

Short-hands:

POI = Point of Information

Q = Question

A = Answer

P = Proposer/Seconder

Meeting started: 8:21pm

Numbers in Attendance: – 35 quorum achieved

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
-

2. Reports and Officers' Question Time

Julien: One thing, on Tuesday there is a chance to do the university challenge tryouts with Max Davis. He asked me to send that message out. (I know the minutes are too late for this one sorry!!)

Nailah: Hustings are Monday of 6th week, please consider running especially if you're in 2nd year! Also for freshers, there's always loads of freshers on the committee and it's very welcoming. Please send me a manifesto by Wednesday of this week if you're interested in running! We promise it's a good time.

Julien: You also get a free drink if you hust

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

Secunder: Katie Kirkpatrick

P: Hi everyone, I'm Rose not Emma or Katie but was asked to do this 10 minutes ago. Our motion is to support *Persephone* which is a musical happening next week at the playhouse. It is the first student run musical they have ever put on there and it's being put on by a student production company called Jazz Hands Production. It was co-founded by someone from Teddy and there are lots of Teddy students involved in the musical including the writer, director and set designer Emma Hawkins.

Funding is super important for the production and we are asking for £300. This would go towards marketing and production costs, specifically set design which includes flying trees. The production is tackling loads of societal issues like mental health, power abuse and feminism. They also have a lot of access and outreach work with schools going on.

Due to Covid, productions have not been going on so it's important to now support students who want to go into productions as their careers. So please donate £300 to the production of *Persephone*. It would cover majority of the costume costs or speaker fees for one of the upcoming events.

Q: For the set pieces and props you buy, what happens to them after production? Can future Teddy productions use them?

A: They either go to the TAFF store which is the general production store for all of Oxford or they get resold to try recuperate costs.

Q: How much money do you expect to make from the production?

A: they need to sell 1700 tickets to break even and they're currently on 1050. So they do really need funding, otherwise they'll lose money.

Q: So if they sell over 1700 they make a profit?

A: Yes

Q: Can they give us any of this profit, we can treat this motion as an investment?

A: No

Q: Where can we watch this?

A: The Oxford Playhouse on Thursday, Friday and Saturday this week. There's a matinee on Friday and Saturday at 2:30.

For: 26

Against: 1

Abstain: 2

Motion passed

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

P: I have absolutely nothing to do with this play but Bella is resting her voice and getting some well-earned sleep, she went to bed at half 7. So I don't know anything about it but there are 4 of them in the play and it's set in Paris. It's about two couples having an argument about their kids or something. Bella is in it, so she's a quarter of the cast. And James Newbery is co-directing it.

So out of the 7 people in it, 2 are Teddy. It is quite an important Teddy event, so important that neither of them could be bothered to turn up. Basically we should give money to support God of Carnage.

Q: Are they selling tickets?

A: I believe so?

POI: £6 a ticket

Q: How many tickets have they sold?

A: I don't even know what date it's on

POI: 16-20th November

Q: How much money are we donating

A: Kalli seems to know

POI: £250

Q: What's your favourite line from the play?

A: Someone must say 'hi' at some point

For: 24

Against: 1

Abstain: 6

Motion passed

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

Seconder: Nailah Ranjan

P: I'm the proposer but this was a general committee effort. The point is to make sure we're spending that's more reflective of the constitution. Currently committee members ask for reimbursements in the motions. The treasurer gives the money and then hopes that the motion will pass. It's a little stressful. It usually ends up passing but we'd like to have a

committee budget that the treasurer and exec can give out to committee members. So committee can spend money without worrying about a motion. We would cap this, and any spending that goes above would have a motion.

People like BAME, GSD and Sports officers are often discouraged from organising stuff and we want to make sure they put on as many events as possible. But generally they're scared of doing it because they're scared of not getting funding.

We're proposing a welfare budget used for welfare purposes. This would be £1.5k a term. You could go over the budget to reimburse welfare products if needed. There would also be a general committee budget of £2.5k but over the whole year.

The reason why welfare is termly but the committee budget is annual is because some committee members spend more at some times of the year than others. We also want to amend the constitution to say that the treasurer will consult committee members at the start of each term on what events they will need money for. This means there's more transparency and allows committee members to plan events.

This motion, if we support it, is to hold a referendum to decide on the constitutional amendment. This motion is not to pass the amendment but to have a referendum. If you want to see the details of the amendment they're typed up below the motion. I've also added an overdue update about JCR live accounts. On the JCR website you have live accounts of the money we have and spend. It says in the constitution that the treasurer needs to present accounts to the JCR at the start of term but we replaced that a couple of years ago with live accounts so we want to reflect that in the constitution.

Q: is the £2.5k based on what we normally spend?

A: Yeah it's based off of normal spend. The welfare budget is spending for things that don't normally need a motion, but we wanted to have a set number. The committee budget is based off past spending but there is extra set aside for anyone else who wants to spend JCR money.

For: 34

Motion passed

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

Secunder: Ellie Cassidy

P: This motion is for a constitutional amendment to add a class officer to the JCR committee. Access issues for students who are in Oxford are very different from issues for students outside Oxford. We have brilliant access officers but it's not the same type of work and is a lot of work to put on 2 people.

We're suggesting a class officer to do a pastoral role, like the access officer but students in college. There are a lot of issues facing working class, low income, state educated students in Oxford that can be a tangible barrier to feeling comfortable, safe and successful in your degree and social life. There's loads of evidence from places like the Sutton Trust and the Guardian of things like imposter syndrome, facing discrimination due to your accent, not being able to afford certain things, lacking cultural capital etc.

Lots of different colleges have a class rep, it's something that Class Act is pushing for. Class Act is an SU campaign and I'm currently the co-chair. We support working class, low income, care leavers, estranged students. If you want specifics it's all in the motion.

The key thing is having a class officers to do similar things to BAME and GSD officers: put on welfare events and have a pastoral role. They would have responsibility to represent these students and lobby colleges for changes to make things more accessible. E.g. accessing hardship funds can be really difficult because the system is really complicated. Some of them close in 0th week so having information about that is crucial for some people.

The class rep would also attend meetings and sit on college committees. They would also work with Class Act and sit on Class Comm every term which is where all the different class reps from colleges would sit and chat about actions to take. They'd also work with different minority group officers to consider the intersectionality of issues like class. The motion is supported by Ellie and Anjali, our beautiful access officers and would be a great thing to have.

Q: How many reps would there be?

A: Just one.

For: 38

Against: 1

Motion passed

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

P: As we can all see we have a JCR coffee machine that sometime serves a variety of warm drinks. Actually, it's more than sometimes as Rachel Trippier has been very on it at the moment with refilling it. But people do often enjoy a biscuit-type snack with a warm drink. I think it would be good to implement for the JCR.

As you can see from the lovely figures, the colours of the logos are very similar. If they don't look similar it's probably the lighting in here rather than the colours of the logos. But maroon and gold and red and gold (quite a maroony shade of red) are very similar.

A twix bar would be a suitable biscuit-like snack to accompany warm drinks in the JCR. I think it would boost welfare and productivity, which as we approach finals and prelims season, would be very appreciated. Welfare and productivity are good, it should be in the JCR notes section and not the believes section because that's just a fact really.

Having snacks from companies whose colours aren't the same as the Hall's would be very sketchy. Like if you were whipping out biscuits with the same colours as K*ble I don't think it would have the same impact on welfare and productivity. So I think Twix bars are the best to go for.

I thought the JCR committee should write to Twix to ask for free Twix bars to accompany hot drinks. If we could all see that letter by them posting it on the JCR fb page for the sake of transparency, that would be good. There is the slight hiccup that Twix does not do vegan or dairy free twix bars so we should ask them to investigate that and supply us with them.

Twix might not take this deal, so to really seal it we can offer them the chance to be our exclusive warm drink snack partner. And be publicised on our lovely influencer insta account. And if that doesn't do the job, then we'll offer a 1.5 hour DJ set from Ollie on the Mike at the Twix Christmas Party.

**** embarrassing amount of cackling from Kalli****

If that doesn't seal the deal then I'm not sure what else to do. If you have experienced that DJ set it is phenomenal. In the weekly JCR emails, it would be great to get an update on the letter situation to Twix and chase them up if needed.

Q: Could you write the letter?

A: I'd be happy to do a first draft, but I'd want to run it by the committee as I'm probably not qualified to do it.

Q: Some members of the JCR haven't been blessed by Ollie on the Mike, so could we get a little sample of what we're offering Twix?

sA: Luckily the Mike part of Ollie on the Mike is here. It would be twix themed, so we'd have some ABBA with Take a Twix on Me. We'd also have Have Yourself a Very Merry Twixmas. And of course Come on Eileen by the Twixy's Midnight Runners. If that's enough for you we'll leave it there.

Appendix

Figure 1A



Figure 1B



For: 28

Against: 4

Abstain: 1

Motion passed

TW: This motion contains mentions of sexual assault.

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/1cxyABZ64G8Zcp5Lm9E8IIUEWZGFILYBHBeAO89v0JG8/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

P: I'm sure some of you have heard about this but there was a recent Al Jazeera investigation. They found that 2 Oxford tutors abused their power with sexist and drunken behaviour and were implicated in incidents of sexual harassment. The link to this article is in the motion if you wanted to look at it.

The investigation also found failures in Oxford's approach to dealing with incidents of sexual abuse by staff and/or students. One of these instances happened at Balliol in the MCR where one member of the MCR was sexually abused by another on multiple occasions.

There was a complete lack of a competent response from Balliol in any way, some of the details are in the motion but I'll summarise some of the most significant things. The college imposed conditions upon which the survivor's access to disabled-access accommodation was based, e.g. if she was taking part in activities involving heavy drinking she would be asked to leave. The survivor wasn't interviewed, neither were any of the witnesses to the incident which indicates clear failure of investigation from Balliol. There are a lot more horrible details in the motion which I'm not going to go into but it is there if you want more information.

Overall, Balliol has said that it lacks the power and resources to investigate an incident like this in a fair and responsible manner. This goes against guidance published which said that universities should investigate any allegations of misconduct which could constitute a crime, even if it hasn't been reported to the police.

We brought the motion forward because It Happens Here have written an open letter. IHH is an SU campaign dedicated to raising awareness about sexual violence and working to ensure that Oxford is a safe community. The open letter is to Balliol and they have summarised the information I have mentioned and called on the college to reform procedures for handling such allegations. It's been circulated to JCRs and SU campaigns and gotten quite a lot of support. So I'm asking the JCR to mandate Julien to sign the letter on behalf of us to show we stand in support with the IHH campaign.

Also, I want the JCR to make it clear that our JCR doesn't tolerate sexual violence and that we stand in solidarity with survivors, and that this kind of thing should not be accepted in our college or the wider university community.

Motion passed as no questions were asked