



St John's College Junior Common Room

GM2, HT25 Minutes

Monday, 24th February 2025

jcr-secretary@sjc.ox.ac.uk

1. Minutes from the previous meeting

Minutes available [here](#).

2. Matters arising from the minutes

None

3. Reports from Officers

Oscar (Secretary):

- Reminder to fill out housing/room form

Joe (Vice-President):

- Good luck to Rory (specified he wanted this in the minutes) on prep for uni swimming
- Deadline for opt-out and extra information on housing

Zohaib (Treasurer):

- "I'm just here and I'm doing my job" (met with applause)

Dom Secs:

- Food feedback forum results
- Advocating for more chips
- Guest dinner on Friday
- Garden Party plans in the works for Trinity Term
- From next term airbeds will be in Kendrew Lodge because of people stealing them

Welfare:

- Karaoke going well
- Brought back mini massages from Monday

- Some issues with speakers – considering purchasing new one and splitting cost with Entz. Might be because they keep getting “dropped” during Karaoke

Entz:

- External BOP this evening
- Last BOP of term next Saturday
- Spoken to Welfare about Speaker issue

Rory (Sport):

- Sports dinner in the works

Leanne: (Women and Minority Gender):

- Women’s dinner went well
- Currently planning Women’s Day event – speaker planned

Amelia: (Access and Admissions):

- Spoke to head of access to get more people trained.
- Working on better advertising for current schemes and new ones
- Thinking of working with digital team to promote schemes on social media

Jerome (External Affairs):

- Alumni talk on 6th March – please do come along
- Some formal slots available
- JCR/MCR talk in the works
- Organisation for LGBTQ Dinner ready

Josh S. (Environment and Ethics):

- I am checking my emails

Andras (IT):

- Normal duties
- Removed password protection from parts of the JCR website as advised by Oscar
- Thanks to the eight people who filled out facilities form (please can more people fill it out)

4. Ratifications

Ratification of:

- 1x Facilities Rep: Rory Dean

5. Agenda items

A) The Single Use Catering Items Standing Policy Motion

Proposer: Josh Swan

Seconded: Laurence Cooke

This JCR notes that:

- In both Kendrew and Hall, there are multiple single use items such as wooden cutlery and wooden tea stirrers which are no longer required
- The wooden cutlery was brought in when the single use takeaway boxes were first introduced over COVID

This JCR believes that:

- No more wooden cutlery or wooden tea stirrers should be ordered for use in Hall or Kendrew Café
- The current stock of these items should be left available until they run out to prevent these being wasted

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- Add above item to standing policy

Josh: There is still wooden cutlery left over from COVID, no use for it anymore as we have the reusable containers. Catering have said no-one uses it anyway.

B) The Low Carbon Travel Grant Standing Policy Motion

Proposer: Josh Swan

Seconded: Laurence Cooke

This JCR notes that:

- Climate change is the most fundamental issue facing humanity globally as without significant mitigation, global average temperatures may rise above 2 degrees potentially leading to ecosystem collapse, higher intensity natural disasters and many other effects
- The Special Grant and the Extending Horizons Grant currently do not contain any mention of the climate impact of travel funded by these grants
- Travelling by train can reduce carbon emissions by 96% compared to flying based on a journey from London to Paris

This JCR believes that:

- Both the Special Grant and the Extending Horizons Grant should include a rule relating to using low carbon transport to travel to easily accessible places

- Any journey which can be undertaken within 8 hours on low carbon transport from London St Pancras station should be taken on low carbon transport
- This rule relating to journeys which can be undertaken in under 8 hours on low carbon transport should prevent the use of flights of any form as well as the use of personal vehicles as part of travel funded by these grants
- This rule relating to journeys which can be undertaken in under 8 hours on low carbon transport should not cover field trips and other travel organised by a university department where the student is unable to influence the choice of transport used

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- Add above item to standing policy

Josh: Currently no mention of taking low carbon transport and climate change is important (more so than cutlery). If a journey can be done in sub-8 hours it should be done on low-carbon transport (i.e., not a helicopter)

Rohan: Give us some examples of exciting places you can go in 8 hours

Josh: Most of the continent

Job: More expensive to travel by train – has this been factored in? People could be short changed by more expensive alternative forms of transport.

Josh: College don't seem to mind about it and are restructuring the grant anyway

Job: This should be confirmed before we pass this motion

Josh: Maybe

Job: Eight hours is quite a long time too. We need to make sure students aren't short changed

Amelia: Flying is considerably cheaper even for flights to (e.g., Ireland) – this is important.

Job: Maybe climate issues can be dealt with in other areas of college spending

Joe: This change would still be in step with what the college wants – if they increase the pot available this is less of an issue.

Josh: No cost is too high to prevent climate change.

Job: No disagreement over the importance of the environment, just that the cost that would be imposed on students is more the issue.

C) The Oxford Mutual Aid Financial Motion

Proposer: Josh Swan

Seconded: Zohaib Bhatti

This JCR notes that:

1. Oxford Mutual Aid is a critical organisation that delivers food packages to over 200 families per month around Oxford
2. Oxford Mutual Aid reduces food waste across Oxford as well as from St John's College Kitchens by collecting parcels to be redistributed to people who are struggling to afford the food they require.

This JCR believes that: *(Why the JCR should fund your project - does it contain JCR members, does it have a positive message, will the project struggle for funds without JCR support?)*

3. Without donations, Oxford Mutual Aid would not be able to continue operating at the scale that they do (Support over 200 families per month with parcels)

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

4. Give £300 to Oxford Mutual Aid from the Charities Budget
5. Require a written report from the Proposer, to be uploaded to the News section on the JCR website

Josh: charity has an unstable financial base, so this is vital.

Zohaib: This should come out of charities budget ideally (friendly amendment)

D) The "Offer financial aid to ExVac" Charities Motion

Proposer: Alice Minihane

Seconder: Leandro Landolina

This JCR notes:

- ExVac is a student-run organisation based in Oxford University. Every year, ExVac offers two week-long holidays for 18 children aged 7-11 from deprived and vulnerable backgrounds in the Oxford area.
- The children face difficult financial and/or social circumstances at home. Although primary-school age, some have suffered abuse, many are young carers, and most face extreme financial deprivation, all circumstances no child should be faced with. .
- Our holidays take place in the New Forest, meaning the children are able to experience the outdoors and enjoy life in the countryside. Activities include a visit to a theme park, a pottery workshop, and canoeing, or other team-building tasks like raft building and feeding farm animals. In this new environment, they quickly adapt and form new friendships, which is invaluable for many given their home circumstances.

This JCR believes:

- The work ExVac carries out is vital for the well-being of local children.
- St John's would benefit from helping the local community
- They face vulnerable home circumstances, and therefore the support and opportunities ExVac provides are invaluable.
- The holidays are completely free for the children who attend, so we are entirely reliant on fundraising and the generosity of our donors. The total cost of running these holidays is £16,600.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- Donate £250 to ExVac from the Charities Pot to allow them to continue to take 18 children on holiday.

Alice M: Charity is entirely student run and helps children recommended by child services.

6. Any other business

The JCR sang happy birthday to Zohaib (Zohaib was ecstatic)

Joe congratulated Zohaib on making it to the meeting on the occasion of his birthday

Leanne:

- How do I get extra funding?
- Zohaib: I would have to do a motion to reallocate funding from areas of the budget where it isn't being used.