

JCR Meeting Agenda

Order of Business:

1. Matters arising
2. Reports & Officers' question time
3. Motions
 - a. Men*'s and Women*'s Tankards
 - b. Cycle Safety
 - c. Tart Mag Launch
 - d. Teddy Ball Donation
 - e. Funding for Fine Art Finalists
 - f. Philippines Motion
 - g. Tick, Tick... Boom! Production
 - h. Funding for Sri Lankan Children's Ward
4. Any other business

3. Motions

a. Men*'s and Women*'s Tankards

The JCR notes that:

- The roles of men*'s and women*'s officers mirror each other closely, involving equal work on both a social and welfare front.
- Hayley recently discovered a tankard for the role of men*'s officers in the Buttery, engraved with the names of each year's men*'s officers.
- There is currently no equivalent tankard for women*'s officers.

The JCR believes that:

- It is wrong that there is a men*'s officer tankard in the bar and no women*'s officer tankard.
- It is nice to have your name engraved on stuff.

The JCR resolves to:

- Buy a tankard for the role of women*'s officers and store it in the bar so that men*'s and women*'s officers past and present may drink from them in the bar.
- Engrave both the current men*'s officers tankard and the proposed women*'s officers tankard with the names of as many officers as current JCR members know of/can remember so that their legacies may be immortalised.

Proposer: Adam Hawkins

Seconder: James Odwell

b. Cycle Safety

The JCR notes that:

- Cycling in Oxford is dangerous with 3345 accidents in the city between 1999-2020 and 16 fatal accidents in the last 20 years, two of which came within a month of each other earlier this year (both members of Oxford University).
- At present no information (that I'm aware of) is given to students when they join the college regarding cycle safety and key road features such junctions and roundabouts which students, Teddy students included, regularly fail to navigate safely.

The JCR believes that:

- Information regarding how to properly cycle on the road, avoid potential dangers and use of safety equipment such as helmets and lights should be given to students joining the college to improve the safety of our community.
- This knowledge should help reduce the number of accidents (some are unfortunately unavoidable as cyclists) and avoid unnecessary tragedies.

The JCR resolves to:

- Along with workshops on fire safety and consent given to freshers, cycle safety should be added, it doesn't need to be long but just needs to touch on the points above so that students can make better informed decisions when cycling in future.

Proposer: William Metcalf

Secunder: Srijia Ghosh

c. Tart Mag Launch

The JCR notes that:

- Tart mag would like £150 for food and drink at the launch in the graveyard on the 14th

The JCR believes that:

- This magazine will enrich the Teddy Hall spirit and this event will be used to give out free magazines and show everyone what we have been working on.

The JCR resolves to:

- Transfer me or another one of the co-founders £150 for food and drink

Proposer: Aminah Iman Dixon

Secunder: Rose Morley

d. Teddy Ball Donation

The JCR notes that:

- The JCR loves balls.
- The JCR especially loves The Teddy Ball as it is one of the best, most memorable events at Oxford.
- Sadly, due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the Hall has not held its ball for FOUR YEARS.

- For the first time in history, this year's Teddy Ball is catering to four years worth of cohorts who have sadly not been able to partake in such a joyous event.
- For every Teddy Ball in living memory, both the JCR and MCR have kindly and willingly contributed sums of money to The Ball Committee for the purpose of making The Ball EVEN BETTER than it otherwise would be.

The JCR believes that:

- The Teddy Ball is a college-wide event and thus additional funding would benefit a majority of the JCR members.
- It would be useful to follow this precedent set by previous years' JCRs.
- Though The Ball will of course be an unforgettable night for all to remember, it needs sufficient funds to support this year's unique circumstances.
- The JCR can assist with the loss in revenue for The Ball that is a result of the uniquely large gap from Covid. This loss in revenue includes the 50 free tickets provided to previous Ball Committees, who worked hard to organise and prepare prior balls for the Hall.

The JCR resolves to:

- Support the Teddy Hall Ball, assist with it being an incredible event, and donate £500 of funds to this end.

Proposer: Mathew Hedges

Secunder: Alexandra Sarshar

e. Funding for Fine Art Finalists

The JCR notes that:

- Funding is essential to the arts
- Every year, Teddy Hall generously gives some money to help towards the finalist's degree show that they are tasked with organising and funding from scratch.
- This is not unusual and something that every college does for their Fine Art finalists.
- The average amount given for two finalists is £300. This year, Teddy has 7 finalists.
- The money goes towards the collective fund for the finalist show, not individuals.

The JCR believes that:

- As a college that takes on the most Fine Art students per year, it is important for them to receive the support they need for degree shows.
- By continuing this fund, the relationship between college and creatives will only get stronger.
- Supporting artists when you can is nice because we suffer enough by not being able to find jobs after we graduate.

The JCR resolves to:

- Give £300-£400 to contribute towards the finalist's degree show in which 7 Teddy Hall students are taking part in this year.

Proposer: April Dublin-Beeton

Seconded: Emily Webb

f. Philippines Motion

The JCR notes that:

- Upcoming Filipino elections are on the 9th May.
- Presidential candidate 'Bong Bong' Marcos Jr., former member of this college, has made multiple claims that he was awarded a Bachelor's degree in PPE from the University of Oxford, awarded to him in 1978¹.
- However, this claim contradicts some of the few media outlets that have reported on this matter.
- CNN, Rappler, The Times and Bloomberg have reported that he did not pass his Preliminary exams, and was therefore awarded a Special Diploma.
- On Bong Bong Marcus' Resume as Congressman, it further states that he was awarded a Special Diploma in Social Studies².
- However, in interviews and other reports, Bong Bong Marcus has repeatedly claimed that a Special Diploma is equivalent to a Bachelor's Degree, a claim echoed by many of his supporters across other media outlets.
- The Oxford Philippines Society released a statement confirming the above, stating that BBM did not receive a BA in PPE, and was instead awarded a Special Diploma. This statement was shared 30,000 times on Facebook. Many of the comments have mentioned it would be useful to clarify this, and specifically the college or university to make this clear³.
- After receiving individual threats, as well as threats to the society as a whole, two members of the society, both members of St Edmund Hall, wrote to Kathy Willis directly, asking the college to release a statement that could be circulated. In this statement, it was hoped that the college would clarify the nature of the Special Diploma and explicitly confirm whether or not he completed his degree.
- Kathy Willis did not do so.
- Information concerning the degree or lack thereof has not been released publicly, but is available to individuals who specifically request this from the university: "According to our records, he did not complete his degree, but was awarded a special diploma in Social Studies in 1978. The special diploma was not a full graduate diploma."
- This is not the same as a statement because it is not widely available, and is only available if you email the college or university directly and is only quoted in media outlets. More recently, it has been reported in The Sunday Times that the then principal of St Edmund Hall, John Kelly, asked President Marcos to "think of any special circumstances which would warrant the college departing from its normal rule"⁴.

¹ <https://news.abs-cbn.com/video/focus/01/21/16/marcos-special-diploma-from-oxford-is-same-as-bachelors-degree>

² http://legacy.senate.gov.ph/senators/sen_bio/bmarcos_resume.asp

³ <https://www.facebook.com/oxpinoy/>

⁴ <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/row-over-oxford-degree-come-back-to-haunt-ferdinand-marcos-jr-695gbdg5l>

- News outlets such as the Times, CNN and Bloomberg have all run fact-checks on BBM's claim. However, many of these are behind pay-walls and therefore inaccessible. A public statement by the college would resolve this issue.

The JCR believes that:

- St Edmund Hall as a college is in a unique position because it is the institution that granted BBM his Special Diploma. It is therefore the only body, bar the university, with the authority to clarify this matter.
- A statement released directly from St Edmund Hall would therefore carry significant weight. While decisions made here may not swing the election, it is vital that any potential confusion be clarified and that Filipinos are able to access accurate information.
- Currently, those outlets that have fact checked BBM's claim are behind pay-walls while obtaining information about the nature of his degree requires personally emailing the college.
- The college should release a statement that is available to the public. Since Bong Bong Marcus is a former member of St Edmund Hall, this JCR is in a unique position to ask the college to do so.

The JCR resolves to:

- Put pressure on St Edmund Hall and ask Kathy Willis to release a public statement in the next few days explicitly clarifying that Ferdinand Marcos Jr. did not complete a BA in PPE at St Edmund Hall, despite matriculating in 1978.
- This statement should make a clear distinction between a special diploma and a degree, and should explain the circumstances under which a special diploma was granted.

Proposer: Nicole De La Cruz

Secunder: Luca Boot

g. Tick, Tick... Boom! Production Funding**The JCR notes that:**

- A student production of Jonathan Larson's semi-autobiographical Tick, Tick, Boom! Will be staged at the Michael Pilch Theatre in 5th/6th week of Trinity Term 22.
- The show is being co-produced by two student production companies: Half Rhyme Productions & Jazz Hands productions, the latter which was co-founded by a St Edmund Hall JCR member and Almuna.
- Tick, Tick...Boom! Has St Edmund Hall involvement in the crew, including both the show's producer and welfare officer (Max Falk and Ben Luckraft).
- The musical was recently adapted into a successful Netflix film and, covering themes such as existential angst, the valuation of art & LGBTQ+ narratives, it is likely of interest to an Oxford student audience.

The JCR believes that:

- Providing funding for drama allows students to continue to pursue creative endeavors, which is particularly important in light of the hiatus in performative arts following COVID-19.
- Tick, Tick...Boom! In particular aims to introduce new faces into the Oxford drama scene through open crew-calls, and the JCR wishes to facilitate this increased accessibility. Oxford producers are specifically in need, and the JCRs funding helps to support a new producer's debut project
- The St Edmund Hall JCR has a fantastic track record of supporting the arts (2nd May 1997, Checking Out, Persephone), which should continue to be upheld to allow students with ambitions to pursue industry-relevant careers can get appropriate experience.
- Staging a musical is relatively expensive, particularly because of the costs of rights, orchestral & rehearsal materials. The Oxford drama scene relies on composite JCR funding to cover some of these upfront costs before receiving ticket income
- No student would personally be profiting financially from the show, and any money raised would allow for re-investment into further theatrical projects by Half Rhyme Productions

The JCR resolves to:

- Donate £300 to help realise the production, allowing contribution to venue hire fee, rights cost, marketing and departmental costs such as lighting, sound & costume.

Proposer: Ben Luckraft

Secunder: Ellie Cassidy

h. Funding for Sri Lankan Children's Ward

The JCR notes that:

- Sri Lanka is currently going through a humanitarian and economic crisis.
- There is currently very limited gas for transport, which means that food isn't reaching supermarkets, medicine isn't reaching hospitals and there are daily power cuts, some lasting 12 hours.

The JCR believes that:

- It would be a good use of JCR money to donate to countries that don't have the stability or resources we do.

The JCR resolves to:

- Donate £300 to buy medical equipment for a Children's ward in Sri Lanka.
- My (Brittany's) sister is currently in Sri Lanka, working in a hospital in need, and would be able to personally purchase the medical equipment, so it would be guaranteed that 100% of the money would go towards the cause and not through any charity fees or anything.

Proposer: Brittany Perera

Secunder: Adam Roble