



St John's College Junior Common Room

Minutes - 3rd Meeting, Michaelmas Term 2019
Tuesday 12th November 2019, North Lecture Room, 8.00pm
Follow along with the Minutes: bit.ly/MT19GM3

1. Minutes from the Previous Meeting

Minutes available [here](#).

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Harry informed the room that the Minutes had changed from the last meeting. This is to reflect a decision from now on to consider the Chair and the Minute taker as abstentions, which changed the outcome of the Wine Not vote with a small margin. The change simply meant the vote was not inquorate, but rather failed. Given the large opposition to this vote, changing this was deemed not to have subverted the will of the JCR. An explanatory note can be found in the copy of the last set of minutes (MT19 GM2)

Harry noted that it was already possible to buy wine by the glass in Hall, which was a potential solution to the "Wine Not" Motion, which failed to pass in the last meeting.

3. Reports from Officers, Reps and Committees

Class Liberation: Natalia Sudol
Not present.

Ethnic Minorities: Karen Muperere
Not present.

Welfare: Amelia Holt & Tom Johnson
Amelia noted it was Welfare Week, and advised the JCR to check the Facebook page for events being advertised..

Oxford SU: Lachlann Hinley & Milo Mallaby
Lachlann reported that an Oxford SU meeting had taken place.

Sports: Felix Stocker
Not present.

Staff Liaison: Safi Lewis
Not present.

4. Ratifications

- [HT19 Audit](#) (Isabella Stephens & Eleanor D'Souza)
No objections heard, Audit Ratified
- Oxford SU Affiliation
Secretary Note: The Constitution asks us to ratify affiliation to the Oxford SU each year.
No objections heard, affiliation ratified.
- Alumni and Development Rep (2 vacancies)
Harry asked for no one to run for any of the 4 positions available, as they are about to be abolished as part of the role review, ratified shortly after these role ratifications.
- IT Rep (2 vacancies)
No one stood.
- SJCTV Rep (2 vacancies)
No one stood.
- Staff Liaison Rep (1 vacancy, to serve alongside Safi Lewis)
No one stood.

a) The "Great Big 2019 Role Review!" Constitutional Motion

Proposer: Harry Sugden (President)

Seconded: Benedict Gardner (Secretary)

This JCR notes that:

- a. Throughout the Summer of 2019, consultation amongst the JCR General Committee and Reps was carried out in order to address some concerns of the JCR President and College. These concerns are outlined in the JCR Role Review 2019 ([Appendix 1](#)).
- b. This proposal was presented as an Item for Discussion at the first General Meeting of Michaelmas Term 2019, with no significant objections heard to its contents.
- c. Attention should be directed to the provision added for Welfare Officers to reimburse medic alert tags/bands up to the value of £20.

This JCR believes that:

- d. The recommendations of the Role Review should be implemented in order to facilitate the election of a new General Committee, accompanied by their revamped new role descriptions and a host of Reps.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- e. Adopt the contents and recommendations of the JCR Role Review 2019 ([Appendix 1](#)) by replacing the relevant sections of the Constitution with those contained within [Appendix 2](#).

Minutes:

No objections heard, Motion ratified

b) The “Ain’t Nobody Got Time for That” Constitutional Motion

Proposer: Harry Sugden (President)

Seconded: Chris Hughes (Returning Officer)

This JCR notes that:

- a. The Returning Officer is currently bound by a series of constraints as to the timing of hustings and election polls.
- b. At present:
 - i. The date and time of hustings may be determined at any time prior to the opening of polls.
 - ii. Hustings must take place no less than 24 hours, and no more than three days before, polls open.
 - iii. Hustings shall not be held within 96 hours of nominations being closed.
- c. The President and Returning Officer have agreed to transition to Oxford SU’s online voting system. Results would not normally be available for elections held on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday until Monday.

This JCR believes that:

- d. Prospective - and not just confirmed - candidates should have reasonable notice of when hustings is scheduled to take place.
- e. It remains preferable for election results to be released as soon as possible.
- f. The Returning Officer should be given more discretion as to the scheduling of hustings and polls, such that precedent may determine usual practice but deviation is still possible.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- g. Replace Standing Order Table Three A with that version contained within [Appendix 3](#).
- h. Replace Standing Order Table Three B with that version contained within Appendix 3.

Minutes:

No objections heard, Motion ratified

5. Items for Discussion

**a) Constitutional Appendices & Expired Standing Policy Motion
(Benedict Gardner, JCR Secretary) ([Appendix 4](#))**

Minutes:

Ben noted that the Appendices had been updated, and that the Divest the Endowment Standing Policy Motion had expired. Ankit Ranjan (E&E Officer) had brought a similar Motion in this meeting, to refresh Standing Policy for the upcoming year, however neither the Proposer or Secunder were present, meaning divestment does not currently feature on the Standing Policy.

b) Constitutional Changes (Harry Sugden, JCR President)

Note from Harry: If you have any ideas on how we could make the constitution easier to navigate or on the process of amending it, please bring them!

Minutes:

Harry noted that he wanted to split up the Constitution between the Articles and the Standing Orders, to shorten the Constitution to 12 pages. Constitutional changes would need a two-thirds supermajority (with a second meeting ratification), whereas Standing Order would require a simple majority and on meeting to pass. This was upon advice Harry had received from the Oxford SU over Summer.

Lachlann (incoming JCR Secretary) said he was broadly in favour, noting that there are many cases of overlap between the Constitution and Standing Order Tables, but stated the importance of considering what would go into a solidified, reduced Constitution, as anything put in would be by its nature more permanent.

Harry noted he would recommend these changes to the next JCR Committee in his handover document.

c) General Committee Elections (Harry Sugden, JCR President)

Minutes:

Harry congratulated the newly elected Executive Committee, and asked the room to advertise to their friends to run in the upcoming election. Harry had produced posters with role descriptions, going in the Library. Harry noted the importance of having an Equality and Diversity Officer with the new changes in roles.

d) Magazines to replace Newspapers (Harry Sugden, JCR President)

Minutes:

Harry argued the sporadic delivery of newspapers meant it would be a better use of funds to buy magazines in the Library Foyer. He recommended that the JCR cover the fee until a more permanent arrangement with College can be negotiated at Rents and Charges.

Leo Warburton asked if people read the newspapers, to which Harry replied that Cas had conducted a survey and found reasonable readership.

Josh Clements asked if digital subscriptions could be purchased as well. Harry noted it would be difficult to administer this without a corporate subscription, suggesting it would be easier to have one print edition in the library.

Sophie Whitehead asked whether magazines could be taken out the Foyer. Harry replied no, and that they would be labelled to ensure the magazines stayed in the Foyer..

Madeleine Leggett asked if only Sunday papers could be bought. Harry noted this was a possibility, and recommended that the incoming Treasurer conduct a survey.

e) Supporting the UCU Strikes (Benedict Gardner, JCR Secretary)

Minutes:

Ben explained that a Standing Policy Motion was submitted last year to support the UCU strikes, but that when it had been put through, a clause to support continuous strike action was removed. The UCU will be striking at the end of November 2019, so Ben asked the room if they had strong opinions on whether to remove, replace and keep the Standing Policy Belief.

Maksim Richards asked how this would affect students, with Ben replying that some department lecturers would strike, but that College-employed staff are unlikely to be affected. Harry noted that the UCU affects Oxbridge much less, but that some students will experience lecture cancellations.

No strong opinions heard.

f) Ball Update (Leo Nasskau, 2020 Ball Treasurer)

Minutes:

Leo noted that Ball for All had been fully funded through optional donations and ticket price rises. Well over half of tickets had been sold for the Ball.

g) Room Regrading (Leo Warburton)

Minutes:

Leo noted that he intended to bring a housing policy motion to change the Room Ballot grades. He wanted to inform the room before bringing the Motion to the next meeting.

Originally, a full document was attached to these minutes outlining the changes for each room. Lachlann asked that the link not be shared, so that personal room preferences will not affect the passage of the motion in the next meeting.

Harry outlined the new rent and JCR grading system, with rents based only on size and the way the room faces, and JCR grades on a number of factors.

6. Agenda Items

a) The “Support OxFID” Financial Motion

[INQUORATE AT LAST MEETING]

Proposer: Selin Millward

Seconded: Helena Murphy

This JCR notes that:

- a. The Oxford Forum for International Development (OxFID) is an entirely student-run conference on the theme of international development that will take place 8 - 9 February 2020.
- b. OxFID is committed to providing students and young professionals with a unique opportunity to engage with the field of international development through a range of panels and workshops and to network with thought-leaders across the public and private sector.
- c. OxFID is an independent organisation that receives its funding through student-organised sponsorship and grants.
- d. St John's students have been involved in organising the conference in previous years (last year $\frac{1}{3}$ of the committee were at St John's).
- e. OxFID commits to returning any financial support given in kind by offering the St John's College Junior Common Room a number of subsidised tickets (x8 1-day passes) to attend the conference.

This JCR believes that:

- f. OxFID is a valuable and high-quality conference that contributes to the wealth of opportunities available to Oxford students.
- g. This conference would be of interest and of value to many members of the Junior Common Room.
- h. Without much-needed financial backing, OxFID may cease to exist.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- i. Donate ~~£300~~ **£250 (amended by Proposer, Selin Millward)** to OxFID from the Financial Motions Budget
- j. Require a written report from the Proposer, to be uploaded to the News section on the website.

Minutes:

Selin reintroduced the motion, noting that subsidised tickets would be available for John's members.

Phil Fernandes asked about alternative sources of funding, to which Selin noted it was started from scratch, and that many JCRs have been requested for funds, and ticket sales would also contribute.

Leo Warburton asked about the state of the Financial Motions Budget, to which Harry noted a Budget Reallocation Motion had been submitted in this meeting to reallocate funds to enable all Financial Motions to be passed.

Lachlann asked how clause (e) would be implemented, with 8 subsidised one-day tickets distributed to John's member.

A question was fielded about the participation of John's members, to which Selin replied that that 2 John's members took part with the Committee in the previous Conference.

Lachlann asked how the JCR would take responsibility for administering subsidised tickets, to which Harry noted (having vacated the chair) it was opinion that it should not be the responsibility of the JCR to handle. Selin noted that wording does not suggest the JCR would be responsible for distributing tickets. Amelia Holt agreed, noting she believed this was the precedent with other similar requests.

Leo asked about why the £250 was being asked for, if the value of subsidised tickets equalled £240. Selin noted the money was needed now, and would be recouped later.

Juan Dávila asked why a loan was not requested instead of a contribution. Selin noted it is difficult to know how much money will be recouped.

Siobhan Pebody suggested that the small amount of money meant we shouldn't quibble over whether this is a loan or a contribution. Amelia Holt agreed that we have supported projects 'willy-nilly' in the past, arguing that we should give the money now.

Move to Vote Passed (2 against, 3 abstentions)

Motions (21 for, 2 against, 7 abstentions)

b) 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](#), to establish a Chair of meetings, to clarify and simplify language, and for connected purposes.

Minutes:

Harry had to abdicate the chair. For a brief, terrifying moment we all thought Greg would be chairing the meeting. It was actually Lachlann.

Harry noted he was frustrated with giving the Chair up every time he wanted to give an opinion. He noted this change would allow his successor to give an insight into motions and decisions.

Phil asked if the President will be able to vote if giving up the Chair. Harry noted that only the minute taker and chair are counted as abstentions, so whomever abdicates the Chair will be able to vote.

Amelia Holt asked whether the Chair can pass on if they are the Proposer of a Motion. Harry said they could.

Tom Ritter asked if it was a good idea to allow the President to not be neutral in decisions. Harry noted this is how both the UK Parliament and the Oxford SU Council work. He noted that he regularly gives up the Chair to give opinions, so this move would just make the process less confusing. Tom asked whether it was sensible to have people without knowledge of chairing taking part. Harry said he did not think this was a concern, and that the Motion will increase engagement with the JCR. He added that you only need to understand Standing Order Table 1 to be a Chair.

Phil asked when the next Chair would be ratified, with Harry replying in the last meeting of term, providing ratification of the Motion.

Siobhan noted that the JCR President often has a lot of knowledge useful to the JCR, which would benefit from impartiality.

Tom and Harry continued to discuss the Motion, with Tom stating that he believed it is possible for a knowledgeable to Chair answering with knowledge in a neutral manner. Harry replied that it is often difficult to separate fact from opinion.

Motion Passed (23 for, 3 against , 6 abstentions)

c) 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 introduced the motion, stating that he wanted to increase the charity levy from £10.50 to £12 per term. Harry noted this was changed in 2016, and no objections were raised in an earlier JCR meeting this term.

Motion Passed (0 against, 2 abstentions)

d) 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 were 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](#).
- p. Permit the Secretary to update Appendices and numbering accordingly

Minutes:

No one objected to Ben proposing and taking the minutes.

Ben ran through the proposed changes, outlined in Appendix 6. It was made clear that changes specifying the position of 4th year scientists did not extend to Medics,

as this was deemed too big of an issue to put in a clean-up motion with several clauses.

Siobhan asked why 4th year medics are different from 4th year scientists in the eyes of the JCR. Harry noted that scientists sign up for an undergraduate degree, with graduation suspended if they take the Masters course. Medics graduate from their first degree after 3 years, and are enrolled into the MCR. At this point College recognises medics as postgraduates. Greg noted that the College recognise 4th year Medics are considered JCR members, asking whether 5th and 6th year Medics could be included with minimal effect on the JCR. Harry replied that this motion does not include medics above 3rd year, but a potential for an Associate Membership has been discussed. He also noted that the loophole means that a 4th year medic could run for a JCR position, which Harry would like to address (outside of the motion being discussed).

Lachlann proposed (but later withdrew) an amendment to remove clause (i), stating he like honorary members. Harry noted that he wanted to remove in-jokes fossilised in the Constitution. Lachlann noted there was a genuine rationale for having external members recognised. Ben responded that there was a need for non-members to be able to join, noting that an Associate Membership was explored, but time constraints meant it wasn't included. He recommended to Lachlann (incoming Secretary) to add this facility into the Constitution. Harry reiterated the desire to get rid of in-jokes. George Wilson noted that, having read the Constitution, it was an alienating document to read due to the multiple accumulated references across the years. Harry added that some parts, like the need for the Secretary to tell a joke, had recently been removed.

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

e) The “Who Needs an Anthem Anyway?” Standing Policy Motion

Proposer: Benedict Gardner (JCR Secretary)

Seconded: Alfie Deere-Hall (JCR Vice-President)

This JCR notes that:

- a. A Standing Policy motion was submitted by Vice-President Alfie Deere-Hall in Hilary Term of 2019, mandating the JCR to choose an anthem ([Appendix 7](#))
- b. This was never fully organised by the current committee.
- c. Removing this Standing Policy Motion does not stop a future JCR bringing such a Motion.

This JCR believes that:

- d. While the Motion was fun and well-intentioned, it has ultimately failed to come to fruition
- e. It would be unfair to saddle the next JCR Committee with this project

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- f. Remove Standing Policy Belief #8, The “Republic’s Anthem” Standing Policy Motion (Passed 31/01/19) from Standing Policy

- g. Renumber the Standing Policy accordingly

Minutes:

Ben noted that this Standing Policy Motion, while well intentioned, was not carried out. While he noted he did not ideologically oppose the Motion, he did not want to hand it over to the next Committee.

Motion Passed (18 for, 4 against, 4 abstentions)

f) The “Budget Reallocation” Budget Reallocation Motion

Proposer: Cas Burton, JCR Treasurer

Seconded: Benedict Gardner, JCR 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. The total requested in financial motions this meeting is: $£250 + £400 + £85 = £735$.
- d. The current financial motions budget is £554.
- e. The Visa Fund Budget should not need to be used again this year.

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 £554 to £852.
- h. Decrease the Visa Fund budget from £400 to £102.

Minutes:

NOTE FOR MINUTES: This was originally entitled as a Financial Motion, however it is in fact a Budget Reallocation (Standing Policy) Motion. The minutes have been corrected accordingly.

Ben introduced the purpose of the meeting, which was to realign the budgets so that Financial Motions could be funded. The money came from the visa fund, for which all eligible students have already claimed.

Juan asked if the fund will be re-established for the upcoming year, which it will due to a Constitutional requirement on the Treasurer that they re-establish the reimbursement of police registration.

Lachlann noted that this was further evidence of reform on the Motion types, with any ‘type’ of Motion being eligible for a meeting. After much discussion, this was renamed as a Budget Reallocation Motion.

g/ The “Divest the Endowment” Motion

Proposer: Ankit Ranjan, E&E Officer

Seconded: Alfie Deere-Hall, Vice-President

This JCR notes that:

- a. There is a growing international campaign for fossil fuel around the globe. In total, more than 5.2 trillion (USD) of invested funds have committed to divestment. In January 2018, New York City announced that it would divest 5 billion (USD) from fossil fuels.
- b. Within this university, many Oxford colleges are currently exploring full fossil fuel divestment, following successful student motions. In 2015, the university divested its endowment’s direct holdings from coal and tar sands, a first step but not enough. Last term, the Paradise Papers revealed that the university and many colleges, including St John’s College, are invested in deep sea oil drilling via blocker corporations (to avoid US taxes). The leaked Paradise Papers revealed just one example of the companies that endowments across the university are invested in.
- c. Oxford University Endowment Management (OUem) reported that of the £1.6 billion Endowment Fund, approximately 3% is invested in the energy sector. This translates to approximately £2,000 per student.
- d. St John’s College has not released a detailed breakdown and has no specific policy on fossil fuel investment. The percent of our endowment (£526 million) invested in fossil fuels is likely to be around the University of Oxford value.
- e. This is a matter of concern because investments in fossil fuels are not compatible with a just and stable future. In September 2013 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported that in order to stay below a devastating global temperature rise of 2°C, cumulative carbon emissions cannot exceed a “budget” of about 800 gigatons.
- f. In order to reach this target, around 80% of current fossil fuel reserves must stay in the ground.
- g. Despite this, the top 200 coal, oil and gas companies continue developing even more reserves.
- h. The university has a commitment to reduce its carbon emissions 33% by 2020/21. Clearly it understands that reducing fossil fuel emissions is the responsible action for current and future generations, and should implement those principles in its investments rather than profiting from hypocrisy.
- i. Furthermore, numerous studies have shown that divesting from fossil fuels does not impair portfolio performance, most recently in the Journal of Ecological Economics (Trinks et al., 2018).
- j. In the last year, the St John’s Divestment campaign has brought this concern to the attention of the principal bursar and investment advisor for college, but more work has to be done to get a change in our investment policy.

This JCR believes that:

- k. Investments made by the college into fossil fuel companies is socially irresponsible and inconsistent with the educational objectives of the University.
- l. Divestment is an effective means of protest against unethical corporate behaviour.
- m. Actions taken by this college can attract substantial national media coverage. Divestment here would encourage other colleges in Oxford and the university to divest.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- n. Mandate the E&E officer to continue to bring the objective of divesting from both direct and indirect investments in the fossil fuel companies listed in the Carbon Underground top 200 list to the relevant decision-making structures of St John's College.

Minutes:

Neither Proposer or Seconder Present, Motion Not Put

h) The “Making Virtual Reality Accessible” Financial Motion

Proposer: Joshua Clements

Seconded: Adem Berbic

This JCR notes that:

- a. Virtual Reality is an up and coming gaming experience and is just downright cool.
- b. You get to be completely immersed in the environment of the game or experience and interact with the virtual world in a way that isn't possible with traditional games.
- c. Unfortunately, the hardware involved is quite expensive and so it is an experience that very few people have access to.
- d. The JCR already owns a PlayStation 4 and there is a budget in place for supplying it with games (Facilities).
- e. PlayStation has its own Virtual Reality set up called PlayStation VR which is high quality but not overly expensive. It also supports a large number of games and experiences.
- f. We could purchase the relevant hardware as a JCR rather than everyone who wants to experience this having to buy the stuff themselves.
- g. There are often offers going on the hardware which we could take advantage of (e.g. Black Friday at the end of this month).
- h. It's also just really funny to see people so silly things with VR headsets on.

This JCR believes that:

- i. Virtual Reality is a really cool modern experience that we can make accessible to all our members by giving the facilities rep the funds to make a one-off purchase of the relevant hardware (PlayStation VR headset, camera, controllers, some games etc. see [Appendix 8](#))

- j. By making a one-off purchase as a community and making use of the games console that we already have, we can efficiently give our members access to this experience without everyone having to buy all the hardware individually

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- k. **Allocate** £400 to the Facilities **Budget (amended by Josh Clements)** from the Financial Motions Budget to purchase the relevant hardware.
- l. Require a written report from the Proposer, to be uploaded to the News section on the JCR website

Minutes:

Josh noted he would like to buy a VR set for the TV Room. He had explored various cost options, attached as Appendix 8.

Amelia recommended buying a box to store it in, which Josh noted could be factored into the budget. Maksim Richards asked if there would be sufficient funds for a box, which there were.

Motion passed (16 for, 2 against, 9 abstentions)

i) The “Fund the St. John’s Pool Team” Financial Motion

Proposer: Dimitar Ruzhev, SJC Pool Team Capitan

Seconded: Adam Caperton

This JCR notes that:

- a. St. John’s College has not had a pool team in the past few years, despite having great players.
- b. There is an entry fee to the College Pool league and Pool Cuppers.
- c. The pool cues in the games room are poorly maintained.

This JCR believes that:

- f. Many St. John’s students often play pool and quite a few have expressed interest in starting a college team.
- g. Maintaining the pool cues in the games room will benefit the JCR as a whole.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- h. **Allocate £50 from the Financial Motions Budget to the Facilities Budget, to be claimed by the St John’s Pool Team (submitted by Benedict Gardner)**
- i. **Allocate £35 to the St John’s Pool Team from the Financial Motions Budget (submitted by Benedict Gardner)**
- j. Require a written report from the Proposer, to be uploaded to the News section on the website

Minutes:

Rugev would like to set up a Pool Team.

After some discussion, it was deemed to split the £85 request into £50 from the Financial Motions Budget to the Facilities Budget to maintain cues, and a direct £35 allocation to the Pool Team for team entry fees.

j) The “CHICAGO!” Financial Motion

Proposer: Ariadne Si Suo

Seconded: Varuna Mitra

This JCR notes that:

- a. CHICAGO is one of the world’s most famous musicals and will be performed at the Keble O’Reilly Theatre in 7th Week of Michaelmas Term (November 28 – December 1). It is being put on by a student production company (Jazz Hands Productions) which is affiliated with OUDS.
- b. Ariadne and Varuna, members of St John’s JCR, are part of the CHICAGO team in the crew and band respectively.
- c. This show is the highest-budget production ever to be put on at the Keble O’Reilly Theatre, and the funding secured so far only covers 35% of the budget (see below for exact figures).
- d. As per OUDS regulations, if we make a profit out of this production, it will remain in Oxford drama or will be donated to charity.
- e. The following figures relate to the budget of the production: Budget: £5893; Funding secured: £2100 (35% of budget); Breakeven*: 65.3%, or 576 tickets sold over 5 shows (*the breakeven is the number of tickets needed in order not to make a loss).

This JCR believes that:

- f. Funding is extremely important for theatrical productions, as all income from tickets comes at the end of the show run. This funding would go toward production costs, particularly the hire of sound equipment, as the Keble O’Reilly does not have a stock of radio mics like bigger venues do (e.g. the Playhouse).
- g. It is important that the performing arts ignite a discussion around the topics that they tackle. The theme of ‘CHICAGO’ centres around the allure of fame as perpetuated by the media, thus including a topical discussion on fake news and the impact of free speech. We have plans to organise events to spark a discussion in the academic community of Oxford, and financial support would help lead to the success of these events.
- h. Access and outreach are important in the University as a whole, including in theatre. We are aware that theatre appears exclusive and inaccessible to most people, and we are committed to changing this. We are currently in contact with several schools to organise pre-show drama/dancing/singing workshops with pupils, and financial support would greatly help us achieve our access initiatives.
- i. In such an academically focused place, it is important that we keep stimulating students’ artistic pursuits and creativity. By supporting CHICAGO financially, the St John’s JCR would be supporting students involved in all aspects of musical theatre: performance (acting, singing, dancing), design and technical roles.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- j. Give £150 to Chicago from the Kendrew Arts Fund.
- k. Require a written report from the Proposer, to be uploaded to the News section on the website.

Minutes:

Ariadne noted they are putting on a production of Chicago in Week 7.

Lachlann asked whether this could be a loan, rather than a contribution. Harry noted that the Kendrew Arts Fund is from College, so a loan would not be appropriate. Lachlann asked for the conditions of the Kendrew Arts Fund, with Harry replying that any Arts project can draw from a pot set in Rents and Charges with no set amount per term. A report has to be written for College to view, by default. Siobhan noted that less of the money gets spent in Trinity, due to the cycle of drama productions. Harry said that Amitai (who has previously requested funding) expressed that the way bidding for plays in Oxford works meant that most money gets claimed at the start of the term, with this Motion being an exception.

Motion passed (24 for, 0 against, 3 abstentions)

7. Any Other Business

Harry noted that it has been an absolute pleasure to serve as the JCR. He wished the next Committee all the best, and encouraged people to run for Committee.