost of Ball tickets for students that need it

This JCR resolves to:

- mandate the Treasurer to create a budget for ball contributions of GBP1000
- mandate the Treasurer, Class Rep, Returning Officer, and Equal Opps President, to work as a group to determine the process for subsidising the tickets of those who need it. This process must include:
 - a determination of need (likely based on whether the student received student loans)

- a method to determine how much money each student should receive
 - a way for students to apply and receive the subsidy that minimises the number of people who know the student's identity
 - a commitment to preserve the confidentiality of all applicants
- mandate the aforementioned group to implement that process without need for another JCR vote

Proposed: Zaman Keinath-Esmail

Seconded: Beth Jones

SFQs:

Rhi: Why am I involved? It's outside my remit

Zaman: I included it in case there's some legal issues with the JCR paying.

Rhi: Fair enough

Elliot: I got followed on Instagram by the ball; is it going ahead?

Megan: we are planning an event; plan A is a ball, plan B is something happening in the summer. We'll keep you updated. It's better to plan now and cancel later than try and plan when restrictions lift.

Solomon: Do we have a method of reducing the number of who knows about needing financial support?

Rhi: Ultimately Florence needs to know. We can do a google form - I would like to be subsidised, I would not like to be subsidised.

Zaman: Florence was the one who suggested bringing this motion to get a plan implemented etc. We'll work out the details later.

Matt: can we involve college? just an idea

Ryan: At the previous ball, it did go through Rachel, who then communicated with the Ball Treasurer. Confidentiality was handled by college.

Beth: where did the figure of £1000 come from?

Zaman: Florence suggested it. We can add more; we don't have to spend the full £1000.

Beth: It depends on how many people apply. Can we introduce flexibility to the motion?

Zaman: We can bring another motion if we need more money

Elliot: Do we need to amend the motion to remove the last line? That way other members can have an impact.

Zaman: If we're going to remove that we might as well withdraw the motion. We want to get started. Waiting 6-8 weeks over vac might make it difficult.

Matt: when do we do the vote? It would become too highly charged. A recommendation: we'll have to think very carefully about how much each student can receive. Normally we have to do it on a percentage basis because it gets too fraught.

Zaman: the general idea is that government maintenance loans etc. are quite good at determining need; we'll do it somehow based on student loans.

Elliot: problem with using student loans is that people with retired parents get big student loans.

Ellie: We can't just use student loans because there are a lot of factors that go into it e.g. estrangement. We might have to just do it case by case, even though there's a confidentiality issue.

Zaman: Ellie's the Class Rep - she knows best!

Matt: if it starts getting personal, you might have to include college more. If we pass it now, we're trusting you to be ultra transparent

Solomon: could we instead mandate the relevant officers keep the JCR informed of future developments?

Rhi: This is good, maybe

Amendment:

Ryan: ... but keep the JCR updated with whenever possible with any developments ...

Seconded by Solomon

Taken as friendly

Amended motion:

This JCR notes:

- as it stands, Ball tickets are unaffordable for many students
- the pay-in-instalments scheme is insufficient, because some students may have a tight budget for the year and therefore still be unable to pay
- the work-subsidy scheme threatens to create a class divide, with some working class students being forced to work at the ball to be able to attend

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 - a determination of need (likely based on whether the student received student loans)
 - a method to determine how much money each student should receive
 - a way for students to apply and receive the subsidy that minimises the number of people who know the student's identity
 - a commitment to preserve the confidentiality of all applicants
- mandate the aforementioned group to implement that process without need for another JCR vote, while keeping the JCR informed of any developments whenever possible.

Vote:

23 Yes

2 No

5 Abstain

Motion passes

Budget Motion

(Florence has finals starting the day after the meeting so won't be there but if you have any qs about this that you want to ask feel free to email them to florence.goodrich@ccc.ox.ac.uk)

This JCR Notes:

- A budget needs to be passed in the first meeting of each term
- This term will be different to other previous terms due to covid

This JCR believes:

- We should pass a budget
- The budget should have some element of flexibility (i.e. it is likely that either things happen online and are cheap or they happen in person so cost more than previous terms, and we don't know exactly what we can do yet)

This JCR resolves:

- To pass the following budget for TT20 (see appendix below), with flexibility in the budgets labelled flexible

Proposed: Emma Donohue

Seconded: Eugenie Nevin

SFQs:

Ryan: how will flexibility work?

Emma: it's up to Florence

Matt: we may have to spend more on e.g. welfare and less on JCR tea

Elliot: where are newspapers if JCR is shut?

Matt: Cherwell and ISIS in the lodge. We should get a subscription to the Oxford Blue.

Zaman: Read it online, better for the environment.

Debate:

Amendment:

Ryan: Change TT20 to MT20

Seconded by Solomon

Taken as Friendly

Amended motion:

(Florence has finals starting the day after the meeting so won't be there but if you have any qs about this that you want to ask feel free to email them to florence.goodrich@ccc.ox.ac.uk)

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Proposed: Emma Donohue

Seconded: Eugenie Nevin

Vote:

25 Yes

1 No

2 Abstain

10. Motions as submitted

The Use of the College Flagpole

This JCR notes:

- the prominent position of a flagpole on the College grounds.

- the lack of current use of this flagpole by the College
- Merton College's use of their flagpole to fly a college flag, and Christ Church College's use of their flagpole to raise awareness of Black history Month both at and beyond the college
- the frequent use of flags in many civil rights campaigns which have been of interest to the student body, both present and historical, such as the LGBTQ+ 'Pride' flag, Juneteenth 'star' flag, and Suffragette white purple and green banner.
- the existence of a college flag, (Azure, an or pelican with wings endorsed vulning herself)

This JCR believes:

- the college flagpole would help to add further colour and character to the college
- the flagpole could be used to great effect to display the student body's support for a variety of causes throughout the year.

This JCR resolves:

- to mandate the President to petition the college for use of the College flagpole to fly flags approved by this JCR.
- to mandate the Treasurer to petition the college for funds for the purchase of appropriate flag or flags, as desired by this JCR.
- to determine what flags the student body would like to see displayed either by subsequent petitions to this committee, or by a majority vote of both the Executive and JCR Committees, unless overruled by a vote of the wider JCR.
- to mandate the executive committee to appoint a Flags Committee from members of the JCR at their discretion, including Equal Opportunities Representatives as they see fit.
- to mandate the Flags Committee to create a calendar for which flags are to be flown when each year, consulting with other JCR members where appropriate.
- to review, amend and vote on whether to approve this calendar at a subsequent meeting, to be held at the next JCR meeting after the calendar has been completed

Proposed: Solomon Pillbrow

Seconded: Elliot Gulliver-Needham

SFQs:

Matty: we've already done this, so the only new thing is the Flags Committee. Why then review

Solomon: the calendar is new, so you just approve the calendar at the meeting

Ryan: Is Florence happy to petition college?

Emma: Yep, she'll ask.

Ryan:

Sneha: We do have a pelican one.

Matt: We'll investigate what flags college has already. There's a real drive for college to support movements.

Debate:

Amendment

Ryan: to strike out the 'to determine ...' bit

Taken as friendly

Elliot: I have flags I can lend

Amended motion:

This JCR notes:

- the prominent position of a flagpole on the College grounds.
- the lack of current use of this flagpole by the College
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- to review, amend and vote on whether to approve this calendar at a subsequent meeting, to be held at the next JCR meeting after the calendar has been completed

Proposed: Solomon Pillbrow

Seconded: Elliot Gulliver-Needham

Vote:

16 Yes

4 No

8 Abstain

Motion passes

Professors and Pronouns

This JCR notes that:

- currently, if a student has pronouns that differ from those assigned at birth, it is incumbent upon them to notify their professors and the college
- there is no easy system by which to do this – instead, the student must essentially come out to all of their professors, tutors, and so on, individually
- this process can be made more difficult by the fact that Oxford University is frequently regarded as transphobic and unwelcoming
- some tutors already send out an email to incoming freshers asking them for their pronouns

This JCR believes that:

- it would explicitly affirm trans students' identities if everyone was asked their pronouns
- doing so would also make it easier for people to change their pronouns at any point
- asking for students' pronouns would continue to normalise introducing oneself with one's pronouns, thereby showing support for trans students

This JCR resolves to:

- mandate the JCR President to write to Rachel Clifford asking that all professors, tutors, and other academic staff be instructed to ask their students' pronouns at the beginning of the year via email

Proposed: Zaman Keinath-Esmail

Seconded: Gaby FitzGerald

SFQs:

Matty: will this happen every year for all the students at the college, then if you change you're not locked in

Zaman: beginning of the year is good because you might get new tutors.

Matty: if it's just Corpus tutors that should be fine

Ryan: the motion just says students every year, not just freshers

Matt: the college might have a database already

Debate:

Beth: Could we include it in the introductory forms?

Melina: then every tutor would have to check each email, and it would be more inclusive if it's not incumbent on the tutors.

Zaman: I assumed the tutors would say they haven't got the software etc. but ideally it would be centrally.

Amendment

Elliot: Matt will first ask for a central collection of pronouns. If that fails, then it should be incumbent on tutors. To change 'at the beginning of the year' to 'whenever tutors receive new students e.g. at the start of new terms'

Seconded: Ryan Salter

Taken as Friendly

Amended motion:

This JCR notes that:

- currently, if a student has pronouns that differ from those assigned at birth, it is incumbent upon them to notify their professors and the college
- there is no easy system by which to do this – instead, the student must essentially come out to all of their professors, tutors, and so on, individually
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- doing so would also make it easier for people to change their pronouns at any point
- asking for students' pronouns would continue to normalise introducing oneself with one's pronouns, thereby showing support for trans students

This JCR resolves to:

- mandate the JCR President to write to Rachel Clifford asking in the first instance that college collect pronouns centrally; if that fails, that all professors, tutors, and other academic staff be instructed to ask their students 'pronouns whenever they receive new students e.g. at the start of new terms via email.

Proposed: Zaman Keinath-Esmail

Seconded: Gaby FitzGerald

Vote:

24 Yes

2 No

2 Abstain

Motion Passes

11. Emergency Motions

College's Communication of Commands Concerning Covid

This JCR notes:

- This motion is not intended to dispute the rules that have been put in place, but rather to question the means by which they were enacted, viz. the lack of communication
- At the moment, college seems to be creating blanket rules about self-isolation due to contact with people with confirmed positive test results
- There has been little to no consultation with students on this
- This lack of communication is having a detrimental impact on student wellbeing
- When explanation has been asked for by students, none has been provided, making one suspect that students' communications with college are being ignored
- College, however, expects instantaneous responses from students
- This isolation news is very recent; hence the Emergency Motion
- There is a fair bit of interest in this motion being passed.

This JCR believes:

- The lack of communication is creating an atmosphere in which people feel as though they are being told to take certain measures arbitrarily or without good reason
- The disparity between what college expects of students and the communication they are providing displays a lack of respect for students on college's part

This JCR resolves:

- To mandate the President or Vice-President to raise these concerns on the grounds of student welfare and mental health with college

Proposed: Ava Vakil

Seconded: Gaby FitzGerald

•Food:

- Communication from college has been combative – when food was not picked up from outside Staircase 3 a second email followed 40 minutes later claiming that students had ‘ignored’ the first; bear in mind protocol had not been established for this, and students had not necessarily checked their emails in this short time frame.
- Opt out: One household has had to contact college on six separate occasions to opt out of food deliveries, creating a huge amount of food and packaging wastage, especially considering members of the household were vegetarian and could not eat the food provided anyway.
- A household in Banbury did not receive contact about meals – Matt (JCR president) was kind enough to sort an evening meal, no breakfast was delivered by college the next day, and lunch was delayed. Requests for vegetarian meals were ignored. This household have been instructed not to use the front door so cannot even receive deliveries, thus are reliant on college for food.
- There has been no communication from college about the price of this service, meaning people to not have the information to make an informed decision about whether they would like to continue their deliveries.

Introduction from Ava

- List of things college has not communicated with students in isolation about:
- Washing/laundry

- Mixed messages have been received; some have been told friends may come and collect washing and do it for them, whilst others have been told no one can pick it up.
- If college are wanting students to wash in their own rooms, supplies should be provided.
- Bins
 - Some households (not all) have had communication instructing them to place bins outdoors, some have not.
 - Some households have no bin bags.
 - Sanitary bins have not been emptied in some flats for as long as 3 weeks, and no help is being provided in isolation for this issue.
- Cleaning supplies
 - Have been told repetitively by college that these will be provided to households in isolation, and yet multiple households have still not received this.
- Isolation extension:
- Members of Staircase 3 have followed government guidelines and tested when symptoms of corona virus have appeared.
- Government guidelines instruct those who receive positive tests to isolate for 10 days, contacts for 14 (even if receiving a negative test).
- However, college has implemented a unilateral lockdown of Staircase 3 until the 30th of October, extending some people's isolation by a whole week.
- When pressed for a justification for this, no satisfactory one was given.
- This decision was also taken with no consultation of students and no proper explanation as to why students were being asked to increase their isolation period for up to 7 whole days, severely impacting the welfare of students.
- Conflicting information has since been received from the President and Domestic Bursar of the College as to when students are actually allowed to leave isolation, causing stress and confusion.
- Again, the tone of communication has been harsh and unempathetic.

- Judith Maltby (Dean of Welfare) calling out of hours (around 9pm) to ask students about welfare, but when people did not pick up they had messages from her telling them to contact her urgently with no explanation, creating worry and concern.

- Impacts:
 - Students are feeling stressed at the prospect of extended isolation times, and frustrated at the lack of communication and justification regarding this.
 - Potential money loss for events booked when students were expecting to leave isolation.
 - Detrimental effects to student hygiene with bin and washing issues.
 - A resultant feeling of being 'punished' by college for having taken responsible steps and now being in isolation.
 - Worry that a culture is being created in which people will be less inclined to get tested or volunteer contact information.
- What this is not:
 - A complaint from students about having to follow isolation procedures.
- What this is:
 - A plea for clearer and kinder communication from college, which legitimately takes into account student welfare.
 - Clarification on isolation periods, and if this clarification involves implementation of rules which are more severe than that of the governments, satisfactory explanation for this must be provided from college to the students, with legitimate scientific reasoning.

Ultimately, we understand that these are extremely difficult circumstances and everyone is having to make decisions outside of their usual remit. However, this situation was extremely likely (if not inevitable) and there is distinct lack of organisation and centralization of communication from college, and the information that is received comes across as punitive and thus has an extremely negative effect on student wellbeing.

SFQs:

Phil: This atmosphere of being targeted - staircase 5 had something today with added anxiety, me being positive. I received an email from Andy demanding an explanation why someone from my

staircase was moving around college. It was Hannah going to a test. Andy then revealed he had come to us with a hunch that we had been breaking the rules, which was incredibly difficult to get (almost threatened with this atmosphere of our door being watched). It adds to the air of treating us as kids.

Matty: didn't the porter remand you when you were going to your test?

Phil: Yes it was; I can understand, but he *came up to talk* to me because he thought I wasn't a member of the household, which made no sense. I don't understand how this chain of communication has failed so well.

Matt: Porters are always about 4 or 5 days behind Andy

Phil: I've been talking to Andy all day: I do appreciate how much work Andy etc. are doing, but talking with us makes the system so much better. If we work together that would be better. Respectful, adult conversation.

Beth: To reiterate this, Freshers also feel that college is being extremely combative, and is disproportionately targeting them. It's getting them down. They feel like they're being watched, and reprimanded for doing things that aren't even illegal.

Solomon: there are no confirmed cases in Oldham and Jackson, so it's scary how they suddenly stopped giving updates.

Matt: they should also put the site in the emails. I'll readdress the point of porters etc telling us off for things which aren't wrong

Gaby: from a mental health perspective, extending isolation period can be actually dangerous for mental health. There is a person in our staircase who could potentially be in isolation for almost three weeks with no reason. Adding to the mental strain of being in Oxford + being shouted at on email constantly + etc. etc. College *seems* to blatantly disregard student wellbeing. When we were all first going into isolation, the first batch got an email from Andy suggesting that there would be a difference in isolation period if you're a contact or if you have symptoms. Andy implied that we would either be out by the weekend or stuck there interminably. We all felt we were being threatened with being put in isolation for not answering an email.

Meg: another example of really mixed messaging: we were all phoned by the Assistant Dean; he called me first, when I asked about isolation periods etc. he didn't really know; then he told Ellie something else completely different. College had said nothing about having to stay in our rooms, but that's what he told us to. We're too unwell to work, but the onus is on us to contact our tutors. We've had no communication from college about who to tell about our positive tests at all. It really is impacting on mental health. The fact that we have to stay in isolation for an extra 5-7 days is awful. It feels punitive; it's out of order.

Matt: to be clear, you think that Liddell Staircase 3 shouldn't have to blanket isolate until the 30th October?

Meg: the text just says 'you are under lockdown until X time', with no humanity or explanation. If you're going to impact on student mental health for so long, you need to provide a suitable explanation. For what reason do we have to isolate longer if it's not a punishment?

Matt: I spent all of Saturday trying to deal with all this. Helen told me something which contrasted with Andy. We still don't know what college want to do.

Ava: if they need extra staff, they need to sort that out. It's not our fault. It's their fault for not having planned.

Meg: They've had 7 months to plan for this. I thought maybe college just panicked and did the blanket lockdown.

Melina: They made details about tiny things like facing the wall, but they didn't think of something to get people the right food etc. It was always going to happen.

Zaman: I asked college for risk assessments for students in August. They had only done risk assessments for staff. It's another thing to complain about.

Beth: The amount of pressure they have put on students is shameful. On Matt, the welfare team. If we had just said no at the beginning, they would be totally f***ed. They rely on us to organise food, deliveries, when we are paying £9000 a year, when we are forced to come here, to pay rent. Then they rely on the JCR to sort them out. We should not have other people's basic wellbeing on our shoulders.

Melina: They just assume that we know how everything works straight away. They're all assuming that someone is taking care of things that nobody is.

Beth: The staff are under huge pressure too - it's on college. I am angry.

Meg: Are we paying for the food that's being brought, and how?

Matt: I'm not sure college have worked it out. We're paying daily, and I'm hoping on Monday Andy will give us a plan on how to do this. It would've been better if the college had sorted this out. We volunteered the JCR to do quarantining students, but NOT self-isolating students. It's hit too hard and too fast.

Ava: If we're paying for these services, college are treating us as if it's a teacher-student relationship, which it's not

Sneha: Our household has been texted *twice* saying that we need to self-isolate, which has been a mistake.

Rhi: If we have one bathroom in the whole household, how can we self-isolate from the rest of our household (if we're a contact)?

Zaman: The government guidelines aren't great on that either.

Matt: If you don't have an ensuite bathroom, use it but just wipe it afterwards. College might change the guidance on that. The entire household in self-isolation if one person is a contact is just silly.

Rhi: Linked to the mental health stuff: college have approached this from helping students' physical health, e.g. locking down the whole of St 3. That's not necessarily bad but they do need to think about mental health.

Matt: we've all been let down by PHE. None of us have been contacted.

Rhi: If we were reliant on PHE we'd be truly screwed.

Gaby: College seem to think Covid is not an illness; it feels like it's our fault. People are really ill, it's not like we're all just lazing about doing nothing. There has been no support or even mention of that. This is rubbish for mental health too. They're acting like it's an inconvenience.

Melina: They are just assuming that young people don't get it badly. Which is clearly not true.

Gaby: It might affect some students badly because of underlying health reasons.

Meg: To respond to Rhi, even if that's what they're trying to do, it's going against government guidelines.

Matt: I'm going to ascertain what their stance is. If everyone has to self-isolate until 30th October, we can just say no, or at least have a proper argument.

Matty: We want to make sure this discussion is as productive as possible. We are all angry. We need them to think critically as they expect us to. It's difficult for college, sure, and we don't want to get into a battle with them. But why are they being so hostile with us? It's fine for them to be strict with us if they have got their sh*t together. But they have been awful. It's already very us vs them. That's purely because of their hostile tone. If they had been incompetent but apologetic, that would've been less bad. But please just make them think about being nice people and more human. People in glass houses can't throw stones.

Matt: If Helen says they're annoyed because so many people have tested positive, I will come back with you've been sh*t as well.

Ava: we could've got covid without breaking the rules.

Matt: I will make that very clear.

Meg: All the rowers are in isolation; but college still let that go on.

Ollie: We're all split into households, but if we're all shut down together, we might as well just mix up in our building.

Matt: I've been pushing for household sizes to be increased.

Matty: It incentivises breaking the rules.

Matt: I can't say that to them, you'll understand.

Katie: They are making people not wanting to disclose contacts, because they don't want to get people into trouble. This is putting public health in jeopardy. I've felt so guilty for disclosing my close contacts. I can see why other people wouldn't want to do that.

Matt: Totally agree - I've been discussing this with our disciplinary panel; we'll be making sure that you don't have to say how you're a close contact with them, only that they're a close contact. That kind of detail is with PHE. All college have to do is tell people if they are a close contact or not. We are going to advocate very strongly that unless you have broken the law, there won't be any suspensions etc. Going forward, use my rules, use the university rules, use college rules.

Melina: It's difficult to communicate within households if you don't know the rest. 1 member = 1 household but it's not guaranteed that the whole household will be in correspondence anyway.

Vote:

Motion passes unanimously

12. Any other Business

13. Appendices

1. Budget:

Budget Areas	Amount Budgeted	Amount Spent	Remaining Budget	Notes
DOMESTIC	£325.00	£ -	£325.00	Flexible
NEWSPAPERS	£200.00	£ -	£200.00	JCR shut so no national newspapers but would still be good to support student ones
MEETINGS	£400.73	£ -	£400.73	Zoom subscription (£14.39 per month backdated over summer also) plus £300 for pizza
ENTZ	£250.00	£ -	£250.00	Flexible
WELFARE	£700.00	£ -	£700.00	Flexible
EQUAL OPPS	£150.00	£ -	£150.00	Flexible
COMMITTEE MEAL	£300.00	£ -	£300.00	
RO/ADMIN	£30.00	£ -	£30.00	
TV LICENSE	£40.00	£ -	£40.00	
PEER SUPPORT	£30.00	£ -	£30.00	
CLUBS AND SOCS	£50.00	£ -	£50.00	Flexible
CAREERS	£10.00	£ -	£10.00	Flexible
INTERNATIONALS	£100.00	£ -	£100.00	Flexible
ARTS	£50.00		£50.00	Flexible
ACCESS	£30.00		£30.00	Flexible
ENVIRONMENT AND ETHICS	£30.00		£30.00	Flexible
Total	£2,695.73	£0.00		