

Order of Business:

1. Matters arising
 2. Reports and Officers' Question Time
 3. Motions
 - a. Motion to support 'Persephone'
 - b. Motion to support 'God of Carnage'
 - c. Constitutional amendment for JCR Committee budget
 - d. Constitutional amendment to create the role of JCR Class Officer
 - e. JCR letter to Twix
 - f. Sign the open letter to Balliol from It Happens Here
 4. Any other business
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3. Motions

a. Motion to support 'Persephone'

The JCR notes that:

- *Persephone*, is a new musical written that will be performed at the Oxford Playhouse in Week 5 of Michaelmas Term (November 11 – 13th).
- It is being put on by a student production company (Jazz Hands Productions – co-founded by a St Edmund Hall JCR member and Alumna), which is affiliated with OUDS.

- Current St Edmund Hall JCR members involved in the production include Emma Hawkins who is the writer, director and set designer. There is also Teddy Hall involvement in the marketing, design and production departments.
- *Persephone* is the first original student musical ever to be staged at the Oxford Playhouse.
- As per OUDS and Oxford Playhouse regulations, if we make a profit out of this production, it will remain in Oxford drama.

The JCR believes that:

- Funding is extremely important for theatrical productions, as all income from tickets comes at the end of the show run. This funding would go towards marketing and production costs, particularly the costs of set construction materials (we have flying trees!).
- The performing arts should tackle societal issues within performance, but it should be an obligation of the production company to actively ignite discussions regarding them outside of the script. *Persephone* is a contemporary retelling of a classical myth, and tackles themes of mental health, power abuse and feminism. We have plans for events to spark academic discussions surrounding reinterpretations of classics and the themes explored in *Persephone*, and this financial support would help cover speakers fees for these events.
- Access and outreach are important in improving accessibility. We are currently in contact with several schools to organise pre-show drama and classics workshops with pupils, and financial support would greatly help us achieve our access initiatives.
- In such an academically focused place, it is important that we keep stimulating students' artistic pursuits and creativity. By supporting *Persephone* financially, the St Edmund Hall JCR would be supporting students involved in all aspects of musical theatre: performance (acting, singing, dancing), playwriting, design and technical roles.

- The performing arts have been one of the most affected industries during the pandemic, and the future of many students hoping to join this industry is significantly more uncertain than before. The JCR believes that we must keep supporting the arts and the students involved in them, and give them the opportunity to get the experience and skills they need before they graduate.

The JCR resolves to:

- Donate £300 to *Persephone* which would be a huge help towards realising this production
- In context of the budget, £300 would cover the majority of costume costs or would cover speaker fees for one of the upcoming events exploring themes such as power, consent, and the evolution of women in classics.

Proposer: Emma Hawkins

Seconder: Katie Kirkpatrick

b. Motion to support 'God of Carnage'

The JCR notes that:

- God of Carnage by Yasmina Reza is a Tony and Olivier-winning dark comedy translated from the original French play by Christopher Hampton
- God of Carnage will be performed at the Burton Taylor Studio in Week 6 of Michaelmas Term. The production is being put on by Blue Moon Theatre (an OUDS affiliated student production company).
- Bella (Annabel) Stock and James Newbury, current students at St Edmund Hall are both involved with the play as Annette and co-director

- Blue Moon Theatre, and the students involved, will not be benefiting financially from the production, as OUDS Production Companies must hand over any profits to OUDS, an Oxford registered funding body or a registered charity.

The JCR believes that:

- This funding would predominantly cover the costs of set pieces and costumes for the play
- The majority of our funding so far has been secured through a loan of £250 from OUDS and a grant of £200 from the Cameron Mackintosh drama fund.
- However, it is grants such as those available through JCRs that will go a long way towards helping us reduce our breakeven and ultimately contributing to the production's success
- Supporting the arts is an important objective, and this is often achieved through funding.

The JCR resolves to:

- Give a grant of £250 to support God of Carnage from the Motions budget.

Proposer: Bella Stock

Seconder: Millie Liddell

c. Constitutional amendment for JCR Committee budget

The JCR notes that:

- JCR committee members currently must submit a motion to get funds for anything they organise, apart from the Entz Presidents who have their own Entz Fund
- Currently, the JCR Treasurer gives committee members the necessary funds, and still requires the committee members to retrospectively ask for approval in a General Meeting
- Committee members like BAME, GSD or Sports Officers feel discouraged from organizing more events in the JCR because of the bureaucratic process of asking for funds and the fear of not getting reimbursed
- Motions asking for a reimbursement generally do not fail

The JCR believes that:

- Committee members should have more flexibility in organising the events they were elected to run
- The JCR Treasurer should establish a budget for each term with the committee
- The JCR Treasurer should be able to provide the committee with the necessary funds without needing a motion for every expense
- There should be two separate budgets, a 'Welfare Budget' and a 'Committee Budget'
- The Welfare budget should comprise £1,500 per term, and be used for expenses currently done by standing order (JCRT, snack and chat, 5th week blues...) and for any other committee expense deemed to fall under 'welfare'
- The Committee Budget should comprise of £2,500 annually
- The Committee Budget should be yearly rather than termly because the rest of the committee's expenses are generally not evenly spread out over the year

- Any expenses above the two budgets should be subject to a motion in a General Meeting, like in the previous system (this should not apply to reimbursements to JCR members for Welfare products)

The JCR resolves to:

- Hold a referendum to decide whether to amend the constitution in order to reflect the changes described above.
- The proposed amendments to the constitution are:

Schedule IV:

Remove 1.5, add:

1.5 The JCR President and Treasurer shall manage an annual Committee Budget of £2,500, which may be used by the JCR Committee; expenses surpassing this budget shall be subject to approval in a General Meeting.

1.6 The JCR President and Treasurer shall manage a termly Welfare Budget of £1,500, which may be used by the Welfare Officers; expenses surpassing this budget shall be subject to approval in a General Meeting unless they are needed to reimburse students for Welfare Products.

The JCR Treasurer:

Amend "Present accounts to the General Meeting at the start of each term and Finance Committee each year" to "Present accounts to the Finance Committee each year"

Add:

5. Manages the Committee Budget and the Welfare Budget in consultation with the President according to Schedule IV

6. Consults the JCR Committee at the start of each term to plan the allocation of the Welfare and Committee Budgets.

Remove 10.

The JCR Entz Presidents

Add:

7. Together with the President oversee and approve any spending made by Women*'s and Men*'s Officers.

3. Live JCR Accounts

3.1

The JCR Treasurer shall update and publicise the JCR Live Accounts spreadsheet on the JCR website, presenting the financial status of the JCR in terms of financial reserves and both categorised and itemised expenditure.

3.3

The spreadsheet shall include the following information:

1. The level of funds available in each account (i.e. the Charity Fund, the Entz Fund etc.).
2. The net change in each account from the previous term's Live Accounts.
3. The transactions which have taken place on each account including: The date of the transaction.
 - a. The amount of the transaction.
 - b. A description of the transaction (i.e. the purpose for which the money was sent e.g. Quiz Night/Careers networking evening).
 - c. The name of the recipient, unless when reporting welfare transactions which shall remain anonymous or when, exceptionally, the Treasurer in concurrence with the JCR President views it as necessary to redact this.

d. Where a "block grant" is given to an officer/s or JCR member (e.g. for a purpose such as 5th week blues events) of £500 or more:

- i) A broad description of how the funds were spent (i.e. £ X for massages, £ X for 5th week JCRT).
- ii) Unless, exceptionally, the Treasurer in concurrence with the JCR President views this as inappropriate or unpractical.

3.4

Application for reimbursement or other funding by members of the JCR will constitute consent to the publication of details of this transaction in the Live Accounts.

Proposer: Julien Kress

Secunder: Nailah Ranjan

d. Constitutional amendment to create the role of JCR Class Officer

The JCR notes that:

- Access issues for students from working class, low income and non-traditional socio-economic backgrounds do not end with getting into Oxford
- A 2020 Guardian Investigation found 'widespread evidence of students at some of the country's leading universities being ridiculed over their accents and backgrounds, in some cases prompting them to leave education.'
- The findings of the Educating All Report show that over 70% respondents (from Russell Group Unis including Oxford) who identified as working class agreed with the statement that "your class was a barrier when integrating at university"

- 74.8% respondents who identified as working class felt that they did not fit in at university, compared to 27.6% of those who did not identify as working class
- Students at Oxford are 1.4 times more likely to achieve firsts if they weren't 'flagged' at application. Those who are flagged are more likely to drop out or suspend. Flagged applicants include those from schools with low Oxbridge admissions rates, from postcodes considered to be socioeconomically deprived, and care leavers.
- The University is working to improve access to university through schemes such as Opportunity Oxford and the Foundation Year, but support for students from low socio-economic backgrounds once they arrive at the university continues to be mainly financial and lacking in pastoral focus (University Access and Participation strategic plan 2021-25, https://www.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/oxford/UniversityOfOxford_APP_2020-21.pdf)
- The Oxford SU Class Act Campaign exists to support and improve the experience of working class, low income, state educated, from underrepresented regions, care leavers and estranged students
 - We have heard, and experienced ourselves, barriers and issues due to our socio economic backgrounds
- These 'inreach' issues are substantially different from outreach issues
 - Imposter syndrome, classism among peers and tutors and dealing with different levels of income are just a handful
- The (brilliant) access officers should not be expected to deal with both inreach and outreach
- One of the ways Class Act supports their students is through campaigning for Class Officers in every college to support, create safe spaces for and to represent them in college life
- Several colleges have installed a similar position [Class/Social Backgrounds/Socioeconomic Rep]: Hertford, Queens, Balliol, Wadham, St Catherine's, Corpus Christi, LMH, St Hilda's and St John's.

- That this JCR committee has multiple important representative roles such as BAME, GSD, Access, Disabilities, and Women*s Officers

The JCR believes that:

- The work done by individual colleges and the university to support students from disadvantaged or minority groups often does not adequately address class, financial or academic background
- That as a constituent college of the University of Oxford, this college has a role to play in the addressing of this issue in the university.
- That although financial support exists to a degree, pastoral support is less present, and that financial support alone is inadequate to address the difficulties these students face when they reach Oxford.
- The visibility of the Class Officer role can help to combat the sense of alienation that these students experience at Oxford.
- Establishing the role will send an explicit message of support to the students who need it and will enable the JCR to better represent its students through offering support on finding financial support at the college and university and organising college events to create spaces to discuss shared experiences and problems.

The JCR resolves to:

- Create a new role on the JCR Committee of Class Officer, which will be husted for in each Hilary term.
- Amend the Constitution to include this role, including the following as a role description:

The Class Representative(s) shall:

1. *Have overall responsibility within the common room to represent working class, low income, state comprehensive school-educated, and*

first generation students, as well as care leavers and estranged students.

2. *Promote the welfare of these students at the college and ensure that college and university resources and services are well publicised and accessible to them.*
3. *Lobby the college to better support these students both financially and pastorally.*
4. *Attend meetings of relevant college committees.*
5. *Liaise with Oxford SU's Class Act campaign (e.g. by attending meetings set up between Class Act and the college Class Representatives such as ClassCom).*
6. *Work together with other committee officers, including (but not limited to) the BAME, GSD, Access, Disabilities, and Women*s Officers to work towards common goals and collaborative initiatives in recognition of the intersectional ways in which systems of oppression overlap*

Proposer: Skye Fitzgerald-McShane

Seconder: Ellie Cassidy

e. JCR letter to Twix

The JCR notes that:

- The JCR has a coffee machine that (sometimes) serves a variety of warm drinks
- People often enjoy having a biscuit-esque snack with a warm drink
- The JCR does not currently have snacks to be enjoyed alongside a warm drink
- The colours of Teddy hall are maroon and gold (see figure 1A)
- The colours of Twix are red (read maroon) and gold (see figure 1B)

- Red and maroon are very similar (see figures 1A and 1B)

The JCR believes that:

- The JCR has a coffee machine that (sometimes) serves a variety of warm drinks
- A twix bar is a biscuit-esque snack and would therefore be a suitable snack to accompany a warm drink
- Having snacks with warm drinks would greatly increase welfare and productivity
- Welfare and productivity are good
- Having snacks that are from companies with colours that are not the same as the Hall's would be traitorous
- Having twix bars would not be traitorous (refer to points 4, 5 and 6 above)

The JCR resolves to:

- Have the JCR committee write a letter to Twix asking for free Twix bars to accompany JCR warm drink consumption and post said letter to the JCR page for all to read
- Ask Twix to investigate the possibility of vegan and/or dairy free twix bars so that no one is prevented from enjoying the snacks
- Offer Twix the opportunity to be an exclusive warm drink snack partner of the JCR and be publicised as such on the JCR influencer/ insta account
- Offer a 1.5hr DJ set from Ollie on the Mike at the Twix Christmas party to seal the deal
- Keep the JCR up-to date with Twix's responses and if necessary send chasing emails until we get a reply

Proposer: Felix Gallagher

Secunder: Shariz Aslam

Appendix

Figure 1A



Figure 1B



f. Sign the open letter to Balliol from It Happens Here

The JCR notes that:

- There was a recent Al Jazeera investigation published in which two Oxford professors were found to have abused their power with sexist and drunken behaviour, as well as being implicated in incidents of sexual harassment.
 - <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/10/19/oxford-professors-abused-position-with-sexist-and-drunken-conduct>
- The investigation also found failures in the way that Oxford deals with allegations of sexual misconduct by staff or other students.
- One of these incidents was at Balliol, where complaints of sexual abuse by a member of the MCR were dealt with a grossly incompetent and harmful response.
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kUMwMy53Hlk>
- The survivor is disabled and on the nights of the abuse was unable to consent due to being her medication for her disability.
- The college imposed conditions upon which the survivor's access to disabled-access accommodation was based. For example, if she took part in activities involving heavy drinking she would be asked to leave the graduate accommodation centre.
- Balliol also listed explicitly the queer or queer-coded spaces that the survivor should not be attending.
- Neither the survivor nor any witnesses to the incidents were ever interviewed, indicating a failure of proper investigation.
- Balliol maintains that it "lacks power and resources to investigate such an offence in a fair and responsible manner".
- This goes against guidance published by Universities UK which is titled "Guidance for higher education institutions: how to handle alleged student misconduct". This guidance advises that misconduct which could constitute a crime should still be dealt with through internal

procedures, irrespective of whether it is reported to the police. This was not followed by Balliol.

- Both Balliol and Oxford University have declined to comment on individual cases of assault and harassment cited by the Al Jazeera article. Individual college members at Balliol such as the Chaplain and the Praefectus of the Graduate Centre declined to comment as well.
- It Happens Here is an autonomous OUSU campaign dedicated to raising awareness about sexual violence and working to ensure that Oxford is a safe community.
- It Happens Here has drafted an open letter to Balliol in which they put forward the information above and call on the college to reform their procedures for the handling of such allegations.
- The letter has already been signed by multiple SU campaigns as well as: St Peter's, St Benet's Hall, LMH, New, Trinity, Lincoln, St Catz, Harris Manchester, Univ, Keble, Oriel, Hertford, Jesus and Balliol Students for Safety.

The JCR believes that:

- Colleges need to take responsibility for fairly and thoroughly investigating allegations of student and/or staff misconduct.
- Colleges have a duty to protect the welfare of their students and this should not be affected by conditions such as a disability, as was the case at Balliol.
- Colleges should hold abusers to account through their disciplinary and investigative procedures.
- Balliol has clearly failed to do so, as outlined in the open letter from It Happens Here.
- This is a very worthwhile cause to give the JCR's support to, in order to reform policies relating to allegations of misconduct by a student or staff members.

The JCR resolves to:

- Mandate the JCR Committee to sign this open letter from It Happens Here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1cxyABZ64G8Zcp5Lm9E8lUEWZGFILYBHBeAO89v0JG8/edit?fbclid=IwAR0i3o59V1uIDsH6t8vZnGMQVXnkSm39VjGPh0m-UXq0ZnHrv0dWHf3lqVo>
- Stand in solidarity with survivors and make it clear that sexual violence is not tolerated in the college and university community.

Proposed by: Nailah Ranjan

Seconded by: Ruchita Raghunath