



St John's College Junior Common Room

GM3, HT25 Minutes

Monday, 10th March 2025

jcr-secretary@sjc.ox.ac.uk

1. Minutes from the previous meeting

Minutes available [here](#).

2. Matters arising from the minutes

3. Reports from Officers

Laurence (President):

- Sent off dates for entz next term – meeting with Snr Dean upcoming about guest dinner post entz-ban
- Meeting of education policy committee – concerned with AI usage – college are 'genuinely clueless'
- Circuit laundry coming to an end – prices might stay the same/increase
 - o Joe: does Circuit own the machines
 - o Euan: Yes
 - o Laurence: looks like we're replacing the machines then
- Next term rent charge negotiations will begin potentially with Zohaib – please fill out an upcoming form so I can make an ongoing case for keeping rents low
 - o Really important this is filled out – anonymous but vital to keeping the case for low costs
- From next term there will be changes to booking on intranet
- There is a master doc on how to run events (e.g., formals) – Domestic Bursar will hopefully be sending soon
- Governing body meeting on Wednesday to discuss free speech policy in college.

Oscar (Secretary):

- Same as usual

Joe (Vice-President):

- Busy few weeks
- If you need a room, and failed to do so during the ballot, please get in touch
- Otherwise, everything went reasonably smoothly with housing

Zohaib (Treasurer):

- Looking to sort out punt club stuff for next term otherwise business as usual

Dom Secs:

- Food feedback productive + has been posted
- Second guest dinner successful
- Garden Party proposals ongoing

Welfare:

- One speaker broken looking to try and replace the part
- Looking to organise college weddings

Entz:

- Good term – last BOP on Saturday a success

Rory (Sport):

- People finally getting reimbursed
- Sports dinner going well
- Any complaints about the dinner should “go to the nearest bin”
- If anyone knows any (preferably female) sports-related speakers for the dinner please get in touch

Leanne: (Women and Minority Gender):

- Women’s day event went well – looking to communicate with FemSocs from other

Amelia: (Access and Admissions):

- Access content on social media upcoming soon
- Questionnaire for ideas about welfare

Jerome (External Affairs):

- Alumni talk enjoyable even if turnout not especially high

Josh S. (Environment and Ethics):

- Sent out some emails to some people

Andras (IT):

- “I would like to extend my sincerest apologies”
- Please return loaned equipment
- Calendar has been a success – will continue next term

Elliot:

- Results out soon from the academic forum

Izzy (Arts):

- Arts week a success
- Looking to deal with art in rooms
- Want to run feminist art soon

Kaya:

- E&D has been going well this term – looking forward to carrying on in Trinity

4. Ratifications

Ratification of:

- 1x Entz Rep:
- 2x Class Reps:
- 1x Suspended Students Rep:
- Nobody put themselves forward for any of the above roles.

5. Agenda items

A) The 'Help fund the production of Up Styx Creek' Motion

Proposer: Karina Oakley

Seconder: Ella

This JCR notes:

- A production of 'Up Styx Creek', an original comedy musical by Jemima Freeman (Merton) and Charlotte Walker (LMH), with new songs by Jack McMinn (St Cross), Peregrine Neger (Jesus) and Wing Hei Woo (Anne's), will be taking place in week 5 in the Keble O'Reilly theatre.
- The cast and crew currently consists of 33 people from across 15+ colleges and numerous degrees, so it is a large scale production and involves lots of people!
- The projected costs are projected to be around £2000. About £700 is needed just to pay for the venue and the rest is for costumes, set/props, lighting, and marketing.
- A St John's student (Karina Oakley) is heavily involved in the play, performing as four characters throughout, as well as helping with marketing.

This JCR believes:

- The JCR should help fund this production to support student drama and creativity and add to the vibrant college and university theatre environment.
- Since it is a piece of new writing, it is especially vital to support this production as it encourages new talent.
- The high costs of renting the Keble O'Reilly and other props/ staging mean this project will struggle for funds without JCR support.

This JCR resolves to:

- Give £100 to help fund the production costs of 'Up Styx Creek' from the ~~Financial Motions Budget~~ Kendrew Arts Fund

Karina:

- Important to support student writing and performances and a very friendly costly production

Laurence:

- Friendly amend to come from Kendrew Arts

Joe:

- Which other JCRs have contributed?

Karina:

- Some have (not sure exactly which) but have not received a significant amount

B) The "Take the Chair Seriously by Giving Them a Gavel" Financial Motion

Proposer: Oscar Whittle

Seconded: Laurence Cooke

This JCR notes that:

- As it stands, the Chair of JCR meetings lacks the ability to efficiently bring the meetings to order
- Lacking any serious means to bring meetings to order, they are forced to use whatever resources are available to them on an *ad hoc* basis, resorting either to shouting or

banging a can on the table, which is both silly-looking and risky, as the can then becomes difficult to open without spilling said beverage.

This JCR believes that:

- This motion is in the interest of everyone. It would ensure that our incredible JCR is given the gravitas it deserves while also preventing the current and future Chair(s) from having to excessively agitate their carbonated beverages to bring meetings to order.
- To maximise how seriously the gavel is taken, it should be engraved.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- Give £40 to be spent on purchasing a high-quality engraved gavel from the Financial Motions Budget (an example can be found [here](#)).

(This section was minuted by the Vice-President as the Secretary spoke in favour of the motion)

Oscar

- Chair, not due to any personal issue, often struggles to control meetings (“can’t bring them to order”)
- Therefore, the JCR needs a gavel, which would both help with the running of meetings and be this committee’s legacy – has researched a gavel which will last generations, for all future JCR chairs – Allows meetings to be conducted with “gravitas”

Amelia

- Shouldn’t the chair be good enough on his own to control it – not part of the British legal constitution to use a gavel

Job

- If you feel so strongly about this, feel free to switch roles with me. I’m good enough

Ewan

- If we are prepared to pass this, why haven’t other financial motions passed?

Laurence

- The procedure through which other motions have been raised is incorrect – officers should use their budget when it comes to issues relating to their specific briefs. This issue is not one of those, thus why it can come out of the financial motions budget.

Jerome

- Is £40 a little too much for the gavel don’t you think? Just a lump of wood.

Oscar

- Far more than just a lump of wood

Everyone talks – The chair attempts to bring the room to order with his water bottle and struggles.

Laurence

- I suppose everyone can vote democratically on this.

C) The “Support Blood Wedding” Financial Motion

Proposer: Rohan Joshi

Seconded: Joe Dunn

This JCR notes that:

0. Federico García Lorca’s *Blood Wedding* (in a new translation by Emma Nihill Alcorta) is being staged at the Oxford Playhouse in Week 6 of Trinity 2025.
1. Written in the summer of 1932, Lorca’s acclaimed rural tragedy is a story of arid land and tough people, where societal expectations are rigidly defined and hidden yearnings simmer under the surface of convention. *Blood Wedding* urgently interrogates what happens when individual yearning batters against the walls of tradition.
2. The £300 grant from St John’s College is vitally important for the success of the production. This grant would significantly contribute to the production, due to the scale of the project, with over 50 Oxford students involved in the cast and crew

This JCR believes that:

- b. Supporting *Blood Wedding* benefits the student theatre and arts scene in Oxford as a whole - it is important to support student participation in drama after an extended period of restricted artistic and theatrical projects during the pandemic. Supporting *Blood Wedding* and the newly established *Full Moon Theatre* in this way would be an excellent opportunity for the SJC JCR to encourage the extra-curricular involvement of Oxford JCR and MCR members and help provide entertainment for members of the university and beyond.
- c. The money would go towards creating a successful production

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- c. To give £300 to Full Moon Theatre for their production of *Blood Wedding* from the Kendrew Arts Fund

Rohan:

- Happening at Oxford Playhouse which is a large but expensive venue
- Great opportunity for people to enjoy theatre

Joe:

- Have you asked other JCRs for money?

Rohan:

- Yes

D) The 'Support Frequent Fliers Productions' Financial Motion

Proposer: Juliet Taub

Seconded: Grace Steed

This JCR notes that:

- This student production company was started by a John's student and wishes to put on their new play.
- Beyond the founder, two other John's students are on the crew for the production.
- The play is called 'An Anthology of Pairs' and is about the tumultuous relationship between a Jewish mother and daughter who have differing views on faith.
- Frequent Fliers has already successfully bid for a BT slot in week two of Trinity Term, Tuesday – Saturday at 7:30.
- We will provide a written report about the event that would go on the news section of the JCR website.

This JCR believes that:

- This project should be given funding because it is an entirely student-led creative effort.
- There are John's students involved, all of whom are Freshers and this will be a first move into putting on theatre at Oxford. The play itself tackles challenging but moving topics that will be familiar to many students regardless of their background and will speak to a larger community in Oxford as well.
- Additionally, due to Frequent Fliers being an all new production company, it has no money currently to fund its project, while there are other funding bodies (such as CMDF) which we have also gone to for funding, we will not be able to afford our venue without the support of JCR funding.
- This is particularly because set, prop, marketing and lighting expenses are already being funded by other grants and loans. The amount we are asking for (£230) is the exact cost of renting out the BT space for the week we will need it, and the show cannot happen without it.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- Give £230 to Frequent Fliers productions from the Kendrew Arts Fund to allow them to put on their upcoming production 'An Anthology of Pairs'

Nicole

- Incredibly good production written by John's fresher

Joe:

- Have they asked anyone else for money?

Nicole:

- Small cast so not sure

E) The "Fund Jack the musical!" Financial Motion

Proposer: Nicole Palka

Seconded: Meira Lee

This JCR notes that:

- Jack the musical is a new student written musical about Jack the ripper bidding pitch trinity w2/3.
- It features 2 Johns students in a small cast of 8. An exciting project that strives to give a new answer to the case!

This JCR believes that:

- We should fund Jack because the show contains 2 Johns members, one playing the lead.
- It's an exciting new show and supporting new student writing is incredibly important.
- We have a two-week slot confirmed for Edinburgh fringe and have already been rehearsing for multiple weeks.
- The project being a musical entails additional costs, as opposed to a play where it is easier to keep costs down.
- The show itself tackles taboos and is quite representative, where oxford theatre can often lack. Without giving too much away, the plot is an exciting take on the mystery of the ripper that attempts to view the age-old question through new historical lenses.
- The Proposer will be required to write a written report to be uploaded to the News section on the JCR website

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- Give £200 to Jack from the Financial Motions Budget Kendrew Arts Fund

Nicole:

- Investments have longevity as we intend to use them again
- Cast of 8, 2 of which are John's

Elliot:

- How much money in Kendrew arts fund

Zohaib:

- About £4000

Joe:

- Lot of money being spent tonight alone – we should consider how it is being used.

***F) The “Provide 2nd Year Classicists with Powdered Substances” Financial Motion
(Removed via friendly amendment)***

Proposer: Leandro Landolina

Seconded: Zohaib Bhatti

This JCR notes that:

- ~~a) Classics students at St John’s are currently taking ‘Mods’ exams. These exams historically take place in Hilary term as opposed to Trinity term.~~
- ~~b) Members of the JCR typically celebrate the completion of exams (e.g. ‘Prelims’ and ‘Finals’) with eco-friendly coloured powder.~~
- ~~c) The E&E (Environmental and Ethics) Officer typically purchases these materials for Trinity term, however ‘the company that we use...doesn’t start delivering until the middle of Trinity’ (Swan 2025, personal communication).~~
- ~~d) The E&E budget ‘has been cut this year...[and] all the budget is required for the order for Trinity term’ (Swan 2025, personal communication).~~
- ~~e) Without the *ad hoc* purchase of eco-friendly coloured powder, Classics students at St John’s will be unable to celebrate their ‘Mods’ in the standard fashion.~~

This JCR believes that:

- ~~f) The Classics students and those involved in these celebrations would therefore benefit from the purchase of eco-friendly coloured powder.~~

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- ~~g) Give £13.95 from the Financial Motions Budget in order to purchase eco-friendly coloured powder.~~

References

Swan, Josh. 2025. ‘Re: Classics Mods — Eco-friendly Trashing Materials’. Email to Leandro Landolina, 10 March.

(This motion was discussed at the start of the meeting)

Leandro:

- 2nd Year Classics students require some materials for celebration after mods
- “We need some powder”

Josh:

- We have found materials that can be used anyway

Leandro:

- We asked last week, and received bad communication so felt we needed to buy it ourselves, thus why I would like to be reimbursed by the JCR

Joe:

- Why are you asking for the funding from financial motions – should come from an officer's budget

Laurence:

- Josh has provided materials
- I move to friendly amend to remove the motion (seeing no objections, the motion was thus removed)

(Later in meeting) Jerome:

- Could the E&E budget be used to buy the materials off of Leandro so that he is still reimbursed?

Euan:

- Josh did not communicate properly which is why Leandro was forced to buy

Laurence:

- Not the role of Leandro to purchase items not under his remit as officer, leave financial (budgetary) issues – especially small transfers/transactions - for each officer, not financial motions budget
- Can still remove the motion as this can be dealt with outside of voting
- No need to divide JCR with a vote on an issue like this as we will be able to provide the money for Leandro without voting

6. Any other business

Ben: There are now 6 working JCR bikes