



St John's College Junior Common Room

GM1, HT25 Minutes

Monday, 27th January 2025

jcr-secretary@sjc.ox.ac.uk

1. Ratification of the Chair

Job Estill nominated himself

Seeing no others, Job Estill was elected Chair

2. Minutes from the previous meeting

Minutes available [here](#).

3. Matters arising from the minutes

4. Reports from Officers

Joe Dunn: Working on housing ballot, where people have lived. Doesn't have points or rooms yet – college still needs to reply – but information is en route soon.

Oscar Whittle: Working with Andras, business as usual

Dom Secs: halfway hall prep, finalising cocktails, dealing with some airbed scheme issues. People need to use the form provided. Might need to move the airbeds to the lodge.

- Laurence: did any taken get recovered?
- Euan: Not an issue yet.

Rory Bristoll: All budgets sent out this week. Beginning to prep sports dinner

Welfare: Karaoke a success, planning to carry on.

Entz: First internal bop a success – bar downstairs commended. External bop tomorrow (Tuesday 28)

Jerome Pailing: formal swap and MCR collaboration. Discount scheme poll upcoming.

- Laurence: careers advisor needs to work with us on this.

Kaya Yarde: Spare seats at the next few dinners. Need some LGBTQ reps.

Josh Swan: Housekeeping taken up on lack of recycling, no response so far, will push.

Andras Bard: Website domain changed, list of clubs and societies coming out soon. If anything is out of date please let me know. IT loan scheme ongoing.

- Laurence: Is the website still hosted by the college website? There have been some previous issues with the domain leading to a Bulgarian gambling website.
- Andras: No Bulgarian gambling network issues at the moment.
- Joe Dunn: need to lease with SU to change their link so it doesn't go to Bulgarian gambling network

Izzy: Arts week coming soon. Liaising with chapel for an event, but limited enthusiasm so may need to cancel.

Plenty on the agenda anyway. Potential cross over with E&E, but some conflict of interest there.

Zohaib Bhatti: Budget sorted. There is the JCR card which can be used by anyone if necessary. Please contact Zohaib or Laurence if interested (welfare).

Elliot Francolla: Academic feedback form extended. Still looking for more subject reps for the feedback sessions. Dates to come soon.

- Laurence: Basically, there is little interest in this form. Need to provide feedback on academics in college – very important.
- Leandro: when is the meeting?
- Laurence: many meetings for different subjects.

Jan Hübel (RO): Women's officer and access officer nominations open. Please run for them if you are interested. Hustings soon.

Laurence Cooke: Getting settled in. Main issue is the ball committee applications – recruiting for core working party at the moment. Really easy to apply and very important – please go ahead. Open to anyone who doesn't have exams next year (including four-year courses+)

Meeting the President and Domestic Bursar soon for proposal for 39-week license.

Meeting with Hannah Clarke about welfare.

5. Ratifications

- Ratification/re-ratification of all Rep Roles

Chair: Job Estill

Art Rep: Rohan Joshi, Naomi Armstrong

PRAT Reps: Eric He; Zanita Yu; Dylan Knight (all re-ratified)

Entz Reps: Vacant, Vacant

Social Media Reps: Leanne Mabena, Ruth Magedera (re-ratified)

Bike Reps: Vacant, Vacant

Sports Reps: Rohan Joshi, Eric He

Facilities:

SU Rep: Vacant

Punt Rep: Burak Karatas

Stash: Alex Mylet; Burak Karatas (both re-ratified)

Class Reps: Vacant, vacant

Disabilities Reps: Libby Rock; Vacant

Ethnic Minorities Rep: Ishan Dohia, Vacant

LGBTQ+ Reps: Libby Rock, Jerome Pailing, Vacant

Women's Reps: (Gender Equality Rep) Mia Hewitt

International Reps: Eric He, Burak Karatas

Suspended Student (and Part Time) Rep: Vacant

6. Agenda items

a) The “Stash Reps (Consequential and Minor Amendments)” Constitutional Motion

Proposer: Alex Mylet

Seconded: Oscar Whittle

This JCR notes that:

- a. At General Meeting 1 of Hilary Term 2024, the constitution was amended to abolish charities reps and replace them with stash reps.
- b. There are still references to charities reps in the constitution where there should not be, since they do not exist.
- c. This confusion led to the inclusion of charities reps (and not stash reps) on a list for (re-)ratification at this meeting.
- d. Additionally, the Vice President description says they are responsible for the Charities Reps, while the Stash Rep description says they report to the E&E officer.

This JCR believes that:

- e. The constitution should be accurate, consistent and reflect the working reality.
- f. The stash reps are important for running the college-side of the termly stash drops.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- g. Amend the constitution as follows:
 - a. In §22, replace “Charities Rep(s)” with “Stash Rep(s)”.
 - b. In §98, d., remove “, in cooperation with the Charity Rep(s)”.
 - c. In Standing Order Table Two §2 b. VII. replace “Charities Reps” with “Stash Reps”.
 - d. In Standing Order Table Two §3 b. II. replace “Environment & Ethics Officer” with “Vice President”.

Alex Mylet: Lots of other references to charity reps in the constitution where there doesn't need to be.

- Laurence: why did it change
- Alex: Role of charities changed
- Laurence: Bit useless so might be worth taking another look at this.

b) The “Make the Accommodation Ballots make sense” Constitutional Motion

Proposer: Joe Dunn

Seconded: Brad Croucher

This JCR notes that: *(Facts about the current situation/constitution)*

- a. The current constitution of the JCR, pertaining specifically to standing table §6 (concerning the housing and room ballots), has a number of short-comings and complicated and confusing wordings as noted below.
- b. Subsequently, such issues could lead to questioning, confusion or undue complication of the process of balloting for accommodation, which benefits neither the parties involved in any dispute, the organisers or the college.
- c. The following proposed changes have been noted as positive by the previous executive committee as well as the current one – The changes need making for future VPs to allow the ballot to function more effectively and on schedule.

This JCR believes that: *(Why the situation/constitution should be changed)*

- c. Such short-comings should be brought up to code so they may be implemented before the upcoming JCR accommodation ballots to be held at the end of Hilary term.
- d. Erroneous, unnecessary and confusing clauses should be removed and replaced if necessary, with the proposed redactions

This JCR therefore resolves to: *(What do you propose we do?)*

- Replace, in Standing Order Table Six, §7.1 “during the 5th and 6th weeks of Hilary term” with “during the 5th and 6th weeks of Hilary term, or another appropriate date chosen by the Vice President”.
- Replace, in Standing Order Table Six, §7.2 “Saturday 3rd week Hilary term,” with “Saturday 3rd week Hilary term, or an appropriate date, decided and circulated by the Vice President”
- Replace, in Standing Order Table Six, §10.3 “while under scrutiny of at least the Returning Officer” with “while under scrutiny of at least the Returning Officer, if the Returning Officer elects to do so.”
- Remove, Standing Order Table Six, §10.4
- Replace, in Standing Order Table Six, §10.5 “for medical reasons” with “for medical reasons, or another valid reason as confirmed by the Vice-President”

Joe Dunn: Housing ballot parts of the constitution doesn’t make sense (issues with wording and removing dates that are irrelevant).

C) JCR Motion for The Children

Proposed by: Emma Scanlon

Seconded by: Naomi Armstrong

This JCR notes that:

- That *The Children* is a highly relevant contemporary play which engages with themes of the climate crisis and social responsibility by Lucy Kirkwood, one of the most acclaimed modern playwrights, and has never been staged before in Oxford.

The cost of putting on a contemporary show is much higher due to the cost of the rights (£408).

- The creation of a naturalistic kitchen set for this show entails a relatively high cost for set (£200) and props (£80)
- [Crew member(s) name(s)] are involved in the show as [role(s)] are students at [college].

- Fennec Fox Productions, and the students involved, will not be benefiting financially from the production, as company members are unpaid, and any profits go directly towards funding future Oxford student productions.
- JCR funding is essential to allowing this production to go ahead, enabling us to fund key production expenses, preventing students from being personally out of pocket for their involvement.

This JCR believes that:

- Supporting the funding of *The Children* is crucial for the success of the production, especially due to the higher cost of staging a contemporary show.
- The grant would go directly to funding the show's expenses - such as set furniture, the venue hire, and the rights to the show - lowering the breakeven (the number of ticket sales required to avoid making a loss) and helping the production succeed.
- The subject matter of the show is pressing and relevant to the current political and ecological climate.
- Supporting student arts in Oxford benefits a wide variety of individuals and interests, allowing more shows to happen and therefore more individuals to get involved. College support is crucial to the success of this diverse theatre scene.

This JCR resolves to:

- Give *The Children* £200 from Kendrew Arts Fund to help support this production.

Emma Scanlon: Play in Taylor Theatre. Recent play, quite expensive. Need JCR to help with costs of the set (etc.). Lot of the money is for the rights.

- Oscar Whittle: are other John's students involved?
- Naomi Armstrong: Yes, me.

d) The "2025 JCR Budget" Financial Motion

Proposer: Zohaib Bhatti

Seconded: Laurence Cooke

This JCR notes that:

- The Treasurer is required to formulate and present the annual Budget at the first Ordinary General Meeting of Hilary Term, outlining all proposed budget areas, their new allocations, their allocations last year, the expenditure and income last year, as well as the overall allocated expenditure totals relative to expected income.
- Official spending cannot commence until the new budget is ratified.
- As agreed upon in Rents and Charges last year, the Sanitary Product budget is fixed at £4000 to be taken from JCR capitation, which is standard.
 - Previous Treasurers did not account for this fact when creating their budgets.
 - Previous years were likely over budgeted as a result.
- A separate budget has been made for Garden Party as both Entz/DomSec funded it last year.
- Budgets for general improvements and improvements to the games/tv rooms have been merged, as one was not used and they share the same purpose.
- The annual budget for 2025 is attached.
- Suggestions from all relevant JCR members are welcome.

This JCR believes that:

- This budget is, to the best of the Treasurer's knowledge, an accurate record of the state of the accounts of the JCR.
- This budget accurately reflects, as far as possible, the likely income and expenditure for each budget area.
- This budget is fit to be passed, with any desired amendments.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- Pass [this](#) proposed budget.

Zohaib: Sanitary product budget fixed, and always taken out of JCR capitation. Past 5 years of treasurers failed to do this. All cuts should be in areas where it isn't used.

- Laurence: Dom Sec and Entz have taken a nominal hit but only because of changes to how garden party is funded.
- Dom Secs: photographers have been underpaid and alcohol managers unhappy, so we needed to increase their pay.
- Jerome: Need more money for organizing alumni events. £150/£180.
 - Zohaib: you've taken a cut.

- Jerome: Anything more would be appreciated.
- Laurence: this was based on last year's expenditure
- Izzy: Questions what is going on with arts budget.
 - Zohaib: college said its fixed
 - Izzy: Is the play part of arts budget?
 - Laurence: yes
- Jerome: any budget I receive will absolutely be spent.
- Rohan: why did VP budget go up to 10?
 - Zohaib: necessity.

7. Any other business

Dom Secs: thinking of doing a raffle at guest dinners as budget is quite tight. People must pay for alcohol.