# MT2014 - Sunday 2014 - Week

# 1. Apologies of absence:

Katherine Baxter

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# 2. Officers' Reports:

# President (Rosie Petersen)

1. Sad news- made the Dalai lama and dr Sangai honorary members- however haven't been able to get into the country

## Vice President (Jonny Mitchell)

- 1. Hall sub-committee set up, starting this week
- 2. Guest night went well, next one Wednesday 7th

### Treasurer (Kate Dickinson)

1. Finance committee- hall saving scheme, increase in attendance

## Secretary (Scarlet Unsworth)

1. Nothing

## Welfare (Zoe Larkin & Joel Hide)

- 1. Bit of a delay in updating code of conduct policy because because University were updating their own policy- Thursday evening there will be a town Hall style meeting to discuss code of conduct policy
- 2. Organising another wine and cheese event, Saturday the 14th.

# Equal Ops (Rachel Hulme)

- 1. Event tomorrow to discuss whether common rooms should have individual minority reps.
- 2. If you identify as disabled or non-disabled please fill in OUSU survey.
- 3. 4<sup>th</sup> week campaign for racial awareness and equality event.

## Accommodation (Matt Hawes)

1. Bar Mural competition open

#### **OUSU Rep (Hossein Sharafi)**

1. Elections coming up, run for those

# Freshers' Week President (Katie Millard)

1. Nothing

# Charities (Lydia Ream & Sarah Peel)

1. Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> week Keble speed dating

# Entz (Beth Tapsfield & Leanne Robinson & Olivia Hadjinicolaou)

- 1. Film night Saturday after pub quiz.
- 2. Please send in awards suggestions for half way hall

## Arts & Pubs (Kath Baxter, Lily Mackow-McGuire & Mina Ebtehadj-Marguis)

- 1. FB event up for Keble goes to Plenty.
- 2. Updated website for Arts festival soon live. Anything to submit to FIG magazine, now submit.

# **Environment & Ethics (Helen Tatlow)**

1. Nothing

# Careers & Alumni (Robyn Murphy)

1. Nothing



## Academic Affairs (Alice Duffy)

1. Successful outreach trip to Birmingham

#### 3. Motions:

## Motion 1

**Super Bowl Party** 

Proposed: Sean Ford

Seconded: Sarah Shao

#### This JCR notes that:

- 1. The Super Bowl is one of the largest sporting events on the planet and is of particular interest to a growing section of sports fans
- 2. The half time show is a massive spectacle and there will be a bit about the Avengers
- 3. In both 2014 and 2015 a large amount of pizza was ordered to make the slog of adverts more durable
- 4. Murica.

## This JCR resolves to:

- 1. Spend £200 on Pizza
- 2. Mandate ex-treasurer Rishi Chotai to secure a top quality deal on said pizza
- 3. Stay really quiet during the Avengers trailer.

## **Issues Raised:**

• **Proposer:** Done this for the last few years, very fun. Nice occasion to get everyone down to the JCR

VOTES FOR: 42 VOTES AGAINST: 0 ABSENTIONS: 6

THIS MOTION . Passes

## Motion 2

Phaser Magazine Funding Proposed by: Surya Bower Seconded by:

### This JCR notes that that

There is a distinct lack of music-focused student publications in Oxford, whereas other cultural areas are well-represented – fashion by *Industry*, travel by *Wild*, essays and creative pieces by *Isis* and *Vulture*, art by *Notes*, as well as student journalism by *Cherwell* and *The Tab*.

#### This JCR believes that

It is vitally important to foster student publications which Keblites have an active role in, especially if these publications address an area which is not already covered by the existing student publications at the university. It is key that all students have outlets for expression in all major cultural areas. *Phaser* magazine is a new magazine that aims to address this gap in the university publication scene, by publishing music-focused interviews, comment pieces, reviews and photojournalism.

#### This JCR therefore resolves to

Assist in the start-up and publication costs for the first issue of *Phaser* magazine by granting it funds of £250

#### **Issues Raised:**

- Proposer: Deputy editor at Phaser. Not just contemporary pop music. Also articles about music and gender, music and race, classical musical. Style side as well. Also looking at sustainable living, thrift store shopping. Not a music magazine in Oxford, looking for a one off start up. 50% more copies for JCR
- How many JCRs are you asking? 5
- Up to £250? Per JCR- spoke to printers, need 1600.
- You said this is just as an initial start up, where will money come from afterwards?
   Problem getting advertising slots at first, difficult as they don't know if it gets exposure, after first issue will get much easier.
- 50 per cent more copies, how many copies will we get? JCR at Keble would usually get 23

VOTES FOR: 30 VOTES AGAINST: 0 ABSENTIONS: 15

THIS MOTION . Passes

## Motion 3

Proposer: Oscar Newlove <oscar.newlove@keble.ox.ac.uk>

Seconder: Danny Wynbrandt

Subject: Water Dispenser for inside the College gym

#### This JCR notes that:

There is a lack of any water supply inside the college gym for users to have a drink from. This is a problem even if users bring a bottle with them, as it is quite easy to go through a normal water bottle whilst down there, especially as it can become quite hot in the downstairs location.

## This JCR believes that:

A free-standing water dispenser would be a great addition to install inside the college gym, to overcome the serious risk of dehydration being posed to innocent gym users. The JCR could purchase a rather inexpensive water dispenser with a self-refillable water bottle, so that it could be filled up from the JCR, the bar or the kitchen facilities, or they could move an existing water dispenser from elsewhere perhaps. This would not be a very expensive decision for the JCR to make, but it would really improve the college's gym facilities.

### This JCR therefore resolves to:

Mandate Rosie (President) to look into installing a water dispenser inside the Keble College gym.

#### **Issues Raised:**

- **Proposer:** There is no water, would be greatly beneficial.
- Clarification: College in the past seem to think we wanted something plugged into the mains, hence their reticence. We can't just buy a water dispenser as the JCR since it shouldn't wholly be the JCR's responsibility; The MCR, tutors and fellows all use the gym

VOTES FOR: 46 VOTES AGAINST: 0 ABSENTIONS: 4

THIS MOTION . Passes

#### Motion 4

Proposer: Alice Joy Evans Seconder: Thomas Hunter

Subject: More vegetables! (+vegetarian gravy)

### This JCR notes that:

- the portions of vegetables in hall are very small (barely one of our 5-a-day)
- for healthy bodies and minds we need our 5-a-day of fruit and vegetables to provide essential nutrients and vitamins
- the variety of vegetables at hall are good
- vegetarians do not get any gravy at Sunday dinner

#### This JCR believes that:

The portions of vegetables at dinner should be increased (at least double the amount) or sharing platters of vegetables (like those at Sunday dinner) should be introduced at all meals. This will encourage more healthy eating and prevent students from suffering from vitamin deficiencies. Vegetarians should not be denied gravy with their roast potatoes and Yorkshire puddings just for not eating meat.

## This JCR therefore resolves to:

Mandate Johnathan Mitchell (vice president) to speak to hall about introducing larger portions of vegetables at every meal whilst retaining the good variety of vegetables during the week. Also, discuss possibilities of introducing vegetarian gravy for vegetarians at Sunday dinner.

## **Issues Raised:**

- **Proposer:** Portions are just quite small, I would like more vegetables, many other people feel the same way.
- If they give more vegetables- either will give less other food or charge more money Would be compensated for by decreasing other things like meat

- Can we split the motion? Would be easier for Johnny just to ask about the two issues separately
- Clarification: Johnny will ask about both separately, could get on without the other
- How sure are we they would reduce other things? Can't be certain, already make a loss
- A lot of this comes from difficulty getting feedback from hall. Setting up subcommittee to gget better feedback, want to adapt.

VOTES FOR: 34 VOTES AGAINST: 4 ABSENTIONS: 9 This motion- passes

#### Motion 5

Motion regarding OUSU Marine le Pen motion

Proposed by: Michael Low Seconded by: Hossein Sharafi

#### This JCR notes:

- 1. The Oxford Union claims to be a place which promotes free speech
- 2. Marine le Pen, whilst she may have detestable views, is a prominent figure In French politics, which is somewhat important in Europe

## This JCR believes:

- 1. Listening to different views and assessing them on their own merits is the best way for students to broaden their horizons and come to informed opinions
- 2. Nobody should have their right to free speech restricted
- 3. This includes people who are, or are deemed to be, fascists
- 4. It is a self-defeating point to protest fascism by limiting anybody's free speech

#### This JCR therefore resolves to:

- 1. Mandate the OUSU rep to vote against OUSU's Marine le Pen motion
- 2. Strongly encourage any other Keble members attending the OUSU council meeting to do so
- 3. Not support the organised protests of le Pen's appearance at the Union

#### **Issues Raised:**

- Proposer- OUSU motion would like the Union to rescind the offer and stop offering to
  people like her, some people have asserted she is a fascist, not right to limit anyone's
  freedom of speech. No point only listening to people you agree with. Some Oxford students
  have organised a protest. Would accept it as an amendment if want to get rid of the protest
  clause.
- *Clarification* The motion says the OUSU executive will send a request to the union to not allow speakers like her in the future, not rescind Le Pen's invitation
- In what way does this limit her freedom of speech? This is an opportunity she has been given to speak to people. Saying you should take platform away dependant on whether people like her politics. No platform policies are ironically fascist.
- Stopping our freedom to go and listen to her. Everyone should have the right to go an listen to her, no one should be suppressing that choice

- To Clarify- She is right wing, fascist, utilises hate speech. She is a fascist- do we want to give a platform, validate her, give the Oxford name to her cause? Not a forum in which she will be able to be criticised, just a PR exercise for her.
- Not fascist to listen to her and say she's wrong. We don't want to put the Oxford union's
  name to censoring who we can speak- we have free will ourselves. Will manipulate French
  press, but won't make much difference to lend her claim that Oxford agree with her, people
  won't be that easily deceived. Don't want to put our name to impeding people's right to
  speak, that is a more concerning
- Historically this JCR hasn't allied with political movements, decided not to officially support
  tuiton fees. Whether or not we agree this JCR avoids political affiliation, should we pass this
  motion? In terms of precedent in the past, doesn't have to dictate what we do now.
  Shouldn't support no platform policies.
- Will be voting to stop the union censoring who we hear. Motion not to stop le Pen, motion is to stop them telling the union to not invite speaker's similar to marine le Pen
- Not limiting her freedom of speech, rather to limit our ability to hear these views. Limiting anybody's free dissemination of ideas-
- Friendly Amendment: Take out references to freedom of speech and change to 'free dissemination of speech'
- Friendly Amendment: Omit 2 and 3 of 'believes'
- Letter is dangerously ambiguous, gives union a precedent to censor who they wantdangerous to support it
- If this motion fails does that mean Hossein's mandated to vote for? No
- She is a huge figure in politics, she has a platform to speak regardless. We should have the
  opportunity to be exposed to these things and form our own views, healthy to look at these
  things critically, not endorsing her
- **How is this limiting our ability to listen?** How often do you get the opportunity to ask her question? Not any opportunities other than this to attack her views
- Does she have a history of inciting hatred? In which case if you want to take away a platform that should be from people who incite hatred. Where do you draw the line? Not sure if she'd ever gone as far as to incite violence- has said horrible things about many religions and races, but drawing an arbitrary line over when you can listen to people's views is a slippery slope. Bad precedent to set to limit what people say.
- Point of Interest: in 2013 charged with inciting hatred, ongoing.
- She's speaking anyway
- Not OUSU's place to be putting pressure on an external organisation.
   Union funded by paying member, members of the union should dictate what the union chose to do
- The union's not completely affiliated with the university but it is OUSU's remit to represent the university, thus if students show trepidation it is their job to relay this to the union

## **Speech in opposition**

- Opposition: Not freedom of speech, you don't have a right to speak at the union. It's not a limitation of freedom of speech, not an absolute right, can't libel, can't do whatever you want. People who are going to be affected by it think it's a damaging thing for le Pen to speak. BME officer for OUSU is someone who put this Motion together, representative opinion of people in Oxford. Attaching the University' name to people who incite hatred is dangerous.
  - Speaking to intelligent Oxford people, hearing people preaching fascist hatred can be more effective in turning people away from those views
  - Can we split our motion into two? We should be able to listen to people, but we condemn
    her views- we could still mandate OUSU Rep to vote against the OUSU motion, but we can
    condemn her views as abhorrent

- Friendly Amendment- get rid of the third point in 'resolves'
- If you disagree with a motion doesn't mean you disagree with everything. Voting for this motion is not saying you aren't against her views
- We get to see the views first hand as people who go here- they already have a platform, surely we want to experience first hand her ideas rather than through the media? She
   Used her speech at Cambridge to legitimate her ideas, used it as PR. Seeing her first hand is less important than endorsing her ideas
- No way to draw a line between people who we find unacceptable. Where do the boundaries reside? No one has the right to draw the line. OUSU attempting to exert that right.

Could we add a clause that we strongly disagree with le Pen's views? Goes to a vote

Amendment: Whether we add a clause to assert that we do not support Le Pen's views

Votes against- 46 Abstentions- 4

For-5

#### No ammendment

 Proposer- Next week will bring another motion with the resoltion that we don't support her views

**Summing up proposer-** Clear none of us believe in Marine Le pen's views- comes down to whether we think it's right for OUSU to dictate who we listen to. Sensitive issue, but her speaking at the union isn't going to cause everyone to believe in it. Will submit a motion next week stating her views are abhorrent

**Summing up opposition**- Not about convincing us, more about the prestige that the institution carries, can use its name to legitimate their views.

## Motion as it now stands:

This JCR notes:

- 1. The Oxford Union claims to be a place which promotes free dissemination of ideas
- 2. Marine le Pen, whilst she may have detestable views, is a prominent figure In French politics, which is somewhat important in Europe

## This JCR believes:

- 1. Listening to different views and assessing them on their own merits is the best way for students to broaden their horizons and come to informed opinions
- 4. It is a self-defeating point to protest fascism by limiting anybody's free dissemination of ideas

#### This JCR therefore resolves to:

- 1. Mandate the OUSU rep to vote against OUSU's Marine le Pen motion
- 2. Strongly encourage any other Keble members attending the OUSU council meeting to do so

VOTES FOR: 42 VOTES AGAINST: 6 ABSENTIONS: 9 This motion- passes

# 4. Matters for Discussion

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# 5. Any Other Business

- We should get a college pet- would be interested in people's ideas
- Treasurer- welfare promised in their hustings to get us a pet- perhaps a cat?
- Could raise money for charity by holding competitions to name it
- Had a Keble sheep for a while, another college stole our sheep. Get a cage.
- Can't get a cat, people might be allergic
- Just don't give the cat a bodcard
- Look into college wide membership of a gym/ swimming pool. Would take 5 thousand pounds from somewhere- would people be interested in
- Would that cover swimming, gym? Various prices
- They work out the amount of money by how many memberships they currently have
- If doing it for all of Keble, would we have to speak to the MCR? Yes
- Issue Uni sportsmen and women- already get membership through subs which they pay to university subs