



# St John's College JCR

HT26, GM3 Minutes

Monday 23 February 2026

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## 1. Minutes from the previous meeting

Minutes available [here](#). All motions from the previous meeting passed.

## 2. Matters arising from the minutes

None.

## 3. Reports from the Officers

**President (Jerome):** Arts Week went well. Had meetings. College is working on Apple Pay for battels.

**Vice-President (Ruth):** Housing ballot is fully in the works. Don't ask about the order of the Finalist/Remainder Finalist ballots as they aren't finalised yet. Freshers' ballot order is done though. Bringing a couple of Housing Motions today to correct unfair grading. Some off-ballot-related things have been sorted. Have had meeting with Mags to finalise all the details. There were issues last year about people thinking they got different room to what they actually got (e.g., due to differing MR house layouts)—info will be added to room database to make this clearer. Absolutely can't take any more deduction requests now.

**Secretary (Mia):** Have sent out form to Officers about file storage as there needs to be a proper JCR backup solution. Had meeting with the College Archivist—the main thing that should be archived that is not currently are Treasurer records, which Andras will look at.

**Treasurer (Andras):** Arts Week went great. Reminder about standards of evidence for reimbursements. Have sorted the room database. IT handover went well, Fred has been great.

**Academic Affairs (Maxim):** Held drop in sessions and need to write up report for academic feedback. Holding careers talk for publishing on Thursday, please come along if interested.

**Access and Admissions (Inaya):** Working on film and video about opportunities. Access-related meet and greet, went well. Alternative prospectus is currently in the works.

**Arts (Naomi):** Arts Week went great.

**Charities (Euan):** Cleaned up JCR Office, which went well. Several crates of things were donated to charity shops. Nominations for Charity Levy will be soon.

**Domestic Officers:** Guest event being held on Friday, still need one more alcohol manager.

**Entz:** Last bop went well, but had more external guests than expected. Pub quiz went well. Looking for affordable venue for summer party, as many are too expensive. Started thinking about bops in Trinity.

**Environment and Ethics (Isaac):** Meant to be Green Action Week but is still in the works. Oxford City Farm event in works but could be too pricey. Having sustainability meetings. Documentaries being shown each Wednesday.

**Equality and Diversity (Lia):** Things are going well, have sent seating plan for LGBTQ+ dinner. Held BAME Society event—also collaborating with the St Hugh's BAME Society.

**IT (Fred):** Handover went well, Andras has dealt with room database. Loan scheme up and running. Website should be fully updated (including an accurate list of Reps). Still awaiting a few Officer introductions for the website, have sent a reminder.

**Publicity (Sam):** Officer introductions almost done. Going to start on “days in the life” for different subjects. As a reminder, we can only publicise St John's events through official channels.

**Sports (Emily):** Have been dealing with reimbursements.

**Welfare:** Holding events with free food including pancake day event. Karaoke has been good and speakers have been located again.

**Women\*'s (Leanne):** Strength and conditioning even on Tuesday, Women\*'s Lunch and Women\*'s Dinner went well. Meeting with John's Women's network about summer events.

**Returning Officer (Alex):** Held another election.

#### 4. Ratifications

None.

#### 5. Agenda items

##### **A. The “*Funding for ‘Noether’, University Maths department*” Financial Motion**

Proposer: Nicole Palka

Seconded: Grace Steed

This JCR notes that:

- a. Nicole Palka from St John's College is involved as the composer in Noether which is a devised piece of drama taking place in the University Maths department. The show centres around Emmy Noether, an influential physicist that changed the direction of maths and physics.
- b. Noether is still a relatively unknown name, despite her accomplishments in the field, and her life as a woman in mathematics and Jew in Nazi Germany is inspiring.
- c. JCR funding is necessary to facilitate this performance as it takes place in an unconventional venue, thus incurring unconventional costs such as transport that would not happen in a traditional theatre.

This JCR believes that:

- d. It is important to encourage students’ artistic endeavours outside of their studies.
- e. 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.
- f. Additionally, no cast or crew member should need to contribute personal funds for theatre, which JCR funding would alleviate the need for.
- g. Any profits would eventually return to OUDS, further supporting student theatre.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- h. Give ‘Noether’ £90 from the Kendrew Arts Fund in order to support its production.

**Nicole:** Need more money to help production go ahead. Want to publicise Noether’s life as she’s not well-known outside of particular fields. The production is self-written, unlike a lot

of student productions. Logistics are made difficult as it's being held in the Maths Department.

**Jerome:** Have other JCRs been asked?

**Nicole:** Yes.

## **B. The “Reimburse Mia £5 for ICQ” Financial Motion**

Proposer: Mia Clark-Webb

Seconded: Sam Govier

This JCR notes that:

- a. Each year, Oxford University Quiz Society hosts an Inter-Collegiate Quiz tournament; the entry fee for each team is £5.
- b. All St John's team members this year are JCR members.
- c. Mia has paid the entry fee to OUQS.

This JCR believes that:

- d. JCRs/MCRs should cover the cost of this fee, as the team members are representing their college across the University.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- e. Reimburse Mia £5 from the Financial Motions Budget.

**Mia:** We entered a team for ICQ (but unfortunately didn't get to the second round). Would quite like to be reimbursed for the entry fee—it's only £5.

## **C. The “Clarification of Online Voting” Constitutional Motion**

Proposer: Mia Clark-Webb

Seconded: Jerome Pailing

This JCR notes that:

- a. Although the process for in-person voting is clear, the process by which online voting results should be interpreted is not clear.
- b. Previous Secretaries have had different views on how abstentions should be interpreted. Some have required an absolute majority of voters (including abstentions) to vote for a motion for it to pass. Others have required only that the number voting for a motion is greater than the number voting against (excluding abstentions).

This JCR believes that:

- c. Nobody should be mandated to vote for or against any particular motion, regardless of which other motions from a particular meeting they want to vote on.
- d. Requiring the number of voters for a motion to be greater than the sum of those against and those abstaining effectively treats abstaining on a particular vote as a vote against.
- e. In-person voting already requires only that the number voting for a motion is greater than the number against (ignoring abstentions).
- f. The Constitution should make it clear that this is also the way in which online voting results should be interpreted, as it should not be up to the interpretation of the current Secretary.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- g. Insert the following, after Standing Order Table One §47(e.): “f. A simple majority shall be achieved when the ‘yes’ votes exceed the ‘no’ votes. Abstentions shall be recorded as null votes.”
- h. Replace, in Standing Order Table One §47(e.), “‘for’, ‘against’ and ‘abstain’” with “‘yes’, ‘no’, and ‘abstain’”.
- i. Replace, in Standing Order Table One §47(e.), “an online voting form” with “an anonymous online voting form”.
- j. Replace, in Standing Order Table One §47(h.), “e. to g.” with “e. to h.”.
- k. Replace, in Standing Order Table One §47, “e. to h.” with “e. to i.”.

**Mia:** Online voting needs to be made more clear, as it’s currently up to the Secretary’s interpretation, which shouldn’t be the case.

**D. The “*Support the St Giles’ Community*” Standing Policy Motion**

Proposer: Euan Warner

Seconded: Amelia Taylor

This JCR notes that:

- a. Regent’s Park College has submitted a change of use planning application to convert the Oxfam bookshop on St Giles’ to a graduate common room.  
[Application inked [here](#)]

This JCR believes that:

- b. The St Giles' Oxfam is an essential part of the St Giles' street scene, serving students, academics, residents, and visitors alike. It contributes meaningfully to Oxford's distinctive character, which is drastically in decline thanks to the expansion of University-exclusive spaces at the expense of local facilities and amenities. This must be regulated.
- c. By contrast, there are already much graduate and student facilities available within Regent's Park College itself and across the University of Oxford, including libraries, common rooms, study spaces, cafés, and other social areas. Oxford is not lacking in student space. The argument that further internal facilities are required is difficult to justify when such provision already exists in abundance.
- d. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and The Oxford Local Plan 2016-2036 (Policy C3) places weight on the protection of valued community assets and the retention of uses that contribute to the social and cultural life of an area.
- e. The proposal to convert the bookshop into a common room does not seek to provide further academic floorspace
- f. We must strongly object to this application on the grounds that it would result in the loss of the Oxfam bookshop, a rare and invaluable community asset, while providing facilities that are already sufficiently available within Regent's Park College and the wider University estate.
- g. The further loss of valuable community amenities such as this bookshop would diminish the diversity, accessibility, and vibrancy of St Giles' and would represent a net harm to the community.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- h. Require the Charities Officer to register a formal objection with Oxford City Council strongly urging the Council to refuse this application and to protect the continued use of these premises as a retail space.

**Euan:** A planning application is going through to remove Oxfam and turn into a new MCR for Regent's Park. Part of the expanse of Uni spaces at the expense of public facilities. Expansion of this on St Giles' is bad as Oxfam is such a good community resource. Plans say that there will be no additional academic floorspace. Have already reached out to other common rooms on St Giles' and registered personal objection.

**Ruth:** Do Regent's Park already have an MCR building?

**Euan:** Yes, it's just a bit dingy.

**Fred:** What actually happens if it passes?

**Euan:** A collective objection on behalf of the JCR will be registered.

## **E. The “Holdsworth Society” Financial Motion**

Proposer: Giara Brady

Seconded: Maya Flint

This JCR notes that:

- a.—The Holdsworth Society is a society for students and alumni reading/who have read Jurisprudence at St John’s College.
- b.—It plays an important role in supporting undergraduate students, especially during first year exams. The Holdsworth Society is responsible for: initiations, trashing, providing carnations to wear to exams and support for first years during 9th week, etc.
- c.—Every year, the Holdsworth Society holds a dinner which brings together alumni, fellows and students. In the past, it used to hold more events, but in recent years the society has struggled financially.

This JCR believes that:

- d.—The JCR should support the Holdsworth society for three principal reasons:
- e.—Firstly, first-year Law Moderations are at the end of this term, and the Holdsworth Society needs to be able to provide 3 carnations to each of eight freshers, and the materials and drinks which make trashing an unforgettable experience. The Society has been responsible for this for years, but as circumstances have changed, it is becoming more difficult to afford.
- f.—Secondly, the Holdsworth Society will continue to struggle without JCR support. The funding landscape has changed in recent years, and it is now much harder for college law societies to get sponsors from firms or chambers. This has led to a decline in our capacity to hold events for members. With JCR funding, the Holdsworth Society can start to return to what it once was, holding more events for students to enable them to make the most out of their time reading Jurisprudence at Johns.
- g.—Finally, we are not asking for a lot: we are asking for enough support to be able to continue supporting first-year students through their exams, and to enable us to become more active as a society, in turn making it easier for us to get sponsorship. We have plans to hold events and mooted competitions which will not be possible without JCR support.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- h.—Give £200 to the Holdsworth Society from the Financial Motions Budget.

Motion was not put.

## F. The “**Support Project QRONK at Oxford Robotics**” Financial Motion

Proposer: Jin Rhee

Seconded: Noe Trane

This JCR notes that:

- a. Project QRONK is a student-led robotics project at the Oxford Robotics and Additive Manufacturing society. QRONK aims to be a custom-built, 3D-printed low-cost quadruped and is Oxford’s answer to MIT’s Cheetah and Stanford’s Pupper quadrupeds.
- b. The current iteration involves a custom-leg design which has been designed and assembled. The project aims to have an articulable quadruped assembly by the end of the year, requiring custom machined components.
- c. Colleges which financially support the team will have their crest advertised on the quadruped and will feature in the documentation when open-sourced.

This JCR believes that:

- d. Many students at St John’s play an active role in the team, contributing to hardware CAD design, whole body control, and power electronics of the system.
- e. The project helps Oxford undergraduates experience practical project work which is not a core focus of STEM degrees at Oxford. The project has seen over 50 participating students over 3 years and currently has a core team of ~10 students.
- f. Funding is required for the project to purchase both off-the-shelf and custom machined components (e.g. partial-threaded shoulder screws, thrust bearings, servo motors). This will significantly help the project assemble a fully loaded chassis for gait control tests by the start of Trinity term.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- g. Give £150 to Project QRONK at Oxford Robotics from the Financial Motions Budget

**Jin:** Low-cost, 3D printed quadruped robotics project. Many unis have student-led projects. Need some funds as we’re trying to finish it by the end of the year. Have several St John’s engineers working on it. As reward, it will have the College crest on if the JCR helps fund it. Will be open source. Also want to film it in college grounds.

**Ruth:** Have you asked other JCRs for funding?

**Jin:** Yes, Hertford and LMH.

**Ruth:** How many of the team are John’s students?

**Jin:** 3 of about 10.

**Jerome:** Friendly amend to £150.

**Jin:** Sounds good, just need any amount of funding possible.

### **G. The “*Inter-regional Diplomacy Competition*” Financial Motion**

Proposer: Archie McGuire

Seconded: Hannah Scotland

This JCR notes that:

- a. After having had the 1st trial of this event back in Michaelmas, we are keen to do it again, reflecting on some changes to make it better and more enjoyable for more people.
- b. The competition is fun, culture-orientated event which involves people from different parts of the UK coming together and taking part in games or challenges, in a relaxed environment.

This JCR believes that:

- c. This is an important JCR project because it is a chance to embrace different UK cultures, which is an opportunity not always available. Also, the event will include many JCR members, as it did last time, and the enthusiasm for it coming back has remained strong.
- d. Compared to last time, we hosted around 24 people but now we expect to see 30 people. One of the challenges of last time was we had more people come on the day than we expected so we had to turn some people away. This time, we would like to expand the budget to accommodate more people and make it financially available to all participants.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- e. Give the organisers of the Inter-regional Diplomacy Competition £130 from the Financial Motions Budget for refreshments and supplies.

**Archie:** Very enjoyable last time, but the budget ran a bit thin so slightly more money is needed.

**Jerome:** Friendly amend to £130.

**Ruth:** Future plans for funding?

**Archie:** Once we have enough people, we should be able to get by with attendees chipping in a small amount of money. Not enough money currently, unfortunately.

### **H. The “*Museum Road Room Regrading*” Housing Motion**

Proposer: Ruth Magedera

Seconded: Jerome Pailing

This JCR notes that:

- a. The current grades of the rooms in part (d.) of this motion are 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 one time point change to these rooms, applying to this and only this ballot.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- d. Carry out the following one-time deductions:
  - i. MR22-1 = -10 points
  - ii. MR16-5 = -3 points

**Ruth:** Slight issues very specific to particular rooms (sink smelling of sewage, issues with shower) that have since been fixed, so it's a one off deduction. Late submission of motion but will work with Mia to fix Constitution to match reality of how accommodation things are actually done.

## **I. The “Tommy White Quad Room Regrading” Housing Motion**

Proposer: Ruth Magedera

Seconded: Jerome Pailing

This JCR notes that:

- a. The current grades of the room TW8-12 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 these rooms, applying to this and all future ballots.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- d. Permanently change the points of TW8-12 by -15 points from 98 to 83 points.

**Ruth:** Room had no sink, no pinboard, and no mirror. Bad room in general so the points should be reduced.

**Fred:** Has the room grading formula been used?

**Ruth:** Original grading (using the formula) missed these issues, so this regrading should be fairer—worked with Joe to figure it out.

## 6. Any other business

**Ruth:** Had meeting with Mags, who suggested the possibility of changing Museum Road houses to be open to third years instead of second years—not keen on idea personally. Some positives would be that friend groups going into third year would be less likely to fall out, and that there are issues with third year students on extended licence who may have to move into MR anyway during exam periods. Want to hear thoughts on the potential change.

**Lisa:** Friendships can change any year.

**Ruth:** True, but less likely for people who have known each other longer.

**Dom:** What are the actual figures on how many people the extended licence issues affect?

**Ruth:** Unfortunately there aren't exact figures as it changes massively year to year for conferences, etc.

**Euan:** Why are people with health issues and disabilities being disadvantaged when College doesn't rely on conference revenue to operate?

**Ruth:** Ultimately it's up to College unfortunately. Also think it's unfair.

**Fred:** Nothing stopping third years at the moment balloting for a house based on Constitution.

**Jerome:** No, but it is convention that only second years do.

**Mia:** Need to update this part of Constitution anyway, so will bear this in mind when doing so.

**Ishen:** Could maybe reserve a specific number of houses for third years.

**Ruth:** That is an option, but could cause some issues with how points are calculated.

**Sam:** Social side is maybe not as much of a benefit to third years as much as second years maybe, with finals and revision, etc.

**Ruth:** Houses are essentially staircases and this is how we should think of them—they're not like a regular house. Some houses are more social than others anyway, depending on the friend group.

**Mia:** Will allow free-form feedback on this issue. Feel free to answer the feedback question in the online voting form if you'd like to give feedback.