



St John's College Junior Common Room

Minutes - 4th Meeting, Michaelmas Term 2019
Friday 29th November 2019, Larkin Room, 7.00pm

1. Minutes from the Previous Meeting

Minutes available [here](#). Minutes passed.

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

No matters arising.

3. Reports from Officers, Reps and Committees

President: Harry Sugden

Harry briefly suggested (it seemed) that he would talk for 45 minutes. He actually said 4 to 5 minutes. Harry noted he was excited to see the Fernandes Administration in full swing, with a full committee.

Harry said he'd enjoyed all of his time as President in full, except when the Senior Dean suggested he should be more organised. Capitation this year was £40,000 and supported many films, plays, magazines and other student projects, and Made the Vac Great Again. He also noted the benefit of increased use of the Financial Motions Budget. He asked for respect from both sides - for question askers to be respectful towards proposers, especially when submitting amendments, and for motion proposers in ensuring as many John's members are included. He noted the importance of not being hostile.

£3,500 has been donated through the JCR Charities Fund to 23 different charities and £7,500 in REACH Scholarships through the Charity Levy. The stash order earned £500 for homelessness. The Website Committee achieved a website with online payment, before College. Brunch has been implemented on Sunday. The JCR Office was redecorated. Ollie, Mungo and George put on an amazing Arts Week. 9 Bops have taken place, though Harry can't remember all of them. Greg, Siobhan, Jahnvi and Caroline have helped put on many fantastic dinners. Ollie, Mungo and George put on a successful Arts Week. Tom and Amelia organised a great Welfare Week. Maddie organised a great academic feedback setup. Alfie organised Freshers Week (twice) and Morgane got people to go to non-alcoholic events. Rents and Charges went well, with potential for online bod card top-up and online vac res form in the future. He noted that colour printing would be an uphill battle.

Harry noted it was important to thank Officers and Reps after events. He wrapped up to say thank you to all Officers and JCR attendees. He noted his marriage to the JCR was over, and he was now a single (queue up, ladies and gents).

Full text of Harry's speech available [here](#).

Environment and Ethics: Ankit Ranjan
Not present.

Ethnic Minorities: Karen Muperere
Not present.

LGBTQ+: Amitai Landau-Pope
Not present.

Oxford SU: Lachlann Hinley & Milo Mallaby
Milo reported an extraordinary meeting for the Oxford SU was postponed due to attendance being too high.

Sports: Felix Stocker
Felix made an obscure history joke, then updated the room on the progress of the teams, noting the success for football and rugby, but ailing numbers in lacrosse and hockey. "We're doing alright".

4. Ratifications

- Termly Rep Re-ratifications

Reps were re-ratified if there was no objection to them continuing in their position.

Name	Rep Role	Re-Ratified?
Sebastian Towers	Bike	Yes
Hazel Weng	Bike	Yes
Felix Stocker	Sports	Yes
Ollie Parkes	Art	Yes
Mungo Drake	Art	Yes
Freya Allery	Charities	Yes
Jahnavi Kalayil	Charities	Yes
Adem Berbic	Facilities	Yes
Lachlann Hinley	SU	Yes
Milo Mallaby	SU	Yes
Daniel Hubbard	PRAT	Yes
Sophie Whitehead	PRAT	Yes
Astrid Ingemann Breitenstein	Social Media	Yes

Issy Stephens	Social Media	Yes
---------------	--------------	-----

- Sports Rep (to stand alongside Felix Stocker)

Milo Mallaby gave a short hust. He noted that someone needs to keep Felix to account. Felix noted that Milo was qualified for the role, as a great sportsman and a keystone in the John's 2nd XI Football team.

Issy Stephens asked if non-football and non-rugby would be advertised, to which Milo replied he would.

Jahnavi asked whether Women's sports could be promoted, after a Sidney Sussex Sports Day with few sports available for women. Felix noted he felt this comment was unfair.

Milo Mallaby Ratified as Sports Rep (0 against, 10 abstentions)

- MT19 Auditors (2 vacancies)
 - Shuichi Chiba ([Appendix 1](#))
No objections heard, Shuichi Chiba ratified as Auditor

Elliot Sturge gave a short hust, noting no one else wanted to do it.

Elliot Sturge ratified as Auditor. (0 against, 3 abstentions)

- Equality and Diversity Reps

Harry outlined the new system, which replaces Liberation Officers with Equality & Diversity Reps, who answer to the Equality and Diversity Officer.

 - Class (2 vacancies)
[a mini-election will be held due to too many members running]
 - Michal Karlubik
Michal said he was running for both Class and International due to their intersections. He noted a soft spot for his 'fellow plebians of the lower classes'. He noted that his home country of Slovakia is considered developing by many, and hence he felt he can sympathise with those who identify as working class.
 - Dan Hubbard
Dan noted he has only ever been to state schools, and his region of Merseyside had a lower Oxbridge intake with 1.5 million people than Richmond in London with 80,000. He said how Oxford can be 'incredibly weird' to someone from this type of background, and noted how nerve-wracking tutor's dinner can be, for example. He said he would do his best to make working class and lower middle class people feel welcome.

- Louis Davidson
Louis said that while he went to private school, he noted that all agree that class divides should be broken down in Oxford. He said he hoped to bring his experience from private school to help break down class barriers in Oxford.
- Emmet O'Leary
Emmet told the room that he came from Washington in 'deepest North', the largest town in the country without a rail link. He noted he is a first generation student, and how Oxford can often seem like a 'different planet'. He said he wanted to raise awareness of the Oxford SU's class campaigns.

Mini Election held 4th - 5th December 2019.

Emmet O'Leary and Daniel Hubbard ratified as Class E&D Reps

- Disabilities (2 vacancies)
 - Amelia Holt
Amelia noted she has had experience with the Disabilities Support Service, and said it would be helpful to have someone with experience of the Service, especially the mental health side of University provision. She said the role would be a good continuation from her role as Welfare Officer.

No objections, Amelia Holt ratified as Disabilities E&D Rep
 - Alexis Forer
Alexis noted the importance of understanding mental illness in Oxford, agreeing with Amelia's sentiments.

No objections, Alexis Forer ratified as Disabilities E&D Rep
- Ethnic Minorities (1 vacancy alongside Ethan Joseph)
 - No one stood
- International (2 vacancies)
 - Michal Karlubik
Michal noted his international status, and said that there was increasing instability for international students, especially for EU students in light of Brexit. He said he was approachable to students, and could speak 4-5 European languages.
 - Priyan Selvakumar
Priyan noted that the culture shock of Oxford having come from the United States, both culturally and practically. He wanted to ensure an accommodating environment was provided for new Freshers, that he himself received when arriving.

- Stan Szelag

Stan said he is from an EU country, and noted his concern about how Brexit would turn out. He said that, with the help of his College family, he became comfortable at Oxford after the challenges of Freshers Week, but said he would have benefitted from someone to talk to specifically about international issues. He said that often, international students just sit in their room and write essays, but this is not what he saw Oxford life as being about.

Mini Election held 4th - 5th December 2019.

Michal Karbulik and Stan Szelag ratified as International E&D Reps

- LGBTQ+ (2 vacancies)

- Den de Barros

Den noted that it is important to have LGBTQ Reps in College, noting she felt comfortable enough to come out to people she felt she trusted in the space St John's provided. She said she wanted to run events outside of the University-wide 'Tuesgay' drinks. She wanted to focus on more relaxed events where people can open up and have discussions.

No objections, Den de Barros ratified as LGBTQ+ E&D Rep

- Naomi Reiter

Naomi agreed with Den's sentiments, saying they wanted to make the events more accessible. They wanted to focus on non-alcoholic event for those that didn't enjoy drinking and clubbing. They also planned to work on links between John's and one other college, alongside University-wide events.

No objections, Naomi Reiter ratified as LGBTQ+ E&D Rep

- Women's Rep (2 vacancies)

- Alexis Forer

Alexis said that women's issues are very important to her, and wants to be a friendly face for women in College to talk, discuss, and even rant at her if wanted.

No objections, Alexis Forer ratified as Women's E&D Rep

a) The "Take To The Chair!" Constitutional Motion

Proposer: Harry Sugden, JCR President

Seconded: Amelia Holt, WMG Welfare Officer

This JCR notes that:

- a. The President currently takes the Chair at JCR Meetings, except in their absence or when they vacate it, in which case it falls to the VP/another Officer.
- b. The Chair must not ask questions and must remain neutral at all times. They must also vacate the Chair when proposing or seconding a motion.
- c. The current JCR President has vacated the chair temporarily on a number of occasions to ask questions, when presenting their own motion, or to express an opinion.

This JCR believes that:

- d. The President is sometimes best placed to ask questions or suggest amendments to motions, given their experience of dealing with College and their work to further the interests of the JCR as a whole.
- e. The President is likely to present a number of motions during their tenure.
- f. It is better if the Chair is more consistent throughout the whole meeting, rather than frequent vacating/switching.
- g. Establishing a meeting Chair, ratified by the JCR on a termly basis, creates another opportunity for members to engage with the JCR.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- h. Replace Standing Order Table One with the version 'As proposed' in [Appendix 5](#) [of MT19 GM3], to establish a Chair of meetings, to clarify and simplify language, and for connected purposes.

Minutes:

No objections heard, Motion Ratified.

- Hilary Term JCR Chair (1 vacancy)

Alfie Deere-Hall and Iain Duncan stood.

Alfie gave a short hush, noting he didn't want to be an irrelevant third year, and enjoyed banging the gavel.

Iain gave a short hush, emphasising his impartiality, so wanted to allow other people to give their opinions. Iain complemented his opponent's mustache.

Alfie ratified as Hilary Term JCR Chair (results available on request)

b) The "Up The Ante For Charity!" Constitutional Motion

Proposer: Harry Sugden, JCR President

Seconded: Jahnvi Kalayil, Women's Officer & Charities Rep

This JCR notes that:

- a. The College collects, on behalf of the JCR, a total of £10.50 per term from each student in the form of a 'JCR Charity Levy' (see §8a).
- b. One third (£3.50) of the termly Charity Levy is returned to the JCR Charities Account, which is used to fund Charities Motions.
- c. Two thirds (£7) of the termly Charity Levy is donated to the fund for Reach Scholarships offered by the College. Last year, the JCR contributed £7,630; this money goes toward the funding of St John's scholarships only.
- d. It is possible to opt-out of the Charity Levy via the JCR Treasurer, who reminds members of this at the start of each term.
- e. This amount has not been reviewed since at least the last major update of the Constitution in 2016.

This JCR believes that:

- f. Students are of course under considerable financial strain, but should remain confident in exercising their right to opt-out should they so wish.
- g. It is important to continue to donate to Charitable causes and to fund Reach Scholarships, and to periodically review the amount we contribute.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- h. *Replace* §8a 'JCR Charity Donation of £10.50 per term – one third of which shall be given by college to the "Charity Budget" and two-thirds shall be used to fund Reach Scholarships.'
with 'JCR Charity Donation of £12 per term – one third of which shall be given by college to the "Charity Budget" and two-thirds of which shall be used to fund Reach Scholarships.'
- i. Mandate the 2021 JCR President to conduct a further review of the Charity Levy and Refugee Sponsorship by the end of Michaelmas Term 2021.
- j. Add item i to Standing Policy, subject to the ratification of this motion as a Constitutional Motion.

Minutes:

Harry reminded the room that this motion will increase the JCR charitable donation from £10.50 a term to £12.00. Opt-out via an email to the MCR Treasurer is still available.

Motion Ratified (0 against, 5 abstentions)

c) The "Clean Up After Yourself!" Constitutional Motion

Proposer: Benedict Gardner (JCR Secretary)

Seconded: Isabella Stephens

This JCR notes that:

- a. Over Summer, the JCR President, Secretary and Returning Officer reviewed the Constitution, and found many instances where wording was confusing, or sentences simply unfinished.
- b. Of particular note, the 'honorary members' section of the Constitution is now outdated, and ultimately a bit silly.
- c. The JCR membership status for students was also unclear where students who were in their fourth year of a four year degree, where they may be eligible for both JCR and MCR membership.

- d. There is also an issue as to the position of Minute taker and Chair in vote counts. This is updated in Part 49 of Appendix 6.
- e. There is currently a chance for an election to occur without a Returning Officer Assistant. This gap has been closed.
- f. The adding of E&D Reps means a slightly different process for Votes of No Confidence is required
- g. The Constitution currently suggests that Budget Amendments are added to Standing Policy. This has not been implemented for some time.
- h. All other changes proposed mere clear up wordings

This JCR believes that:

- i. Honorary members are silly and should be abolished.
- j. 4th year students of undergraduate degrees should be eligible for JCR membership.
- k. The Chair and Minute taker should be considered as abstaining votes.
- l. Members should be able to submit a vote of no confidence against an E&D Rep anonymously, through the E&D Officer or a Welfare Officer.
- m. Budget reallocations do not belong on the Standing Policy.
- n. The Constitution is the guiding document of the JCR, and deserves to be well maintained.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- o. Replace the relevant parts of the Constitution with the changes detailed in [Appendix 6](#) [of MT19 GM3].
- p. Permit the Secretary to update Appendices and numbering accordingly

Minutes:

Motion Ratified (0 against, 5 abstentions)

5. Items for Discussion

a) Constitutional Appendices (Benedict Gardner, JCR Secretary)

Minutes:

Ben noted he had now updated and announced the appendices 13 times. This was his last update.

b) Office Spending Report (Harry Sugden, JCR President) ([Appendix 2](#))

Minutes:

Harry noted that the Office refurbishment has come in under budget. The College did not charge for new furniture, giving a £800 saving. Amongst the purchases was a UE Boom speaker for JCR events, so Officers didn't have to risk their own equipment.

6. Agenda Items

a) The “More Minor Changes” Constitutional Motion

Proposer: Harry Sugden, President 2019

Seconded: Christopher Hughes, Returning Officer

This JCR notes that:

- a. There are some minor changes to be made to the Constitution.

This JCR believes that:

- b. These changes are sensible.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- c. Remove a silly joke by:
 - i. Replacing, in Standing Order (SO) 1 §27 (or §24 if the ‘Take to the Chair’ constitutional motion is ratified), “[Gandalf] with “[Name]”.
- d. Remove references to redundant Officer positions in relation to elections by:
 - i. Removing, from SO 3A, clause §17.b:
“Any JCR member can vote for the position of Class Liberation Officer, Disabilities Officer, Ethnic Minorities Officer, International Students Officer and LGBTQ+ Officer, but members should think about whether the position is relevant to them and whether they should vote for it. The Returning Officer is responsible for publicising this by means they consider appropriate.”
 - ii. Removing, in SO 3A §20.a, reference to the Class Liberation Officer, Disabilities Officer, Ethnic Minorities Officer, International Students Officer and LGBTQ+ Officer.
- e. Include *any* position-elect candidate in rules relating to proxy voting and electoral malpractice by:
 - i. Replacing, in SO 3A §18.d, “the President-elect, Vice President-elect or” *with* “any elected Officer who has not yet taken office,”.
 - ii. Replacing, in SO 3A §26.i and §26.j, “, the President-elect or the Vice President-elect.” *with* “or any elected Officer who has not yet taken office.”.
- f. Add the E&E Officer to Appendix II, as attending Garden Perambulation.
- g. Clarify the Welfare Officers’ role description by:
 - i. Replacing, in SO2 §1.m:
“II. Shall be responsible for all matters concerning JCR member’s welfare within college, insofar as they are able to do so with the training they receive from Oxford SU.”
with
“II. Shall work to encourage good mental and physical wellbeing, especially through signposting to available services, and only insofar as they are able to do so with the training they receive.”
 - ii. Replacing, in SO2 §1.m:
“IX. Will sit on the Freshers’ Week Sub-Committee. Shall be responsible for: A. the reception and settling in of all JCR Freshers; B. the allocation of at least one college parent to each incoming fresher.”
with

“IX. Will sit on the Freshers’ Week Sub-Committee. Shall: A. assist with the welcoming of JCR Freshers; B. allocate at least one college parent to each incoming fresher.”

Minutes:

Harry outlined the changes, detailed above.

Motion Passed (24 for, 0 against, 5 abstentions)

b) The “St Giles Society for the Homeless” Constitutional Motion

Proposer: George Wilson

Seconded: Ollie Parkes

This JCR notes that:

- a. A JCR Society is a group, run by and consisting solely of JCR members, that is granted JCR funds in the annual Budget.
- b. There are already at least one regularly functioning society (The St John’s Magazine Society which produces 1555) under the wing of the JCR.
- c. JCR Societies must designate a Chair or Co-Chairs. The Chair or Co-Chairs must inform the Secretary of their identity/identities, the Society’s aims, and its annual funding from the JCR, and must keep the Secretary informed of changes to these. These shall be maintained by the Secretary in the Appendices, under the “JCR List of Societies”.
- d. The St Giles Society for the Homeless is a new society set up by 3 college members who would like to be taken under the JCR’s wing for posterity.

This JCR believes that:

- e. The homeless situation in Oxford worsens every year, particularly as the weather this winter becomes more extreme.
- f. There is only 1 other student-run homeless initiative, based in Exeter college, and more aid is essential considering that many homeless don’t want to go to shelters.
- g. The Society could collaborate with other student-led programmes (such as the dignity and book drives) and other colleges to make a greater impact.
- h. St John’s already donates a lot towards charitable causes, and this society would introduce a permanent programme to directly help the local community of homeless.
- i. Without a permanent position in the JCR constitution, this initiative risks falling apart when the 3 founders leave Oxford in the next 1-2 years.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- j. Add ‘St Giles’s Society for the Homeless’ into ‘APPENDIX IX – JCR LIST OF SOCIETIES’.
- k. Include Purpose:

- i. To offer a shift rota to college members (of 2hr shift slots) to prepare and give out food and supplies to the homeless around Oxford regularly in term-time.
- ii. To collaborate with other initiatives within and outside of college that help Oxford's homeless.

Yearly funding from the JCR:

- iii. £400 (provisional)

Designated Contact(s):

- iv. Chair – Ollie Parkes
Secretary - George Wilson
Treasurer - Louis Davidson

Minutes:

George noted she (along with Louis Davidson and Ollie Parkes) had started a Society for the Homeless, which now has a Constitution and a bank account. As third years, they wanted to make sure this Society lasts into the future by making the Society an official, constitutionally recognised Society. George noted that they would not be requesting money any time soon, as there is plenty for current operations (£400 with £40 paying for a large meal drive). George noted that there would be an email going out to all JCR members about shifts next term.

Harry put on the record that it would be a good idea to collaborate with the Charities Reps in raising money, to help deal with restrictive Charity Law which prevents the JCR donating money directly to other charities.

Motion Passed (0 against, 3 abstentions)

c) The “New JCR Points” Housing Motion

Proposer: Leo Warburton

Seconded: Lachlann Hinley

This JCR notes that:

- a. A team of JCR members has recently been involved in a comprehensive measuring and surveying process of JCR student accommodation with support and approval from College.
- b. The long-term objective of the project is to align College rental grades with JCR ballot grades (see appendix 4, section C). This would bring clarity to the way that accommodation is assessed. A transition from the letter-based allocation grades to a number-based scale is the first step in this process.
- c. This process has led to the drafting of a new system for grading rooms for the JCR ballot which uses a 200-point scale (see appendix 3) rather than a letter grade.
- d. The 200-point scale is far more detailed than the current letter grade system, taking many different new measurements and assessments into account.

- e. Current frameworks used by JCR members to request that their rooms be regraded would continue as usual under the 200-point scale.
- f. The 200-point scale is based on a scale which has been used by the MCR in their room ballot for several years.
- g. Clauses l., m. and n. should be considered as if they were part of a standing policy motion, while clause k. should be considered as if it were part of a housing motion.

This JCR believes that:

- h. The current letter grade scale is inadequate for a number of reasons:
 - i. There is no underlying basis for the judgements reach beyond the judgement of the Vice President or a given Room Regrading Subcommittee. This means the system lacks transparency and JCR members are not given the ability to adjudge the fairness of a given room ranking.
 - ii. The lack of differentiation between letter scores leads to ties in the ballot order that are then only resolvable via random ballot. This is unfair given the highly variable quality of rooms in College.
- i. The 200-point scale is an improvement over the letter grade system, for the following reasons;
 - i. As there are up to 200 different outputs, rooms are highly differentiated from each other and there is a greatly reduced need for random ranking of JCR members with equal ballot scores.
 - ii. The scale is more objective, based on measurements, facts and mathematical calculations. Measurements and facts can be tested and replicated by future generations of JCR members. Calculations can be reweighted and modified by future generations of JCR members without the need to start again from scratch.
 - iii. The potential for implementation on the College-side for rental purposes in the future will provide clarity to students and streamline accommodation provision in College.
- j. The measurements and calculated values should, in modified form, be displayed to all JCR members before the room ballot to better inform them about characteristics of rooms they may select on the ballot. As well as the overall points score of each room, these characteristics include the relative size of the room, available storage in the room and the nature of the best-equipped nearby kitchen.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- k. Totally eliminate the letter grade system and replace it with the 200-point scale in all JCR documentation, including the website.
- l. Mandate the JCR Vice-President to inform the entire JCR of the 200-point score allocated to each JCR student room, and some qualitative assessments associated with this score, prior to the upcoming Hilary Term 2020 room ballot.
- m. Mandate the Vice President to regrade every room in accordance with the new 200-point scale (see [Appendix 3](#)) to determine rankings in the upcoming Hilary Term 2020 room ballot, including with reference to rooms occupied by students in previous years.
- n. Mandate the Vice President to, after the Hilary Term 2020 room ballot, evaluate the level of satisfaction within the JCR around the implementation process and make any necessary modifications to the 200-point system for future ballots based on this.

Appendices

- [Appendix 3](#) - This document, named *'Room Regrading - New JCR Points - The new 200-point scale for assessing JCR rooms'* explains the calculation of the 200-point scale, and is primarily intended for interested members of the JCR.
- [Appendix 4](#) - This document, named *'Room Regrading - How to regrade rooms, and what could be done with the outputs'*, is an extended version of Appendix 32. It contains all the information necessary to use the 200-point system for those engaged in grading rooms, and some suggestions about how it could be implemented to reconstruct College rent grades.

Minutes:

Leo noted the Room Regrading Committee were replacing letter grades with a 200 point system (see Appendix 3 for summary, Appendix 4 for full).

Alfie Deere-Hall noted this had been discussed with the then-Home Bursar Jo Roadnight, who was on board. He said the committee had put in a lot of work to set up the 200 point scale, and urged the room to vote it through.

Issy asked how this would affect Battels. Leo said it would have no change, with rent grades not affected yet, though they may do in the future. College have agreed to reviewing their own grading system, which currently only uses square surface area of room and direction the room faces.

Issy asked if the housing ballot would work the same. Harry replied that the ballot works the same, with only the grades having changed.

Will Anderson asked if this would affect the Finalist Ballot, with penultimate year students choosing rooms on the old grading basis. He asked whether the change could be pushed back until after these second years have chosen their rooms. Leo thought this would not be viable, noting the difficulty in implementing two halves of two systems. Leo also replied that this is a more sophisticated version of the existing system, with significant changes unlikely. Lowly graded rooms are likely to have low points scores.

Chris Hughes asked between the discrepancy between Front Quad and North Quad kitchen access, which he argued is a large difference (North Quad rooms can move to the next kitchen along, but Front Quad have no access at all). Leo said that the decision had been made, he determined that leaving the staircase to access the kitchen was a flat score. Leo noted this the room grading was being made public so it can be debated and changed in future. Harry also noted that Front Quad and North Quad (non-Beehive) students are never first years, and so an active choice is always made by students who live there.

Zara Hussain asked if JCR grades in the past have correlated with College grades. Leo noted some significant differences in room grade currently. Harry noted his distrust in the Domestic Office to properly do the rent bands.

Motion Passed (21 for, 1 against, 7 abstentions)

d) The “Budget Reallocation” Financial Motion

Proposer: Cas Burton, JCR Treasurer

Seconded: Chris Hughes, JCR Returning Officer

This JCR notes that:

- a. The Treasurer has the responsibility of ensuring that the Budget is spent efficiently and with the aim of maximising the overall benefit of this money for the members of the JCR.
- b. The Treasurer is mandated to bring Budget Reallocation Motions to prevent overspending in particular Budget Areas, whilst ensuring that the overall expenditure remains constant.
- c. The total requested in financial motions this meeting is: £200.
- d. The Visa Fund budget needs to be increased to cover some requests for reimbursements.
- e. We have not been charged for the wine at Hustings so the Returning Officer Budget can be decreased.

This JCR believes that:

- f. The Budget should appropriately account for all expected expenditure

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- g. Increase the Financial Motions budget from £4,348 to £4,548.
- h. Increase the Visa Fund budget from £102 to £170.
- i. Decrease the RO budget from £300 to £32.

Minutes:

Cas needed to allocated funds to serve a Financial Motion brought for this meeting (and some Visa fund claims), noting he hoped that Hall would not charge for wine drunk in Hustings in the week previously. This motion redistributes these funds.

Motion Passed (25 for, 0 against, 5 abstentions)

e) The “We Condemn Acts of Discrimination” Standing Policy Motion

Proposer: Emmet O’Leary

Seconded: Callum Evans

This JCR notes that:

- a. This term, there have been at least two high-profile incidents in the city, including one within this college, of alleged discrimination on the grounds of characteristics protected under the Equality Act 2010.
- b. In the case of one such incident, peaceful protest was successful in achieving a partial resolution.
- c. JCR members have and continue to be actively engaged in opposition to such discrimination where proven.

- d. The College, in addition to its existing Race Equality Policy, Equal Opportunities Policy, Disability Equality Scheme and Gender Equality Scheme and other such schemes, is currently celebrating “40 Years of Women” and wishes to promote the benefits of diversity in academia.
- e. The University continues to make progress towards greater equality and diversity, having achieved a Race Equality Charter award at bronze level and joined Stonewall’s Top 100 Employers Index. Its annual Equality and Diversity Report sets out targets to build upon these achievements.
- f. The JCR’s newly updated role of Equality and Diversity Officer seeks to solidify collaboration between this JCR and the College in matters relating to these issues.

This JCR believes that:

- g. St John’s is principally an academic community, in which the personal characteristics of an individual should have no impact upon their success or participation here.
- h. The JCR and the College continue to profit greatly from increasing diversity.
- i. There is a pressing need to publicly renew our commitment to the fight against discrimination in all its forms.
- j. The JCR should seek in all activities to reflect our wish to foster a welcoming community for learning and personal growth.
- k. Where any form of discrimination comes to light, the JCR should seek to challenge this through the peaceful and diplomatic means proven effective.

This JCR resolves to:

- l. Add Items g-k to Standing Policy (Beliefs)

Minutes:

Emmet said this was an official response to two acts of discrimination recorded in the last term, one on College grounds, and one involving a St John’s student at the Union. The Policy reaffirms our commitment to responding to discrimination, in a peaceful and diplomatic way.

Louis Davidson asked whether it would be possible to have a more solid statement, as the current Motion does not include any specific actions. Emmet agreed that the motion did lack a set of specific actions at present. Ben noted it was possible to add an amendment if required.

Harry noted his support for the motion, and said his speech to Governing Body next week would be focussing on Equality. Together, with the new Equality and Diversity Reps will hopefully get the message out to College that equality and fair treatment is important to the undergraduate body.

Zara asked whether anything like this currently existed on Standing Policy. Ben noted in a point of information that there is no current motion to this effect, with the closest being the Preventing PREVENT Motion, which has a very specific remit.

Motion Passed (22 for, 0 against, 5 abstentions)

f) The “Everybody Loves Art!” Standing Policy Motion

Proposer: Ollie Parkes, Art Rep

Seconded: Harry Sugden, President 2019

This JCR notes that:

- a. We have a substantial collection of artwork available for loan by any JCR member that has been built up over many years.
- b. JCR Members often don't get their top 3 choices in the loan process and buying more art would provide more options.
- c. We have benefitted from the generous donations of alumni in the past. Other art has been purchased over the years using the money allocated to the historical Arts Committee, and more recently the JCR Committee.
- d. The reserves are in good shape, so we do not need to add to them using any unspent allocation from the 2019 budget.

This JCR believes that:

- e. The JCR Art collection has and continues to enrich the lives of St John's students and fosters the cultural life of college.
- f. Expanding the collection will provide an opportunity to support student artists in Oxford.
- g. Art is a worthwhile and potentially lucrative asset for the JCR to invest in.
- h. The Art Reps may be able to negotiate a deal or discount with a gallery in London or Oxford to bulk purchase unique print artworks.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- i. Mandate the 2019 Treasurer to establish an 'Art Collection' budget, transferring all remaining unrestricted budget allocation to this budget at the end of the JCR financial year (i.e. immediately before the 2020 budget is passed).
- j. Mandate the 2020 Treasurer to carry forward the 'Art Collection' allocation from the 2019 to the 2020 budget, thus increasing the total Budget Allocation for 2020 by the amount unspent in 2019
- k. Allocate this budget item to the Art Reps for use in 2020, who will present a report of all new items for the collection.
- l. Add items i, j and k to Standing Policy (Implementing Resolutions)

Minutes:

Harry outlined the role of the Motion, saying that the JCR reserves were sufficiently full to spend anything remaining from this financial year. This motion proposes extending the JCR Art Collection through the creation of an Art Collection Fund (along with an Art Collection Catalogue for next year).

Ava Mitchell asked where money currently goes if not spent. Harry noted it goes in the reserves, stored in the JCR Bank Account. He noted there is currently no concrete mechanism for spending these funds.

g) The “Ethical Stash” Standing Policy Motion

Proposer: Isabel Pearce

Seconded: Jahnvi Kalayil, Charities Rep

This JCR notes:

- a. Modern slavery exists today on a large scale. Over 40 million people are believed to be in slavery around the world[1].
- b. The fashion industry has a high level of exposure to slavery. G20 countries are estimated to import an annual value of US\$127.7bn in clothes at risk of including slavery in their supply chains[2].
- c. Article 4 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[3] prohibits slavery and the slave trade in all forms.
- d. Oxford SU has provided a platform that allows common room and societies to source merchandise from ethically-accredited suppliers, including ‘Neutral’. Neutral is a company that is Fairtrade certified.

This JCR believes:

- e. Slavery is an affront to human dignity.
- f. The JCR should in no way be complicit in supporting slavery through the fashion industry.

This JCR resolves:

- g. To mandate the Charities Rep(s) to **consult the members of the JCR on the possibility of sourcing merchandise that ~~using JCR funds is certified by Fairtrade or Fairwear before the next stash order in their capacity as Charities Rep (amendment submitted by Jonas Atmaz Al-Sibaie, accepted as friendly).~~**
- h. Add item g to Standing Policy (Implementing Resolutions)

Minutes:

Jahnvi noted that a non-Fairtrade company was used for the recent stash order, with Isabel suggesting a company called Fairwear, which sources Fairtrade materials. Jahnvi noted that it would have to be considered that this would make stash more expensive in future, which may decrease demand and thus lower charity contributions.

Amelia asked if there was a cost difference estimate. Jahnvi noted this was hypothetical, but it would increase the cost by £10-12 for a £20 fleece. Issy noted that John’s Yoga decided to produce hoodies last year, and went for the cheaper, non-Fairtrade option.

Several amendments were suggested, with the final one written above (striked through text is the part removed from the Agenda). This included a change from mandating the Charities Rep **to source** to mandating them **to consult** on the

change, due to the abstract nature of the question when actual prices are not known.

Amelia noted that the price difference could make stash more exclusionary, and could decrease charity total taken.

Harry asked if there was a way to identify the difference between labour Fairtrade and sustainable material sourcing, under the 'ethical banner'.

Louis asked if the extra cost for sustainable materials could be subsidised by the JCR, but Jahnavi said the Charities Reps don't have a budget, and this would not comply with Charities Law.

Harry noted that it was potentially not fair for us to raise the prices for future members, especially considering the current members just bought low-cost, non-certified stash.

Elsie Vowles suggested separating ethical stash and Fairtrade, because the two are not necessarily always overlapping.

Motion Passed (23 for, 0 against, 4 abstentions)

h) The "Make Free Lunches Vegetarian" Standing Policy Motion

Proposer: Amelia Holt

Seconded: Jahnavi Kalayil

This JCR notes that:

- a. Welfare, Women's and Men's lunches are great events that we all enjoy and are well attended.
- b. We are grateful for the effort that college puts in to ensure that we get a free lunch multiple times a term.
- c. In the past few years there has been increased awareness of the environmental benefits of reducing meat consumption.
- d. Removing meat from just one meal a week would have the same environmental impact as taking 16 million cars off the road.
- e. Welfare, Men's and Women's lunches have seen a decrease in the number of Meat meals being requested.

This JCR believes that:

- f. We have a responsibility to be socially conscious individuals and do what we can to reduce the impact of climate change.
- g. Having one vegetarian meal a day is an effective way to reduce your carbon footprint and do your bit for the planet.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- h. Mandate the Welfare and Women's Officers to communicate with college and ensure that all future Welfare, Women's and Men's lunches are vegetarian.
- i. **Mandate the Welfare and Women's Officers to try and make college**

release the menu for these lunches in advance, if possible.

- j. Add h and i to Standing Policy (Implementing Resolutions) (amendments submitted by Cas Burton, accepted as friendly)**

Minutes:

Cas' amendment was submitted shortly before the meeting began.

Amelia introduced the Motion. In the past year, Amelia noted an increased trend in Welfare lunches for vegetarian options. To help College lower emissions, Amelia suggested mandating that all Welfare lunches (including MMG/WMG lunches) had two vegetarian options by default, and allergy-specific meals as well.

Tom Johnson gave a point of information, noting that men have not seen a comparable increase in vegetarian option choices. Jahnavi noted there is a strong trend in the women towards vegetarian option choices. Tom said that most men's lunches had around 4 vegetarian options.

Zara Hussain, as a vegetarian herself, suggested an opt-in meat option rather than a ban on meat options. Amelia replied that meat is not a requirement, and noted the benefits of having one meal a day that isn't meat-based. Zara replied that for Men's lunches, meat is still the overwhelming majority option. Amelia suggested that the large meat choice at men's lunches was in part due to the toxic masculinity surrounding meat eating, and that it could be a good thing to not have the meat option here.

Chris noted that Men's lunches are often underattended, and noted his worries that removing meat could remove a further segment of the JCR from attending. He noted that men tend not to get involved in JCR-related Welfare. Tom said that Men's lunches are currently over-subscribed.

Louis noted that this Motion would help College to show their commitment to environmental sustainability. He questioned whether there was a gendered element to this issue at all, in this light.

Move to Vote Passed (11 for, 10 against, 4 abstentions)

Jahnavi gave a speech in favour, noting that Welfare and community is a key part of these lunches, not the wide range of options (including meat). She said that if you don't want to sign up because an option isn't there, you don't have to.

Tom, though noting his personal support, gave a warning about this motion. He said there would be backlash from those not currently at the meeting.

Motion Passed (21 for, 3 against, 4 absentions)

i) The "Support the Tabou disability magazine" Financial Motion

Proposer: Sophia de Medeiros

Seconded: Den de Barros

This JCR notes that:

- a. Tabou is a new magazine which aims to open up a conversation about disability and give insight into the lives of disabled students.
- b. Tabou is a student run publication and therefore to print TABOU needs people to pre order the magazine to pass onto their students. The magazine will be priced at £3 per copy with a delivery fee outlined in the funding form (£5 for up to 20 copies, £10 for 21 to 50 copies).
- c. Tabou will include writing by disabled students from across the UK. The first edition also includes articles by Natasha Devon MBE and Hope Virgo on mental health, a review of a panel discussion about the intersection between race and disability, pieces on sex and disability, insight into what it is like to be a student with an invisible disability plus content including the work of Coppa Feel, The Vaginismus Network, @mypelvicpain blog and articles about SpLDs.

This JCR believes that:

- d. Getting involved in journalism is an exciting part of university life.
- e. Improving diversity amongst student publications is important, as is raising issues faced by disabled students. Currently there is no student publication like this on this scale focusing on disability.
- f. Tabou will be an interesting read, which will be informative and interesting for members of the JCR, plus encourage the university to consider support for disabled students a priority.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- g. To spend £170 to buy 50 copies of Tabou. (£3, per copy plus relevant delivery fee)
- h. To donate £30 to go towards the cost of setting up TABOU including website costs and potential future launch events.

Minutes:

Den noted the Tabou magazine needs funds for a website, and that she wanted JCR to buy 50 copies. There was then an extensive conversation about where to put these magazines, with amendments proposed and then withdrawn. It was agreed to leave the motion in its state written above.

Motion Passed (22 for, 1 against, 3 abstentions)

7. Any Other Business

Meeting closed at 20.53pm