

St John's College Junior Common Room

Minutes - 2nd Meeting, Michaelmas Term 2020 Sunday 25 October 2020, via Zoom, 7.30 pm

Alfie Dry chairing, with Lachlann Hinley (Secretary) as minute taker.

- 1. Minutes from the Previous Meeting
- 2. Matters Arising from the Minutes
- 3. Reports from Officers, Reps and Committees
- 4. Positions Requiring Ratification

5. Items for Discussion

JCR Elections (Phil Fernandes, JCR President) Constitutional Reform (Lachlann Hinley, JCR Secretary)

6. Charities Motions (Nem. Con.)

- a) The "MT20 BLM Charity Commitment: Motion 1" Charities Motion
- b) The "MT20 BLM Charity Commitment: Motion 2" Charities Motion
- c) The "MT20 BLM Charity Commitment: Motion 3" Charities Motion
- d) The LIV Village Charities Motion
- e) The "Shelter" Charities Motion
- f) The "Nasio Trust" Charities Motion
- g) The "Kujali" Charities Motion
- h) The "Homeless Oxfordshire" Charities Motion

7. Other Motions

- i) The "That's Hot! Zine" Financial Motion
- j) The "Support the Isis" Financial Motion
- k) "Building the OxPath to Oxford" Financial Motion

8. Any Other Business

PRAT food this week COVID-19 and social meetings COVID-19 and welfare events COVID-19 and Entz COVID-19 and Domestic Officers' Events Hall Booking System Moving the JCR to the Prestwich and Larkin Rooms

1. Minutes from the Previous Meeting

Available on the website here. There were no objections.

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

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

3. Reports from Officers, Reps and Committees

Written reports are available here.

Verbal reports requested from:

- Vice President Zara Hussain said they had exams this week. Going forward, they were hoping to lobby College to align JCR room scores and rent bands.
- Environment and Ethics Officer Bridget Stuart was not present.
- Women's Officer Ava Mitchell said they had ordered sanitary products.
- **Sports Rep** Milo Mallaby said that most sports have had their COVID-19 risk assessment confirmed. On the social side, the College were looking to clamp-down on events.
- Art Reps Neither Ollie Parkes and Zoe Hind were present
- Social Media Rep Alex Foster said they were running the JCR Twitter (@StJohnsOxJCR), with Issy Stephens running the Instagram account.

4. Positions Requiring Ratification

Disabilities Equality and Diversity Rep (1 vacancy to join Alice Hackney) There were no candidates.

International Students Equality and Diversity Rep (1 vacancy to join Michal Karlubik) Patricia Preller submitted a written statement (<u>Appendix 1</u>). Patricia was **ratified** nem. con.

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

There were no candidates.

Returning Officer's Assistant

There were no candidates. Zara Hussain (Vice President) appointed Alex Foster (Social Media Rep) to be Returning Officer's Assistant under Article §31 of the JCR Constitution. Alex Foster subsequently resigned as Returning Officer's Assistant. Following Alex's resignation, Zara appointed Korben Bailey to be Returning Officer's Assistant.

5. Items for Discussion

JCR Elections (Phil Fernandes, JCR President)

Nominations were open to be JCR President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer and the Returning Officer had distributed nomination forms via the JCR mailing list. The nomination deadline was noon next Sunday (1 November).

Phil Fernandes (President) encouraged interested members to contact incumbent officers to find out more about the roles up for election.

Constitutional Reform (Lachlann Hinley, JCR Secretary)

Lachlann Hinley (Secretary) said they had committed to removing "red tape" in their manifesto. Proposals for constitutional reform would be circulated next week, with an intention to bring a Constitutional Motion at the next meeting. Lachlann said the JCR had too many bureaucratic structures that were unused or obsolete: for example, the requirement for committees and sub-committees to hold formal minuted meetings. Additionally, Lachlann said there was no mechanism to create JCR clubs and societies, at present. Lachlann wanted to make the Constitution simpler, more understandable and less bureaucratic.

Phil Fernandes (President) asked whether College would need to approve any changes. Lachlann said that the Education Act 1994 obliged the JCR to get the Constitution approved by the College's Governing Body every five years or after any major change. Lachlann said that the next committee would have to investigate getting approval, but Lachlann speculated that the College's Governing Body probably did not care deeply about the structure of JCR bureaucracy.

Emmett O'Leary (Oxford SU Rep) praised the constitutional reform that had already occurred recently. Lachlann Hinley thanked Emmet, but said there were still issues outstanding relating to online voting.

Jahnavi Kalayil (Equality and Diversity Officer) pointed to the work of the Equality and Diversity Sub-Committee as an example of a sub-committee working well. Lachlann Hinley said that the Equality and Diversity Sub-Committee was very effective, but asked whether this was a result of formal meetings and minute-taking. Jahnavi confirmed that the Equality and Diversity Sub-Committee had regular discussions but never held formal meetings. Lachlann said committees and sub-committees should spend more time doing valuable work and spend less time worrying about minutes, motions and meetings.

6. Charities Motions (Nem. Con.)

Alfie Dry (Chair) noted that the total money requested by this term's Charities Budgets would likely exceed available funds from the charities levy, but this had to be confirmed by the College's accountant. Each charity is likely to receive around £220, with the exception of the three Black Lives Matter motions as a result of the The "MT20 BLM Charity Commitment" Standing Policy Motion (Passed 12/06/20).

a) The "MT20 BLM Charity Commitment: Motion 1" Charities Motion Proposer: Jahnavi Kalayil, Equality & Diversity Officer Seconded: Ethan Joseph, Ethnic Minorities E&D Rep

This JCR notes that:

- a. In Trinity Term 2020, the JCR passed the "MT20 BLM Charity Commitment" Standing Policy Motion, which made it JCR policy to try and ensure that three charities relating to the fight against racism and anti-blackness received £300 from the Michaelmas charities budget.
- b. One of those charities was the Movement for Black Lives (M4BL)
- c. The Movement For Black Lives (M4BL) is a leading US organisation mobilizing for racial justice in the US, and a leading organiser of the protests in America.

This JCR believes that:

- d. The JCR must do what it can to contribute to the dismantling of systemic racism at home and abroad.
- e. The JCR committed to donating £300 to the Movement For Black Lives (M4BL) in Trinity Term 2020.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

f. Donate £300 to the Movement For Black Lives

b) The "MT20 BLM Charity Commitment: Motion 2" Charities Motion

Proposer: Phil Fernandes, President Seconded: Ethan Joseph, Ethnic Minorities E&D Rep

This JCR notes that:

- a. In Trinity Term 2020, the JCR passed the "MT20 BLM Charity Commitment" Standing Policy Motion, which made it JCR policy to try and ensure that three charities relating to the fight against racism and anti-blackness received £300 from the Michaelmas charities budget.
- b. One of those charities was the Freedom Fund.
- c. The Freedom Fund is a Black-led organisation dedicated to tackling the over-incarceration of LGBTQ people in the United States, and securing their freedom.

This JCR believes that:

- d. The JCR must do what it can to contribute to the dismantling of systemic racism at home and abroad.
- e. The JCR committed to donating £300 to the Freedom Fund in Trinity Term 2020.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

f. Donate £300 to the Freedom Fund.

c) The "MT20 BLM Charity Commitment: Motion 3" Charities Motion

Proposer: Phil Fernandes, President Seconded: Oliver Tushingham

This JCR notes that:

- a. In Trinity Term 2020, the JCR passed the "MT20 BLM Charity Commitment" Standing Policy Motion, which made it JCR policy to try and ensure that three charities relating to the fight against racism and anti-blackness received £300 from the Michaelmas charities budget.
- b. One of those charities was the Runnymede Trust.
- c. The Runnymede Trust is an independent British race equality think tank and charity, dedicated to overcoming racial inequality and injustice in the UK.

This JCR believes that:

- d. The JCR must do what it can to contribute to the dismantling of systemic racism at home and abroad.
- e. The JCR committed to donating £300 to the Runnymede Trust in Trinity Term 2020.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

f. Donate £300 to the Runnymede Trust.

d) The LIV Village Charities Motion

Proposer: Samuel Saunderson Seconded: Leo Nasskau

This JCR notes that:

- a. This charity adopts a long-term foster care model, housing, educating and caring for over 200 children, with the aim of providing a stable home for children from very difficult backgrounds.
- b. LIV Village houses roughly 4-8 children in each house accompanied by a 'mother' who is a full-time carer.
- c. Every child receives education, largely from the on-site LIV Village school the most recent matriculants (A-level equivalent) achieved a 100% pass rate.
- d. The Village commits to eco-friendly goals already using solar water heating systems in every home, boreholes for irrigation and rain tanks. It also aims to create a sewage purification plant and to become sustained on solar electricity.

This JCR believes that:

- e. LIV Village is an important cause because it provides long term stable homes for some of the most vulnerable children in South Africa, whilst educating them in such a way as to give them a brighter future.
- f. Money would likely go towards the school (equipment and wages), towards improving housing facilities (washing, cooking, cleaning etc.) or towards bringing in new staff so as to increase the village's capacity to look after children.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

g. Donate £300 to LIV Village UK Fundraising Office subject to any downscaling stipulated by JCR Standing Policy and the JCR Constitution.

e) The "Shelter" Charities Motion

Proposer: Nia Evans Seconded: Tia Wright

This JCR notes that:

- a. Shelter helps millions of people every year struggling with bad housing or homelessness
- b. They offer advice, support, and legal services
- c. Their solicitors provide free legal advice and attend court to help people who've lost their homes or are facing eviction
- d. They campaign to end homelessness

This JCR believes that:

- e. The causes Shelter supports are important in helping people find housing and obtaining a good quality of life
- f. Any money donated will help with ending homeless and will help now more than ever by helping to fund their COVID-19 response.

The JCR therefore resolves to

g. Donate £300 to Shelter subject to any downscaling stipulated by JCR Standing Policy and the JCR Constitution

f) The "Nasio Trust" Charities Motion

Proposer: June-Ho Chung Seconded: Samuel Saunderson

This JCR notes that:

- a. The Nasio Trust is an Oxford-based charity operating in the most rural areas of Western Kenya and Tanzania which are often forgotten by mainstream charities operating in Africa
- b. The Nasio Trust works to eradicate the vicious cycle of poverty: projects include sustainable agriculture, healthcare, education, nutrition, and mentorship in a family-based upbringing
- c. The Nasio Trust has built medical centres and schools in the area
- d. The beneficiaries are orphans and rural communities in the areas of Mumias and Musanda who grow as a result of the holistic approach

This JCR believes that:

- e. The causes that the Nasio Trust supports are important in eradicating poverty, especially in the pandemic era where sources of funds are low and basic health is crucial
- f. The Nasio Trust has a strong web of connections in the UK and Kenya, especially to the University of Oxford; students seek to benefit through volunteering schemes and working with the Nasio Trust as an intern in order to actively tackle issues of poverty in Western Kenya, and making a real difference

This JCR therefore resolves to:

g. Donate £300 to Nasio Trust subject to any downscaling stipulated by JCR Standing Policy and the JCR Constitution.

g) The "Kujali" Charities Motion

Proposer: Jahnavi Kalayil Seconded: Freya Allery

This JCR notes that:

- a. Kujali is a family run charity with the ethos of 'no middle man', believing in relieving poverty by providing and supporting effective care for orphaned children.
- b. Main projects involve advancing mainstream education and vocational training.
- c. Previous projects involved promoting good health by providing health care facilities.
- d. The beneficiaries are orphans and/or disabled children and young adults from East Africa.

This JCR believes that:

- e. The causes Kujali supports are important in developing the lives of those with no means to progress by themselves.
- f. Supporting a current project involving an organisation, Hope for African Disabled and Orphans (HFADO), in Gulu, Uganda will enable students to attend Vocational Training after finishing their high school education, also funded by Kujali (https://www.kujaliafrica.org.uk/gulu-uganda).
- g. Vocational Training includes skills such as plumbing, carpentry, sewing, cooking etc.
- h. Kujali will also buy tools of the trade to help VT students make a start in self-employment.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

i. Donate £300 to Kujali in aiding the financial aspects of the current project in Gulu, Uganda, subject to any downscaling stipulated by JCR Standing Policy and the JCR Constitution.

h) The "Homeless Oxfordshire" Charities Motion

Proposer: Ollie Parkes Seconded: Ava Mitchell

This JCR notes that:

- a. Homelessness is a particularly acute problem in Oxford, due to the lack of affordable housing.
- b. Homeless Oxfordshire is a charity based around the county to house and help the homeless.
- c. Main projects include a hostel at O'Hanlon House, providing accommodation to get rough sleepers off the streets, and support for those with alcohol abuse, drug abuse, and mental health issues.
- d. The beneficiaries are the homeless around Oxfordshire.

This JCR believes that:

- e. Getting rough sleepers off the street and into hostels or stable accommodation is especially important during the Coronavirus pandemic, to protect the most vulnerable in society who do not have access to healthcare and often have compromised immune systems.
- f. The JCR, since it is unable to run its own St Giles Society for the Homeless due to Coronavirus, should instead provide support for charities who can still function.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

g. Donate £300 to Homeless Oxfordshire subject to any downscaling stipulated by JCR Standing Policy and the JCR Constitution.

7. Other Motions

Ben Robinson (Treasurer) said that the Financial Motions Budget currently contained £564. Given underspending in other areas, Ben would propose a Budget Amendment to increase the funds available at the next meeting.

i) The "That's Hot! Zine" Financial Motion

Proposer: Grace Page, Seconded: Jess Halliday

This JCR notes that:

- a. That's Hot! Zine is a platform promoting local clothes designers, as well as a space to discuss climate change, sustainability and self-expression.
- b. The zine includes contributors and team members from the Oxford community, including designers, photographers, writers and artists.
- c. That's Hot! Zine is a brand-new publication which currently has no funds, and with COVID-19 making fundraising events very difficult, will be entirely reliant on JCR funding for its first printing round, making St John's help particularly impactful.
- d. The zines will be sold at £2 to cover printing costs per zine, but without the funds to make its first printing round it will not be able to print the first edition.
- e. The zine will be printed using ethical printing methods by Anglia Print, which uses recycled paper and a waterless printing system with no chemical pressing or hazardous by-products.

This JCR believes that:

- f. We need to increase awareness around issues of sustainability, particularly in fashion.
- g. The That's Hot! Zine fills a vacuum in the Oxford publications market.
- h. Publications exploring such ideas should be supported to get off the ground, particularly when other forms of funding have been rendered impossible due to current times.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

i. Donate £250 to fund this term's printing, and in return for this, the JCR will receive 10 free copies.

Grace Page said *That's Hot! Zine* was a new magazine focussed on environmental fashion. The funding allocation would enable the printing of the publication. The JCR would receive ten free copies, which would be available in the pidge room. Zara Hussain (Vice President) asked how many JCR members were involved in the project. Grace Page believed they were the only JCR member currently involved, but invited submissions from anyone.

Suzanne Kapelus (Welfare Officer) asked whether printing physical magazines aligned with the publication's focus for environmental sustainability. Grace Page said the magazine did not focus on environmental problems *per se*, but instead would be a platform of photographers and designers, with a sustainable aspect. In response, Suzanne worried that using up paper and ink would have an environmental impact. Grace said they were using an eco-friendly printing company.

Agreed (16 in favour, 11 against, 9 abstentions)

j) The "Support the Isis" Financial Motion

Proposer: Shaina Sangha, Seconded: Milo Mallaby

This JCR notes that:

- a. The Isis Magazine, Oxford's primary student magazine, requires student funding in order to print this term's issue.
- b. Established as the UK's oldest student magazine, The Isis is one of Oxford's most prominent publications, and we have long been a space for writers and creatives from across the University to come together and develop their talents many going on to contribute to a wider cultural collective, our alumni and past contributors including Evelyn Waugh, Hilaire Belloc, John Betjeman, Sylvia Plath, David Dimbleby, Gyles Brandreth, George Osbourne, Nigella Lawson, and Jo Johnson.
- c. However, due to the restrictions on gatherings and our team's desire to reduce the spread of the virus by not holding any events this term, a significant portion of the magazine's income has been lost.

This JCR believes that:

- d. Without requesting small amounts of funding from various JCRs, The Isis will not be able to print this Michaelmas. Because our magazine does not want to charge the student community for what should be free and accessible student journalism, it is vital that we secure funding so as to sustain this historic student venture, which is so intrinsic to Oxford.
- e. Publishing fiction, non-fiction, essays, photography, art, investigations and more, we have a team of 60 students this term, and many more contributors. The Isis has featured many St. John's students, both in an editorial capacity as well as submissions spanning fiction and art.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

f. This JCR resolves to help fund The Isis' printing budget with a sum of £100 from the Financial Motions budget for its Michaelmas issue, ensuring that Oxford's students can enjoy free and accessible writing, art and journalism across the University.

Milo Mallaby said the *ISIS* was the oldest student magazine in the country, but Milo added that "currently, the *ISIS* is in a sad, sorry state". Milo doubted the *ISIS* would go to print this term without the support of Oxford JCRs.

Agreed (29 in favour, 2 against, 5 abstentions)

k) "Building the OxPath to Oxford" Financial Motion

Proposer: Leo Nasskau Seconded: Phil Fernandes, President

This JCR notes that:

- a. From 2017-19, Oxford made offers to 3,267 students from independent schools, and 5,380 students from state schools [<u>Annual Admissions</u> <u>Statistical Report 2020</u>, 2020: 16].
- b. 2.20% of sixth formers at independent schools do their undergraduate degree at Oxford, compared to 0.78% of state schooled sixth formers [AASR &<u>UK Government]</u>.
- c. In 2019, UK state school students accounted for 71.6% of A-level grades achieving A*A*A and above, but only 62.3% of Oxford's 2019 intake [AASR]. OxPath believes that what is holding state school students back is not their academic ability, but a lack of 'inside knowledge' – which one may not even get from College access departments – that can make the difference between getting an offer or not.
- d. OxPath solves this by allowing applicants to talk to current students, whenever they want, and ask anything from basic questions to getting in-depth admissions/interview help.
- e. OxPath has signed up over 250+ volunteers, and since confirming their first session on September 8th, has organised over 150 sessions with aspiring applicants.
- f. Applicants find this useful: 100% of those who offered feedback (21) said they would use OxPath again; one said: "... I already have sent the link to my friends applying to Oxford so would definitely recommend - it's crazy how this is a free service!"
- g. OxPath has a school programme, partnering with 36 state schools (so far) characterised by high Oxford applications and fewer than one offer per year. In addition to connecting their students with volunteers, we are organising student panels, application workshops, and mock interview practice.
- h. Various members of St John's College are affiliated with OxPath: 16 members of the JCR are volunteers, and multiple help run OxPath day-to-day.

This JCR believes that:

- i. St John's JCR has an interest in supporting access and outreach and student initiatives, like OxPath, are able to provide useful advice.
- j. The funds will be used primarily for out-reach. The Student Room is an online community of hundreds of thousands of students and its Oxford sub-forum is frequented by many applicants.
- k. Official College access departments, such as LMH, have 'Official Status', which they use to offer their help. OxPath has negotiated the price of this down to £3,500; buying this would allow them to actively promote their service to applicants and provide on-going support on TSR such as Q/A threads.
- I. While funds would primarily go to out-reach, it is understood that OxPath was created out of the pockets of its founders. Funding from JCRs would allow it to continue and grow independently. There are various other ongoing costs, for website, email, and technology subscriptions, that funding would

be used to meet, as well as marketing costs required to help OxPath sign up more volunteers.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- m. Give £350 one-off to OxPath to support its operations.
- n. Request a written report from OxPath to be uploaded to the SJC [JCR] news site.

Leo Nasskau said OxPath was an access initiative intended to help students from disadvantaged backgrounds get into Oxford. Leo reiterated the contents of the motion for the benefit of the JCR.

Lachlann Hinley (Secretary) noted that clause n asked the JCR to request that the College upload a written report onto their website. Lachlann doubted that the College would do this, even if the JCR asked. Lachlann proposed an amendment to replace "SJC news site" with "SJC JCR news site". This was **accepted as friendly** by Leo Nasskau.

Zara Hussain (Vice President) asked if there were plans to generate income to remove OxPath's reliance on JCR funding. Leo Nasskau responded by saying OxPath wanted to avoid asking users for payment; Leo hoped that the running-costs would be low, with start-up funding covering future expenses.

Agreed (31 in favour, 2 against, 2 abstentions)

8. Any Other Business

PRAT food this week

Lachlann Hinley (Secretary) asked for feedback on the distribution of food before the meeting. Lachlann noted that the PRAT Reps had distributed food between 4.30 and 5 pm.

Korben Bailey asked about provision for households in isolation. Lachlann Hinley apologised that they were unable to distribute food to these households this week, as PRAT ran out of supplies before they could arrange a system for receiving requests. Lachlann said the PRAT Reps would investigate alternate arrangements in future weeks.

COVID-19 and social meetings

Alex Foster (Social Media Rep) asked about arrangements for non-scheduled social gatherings. Alex said it was easier for second, third and fourth years to meetup, as they had socialised before the current Coronavirus pandemic; this was not the case for freshers. Alex said current JCR facilities were inadequate to host social gatherings: the Larkin Room was suggested as an alternate venue.

Phil Fernandes (President) had raised the prospect of opening the Prestwich and Larkin Rooms with College in the past. Phil was unsure what the spaces were currently being used for, but noted that the College were reluctant to assign further spaces for the JCR to use. Phil was disappointed by the lack of clarity in communications from the College, but was seeking clarity.

Phil Fernandes noted that the marquees in TW and North Quad were to become bookable spaces for teaching. Although Phil said this was not ideal for JCR usage, there were

proposals from College to erect further marquees, which would increase available social spaces. Phil committed to exploring this further.

COVID-19 and welfare events

Suzanne Kapelus (Welfare Officer) said that various events had been considered, although after a poor response to online events and the introduction of additional College restrictions, there was some uncertainty about which events would be feasible. Suzanne asked for suggestions: for example, events, running groups, walking groups, or a pairing system. In response, there was a positive response to Suzanne's suggestions; there was also an interest in starting a pen-pal scheme.

Grace Goodier (Welfare Officer) added that there was a suggestion to run an inter-collegiate pen-pal scheme across the university. Grace said that the Welfare Officers were concerned about fatigue with Zoom and Microsoft Teams events.

COVID-19 and Entz

Tara Daemi (Entz Officer) said that Entz had been investigating ways of organising events this term. Tara asked about the success of Zoom events.

Zara Hussain (Vice President) said that, in general, online events during Freshers' Week had been poorly attended, although quiz-events seemed to be an exception. Zara suggested that events should be held in late afternoon, as people were often busy during the evening.

Tara Daemi said the Entz Officers were having fortnightly meetings with the Junior Deans. The Junior Deans had encouraged the Entz Officers to raise any JCR questions over booking spaces and the running of events.

COVID-19 and Domestic Officers' Events

Wil Anderson (Domestic Officer) said that College dismissed the prospect of holding a guest dinner this term. Wil said it was hard to engage with College in planning events, especially given the Catering Officer was having to deliver hundreds meals to students in self-isolation each day. Wil said it was unlikely that formal events would go ahead, but International Formals would go ahead, which was a College decision.

Zara Hussain (Vice President) said that MCR events often received approval with more ease, given the Junior Deans were MCR members.

Hall Booking System

Korben Bailey noted that other colleges were moving away from having a fixed booking system for Hall and adopting a more flexible approach. Korben worried that the current system was overly restrictive. Phil Fernandes (President) said that the College favoured the pre-booking system model, as it allowed them to get an idea of the quantity of food required each day. Phil said that the College was keeping all temporary rules and policies under review and more information would be made available next week.

Zara Hussain (Vice President) added that the College's hall was significantly smaller than other similar-sized colleges. This made it unlikely that College would embrace moving away from a pre-booking system

Moving the JCR to the Prestwich and Larkin Rooms

Milo Mallaby (Academic Affairs Officer) asked about what progress had been made to move the JCR into the Prestwich and Larkin Rooms. Phil Fernandes (President) said that the JCR's proposal had been rejected at the last meeting of the College's Domestic Committee. The rationale for rejecting the proposal rested on the purported use of the Prestwich and Larkin Rooms for access events, even though these had been moved to the new study centre. There was also concern from College Fellows over allowing students to book the North Lecture Rooms for Events. Phil encouraged their successor to pursue the issue further.