



**1. Apologies:**

Hamish Birrell  
Thomas Stokoe

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**2. Officers' reports:**

**President (James Newton):**

1. Run for Equal Ops! It's great!

**Vice-President (Luka Boeskens):**

1. Spoke to Gerard to get rid of dessert creams – he agreed so that's all sorted.  
2. Washing machines and dryer problems- remember there are forms if one breaks - fill one of these out. College is paying an exterior firm to maintain them, so make sure you inform college if they aren't working.

**Secretary (Alex Connolly):**

1. No notices.

**ENTZ (Sascha Eady):**

1. There's a BOP, Saturday of 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Equal Ops (Robin Anderson):**

1. It's women's week this week with OUSU. Get going to the events!  
2. Apply for my role!

**Arts and Pubs (Bea Xu, Hal Hainsworth):**

1. Thanks for coming to the theatre trip – look out for Hamish's blog!  
2. Life drawing this week – contact me for venues.

**Academic Affairs (Suzie Markland):**

1. None.

**Environment and Ethics (Fiona Elliot):**

1. The JCR Bike now has a new lock. I will be looking at sponsorship in the next few weeks.

**Accommodation (Laura Gill):**

1. Bar sub-committee is coming along well.

**Treasurer (Georgie Clifford):**

1. None.

### Charities (Gargie Ahmad):

1. Thanks for coming to the open mic night!
2. International mother-tongue day soon, I will be hosting events to go with that.
3. World weekend day too which will be great.
4. Flamenco workshop to be held during World Weekend.
5. Sat night in the bar- African dance evening and a dj set.
6. Sunday on Hayward quad there will be a clothes swap day!

### OUSU Rep (Mike Fedosiuk):

1. Last week was typically pointless, the BDS motion is postponed.
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## 4. Hustings (*brought forward by Chair*)

### Welfare:

**Candidates:** Flo Barnett and Ollie Robinson

- No questions.

### Freshers' Week President:

**Candidates:** Benedict Gardiner and Emma Alexander

- Bridge or Wahoo?
    - Alexander:** Bridge is very typical but we could maybe send people in a later week to Wahoo.
    - Gardiner:** Bridge because of bad experiences at Wahoo...
  - College don't like pre-drinking in people's rooms, how would you deal with this?
    - Alexander:** Structure the evening more – have events straight after dinner that then leads straight into going out.
    - Gardiner:** Games nights in the bar, drinking events in the JCR. Better to have collective fun.
  - There is often resistance to organised fun, how would you deal with it?
    - Alexander:** There is enough free time for people to do things and it's never compulsory, the important thing is having the options there.
    - Gardiner:** You can make things in the bar very appealing. Nights out are organised but are still very popular. Making sure people don't think things are compulsory, you can't force people to do things.
  - Peters' have a mascot which is a lion. If Keble were to have one what animal would you have and why?
    - Alexander:** Alpaca because they had the international alpaca conference here.
    - Gardiner:** Zebra, because you're 'crossing' from school to university...
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## 3. Motions:

## **Motion One: OUSU's Low Block Grant Funding**

### **This JCR notes that:**

1. OUSU currently receives an annual block grant from the University and Colleges of under £400,000, compared to an average block grant of £1.8M in other Russell Group universities (which have on, average, similarly-sized student body).
2. This underfunding of OUSU prevents it from doing the job that its individual members and constituent common rooms expect of it.
3. OUSU Council resolved in Trinity Term 2012 to express its frustration to the University at the paucity of OUSU's funding and called on the University to remedy this situation.
4. The University has not remedied the situation, and has given early indications that OUSU's budget will instead suffer a real-term cut for 2013-14.

### **This JCR believes that:**

1. Although we may not realise it, OUSU actually does a lot for us .
2. At the moment it does not have enough money to do what it needs or wants to do.

### **This JCR resolves:**

1. To fully support OUSU in expressing its frustration, dissatisfaction and deep concern with the current level of block grant and possible real-terms cut.
2. To mandate the JCR President to write to OUSU expressing the support of Keble College in any actions they take.

**Proposed:** Mike Fedosiuk

**Seconded:** James Newton

### **Issues Raised:**

- **Proposer:** This is serious as OUSU are running out of money, and we're getting a bad deal. This is coming through an OUSU motion but it does directly affect us. We're basically ordering [President] to write [the uni] a letter.
- What do they want? **Reply:** They want the national average
- What's the university's main argument for not giving them the average? **Reply:** Our SUs are dispersed between Common Rooms. But OUSU still has to function, even if colleges look after us. Dealing with the different governing bodies of the university is still something they have to do and things JCRs can't.
- Do we know if OUSU is targeted for cuts? **Reply:** Other areas of the university are increasing their budgets.
- Is there a more powerful way to do this? **Reply:** Purchase OUSU stash... Well, this motion is the first step. OUSU looking for help from JCRs.
- Why is this an issue now? Surely this has been going on for a while... **Reply:** Global financial crisis... They are trying to make OUSU better.
- Do you think this is tactful? **Reply:** Classic bartering technique

**VOTES FOR: ? - majority**

**VOTES AGAINST: 1**

**ABSENTIONS: 7**

THE MOTION PASSES.

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## **Motion Two: 'BDS' against Israel and OUSU:**

### **This JCR notes:**

1. On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2013, OUSU Council will vote on a proposal titled "NUS Conference Proposal - Boycott, divestment and sanctions". This motion calls on OUSU to vote in favour of an NUS Conference proposal to "join the global movement for Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) against Israel".

### **This JCR believes:**

1. It is morally objectionable for students to endorse an academic and cultural boycott of the institutions of any country. It is an assault on academic and intellectual freedom to demand a boycott on Israeli professors, books, articles, journals and student societies simply by virtue of their country of origin. This JCR is proud of its international diversity and opposes all moves to discriminate against and isolate people on the basis of their nationality.
2. The BDS is a fringe, extremist movement that seeks to delegitimize and ultimately dismantle the state of Israel. The BDS movement is decried by many prominent supporters of Palestine.
  - a. Noam Chomsky, the noted critic of Israel, strongly opposes the BDS movement. He argues that the BDS campaign is "not a call from the Palestinian people", coming from fringe NGOs instead. He accuses the BDS movement of "hypocrisy to high heaven". He labels the BDS movement as "pure anti-Semitism".
  - b. Norman Finkelstein, another noted critic of Israel, described the BDS movement as a "hypocritical, dishonest cult."
  - c. The leaders of the BDS movement do not oppose the policies of Israel, but the existence of Israel.
    - i. The prominent supporter of the BDS movement, As'ad AbuKhalil, proclaims that "the real aim of BDS is to bring down the state of Israel... Justice and freedom for the Palestinians are incompatible with the existence of the state of Israel."

### **This JCR resolves:**

1. To mandate its representatives to vote against the OUSU motion to approve the NUS Conference proposal to "join the global movement for Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) against Israel".

**Proposed by:** Alice Robb

**Seconded by:** Jake Lancaster

Issues Raised:

- **Proposer:** Main point to make is it is not about Israel vs Palestine. For an university to call for a cultural and academic boycott is inappropriate.
- **Secunder:** Very important meeting. Issue is about boycotting or not boycotting and what we understand by it. Boycotting pushes countries away and makes them more extreme. Boycotting is difficult and something that won't help. Could sound very bad for Oxford to support the motion.
- People were just bringing the motion to OUSU's attention so they could debate it.  
**Reply:** The issue is that Oxford students would be connected to boycotting.
- How many other oxford colleges are taking a similar stance to us? **Reply:** They didn't say who many have voted in favour, but might only be one college in favour and the rest seem to have abstained. Most colleges are discussing it tonight.
- They are not proposing that our NUS officials say OUSU pass this, does it mean that Oxford would be independently proposing this motion?
- Will our decision affect whether or not it will be debated? **Reply:** It will almost definitely be debated.
- We have three votes at OUSU – JCR mandates those voters, all three votes.
- Three points of the BDS movement:
  - Withdrawal from all Arab lands occupied since 1967
  - Equal rights for Arabs
  - Right of Return for Palestinian refugees
- What is the likelihood of OUSU passing this motion? **Reply:** Probably won't.

Points of debate:

- BDS is a very extreme movement and only has the support of 2.5% Palestinians in the last election.
- Strongest points at OUSU meeting: this being an academic institution, boycott would affect those who are most keen to come to a solution.
- If an individual comes to a university to express an academic opinion then this boycott is fundamentally wrong.
- Israeli students might be ostracised.
- Wouldn't be able to be implemented in practice- would make Jsoc illegal.
  - Jsoc is traced directly to an Israeli institution.
    - Wouldn't make Jsoc illegal – we are not passing legislation...
- The demands of the movement would render Israel as a Jewish state not existent – main reason to oppose it.
- One of the big problems – on a practical level, OUSU has no facility to get anything like this implemented – would be a massive amount of wasted time that would lead to nothing. As an inclusive institution it goes against our principles.
- This JCR should be apolitical

Amendments to the motion:

- JCR notes section – actually can stay as it is.

- Strike out the examples of the BDS movement opponents – we don't need to give these three people such weight. **Amendment taken as friendly.**

**VOTES FOR: 60**

**VOTES AGAINST: 0**

**ABSTENTIONS: 8**

THE MOTION PASSES.

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### **Emergency Motion: Motion Three: Sportswear in the Café:**

#### **This JCR notes that:**

1. The flowerpot muffins in the cafe are well known for their restorative effects, forming an integral part of many sportsmen and womens' have recovery routine
2. The cafe has recently banned sportswear thus denying our great athletes access to this routine

#### **This JCR believes that:**

1. This ban constitutes a draconian violation of our freedom of expression; at odds with keble's reputation as a fair and inclusive college
2. This move persecutes KCRFC; one of the most consistently targeted groups in oxford.
3. We can no longer tolerate the unaccountable, autocratic rule of Gerard

#### **This JCR therefore resolves to:**

1. Mandate the president to make reversing this ban his top priority

**Proposer:** John Harkness

**Secunder:** Michael Fedosiuk

#### **Issues Raised:**

- Unfair to not be able to eat in the café if wearing sports kit.
- Grammatical error with the motion.
- What exactly are they describing as sportswear? **Reply:** One of the problems – unreasonable demand on Ernie to determine what constitutes sportswear, we need clarity.
- Was it specified that you were in sports kit or because you were dirty? **Reply:** Sports kit.
- When Gerard suggested this it was the mud that was the issue. **Reply:** Told specifically it was because of wearing sports kit.
- Amendment proposed: get clarity and then take appropriate action **Reply:** Not accepted as friendly. Why should we listen to fellows?

- New information: a tweet from the café – new café policy – won't serve *muddy* rugby players. **Reply:** Let's assume it was correct, it's unfair that the rugby team is targeted.
- Where do they draw the line with 'muddy'? **Reply:** Maybe amend this to restricting muddy people from sitting on the sofas?
- **Amendment:** Change it from being the president's 'top priority' – *accepted as friendly*. Now reads as 'a priority'.
- Would getting rid of the ban altogether solve the problem? I would rather see clarity on the ban and the ban be one that people shouldn't come in directly post-practice.
- The café is not making financial loss.
- What about those who live out of college?
- Gerard has just done this on his own.
- After practice you are supposed to have post-nutrition 20 minutes afterwards, making a shower infeasible.

**VOTES FOR: 26**

**VOTES AGAINST: 13**

**ABSTENTIONS: 22**

THE MOTION PASSES.

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## **5. Any other business:**

### **Charities:**

Tapas toasties are available in the bar!