

HT Hustings Minutes

Order of Business:

Meeting Started: 19:14

Short hands:

POI = Point of Interest

Q = Question

A = Answer

Structure of hustings:

- Each candidate delivers a speech of 1 minute in length (2 minutes for executive positions).
- Questions may be asked of all candidates. The order in which the candidates answer is rotated for each question.
- The JCR chair may reject inappropriate questions. No candidate is obliged to answer any question.

Uncontested exec positions**VICE PRESIDENT**

- Poppy Buckley

P: Hi, I'm Poppy and I'm running for VP. Most of you will know me already and you can find me a lot of the time in the library or procrastinating in the JCR. As you all know, I'm always up for a chat. I was on committee last year and I already understand the roles and responsibilities of everyone. I've communicated a lot with senior members of staff.

I'm also very organised and love Ming. I think nutrition and fuel are very important for our brains and help us win coppers. So, I want to make sure Ming remains tasty, affordable, diverse, and I will make sure your suggestions are put forward to the domestic committee immediately. This year we have had some brilliant new formals celebrating the diversity we have at Teddy. I definitely want to continue these. Whilst these have been great, they're also quite expensive and we're students who want to save money. So, I want to look into the possibility of making tickets cheaper and either bringing in your own alcohol or purchasing it on the door to have between friends. Then you can take it away and its split fairer along the tables as well.

With the bar, I really love the Teddy bar and I think we need a better booking system that everyone can access. All the JCR and MCR would be able to see it and if the MCR door is open/whether you can play darts or not. This would also help avoid some of the clashes we've had this year and make the bar more comfortable for people. If creative writing is going on, you don't want a big rowdy group next door.

On the welfare and communication front, we've got so many noticeboards with a lot of outdated information on. I want to update these with all the welfare contacts, sexual health advice and also more fun things like the Entz term cards and upcoming fixtures. So, you don't have to scroll back on Facebook eight weeks.

Lastly, I know a very crucial part of this role is the coffee machine. I do love chocolate milk. Luckily for you, I spent a year in lockdown cleaning and refilling a Costa machine at 5am every day, so the JCR coffee machine will be no match for me.

Questions:

Q: Could you act out filling the JCR coffee machine. Adam, could you corroborate?

P: Walk to the Porter's lodge and get the key. Open up it with the key. Go into the JCR kitchen. Open the cupboard after I've unlocked it. I don't unlock the cupboard? That's not very good security. Get out the chocomilk powder. Come back through the door. Open up the machine. Pull out the insert thing. Pour in the chocomilk. Shut it. Do the same with the coffee and the milk powder. Shut it. Lock it. Take the key back immediately. What did I miss?

Chair: The waste bucket.

Roble: Also, you have to turn the machine off and on then shut it.

P: I'm sure I'll get some teaching and training. If I was to be elected.

Q: I can't eat dairy, so the only options are black coffee and tea, which don't taste good. Can you do anything?

P: We looked into non-dairy milk alternatives. I also think the fridge needs rotation; I went in there the other day and there was milk from 10th December. I can look into seeing if the machine will take non-dairy milk powder but sadly, I think it's a bit old. Maybe we can push to get an update version, who knows?

Q: Where were you on the room ballot?

P: 4th.

Q: What's your favourite ming?

P: Good question. I do quite like fish and chips on Friday, it's something I never cook for myself. Or I quite like when they used to do pitta breads with hummus and that sort of situation. The vegan chocolate mousse today was also very nice.

Q: Thoughts on Meat Free Mondays?

P: I think for sustainability its good. At the moment, how they're doing it with two veggie and one meat is probably the best alternative. Whilst it would be great to have all veggie, in college people wouldn't agree with that and we don't want certain people who are out-and-out meat eaters, or don't like veggie options, to not go to Ming. I think it's better if we have a different range so everyone's getting some food they like.

Q: For vegetarians, tempeh is the frequent Ming. Could we change that?

P: Obviously I haven't been to a domestic committee meeting yet or anything. When I'm there I'll propose new ideas to the chef. I think the problem is the chef is catering for 200 people a day and they can quite easily get stuck into patterns of knowing what they can cook. I do really like food and cooking myself so I'm quite happy to find new recipes and give them ideas.

Q: Occasionally you will end up having difficult conversations with members of corporate staff. For example, if there's a meal people really didn't like but you need to handle it with tact. How would you imagine having a conversation with the chef about tempeh for instance?

P: I would start with saying obviously we appreciate his cooking and all he is doing. People like this element of the dish, but they would like a bit of a change because we all need variety in our lives. Just be firm and make sure I get the point across. At the end of the day, I guess it's up to him but if we keep pushing it then hopefully.

Q: Following the dissolution of the food and drinks officer, will you take over the Instagram?

P: I think the Instagram is an IT Officer role now, so that will be Whitmarsh. In terms of everything else, of course the VP does all the meetings Rose went to anyway. If anyone has any suggestions on food and drink, I'm quite happy to take them forward.

TREASURER

- Teddy Thomson

T: Hi guys, I'm Teddy. I'm applying for Treasurer. I've previously been the Sports Sec. I really enjoyed being on the committee, that's why I want to go again. I've done some bookkeeping before for a small business. I do E&M which is obviously the only qualification you need. I did an accounting module working with spreadsheets and stuff. Aside from that, I think the biggest influence I'm hoping to have for people in the JCR is quick and easy access to funds. So that people aren't out of pocket for any longer than they need to be. If they're having to purchase anything for any events. That can be quite a big help. Just making legitimate access to funds as easy as possible. That's my main point that's going to impact most members. And other than that, being responsible and transparent with finances. Just keeping the books well in general.

Questions:

Q: Obviously, Treasurer is about spending money and getting the most value out of things. What's your standard Tesco meal deal and why?

T: I don't think I've actually purchased a meal deal since they became £3.50. But, when they were £3, I like the wraps. I think they seem a little bit smaller, but they taste better. Usually, a pack of crisps. I don't like fizzy drinks, so I buy them and give them to my friends.

Aws

Q: Compare and contrast the treasure hoarding abilities of Smaug and Blackbeard.

T: I think Blackbeard was pretty good with treasure, as in raw acquisition. But then, is it all lost out there? Blackbeard buried it all and died. I promise not to do that with the JCR funds.

Q: Why don't we just print more money?

T: That's a great question. We could see problems with inflation and the devaluing of the currency. Also, how would you put that money into the system? You could do it with how the government central bank buys assets back. It would have different impacts on interest rates which would then have broader implications for the economy.

Q: What's your favourite form of currency?

T: I like pound coins because they're quite satisfying to purchase things with. It's not as flimsy. Maybe £2 coins actually.

Q: Is there anything you can promise us in how quick you can give funds. How good are you at replying to texts immediately?

T: Having messenger on my computer with the notifications. I think I can be pretty prompt. I can commit to not turning do not disturb on my computer on. Then, every time I can see if you need money.

Q: Do you promise to reply even if you're mid essay crisis?

T: Yes, even if it is just to say, "I'm mid essay crisis."

Brodie: Do you promise to reply to a message mid-hustings?

T: Not during my hustings unless you'd really like me to.

Responds

Brodie nods

Uncontested non-exec positions

BAME OFFICER

- Aminah Dixon & Usmaan Nadeem

A: Hi guys, I'm Aminah. I'm a second-year engineer. I'm from mixed heritage background and I would love to be your next BAME officer. I would also like to add that I would like to co-run with another second year called Usmaan. He sadly couldn't make it, but he echoes everything I say and will just help me with some of the more admin side of the tasks. My main aim is to follow on Lucia's amazing last year and continue to make Teddy hall as friendly for BAME students as possible. Also make the transition into Oxford for anyone in first year, and any year, as easy possible. Furthermore, I want to do diversity formal at least once a term; I want to do diversity drinks; I want to do cake and coffee

where everyone can casually chat about their issues; I want people to come to me and be a friendly face around college. Read my manifesto!

Questions:

Q: Would you like to talk more about your ideas?

A: The main thing I thought was really great about last year was the diversity formal, I think it was very successful. Everyone had an amazing time, and we need to continue that. I'd also like to implement a casual cake-welfare-session like twice a term, where I'll buy some food and we can just chat about Oxford and life. It doesn't need to be BAME related. It can be a nice place to meet some people from similar backgrounds, we can just chat.

More importantly, on a more formal side, I want to make sure that there's a clear system of whom to approach if there are any issues. Maybe get a few posters up around college so everyone's clear, put a few posts in the JCR page. I want people to understand who they can go to and who they can talk to, and that I'm a person in college that they can come talk to, if there are any issues. Hopefully, through all the events we can all get to know each other within college. There'll be a network of people. In the long term, I would like to create a system of mentorship/buddy-system where, if there is a fresher who is worried about transitioning into Oxford, they can be paired with a fourth year. They have already done four years and can discuss issues with that person, so there is this sort of relationship already starting. Then if there are issues, that fourth year will already know the system and hopefully it can be passed down.

Q: You said Usmaan echoed everything you said and would say. Can you give us an impression of that echo?

A: He sent me a text; I will read that out.

"He loves organising things and he loves welfare. He loves all things BAME related, and he would love to come help me do this. He's read my manifesto and agrees with everything on it."

Clicks and awes

WOMEN*'S OFFICERS

- Charlotte Rich-Jones and Eve Gueterbock

C: Hey, I'm Charlotte.

E: And I'm Eve. We are two second year fine artists that are hoping to take over the role of Women's and Gender Minorities Officer.

C: Following in the exemplary footsteps of our predecessors, Harriet and Sarah, we plan to continue and oversee their endeavour of facilitating free sanitary products in all Teddy's public bathrooms.

E: In addition to this, we plan to work closely with the Women*'s Welfare Officer, Lalou, to be an approachable point of contact within Teddy.

C: We are also very excited about WOTH and will channel our creativity into lots of fun WOTH themes.

E: Hopefully a big WOTH next term.

Questions:

Q: What's your WOTH idea?

E: Des-WOTH-able Me.

Q: What's been your favourite WOTH so far?

E: Mr WOTHwide.

Q: From the WOTH that happened last week, what was your favourite moment?

C: I quite enjoyed when we went on the college bar crawl and Lalou drank out of a cap.

E: The cap will be involved in the next WOTH. That one specifically.

MEN*'S OFFICERS

- Reuben Kyne and Leo Brake

R: We are Reuben and Leo. We're great. Hello, nice to meet you all. We are going to be running MOTH, hopefully if we don't get RON-ed too much, because we love drinking and not drinking. Also, it would be nice to incorporate the whole year a bit more. MOTH hasn't really run properly, and we'd like to bring it back.

L: Carrying on from what Felix has been doing, raising awareness for men's mental health, Movember, and stuff like that. Maybe doing some fundraisers and charity work for mental health charities.

R: Also, I think the Good Lads workshop needs to be run at the start of Michaelmas. I don't think it's been organised this year, so I'd like to organise it for next term. That really needs to be done. I'd like to look for a gender awareness and equality workshop for the men of the hall, I think that would be beneficial. People might agree.

Questions:

Q: Occasionally, there's been problems with turnout for MOTH. What kind of ideas do you have?

L: Largely with that it's been late notice or no notice. So constant reminders, fun enticing themes to get people wanting to go. Instead of a crate in the JCR, more of an event.

Q: What do you plan on doing to make it enticing, not just to the crowd that drinks?

L: Obviously, we're not just going to make everyone go to every college bar and drink every college cocktail.

R: Focusing more on the theme, and less on the bar crawl. A lot of years the event is just drinking tinnies in the JCR. Whereas if you have it as a theme, people get incorporated, there's a game behind it. You can incorporate drinking into that or chose not to and still feel a part of it.

L: That is another thing, focusing on people who aren't interested in drinking. That's something that's been a bit neglected. Events are run for the drinking side, and we want to change that.

Q: What is your theme?

R: I really wanted to do this MOTH theme, but it's been stolen. I was thinking Bat-MOTH would be quite funny where it's a batman theme. We could spend some of the budget to buy batman masks.

L: I also thought, honing in on the fact that we all know WOTH is a lot better. Being like, "we could never beat WOTH" and just cross dressing.

R: Also, GOTH where we all put black eyeliner on.

ARTS OFFICERS

- Ella Soni, Bliss Ashley, Eve Aspland

ES: I'm Ella.

B: I'm Bliss.

EA: I'm Eve.

ES: We're first year fine art students and we're running for arts and culture reps.

EA: Why us? We spend most of our time together, which means conversations happen often. It also means we understand how each other work. We have different experiences outside of art such as drama, music, and community work, which all feed into the wider concerns with culture, not just visual arts. We will continue doing student exhibitions, including other years as well and not just art people. We've spoken to the principal, bursar, and our tutor; they will encourage these events. Also, having a separate creative space that can be used for creative writing, because I know they have to work in the bar which kind of sucks.

B: We want to clean up the music room and make it a better space. I feel like it's not advertised very much, and people don't necessarily use it because it's very cluttered. We want to replace some equipment, just that it's a better place, and maybe have a shared creative space to get people who don't do art involved.

Questions:

Q: Do you want to finish what you were saying?

B: Hopefully we'll run workshops, maybe a zine workshop. Something to do with talking about music and more open mic nights, hopefully one a term. Also, use the shop fronts. We were talking to the principal, and she said we could do a shared teddy hall arts sale.

EA: Do more promotion as well through Instagram and Facebook etc. Of the wider things within Oxford as well as Teddy Hall.

ES: There's a lot of exhibitions and open calls happening around Oxford, not just in colleges.

Q: Who's your favourite artist?

EA: Mine's Bliss Ashley and Ella Soni.

Q: Is it your job to run TART?

EA: I don't think so, it's a separate organisation, but we will get more involved. Also, making it a college wide thing?

CLASS OFFICER

- Klaudia Losiakowska

K: Hello, I'm Klaudia and I'm running for Class Officer. I'm first generation, working class, low income, state school comprehensive educated. Most of the things I want to do are continuing the work Katie did with lobbying college for more means tested bursaries. Making the whole application of financial support more accessible because they're not really advertising what help is available. It's a really daunting process. I want to make that more accessible and be the friendly face. Make it less scary. I also want to get more involved with Crankstart and Class Act SU, so it's not just within college. College is quite small, and we can have buddy systems/networks of students of similar backgrounds across the university.

Questions:

Q: Specifically, what are you going to do to make financial aid more accessible?

K: I'd like to speak to the financial office and find out everything. What goes into the application, all the information you need and make it into a leaflet, physical or online. So, it's readily available for students who want it.

Q: Do you have any ideas about how Class and Access Officers could collaborate?

K: We could do some social events. I know some colleges do pizza nights within college itself or with different colleges. We could do budgeting workshops to make the transition from home to uni easier.