St John's College JCR

MT26, GM2 Minutes

Monday 2 November 2026

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1. Minutes from the previous meeting

Minutes available here. Motion C did not pass; all others did.

2. Matters arising from the minutes

None.

3. Reports from the Officers

President (Sanjay): Arts Week has been approved for next year with more budget. Student Equality Forum was last week, and we have had access requirements improved for students in Kendrew with regards to printing. Have attended other committee meetings.

Vice-President (Ruth): Started room regrading and contacted Subcommittee and people whose rooms will be regraded. Organising College Christmas Get-together.

Secretary (Mia): Nothing to report.

Treasurer (Andras): Nothing to report.

Academic Affairs (Maxim): CV workshops with Careers Service will be on 19 November—only two slots left for sign-up. Teaching careers talk, will be on Thursday of sixth week.

Arts (Pascal): Thanks to everyone who helped with Arts Week. Dolphin Gallery exhibitions are underway.

Access (Inaya): Steering committee have sent letter about access things. Survey for potential access program for JCR students will be within the next week.

Charities (Vincent): Nothing to report.

Domestic Officers: Guest dinner went great, as will the next one. Have ordered toiletries, which will be out in the next couple of days. Not many alcohol managers volunteered so a list of all registered alcohol managers would be helpful for event organisers to have.

Entz: Bop went well. Pub quiz will be on Wednesday of fifth week in the bar. Need someone to do a tour for Oriel students at 6:30.

Environment and Ethics (Isaac): Successful garden perambulation. The main lawn will be closed until Trinity, so College will be opening the wildflower meadow for a green space for students. Went to sustainability meeting—we have a new machine to turn food waste into biofuel. College won gold in the Green Impact Award for the second year in a row.

Equality and Diversity (Lia): Working with Events on Diwali formal, which will be on Tuesday 10 November—see the BAME Soc Instagram page for details. Want to plan a social, possibly chai.

IT (Fred): Nothing to report. Lent a laptop.

Publicity (Sam): Nothing to report.

Sports (Emily): Working to finalise budgets, will be done by seventh week.

Welfare: Event tomorrow [Tuesday 3 November] with Keble. Cake bingo next week (ice cream s'mores cake). TW tea went well. Lego event will be in sixth week. Karaoke will happen at some point, subject to College.

Women*'s (Rhythm): Nothing to report.

Returning Officer (Alex): Manifestos for executive elections came out, please email Returning Officer with questions for candidates if you can't make it.

4. Ratifications

The following people nominated themselves as Reps:

- Art Rep: Ishen Dodhia
- Sports Rep: Ishen Dodhia

No objections were heard, so all Rep roles were ratified. All existing Reps remain in their roles.

5. Agenda items

A. The *"Add a Third LGBTQ+ Rep"* Constitutional Motion

Proposer: Mia Clark-Webb
Seconded: Kiera Dallas

<u>This JCR notes that:</u>

a. Most Rep roles are currently only allowed to be held by up to two people.

This JCR believes that:

b. Now that a college LGBTQ+ Society is being created, we should allow up to three people to hold the position of LGBTQ+ Rep.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

c. Replace, in §24, "with the exception of 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" with "with the exception of the Punt Rep role, which shall be held by one person, and the PRAT Rep(s) and LGBTQ+ Rep(s) roles, which shall be held by up to three people"

d. Require the Committee to review how Rep roles generally work so that we can ensure people take their Rep roles seriously.

Mia: There's been demand for a third role, and with the LGBTQ+ Society now existing, there's not really any reason why this shouldn't be allowed.

B. The *"Help Fund Fennec Fox Productions'* 'The Welkin'*"* Financial Motion

Proposer: Rohan Joshi
Seconded: Nicole Palka

This JCR notes that:

a. 'The Welkin' is a play by Lucy Kirkwood which is being directed and produced by Fennec Fox productions in week 5 of this term. Set in 1759. Above, Halley's comet streaks across the sky. Below, a woman stands accused of the brutal murder of a child; but when she is sentenced to the noose, she pleads pregnancy. Twelve women must be dragged from their domestic work to decide whether she is telling the truth, grappling with their newfound authority to decide her fate. Fennec Fox Productions presents Kirkwood's contemporary classic in a striking, startling new production.

b. A £250 grant is needed to fund this production and for it to be performed. The play is being staged at the Keble O'Reilly theatre. There are costs associated with set design, intimacy direction, play rights and costume to produce a period play which are higher than for other productions.

c. 'The Welkin' pledges to donate 50% of any profit from ticket sales of the show towards a charity in support of women's issues and in keeping with the themes of the play.

d. Support towards 'The Welkin' would encourage people in participating in drama and the arts and, this early in the year, it's a great opportunity for freshers and the Oxford community at large to watch seasoned and developed stagecraft.

e. Several St John's College members have been involved in both this play, and other Fennec Fox productions in the past in various roles both on and off stage.

This JCR believes that:

f. Helping students pursue and encouraging involvement in drama and the arts is essential to the JCR community.

g. By awarding this funding the JCR would be directly contributing to developing student creativity.

h. Funding goes a long way towards ensuring plays like this can be performed and produced, and in turn, enjoyed by all involved and all audiences.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

i. Grant £250 to Fennec Fox Productions from the Student Arts Fund.

[Information about Fennec Fox Productions is listed here.]

Rohan: This particular production requires a lot of money for effects, sets, intimacy coordinators, etc. Around 10 other colleges have been asked.

C. The *"UniBrass 2027"* Financial Motion

Proposer: Yvonne Clark-Lewis
Seconded: Cat Rayson

This JCR notes that:

a. The University Brass Band Championships of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, a.k.a. 'UniBrass', is a brass band entertainment contest that will bring around 800 student musicians from over 20 UK universities to The Stephen A. Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities in February 2027.

b. UniBrass 2027 is being organised by students and alumni from the Oxford University Brass Band together with the UniBrass Foundation.

c. Yvonne Clark-Lewis from St John's College is a member of the Oxford University Brass Band, is Welfare & EDI Officer on the 2027 UniBrass organising committee, and intends to compete in UniBrass in 2027.

d. The UniBrass Foundation is a registered charity; neither they nor any students involved will be benefiting financially from the event, as trustees and organisers are unpaid, and any profits go directly towards funding future UniBrass competitions.

e. JCR funding is essential to allowing this event to go ahead, enabling us to fund key expenses, preventing students from being personally out of pocket for their involvement.

f. Venue hire will take up approximately 35% of the total budget, and we need to spend tens of thousands of pounds across all areas of the event.

g. The budget for hired professionals, including adjudicators and gala concert entertainment, is £8,040

h. The event live stream costs £9,500

i. The budget has been well-considered and we have actively searched for the most reasonable options that allow us to put the event on as cheaply as possible.

j. A 10% discount on Contest Tickets will be offered to supporting Common Rooms

k. The UniBrass Committee are asking other junior and middle common rooms for support, not just St John's JCR.

<u>This JCR believes that:</u>

l. Supporting the funding of UniBrass is crucial for the success of the event, showcasing the work of around 800 students from university bands across the UK, including more than 50 students from colleges across Oxford.

m. This grant funding would go directly towards helping us fund the event's expenses, crucial to lowering the event's breakeven (the number of tickets we need to sell to avoid making a loss) and therefore helping the contest to go ahead.

n. This money will also help with outreach for brass banding, as the contest involves many individuals who have not performed in a brass band previously. Funding grants will go towards reducing the financial burden on individuals who take part.

o. The contest is open for all to enjoy, and the contest will be offering a reduced ticket price for college group bookings through JCRs who support it financially.

p. Supporting student arts in Oxford benefits a wide variety of individuals and interests, allowing more performances to happen and therefore more individuals to get involved. The vibrant arts scene in Oxford is testament to the generous support of colleges across the university.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

q. Give UniBrass £200 from the Student Art Fund to help support this contest.

[Information about UniBrass is listed here.]

Yvonne: It's a very large competition so a lot of money is needed. A lot of other colleges have also been asked. There's a gala, a youth band, and different uni bands coming. Will be appening next term.

Fred: Is most of the cost of the event usually covered by the host uni? Have other options been looked into, such as Oxford University Music Society?

Yvonne: A lot of different sources are being looked at, such as how much ticket sales will cover. Every option is being looked into.

Jack Pentland: How many of those taking part are at St John's?

Yvonne: Only me. There are lots of people across the university, and some at Oxford Brookes.

D. The *"MT26 Boring Budget Stuff"* Financial Motion

Proposer: Andras Bard
Seconded: Mia Clark-Webb

This JCR notes that:

a. As we approach the end of the year, many smaller budget categories are approaching zero, and the budget should be balanced to achieve this outcome.

This JCR believes that:

b. The budget categories which have little money left in them and have no forecasted spending for the rest of this term should be set to zero.

c. The International Students Fund is currently in the negative, meaning the Treasurer must balance it to zero.

d. We ordered more food for the first JCR meeting of term to encourage engagement with JCR democracy, so the PRAT reps should be allocated a small increase in budget.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

e. Decrease the allocation to the following categories:
   - Vice President -£0.58
   - Secretary -£10.00
   - Treasurer -£10.00

- AcAd -£10.00
- Arts -£10.00
- EqDiv -£10.00
- Facilities -£10.53
- DramaSoc -£10.00
- Punt Club -£5.56

f. Increase the allocation to the following categories:
   - International +£45.80
   - PRAT +£30.87

Mia: Need small amounts to be reshuffled as it's nearly the end of the year.

E. The *"Arts Officer Role Amendment"* Constitutional Motion

Proposer: Sanjay Karthikappallil
Seconded: Pascal Sleigh

This JCR notes that:

a. The Arts Officer (AO) holds office from the end of MT, while the vast majority of Arts Week (AW) preparation takes place over the previous long vac and MT.

b. AW is the AO's main responsibility over their term.

This JCR believes that:

c. A changeover in AO currently occurs in the middle of their main responsibility, severely hindering the planning process for AW.

d. Historically, the incumbent AO has either been uninvolved in AW (and the Creative Director for AW is then elected as AO), or the AO essentially continues their role for AW, after their successor has taken office. Both of these situations undermine the AO's role.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

e. Replace §19, "Officers elected under Standing Order Table 3A shall hold office from noon on Saturday 8th Week Michaelmas Term up until that time the following academic year", with "Officers elected under Standing Order Table 3A shall hold office from noon on Saturday 8th Week Michaelmas Term up until that time the following academic year, except for the Arts Officer, who shall hold office from noon on Saturday 8th Week Trinity Term up until that time the following academic year"

f. Add to Standing Order Table Three A, §2 ("Any full member of the JCR may stand for election as any Officer as defined by this Constitution, except: …") the

following: “d. Candidates for the position of Arts Officer must be in residence for the following academic year.”

g. Replace, in Standing Order Table Three B, §4.e.ii. “A recall petition may only be presented between 3rd week Hilary Term and 6th week Trinity Term and anonymous additions to the petition may be made by any full member to the Returning Officer should they prefer to not write their name on a physical petition.” with “A recall petition may only be presented between 3rd week Hilary Term and 6th week Trinity Term for any Officer except the Arts Officer, or between 3rd Week Michaelmas Term and 6th Week Hilary Term for the Arts Officer. Anonymous additions to the petition may be made by any full member to the Returning Officer should they prefer to not write their name on a physical petition.”

h. Add to Standing Order Table Three A, §4 (“The nominations period for the election of Officers shall normally run according to the following timetable: …”) the following: “b. The nominations period for the election of the Arts Officer shall open at 12 noon on the Sunday of 5th Week of Trinity Term, or in concurrence with the first by-election in TT.”

i. Replace, in Standing Order Table Two, §2.p.,

“The Arts Officer:

I. Shall assist the Arts Week Committee with the delivery of Arts Week in the HT they take office
II. Shall lead the preparations for Arts Week in the HT following their term, including:
    A. Preparing an Arts Week Report for TT Promotion of the Arts Committee
    B. Liaising with the MCR as appropriate
    C. Booking rooms in advance
    D. Appointing an Arts Week Committee over the summer vac
    E. Preparing an Arts Week draft Budget and Timetable for MT Promotion of the Arts Committee”,

with

“The Arts Officer:

I. Shall lead Arts Week during their term, including:
    A. Being Creative Director of Arts Week
    B. Appointing an Arts Week Committee over the Summer Vacation following their election
    C. Preparing an Arts Week draft Budget and Timetable for MT Promotion of the Arts Committee
    D. Booking rooms in advance, although this may be delegated
    E. Liaising with the MCR as appropriate

II. Shall prepare an Arts Week Report for Promotion of the Arts Committee in the TT following their election".

j. Clauses e. to h. of this motion will only take effect at noon on Saturday of 8th Week of Michaelmas term. Clauses i. and j. will take effect immediately if this motion passes.

Sanjay: The current Arts Officer can't run Arts Week with the current election schedule, so things are being changed to elect the Arts Officer at the end of Trinity instead.

Fred: When will the changes take effect?

Sanjay: The next Arts Officer election will still be held in Michaelmas, and the changes [except for the role description] will take effect after that.

6. Any other business

Kiera: The LGBTQ+ Society has been set up. Two events have been held so far—one will be held every week. Arts event will be held next week.