



St John's College Junior Common Room

Minutes - 3rd Meeting, Michaelmas Term 2020
Sunday 8 November 2020, via Zoom, 7.30 pm

1. Minutes from the Previous Meeting

Available on the website [here](#). There were no objections.

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

All motions from the last meeting had passed after an online ballot.
Full results are available in the minutes.

3. Reports from Officers, Reps and Committees

Written reports are available [here](#).

Verbal reports were requested from:

- **Secretary** Lachlann Hinley said they'd assisted the Returning Officer in filming hustings. Additionally, they were still working on constitutional reform.
- **Academic Affairs** Milo Mallaby had nothing to report.
- **Discounts** Dara Sanwal was not present.
- **Women's Officer** Ava Mitchell was not present.
- **Returning Officer** Joe Sisson was not present.
- **Bike Rep** Ozan Erder said that the College were yet to affirm that the Bike Scheme was 'COVID-19 secure', meaning it could not yet go ahead. Ozan was optimistic that the College would approve the scheme at Bronze Group on Tuesday 10 November. Following consultation with the lodge, the Bike Scheme would move to Kendrew Bike Rack, with users required to book in advance and collect keys from Kendrew Lodge.
- **Sports Rep** Milo Mallaby reported that lockdown had severely disrupted sport within college. Milo noted that the Boat Club was running virtual circuits.
- **Art Reps** Ollie Parkes and Zoe Hind were not present.
- **Charities Rep** Nia Evans reported that the Charities Reps were organising stash next term.
- **Oxford SU Rep** Emmet O'Leary had attended SU Council in 3rd week and was looking forward to 5th week SU Council. Emmet had tendered their resignation as SU Rep, meaning there would be a vacancy for the role.

Emmet encouraged members to apply for the role and noted they would attend the SU Council next term as JCR President.

4. Positions Requiring Ratification

Facilities Rep (1 vacancy)

There were no candidates.

Bike Rep (1 vacancy to join Ozan Erder)

Ben Robinson had “big plans” to restructure the Bike Scheme, which would involve saving the JCR money and obtaining better bikes. Lachlann Hinley (Secretary) asked Ben to expand further on their motivations for becoming Bike Rep; Ben responded by saying they both wanted to stay involved with the JCR, while improving the experience for St John’s cyclists. Ben was ratified **nem. con.**

Disabilities Equality and Diversity Rep (1 vacancy to join Alice Hackney)

There were no candidates.

Suspended Students Equality and Diversity Rep (1 vacancy to join Yvonne Clark-Lewis)

There were no candidates.

5. Items for Discussion

Staff Christmas Party (Zara Hussain)

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic made running the traditional staff Christmas party impossible this year. Zara Hussain (Vice President) suggested that the incoming Vice President run a staff summer party and potentially host the staff Christmas party via Zoom.

Zara Hussain worried about encountering difficulties in running the staff Christmas party via Zoom; for example, it could prove logistically difficult to distribute food and drink to staff, bearing in mind they live off-site.

Tara Daemi (Vice President-elect and Entz Officer) supported a summer party, but added that the JCR should try and host a Zoom christmas party for staff if possible.

Expanding on feasibility of a Zoom christmas party for staff, Emmet O’Leary recalled that many staff came to the Christmas party for the food and drink and worried about turnout without food and drink provided. Emmet suggested, as an alternative, that gifts could be given to the various College departments and Works Office for distribution; for example, chocolate and wine. Zara supported this proposal and promised to explore it more.

Nia Evans recalled that messages had been written in 2019, which could be used as baubles. Zara Hussain said that there were ongoing discussions within college to decorate the trees next to the TW buildings, and suggested that decorated baubles could be utilised there. In the past, it was possible to leave messages in the pidge room; Zara would investigate putting in place similar arrangements. Zara also encouraged members to give messages to their own scouts.

6. Motions

a) Budget Reallocation Motion

Proposer: Ben Robinson, Treasurer

Seconded: Lachlann Hinley, Secretary

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. Due to coronavirus the spending of the JCR has changed and certain areas need more/less money.
- d. The Secretary Budget is now paying for premium zoom subscription

This JCR believes that:

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

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- f. Increase the secretary's budget by £168.34
- g. Increase the financial motions budget by £700
- h. Increase the 1555 magazine budget by £24.99
- i. Decrease the Art Collection Budget by £893.33

Ben Robinson (Treasurer) said it was normal to make amendments to the budget projections as term advanced. Notable changes included increasing the secretary's budget to account for the need for a Zoom subscription, whilst also increasing the financial motions budget. Money would be sourced for the art collection budget, where there had been an underspend.

Phil Fernandes (President) asked whether the motion topped-up the financial motions budget only to account for motions from the last meeting or topped it up prospectively for the rest of term. Ben Robinson (Treasurer) reported that £100 of the £700 would be needed to enable current financial motions commitments, with £600 available to spend for the rest of term.

Agreed (In favour 47, Against 1, Abstentions 7)

b) The “Living in beehive sucks, lets help!” Housing Motion

Proposer: Zara Hussain, Vice President

Seconded: Tara Daemi

This JCR notes that:

- a. All Beehive rooms (N9, N10 & N11) currently have between 125 and 130 points in the JCR Room Ballot.
- b. 25 of these points are because of their access to kitchen, but they also lose 5 points for sharing it with 10+ people, therefore having a total 20 point discrepancy.
- c. Some Beehive rooms have an additional -5 because they can only access the kitchen through the bathroom.
- d. The room ballot is very difficult to organise even without these special cases.
- e. Due to the pandemic beehive’s kitchen has been closed indefinitely.
- f. It is very difficult to change the scoring of a room in Hillary as it will shift the whole ballot after the first draft will have been released.

This JCR believes that:

- g. Those in Beehive should not be given such a high scoring (high is for better rooms) when they didn’t get the benefits.
- h. There shouldn’t be individual rules to each room with slightly different benefits/drawbacks of a kitchen in order to make the future vps life easier.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- i. Temporarily reduce the points of a Beehive room by 20 only for the current occupants until they graduate.
- j. Mandate the Vice President to reduce the Beehive score by [20] points for the 2020-2021 occupants until they graduate.
- k. Add clause j. to Standing Policy as an Implementing Resolution.

Accommodation is allocated to JCR members using the Room Ballot: the main Room Ballots work in such a way to give better rooms to people who had worse rooms in previous years. To facilitate the ballot, every undergraduate room in College is given a room score, calculated on the basis of the features of each room. Zara Hussain (Vice President) reported that rooms in the Beehive (N9, N10 and N11) had room scores calculated on the basis of them being able to access kitchens. During the pandemic, these kitchens had been closed and Zara wanted to temporarily deduct the kitchen points from the room scores of current occupants to account for this unfairness.

Zara Hussain had considered the potential for the kitchens reopening in Hilary or Trinity Term. Although Zara noted this was a possibility, it would not be possible to make alterations to room scores after the 4th week of Hilary Term given requirements relating to Housing Motions. Zara thought the fairest way to proceed was to make the correction now, with retrospective changes being made in Trinity Term, if deemed appropriate. Noam Rosenbaum made suggestions as to the fairest way of making any future corrections. Tara Daemi (Vice President-elect) committed to reviewing the fairness of the deductions in Trinity Term.

Phil Fernandes (President) proposed amending clause j. to align with clause i. in specifying a 20 point deduction. Zara Hussain noted the motion as drafted contained a mistake and **accepted the amendment as friendly.**

Emmet O'Leary added their support, noting that it was important for the JCR to account for the unusual circumstances facing freshers this term.

There was some discussion about ensuring that future Vice Presidents are aware of the deductions. Zara Hussain noted that the changes would likely have to be manually imputed into the spreadsheet during the Room Ballot, as is the case for students on a year abroad. Zara Hussain said they would notify students affected by the deductions, who would then be able to remind Vice Presidents in future years.

Agreed (In favour 50, Against 2, Abstentions 4)

c) The “FULL-GROWN stage play for digital release” Financial Motion

Proposer: Jess Halliday

Seconded: Simone Dawes

This JCR notes that:

- a. The vast majority of funding sources for theatre have been indefinitely frozen
- b. ASAP post-lockdown, a student production company (non-profit) is filming a performance of ‘FULL-GROWN’
- c. The cast features St. John’s student Jessica Halliday
- d. In the last few years, St. John’s has become a college known for its drama, particularly with crucial JCR funding
- e. The production is committed to access to drama, with a mixed crew including new inexperienced members and actors
- f. The play is an original piece of writing, and on the strength of the script, the pilot episode of a limited series adaptation is in the pre-production process
- g. If funding for the stage play is secured fully through grants, all commissions from the digital release of the play will go directly to funding future student drama productions as opposed to covering costs
- h. Staging a production is an expensive endeavour and will cost around £1000:
 - i. staging a production now has the added expenses of cinematography and marketing for digital release, as live audiences are not permitted
 - ii. the production is being staged and filmed at the Ashmolean Museum, which is expensive.

This JCR believes:

- i. Access to drama should be improved, by any means necessary
- j. comedy and laughter make us all happier, better students
- k. St. John’s College’s reputation as supporting drama and the arts is an accomplishment and continuity should be encouraged
- l. St. John’s College should encourage original productions, especially in a pandemic that is doing its best to stop them

This JCR resolves:

- m. Give £300 from the Kendrew Arts Fund to Relatable Productions allowing them to put on and record a show to be digitally released in early 2021.
- n. Require a written report from the proposer.

Jess Halliday said they were involved in a project to film a play inside the Ashmolean museum; specifically, areas including the renaissance galleries, which would align well with the themes of the play. As the Ashmolean was an expensive venue, and given the added cost of not having a live audience, Jess asked the JCR to support the project with £300 from the Kendrew Arts Fund. Jess confirmed that they planned to release the video to stream via Amazon Prime.

Noam Rosenbaum asked why the Ashmolean had been chosen; in response, Jess Halliday said the Ashmolean would be accessible by all members of the cast and aligned well with the themes of the play. Noam Rosenbaum noted that free venues existed, including the St John’s auditorium or amphitheatre at the Said Business School.

Agreed (In favour 39, Against 4, Abstentions 13)

7. Any other business

Printers

Noam Rosenbaum noted that the printer in the JCR often ran out of paper; this led to further issues, including queued jobs that were suddenly released, causing wastage and annoyance.

Zara Hussain (Vice President) noted that it was not the JCR's responsibility to restock the printer, instead this was the role of the Domestic Stores Department, who can be emailed for more paper. Zara said the JCR could explore ways to better organise printed materials.

Lachlann Hinley (Secretary) encouraged members not to use the paper, given the environmental damage of the destruction of forests. Suzanne Kapelus suggested that the College could introduce a cost for printing. Noam Rosenbaum said this would be unfair and would penalise those without the means to pay.

Freshers' T-Shirts

Zara Hussain (Vice President) said that logistical challenges during Freshers' Week had interrupted the planned distribution of freshers' t-shirts, masks and discount cards. Zara was looking at alternate arrangements, possibly arranging times for freshers to pick-up materials that had not been distributed.

Vacation Residence

Phil Fernandes said that the JCR had not been consulted on the College's plans for vacation residence over the Christmas vacation. Phil had preemptively tried to get assurances from the College that students would not be evicted with short notice, as had occurred at the end of Hilary Term 2020. The College had assured Phil that certain categories of students would be eligible to stay in residence during the Christmas vacation; including students with specific welfare needs.

Phil Fernandes said that the email sent by the College Office last week made no reference to groups of students with specific welfare needs and appeared to be more restrictive than the assurances College had given. Phil doubted that College would move any further on the issue of vacation residence and had defended their policies as being in the interests of staff wellness.

Belongings in Rooms

Noam Rosenbaum asked for clarification on the College's decision to allow students to keep their possessions in their rooms over the Christmas vacation. Phil Fernandes (President) said that this is something that had been pushed for by the JCR. The College wanted students to box their belongings, so that — in the event that students were not in residence during Hilary and Trinity Terms — it may be easily posted to students. Phil did not find this decision rational.