

## JCR Meeting Minutes

### Order of Business:

1. Matters arising
2. Reports and Officers' question time
3. Motions
  - a. Funding for LGBTQ+ Campaign
  - b. Response to Kathleen Stock
  - c. Sponsor Raise Oxford
  - d. Funding for GREAT
  - e. Donate to EP Africa
  - f. Tankards for Swimming Cuppers
  - g. Quarter-zip for Ali
  - h. Massage Gun for JCR
  - i. More PS4 Games
4. Any other business
  - a. Paying rugby cuppers photographer

### Short hands:

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

Attendance: 30 – quorum achieved (30)

Meeting Started: 19:02

### 1. Matters arising

**Brodie:** Hi everyone, so just some news updating maintenance around college. Late gate should be repaired sometime this week. They finally got the parts in. Apparently, last week it all arrived but no one had a forklift to get it off the truck so that why its delayed.

Another notice, we're getting a brand-new coffee machine start of next term. This is something that's being shipped from a long way away. The only thing is, to maintain it, subs for coffee will jump from £5 to £7. You may have a question, what are we doing for subs this term? You can still use the kettle next door. We've got coffee, hot chocolate, some milk and tea in there. If anything runs low let me or Poppy now and we'll run and buy more.

### 3. Motions

#### a. Funding for LGBTQ+ Campaign

#### The JCR notes that:

- The SU has a number of student-led activist campaigns designed to advocate for students belonging to various protected classes, including RAEM, Disabled, Working Class, and LGBTQ+ individuals
- This JCR has two members on the committee (Harry McWilliam as the Working-Class officer and Katie Kirkpatrick as Comms officer)
- The SU campaigns have a very small budget which limits the work they're able to do
- Thus, all colleges are being asked to give a small amount to help support the campaign financially
- Now, more than ever, with people like Kathleen Stock being invited to speak at the Union, the campaign needs support to help with our efforts.

#### The JCR believes that:

- With both major parties in the UK now holding regressive and harmful views and policies regarding LGBTQ+ individuals, and particularly trans rights/policy, local queer advocacy and activism is vitally important.
- Activists that are coming to talk deserve to be properly paid for their time.

**The JCR resolves to:**

- Give the LGBTQ Campaign £100 towards running events, paying speakers, and supporting students across Oxford.

**Proposer:** Harry McWilliam

**Secunder:** Amy Shaw

**P:** The SU has a bunch of activist campaigns for people of colour, disabled people, working class, suspended students, and LGBTQ+ individuals. In this JCR there are two members on the new committee – me and Katie. We have basically no budget, we have £250 for the entire year. Considering pride month is coming up we need to pay speakers because they deserved to be paid. So, we've asked all the colleges to try and fund some, giving small bits of money to help. Now more than ever, with both major political parties in the UK holding regressive and harmful views and policies regarding queer individuals – particularly trans individuals – queer advocacy within our communities is so important. Essentially, I'm just asking for £100.

Motion passes

**b. Response to Kathleen Stock**

**The JCR notes that:**

- The Oxford Union has invited notorious transphobe Kathleen Stock to speak this term
- Stock is a transphobic and trans exclusionary speaker and has actively worked against trans rights. This includes supporting gender identity conversion therapy, despite a professional consensus on the ineffectiveness and harmfulness of this practice, has repeatedly portrayed trans women as dangerous and predatory despite a total lack of evidence for such, and is a trustee of trans-exclusionary hate group the LGB alliance, and signee of the WHRC declaration, described as extremist in its anti-trans positioning.
- Stock is also well known for spreading misinformation about the trans community, often using arguments that disregard empirical facts and research. None of her writing on gender has been subject to peer review, and yet she is being invited to likely espouse her views on such by the union committee.
- LGBTQ+ members of the university and at Teddy have received threats of violence as a result of speaking out against Stock's platforming, which the union has yet to publicly condemn or apologise for.
- Trans people, especially trans women, are more likely to face abuse, violence, and attacks as a result of their gender identity.
- 41% of British trans people reported facing transphobic violence over just a 12-month period (Stonewall, 2018)

- In 2022 trans people experienced the biggest increase in hate crimes of any group, up 56% (BBC, 2022). This has been linked by some to a growing wave of hatred from far-right groups against the trans community.
- The IPSO (2020) found a 400% increase in coverage on trans issues in the past 5 years, with Prof. Paul Baker (2019) finding there has been an overwhelming increase in negative portrayals of trans people in newspaper coverage over the past decade.
- Similar motions to this have been passed at a number of Oxford colleges already this week, including St. Anne's and Mansfield.

#### **The JCR believes that:**

- The rights of any minority group to exist should never be up for debate.
- Right to free speech does not pertain to include the right to a platform to amplify your views, especially a platform this prominent and exclusive, especially when the speech itself is harmful and its promotion dangerous
- The Union has made the choice to amplify a voice that actively harms trans students, trans people and the trans community at large
- Doing so, the Union will be both complicit and responsible in spreading transphobic rhetoric; and the consequences of such, should it choose to promote Stock via this event, adding to the current wave of attacks towards the trans community in British politics, governance, and mainstream media.
- Transphobes should not feel welcome in Oxford, or at Teddy
- Trans people are valued and loved members of this university, this college and society at large, and they deserve to feel welcome and supported in their home.
- Showing solidarity with the trans community across Oxford is more important than ever, and this must be done both publicly and meaningfully.

#### **The JCR resolves to:**

- Condemn the Oxford Union for platforming Kathleen Stock and call on her invite to be rescinded in support of the trans community.
- Reaffirm this JCRs solidarity with the trans community in Oxford and beyond, that trans rights, trans lives and trans happiness matter and must be protected and encourage JCR members to attend protests that affirm such, if they are able to do so safely.
- Release a public statement (written by the LGBTQ Rep) detailing such on its communications platforms. Have the JCR Secretary send a copy of said statement to the Oxford Union secretary to inform the institution of its disapproval.

**Proposer:** Harry McWilliam

**Secunder:** Amy Shaw

**P:** Hi again! The union has invited notorious transphobe Kathleen Stock to speak this term. For those of you who don't know, Kathleen Stock is a transphobic and trans exclusionary speaker. She has actively worked against trans rights, including supporting gender identity conversion therapy – despite professional consensus showing its harmfulness and ineffectiveness. She has repeatedly portrayed trans women as dangerous and predatory, despite a total lack of evidence. And she was a signee of the WHRC declaration, which was widely regarded by the UN as extremist in its anti-trans positioning. Queer members of this university and even in Teddy, being me, have received transphobic comments and threats based on us speaking out against this issue. Trans people,

especially trans women, are more likely to face abuse, violence, and attacks as a result of their gender identity. 41% of British trans people reported facing a transphobic violence incident over the past 12-month period. There has been a 56% increase in hate crimes, the largest of any protected group in the UK, according to a 2022 BCC study. Similar motions to this have been passed at St Anne's, Hilda's, and Mansfield.

What I'm asking the JCR to do is sign a letter, that I will write, just saying that we condemn the union for this invitation. We can work out the exact details, but I think the St Anne's asked for the invitation to be rescinded. I'm happy to talk about that.

**Brodie:** Are we going to post it to them?

**P:** I think we're going to send it as an email. The motion specifies Catherine to send it to the union secretary.

**Q:** About Oxford Union and its relevance, given its not an actual Oxford University society. It's a bit of a stupid platform in my opinion, a silly institution that exists and prides itself on being free speech. Why is it being seen as important?

**P:** Unfortunately, as stupid as it is as you say, it does hold significant power within Oxford. A very decent number of previous Prime Ministers were union presidents or involved. Despite not being officially affiliated with the university, it is still an important of some people's experience. And for them to invite this person and to platform them at such a large event, I would consider it to be unjustifiable.

**Q:** What does condemning actually do, in terms of the issue?

**P:** It just shows as a JCR we don't accept this. We're hoping other colleges pass similar motions and write similar condemnations towards the union and this event. IN doing so, maybe the Union would change their mind, I'm not sure. But I want us as a JCR to show our support to the trans community, both in Oxford and around the world.

**Q:** Has the union responded yet?

**P:** They have said twice they'll put a statement out and have not yet. I don't know exactly what they're doing.

**Q:** Could de-platforming at this stage enhance other platforms? Will people say this is now a freedom of speech issue and broadcast her message wider than just a union talk? Who watches the Oxford Union YouTube?

**Q:** They get thousands or millions of views.

**P:** I take your point. The way that we see it, speaking on behalf of the campaign and society, we view the platforming as ultimately more harmful than anything that could come afterwards. She doesn't deserve this platform to speak. It's not infringing on rights of free speech; Free speech is protected

but your right to be platformed isn't. There's no legal issue. It's about sending a message that this person isn't welcome within academic spaces – considering her work is widely discredited and not peer-reviewed. She even openly admits it in the first chapter of her book.

**Q:** Do you think organising a protest would be more effective?

**P:** Were doing that as well. The event is being turned into this expression of trans-pride, separate from the main Oxford pride event. There's going to be speakers discussing this kind of issue and TERF ideology.

**Against:** 2

**Abstain:** 2

Motion passes

### c. Sponsor Raise Oxford

#### The JCR notes that:

- Raise Oxford is a student initiative that encourages students to take a positive and deliberate approach to giving. We invite students to donate significant to them to charity with the aim of changing the way students think about charitable giving in the long-term, prompting them to consider it to be something that should be celebrated as opposed to a sacrifice.
- At the end of the year, everyone who donated is invited to a modest Summer Party run by Raise Oxford to celebrate their collective impact and show that deliberate giving can be a meaningful and positive experience.
- Any donations made to Raise Oxford by students are matched by external sponsors and donated to the Against Malaria Foundation - a consistently top-rated charity according to several independent charity evaluators - that funds long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs) and ensures they are distributed and used to protect the most vulnerable people worldwide from malaria.
- In the last two years, Raise Oxford has raised over £50,000, helping to protect over 37,000 people from malaria.
- Money is needed to publicize Raise throughout the university, as it is a new organization, and to fund events run by them to aid the celebration of charitable giving.

#### The JCR believes that:

- The St Edmund Hall JCR should support Raise Oxford and aid them in accomplishing their goal of encouraging students to take a positive approach to giving.
- Encouraging students to donate to charity themselves is more effective than just donating to the charity directly as it can change the way the students think about charitable giving in the long-term, and result in them giving significant amounts of money to charity even after they graduate from Oxford.

#### The JCR resolves to:

- Donate £500 to sponsor Raise Oxford.

**Proposer:** Sophia Suganuma

**Secunder:** Celine Gu

**P:** Hi I'm Sophia, I'm the JCR charity officer. I submitted a motion to give £500 to an Oxford based student charity movement called Raise Oxford. What they do is with all the money we receive; we turn it into publicity and marketing material to raise funds for Against Malaria Foundation. This is one of the most effective charities in the world. Their website is literally just bare bones; they spend absolutely nothing on marketing. Malaria is the most common infectious disease. It's still prevalent in the UK and a lot of the developing world. Within Raise Oxford, in 2020-2021 we spent £400 and raise £13,00 for the Against Malaria Foundation. This is a 32.5 multiplier, meaning that with the amount of money we've raised so far, which is £18,000, we're able to protect 28,350 people. With this £500 donation we would be able to protect 37,917 people. They're doing a lot of great work and I would really love for us to be able to donate to them.

**Brodie:** Can we have a public update on how we're doing with the JCR accounts?

**P:** All the bank account stuff has been sorted. All the motions so far have been funded except one as it's a bank account of a student society. They have to respond, then it will be funded.

Motion passes

#### **d. Funding for GREAT (Gender and Racial Equality at Teddy)**

##### **The JCR notes that:**

- GREAT has recently been restructured and now focuses on both gender and racial equality at the Hall.
- GREAT has a new committee, headed by Anandita Abraham, who are planning on holding several events in Trinity term open to all members of the Hall.
- In order to hold these events, which it believes will benefit all of the Hall, GREAT requires funding from the JCR.
- Funding that remains at the end of this term will be rolled over to Michaelmas and used by the committee to support events running in Michaelmas, especially those events before Michaelmas' first JCR meeting (i.e., those in Freshers' Week).

##### **The JCR believes that:**

- It is important to fund a diverse range of societies and clubs at the Hall.
- Aiming to make the Hall a more inclusive space is a worthwhile goal.

##### **The JCR resolves to:**

- Provide £250 to support GREAT's events this term.

**Proposer:** Anandita Abraham

**Secunder:** James O'Neill

**P:** Hi everyone! I'm Anna, I'm the president of GREAT. The committee is sitting around the room, its James, Sophia, Harry, Tia, and Eliza. GREAT stands for 'Gender and Racial Equality At Teddy'. We started last year with the goal of updating and improving Teddy's harassment policy; and making sure it stays a welcoming environment for everyone. The last committee did discussion groups and surveys. They found a good number of women and racial minorities did not feel comfortable reporting incidents of harassment to college. This is for a good reason. The college harassment policy is either extremely convoluted or just inadequate and doesn't protect the victim's interest in most cases. This is based on actual events; I'm not just speculating. Also, the flowchart for harassment was made by Rob Whittaker and tells you to email your harasser if you've been harassed. It's kind of tone deaf.

What eventually happened is GREAT, with the help of Verity, went to Kathy and got her to agree to make changes in the policy. Our job this term is to follow up on that and make sure college actually does it, with the help of welfare officers. We also do fun social things like film nights. We're planning to collaborate with fem-socs at other colleges; do debate night and socials and stuff for freshers' week. If we get the money today, we'll also be rolling that over to freshers' week because there's no JCR meeting in time for that next term.

Quick note that some incidents happened at the end of last term. I wasn't involved with GREAT at the time, but I do regret their consequences and I believe it took away from the reason why GREAT was started – to be an inclusive and not a divisive space.

**Q:** What events are you thinking for freshers?

**P:** We've not got a concrete plan. Thinking of self-defence workshops, collaborating with Women\*'s and Men\*'s officers for club socials.

**Q:** You mentioned the events of last term, have you actively taken any steps, so it doesn't happen again?

**P:** We replaced the whole committee. The idea is to go back to the reason why we started. To make sure everyone feels comfortable and that at Teddy we support diverse communities. We also have a new communications officer.

**Poppy:** Have you spoken to Luke about getting it from the amalgamated clubs' fund?

**P:** Last year half of our money came for the JCR and half from the fund. The problem is it's become incredibly complicated to get it from the fund. Now instead of reimbursing you, they take it off the battles of who submits the motion.

**Poppy:** If you update your bank details on the website you should get it. It was brought back in at the start of last term.

**P:** Last term I asked for money for a basketball subs thing, and they sent me the money two weeks into this term. We would like to have access to those funds as and when we want to do the event. If

this money isn't enough, rather than doing another motion next term, we'll get the rest of the money from the fund.

**Q:** Brief point, I don't think we have ever not funded something because viewpoints. Even if whatever happened last term, I don't think we shouldn't fund it.

**P:** I agree.

**Q:** If other clubs and societies are getting it from the fund, and there seems to be a solution, does that not seem like a way to go forward? Last term when the motion went through, it was a provisor in future they would go to clubs' fund? But they wanted something at the time, so it was a special case.

**P:** There's already a precedent for agreeing that the fund isn't effective. Last term at some point we set out money for arts and cultures to make it more convenient. As a JCR, we want to personally back these initiatives. Even if we did get money from the clubs' fund, they don't tell us how much we will be reimbursed for until they've done interval reviews. So, it might not be covered.

**Against:** 4

**Abstain:** 2

Motion passes

#### **e. Donate to EP Africa**

##### **The JCR notes that:**

- EP Africa is a charity that invest in schools to give all students access to quality education across Kenya and Uganda.
- All money donated to the charity goes directly towards improving education provision and funding in schools across rural Kenya.
- In the past, the money has been spent on rainwater collection tanks, lab equipment, computers, strengthening alumni networks, and improving school organisation – all of which go a long way to improving education provision in a school.
- Eventually, the charity aims to work with up to 30 schools each year to improve the quality of education for up to 15,000 students annually.
- JCR member, Will Loosley, will be volunteering with the charity over the summer and needs to fundraise £2500 for his project.
- All the money donated will be directed invested into improving the school facilities, Will is paying for his own travel and expenses which means the money will be directly used for improving the school and not paying for the trip.

##### **The JCR believes that:**

- Education should be shared among the poorest communities.
- Proper education is the single most effective way of giving young people a way out of poverty.
- All the money donated will be going directly towards improving education.



**The JCR resolves to:**

- Donate £500 to Will's fundraising with EP Africa.

**Proposer:** Will Loosley

**Secunder:** Tom Harray

**P:** I'd like £500 to donate to EP Africa – a charity that improves education provision across Kenya and Uganda in rural schools. All money is donated straight to these schools. It's been used for rainwater collection tanks, lab equipment, computers, strengthening school organisation. Its aiming to increase its range. In the summer I'm going to Kenya for 10 weeks and I need to raise £2500. I would like to be clear; this money is going directly to people. I'm paying for my own trip, my flights. This is for money directly invested into the charity and improving education in Kenya. I'd like £500 if that's okay.

**Q:** What fundraising activities have you undertaken?

**P:** I've applied for lots of grants and I'm doing a 24hr sponsored rowing machine thing.

**Q:** Is that you erging for 24 hours?

**P:** With a partner, so we rotate.

**Against:** 0

**Abstain:** 1

Motion passes

**f. Tankards for Swimming Cuppers****The JCR notes that:**

- Whereas the Inter-College Swimming Cuppers at Oxford is a prestigious competition that showcases the swimming talents of the participating colleges.
- Whereas Mauricio Alencar and Poppy have demonstrated exceptional leadership skills in leading their respective teams to victory in the aforementioned competition.

**The JCR believes that:**

- Whereas the awarding of tankards is a longstanding tradition in Oxford to recognize outstanding achievements and contributions.

**The JCR resolves to:**

- Therefore, let it be resolved that the JCR awards tankards to Mauricio Alencar and Poppy for their exemplary performance and leadership in captaining their respective teams to victory in the Inter-College Swimming Cuppers at Oxford.

**Proposer:** Brittany Perera

**Seconder:** Tom Coates

**S:** Get tankards for swimming cuppers.

**Q:** Who?

**S:** Mauricio and Poppy.

Friendly amendment to make it just for Poppy – not accepted

Friendly amendment to fill them with drinks of their choice – accepted

**Q:** Did either of them swim in the team that won?

**S:** I wasn't there, oh no.

**Poppy:** We swam but there was an A and B team. We purposefully didn't put ourselves on A to give us a better chance of winning.

**Brodie:** You were in the victory photo yesterday and you sat on the bench the whole time.

**Against:** 1

**Abstain:** 0

Motion passes

### **g. Quarter-zip for Ali**

#### **The JCR notes that:**

- It can become night-time.
- The night shift is not a good shift.
- Ali works the porter's night shift.
- The late gate currently doesn't work.

#### **The JCR believes that:**

- Especially on Wednesdays and Thursdays, Ali our amazing night porter has to maintain order overnight.
- There are many drunken actions that he has seen that perhaps he shouldn't have.
- He is a very nice individual.
- He cares for the environment by making us switch the lights off in the JCR when we leave.

#### **The JCR resolves to:**

- Reimburse Brodie Weymouth £29.99 for the purchase of a ¼ zip with Ali's name on it.

**Proposer:** Brodie Weymouth

**Secunder:** Catherine Gower

**Brodie:** I'm going to read out exactly what I put. It can become night-time. The night shift is not a good shift. Ali works the porter's night shift. The late gate currently doesn't work. Basically, we all love Ali, he's a nice guy, he does lots for the hall.

\*Clicks\*

He must log a ridiculous amount of hours a week. More than I could ever do, to be honest. As a sign that we're grateful, I'd like to buy him a quarter zip with his name engraved. He did also ask me to do it. It was initially suggested by Adam Roble, God bless his soul. He's now gone.

**POI:** Adam Roble is **not** dead.

**Q:** What colour?

**P:** Black.

**Poppy:** It's a Teddy hall one?

**Brodie:** Yes.

**Q:** Have you asked what colour he wants?

**Brodie:** We had a little one-to-one at 1am the other night.

Friendly amendment to make Ali an honorary member of the JCR - accepted

**Against:** 2

**Abstain:** 0

Motion passes

#### **h. Massage gun for JCR**

##### **The JCR notes that:**

- There has been a massage gun in the JCR for the past two terms which has done wonders for stress levels, tension and muscle recovery. Trinity will be full of exercise (coppers season!) and sitting at desks (exam season!), however the massage gun is now broken.

##### **The JCR believes that:**

- A new massage gun would be great for mental and physical health.

**The JCR resolves to:**

- Buy a new massage gun that everyone can use.

**Proposer:** Brittany Perera

**Secunder:** Holly Sanderson

**P:** So, Brodie gave his massage gun to the JCR. Then one beautiful day turned dark and its broke and now we have to replace his gun. So, let's get a massage gun. Its more to fix Brodies one isn't it.

**Q:** What is the average price?

**P:** £25.

**Brodie:** Mine was like £45.

**Chair:** Let's say £40

**Against:** 1

**Abstain:** 0

Motion passes

**i. More PS4 games**

**The JCR notes that:**

- The PS4 is a great JCR asset.

**The JCR believes that:**

- We need more games than just FIFA and a better Call of Duty.
- WWE video game would be a hilarious addition and very easy to play for everyone.

**The JCR resolves to:**

- Give up to £100 for new PS4 games.

**Proposer:** Mauricio Alencar

**Secunder:** Alex Whitmarsh

**P:** We have a lack of good video games on our PS4. Not everyone loves FIFA and Call Of Duty. I'm proposing to buy WWE, a much more democratic game. The controls are quite simple to play. It is quite funny to be fair.

Friendly amendment to include Lawnmower Simulator - accepted

**Q:** Based on my personal observations, I get the sense that this won't benefit all of the JCR. How can you prove to us it's going to benefit everyone, not just the 10 people who live in the JCR?

**P:** That's just untrue because it's in the JCR and it has a PS4.

**Q:** Don't you think it's the same 10 people playing the PS4?

**P:** There's no one stopping you coming in.

**POI:** Three terms in a row I got £300 for QUOTH which doesn't benefit everyone.

**P:** We won't spend the whole £100, it's just to cover it.

Friendly amendment to have Poppy make a survey of what games to buy and pick the top two – accepted

**Brodie:** Would you call yourself a gamer?

**P:** No, I think the top gamer is probably Saul Manasse and Whitmarsh.

**Q:** Could we amend it so once we fill in the form, we vote on it in the next JCR meeting. Submit a motion to buy those specific games?

**P:** That's an extra bureaucratic step.

**Against:** 4

**Abstain:** 1

Motion passes

**4. Any other business**

**a. Paying rugby coppers photographer**

**Maurício:** Emergency thing. Yesterday, during rugby coppers there was a photographer there who is charging a very cheap rate of £100. She's taken some good photos that could be used for the JCR as well. Also good for college because they want pictures for their communication stuff.

**Brodie:** Can we not investigate the amalgamated clubs fund paying for that. Or college? If they want it, they could splash their communications budget on that.

**Maurício:** It's just urgent.

**Brodie:** Has she given a deadline to delete the photos?

Friendly amendment to agree to pay her now, and ask college to reimburse JCR – accepted

**Poppy:** If college don't accept paying it out of the clubs' fund, we could also get MCR to pay half or something as well.

**Maurício:** It's just about getting money ASAP.

**Against:** 0

**Abstain:** 0

Motion passes