

JCR Meeting Minutes

Order of Business:

1. Matters arising
2. Reports and Officers' question time
3. Motions
 - a. Teddy food and drinks officer
 - b. Art and drama fund
 - c. Subscription to Oxymoron
 - d. Disaster relief for Turkey
 - e. CARE4CALAIS
 - f. New tables for the JCR
 - g. College to match JCR's charity donations
4. Any other business
 - a. Teddy cheer team
 - b. Hustings

Short hands:

- POI = Point of Interest
 Q = Question
 A = Answer
 P/S = Proposer/Seconder

Attendance: 35 – quorum achieved (35)

Meeting Started: 19:11

3. Motions

a. Teddy and food and drinks officer

The JCR notes that:

- Food and drinks have, and always will be, a vital part of the Hall.
- The vice president sits on all domestic committee meetings.
- The food and drinks rep only sits on a few committee meetings.
- The vice president is expected to fill the coffee machine, as is the food and drinks rep.
- Currently multiple people can go and retrieve the key from the porters and fill up the machine.

The JCR believes that:

- The role of the food and drinks rep is no longer needed, as the vice president is perfectly able to complete these jobs themselves.
- All feedback for domestic affairs can be sent straight to the vice president, and communicated clearly to college, instead being confused with multiple people

The JCR resolves to:

- Once this current officer's term has finished remove the food and drinks officer from the constitution.
- Not have the position of food and drinks officer husted for at the Hilary elections.
- Retransfer all expectations of the food and drinks officer back to the Vice President.
- Give the IT Officer control of the 'TeddyMingRep' Instagram to maintain the posting of the menus for ease of access.

Proposer: Brodie Weymouth

Seconder: Adam Roble

Brodie: Basically, we all love food and drinks, but at the moment the food and drinks officer doesn't really do anything unique. We all appreciate Rose and what she's done this year, but currently the food and drinks officer and the vice pres are basically doing the same role, but the vice pres attends those meetings more frequently anyways. Likewise with the coffee machine, anyone could fill it up so at the moment it's a redundant position sitting on the JCR committee. It would be best to remove it and give more focus back onto the JCR vice president. It just makes for better clarity; people now know there's one person who they need to go to, to voice their concerns or feedback about ming. Just for clarification, the menu-uploading will move onto the IT officer as they are social media and IT now.

Motion passes

b. Arts and drama fund

The JCR notes that:

- Drama and arts are an important part of Teddy.

The JCR believes that:

- It would be easier to access if each application didn't have to go through a meeting.

The JCR resolves to:

- Ring fence £1500 per academic year for spending on drama and art motions only.
- The budget has a cap of a third of its overall budget to be spent each term
- Applications to the budget are made throughout the term and then handed out in week 8
- Applications should be either invoice form or for a reimbursement.
- The approval is made by the arts rep, the treasurer, and the president.
- If the fund is not fully used up in a term it carries over to the next, any excess at the end of the year is returned to the main JCR account.
- If there is more application than money available, the pot will be split with priority given to projects that benefit the most members of the Hall.

Proposer: Brodie Weymouth

Secunder: Adam Roble

Brodie: Arts and drama is a big part of Teddy Hall, and we have our own officer for it, or three people at the moment. Of course, it's about to get voted for again. This is part of getting that officer more involved in decisions about art and drama, but also reorganising how we do the spending. It is of course a big, significant part of our budget. The idea is that we ringfence £1500 a year to purely being spent on arts and drama – so that money is not allowed for anything else. It would be split termly, to make it a bit cleaner. Applications will be made throughout the term and at the end of each term decisions will be made about how spending is made. That is only of course if an excess past that £500 is made. If there is less than that, everything will be approved and sent out. Basically, it's just establishing an arts and drama budget in itself, separate, much like we have a welfare budget or an entz budget.

Q: What would happen if more than £500 was requested?

Brodie: £500 is a cap for a term. If a previous term's £500 is not fully spent, then that will roll over. What would happen then is, a bit like with the charities last term, it will be given as % cut. But we will give preferential priority to motions that benefit more members of the Hall.

Roble: Can I just add, Brodies done some work going back through previous JCR meetings, per term. He's planned out all the spending, even going back pre-COVID to 2017. Do you want to talk a bit about data you've compiled?

Brodie: I did make a nice little graph. The average spending over all the terms is £287. Cutting out the COVID years because arts and drama did have a dip, is £404 a term. So, we feel £500 is a reasonable amount giving a margin of error, inflation or whatever.

Q: What did you look at for the breakdown? Was it just drama productions, or everything arts and culture? We had a look and things like the TART magazine and donations to the fine artists' programs can rack up a bit more.

Brodie: It was everything that come under arts and drama on the financial records – so it did include the arts magazine and art shows.

Q: Now, to get funding, would you still put a JCR motion or apply directly?

Brodie: You would apply directly to the arts people, and it would pend approval between the treasurer, the president, and the arts people. The idea is to reform it into a reimbursement, so you would say these props costed me x amount. Much like how the club fund works for sports and other clubs, which college runs.

Q: Why does it need to go through the president if it's like the entz fund? Could it not just go through the arts people?

B: We thought it needed some sort of exec representation, as of course entz and welfare are exec themselves. Two exec representations – president because it's a general position and treasurer, of course, as they know the budget

Q: Who do they have to apply to? Staff or students?

Brodie: They send the application to the arts rep, who will circulate it to the two execs and then it will get approved.

Q: If there is more than £500 spent, will that be open to JCR meetings?

Brodie: Applications are made throughout the term and handed out in 8th week, so it can be split.

Q: Does that mean someone's going to have to fund £200 to a play and not get paid until 8th week?

Brodie: That's how most funds work, acting on a basis of reimbursement and not initial payment.

Q: Talking about club funds from staff, you don't wait until 8th week. People shouldn't be having to wait until 8th week for reimbursement.

Brodie: The thing is we have that lump sum we've calculated. If we run out in 3rd week there's nothing, we can do about that.

Q: If it runs out in 3rd week, shouldn't we open to increasing the budget?

Brodie: That would just be reverting to the original model where we're subject to the rising demand of arts funds. The demand would soak up our budget, which we've been looking at. What we're trying to do here is calculate a figure, over several years, which will keep a sustainable budget going for the general JCR. At the moment, there is a slight issue where we are operating at a flat level. The MCR had excess money to completely refurbish their MCR room. We're struggling to find that; we rely a lot on college giving us money.

Q: Didn't we have a motion recently, £200 for blankets?

Brodie: This is compared to £44,000 that the MCR had to refurbish their room.

Q: What I'm saying is if we haven't managed in the past, arts and dramas is pretty important for people's work experience.

Q: To follow on from that, why is it arts and drama being cut and not drinks for sports tournaments?

Roble: It's not a cut, it's just a way of ringfencing a specific budget. It's also about making it easier for people who have plays, so they don't have to come to a meeting every single time. In theory it could then be voted down. I do take your point that there's a barrier to entry, if you spend the money and wait a month and a half to get it back, it's not necessarily always fair. We can have a discussion about an alternative way of doing it. I want to emphasise it's not about cutting money; it's about improving the system by which that happens. I'd be happy to talk about making funds for other things, but with coppers and drinks, we can't predict a set amount money as we don't know how far we get in each competition. With plays we have statistics about the regularity. I think £1500 is quite a significant sum of money.

Q: I think one concern related to that is, currently, if a project says we need £200 and gets voted on, they know they're getting £200. Whereas, in this system they could be reimbursed a fraction of that – or none of that. It's going to introduce an economic insecurity into the project. Is there a way of ensuring that money pledged will actually go there, or will people be in limbo until the end of term?

Brodie: I think the resolution is keeping communication with the people. The reality with these events is that there is always economic insecurity. If you're doing an event that has ticket sales in it, you can never be sure how many people are going to turn up to those events. We can't ensure full economic security of any event, but we can do our best to fund as many events as possible given this nice budget we've calculated.

Q: I appreciate that, but the one thing money is used for at the moment is to offset some of that insecurity that comes from the possibility of a play flopping commercially. If we take away this sort of economic security, there isn't much left except relying on college fundings to get plays going.

Roble: In my head, I see it more in the converse – greater security where there's a set amount of money you have access to, not at the whims of who turns up to JCR meetings and thinks it's funny to vote against it. The bigger and broader question, which Katie raised, is what's the most egalitarian and equal way of having it as a system. I'd appreciate hearing people's views on that, I think it's unfair for people to be left out of pocket for such a long time.

Q: Say if the money had run out, which is unlikely. Would there be anything stopping the person coming to next JCR meeting and doing another motion? Or would that be completely vetoed from the start.

Roble: Not necessarily, but I think it's in the spirit of the motion not to. It's primarily about convenience, right? When this exists, we expect people to use that, and looking at the numbers, the money lasting for each term. I don't know the specific term but, people who do drama, it seems like one of the terms there's typically not that much money asked for, so the money rolls over. Hilary or something?

Q: You said that any excess money goes back to the JCR fund by the end of the year. So, you get to Michaelmas, when there's a big influx of productions, and can't use the money from the last year because it's already gone. Hilary would roll over to Trinity, but there's fewer productions then.

Brodie: We could reorganise it, so it starts in Hilary and finishes in Michaelmas? With the President's term.

Friendly amendment to start fund in Hilary

Q: The other thing is, if you're thinking about how to split it evenly and it's an arts *and* drama fund, you'd want a down-the-middle split. So, you have about £250 for drama for that term. My general bid for a JCR motion for a play would be £300, as a maximum, for one play. That's one play getting money a term. If you get the Burton Taylor studio at the Oxford Playhouse, it's the cheapest I think, their venue hire is £250. So, coming back to economic stability, if you then don't break even from ticket sales then you've spent £250 on that. Your JCR money, which you would normally use for whatever else, is just negated. It's tricky to balance that. If it was a bit higher, then that would track, so you'd at least have the opportunity for multiple plays.

Roble: What kind of number do you think?

Q: I think £1800 would be better.

Brodie: Also, to add, we didn't specify it would be a 50:50 split.

Brodie: Just to highlight that generally these arts things can also look at funding from the amalgamated club's fund. For example, the jewellery club - if I throw that in as an arts thing. There are other sources of revenue which suggests it won't be a 50:50 split

POI: The college is very open to non-sporting clubs applying for that money.

Friendly amendment to raise fund to £1750

Q: The previous spending has been an average of £1200 per year, so that's quite a big increase for the budget. Are we looking to increase it?

Q: It's more about having that flexibility. It might be £400 on average but we don't know the standard deviation each term.

Q: That's why it rolls over.

Chair: It doesn't roll over on year end. If it's less than £1750 it would go back into the JCR pot.

Q: How are we planning on doing reimbursement, are we waiting until 8th week?

Roble: It makes the most sense to apply the term before. I don't think, correct me if I'm wrong, people in week 2 decide to do a play in week 4. It takes so much work, people rehearse over the vacation, so you know what's coming and what you've spent. I think the 8th week thing works; it just happens the term in advance. If you're happy with that.

Abstain: 3

Against: 5

Motion passes

c. Subscription to Oxymoron

The JCR notes that:

- The JCR does not have a subscription to the Oxymoron (satirical paper). We think they used to have one in the past.

The JCR believes that:

- The JCR should get a subscription to the Oxymoron for £40.

The JCR resolves to:

- Get a subscription to the Oxymoron for £40.

Proposer: Sophia Burse

Secunder: James O'Neill

P: The oxymoron is a satirical newspaper, which some guy Johnny is trying to revive. James and I are writing for it this term. We used to have a subscription to it in the past and we would like to get one again to help them print. It costs £40, its termly. We can just get it for this term, I suppose. It would get printed copies for the JCR. 30 or 35 copies.

Q: What is the magazine?

P: A satirical magazine about lots of things.

S: A bit more fun, no hate on Cherwell or ISIS.

Q: Is this for one term?

P: Yes

Friendly amendment to subscribe for the rest of the year (Hilary & Trinity)

Abstain: 2

Against: 1

Motion passes**d. Disaster relief for Turkey****The JCR notes that:**

- The Kahramanmaraş Earthquake has caused immense devastation in Turkey and Syria, the death toll having risen to 19388 people as of Friday 10th of February, and the number expected to increase as authorities struggle to cope with the staggering extent of the tragedy. Many people are currently still under the rubble and thousands have been left trying to find relatives and loved ones.
- This magnitude 7.8 strike-slip quake is the largest seen in the region in almost a century, rivalled only by the Erzincan Earthquake of 1939. Aftershocks, including one with a magnitude of 7.5 has already occurred and more are expected down the line, causing further distress and death for an already scarred populace.
- The disaster region has been spread across a wide area of immense concentration of population covering the areas of Hatay, Gaziantep, Kahramanmaraş, Malatya and Şanlıurfa which has pushed the coordination of the response to the breaking point. These regions were already undergoing a massive snowstorm before and during the earthquake and many victims are currently having to fight freezing weather conditions homeless or underneath the rubble.
- Ahbap is one of the most reliable NGOs operating during the disaster with their transparency of how funds are used and what aid is being provided, with frequent online updates.
- The unique extent of the tragedy, its geographical spread, immense damage to infrastructure, and insufficient official response has meant that NGOs are a necessary response mechanism. This is also true for the devastating effects of the quake on Syria, as territories in Northern Syria are currently only able to rely on aid flows from the Turkish border to cope themselves.

The JCR believes that:

- As the JCR, we have the opportunity to render aid along with the rest of the University community by acting now to decrease preventable deaths in what has developed into a major humanitarian crisis.
- Acting urgently with this goal in mind is necessary as acting as soon as possible in case of a natural disaster of this magnitude is the best way to alleviate the effects of an event that has already unimaginable suffering.
- Supporting Ahbap offers us a great chance in giving support to the current crisis making a real impact on the continued wellbeing of the victims.

The JCR resolves to:

- Provide £250 from the JCR Ultra Vires Charity Fund to donate to the Ahbap Earthquake Relief Fund

Proposer: Mehmet Efe Kılıç

Secunder: Anandita Abraham

P: As you probably know, there were 2 massive earthquakes in Turkey, which affected both Turkey and Syria. I want to use some of the charities fund to aid the earthquake relief campaigns that are currently being organised in Turkey. It should be £250, which is not much but something that we can do as the JCR.

Q: Do we have any money to raise that? I don't know what the budget is for charities.

Chair: I think the charity budget is empty. But last term it came out of the JCR at the end. So, this motion would be coming out the JCR fund.

Treasurer: Actually, college is paying all the charities now.

Friendly amendment to up it to £500

Brodie: It doesn't have teddy involvement so we can't.

Q: We've had some stretches in the past, I think this is a really worthy cause.

POI: They are looking to donate from college anyway, so they would be amenable to upping it.

Abstain: 0

Against: 0

Motion passes

Clicks

e. CARE4CALAIS

The JCR notes that:

- The refugee crisis is one of the biggest humanitarian crises we will see in our lifetime.
- There is a huge population of vulnerable, displaced people in France trying to make the very dangerous journey to the UK via the channel.
- These people have fled from war, famine, persecution, and unimaginable suffering most of them having left their home country months and even years ago.
- The conditions in France are terrible. Thousands of displaced men, women and children who have already suffered great atrocities are stranded without accommodation, food, clean water, money, clothing, heat sources or medicinal supplies.
- CARE4CALAIS is an amazing organisation that helps the refugee population in Europe

The JCR believes that:

- Refugees deserve to be treated with basic human dignity.
- No one should have to endure the current conditions in France and asylum seekers should not have to risk their lives in the channel after fleeing terrible circumstances.
- CARE4CALAIS does necessary and good work in Europe distributing tents, food, water, clothes, electricity, advice etc and provides aid to the refugee crisis on our borders.
- Ceilidhs are fun and so is giving to charity.

The JCR resolves to:

- Donate £250 to CARE4CALAIS
- Make charity based events a part of Hall culture.

Proposer: Claire Mallon

Seconder: Lucia Mullings

P: I'm not going to bang on for ages, because I always feel bad that Catherine has to type it up. But everyone's heard me talk about this charity. We all know it's a really great and important cause. First of all, huge thank you to the social secs and everyone who came to the ceilidh, especially everyone who donated extra – that's super generous and really, really nice of you guys. This a motion to top up what we raised in the ceilidh like we did last term. Again, it's a really worthwhile cause and an important one, especially at the moment. I hope we can pass it.

Clicks

Q: How much is it?

P: £250

Abstain: 0

Against: 0

Motion passes

f. New tables for the JCR

The JCR notes that:

- The Old tables are broken and a bit grim.

The JCR believes that:

- Having clean, new tables in good condition would help encourage members of the JCR to keep the JCR tidy.

The JCR resolves to:

- Purchase three tables with a similar theme to the new shelves being ordered to help make the JCR a fresher place.

Proposer: Brodie Weymouth

Seconder: Euan Simmonds

Brodie: Simple one, these things *kicks table*. They're old, they're knackered. Let's get new tables. Thematically in line with the new bookshelves when we get them as well. That's why I haven't given a rough price. When I actually get access to the bank account, I'll ask Coates what he wants for that.

Q: Will you be assembling the tables?

Brodie: I reckon I can do a bit of screw action.

Abstain: 1

Against: 1

Motion passes

g. College to match JCR's charity donations

The JCR notes that:

- At Teddy, the finance available to the JCR and the system of voting and meetings means we are in a unique position to do good.
- We get to control what the JCR does and when it does it, this includes how much we give to charity and what causes we support.
- Charity should a part of Hall culture, in the past we have supported some great causes.
- The college are in a position to support our charitable efforts even further so we can maximise the good we do.

The JCR believes that:

- Charity is great, we can and should do some good while we're here.
- If the JCR can commit to spending 'X' amount of money on charity, we should petition college to match that number by 20%.
- Charity entz events are fun, we should do more of them.
- A little can make go a long, let's do our best to support as many causes as possible.

The JCR resolves to:

- Ask Brodie to bring this proposal to college; that they match our donations by 20% to each individual cause.
- Make charity entz a part of Hall culture.
- Increase the charity budget to £2000.

Proposer: Claire Mallon

Secunder: Lucia Mullings

P: This is the final motion of the night, again it's about charities fund. Charity is really important at the hall; I would love if it became a more ingrained part. I think in the last couple of terms we've given way more, which I absolutely love to see. We're also in a really unique position right now. When are you ever going to be sat in a room with 30 people again and you just get to vote on funds? We do have the potential to do a lot of good in this room. So, the motion: the first thing is to ask Brodie to ask college to match whatever we donate in this room by 20%. So, if we as a JCR vote to make a donation, college will match 20% to each cause we've given to. It's one of those things where a little goes a long way, because 20% of £250 is not a lot to college, but it is to the cause. The second thing is to make charity a part of hall culture. I love the ceilidhs, they're really good craic. They're a great way to raise money because the social secs already do an incredible amount of work. Adding a pound onto the ticket isn't that much of a difference to each person individually, but it makes a huge difference to a cause. Finally, increase the charity budget to £2000, previously it was £1300. This is a £700 increase; I think it's justified because we have been giving a lot more. The general rule is £500

if you have personal involvement, £250 if not, so £1300 means there can't be a lot of money given to individual causes. So, this is more an update to realistically reflect what we've been spending.

Brodie: So, I got a text from Sophia, asking if we can hold off. Sophia is the main person liaising with college finance at the moment, unfortunately not here tonight. She asked if we could hold off on asking them to match by 20% until we can access the charities account and pay them off. At the moment, they're paying and then they're paying more. Can we wait until we're paying again, and they can match what we're paying. Hopefully, in two or three weeks we can start this again.

P: I totally get that; this motion is just whether you can pitch this to college and hopefully they'll be amenable.

P: The idea would be at the end of term we would go through the minutes and work out what 20% is and divide it between the causes. So that's perfectly fine.

Chair: Do we not have access to then charity fund at the moment?

Brodie: If people want to know, I don't know 100%. Ben Lloyd, the account was made under his name and there's been a communication break. So, Sophie Griffith, who was charity rep last year, couldn't do anything her whole term because of that. We've been trying to get Ben to transfer the money to a new account. I don't have much knowledge on it.

Q: Is it 20% of the total split evenly, or proportionally?

P: Proportionally, so this £250 motion for example would be topped up by an additional 20%. Hopefully, it wouldn't be too much extra work as its calculated and made with the initial donation.

Abstain: 0

Against: 0

Motion passes

4. Any other business

a. Teddy cheer team

Sophie: Sarah wanted to make a Teddy hall cheer team.

b. Hustings

Brodie: Next Monday, hustings, 7pm. Be there or be square. Some exciting positions opening up, there should be an email coming out very soon.