



St John's College Junior Common Room

GM3, MT25 Minutes

Monday, 17th 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*):

- EDI Workshop from the Uni
- Rory (Sports) and Jerome looking at reforming the role (sports treasurer)
- Only three sign-ups to the meal plan, only one person using it – same scheme currently planning on being used next term; we are recommending not using it
 - o We told them that no one would use it
- Guest rooms – college overhauling the booking system so you can see whether they're booked in advance; not able to book anything until Hilary

Oscar (*Secretary*):

- Attended the EDI forum

Joe (*Vice-President*):

- Nothing to report this week

Zohaib (*Treasurer*):

- New JCR card – if anyone wants to use get in touch
- One more budget reallocation at the start of next meeting but all financial motions will be amended today to bring down each to ~£100
 - o Jerome: There is new money at end of term, so don't need to be too strict
 - o Zohaib: Trying not to use it now so we can save for next committee

Dom Secs:

- Final Guest Dinner went well
- Food Feedback Forum tomorrow morning – form now closed
- Xmas dinner upcoming

Welfare:

- Family mixer next week
- Welfare week and pottery painting went well
- New sound mixer for karaoke
- New arts and crafts events upcoming

Entz:

- British Icons BOP went well (for the most part); issue was lack of Jnr Deans not turning up and lack of extra Porter on duty – not going to be a problem again
- Raoul's BOP coming up – same people who provided Hanks but closer and cocktail bar (exciting)
- XXXmas upcoming

Izzy (*Arts*):

- Dolphin Gallery still going strong – have been checking in with the people using it each week
- Have been answering Naomi's questions re: Arts Week to make sure handover is smooth

Leanne: (*Women and Minority Gender*):

- Had meeting with women's network (50 years of women at Johns – successor to organise)
- Wine and Whining with BNC upcoming

Arran: (*Access and Admissions*):

- Working on alternative prospectus

Josh: (*Environment and Ethics*):

- College working towards sustainability rating on hall food – no deadline but on the way
- Looking at how to use college lands in more sustainable way

Andras (*IT*):

- Minutes from last meeting on the website

Elliot (*Academic Affairs*):

- There is a drop-in session 2:30-4 on Thursday – reading lists, SOLO...etc.

Kaya (*BAME*):

- EDI meeting was last week; only element relevant to JCR was rising antisemitism – worth thinking about for successor
 - o Jerome: We are corresponding with other JCRs to think about this

Alex (*RO*):

- Election ongoing, please run if you are interested

4. Ratifications

No roles were ratified at the meeting

5. Agenda items

A) The “JCR should give £300 to Frequent Fliers productions to help fund their play SQUAT”

Proposer: Juliet Taub

Seconded: Nicole Palka

This JCR notes that:

- a. The project requires the rental of the Michael Pilch studio, which is a cost of £400
- b. The project also has costs for marketing, set design, lighting and sound, meaning it would be impossible to put on the show properly without JCR funding.

This JCR believes that:

- a. The project should be supported by SJC because both the writer/ director and musical composer are SJC students. The project will struggle without financial support, and it is a worthwhile thing to support as it allows St John's college students to further their creative experiences and pursue exciting projects that would not otherwise be possible.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- a. Give £100 to Frequent Fliers Productions from the Financial Motions Budget [/Kendrew Arts Fund]
- b. Require a written report from the Proposer, to be uploaded to the News section on the JCR website
- c. We would like to add that the show will be advertised to John's students on the JCR portal, and we hope be widely attended by John's students!

Nicole:

- Putting on a show; higher cost than other shows; extensive tech/set budget
- Project should be supported because writer and director involved

Zohaib:

- Friendly amend to £100
- Jerome: tickets selling well so makes sense (accepted)

B) The "Support Company!" Financial Motion

Proposer: Jerome Pailing

Seconded: Georgina Cooper

This JCR notes that:

- a. The Sondheim show *Company* is being performed at The Oxford Playhouse, in Week 2 of Hilary Term, 28th – 31st January
- b. There are 2 members of the St John' JCR involved in this, and one member of the MCR
- c. The Oxford Playhouse has now reduced the number of student-run shows to just one a term. Therefore, *Company* is the single instance of such large-scale student theatre in Hilary term. Consequently, this production comes with an unusually high level of scope, complexity, and cost and requires JCR funding

This JCR believes that:

- a. Theatre contributes to the cultural enrichment of student life, and JCR funding supports the diverse range of productions that take place each term
- b. Supporting the funding of *Company* is crucial for the success of the production
- c. The grant would go directly to funding the show's expenses, which lowering the breakeven (the number of ticket sales required to make a profit) and helping the production succeed

This JCR resolves to:

- a. Give *Company* £100 from the Kendrew Arts Fund to help support this production

Jerome:

- Georgina and Jerome working on this – to be performed in Jan; needs to be supported
- Happy to accept friendly amend to 100

C) The “Support Oxford Public Health Society” Financial Motion

Proposer: Alfred Emmott

Seconded: Zohaib Bhatti

This JCR notes that:

- a. The Oxford Public Health Society (OPHS) is a recently-established, student-led society at the University of Oxford for anyone interested in public health, policy, and research.
- b. The society seeks to make public health accessible to all by providing a welcoming space for students to learn, discuss, and collaborate on pressing issues in the field.
- c. Public health is an increasingly urgent global priority, intersecting with disciplines such as medicine, politics, law, economics, and the environment. Recent global events, including the COVID-19 pandemic, have highlighted both the importance and the complexity of public health systems.
- d. Despite this, opportunities for students to engage with public health outside of academic coursework remain limited. OPHS aims to fill this gap by offering free membership and running a variety of events, such as journal clubs, speaker talks, and career discussions, all designed to foster interdisciplinary engagement.
- e. The society is student-run and relies on sponsorships and contributions to continue delivering high-quality educational and networking opportunities.
- f. Alfred Emmott holds the position of Vice President (Events) on the committee of OPHS and is a student at St John's.

This JCR believes that:

- a. Supporting a society that promotes awareness, education, and career exploration in public health is a meaningful investment in student welfare and intellectual development.

- b. The work of OPHS aligns with Oxford's broader mission to engage with pressing global challenges and prepare students to become informed, thoughtful contributors to society.
- c. Financial support from the JCR would help ensure the society's continued growth and stability, enabling it to reach a wider student audience and provide greater value through its events and outreach.
- d. By funding OPHS, St John's College would demonstrate its commitment to fostering interdisciplinary learning and supporting initiatives that benefit both the student body and the wider community.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- a. Give £100 to "Oxford Public Health Society" from the Financial Motions Budget

Alfred:

- Aims to educate on politics of health "and we need money" for transport, refreshment...etc.
- SJC should support this as Alfred is on the committee (event in SJC tomorrow)

Jerome:

- Long term funding?
 - o Alfred: will get Uni funding once set up, but need to set the groundwork before we get that – event tomorrow is out of pocket

Zohaib:

- Friendly amend to £100

D) The "Funding for 'In Praise of Love', BT Studio." Financial Motion

Proposed by: Nicole Palka.

Seconded by: Grace Steed

This JCR notes that:

Nicole Palka 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:

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:

Give 'In Praise of Love' £70 in order to support its production.

Nicole:

- Show happened previously; have worked out specifically what we need to reimburse people

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

Proposed by: Dan Bleazard.

Seconded by: Nicole Palka.

This JCR notes that:

Dan Bleazard and Nicole Palka from St John's College are involved in the SJC team for cuppers 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. The St John's team used £50 to support their production and did very well. They were invited to perform in the 'Best of..' showcase and further results will be revealed next week.

This JCR believes that:

It is important to encourage students' artistic endeavours outside of their studies. College support allows 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:

Give 'OUDS cuppers team' £85 in order to support its production. £50 budget. £35 entry fee.

Dan:

- Competition took place last week; freshers in several colleges
- Competed on Thurs and got through to final – spent money on props but didn't receive money from JCR so would like this now

F) The “Funding for Inter Regional Diplomacy competition Friday Week 7”

Financial Motion

Proposed by: Hannah Scotland

Seconded by: Grace Dunleavey

This JCR notes that:

We will be engaging in an Inter Regional Diplomacy competition featuring trivia and culture exchange on Friday 28th November, in an attempt to learn more about different cultures across the UK, and for people to share their own background.

This JCR believes that:

Increasing regional diplomacy and understanding of different regional cultures across the UK is integral to St John’s outreach mission, and we would really appreciate funding for refreshments to encourage increased access and to make this an enjoyable and affordable night for everyone. We hope that £100 should cover our costs for the evening, but we would be grateful for anything the JCR could contribute.

This JCR resolves to:

Award £100 to the organisers of the Inter Regional Diplomacy competition to fund refreshments and materials for the evening.

Archie:

- Event for competition with teams from across the UK – idea to branch out to full society; 24 members so far
- SJC only so far this one event

G) The “Oxford Smoothie Society” Financial Motion

Proposer: Leanne Mabena

Seconded: Guilherme Lopes

This JCR notes that:

- a. The Smoothie Society aims to promote healthy, affordable, and accessible nutrition for students through regular smoothie-making sessions, workshops, and educational events.
- b. The society is student-run and open to all members of the college community, encouraging inclusive participation and collaboration across year groups.
- c. The Smoothie Society’s events are non-profit, with any surplus funds reinvested into purchasing fresh ingredients and equipment for future sessions.
- d. JCR funding is essential to allow the society to cover costs such as fruit, plant-based milks, reusable cups, blenders, and educational materials—ensuring students are not personally out of pocket for promoting healthy habits.

- e. By providing free or low-cost smoothie sessions, the society supports student wellbeing, nutrition awareness, and sustainable food practices within the college community.

This JCR believes that:

- a. Supporting the Smoothie Society contributes directly to improving student health, wellbeing, and daily nutrition, especially during stressful academic periods.
- b. The grant would go towards fresh ingredients and basic equipment, enabling the society to run regular sessions and keep them free or affordable for all.
- c. The initiative aligns with college and university sustainability goals by promoting plant-based, low-waste, and health-conscious practices.
- d. Supporting student-led wellbeing initiatives helps foster a stronger, healthier, and more connected community within college life.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

Give £150 to Oxford Smoothie Society from the Financial Motions Budget

Leanne:

- New idea started a few weeks ago – need money to cover costs of smoothie maker and base ingredients
- Make smoothies already and members enjoy them – improves health and “have the science to back it up”
- Have an IG account already – want to build tractions

Jerome:

- Long term funding?

Leanne:

- Events and tickets, membership, planning on registering with Uni

Zohaib:

- Friendly amend to £100
 - o Leanne: 175?
 - o Zohaib: 150

H) The "Errors, Typos, Omissions and Logical Inconsistencies (Corrections)"

Constitutional Motion

Proposer: Alex Mylet

Seconder: Zohaib Bhatti

This JCR notes that:

- A. There are some errors/typos in the constitution (at least one of which is the proposer's, accidental, fault).

- B. Some amendments from GM1 were not correctly carried out, and so these should be corrected.
- C. There are nominations ongoing for the election of Entertainment Officers, which has three places but are currently only allowed to run in pairs (the proposer had intended to change this in GM1, but wrote the amendment incorrectly). The nominations for Entertainment Officers is allowing pairs or triples on the basis that this motion will pass.
- D. Both the Vice President and the Charities Officer are currently responsible for the Social Media Reps.
- E. Some Officers are not listed in §21, where all Officers should be listed, and some Social Media Reps not in §22, where they should be.
- F. The Constitution does not specify there should be at most 3 PRAT Reps, which there have been for at least two years.
- G. The Constitution has some spent conditions, which should be removed.
- H. The Constitution is inconsistent on whether the name of the Women's Officer is Women's Officer or Women and Gender Equality Officer.
- I. The Secretary has the power to make minor numbering corrections, but has not done so on the request of the proposer.
- J. There is still one reference to the old appendices, even after the removals made in GM1.
- K. Changes to certain parts of the constitution are guarded behind a higher vote threshold. This motion does not attempt to change these sections, but there are self-deleting clauses and incorrect references here that can be effected and updated by the secretary, respectively, without this motion needing to meet that threshold.
- L. Some references need updating.
- M. In Hilary Term an amendment made it so that the Returning Officer did not have to scrutinise the randomisation in the Room Ballot, but did not change that for the Housing Ballot.
- N. The quorum number is different between Ordinary General Meetings and Extraordinary General Meetings.

This JCR believes that:

- O. The easiest way to ensure the amendments are correctly instituted is to pass a motion with the specific, correctional, instructions.
- P. If we are allowing three Entertainment Officers, we should allow triples to run for Entertainment Officers.
- Q. Only one Officer needs to be responsible for the Social Media Reps.
- R. The Constitution should be correct, logically consistent, consistent, well-formatted, with correct numbering and cross-referencing.
- S. The Constitution should not have spent items in it and should not refer to the non-existent appendices.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- T. Amend the constitution as follows:
 - a. Remove the single closing quotation mark at the end of §19;
 - a. Add, to §21, in the appropriate alphabetical position for non-executive positions, "Arts Officer" and "Sports Officer";

- b. In §22, replace "and Welfare Rep(s)" with "Welfare Rep(s), and Social Media Rep(s)".
 - c. Replace in §24, "the Facilities Rep(s) and Punt Rep roles which shall be held by one person." with "the Punt Rep role which shall be held by one person and the PRAT Rep(s) role which shall be held by up to three people.";
 - d. In §43, replace "25 members" with "20 members";
 - e. In Standing Order Table Two §2b. V., replace ", also ensuring:" with ".";
 - f. Replace Standing Order Table Two §2b. VI. with "Shall be responsible for and shall fill in for the Facilities Rep(s) and the Stash Rep(s).";
 - g. In Standing Order Table Two §2d. XIV., after "Punt" add "Rep";
 - h. In Standing Order Table Two §2m. X., add a full stop at the end.
 - i. Replace in Standing Order Table Two §2n., "Women and Gender Equality Officer" with "Women's Officer";
 - j. Replace, in Standing Order Table Two §3f, "The Sports Rep (2x):" with "The Sports Rep(s):";
 - k. In Standing Order Table Three A §2c., after "pairs" add "or triples";
 - l. Add, in Standing Order Table Six §19.1., replace "Returning Officer." with "Retuning Officer, if the Returning Officer elects to do so."
2. Amend the Constitution, to deal with spent statements:
 - a. In §25, remove ", except for 2024, in which case it will take place at the second General Meeting of Hilary Term".
 3. Amend the Constitution, to remove the following reference to the Appendices:
 - a. In §4, replacing "in cases of factual alterations to the Appendices or" with "in the case of".
 4. Require the secretary to fix the numbering of:
 - a. The subparts of Standing Order Table 3A, §2;
 - b. Restart the numbering at I. in the subpart of Standing Order Table 3A §2 (listing certain positions at the Oxford Union making the subsubpart which is currently the second "g", but should be renumbered to h. (regarding Oxford Union Positions) - .
 5. Require the secretary to fix formatting as follows:
 - a. The indentation of parts of the Publicity Officer's role description (Standing Order Table 2, §2r.)
 6. Require the secretary to consider the following facts, and act under their powers from §4 of the constitution in relation to the following parts of the constitution that otherwise have a higher threshold for editing.
 - a. The self-deleting-nature of Standing Order Table Nine, 7c. and 8c.
 - b. The need to correct numbering in Standing Order Table 9 §8 and subparts (references to the Welfare Officer role descriptions, which are now in Standing Order Table Two §2(m)) and in said Welfare Officer role descriptions (Standing Order Table Two §2(m), IV, C, e, i-vi).
 - c. The fact that the subparts of Standing Order Table Two §2(m), IV, C are intended in the constitution by one more level than necessary.

7. Require the secretary to fix the following cross-references, including ensuring that they link by bookmark correctly, getting the help of the IT Officer if needed:
 - a. §40 (reference to §41 should be to §39).
 - b. §41 (reference to §41 should be to §40).
 - c. Standing Order Table One §19 (the reference "§18 (§19)" should be to §17).
 - d. Standing Order Table One §33 (reference to §36b should be to §35b).
 - e. Standing Order Table Six §20 (reference to §17 should be to §19).
 - f. Standing Order Table Eight §d IV (reference to §e II should be to §d II)
8. Amend the constitution to replace Standing Order Table Three B §5 and 6 with the Paragraphs which are currently at the end of Standing Order Table Three B §1 (what are labelled "h" and "b", regarding by-elections for Entz Officers and Domestic Officers where one but not all go on a year abroad).
 - a. Additionally, remove the empty paragraph "i" under Standing Order Table 3B §1
9. Amend, on Saturday 8th week MT25, or when this motion is passed, whichever is later, the constitution by removing Standing Order Two §2b. VII.

Alex:

- Friendly amendment:
 - o T. i. Instead "Replace in Standing Order Table Two §2n., "Women and Gender Equality Officer" with "Women*'s Officer";" (rather than "Women's Officer").
 - o
 - o Add T. m.: Replace all occurrences of "Women's Officer" with "Women*'s Officer" (with the one reference to the MCR Women's Officer having an asterisk if and only if that is the correct name for the MCR's Women's Officer), except in higher vote-threshold Standing Order Table Nine.
- Lot of minor issues in the constitution

6. Any other business

Euan:

- How much in Financial Motions Budget?
 - o Zohaib: next to nothing
 - o Jerome: Kendrew on very little (£50-100)