

St John's College Junior Common Room

The Republic of St Giles

Agenda for the 1st meeting of Hilary Term 2019

13th January 2019, Larkin Room 8.30pm

In this meeting, Benedict Gardner (JCR Secretary) experimented with live minuting, receiving up to 6 viewers at a time. This will be a continuing feature of JCR Meetings, unless a complaint is made. Meeting opened at 20:52. CJ (JCR President 2018) had stolen Joe Sisson (JCR President 2019) gavel before the meeting. Joe Sisson (JCR President 2019) opened with a short speech about how the meeting would be short (Churchill would be proud).

i/ Minutes from the Previous Meeting

There aren't any. Joe Sisson (JCR President 2019) apologised.

ii/ Matters Arising from the Minutes

They don't exist.

iii/ Reports from Officers, Reps, and Committees

- a. Environment and Ethics Officer: Ankit Ranjan - *Not present*
- b. Ethnic Minorities Officer: Karen Muperere - *Not present*
- c. Art Rep: George Wilson - *Not present*
- d. Bike Rep: Sebastian Towers - *Not present*
- e. SJCTV Reps: Kevin Beeson and Gabriella Farah - *Not present*
- f. Sports Reps: Georgia Ling and Leanne Smith - *Not present*

iv/ Ratifications

- **Art Rep** – 1 vacancy (to serve alongside George Wilson) - *No one stands*
- **Bike Rep** – 1 vacancy (to serve alongside Sebastian Towers) - *No one stands*
- **Charities Reps** – 1 vacancy (to serve alongside Anya Fielding)
*Lachlann Hinley gave a short hust. He asked where to stand. He stood where he was. Lachlann stated the importance of using college's significant funds to others, and to help the community of Oxford. He noted the importance of working with the existing rep. Applause. **Passed unanimously.** Lachlann is new Charities Rep.*
- **IT Rep** – 1 vacancy (to serve alongside Zuza Patrya) - *No one stands*
- **Returning Officer Assistant**

*Lachlann Hinley stood again (in the same spot). gave a short hust. Noted the importance of integrity. He has a great interest in 'all things electoral'. Noted Integrity again, naming electoral malpractice as a bad thing. Christopher Hughes (Returning Officer) asked about the balancing of participation of the JCR and the bureaucracy of maintaining integrity. Lachlann replied that it is not either/or, but noted that there is some level of bureaucracy that can impede turnout. He believes the level is correct now, with email voting, but that turnout is often disappointing but that some bureaucracy is necessary and acceptable. Cas Burton (Treasurer) asked what Lachlann's favourite voting system is. He replied ranked pairs, and more generally anything proportional. **Passed Unanimously.** Lachlann is new Returning Officer Assistant.*

a/ The JCR Budget 2019 Motion

Proposer: Cas Burton (Treasurer)

Seconded: Joe Sisson (JCR President 2019)

This JCR noted that:

- a. The Treasurer is mandated to produce an Annual Budget in the first Ordinary General Meeting of Hilary Term, detailing the projected expenditure, and actual expenditure and income for each budget area for 2018, and the projected income and expenditure for each budget area for 2019.
- b. The proposed budget follows the expenditure from last year, and was produced in close collaboration with previous and present Officers and Reps, in particular the previous Treasurer.
- c. Amendments from members of the JCR are welcomed.
- d. Official spending cannot commence until we have passed the budget.
- e. That the Annual Budget for 2019 has been presented to the JCR as found in Appendix 1.

This JCR believes that:

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

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- i. Pass this proposed budget (Appendix 1), with any amendments as desired.

Joe Sisson (JCR President 2019) (JCR President) noted that he is seconding, and offers to relieve chair if debates are asked for. Benedict Gardner (JCR Secretary) (JCR Secretary) showed budget on screen for JCR.

"We have a budget, we're better than the United States" - Christopher Hughes (Returning Officer) Hughes 2019

Passed NEMCON (0 against, 0 abstentions)

v/ Items for Discussion

- **JCR Airbed Scheme - Greg Howgego (Domestic Officer)**

Greg Howgego (Domestic Officer) noted that college currently has 3 camp beds. College were not happy with the Porters running the scheme when beds were previously orders, but the Porters have continued to do so. Domestic Officers are reluctant to order more, as college may stop the scheme a second time. Greg Howgego (Domestic Officer) asked for the opinions on the floor. Amelia asks what the problem is, Nicole Gray (Domestic Officer) replies that the size of beds and time for the JCR is an issue for college, but Porters are generally supportive. When raised in College Committee, college deemed this not an issue for committee. Nicole Gray (Domestic Officer) discussed that a rep role was floated but no one would like to do this, as with 3 beds there are a potential 3 return trips with the beds. The JCR Office is floated as a potential place for people to leave beds, but it contains confidential information. Amatai suggested a trust-based system, where beds are left in a common room much like bean bags in the TV room, but Greg Howgego (Domestic Officer) is unsure about the ease of theft. Joe Sisson (JCR President 2019) asks whether Greg Howgego (Domestic Officer) and Nicole Gray (Domestic Officer) have any specific, preferable ideas to solve the issue. Greg Howgego (Domestic Officer) suggested a rep is the simplest approach if college do not cooperate. Nicole Gray (Domestic Officer) noted the awkward time commitment of half an hour slots to a rep role. The JCR could approach college, but this would risk having the scheme close down. Greg Howgego (Domestic Officer) said that his preferred option is to buy new camp beds and attempt to persuade the Porters to take them, as the existing 3 will break with use. Nicole Gray (Domestic Officer) suggested that we could sneakily collect the beds from Argos so the Porters don't notice. Joe Sisson (JCR President 2019) suggested that going to college is likely to lead to shutdown, so the covert scheme is a better idea. A rep position would be an immense time commitment, more than most Officers unlikely to find interest and noted how much of the JCR is run on a trust basis. Greg Howgego (Domestic Officer) suggested a scheme where people swap between one another based on a spreadsheet, left in the JCR Office during the vacs/times not in use, with the Officers with access allowing entry. Gemma suggested rotating reps every two weeks to lighten the load. Issy Stephens (Social Media Rep) suggested a physical book sat in the JCR that registers bed condition and the person borrowing at all times, needing to be signed in and out. Harry Sugden (Entz Officer) suggested using the Kendrew storage room, sharing with Yoga. Issy Stephens (Social Media Rep) noted this is possibly more annoying to Porters in giving the one key out. (at this point, CJ arrives with the gavel. Joe Sisson (JCR President 2019) is overjoyed). Joe Sisson (JCR President 2019) noted that transferral from person to person, with vac storage in the JCR office would be the best way forward. Greg Howgego (Domestic Officer) suggested going forward, hoping the porters don't notice as we buy more beds - a covert airbed scheme which, if college discover, goes towards a P2P network airbed scheme.

- State of the Republic - *Christine Jiang (JCR President 2018 - CJ herein)*
CJ arrives after Airbed Scheme discussion. CJ introduced herself. CJ outlined the role of the State of the Republic, delivered by the outgoing President. CJ was not able to present the Condition at this meeting, so will present it at the 2nd generally meeting) has finished her part but has been unable to get it to Officers due to thesis writing. noted that “the Condition of the Republic is strong.

- Constitutional Appendices - *Joe Sisson (JCR President 2019)*
Joe notified that he has updated the constitutional agencies for the final time.

vi/ Agenda Items

a/ The “Ranked Pair works too” Constitutional Motion

Proposer: Christopher Hughes (Returning Officer)

Seconded: Cas Burton (Treasurer)

This JCR noted that:

- a. The Returning Officer is currently mandated to use instant-runoff voting for JCR elections
- b. The last two JCR elections have been run on BallotBin.com, and the Returning Officer hopes to run subsequent elections on the same platform
- c. BallotBin.com does not support instant-runoff voting, but instead supports ranked pair

This JCR believes that:

- d. The ranked pair voting system is a viable alternative to instant-runoff voting

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- e. Insert in Standing Order Table 3, Section 7, after “instant-runoff (“Alternative Vote”) system” “or the ranked-pair system”

Christopher Hughes (Returning Officer) started by outlining how he took over when Oxford SU changed the election software from MyVoice to their own system. Oxford SU’s own system is non-functional and “awful”. Christopher Hughes (Returning Officer) used it for one election and “gave up on it forever”, giving the example that it didn’t show him the election result. He has been using BallotBin, the next best alternative but does not support instant-runoff voting, which he is obliged to use as per the Constitution. It does use the ‘ranked-pair system’. It’s “pretty fair-ish” and will greatly save Chris’ sanity. CJ asked how much a MyVoice subscription would be. Christopher Hughes (Returning Officer) noted you must call up to get a quote, which suggested that it probably not cheap. Cas Burton (Treasurer) asked for the JCR to pass the motion so they don’t have to listen to him complain about it.

Passed (0 against, 0 abstentions)

b/ The “Funding for Student Documentary Film ‘The Things They Lost’ Financial Motion”

Proposer: Astrid Ingemann Breitenstein

Seconded: Amitai Landau Pope

This JCR noted that:

- a. ‘The Things They Lost’ (title TBC) is short documentary film produced by students in Oxford over Hilary Term 2019
- b. The film explores themes of displacement and immigration, encouraging awareness and conversation around the diversity of assimilation experiences
- c. The short film follows three story lines, one is of an Afghan student at Oxford, whose refugee story is fascinating and worth sharing in the wider student community
- d. Funding for a student film is difficult to retrieve relative to other art forms thus we are heavily reliant on those involved in production. Therefore through a combination of inputs we hope to be able to ensure this project comes together
- e. total budget is approximately £1800 to cover travel costs for crew and interviewees, some equipment rental and payment of the composer

This JCR believes that:

- f. ‘The Things They Lost’ will help shine a light on migrant experiences of “normal people” in the UK from a uniquely personal and everyday perspective
- g. The artistic projects in which JCR members are involved should be supported by the JCR

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- h. Donate £400 from the Drama Fund to partially fund this project

Joe Sisson (JCR President 2019) noted how the Drama Fund (sic - we later learned it is called the Kendrew Arts Fund) is a special alumni-based fund, requiring a short written report to be submitted by people obtaining funds - any questions should be directed to Joe Sisson (JCR President 2019) or Cas. Astrid is assistant directing the short film about three different migration stories across generations. Marco asked when it will come out, and how it will be presented. Astrid says filming is January/February, released in Summer. Joe Sisson (JCR President 2019) suggested using the SJC Auditorium.

Passed (0 against, 1 abstention)

c/ The “Funding for Frog’s Legs” Motion

Proposer: Sam Scruton

Seconded: Amitai Landau-Pope

This JCR noted that:

- a. Sam Scruton is putting on a play in second week at the Michael Pilch Studio.
- b. Without funding, the set of his play will be what theatre critics would call minimalist, but what normal people would call boring and non-existent.

This JCR believes that: *(Why the situation should be changed)*

- c. Funding could be provided to mean that the play (written by another student at Oxford) could be brought to life. The funding would go towards buying props for the set and paying for the costs of hiring the studio for the duration of second week.

This JCR therefore resolves to: *(What do you propose we do?)*

- d. Provide £100 from the Drama Fund to partially fund this project.

Sam is running a play in 2nd week at the Michael Pilch Studio, needing funding. The set is a pub which required a £200 bar. Piotr Jedryszek asked about the Drama Fund is questioned - it is a £2000 college-based fund separate from JCR funds negotiated in Rents and Charges in Trinity 2018, funding purely dramatic projects. The Financial Motions Budget can still be used for plays. Joe Sisson (JCR President 2019) explained how there are three restricted funds - Sanitary, Kendrew Arts Fund, and Website. CJ clarified that the Kendrew Arts Fund is the actual name of the grant, which extends past drama. Piotr asks if this extends to Industrial Design - Joe Sisson (JCR President 2019) asked Piotr to follow up by email.

Passed (0 against, 2 abstentions)

d/ The “Funding for Gods Are Fallen and All Safety Gone” Motion

Proposer: Amitai Landau-Pope

Seconded: Francesca Amewudah-Rivers

This JCR noted that:

- a. *Gods Are Fallen and All Safety Gone* is a student production which is playing the Burton Taylor Studio in 3rd week of HT18
- b. It is being produced by a member of the JCR, and by a theatre company which was born in St John’s College. The number of St John’s students involved is only likely to increase.
- c. The play is produced entirely by students and adheres to the OUDS guidelines; no student will personally profit from the production and any funds raised will be donated to charity or reinvested into student drama in Oxford.
- d. The play examines the patriarchal structures which can affect mother-daughter relationships. The producers of the play want to start important conversations about rape culture, internalised sexism, and feminism today.
- e. The entire cast and direction team of the play is female.

This JCR believes that:

- f. Feminist theatre is a worthwhile endeavour.
- g. The artistic projects in which JCR members are involved should be supported by the JCR.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- h. Provide £100 from the Drama Fund to partially fund this project.

Amatai explained how he is directing this play with his production company, set up last term. The contribution will be of great help to the project.

Passed (0 against, 2 abstentions)

e/ The “Funding for accessible theatre” Financial Motion

Proposer: Amitai Landau-Pope

Seconded: Francesca Amewudah-Rivers

This JCR noted that:

- a. *I punched a Nazi* (((and I liked it))) is a new play which is going to be staged in the Michael Pilch Studio in 7th Week of Hilary
- b. There are many members of the JCR in the production’s creative team; this includes the writer and director. The number of St John’s students involved is only likely to increase.
- c. The play is produced entirely by students and adheres to the OUDS guidelines; no student will personally profit from the production and any funds raised will be donated to charity or reinvested into student drama in Oxford.
- d. The producers of *I punched a Nazi* want to pioneer a new way of staging plays which is fully accessible. This includes extra provisions for disabled patrons. The producers are offering free and discount tickets to groups which are underrepresented in Oxford drama.

This JCR believes that:

- e. Drama in Oxford – like the arts in general - should be as accessible as possible.
- f. The artistic projects in which JCR members are involved should be supported by the JCR.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- g. Provide £300 from the Drama Fund to partially fund this project.

Amatai noted how he is writing and directing this play for the first time. As well as previous comments (see above motion), it will be completely accessible for those who are deaf (with subtitling), with subsidised tickets for underrepresented groups. Amatai has been working with the ACS and other groups.

Passed (0 against, 1 abstentions)

f/ The ‘Made in Dagenham’ Theatre Performance Financial Motion

Proposer: Morgane Griffiths

Seconded: Gemma Robson

This JCR noted that:

- a. The *Made in Dagenham* production is a story of the empowerment of female workers set in the 1960s.

- b. The production offers a lesson about female empowerment and how individuals are able to tackle pervasive issues throughout our society; it is a message that is valuable and important for today's world to understand.
- c. Further to this, the musical helps inform the student body of the struggles of previous generations to achieve progress on equal pay and respect for workers, an understanding imperative to today's struggles for pay and class equality.
- d. It is also important for St John's College to promote the arts, as has been noted in previous motions, for its artistic and cultural value.

This JCR believes that:

- f. The JCR should support and encourage the artistic pursuits of college members, including the production of the theatre performance *Made in Dagenham*.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- h. Donate £300 from the Drama Fund to partially fund this project.

Morgane is stage-managing and doing sound design for a production of Made in Dagenham. It's about female workers, holding a positive message, which needs funds from the Kendrew Arts Fund.

Passed (0 against, 2 abstentions)

vii/ Any other business

The JCR thanked Leo Warburton for his fantastic effort in cooking of coconut rice for 24 people. Applause given. Leo thanked his TW5 compatriots. Natalia Sudol and Toni Busuttill also baked brownies. Joe Sisson (JCR President 2019) called for more baking for next term.

Joe Sisson (JCR President 2019) reiterated his call for people to go for JCR positions.

Meeting closed at 21:14

Benedict Gardner
JCR Secretary
14/01/2019