



## **St John's College Junior Common Room**

**Minutes - 3rd Meeting, Trinity Term 2020**  
Sunday 24 May 2020, via Zoom, 4 pm

The meeting began at 4 pm, with Zara Hussain (Vice President) chairing and Lachlann Hinley (Secretary) as minute taker. Zara introduced the format of the meeting and noted that questions could be asked via the chat.

### **1. Minutes from the Previous Meeting**

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

### **2. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

Following an online ballot, the "We Need More Scots at Oxford!!" Financial Motion had passed, with 34 in favour, 2 against, and 2 abstentions.

### **3. Reports from Officers, Reps and Committees**

Written reports are available [here](#).

Ben Robinson (Treasurer) had followed up with the Finance Office on the status of the Charities Levy. Ben received an automated response.

No other Officer, Rep or Committee decided to give a verbal report.

### **4. Ratifications**

#### **Returning Officer (1 vacancy)**

No one stood for the position. Talav Bhimnathwala (Returning Officer's Assistant) encouraged members to stand for the position, saying that they would take instructions to make tea from any successful candidate. Zara Hussain (Vice President) remained Acting Returning Officer.

#### **Chair for TT20 (1 vacancy)**

No one stood for the position.

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

No one stood for the position.

## **Suspended Students Equality and Diversity Rep (2 vacancies)**

No one stood for the position.

## **Facilities Rep (1 vacancy)**

Nia Evans submitted a written hust ([appendix A](#)). Nia Evans was **ratified nem. con.**

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## **5. Motions**

### **a) General Meeting Remote Access Improvements (Part I) Motion**

Proposer: Toby Lam

Seconded: Leo Warburton

Toby Lam said that the motion was a way of allowing more people to participate; especially, those who were unable or unwilling to attend meetings. Toby said the current requirement for physical attendance at meetings, combined with the length of meetings, posed barriers to members attending, who may have many other commitments or a selective interest in certain motions.

Toby noted that, due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic, voting was currently being conducted online. Toby thought this was a good precedent.

Lachlann Hinley (Secretary) asked how the procedure that a motion 'not be put' interacted with the motion. Toby Lam said that certain procedural motions only had relevance within a meeting itself and worried that, if they were put to an online vote, they would be hard to make sense of.

Lachlann Hinley asked whether there was a danger of the motion discouraging attendance, which may itself limit debate. Toby Lam said that this was not an issue, as the motion retained the quorum of 25 members for physical meetings.

*Zara Hussain (Vice President) vacated the Chair in favour of Ben Robinson (Treasurer)*

Zara Hussain (Vice President) asked whether there should be a requirement in the motion to ask members to confirm, before voting, that they had read the draft minutes on the relevant topic. Toby Lam was open to an amendment providing for a check-box but noted that enforcement would be limited.

#### **Amendment 1 (proposed by Zara Hussain)**

**Insert** at the end of subclause j. of clause g.: "*The Secretary shall ask members to certify, before voting, that they either were present for the relevant discussion or have read the relevant sections of the draft minutes.*"

***Accepted as friendly***

Lachlann Hinley asked whether clauses k., l., and m. were to be added to Standing Policy. Toby Lam said they were happy with this option, but had been unsure about the best way

to ensure the Secretary, Social Media Reps and General Committee carried out the intention.

**Amendment 2 (proposed by Lachlann Hinley)**

**Insert** new clause ‘n.’: ‘Add items k., l., and m. to Standing Policy as Implementing Resolutions.’

**Accepted as friendly**

Phil Fernandes (President) said one of the reasons the JCR had not previously implemented online voting was the reliance placed on draft minutes. This could be an issue if a motion was controversial and speakers wanted to ensure their views were fairly represented in the minutes. Usually, minutes have to be approved at the subsequent JCR meeting to ensure accuracy. Additionally, Phil was concerned that the nuance of specific arguments could be lost through minutes.

Lachlann Hinley (Secretary) agreed with Phil and said, at present, draft minutes were sent to the proposers of motions to enable feedback. Lachlann suggested that the motion could be amended to ensure draft minutes were sent, in advance of voting, to people who had made significant contributions in the meeting. However, it was noted that there is no obligation for the Secretary to be neutral and the mechanisms to challenge the Secretary were often seen as a formality.

Toby Lam said, in the long term, it could be an idea to explore recording meetings and making those recordings available to members before they voted. In the short term, Toby said there needed to be a balance between completely failsafe representation of arguments and enabling participation. Toby said that they were putting faith in the Secretary to make accurate minutes.

**Amendment 3 (proposed by Phil Fernandes)**

In clause i., **replace**

“The Secretary shall publish a draft agenda at least **24 42** hours before the **physical general** meeting. They shall publish **draft minutes to facilitate online voting within 24 hours of the physical meeting’s closure.** the results of all motions passed **and the full minutes** within 24 hours ~~and the full minutes within 72 hours of the close of each meeting~~ **all votes being completed”**

with

“The Secretary shall publish a draft agenda at least **24 42** hours before the **physical general** meeting. ~~They shall publish~~ **At the end of the physical meeting, the Secretary shall:**

- a. Within 24 hours, produce draft minutes to facilitate online voting and send them to members who participated significantly in discussions**
- b. Give these members a reasonable opportunity to respond with factual corrections, although no longer than 12 hours**
- c. After any factual corrections have been accepted, publish the draft minutes to facilitate online voting**
- d. Within 24 hours of all votes being complete, publish full minutes, including the results of all motions passed. ~~within 24 hours~~**

**Accepted as friendly**

Lachlann Hinley (Secretary) said, at present, the Secretary has to publish draft minutes within 72 hours of meeting. The proposal would change this to 24 hours. Lachlann noted that it often involved several hours to write minutes and the 72 hour deadline was not always met, especially when discussions were exceptionally lengthy. It was suggested that the motion could be amended to give the Secretary more leeway. In response, Toby Lam noted that the Secretary only had to produce 'draft' minutes and, if the deadlines were moved back, the voting process would be delayed. Toby agreed, however, that the wording could change to take account of exceptional circumstances.

Phil Fernandes (President) said they supported the motion on the condition that there was a recognition that its requirements could not always be met. Phil said they wanted to avoid the procedure becoming an unreasonable burden on Secretaries.

**Amendment 4 (proposed by Lachlann Hinley)**

In clause i. (as amended), **replace**

***"At the end of the physical meeting, the Secretary shall:"***

*with*

***"At the end of the physical meeting, the Secretary shall endeavor to:"***

***Accepted as friendly***

Ben Robinson (Treasurer) suggested that the proposers of motions could be asked to produce a summary of their key points for the draft minutes. Phil Fernandes (President) said that the minutes were supposed to be a summary of the issues raised and it could be difficult to attempt to further condense discussion.

Phil Fernandes (President) noted that, if the motion was adopted, it would achieve the objectives of a secret ballot for all financial motions and make closed-eye voting for financial motions unnecessary. Phil suggested that Standing Policy be updated to reflect this

**Amendment 5 (proposed by Phil Fernandes)**

**Insert** new clause 'o.': *'Remove Standing Policy Believes Resolution 13 (The "Lady Justice Part THREE!" Standing Policy Motion, passed 2/02/20)'*

***Accepted as friendly***

Lachlann Hinley asked why only 'pre-submitted motions' would be put to an online vote. Some Standing Policy Motions could be considered controversial, but Standing Policy Motions did not require submission in advance so would not be subject to an online vote. Toby Lam said they had struggled to find a formulation that included only meaningful motions and excluded procedural motions, which were inappropriate to put to an online vote.

**Amendment 6 (proposed by Lachlann Hinley)**

1. In clause j. (as amended), **replace**

***"Voting shall be, with the exceptions for pre-submitted motions, by a show of hands as provided for by a. to d. below or via a secret ballot as set out in ~~§39a~~ §42a of this Standing Order. For pre-submitted motions, voting shall be via an online form as provided for by e. to h. Below."***

with

**“Voting shall be on motions pre-submitted under Article §56b and Standing Policy motions shall be via an online form as provided for by e. to h. below. Voting on all other motions shall be by a show of hands as provided for by a. to d. below or via a secret ballot as set out in ~~§39a~~ §42a of this Standing Order.”**

2. In subclause e. of clause j. (as amended), **insert** after **“For pre-submitted motions”**: **“and Standing Policy Motions”**

**Accepted as friendly**

Phil Fernandes (President) asked what the effect of the motion would be on the procedure to ‘move to a vote’. Phil suggested amending the motion to ensure that a ‘move to vote’ on a relevant motion would result in the meeting moving to the next motion.

### **Amendment 7 (proposed by Phil Fernandes)**

After clause ‘i.’, **insert** new clause ‘ii.’:

*Insert in Section 39a and 50 of the “Standing Order Table One: General Meetings of the JCR” the phrases as displayed in red and eliminating phrases stroked-through in bold*

39a. *“That the meeting move to a vote on the current business*

*i. If an objection is heard, then only one speech for and one against moving to vote will be heard, each lasting no longer than a minute.*

*ii. If no objection is heard, then the meeting proceeds to hear a concluding speech in favour and against the motion before the JCR.*

***iii. If successful, the procedure in §51 shall be followed and votes on pre-submitted motions and Standing Policy Motions will be held via an online form after the meeting***

50. *“The Chair or any other member may put a procedural motion to “move to vote” at any time in accordance with §37a of this Standing Order. Should this pass, then the proposer, seconder or a member of their choosing shall have a right to give a concluding speech for the motion being debated, which shall be responded to by a speech in opposition - if a member requests to do so - before the vote starts **or the next motion is moved (as determined by §51 of this Standing Order Table).**”*

**Accepted as friendly**

An updated version of the motion as amended has been added to the [agenda](#) (appendix 2) for reference.

**Motion agreed pending ratification (34 in favour, 6 against, 0 abstentions)**

## **b) General Meeting Remote Access Improvements (Part II) Motion**

Proposer: Toby Lam

Seconded: Leo Warburton

Toby Lam felt the motion was the “natural extension” to the first motion. Toby said that the motion would allow further participation in the JCR irrespective of whether a member could attend a meeting.

Phil Fernandes (President) said that, at present, members could participate in meetings without attending, for instance by sending written husts for rep positions. Phil said they accepted there was a case for enabling further participation of this kind. It was noted that the motion gives the Chair a great deal of discretion; for example, the chair can determine whether a contribution was in ‘good faith’ or not.

Toby Lam said that it was right for the Chair to be able to suppress contributions not in ‘good faith’. For instance, members could submit an excessive number of unhelpful contributions with the sole aim of disrupting meetings. Phil Fernandes said this was an extreme and unlikely eventuality, but agreed that the provision should exist in case it became an issue.

Phil Fernandes (President) asked whether it was appropriate for members to submit procedural motions, points of information and points of order without attending the meeting. Phil felt that these could be considered procedures only used in the course of discussion at a meeting.

Toby Lam was in favour of giving non-attendees the ability to ask points of information and gave the example of a motion that was factually incorrect. Lachlann Hinley (Secretary) added that one use of a point of order is to ask the chair to determine whether a motion is allowed under the Constitution (for instance, financial motions that do not align with the JCR’s charitable objectives); Lachlann suggested that it could be valuable for these issues to be raised by all members, even if they do not attend the meeting.

Lachlann Hinley (Secretary) asked about the way the Chair would be expected to include pre-submitted contributions in the course of a meeting. In the course of a physical meeting where there is disagreement, the Chair has to invite speakers in a balanced way. It was suggested that this could be harder if contributions were pre-submitted. Toby Lam agreed that the motion put a lot of faith in the ability and neutrality of the Chair but could not think of a better formulation to ensure participation.

*Zara Hussain (Vice President) vacated the Chair in favour of Ben Robinson (Treasurer)*

Zara Hussain (Vice President) said that normally the Chair was a non-Officer and the role was envisioned to be suitable for newcomers to the JCR. It was noted that the Chair was often relatively unknown and the motion gave them a lot of responsibility. Zara suggested that an alternative way of determining the order of pre-submitted speakers could involve randomisation.

Toby Lam suggested one solution could be to include all speeches in the draft agenda, so that members can read all of the speeches irrespective of whether they were called.

Lachlann Hinley (Secretary) noted that speeches at a meeting could be of unlimited duration, unless a specific time limit was imposed. It was suggested that there would be a discrepancy between pre-submitted speeches, which would be subject to a time limit, and speeches at a meeting. Lachlann asked what the rationale behind this was. In response, Toby Lam thought it was a fair way to stop people submitting excessively long contributions that added little to a discussion. Toby thought that, if a member felt strongly about a given meeting, they should be encouraged to attend the meeting in person to make their contribution.

Phil Fernandes (President) expressed concern that pre-submitted comments were both selected by the Chair and, if written, read out by the Secretary. Phil said this could lead members to attaching more weight to these comments or cause them to be mentioned first in discussions, which would give them more prominence in the minutes. Toby Lam suggested that the randomisation procedure suggested by Zara Hussain could be a solution to this issue.

Phil Fernandes (President) was confused about the exact operation of the randomisation idea and asked for clarity on how pre-submitted contributions should be balanced against contributions given in person. Zara Hussain (Vice President) suggested that speeches given at the meeting should be given priority, then pre-submitted contributions should be randomised via a random number generator and added at the end of a discussion. This would give meeting attendees the opportunity to end a discussion (through a “move to vote”) if they felt they had heard sufficient contributions.

Toby Lam said they favoured a model that put trust in the Chair. It was suggested that it was important to select speeches on the basis of their position (e.g. ‘for’ or ‘against’) and order them in a balanced way. Lachlann Hinley (Secretary) said this was a model similar to hustings, where the Returning Officer includes pre-submitted contributions based on their relevance. However, Lachlann questioned whether the Chair could be expected to read through all contributions in advance, especially given the Chair was not a member of the JCR Committee and sifting through contributions could foreseeably take hours. Zara Hussain (Vice President) reiterated that the Chair could potentially be someone with very little experience of the JCR and unable to fully appreciate the relevance of different contributions to issues under consideration.

Toby Lam suggested one solution might be to vest the Chair permanently with a designated JCR Officer. Phil Fernandes (President) said that the Chair was previously held by the President, but this was changed for two reasons: first, to increase participation in the JCR and, second, to allow members of the JCR Committee to address issues raised at a meeting without being bound by neutrality. Phil agreed with Zara Hussain that preference should be given to contributions delivered in person. Phil thought that the role of Chair should remain as neutral as possible and Zara’s idea of randomisation was potentially the best way forward.

Lachlann Hinley (Secretary) suggested that contributions should not be completely randomised and, instead, contributors should be asked to identify whether their contribution is ‘for’ or ‘against’ a given motion, then the Chair should take one submission ‘for’, followed by one submission ‘against’.

Toby Lam was not in favour of randomisation and was more keen on contributions being integrated in the course of a meeting. Zara Hussain said they were minded to push for an amendment.

Ben Robinson (Treasurer) suggested an alternative could be to make all contributions available to members via the agenda. The issue of deciding which contributions to accept would then become a matter for all attendees at a meeting. Lachlann Hinley (Secretary) cautioned against this approach for two reasons: first, pre-submitted contributions could be unfairly weighted to one side and this could give an unfair representation of the JCR's feelings on a matter and, second, there was a data protection issue around making pre-submitted videos available for everyone to potentially download. Toby Lam expressed concern that if pre-submitted contributions were solely listed on the agenda, they could have a considerably lesser weight than contributions given verbally; this would undermine the purpose of the motion to increase participation among non-meeting attendees.

Zara Hussain (Vice President) said they were still doubtful about some of the specifics of the motion and suggested adding a review clause. Lachlann Hinley (Secretary) suggested, instead, that the issue could be reserved until next term when it could be considered in more depth.

Toby Lam agreed with delaying the issue and asked for an assurance that the matter would be discussed next term. Zara Hussain (Vice President) said that this could be assured by the proposer re-submitting the motion at the second meeting of Michaelmas.

***Motion “not put” per Standing Order Table One §45***

## **6. Any Other Business**

Toby Lam said, in the course of drafting their motions, they had come across some errors in the Constitution.

- Toby Lam suggested that the conditions listed in Article §55 ought to be considered to make a motion “unconstitutional” instead of “constitutional. Lachlann Hinley (Secretary) clarified that the current wording was correct and that Article §55 was designed to prevent people proposing motions that achieved ‘constitutional’ changes, even if not described as ‘constitutional motions’.
- Toby Lam suggested there were referencing errors elsewhere in the Constitution. Lachlann Hinley (Secretary) said they could change referencing errors under Article §4 and asked to be made aware of any errors discovered.

*The meeting ended at 5.50 pm.*



## **Appendix 1: Hust from Nia Evans to be Facilities Rep**

“I would like to apply to be facilities rep as I believe the jcr could really be transformed into a nice, relaxing social space. I’d love to draw on everyones ideas to make sure it’s a space where everyone can enjoy”

nia.evans@sjc.ox.ac.uk



## **St John's College Junior Common Room**

Updated Agenda - 3rd Meeting, Trinity Term 2020  
Sunday 24 May 2020, via Zoom, 4 pm

### **1. Minutes from the Previous Meeting**

### **2. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

### **3. Reports from Officers, Reps and Committees**

### **4. Ratifications**

### **5. Motions**

General Meeting Remote Access Improvements (Part I) Motion

AMENDED General Meeting Remote Access Improvements (Part I) Motion

General Meeting Remote Access Improvements (Part II) Motion

### **6. Any Other Business**

## 1. Minutes from the Previous Meeting

Available on the website [here](#).

## 2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

## 3. Reports from Officers, Reps and Committees

Written reports are available [here](#).

## 4. Ratifications

### **Returning Officer (1 vacancy)**

The Returning Officer runs all elections, by-elections, referendums and secret ballots and has responsibility for the electoral rules. They are also responsible for overseeing the complaints procedure. The position is ratified annually.

### **Chair for TT20 (1 vacancy)**

The Chair is responsible for chairing General Meetings (usually 4 per term) and is ratified at the last meeting of each term. As there were no candidates at the last meeting, any chair ratified at this meeting would take over as chair immediately.

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

You do not need to attend the meeting to run for this position and can send a written 'hust' to the Secretary in advance. Anonymous questions and objections can also be sent. If there is more than one candidate for this position, the Returning Officer will hold a 'mini-election', in which any member who identifies as being part of this E&D group can vote.

### **Suspended Students Equality and Diversity Rep (2 vacancies)**

You do not need to attend the meeting to run for this position and can send a written 'hust' to the Secretary in advance. Anonymous questions and objections can also be sent. If there is more than one candidate for this position, the Returning Officer will hold a 'mini-election', in which any member who identifies as being part of this E&D group can vote.

### **Facilities Rep (1 vacancy)**

The Facilities Rep is responsible for the Games Room, Bar Extension/JCR Lounge, TV Room, DVD Room and Editing Suite. The Facilities Rep also maintains the JCR equipment loan schemes.

- Candidate: Nia Evans  
[Appendix 1](#) — Nia Evans' Hust

## 5. Motions

### a) General Meeting Remote Access Improvements (Part I) Motion

Proposer: Toby Lam

Seconded: Leo Warburton

#### This JCR notes that:

- a. Under the period affected by the Coronavirus Outbreak, JCR meetings have been moved online.
- b. The pandemic has caused various changes to the way meetings are conducted, motions are passed and quorum is defined.
- c. Such changes are only temporary and will be reverted back to normal procedures once the Coronavirus Outbreak has subsided.

#### This JCR believes that:

- d. Online Voting is a positive change to the JCR as it allows members to more easily participate in the JCR's democratic actions.
- e. Online Voting should remain even after the Coronavirus Outbreak passes and the constitution should be amended to reflect and allow this change.
- f. The idea of quorum required of motions should be counted by its votes rather than participation in the physical meeting in light of the proposed changes above
- g. As participation would be easier, the minimum requirement for quorum should be increased slightly and be standardised for most situations (to 30 and hence eliminating the condition as set out if there is a vote difference of less than 10 votes) to reflect this fact.

#### This JCR therefore resolves to:

- h. Insert in Section 39 and 45 of the "Constitution" the phrases as displayed in red and eliminating phrases stroked-through in bold:

~~**"There be 25 full must members present throughout an Ordinary General Meeting, unless the voting on a Motion results in a result where the margin between the 'yes' votes and the 'no' votes is fewer than 10. In this case, The quorum shall be deemed to be 30 and,**~~ **For the physical meeting to proceed, there should be 25 members present. For an online vote to be valid, at least 30 members should vote. if a quorum not being present, If a vote on a motion is inquorate, the motion shall be placed at the top of the agenda at the next ordinary meeting and the Secretary shall be instructed to draw the attention of members to the fact that motion has been deemed inquorate at the previous meeting. This process shall repeat until a quorum of 30 is present votes is achieved."**

- i. Insert in Section 16 of the "Standing Order Table One: General Meetings of the JCR" the phrases as displayed in red and eliminating phrases stroked-through in bold:

~~**"The Secretary shall publish a draft agenda at least 24 42 hours before the physical general meeting. They shall publish draft**~~

**minutes to facilitate online voting within 24 hours of the physical meeting's closure. the results of all motions passed and the full minutes within 24 hours and the full minutes within 72 hours of the close of each meeting all votes being completed"**

- j. Insert in Section 51 of the "Standing Order Table One: General Meetings of the JCR" the phrases as displayed in red and eliminating phrases stroked-through in bold:

*"Voting shall be, **with the exceptions for pre-submitted motions** by a show of hands **as provided for by a. to d. below** or via a secret ballot as set out in ~~§39a~~ **§42a** of this Standing Order. **For pre-submitted motions, voting shall be via an online form as provided for by e. to h. below.***

- a. *Once voting has started on a motion no JCR member entering the room may participate in the vote or subsequent recounts.*
  - b. *A simple majority shall be achieved when the 'yes' votes exceed the 'no' votes. Abstentions shall be recorded as null votes. The Chair and minute taker shall be recorded as null votes. Only in the event of a tie may the Chair vote and this is the casting vote.*
  - c. *If there is a clear majority on a show of hands, the Chair may take this as the result without the need for a full count, provided that there is no objection from the floor. Otherwise the Chair, Secretary and Returning Officer shall fully count the votes.*
  - d. *Up to two recounts may be requested and the result shall be the decision which is reached at least twice.*
  - e. ***For pre-submitted motions, the Secretary shall produce an online voting form with the options 'for', 'against' and 'abstain'***
  - f. ***This Online form should be available immediately after the draft minute for said meeting is released and should be available for of 48 hours.***
  - g. ***The Secretary shall endeavour to bring the draft minutes to the attention of members before they vote.***
  - h. ***If a secret ballot is requested for a pre-submitted motion, as per Standing Order §42a, the above procedure (e. to g.) shall be followed by the Returning Officer instead.***
- k. Mandate the Secretary to renumber and re-reference the Constitution accordingly.
- l. Mandate the Social Media Reps to advertise the new changes and options to the JCR and to do so annually for the freshers
- m. Mandate the JCR General Committee to oversee its implementation

**aa) AMENDED General Meeting Remote Access Improvements (Part I) Motion**

Proposer: Toby Lam

Seconded: Leo Warburton

**This JCR notes that:**

- a. Under the period affected by the Coronavirus Outbreak, JCR meetings have been moved online.
- b. The pandemic has caused various changes to the way meetings are conducted, motions are passed and quorum is defined.
- c. Such changes are only temporary and will be reverted back to normal procedures once the Coronavirus Outbreak has subsided.

**This JCR believes that:**

- d. Online Voting is a positive change to the JCR as it allows members to more easily participate in the JCR's democratic actions.
- e. Online Voting should remain even after the Coronavirus Outbreak passes and the constitution should be amended to reflect and allow this change.
- f. The idea of quorum required of motions should be counted by its votes rather than participation in the physical meeting in light of the proposed changes above
- g. As participation would be easier, the minimum requirement for quorum should be increased slightly and be standardised for most situations (to 30 and hence eliminating the condition as set out if there is a vote difference of less than 10 votes) to reflect this fact.

**This JCR therefore resolves to:**

- h. Insert in Section 39 and 45 of the "Constitution" the phrases as displayed in red and eliminating phrases stroked-through in bold:

**~~"There be 25 full must members present throughout an Ordinary General Meeting, unless the voting on a Motion results in a result where the margin between the 'yes' votes and the 'no' votes is fewer than 10. In this case, The quorum shall be deemed to be 30 and,~~ For the physical meeting to proceed, there should be 25 members present. For an online vote to be valid, at least 30 members should vote. ~~if a quorum not being present,~~ If a vote on a motion is inquorate, the motion shall be placed at the top of the agenda at the next ordinary meeting and the Secretary shall be instructed to draw the attention of members to the fact that motion has been deemed inquorate at the previous meeting. This process shall repeat until a quorum of 30 ~~is present~~ votes is achieved."**

- i. Insert in Section 16 of the "Standing Order Table One: General Meetings of the JCR" the phrases as displayed in red and eliminating phrases stroked-through in bold:

**~~"The Secretary shall publish a draft agenda at least 24 42 hours before the physical general meeting. They shall publish At the end of the physical meeting, the Secretary shall endeavor to:~~**

- a. **Within 24 hours, produce draft minutes to facilitate online voting and send them to members who participated significantly in discussions**
  - b. **Give these members a reasonable opportunity to respond with factual corrections, although no longer than 12 hours**
  - c. **After any factual corrections have been accepted, publish the draft minutes to facilitate online voting**
  - d. **Within 24 hours of all votes being complete, publish full minutes, including the results of all motions passed. ~~within 24 hours~~**
- ii. Insert in Section 39a and 50 of the “Standing Order Table One: General Meetings of the JCR” the phrases as displayed in red and eliminating phrases stroked-through in bold
  - 39a. *“That the meeting move to a vote on the current business*
    - i. *If an objection is heard, then only one speech for and one against moving to vote will be heard, each lasting no longer than a minute.*
    - ii. *If no objection is heard, then the meeting proceeds to hear a concluding speech in favour and against the motion before the JCR.*
    - iii. ***If successful, the procedure in §51 shall be followed and votes on pre-submitted motions and Standing Policy Motions will be held via an online form after the meeting***
  - 50. *“The Chair or any other member may put a procedural motion to “move to vote” at any time in accordance with §37a of this Standing Order. Should this pass, then the proposer, seconder or a member of their choosing shall have a right to give a concluding speech for the motion being debated, which shall be responded to by a speech in opposition - if a member requests to do so - before the vote starts **or the next motion is moved (as determined by §51 of this Standing Order Table).***
- j. Insert in Section 51 of the “Standing Order Table One: General Meetings of the JCR” the phrases as displayed in red and eliminating phrases stroked-through in bold:
  - “Voting ~~shall be~~ on motions pre-submitted under Article §56b and Standing Policy motions shall be via an online form as provided for by e. to h. below. Voting on all other motions shall be*** by a show of hands ***as provided for by a. to d. below*** or via a secret ballot as set out in ~~§39a~~ ***§42a*** of this Standing Order.
    - a. *Once voting has started on a motion no JCR member entering the room may participate in the vote or subsequent recounts.*
    - b. *A simple majority shall be achieved when the ‘yes’ votes exceed the ‘no’ votes. Abstentions shall be recorded as null votes. The Chair and minute taker shall be recorded as null votes. Only in the event of a tie may the Chair vote and this is the casting vote.*
    - c. *If there is a clear majority on a show of hands, the Chair may take this as the result without the need for a full count, provided that there is no objection from the floor. Otherwise*

*the Chair, Secretary and Returning Officer shall fully count the votes.*

- d. Up to two recounts may be requested and the result shall be the decision which is reached at least twice.*
  - e. **For pre-submitted motions and Standing Policy Motions, the Secretary shall produce an online voting form with the options 'for', 'against' and 'abstain'***
  - f. **This Online form should be available immediately after the draft minute for said meeting is released and should be available for of 48 hours. The Secretary shall ask members to certify, before voting, that they either were present for the relevant discussion or have read the relevant sections of the draft minutes.***
  - g. **The Secretary shall endeavour to bring the draft minutes to the attention of members before they vote.***
  - h. **If a secret ballot is requested for a pre-submitted motion, as per Standing Order §42a, the above procedure (e. to g.) shall be followed by the Returning Officer instead.***
- k. Mandate the Secretary to renumber and re-reference the Constitution accordingly.
  - l. Mandate the Social Media Reps to advertise the new changes and options to the JCR and to do so annually for the freshers
  - m. Mandate the JCR General Committee to oversee its implementation
  - n. Add items k., l., and m. to Standing Policy as Implementing Resolutions.
  - o. Remove Standing Policy Believes Resolution 13 (The "Lady Justice Part THREE!" Standing Policy Motion, passed 2/02/20)



## b) General Meeting Remote Access Improvements (Part II) Motion

Proposer: Toby Lam

Seconded: Leo Warburton

### This JCR notes that:

- a. In the motion "JCR General Meeting Further Online Participation Part I" Motion the case for online voting has been clearly stated
- b. Historically, there has been roughly 40 reoccurring attendants to JCR meetings out of a theoretical pool of more than 400
- c. Many incentives have been offered by the JCR to encourage more members to participate, but numbers have mostly remained similar throughout the years.
- d. Although there has recently been a rep for suspended students, there remains no way that suspended students can participate in JCR General Meeting.
- e. During the Coronavirus Outbreak pandemic era, members that are of drastically different time zones to will not be able to participate in JCR General Meetings and would remain the case if a similar situation were to arise in the future.
- f. Oxford Students live a diverse and often very busy life during our 8-week terms.

### This JCR believes that:

- g. The main reason for the historical number of attendants and the biggest barrier to a student's participation of JCR General Meetings and in extension interest in JCR actions, is the requirement for physical attendance.
- h. The reasoning for the above can be many-fold, students might be too bogged down or can't be bothered to devote 2 full hours in an otherwise fully packed and tiring week; there being too many motion that they simply don't care enough to be there for the entire period; have events that consistently clash with this meeting, such as society events or going home over the weekend; or they simply might be too intimidated to voice their opinion in person.
- i. Removing this barrier means that students can much more easily engage in some of the important decisions that the JCR might partake and "attendance" should increase
- j. Whilst Online Voting is a very important improvement in the right direction, it cannot provide a way for people that might fall into the categories above to fully interact with the JCR.
- k. Such full interactions are important as it provides not only a binary note of opinion but a way to influence other members of the JCR and deliberate any subtleties in their opinion which is crucial to any democratic process.

### This JCR therefore resolves to:

- l. Insert a new clause under "Standing Order Table One: General Meetings of the JCR", specifically under "Orders Regarding Conduct at Meetings" with the phrases as displayed in red and eliminating phrases stroked-through in bold.

***"Members may submit speeches to the chair of a General Meeting Online. They must be written or recorded statement of***

***up to than 400 words or 2 minutes respectively for discussion of a particular motion. Such must be submitted after the draft agenda is released and before the physical meeting begins. This can be selected by the Chair as they would invite members for speeches as stated in Standing Order §48. If selected it should be read out or played by the Secretary.”***

- m. Insert a new clause under “Standing Order Table One: General Meetings of the JCR”, specifically under “Orders Regarding Conduct at Meetings” with the phrases as displayed in red and eliminating phrases stroked-through in bold

***“Members may propose the following points and procedural motions to the General Meeting Online.***

- a. Points of Order as Stated in Standing Order §35***
- b. Points of Information as Stated in Standing Order §36***
- c. That the motion to be split and voted in parts as stated in Standing Order §37c.***

***Such points and motions must be accompanied by a written or recorded statement of up to 400 words or 2 minutes respectively. It must be submitted after the draft agenda is released and before the physical meeting begins. These motions can be suppressed by the chair if they are not deemed to have been submitted in good faith. Accepted speeches should be read out or played out by the Secretary during the meeting”***

- n. Insert a new clause under “Standing Order Table One: General Meetings of the JCR”, specifically under “Orders Regarding Conduct at Meetings” with the phrases as displayed in red and eliminating phrases stroked-through in bold

***“Members may propose Amendments to the Chair of a General Meeting Online, in a similar fashion as stated in Constitution §44. This must be accompanied by a written or recorded speech of up to 400 words or 2 minutes respectively. Such must be submitted after the draft agenda is released and before the physical meeting begins. These Amendments can be suppressed by the chair if they are not deemed to have been submitted in good faith. Accepted speeches should be read out or played out by the Secretary during the meeting”***

- o. Insert a new clause under “Standing Order Table One: General Meetings of the JCR”, specifically under “Orders Regarding Conduct at Meetings” with the phrases as displayed in red and eliminating phrases stroked-through in bold

***“Members may propose Objections to the Chair of the General Meeting Online for the following***

- a. Previous Minutes as stated in Standing Order §20***
- b. The Secretary taking minutes of the discussion for motions or motions they propose or second. as stated in Standing Order §26.***

***c. Termly re-ratification of Reps as Stated in Standing Order §27***

***d. Charities Motions Nem Con as Stated in Standing Order §31***

***Such objections must be written or recorded and must be submitted after the draft agenda is released and before the physical meeting begins. They must also be accompanied by a short explanation of the reason of action. These Objections can be suppressed by the chair if they are not deemed to have been submitted in good faith. Accepted speeches should be read out or played out by the Secretary during the meeting”***

- p. Mandate the Secretary to renumber and re-reference the Constitution accordingly.
- q. Mandate the Social Media Reps to advertise the new changes and options to the JCR and to do so annually for the freshers.
- r. Mandate the JCR General Committee to oversee its implementation

## **6. Any Other Business**