

## **JCR Meeting - Tuesday 3rd November 2020 MT20 WK 4**

Chair: Matt Carlton

Secretary: Augy Allain-Labon

Returning Officer: Rhiannon Percy

---

### **1. Reading from the Poet Laureate**

#### **tempestas**

What unusual times we live in. Season  
formerly named unofficially  
according to cosy coats and coffee-shop creations,  
marked by common cough, cold and flu,  
now subdued  
into a cycle of ebb and flow:  
now controlled,  
now countries cordoned off.

Just so, hi-ho,  
from cutlery to policy we go.  
A council called, we all zoom to our desks.  
One thing's for sure, that we,  
despite the uncertain climes -  
pelican birds of a feather -  
will weather this storm together.

## 2. Introduction from the President

It's difficult for me to give any concrete advice, since it would be on me if something went wrong. I'm just giving my understanding of the situation.

### Going home

The main question I had over the weekend was whether people could be allowed to go home, and how and when. As it stands, the government really don't want us to go home. It makes sense now, but the question is - what's the difference between now and the end of term? There is an official route prescribed by OxSU, to fill out a Residency Requirement Exemption Form for the Proctors - the problem with that is that it would come back after Thursday. The Proctors also haven't allowed any other reasons for going home than what was there before. As well as encouraging us not to go home, university is also making it impossible to go home within the rules. If people just leave, perhaps thinking about coming back on the 2nd December, and not telling college, it's not clear what college would do about that. We also all need to consider the consequences of leaving people left alone in households. You also can't just move around to join your mates because people haven't technically left. Also, is it more legal to leave before Thursday than after? Legally, I don't know, but according to university rules, it's just as illegal. If the police stop you, it's ok because you can change residence, and it's ok if you're having a mental health crisis. Within the law, you're perfectly allowed to move house. Even university guidelines say you *should* not leave, not you *must*. So we don't see a reason why the police would fine you for that (though we can't guarantee of course). Personally, if I were to leave, I wouldn't go before Thursday, since it would be a difficult situation with everyone moving around the country. Of course there is a heightened risk that I will have to go into isolation before that, but overall, people shouldn't be panicking and worried that they just won't be able to leave after Thursday. Hopefully we'll get more clarity on this soon, but I don't think we need to leave before Thursday necessarily, although we don't know what Boris will do. It's also unlikely that if we do go we will get a rent rebate, although we can potentially push for that.

### Life in college

Face-to-face tutorials will continue at tutor and student discretion. Libraries will stay open. Because we are not self-catered, they're allowed to keep serving food, and allowed to keep marquee etc. open for mealtimes, for us to sit there and eat only. I don't think the marquee will be allowed to serve alcohol. But I've asked Andy if we can extend the meal times to like 6-10 so that we can all bring drinks and hang out. As for sport, the guidance is that if a sport is part of your degree, you can do it, otherwise not. There is a petition to open golf again.

### Vac res

If you want to get vac res, if you have a really good reason to stay, you probably will be given vac res. But Andy wants you to be understanding that college would quite like to be able to get into the rooms in the holidays for maintenance etc. It will be difficult to do room switches before the end of term.

---

### 3. Questions and Discussion

Hannah: College are busy so they aren't giving an answer for what they would do if someone did just leave without giving keys back, but can we push them on that?

Matt: It seems like the Proctors need to change things first.

Hannah: If someone's in a bad situation, they need to know they're not going to lose their degree. It would be worth college putting pressure on the university.

Matt: You're right, that's a priority and I'll send an email about that.

Matty: The thing is with going home after Thursday, currently there is absolutely no guidance saying you must not move, whereas after Thursday there explicitly is.

Ryan: I think they can't put a law only on students, when we are adults and all adults are able to move residence permanently.

Hannah: It's not law, it's just uni policy.

Matt: Very few people have actually left. I highly doubt they will deprive you of your degree.

Poll: Would you go home if possible?

14 out of 15 on the call say no

Nicole: We should do a poll on the JCR also.

Augy: Yes, then we can feed back to college based on that.

Rhi: Do you think they'll stop people who *are* self-catered from getting college meals?

Matt: I doubt it.

Rhi: Are we technically all in catered hall?

Ryan: College is a catered hall, which means it's allowed to provide catering in general, not just to people who *need* it.

---

### 4. Any other Business