Keble College JCR General Meeting MINUTES

HT15 – Sunday 2015 – Week 6



**1. Apologies of absence:** Treasurer-Kate

2. Officers' Reports:

President (Rosie Petersen) Vice President (Jonny Mitchell) Survey about hall food Nick French floating the idea of a laundry service- pay a fee to have your sheets washed for you Treasurer (Kate Dickinson) Punting negotiations currently occurring Secretary (Scarlet Unsworth) Nothing Welfare (Zoe Larkin & Joel Hide) Johns are running a mental health awareness week this week, open to everyone Equal Ops (Rachel Hulme) LGBTQ flag up in the lodge Film screening on Friday Accommodation (Matt Hawes) Freshers Ballot occurred, will be receiving emails about available rooms OUSU Rep (Hossein Sharafi) OUSU meeting last week, has a general election manifesto, tons of positions left Freshers' Week President (Katie Millard) Nothing Charities (Lydia Ream & Sarah Peel) Nothing Entz (Leanne Robinson Beth Tapsfield, Olivia Hadjinicolau) Pancake day was a success, film nights still going ahead, counting how much pancake day raised. Art bop happened Arts & Pubs (Kath Baxter, Lily Mackow-McGuire & Mina Ebtehadj-Marguis) Arts week happened- it went well, thanks to entz for collaboration on bop. Cuntry living in college now Environment & Ethics (Helen Tatlow) Absent Careers & Alumni (Robyn Murphy) University wide Internship applications process has opened up for positions in the UK Academic Affairs (Alice Duffy) Nothiing

# 3. Motions:

#### Motion 1- Minority gender welfare roles

Proposed by: Rosie Petersen Seconded by: Jack Remmington

This JCR notes that:

- The current Welfare Officers are described as 'male' and 'female' in the constitution.

- This prevents people who don't identify as either male or female—ie those of minority genders—from running for the role of Welfare Officer.

- Several other JCRs have, in recent years, updated their constitutions so as to allow people of minority genders to run for all committee positions.

- In addition to Welfare Officers, the JCR also has a group of peer supporters who receive lots of the same training.

This JCR believes that:

- A person's gender should not prevent them from running for roles within the JCR.

- It is important to maintain a mix of genders within the welfare team, so that members of the JCR have someone to turn to for specific problems and advice.

- The peer supporters are an important part of the welfare team, and their contribution and capabilities shouldn't be undermined.

- The LGBTQ rep, as the JCR's main voice for students who are of minority gender, is likely to best understand and represent the concerns of these students.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- Change the names of the Welfare Officers in the constitution to 'Female or minority gender' and 'Male or minority gender', such as to allow people of minority gender to run for the role whilst ensuring that the two officers are of different genders.

- Ensure that there is at least one male and one female peer supporter, so that, should one of the Welfare Officer roles be occupied by a person of minority gender, everyone still has someone of their preferred gender to talk to.

#### **Issues Raised:**

Talked to LGBTQ rep, gave him a few options which various colleges use, this was his favourite model. Far more inclusive. Talked to dean, Chaplain, current welfare members. Okay as long as there's a female peer supporter, can still be really well represented in the network. It's Important not to exclude people not in the gender binary.

Would the system be that the people with the highest number of votes were elected, rather than individuals of minority genders applying to a specific welfare role? No, Can just chose which category they apply to, would chose a post rather than running in general

How do you stop someone running as a minority gender and running against the easier candidate? Hope is that people in the JCR won't abuse people, we need to look out for people who are marginalised.

How do you stop them running against the weaker candidate? They wouldn't necessarily know the other candidates running before they applied, would be hard to rig the system like that. How do you fix the problem of someone speaking to the gender they want in a welfare capacity? There will always be at least one male and one female peer supporter

#### **VOTES FOR: 52**

# VOTES AGAINST: 1 ABSENTIONS: 1

THIS MOTION Passes (though needs to be passed a second time in the JCR to be implemented)

#### Hustings

Louisa Butcher

- Three main reasons I want to be president- I thought our fresher week was really good. I know coming into Uni is scary. Would like to get more involved in the JCR.
- Main improvement- improve social events of the early evening. Make things more integrative, create less of a going-out not-going-out dichotomy. Maybe have some pub quizzes in the bar before going out at night to allow more social interaction.
- College families are a nice way of making sure people know each other, could be better utilised. Formal dinner is quite formal, perhaps it could be preceded by a scavenger hunt with you family, in college. This would be a nice way to create conversation at dinner.
- BOP is a nice culmination of the week, but the theme could be better tailored to suit freshers. Perhaps freshers could be given a letter, told to find others dressed in that letter. Encourage more mixing .
- Sunday after the bop we could hold a post bop breakfast run by the JCR, people could come to the JCR, integrate those who didn't want to go to the bop itself.
- Freshers website was really good, lots of info. Couple of changes to timetable which was a bit confusing. FAQs page for people to submit questions anonymously, post answers on the website.
- When you arrive and walk into the JCR it's quite stressful, perhaps nametags. Second years should also have nametags so they're not confused for freshers.
- Make social events more of a thing. Utilise early evening a bit more to bring everyone together.

#### Matt Scott

- I don't want to rapidly change what was implemented last year, just some improvements
- Introducing a stairway rep, making the week longer, more IT support, greater use of the bar.
- I want to introduce a Stairway rep , it's difficult to get to know people who live in the staircase. Many people don't know everyone who lives in their stairwell. Useful to have a stairwell rep to make sure everyone got to know each other. In conjunction a stairway rep could have a welfare responsibility, make sure everyone's okay.
- Longer freshers week. Cant guarantee, but important to liase with college hierarchy. Not so much because people wanted to go out more, but people didn't know anyone and were immediately set an essay. Couldn't enjoy first Bop of term as they were stressing over work. Would endeavour to move it back to Sunday
- IT support. Lots of stress setting up eduroam and Ethernet. How-to instructions on freshers website would be really helpful. IT reps who would be available to help with setting up over the first couple of days. Have forms which were handed out on the first day in PDF form on the website
- Bar- didn't really use the bar in the first term, great social space. Find more people in different year groups. More events in the bar in the first week. Darts, jazz night.

# Questions-

Shortened it this year because they seem to be under the impression there's a drinking culture in Keble, how would you dissuade college that this is a problem?

**Matt**: I think there's more of a misunderstanding of drinking Culture. Just going to clubs isn't indicative- on the first night there was no planned club night but people still went out. Safer to have a club night organised by freshers committee,. Extending freshers

**Louisa**: Inevitable that people will want to drink. Problem with a shorter week was that it created the impression there was less time to go out, exacerbate drinking culture.

What would you plan for the first night of freshers week?

Matt: Get out of the blue back. Something casual in the bar with drinks is nice, low key. BOP on opening night was too much. Jazz, big band

Louisa: Agree with using the bar- cheese and wine night worked really well, something to congregate round.

College asked that second years came back later- would it be nice to have second years come back at the same time?

**Matt**- nice to have 2<sup>nd</sup> years back at the same time. Nice to have people who know what to do from the student perspective instead of staff. More atmosphere, seemed a bit empty in the first couple of days

**Lousia** –bring second years back with the freshers. Other second years may also want to get involved, opportunity to help freshers, another person to go to.

# Sarah Timmis

- I'm a people person, get to know people really well. I want to continue Zoe's excellent work, cheese and wine nights have worked really well. C card system has worked really worked really well.
- Ensure anonymity. Peer support drop ins don't work, people really value anonymity around issue of sexual health and welfare
- If people had questions people could post them anonymously to pidge and they would be answered on a generic page. Important to ensure everyone knows the welfare officers have an open door policy.
- Tighten network of social support. Regular communication between subject reps and welfare officers. Immediately flag up and sort out issues. Extend to university level, everyone knows exactly who to go to. Promote knowledge about counselling system university wide
- Increase awareness of university wide sexual health. Free condoms and chlamydia tests is good, but knowing where nearest sexual health clinics etc are. Porters lodge, freshers page info.
- Encourage female sport- set up a weekly running club, great way to relax and let off steam, get to know people. This girl Can campaign, doing sport in non judgemental capacity environment, relaxed environment would be great.
- I know the difficulty people have in coming forward, would be completely confidential

# Susy Rees

- I love Keble, I genuinely think it's the most friendly college, huge part of why I'm happy is because of welfare system
- Would love to continue the C card scheme, and the wine and cheese nights, nice thing that's brought everyone together, talking to people wouldn't necessarily have spoken to otherwise
- Great college family system. Would be great to have family socials, get to know family better. Encourage inter year bonding. Pub quiz in the bar to encourage family to get together. Picnic in trinity term.
- Loads of studies which show pet owners are happier. Has been raised in lots of JCR meetings, a college pet would be really nice.
- I have Prelims this term. Really daunting, work can get on top of you. So many lovely peer supporters but people don't go to drop in times. It would be worth having a welfare tea at

Keble nightlearn, people can go along, go and sit down at night learn, have a friendly face to chat to if things are going wrong

Both mentioned wine and cheese night- what other events could get everyone together? Sarah- Freshers lunch. Picnic. Get freshers together and everyone else who wants to join. Near the start of term.

**Susy**- A thirsty meeples style night with board games, twister etc. Lots of our JCR games have disappeared. Jenga and twister in the bar would be great.

What pet?

Susy- tortoise - Though it would hibernate

Sarah- Maybe a dog? Not sure it would work logistically mind

Sexual health- would you be open to running sexual health awareness week?

**Sarah**- Yes definitely, peer support hours. One of the biggest things which welfare need to focus on. Good idea, lots of good things.

**Susy**- Definitely, would want to follow on from the introduction of such useful institutions as the Good lad workshop, sexual consent workshops.

#### Motion 2 – GlobalGivingUK funding

Proposed by: Elliott Rogers

Seconded by: Sarah Peel

This JCR notes that:

- 1. This summer Elliott will undertake the position of Project Evaluator with GlobalGiving, which will evaluate and assist 6 grassroots NGOs over the summer
- 2. GlobalGivingUK is an award winning charity
- 3. They run an ethical marketplace for funding, ideas and resources for local projects around the world.
- 4. The voluntary position of Project Evaluator requires £650 in funding which will be invested in to volunteering recruitment, training and support cost and follow up support for the partners.

This JCR believes that:

- 1. The Project Evaluator Role will aid numerous grassroots NGOs
- 2. The investment of funds in to volunteering recruitment, training and support cost and follow up support for the partners is a vital part of GlobalGivings work.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

1. Donate £200 to Elliott Rogers' Just Giving page.

Issues raised:

Money would come from the charity Levy What does the charity do? Goes to grassroots NGOS and evaluates them What's the total amount needing to be raised? £650 Money all goes to the charity and the training Why has this been put through when he's not here? Time pressure, needs some of it by the end of this week

Opposition: Feels like we're just giving money away but he's not here. Not enough information here.

We do have a huge budget but it just seems like we're just throwing money at him

**Friendly amendment**- Elliott will write a report on what he's done for the charity and report back to the JCR, and bring back something for the trophy cabinet if he can.

Votes for 21 Votes against 0 Abstentions 15 THIS MOTION: Passes

#### Motion 3: Subscription for 'The Week'

Proposed by: Flo Barnett Seconded by: Iona Dixon

This JCR notes that:

1. Keblites are busy people.

2. Keblites like keeping up with the news.

3. The Week provides a weekly summary of what is going on in the news bringing together stories from across the British and international medias in one place.

4. A subscription for the print only magazine would give us the first 6 issues free then be £27.49 per 13 issues (a total of £2.11 per issue).

5. According to Kate, this could be easily accommodated by the JCR funds.

This JCR believes that:

1. Having a student body informed of the goings on outside the Oxford bubble is worthwhile.

2. An additional weekly crossword opportunity would bring joy to many finalists.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

1. Add a subscription for 'The Week' magazine to the newspapers subscriptions and organise for it to be kept in the cafe with the other newspapers

Issues raised:

Magazine that Flo really likes. Like the economist but more based on the news, top three stories from the week, no partisan leaning. Also contains restaurant reviews, gallery reviews. Easy to read, for MPS. Not very expensive. Seems like a nice thing to have.

Could we add a pound? Photocopy crossword?

Friendly amendment: adding up to a pound for photocopying per issue What other stuff is on quiz page? Quiz of the week's news.

Votes against 0 Votes for 38 Abstentions: 0 THIS MOTION: Passes

# Motion 4: Providing a grant to Hypnotist Theatre Company

Proposed by: Heloise Lowenthal Seconded by: Kat Padel

This JCR notes that:

1. Keble College has always had long ties with theatre through the O'Reilly and academic Martin Esslin, and many students participate in theatre.

2. Productions by this company, including Pitchfork Disney, The Country, and GRIMM have suffered from lack of funding despite being well regarded in terms of creative output (receiving brilliant reviews and making good profit)

3. Costs of staging a public production are high, with the sums for set construction, the purchase of rights, marketing, venue hire and costume often being too high for students to afford themselves.

4. The production team have secured funding to cover the majority of these costs, but their rights budget still remains unfunded. Rights are essential, not only to legally perform the show, but also to support the (living) writers who make their living this way.

5. This will be the first production of The Architect since its original production in 1996, and has attracted interest from David Grieg himself who has attended a rehearsal and supports the production.

6. The way funding in Oxford Drama works relies mainly on pro rata loans means that most profits made return to funding bodies rather than being able to invest directly back into shows.

7. Student theatre productions do not set out to make profits, and the production team has committed to reinvesting any money it does make into its next production.

This JCR believes that:

1. Theatre is an important part of Keble and Oxford culture.

2. The Arts should be accessible to all.

3. A grant, rather than a loan, will prevent the company having to return to college to fund future shows, allowing them to invest in their Edinburgh run from the profits of this show.

4. The JCR can provide the support needed to launch this production which, with a

commitment to reinvestment, will in turn benefit shows of the future.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

1. Award a grant of £200 (expected to be spent on: half the cost of the rights to the play) to the general budget of 'The Architect' Produced by Heloise Lowenthal

2. See that receipts are produced for all expenditure and presented to the JCR Treasurer, and that any unspent money is returned.

# Issues Raised:

Theatre company going quite well but hard to fund, you generally have to return money gleaned from loans from Oxford societies and colleges, and it's hard to get a profit. Getting grants rather than loans so we can invest in Edinburgh run.

*Issue with why we are paying for the rights in particular, you should play for venue and play before set design.* Not actually going directly on rights, right just fits with the amount of money asked for. It's actually just a nominal sum towards the budget. Two and a half thousand budget, this is a small percentage.

How long a run in Edinburgh? Whole month. Four day run in London and Oxford.

*Synopsis of the play*? Family whose father is an architect. Follows the relationship of the father and wife, also daughter who goes hitchhiking and gets picked up by lorry drivers. Son who has explicit encounters in public toilets. Overhanging whole thing is the father's first big project is imminently being knocked down. Crumbling walls of relationships.

Votes for 40 Votes against 0 Abstentions 0 THIS MOTION: Passes

# 4. Matters for Discussion

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# 5. Any Other Business

- Kate: been in contact with punting houses. Magdalen are much cheaper. Half again to go up to Cherwell.
  How much would punt levy be? Not sure yet
- The one at Magdalen is a lot busier. Traffic on the river. Pub at the other end of the river. Same punts at both. Last year paid a thousand pound per punt, Magdalen is 750, Cherwell 1200.
- MCR are looking at getting free swimming membership for them. Got prices for them and whole of college. Subsidised or free membership.
- *Where will money come from*? Meeting with bursar if they can get money from college.
- Liase with sports Rep