



St John's College Junior Common Room

Minutes - 4th Meeting, Trinity Term 2021
Sunday 13 June 2021, Zoom, 7:30pm

Meeting opened on Sunday at 19:35.

1. Minutes from the Previous Meeting

Available [here](#).

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

3. Reports from Officers, Reps and Committees

- Written reports: [Officer and Rep Reports TT21 GM4](#).
- Verbal reports requested from
 - Equality & Diversity Officer: Naomi Reiter
 - Treasurer: Maya Blanco
 - VP: Tara Daemi
 - Entz: Ronan Foley and Shaina Sangha
 - EnvEthics: Elliott Cocker
 - Art Reps: Ollie Parkes and Zoe Hind
 - Charities Reps: Freya Allery
 - Women's: Simone Dawes
 - Sports Reps: Felix Stocker and Milo Mallaby
 - Welfare Officers
- **Zoe Reed gave a welfare update: Alex and they both have exams coming up, have TW teas coming up and they say everything is going fine!**

4a. Ratifications

Oxford SU

Annual ratification of membership.

Phil explains why we need to ratify this and say that we want this to be part of Oxford SU.

Positions

Chair for MT21 (1 vacancy)

The Chair is responsible for chairing General Meetings (usually 4 per term) and is ratified at the last meeting of each term.

Nick Rix Perez puts themselves forward.

JCR Auditors for TT21 (2 vacancies)

The auditors are responsible for auditing the JCR's accounts. The auditors are ratified termly. Anyone who served as an Officer or Rep since the last audit or has a conflict of interest which may jeopardise impartial and independent auditing is ineligible for appointment or ratification.

Talav puts themselves forward for their fourth consecutive audit.

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 you want to run, email me!

We discussed the reps who would be resigning this year, and ratified those who wanted to stay on.

5. Items for Discussion

6. Agenda Items

a) The "Nature is really cool" Financial Motion

Proposer: Phil Fernandes

Seconded: Ayla Webb

This JCR notes that:

- a. The Oxford University Nature Conservation Society (OUNCS) is a student-run society offering outdoor events and talks on a wide range of current and contentious conservation issues, given by distinguished speakers from the University of Oxford and beyond.
- b. Running a society inevitably incurs a large number of costs which can be difficult to meet for relatively small societies.
- c. Some events planned for the coming year include bat-spotting walks, BioBlitzes, an OUNCS podcast, and more free talks from conservation experts.
- d. Members of the St John's JCR have been heavily involved in the society in recent years, with two John's students serving on the most recent committee and many more being members and/or regularly attending OUNCS events.

This JCR believes that:

- e. Nature is a resource that we all benefit from and its conservation is a worthwhile cause to support.
- f. The work of OUNCS plays an important role in increasing awareness of conservation issues and reconnecting Oxford students to the natural world.
- g. JCR members have often been involved in the society, either by being on the committee or by attending events.
- h. St John's students in particular will benefit from the work of OUNCS as, COVID-permitting, St John's will continue to host events throughout the coming year, bringing free talks from top-quality speakers to the front door of John's students.
- i. Without financial support, OUNCS will struggle to effectively carry out its work.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- i. Give £300 to OUNCS from the Financial Motions Budget.

Phil said that they would be really quick- they explained what OUNCS was, and what they do, mentioning that they had recently done the BioBlitz where you go and identify as many species as possible. There are sometimes events in Johns, Johns students will benefit from this contribution- they buy equipment like equipment used for bat spotting.

Emmet said "thanks. Nice motion, what is your favourite animal? The Chair blocks this. (the secretary will note that the chair is being incredibly efficient tonight, perhaps because of their exams tomorrow.)"

b) The “NBSIxArt” Financial Motion

Proposer: Alice Hackney

Seconded: Rhianna Watt

This JCR notes that:

- a. The Art, Biodiversity and Climate Network is a TORCH Research Group that is currently pairing up artists with various labs in Oxford.
- b. The collective of six pairings have the potential to show work at COP26, the 6b gallery in Saint Denis, Paris, and locally in Oxford. Exhibition venues and dates are yet to be confirmed due to Covid.
- c. These are high profile venues that require carefully executed works.
- d. Fine Artist Alice Hackney is paired with Nature Based Solutions Initiative, and together they are making artwork about the complex thoughts and emotions behind climate change policy.
- e. The production of high-quality works suitable for display at high profile venues such as COP26 requires extensive costs for materials. The independent student artists involved have been given a small budget from TORCH, but in order to create works to the highest standard, the collective have been encouraged to seek JCR funding for the various pieces.

This JCR believes that:

- g. The organisation and installation of these exhibitions will be an important formative experience for the young artists involved.
- h. Exhibitions such as this are vital to the formation of the career of student artists.
- i. The high-profile exhibition will help to promote St John’s as a centre for excellence in the Arts.
- j. Exhibiting at a venue like COP26 will raise St John’s profile as a college in support of environmental issues.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- l. Give £200 to Alice Hackney’s contribution to the ABC Network’s exhibitions from the Kendrew Arts Fund
- m. Require a written report from the Proposer, to be uploaded to the News section on the website

Alice said that they were an art student and had been working on this project, which might go on display in various galleries depending on covid. They need the money to make the thing, because they need to use UV lights for this project about how bees and birds see nature.

Nick asked whether anyone had any questions for Alice.

Zara asked that Alice advertise their project on the FB group so that members of the JCR can see the work because it sounded really cool. Alice said that they were hoping to show the work in the student exhibition space in Dolphin Quad and would post about it.

c) The “Beehive Residents (2020-21) Ought To Be Reimbursed” Standing Policy Motion

Proposer: Nick Rix Perez

Seconded: Jake Hatton

This JCR notes that:

- a) The Beehive kitchens have been closed to Beehive residents all year; in previous years, students living in Beehive have had kitchen access.
- b) First year students cannot choose their accommodation and are not informed of their accommodation before arrival.
- c) First year students living in Beehive during 2020/2021 did not know that they would not have kitchen access, or the financial and dietary consequences of this.
- d) Students living in Beehive in 2019/2020 and students living in Beehive in 2020/2021 pay the same rent.
- e) Living in accommodation without kitchen access increases the cost of living for students, who must pay more to eat out or in hall. Eating meals in hall costs students £42 a week, not including the cost of breakfast, or the meals out which students must pay for when hall is closed.
- f) Living in accommodation without kitchen access is a serious welfare concern for some students, who would not have chosen to live in accommodation without kitchen access had they had the choice.
- g) The college room grading system is not transparent; it is not made clear to students how their rooms are graded or how exactly this relates to their rent.

This JCR believes that:

- h) Students living in the Beehive in 2020/2021 should pay less rent than the students living in the Beehive in 2019/2020 on account of the formers' inability to access kitchens all year.
- i) First year students should all have access to a kitchen, as stipulated in the Undergraduate Licence Agreement (1.b).
- j) College communications with students should be improved. Students deserve to have their concerns listened to, and properly addressed. Where students have genuine concern, especially of a financial nature, the College ought to provide adequate justification for its decisions. Currently, the Beehive members do not feel that this expectation has been met.
- k) College room grading should be more transparent; students should know exactly what they are paying for.
- l) College should reimburse students in Beehive for a portion of the extra costs which they have faced because of the closure of their kitchens.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- m) Mandate the JCR President to bring this motion to college and to request some form of recompense for students living in Beehive this year.
- n) Mandate the JCR President to maintain contact with students living in Beehive on the progress of these discussions with college, and follow up with this in Michaelmas.
- o) Mandate the JCR Executive Committee to work with college on the new room grading system, and to do their best to ensure that students who do not have**

kitchen access pay less rent, and that the room grading system is more transparent.

- p) Add items (m), (n), and (o) to the JCR Standing Policy as implementing resolutions.

Nick said that on behalf of those living in the beehive they wanted to express their discontent with college - the beehive kitchens had been closed all years, Nick said this was fair enough because it was small and a high-contact facilities but the point was that rent has been exactly the same. Nick says that they are paying for something which they can't use and have to eat out every single meal which is more expensive than making pasta. The accommodation office were slow to reply and took two weeks to reply to the second email from the students. Ideally they want the cost of the kitchen back from their rent, or would like some reimbursement and some form of compensation. They want something like cheaper hall meals, 30 free meals and feel that the JCR recognised that the Beehive residents were in a worse position than they had been in previous years. Nick says that some people think that the JCR cannot actually get anything done and that this would really help students.

Emmet suggests an amendment: removing item (o) which is more fully addressed in the next motion and adding " as implementing resolution".

Accepted as friendly

Emmet asks what the best way would be for them to keep in touch with the Beehive residents. Nick says a thread of emails, maybe a meeting if it seems necessary or appropriate. They trust that Emmet will be able to play it by ear and do as they see best.

Nick claims the chair again.

d) The "Make rents transparent" Standing Policy Motion

Proposer: Jake Hatton

Seconded: Zara Hussain

This JCR notes that:

- b) The process used by college to calculate rent is old and seems inconsistent.
- c) Discussing rents and proposing changes is difficult without the information of how college decides their rents.

This JCR believes that:

- d) It would benefit all students to know how their rents are calculated.
- d) This knowledge would also allow students to address perceived inconsistencies more effectively.
- e) It would not harm college in any way to make clear their process in this regard.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- f) Mandate either the President, Vice-President or Domestic Officers to address this with the college in Domestic Committee, and at Rents and Charges next year, **and to ensure that this transparency is incorporated into college's new room grading system.**
- g) Add item (f) to JCR Standing Policy

Jake gives a short speech in favour of the motion: the substance of this motion is what was struck off the bottom of the previous motion. The idea is that the process which college uses to decide how much rent students should pay on different rooms is unclear and it is difficult for students to negotiate their rents without knowing how their rents are calculated. It would not hurt college at all to make clear how their rents are calculated.

Nick asks if there are any questions. There are not.

Zara proposes an amendment along the lines of “Mandate either the President, Vice-President or Domestic Officers to address this with college in domestic committee, and at rents and charges next year. Also ensuring this is incorporated into the new college rent grading system ”

Accepted as friendly

7. Any Other Business

a) The “Arcadia” Financial Motion

Proposer: Oliver Cox

Seconded: Cyrus Gilmartin

This JCR notes that:

- a. Arcadia is an original film written by Oliver Cox that is being filmed in Summer 2021. The film is going to be 25 minutes long and set in Oxford.
- b. There are 4 members of the JCR currently involved as members of the cast and crew. The film’s writer and director is a member of the JCR as well as the creative director, a camera operator and three of the actors.
- c. The film depicts a future where environmental and world health issues have reorganised the social and political set up. Written within the eco-dystopia genre, the film shines a light on how there can be no ‘back to normal’ within our environmental future.
- d. The film has already been advertised to JCR members in the college magazine ‘1555’.
- e. We will not be attempting to monetise this project but will be submitting the film to small competitions in the UK. Any money awarded will be put to use in environmental action in Oxford University, either through the Oxford Climate Society or the JCR.

This JCR believes that:

- f. The creative projects in which JCR members are involved should be supported by the JCR.
- g. The Kendrew Arts Fund was established to support JCR Members representing the college in the Arts.
- h. In the case of this creative project, the JCR would be supporting JCR members who were representing the college student body's concern with environmental issues.
- i. Without funding the film may have to be scaled down which reduces the ability to create a coherent and complete artistic project in which the themes are developed and the film successfully reaches a wider audience.
- j. Costs such as costume and transport cannot be afforded by the cast and crew alone.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- k. Give £900 from the Kendrew Arts Fund to partially fund this project
- l. Ask the cast and crew to document the production process in photos and provide these for use in the JCR.
- m. Require a screening of the film in MT21.

Oly gave a short speech in favour of this motion, saying that this project would not be monetised in any way but the film was representing the student body's concerns about the environment. They said that without the money they would not be able to produce this film.

Zara asked whether this needed decanal approval because it was over £750.

Zoe asked what was happening with the welfare lunch and the welfare budget. Zara said not to pay any bills which were sent to them.

Aoife asked how much money was left in the Kendrew Arts fund, and there was approximately £3000 left in the fund, which renews in Michelmas.