



St John's College Junior Common Room

GM2, MT25 Minutes

Monday, 3rd November 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

Jerome (President):

- Student Equalities Forum met last week – attendance was low, so please do go
- Arts Week has been approved for next Hilary T

Oscar (Secretary):

- Met with the college Archivist last week – if you have any relevant documents that you think the college should preserve on behalf of the JCR please get in touch.

Joe (Vice-President):

- “Kind of over it at this point”
- Going to send out invites for Christmas get-together – Thursday Week 8

Zohaib (Treasurer):

- Doing regular work as usual

Dom Secs:

- First Guest Dinner was a success – next one happening at the end of Week 5
- Food Feedback Forum on the 18th
- First time we opened up post drinks to non-attendees – good financial move

Welfare:

- Getting new speakers for Karaoke the main priority
- Pottery painting coming up
- Organising college family dinner

Entz:

- Next BOP on Saturday – to be revealed on Insta soon
- Heard calls for term-card and will release one soon – had one ready for a while but events have been difficult to organise

- Planning event for Week 6

Rory (Sport):

- Budget for next year being prepared – captains need to get that to me by end of next week
- Should be approved by the end of term

Leanne: (Women and Minority Gender):

- Had a women's health talk
- Ordered period products – some left over and considering giving them to the homeless
- Next event is women's lunch, one in week 6 collaborating with BNC

Arran: (Access and Admissions):

- Attended Inspire meeting – spoke about upcoming events
- Spoke to access office

Josh S. (Environment and Ethics):

- Went to Garden Perambulation
 - o Euan: Can we get chairs for the gardens for summer?
 - o Jerome: We will look into that

Andras (IT):

- Not a lot

Elliot (Academic Affairs):

- Nothing from me

Kaya (BAME):

- Organising BAME bottomless brunch in Week 5 Friday or Saturday

Alex (RO):

- Elections happening this week – please don't endorse anyone other than yourself

4. **Ratifications**

No ratifications were made

5. **Agenda items**

A) The “JCR Motion for *Uncle Vanya*” Financial Motion

Proposer: Emma Scanlon

Seconder: Georgina Cooper

This JCR notes that:

- *Uncle Vanya* is one of Chekov's most beloved plays, and the Robert Icke translation was exceptionally well received when it was staged at London's Almeida Theatre; this version has not yet been staged in Oxford.
- Emma Scanlon and Georgina Cooper are involved in the show as producer and cast (the Nanny) respectively, and are students at St. John's 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.
- The show is at the O'Reilly, a large theatre, and has a very elaborate set, and so would benefit from additional funding.

This JCR believes that:

- Supporting the funding of *Uncle Vanya* is crucial for the success of the production.
- The grant would go directly to funding the show's expenses - such as set furniture, constructed chandelier, scaffold and rigging, the venue hire, and the rights to the show - lowering the breakeven (the number of ticket sales required to make a profit) 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 *Uncle Vanya* £200 from the Kendrew Arts Fund to help support this production.

Emma:

- Taking place at O'Reilly and new translation with large set expensive

Joe:

- Have you asked other colleges for money?
 - o Emma: Yes

B) The “*Support Oxford University Poetry Society Printing*” Financial Motion

Proposer: Liv Goldreich

Seconded: Jess Rance, Alice Dunn

This JCR notes that:

- Established in 1946, the Oxford University Poetry Society (OUPS) is one of the oldest and most active poetry societies operating in the UK today.
- OUPS produces an annual anthology, *The Ash*.
- The Ash* platforms voices from across the country – a majority of which come from Oxford's student body – and weaves together poetry, philosophy and illustration into a professionally-printed anthology.

- d. The last print run depleted the Society's finances and whilst events are now funding themselves, the cost of printing the anthology still needs to be covered.
- e. OUPS' events are considerably lower priced than other similar societies and therefore more accessible.
- f. The next *Ash* theme is 'Darkroom', centred around matters of light, photography, and creation, but also philosophical conceptions of perception and many more topics relevant to our contemporary concerns.

This JCR believes that:

- g. John's should support the future of poetry (many JCR members are committee members/Society members/poetically inclined...). Various events, including readings from notable poets (e.g. George Szirtes) will hopefully be held in College.
- h. In our present digital age, supporting physical print is vital.
- i. The continuity of the Society's printing schedule is of great significance to the Oxford student – and literary – community, and therefore worth supporting. There isn't a similar publication in the city currently.
- j. The Society should not have to inflate its event prices to cover the cost of printing. This risks becoming an inaccessible model over time, which would exclude many members from regular participation.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- k. Give £150 from the Kendrew Arts Fund towards printing OUPS's next anthology (launching in Trinity Term 2026).

Liv:

- Many John's students come, and we need additional money beyond events to continue our work
- Interesting interdisciplinary event, and we need money to make this happen in advance of 80th anniversary next year

Jerome:

- What is future funding plan?
 - o Liv: Last year we had debts of £1000 and we've managed to bring that down with a long-term strategy but need JCR help

C) The "*Spend the Stash Money*" Charities Motion

Proposer: Alex Mylet

Seconded: Zohaib Bhatti

This JCR notes that:

- a. The "Earn With Us" program for the stash drop recently earnt £328.
- b. This money must, and has been, be put into the Charities Motion.

This JCR believes that:

- a. The JCR should spend all its Charities Budget each year, although saving some for later motions this term.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- a. Give £200 from the Charities Budget to Medical Aid for Palestinians.

Alex:

- Stash now gets money back, and we need to spend it this year

Jerome:

- This is a great cause but maybe in the future we get some more JCR input

~~D) The "Late Nominations" Constitutional Motion~~

~~Proposer:~~ Alex Mylet

~~Seconded:~~ Zohaib Bhatti

~~This JCR notes that:~~

- ~~a.—This year there were late nominations for the Executive Elections, which the Returning Officer decided to allow.~~
- ~~b.—There can be valid reasons for late nominations.~~
- ~~c.—There are other circumstances where the RO can exercise their discretion.~~

~~This JCR believes that:~~

- ~~a.—The more candidates in an election the better for the choice of the JCR.~~
- ~~b.—If late nominations are accepted in the future, this should only be in exceptional circumstances, to provide a balance between people abusing the rules and people with genuine reasons for being late.~~

~~This JCR therefore resolves to:~~

- ~~a.—Amend the constitution to add, after Standing Order Table 3A §5,~~
~~"a. The Returning Officer may, at their discretion and only in exceptional circumstances, choose to accept a late nomination. If this is done, they should inform the JCR of this, but do not have to specify who nominated late or the circumstances that led to it being accepted."~~

Alex:

- Decision that Jerome and I came to is to not put this motion so we can more carefully think about what happens if people are late in nominating
- Moved to friendly amend to remove this motion (accepted *nem con*)

Joe:

- Maybe we should just push the deadline back

Alex:

- We can look at this and think about deadlines
- Whatever we decide it'll be a strict deadline going forward

~~E) The "Funding for 'OUDS Cuppers team', BT Studio, Week 5" Financial Motion~~

Proposer: Nicole Patka:

Seconded: Juliet Taub

This JCR notes that:

- a.—Nicole Patka and Juliet Taub from St John's College are involved as Cuppers Reps for the SJC team made up of 6 St John's freshers competing in OUDS cuppers in Week 5. Cuppers is the first opportunity to put on a show and requires no prior experience. Groups of up to 10 freshers from each college compete against other in putting on a creative drama festival with 20-minute performances. The aim of this is to actively recruit students newer to Oxford theatre and allow them to work with more experienced members, enabling them to access the world of Oxford drama.

This JCR believes that:

- a.—It is important to encourage students' artistic endeavours outside of their studies. College support would allow the directorial vision of production to be realised and no cast or crew member would need to contribute personal funds for theatre. It is important to encourage fresher access to Oxford societies and brilliant to foster a St John's presence in these societies.

This JCR resolves to:

- a.—Give 'OUDS cuppers team' £85 from the Financial Motions Budget in order to support its production. £50 budget. £35 entry fee.

Jerome:

- We didn't do this last year and most colleges do this, supporting only John's students

Zohaib:

- Amend to come from

~~F) The "Funding for 'In Praise of Love', BT Studio" Financial Motion~~

Proposer: Nicole Patka

Seconded: Grace Steed

This JCR notes that:

- a.—Nicole Patka from St John's College is involved as Lydia in the production of Terence Rattigan's rarely performed tragicomedy 'In Praise of Love', which is centred around miscommunication and love. As the production takes place early in term and there is limited time for building and design, JCR funding is necessary in order to allow students to best exercise their creativity in essential design aspects and to ensure the complex messaging of the play is successful. One of this production company's aims is to act as

an informal training show by actively recruiting students newer to Oxford theatre to work with more experienced members. JCR funding will allow these newer members more resources to learn about theatre.

This JCR believes that:

- a.—It is important to encourage students' artistic endeavours outside of their studies. College support would allow the directorial vision of production to be brought to life for the audience, which is imperative when dealing with such a sensitive and charged subject matter. Additionally, no cast or crew member should need to contribute personal funds for theatre, which JCR funding would alleviate the need for. Finally, as ticket prices are fixed by the venue, the support of JCR funding is essential to the show's success to lower production costs. Profits will eventually return to OUDS, further supporting student theatre.

This JCR resolves to:

- a.—Give 'In Praise of Love' £100 from the Kendrew Arts Fund in order to support its production.

Zohaib:

- Amend to come from KAF

Alex:

- The Constitution says that if neither the proposer nor seconder is present at the meeting to speak in favour of a motion it is "not put", meaning that it will not be voted on.
- The executive committee agreed to this and so neither the "*Funding for 'In Praise of Love', BT Studio*" Financial Motion nor the "*Funding for 'OUDS Cuppers team', BT Studio, Week 5*" Financial Motion will be voted on.

6. Any other business