



St John's College Junior Common Room

Minutes - 1st Meeting, Trinity Term 2021
Sunday 2st May, Zoom, 7:30pm

The meeting opened at 7:39 pm and was chaired by Jake Hatton (Academic Affairs), with minutes taken by Aoife Hegarty (Secretary).

1. Minutes from the Previous Meeting

There were no objections.

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters raised.

3. Reports from Officers, Reps and Committees

Emmet O'Leary, President

Emmet has been working on the COVID roadmap recently with college. The Rents and Charges negotiations will be taking place this term, and Emmet noted that they were proposing that hall prices be frozen, were also thinking about the JCR social spaces, and will tackle 'the Big Laundry Question'. They're also in conversations about the JCR space and how there is not much to do there, and are looking at getting a coffee machine like in Kendrew. Rents and Charges is a good opportunity to bring issues to college- if you have an issue you'd like to raise, let them or another exec member know.

Alex Foster, Welfare Officer

All the welfare officers are just back in college together. Peer supporter drop-ins are going well, there will be doughnut deliveries next week and also 'pidge an album'. College weddings are being planned for 4th week, after the COVID guidelines change and 30 people are allowed to meet outside. This plan is waiting for the approval of the junior deans, but Alex is hopeful about the outcome. The weddings will be for both 2nd years and 1st years.

The following Officers and Reps were not present:

- Equality & Diversity Officer: Naomi Reiter
- VP: Tara Daemi
- Discounts: Ozan Erder
- Bike Reps: Ozan Erder and Ben Robinson

- Art Reps: Ollie Parkes and Zoe Hind
- Charities Reps: Suzanne Kapelus and Freya Allery
- Sports Reps: Felix Stocker and Milo Mallaby

4a. Ratifications

- Audit Hilary 2021 - [here](#).

There were no objections.

- PRAT Rep (1 vacancy)

Zara Hussain ran for PRAT

Zara knew the acronym, and pledged to give alcohol and treats, and to make the JCR great again.

Zara confirmed to Emmet that they were not implying that the JCR was not already great.

Zara confirmed that they would consider doing pizza again.

When asked what St John's bar cocktail she would be, Zara answered that they would be the 'Fun and Fruity', a cocktail which Yannick had recently made for them.

- Chair (1 vacancy)

No takers.

- Facilities Rep (1 vacancy)

No takers.

- E&D Reps

- Disabilities (1 vacancy)

No takers.

5. Items for Discussion

a) JCR President's room

Emmet O'Leary noted that the Exec get boosted up the room ballot, as a thank you and an incentive. There are a few rooms that are usually chosen between, and college is keen to designate a room for the president and invest in furniture etc. Emmet suggested that this could be a space to host social events because the JCR president was usually a friendly/familiar face around college, and that college might let us leave stuff in there over the vacations. Emmet

wanted to ask what people think about this. They acknowledged that part of the joy and part of the prize is that you get the choice, and were interested in what people thought about it.

Zara Hussain said that the problem was that the president would only have the room for one term.

Phil Fernandes said that they hoped that they were a familiar face around college, but had agreed with college last term that while college was free to invest, they did think it was nice as president to have the full choice. Phil said that the rooms are nice and do have big social areas but are not realistically big enough to host the freshers for big social events. They also noted that the proposed president's room was not accessible for everyone, and that this was a big problem.

Alex Foster agreed with Zara about having the kit stored in the JCR for the president and said that the president did not need a super massive room for it to be satisfactory.

Observation from Emmet: if you were thinking about this line of social events, the JCR could become more cliquely and it would be quite a specific type of social event which could be hosted here.

Zara noted that the onus should not be on the JCR President to host in their rooms- it's not right, and there are other spaces to host social events in college.

In the chat, Alex noted that investing in the JCR social spaces would remove the need to host in the president's room.

Simone Dawes said that you never knew who the president was going to be, and that the presidents could have different priorities, perhaps like needing a kitchen because of hall prices.

6. Agenda Items

a) The "India COVID Appeal" Emergency Charities Motion

Proposer: Phil Fernandes

Seconded: Zara Hussain

Phil Fernandes explained what emergency charities motions are, and that they are intended to support causes which need immediate funding and which cannot wait until the next charities meeting or for college to give the money. This money is 'ready to go'; the ~£260 pounds is the money left in the Charities Budget. The COVID situation in India right now is truly shocking - Phil noted the high number of deaths and cases in India, and said watching this situation unfold could make people of Indian and South Asian descent, like them, feel helpless. Charities like Oxfam have come together in the case of humanitarian crises, and they have had an ongoing COVID fund. The situation in India is now so serious that they are diverting all their funds to

India. If we vote on this motion, the money can go straight to the charity, and we will not have to wait for college.

Emmet noted that this was a very important cause to support because the mantra in the UK had been about supporting the NHS, and that we were in a privileged position to have had access to this medical treatment.

b) The "By-elections shouldn't be rushed" Constitutional Motion

Proposer: Emmet O'Leary, President

Seconded: Zara Hussain, Returning Officer

Zara Hussain said that for Officers who were going on their Year Abroad, the Returning Officer had to run the elections to replace them in 7th and 8th Week. This motion would change the constitution to give the Returning Officer more time to run the by-election. Zara noted that they had exams in 7th and 8th week, and that the current system made this very difficult for no reason.

c) The "Supporting internationals means supporting internationals" Financial Motion

Proposer: Emmet O'Leary, President

Seconded: Matt Barrett, International Rep

Emmet gave a short speech in favour of the motion. This motion came about because of meetings which Emmet had had with the international Reps, and as a result of the high costs facing international students during the pandemic. Emmet wanted to be able to support international students who came to the JCR for financial support, and noted that we currently have a Police Registration Fund which has not been particularly well advertised or well used. This motion would merge the budgets of the International Rep and the Police Registration Fund, and the International Reps would be responsible for spending the money on whatever will best support international students, specifically with paying COVID tests and police registration. They said that on Rents and Charges they had received feedback that some students felt that JCR spending could be more effective and that they were keen to merge these budgets to allow the International Reps more control in their spending.

Zara asked how the limited funds would be managed, given that there was not very much money and many students. Emmet said that their primary avenue was to ask college for more money first, especially in Michelmas when the residency requirement was likely to return. They would take enquiries for students who had applied to college for funding from college, and noted that this process would have to be very quick. Emmet said that this money could be spent on many things, and noted that the International Reps were very keen to hold social events for

international students before Freshers. Emmet said that testing had started the thought process behind this motion, but was not sure how much uptake there would be.

Zara noted that there might be more uptake for this scheme than Emmet might have anticipated, and asked about means testing. Zara said that it was not necessary for Emmet to have an answer for this yet, but asked that they think about it.

Emmet said that this was already a thing, and that it was not being advertised very well. Emmet suggested that this scheme could mirror the JCR Ball for All Scheme. Emmet said that it would be good to get a third party involved who had no stake in who the student is.

Zara disagreed with that. They thought that the main barrier was that people felt that they were not worthy of the money, but that 50 quid would make them feel like their test to release would be worth it. They suggested splitting the money between anyone who applies, and suggested that students who needed more money could go to college.

Emmet said that there were 41 students from outside the EU, and over 100 from inside the EU. Emmet said that the question was whether this was really the JCR's role, and said that there might be other avenues for us to explore. They noted that they had many problems with the college's hardship funds scheme, including the 'Dickensian' name.

Phil Fernandes said that this would have a lot of demand, beyond the amount of money which this fund would contain. Phil wanted to talk about a separate point - if we are combining these budgets, the extent to which we can support international students in the extra expenses they incur is limited by our funds. Phil asked if these two purposes, entertainment (like decorations or international hall) and helping with the police registration fund, might be in conflict.

Emmet said yes, and noted that the E&D Rep position was designed to be low-commitment. Emmet said that this discussion has made clear that to fulfill this role there would need to be more guidelines in place for the scheme, but that this motion was the first step.

d) The "Support Checking Out" Financial Motion

Proposer: Adem Berbic

Seconded: Alexandra Mitchell-Males

Adem gave a short speech in favour of the motion. They described Checking Out, and said that it was to be filmed as a short film and would be released in 5th week with 25% of the proceeds going towards Pink Week. This motion is asking for £100 towards the costs, for lighting and especially for aging makeup. There have not been a lot of opportunities for student drama over the past year and this is one of the first opportunities for students to act. They imagined that it might be nice to be able to spend some JCR money on some art.

Emmet said that the JCR had currently spent just 12% of the Kendrew Arts Funds, and asked if Adem had considered whether more money would enhance the production. Adem said that they were 'all ears'.

Adem amended his motion and asked the JCR for £250 for the production from the Kendrew Arts Fund.

Zara asked that an amendment be added to ask Adem to write a report for the JCR website. Those at the JCR meeting were unsure as to the status of the JCR website 'news' section, and the ex-acting IT Officer noted that they had recommended that the new IT Officer delete the section.

7. Any Other Business

Emmet briefly discussed the rents and charges prize draw. We drew the names. The winners are... (*drum roll please*) going to be contacted. If this was you, congratulations.

The JCR meeting ended at 20:40