



St John's College JCR

HT26, GM1 Minutes

Monday 26 January 2026

jcr-secretary@sjc.ox.ac.uk

1. Minutes from the previous meeting

Minutes available [here](#).

2. Matters arising from the minutes

None.

3. Ratification of Chair

Vice-President took the Chair as the Chair was vacant.

Jack Pentland nominated himself for Chair. No objections were heard so Jack was ratified as Chair.

4. Reports from the Officers

Secretary (Mia): Not much, just sending out emails and sorting out the Google Drive.

President (Jerome): Have had some meetings, talking about Sidney Sussex choir/sports exchange, we've reached the end of the initial planning stage.

Vice-President (Ruth): Housing Ballot email sent out today, room regrading issues being sorted. Housing Ballot should hopefully be in week 7. Have a meeting with Euan for charities things.

Treasurer (Andras): Handover has gone well. Been to bank, should hopefully have access and stop having to rely on Zohaib soon. Budget's been dealt with and should hopefully be passed.

Domestic Officers: Ballot sent out for guest dinner, Halfway Hall is currently being planned.

Environment and Ethics (Isaac): Not much, just planning (no allotment yet but reaching out to Oxford City Farm).

Access and Admissions (Inaya): Meeting with Insight people to catch up, meeting on Tuesday to set out goals.

Academic Affairs (Maxim): Sent out link to academic feedback form but we need more people to do it! We're also reaching out for subject reps. Had CV clinic with Careers. Need to start on external affairs things, meeting with the SU.

Ruth: Are academic workshops still going on?

Maxim: There are questions over whether it's worth it (we've had sessions with only three people) or whether we should focus more on clinics instead? Need to speak with study skills people about it.

Arts (Naomi): Arts Week is coming up. We have the formal coming up; things are being sorted for that. Dolphin Gallery has been set up and slots have been sorted.

Charities (Euan): Trying to set up charity formal, currently having conversations about that. Just launched Oxford Social Action Coalition (to help homeless community); please get involved! Shifts are at lunchtimes and evenings, every day of the week.

Jerome: Also bringing paper on formal.

Entz: Did first Bop, and are planning the next two. Also planning events with Univ and considering running pub quiz.

Equality and Diversity (Lia): Planning BAME formal; have sent out sign-ups. Meeting next week about LGBTQ+ dinner.

Sports (Emily): Had some meetings, and discussed with Sidney Sussex. Trying to make reimbursement for sports things better.

Returning Officer (Alex): Awaiting results of first by-election, setting up second. Please nominate for IT!

5. Ratifications

The following members nominated themselves:

- Bike Rep: Sam Dayan
- Facilities Reps: Andras Bard and Rory Dean
- Punt Rep: Burak Karatas
- Social Media Rep: Ruth Magedera
- Stash Reps: Frederic Fong and Sam Govier
- International Students Reps: Eric He and Burak Karatas

- Suspended Students Rep: Mia Clark-Webb
- Women's Rep: Ruth Magedera

No objections were heard, so all Rep roles were ratified. All other Rep roles had no nominations and are therefore now vacant.

6. Agenda items

A. The *“Funding for Bluestocking Oxford”* Financial Motion

Proposer: Cosima Yeo

Seconded: Lia Jobanputra

This JCR notes that:

- Oxford Bluestocking is an online magazine that investigates the intellectual and artistic achievements of women throughout history. The name of the journal originates from the 18th Century Blue Stockings Society of educated intellectual women. Bluestocking acts as a base for critical and insightful research into the work of female thinkers, raising the profile of women as major actors in the history of ideas, both past and present.
- The magazine hosts ticketed events, inviting guest speakers (often writers, academics, or experts in their field) to give a Q&A in front of an audience. The most recent of these was a film screening, poetry reading and Q&A with poet Ruth Fainlight and photographer Emily Anderson.
- With the upcoming release of the new film inspired by Wuthering Heights, we are hosting an event in Week 6. The event will be a Q&A with an expert on Emily Bronte, discussing the book particularly in light of the new film adaptation, and focusing on its author. We will provide refreshments. We would like to keep the event free of charge, and therefore require funding from the JCR.
- Any leftover money we will put towards subsidizing tickets for the annual Bluestocking Banquet held in the Hall of Christ Church, which will take place in Trinity Term.

This JCR believes that:

- The College should support a magazine which promotes feminist thinking and holds events to raise the profile of women's contributions throughout history and the present day.
- John's students would benefit from such funding, as Cosima Yeo is Humanities Editor of Bluestocking Oxford, and all students at John's are encouraged to write articles for Bluestocking or attend our events.
- Funding is crucial to make these events accessible to as wide an audience as possible. We do not charge for any of our events except the dinner in Trinity

Term, which we are hoping to subsidise with the money from College. We therefore rely on our patrons to fund the magazine and to facilitate the magazine going into print in the near future.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- h. Give £150 from the Kendrew Arts Fund to allow Bluestocking Oxford to continue holding events which raise the profile of women's intellectual and artistic achievements free of charge.

Cosima: *Bluestocking Oxford* needs more funding to make sure events can stay accessible and free—we want to avoid any kind of elitism. We've got events with guest speakers planned, and hopefully a banquet in Christ Church Hall, and we want these to be subsidised. We also encourage John's students to write and come to events.

Jerome: Have you asked other JCRs?

Cosima: Yes, we've also asked Mansfield.

Jerome: What are your long-term funding plans?

Cosima: We have an American patron who will hopefully support us.

Jerome: Friendly amend to come from Kendrew Arts Fund, rather than Financial Motions Budget.

Maxim: How are you publishing the magazines? Some magazines work with OSPL.

Cosima: We're considering our options (including OSPL).

B. The “*Front Quad Room Regrading*” Housing Motion

Proposer: Ruth Magedera

Seconded: Mia Clark-Webb

This JCR notes that:

- a. The current grading of F4-5 is unfair and requires a review by the Vice-President.

This JCR believes that:

- b. The following regrading has been done to make the housing and room ballot more fair and have been done in accordance with the room regrading procedure. The Vice-President is happy to talk through it if anyone feels it is unfair or unjustified.
- c. The following change will be a permanent point change to F4-5, applying to this and all following room ballots.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- d. Change the points of F4-5 from 108 points to 97 points.

Ruth: F4–4 and F4–5 are basically the same, so F4–5 shouldn't be so many points higher. F4–5 was unoccupied for a few years, so that's why the issue wasn't raised earlier.

C. The “2026 JCR Budget” Financial Motion

Proposer: Andras Bard

Seconded: Jerome Pailing

This JCR notes that:

- a. 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.
- b. Official spending cannot commence until the new budget is ratified.
- c. The annual budget for 2026 is [available online](#).
 - i. As a baseline, most budget areas have been allocated the amount they used last year, adjusted for inflation at 4%.
 - ii. Budget areas with no expected expenditure have been allocated £10 so unexpected small purchases can be reimbursed without the need for a financial motion.
 - iii. Budget areas have been added for the newly created roles of Charities Officer and Publicity Officer.
 - iv. Societies have been consulted about their expected expenditure and their budgets allocated accordingly.
 - v. As agreed upon in Rents and Charges last year, the Sanitary Product budget is fixed at £4000 of JCR capitation, which is standard.
 - vi. Arts Week and the Kendrew Arts Fund are expected to be funded by College separately from the main JCR capitation.
- d. Suggestions from all relevant JCR members are welcome.

This JCR believes that:

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

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- h. Pass this proposed budget.

Andras: The Budget is basically the same as last year except for the aforementioned changes. Once it's passed, we can start reimbursing people.

D. The “Update the Constitution” Constitutional Motion

Proposer: Jerome Pailing

Seconded: Alex Mylet

This JCR believes that:

- a. We need an up to date constitution for proper governance and accountability
- b. This motion is to bring the constitution in line with reality, and the way things are actually done

Summary of changes:

- c. Mostly just updating where things haven't been updated over the years
- d. Mandating the IT Officer to upload minutes from all JCR meetings to the website for greater accountability
- e. Updating the constitution to reflect what the Secretary actually does (and should do, for accountability purposes)
- f. Adding to the constitution the Environment and Ethics Officer organising a swap of unwanted items in Trinity Term
- g. Moving the order of the room ballot (swapping round Vice President and Secretary) to reflect what has been done in practice (for some reason, this has been done on an informal basis for the last few years, so this just stops unnecessary confusion in future years)

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- h. Replace in Part One: Preamble “Its decisions shall be taken by a vote of all full members present” with “Its decisions shall be taken by an online vote open to all full members”
- i. Replace in Part One: Preamble “Full term shall be defined by this Constitution as Sunday of 1st week to Friday 8th week inclusive.” with “Full term shall be defined by this Constitution as Sunday of 1st week to Saturday of 8th week inclusive.”
- j. Replace in Part Two: The Articles § Concerning the Officials 17. “The JCR shall be served by Officers, Representatives (‘Reps’) and Assistants, together referred to as Officials, whose roles and titles are defined in Standing Order Table 2.” with

“The JCR shall be served by Officers and Representatives (‘Reps’), together referred to as Officials, whose roles and titles are defined in Standing Order Table 2.

- k. Replace in Part Two: The Articles § Concerning the Officials 32. “Assistants or E&D Reps may resign at any time by email to their responsible Officer and the Secretary. If the office of Secretary or their responsible Officer is vacant, then they may email the President, and can give notice of their resignation up to two weeks before their resignation takes effect. Once issued, a resignation may not be rescinded, and, in the case of Assistants, the position will be open for ratification in the normal way at the next Ordinary General Meeting. Should an Assistant or E&D Rep not be in residence for the following academic year, their resignation shall be assumed as being the final day of Trinity full term.” with “E&D Reps may resign at any time by email to their responsible Officer and the Secretary. If the office of Secretary or their responsible Officer is vacant, then they may email the President, and can give notice of their resignation up to two weeks before their resignation takes effect. Once issued, a resignation may not be rescinded, and the position will be open for ratification in the normal way at the next Ordinary General Meeting. Should an E&D Rep not be in residence for the following academic year, their resignation shall be assumed as being the final day of Trinity full term.”
- l. Replace in Part Two: The Articles § Concerning Motions 49. “A motion shall be passed by a simple majority vote of full members of the JCR in a General Meeting:
 - a. An exception shall be in the case of Constitutional motions amending either the preamble or the Articles shall require ratification, also by a simple majority, at the next General Meeting.
 - b. A further exception shall be made to any portions of the Constitution or Standing Orders covered by provisions in Standing Order Table Nine.”

with “A motion shall be passed by a simple majority vote of full members of the JCR held online after the meeting:

- a. An exception shall be in the case of any portions of the Constitution or Standing Orders covered by provisions in Standing Order Table Nine, which shall require ratification, also by a simple majority, at the next General Meeting.
- m. Remove Part Two: The Articles § Concerning JCR Committees and Sub-Committees 65 b. [JCR Committees and Sub-Committees must:] “Notify the Secretary of any scheduled meetings, including details of the day and time the meeting is scheduled for.”

- n. Replace Part Two: The Articles § Concerning JCR Committees and Sub-Committees 65 c. [JCR Committees and Sub-Committees must:] “Have a designated individual appointed by the Chair or Co-Chairs to take the minutes of their meetings, and provide a copy of these minutes to the Secretary within 72 hours of any meeting.” with “Have a designated individual appointed by the Chair or Co-Chairs to take the minutes of their meetings, and provide a copy of these minutes to the Secretary if requested.”
- o. Replace in Standing Order Table One: General Meetings of the JCR § 10 “The Chair shall normally be ratified in the last Meeting of each term, to act as Chair for the duration of the following term.” with “The Chair shall normally be ratified in the first meeting of each term, to act as Chair for the duration of the term.”
- p. Replace in Standing Order Table One: General Meetings of the JCR §15 “The Secretary shall publish a draft agenda at least 24 hours before the physical general meeting.” with “The Secretary shall publish a draft agenda at least 6 hours before the physical general meeting.”
- q. Replace in Standing Order Table One: General Meetings of the JCR § 32 “During a meeting, the following procedural motions may be put. All procedural motions shall be given in writing or verbally to the Chair, except for amendments, which must be given in writing and shall require both a proposer and seconder.” with “During a meeting, the following procedural motions may be put. All procedural motions shall be given in writing or verbally to the Chair.”
- r. Replace in Standing Order Table Two: Roles of JCR Officials § c.ii (The Secretary) “Shall minute JCR General Meetings, which should be made available for all members to see via an online link or a projector display during the meeting and uploaded to the JCR Website following the meeting.” with “Shall minute JCR General Meetings, which should be distributed to all members along with a link to online voting for the motions, within 24 hours of the meeting”
- s. Replace in Standing Order Table Two: Roles of JCR Officials § c.iii (The Secretary) “Shall minute JCR General Committee meetings and should make the minutes of all Committee and Subcommittee meetings available to members upon request.” with “Shall make the minutes of all Committee and Subcommittee meetings available to members upon request.”
- t. Add in Standing Order Table Two: Roles of JCR Officials § c.xii (The Secretary) “Shall attend and minute the Student Equality Forum”
- u. Remove in Standing Order Table Two: Roles of JCR Officials § e.iv (The Academic Affairs Officer) “Shall be responsible for the conduct of the Academic Affairs Assistant during the Academic Feedback process.”
- v. Add in Standing Order Table Two: Roles of JCR Officials § i.v (The Environment and Ethics Officer) “Shall organise a charity swap event in Trinity Term, at which

students may donate unwanted items for reuse by other students, with any remaining items donated to charity.”

- w. Add in Standing Order Table Two: Roles of JCR Officials § j.XI (The Equality and Diversity Officer) “Shall organise, together with the relevant E&D Rep(s) and the corresponding officer in the MCR, the Equality and Diversity dinners put on by the college in Hilary Term.”
- x. Add in Standing Order Table Two: Roles of JCR Officials § l.IX (The IT Officer) “Shall upload minutes from each JCR General Meeting to the website upon circulation by the Secretary”
- y. Add in Standing Order Table Two: Roles of JCR Officials § k.XII (The Sports Officer) “Shall act as a liaison point between sports captains and the college, for instance when sports teams have not been reimbursed properly”
- z. Replace in Standing Order Table Three A: The Election of JCR Officers (Main Elections) § 2.g.c “Members who are Treasurers of a financial beneficiary of the JCR (e.g. Ball Committee), are ineligible for nomination to be JCR Treasurer.” with “Members who are Treasurers of a financial beneficiary of the JCR are ineligible for nomination to be JCR Treasurer.”
- aa. Replace in Standing Order Table Three A: The Election of JCR Officers (Main Elections) § 7. “Voting and counting of votes shall normally be conducted under the instant-runoff (“Alternative Vote”) system, or the ranked-pair system.” with “Voting and counting of votes shall normally be conducted under the Single Transferable Vote system (STV).”
- bb. Replace in Standing Order Table Three A: The Election of JCR Officers (Main Elections) § 25.i “Canvassing or advising voters to vote for a particular candidate by the Returning Officer, any incumbent member of the JCR General Committee (who is not themselves a candidate), the President-elect, or Vice President-elect.” with “Canvassing or advising voters to vote for a particular candidate by the Returning Officer, any incumbent member of the JCR General Committee (who is not themselves a candidate), the Executive Committee-elect.”
- cc. Replace in Standing Order Table Five: Complaints Procedure § 1 “Members should read Article §103 before triggering the Complaints Procedure. Incidents of harassment or other serious offences should be directed straight to the Senior Dean or Junior Deans.” with “Members should read Article §97 before triggering the Complaints Procedure. Incidents of harassment or other serious offences should be directed straight to the Senior Dean or Junior Deans.”
- dd. Replace in Standing Order Table Five: Complaints Procedure § 16 “The Chair will create an anonymised summary of the Panel’s decision (pending appeal), forward it to the Secretary for uploading to the JCR website and provide a more detailed explanation of the Panel’s reasoning to the complainant and

complainee.” with “The Chair will create an anonymised summary of the Panel’s decision (pending appeal), forward it to the Secretary for reading at the next General Meeting and provide a more detailed explanation of the Panel’s reasoning to the complainant and complainee.”

- ee. Replace in Standing Order Table Six: Room Ballot § 8 “The only exception to §7 is: In exceptional circumstances where undergraduates are not in residence for Hilary Term, as in 2021, the JCR room ballot may be held during the first half of Trinity term so as to avoid conflict with the MCR ballot.” with “The only exception to §7 is: In exceptional circumstances where undergraduates are not in residence for Hilary Term.”
- ff. Replace in Standing Order Table Six: Room Ballot the two references to “Remainder Ballot” with “Remainder Freshers’ Ballot”
- gg. Replace in Standing Order Table Six: Room Ballot § 11.1 “The current President, Secretary, Vice President, and Treasurer, who will be placed first, second, third, and fourth on the Finalist Ballot respectively.” with “The current President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, who will be placed first, second, third, and fourth on the Finalist Ballot respectively.
- hh. Replace in Standing Order Table Six: Room Ballot § 12.c “This applies to all officers and reps who are in role at the tome of the room ballot in HT” with “This applies to all officers and reps who are in role at the time of the room ballot in HT”
- ii. Replace in Standing Order Table Three A: The Election of JCR Officers (Main Elections) 12: “Candidates may withdraw their nomination within 24 hours of the manifesto booklet being circulated, but only with approval from the Returning Officer who should confirm that no malpractice led to this decision being taken.” with “Candidates may withdraw their nomination before the manifesto booklet is circulated, or within 24 hours of it being circulated, but only with approval from the Returning Officer who should confirm that no malpractice led to this decision being taken.”

Jerome: Good for governance (especially as a charity) to have an up-to-date Constitution and have accountability processes running well.

7. Any other business

None.