Keble College JCR General Meeting MINUTES

# HT2014 – Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2014 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Week

# 1. Apologies of absence:

Emma Brand Laura Whitehouse Georgina Ndukwe Matt Gompels Severin Limal Iona Dixon Jake Palmer Jack Field

# 2. Officers' Reports:

# President (Sean Ford)

- 1. Sean went to KA dinner on Friday and got to say thank you to them. If you need to apply deadline is Tuesday/Wednesday for grants so if you do have a cause you need money for, apply.
- 2. Update on food in hall this week, lots of new things in the café, that's improving
- 3. Informal hall has had rumblings and there will be an update of kitchens and a survey of sites around college
- 4. Big constitution review next week
- 6th week we've got jobs coming up for elections Freshers' President, Welfare and Equal Opps
- 6. Big turnout for 2nds Rugby debut on Tuesday now through to QFs of cuppers

# Vice President (Chris Allnutt)

- 1. Follow-ups to wifi have meeting with IT manager on Tuesday coming up
- 2. Looking to extend brunch has been brought up and is being considered, depends on staff and shift times
- 3. With regards to building works, Liddon completed in a couple of weeks and lodge is aiming for 10<sup>th</sup> March

# Treasurer (Rishi Chotai)

1. Nothing to report

# Secretary (Katie Davies)

1. OxStu and Cherwell are going to be in the JCR from now on – they will be in the café as well and they are great reads, otherwise it's a waste of paper

# Academic Affairs (Matt Gompels) in absence

 Academic Feedback Sessions will actually be starting this week, a range of subjects have been selected as a trial of this new form of feedback where students talk confidentially and informally to the Academic Affairs Officer and President who compile a report for the Senior Tutor. More details will follow in the coming days, but I would like to take the opportunity to strongly encourage those subjects chosen to make a real effort to attend as a successful trial will increase our chances of getting this measure approved permanently by governing body



## Welfare (Flo Barnett & Ollie Robinson)

- 1. Self-defence classes will be next week, watch out for email with details
- 2. Student Support Fund deadline was Friday (?) if anyone has questions, send Flo or Iona an email.
- 3. Keble has a fund for unexpected expenses e.g. when Sean hurt his leg, hardship fund, so if you have something that is not hardship but is a big expense please think about it
- 4. Condoms will be delivered with Noodle Nation vouchers, for a limited time only!

# Equal Ops (David Harris)

- 1. LGBTQ month! Woop! Thanks to everyone who turned up 2 people!
- 2. There will be other stuff going on, keep an eye out

# Accommodation (Angus McDonnell)

- 1. Can people PLEASE apply for the Bar Sub-Committee
- 2. Flowers will be gone from the middle of this week to be replaced by something else that is not great either

# OUSU Rep (Nicole Chui)

 Government proposing 60% cut to student opportunities fund and this is important for Oxford. OUSU is writing a letter to Cable to complain about this. Hashtag to use is #savestudentopportunities for this.

#### Charities (Georgina Ndukwe) in absence

- This Friday is Keble's Got Talent and we would love some more acts so if you want to perform please email Georgina as soon as possible! No particular requirements, we just want to host a really fun evening and have a great act go forward to the Oxford's Got Talent final. The last Open Mic Night was a great success and we'd love to see any of you guys again as well as some new faces!
- 2. Friday is also Ramp Up the Red for the British Heart Foundation we're encouraging people to wear red and raise money, more details about that will be coming during the week. Any red-related Keble's Got Talent performances get bonus points!
- 3. Student Volunteering Week is coming up on the week of the 25<sup>th</sup> February and it looks like Oxford's week is going to be amongst the biggest at any university in the UK so there's lots to look forward to. There are lots of opportunities to get involved including a Good Deed Day on the Monday, a speaker event on homelessness on the Tuesday, and a large litter pick event that will involve college teams so look out for more information about that soon.

#### Entz (Deanna Greenhalgh, Greg Albery & Severin Limal)

1. Not much to report – had a meeting with the Dean and Matt Hall which will relate to the motions

#### Arts & Pubs (Iona Dixon, Louisa Adams & Laura Whitehouse)

1. An hour of ArtSoc happened on Friday, will be 2 hours this week.

2. Please submit anything to FIG – doesn't even have to make sense! Deadline is Friday. Environment & Ethics (Jake Palmer) in absence

1. I have a meeting with Nick French on Monday morning which will address several key issues. This includes clarifying the situation with the JCR bikes, the Oxford food bank viability (in the motion to come), the logistics of replacing recycling bags with boxes, the possibility of introducing of more bird boxes and fruiting flora to attract wildlife.

#### Careers & Alumni (Emma Brand) in absence

1. Watch out for the careers email tomorrow!

# 3. Motions:

#### Motion 1: Oxford Food Bank (re-submitted from last week as we did not reach quorum)

Proposed by: Rishi Chotai

Seconded by: Maddie Ojakovoh

This JCR Notes that:

1. A vast amount of food is wasted in College

2. Oxford Foodbank provides 5000 meals a week for people living in poverty, from food which would otherwise have gone to landfill

This JCR believes that:

1. having ties between College and Oxford Foodbank can only be a good thing and supporting local causes is important to the JCR and should also be important to College

This JCR Resolves to:

1. Mandate the Environment & Ethics officer to speak to the relevant authorities about whether such an arrangement is possible and what it would take for it to be put into place; the officer should report back to the JCR at next week's meeting.

**Issues raised:** 

 From last week (did not come to a vote as we did not reach quorum): Proposer: Oxford Foodbank is a local charity where members of the community volunteer their time to provide free food to those with low incomes, some students already involved in it – a good cause for Keble to be involved in Very easy to get involved through the Oxford Hub, fill in a form online – get college involved with providing food; is this possible? DB very keen on cutting down on wasted food – likely to be tempted to refute this, look to cut down on wasted food than giving away Brought up on Domestic Committee? Costs college more to give food away (silver trays) than it's worth, based on DB's prior experience – something has changed 'arrangement' purposefully vague to allow for possibilities when this is looked into Jake to bring it up anyway even if the motion doesn't pass

• Proposer: Scraps this motion!

Time Against:

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VOTES FOR: VOTES AGAINST: ABSENTIONS:

THIS MOTION IS SCRAPPED

# Motion 2: Offsetting carbon from long-haul flights (*re-submitted from last week as we did not* reach quorum)

Proposer: Jake Palmer

Seconder: Steven Eldridge

This JCR notes:

- 1. Flights produce large quantities of carbon in the combustion of fuel; for example a return flight to Perth from London adds 2530kg to the atmosphere per person
- 2. The increased level of carbon in the atmosphere contributes towards climate change which has numerous environmental effects from seal-level rises to increased levels of extreme weather events at a global scale
- 3. With the opportunities that the university affords its members due to its generous funding schemes it allows students to take flights, or longer flights, that they might not otherwise have done

This JCR believes that:

- 1. It is ethically imperative to mitigate the production of carbon where possible and thus reduce the adverse effects on communities internationally
- 2. Where possible and relevant it should help to take responsibility for the actions of its members in an environmental context

This JCR therefore resolves to:

 Donate £3 to the Woodland Trust for every trip a full JCR member takes that is in excess of 2,500km (as determined by Google Earth) up to a maximum of £200 annually to aid the maintenance and restoration of British woodland and help increase carbon offsetting

#### **Issues raised:**

Proposer: *if in absence* The motion: the exciting bit - fasten your seatbelts y'all. I'm prepared to be flexible with most of the details as many are quite arbitrary. It is important to see it as related to, yet different, to a normal charities motion as it is contingent on the behaviour of the JCR. The charity itself helps the restoration and preservation of woodlands across the country including ones local to Oxford. The £3 as a donation was proposed as it was a suggested small quantity to contribute. The 2,500 km is essentially the boundary of Europe as can be illustrated by the maps that I'll pidge you which seems sensible given that I'm intending to tackle long-haul flights and their carbon contribution. Whilst it could be done proportional to distance travelled I want to make the process as simple as possible to maximise participation and the program's future continuation with minimum fuss.

I would provisionally envisage collecting the money thus: during one week at the end of trinity term relating to the previous academic year, I would place sealed and locked box (not a paper cup!) in the lodge with a box of tokens next to it along with a map. Ideally whilst in the lodge people would consult the map and if they took trips exceeding the boundary indicated they would drop one token in to the box which would then later be counted and the money appropriately paid. Yes there are issues with this: if not everyone participates then we don't pay out the "sufficient" amount but if someone goes 'ape' and decides to fill the box then the amount contributed is limited to £200 annually anyway.

#### Time Against:

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VOTES FOR: VOTES AGAINST: ABSENTIONS:

# THIS MOTION FAILS DUE TO ABSENCE OF PROPOSER/SECONDER

## Motion 3: Bike Shelter (re-submitted from last week as we didn't reach quorum)

Proposed by: Sean Ford

Seconded by: Greg Albery

This JCR notes that:

- 1. Keble college currently has no bike shelter for undergraduates
- 2. Further to this, Keble's sporting reputation and location mean that bikes are a necessary part of student life
- 3. The lack of bike shelter, is causing damage to bikes and making them both unsafe and costly to repair
- 4. Any bike shelter would be an infrastructural change to college and therefore will need the support of Governing body as well as that of the JCR

This JCR resolves to:

- 1. Mandate the JCR President to bring the issue to college, by contacting the Dean and Bursar
- 2. On the condition that the proposal is deemed plausible by college, the JCR President will be mandated to bring a formal paper to Domestic Committee in 7<sup>th</sup> week of term

#### Issues raised:

- Proposer: This was one of the things Sean ran on. At the start of the year met with scepticism from college but Greg has raised things to do with bikes to the Bursar. Warden chat on Friday looked at bike shelter when they built Slo Ro so there are possibilities we may get one. The Dean wanted to be able to show Governing Body that we want a bike shelter, hope it will be unanimous that we do!
- Where? It would involve metal poles and a corrugated roof where all the bikes are. Not near Hayward where it is sheltered for Fellows.
- Greg If anyone is unsure if we need a shelter, we really do. There are many bikes with rust. A brake cable rusted inside the housing so it physically could not brake.

# VOTES FOR: 39 VOTES AGAINST: 0 ABSENTIONS: 0

THIS MOTION PASSES

# Motion 4: Bike Helmets

Proposer: Rishi Chotai

Seconder: Anthony Collias

This JCR notes that:

1. Wearing bike helmets reduces the chance of a fatality in crash by 90% and the chance head and brain injuries by over 85%.

2. Students that don't have their own bike are unlikely to have their own bike helmets

This JCR believes that:

1. Those that take out the JCR bikes should also take out a helmet.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

1. Mandate the E&E officer to buy 3 bike helmets (1 for each bike).

#### Issues raised:

- Proposer: Pretty self-explanatory, people should wear helmets and bikes don't have them.
- Friendly amendment change to 2. We already have 1 and only 3 bikes.
- Is it obligatory to get helmet? In lodge there is meant to be a declaration that you accept you have been offered a helmet. You don't have to but you are meant to have been asked each time.
- Did we find the 3<sup>rd</sup> bike? Answer, we are not sure...

# VOTES FOR: 41 VOTES AGAINST: 0 ABSENTIONS: 0

THIS MOTION PASSES

#### Motion 5: Quorum in meetings

Proposer: James Marchant

Seconder: Oliver Robinson

#### Section two, clause 38 of the constitution:

38. Quorum at JCR Meetings:

*I.* A Quorum of 35 JCR Members must be present throughout any JCR Meeting. The Quorum must be contained within the main body of the JCR building.

*II.* At the reasonable request of any JCR Member during a Meeting count, conducted by the JCR Secretary, shall be taken to ascertain whether or not a Quorum is present.

III. In the event of it being found that a Quorum is not present then the Meeting shall automatically be adjourned and if a Quorum is not attained within five minutes it shall close; but in any case proceedings of the Meeting up to the time when the absence of a Quorum is found shall not be invalidated This JCR notes that:

1. Quorum is not representative of the whole JCR, because at present 35 only accounts for 8.7% of the JCR

2. A lot of time is wasted when motions fail to pass due to Quorum not being met.

3. Following the current constitution accurately would result in meetings being frequently cancelled.

This JCR believes that:

1. The Quorum is an unnecessary and arbitrary section of the constitution

2. It is desirable to have as many members of the JCR present at all meetings as possible

3. Those that choose not to attend JCR Meetings are presenting their indifference between a motion passing and not passing, with there being ample opportunity to consider the motions beforehand.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

1. Strike section 2, clause 38 of the constitution.

2. Ensure that increasing meeting participation is a priority of the committee.

# Issues raised:

- Proposer: Bit annoyed at not having quorum so the meetings are slowed down, just as we miss 2 people so the Constitution was read as the 3<sup>rd</sup> point is long-winded and interpreted as what we have been doing for last 2 years it is wrong. If there aren't 35 we need to stop the meeting. Highlights bad constitution. Personally doesn't think quorum is valid anyway as doesn't represent our opinions but also the clause is messy so even if quorum was something the JCR thought was a good thing it's not written right.
- If you thought it was messy, why strike? I don't think quorum is good but you don't need it to make a motion valid. Should be as many people at these meetings as possible but it's an arbitrary number.
- What if there are only 4 who turn up? That's why I put the second resolution in there, it's still a priority to keep people coming along, part of JCR Sec's job to advertise so there couldn't just be a random meeting and 35 is just a bit random and annoying when we can't get things done. Could be lowered.
- Sean: Not in favour of motion but argument that quorum is too few but the argument people could crash a meeting with friends that has happened in the past so that's not fair to say 4 people will turn up, people will vote against if unhappy
- If this motion goes through and 3 people of 5 pass it will it go through? Yes
- When the constitution is rewritten will this issue be dealt with Sean? Sean didn't know what to do about this issue so this can be examined now
- Quorum is messy but what if the JCR meetings just become the committee voting together. Maybe edit to say a lesser number not including committee meetings. It's important JCR

members aren't just dominating as it's just a committee meeting. If we do edit it it might be good with a smaller number, like 10 people who cannot be committee members.

- Sean: Would that replace the strike section 2? Either we get rid of quorum or try and talk about a new system of quorum, if this fails we can readdress later.
- Proposer: Written as don't like concept of quorum but if it wants to be amended, it's silly to try and chase people to get them to attend. Happily change the threshold.
- Will this motion go through as an interim until the Constitution is rewritten anyway? Sean is coming up with own draft and he would leave this new bit alone if passed.
- Maybe agree we won't pass this and Sean will rewrite it and bring it next week.
- Never had invalidated meeting. Secretary: It happened in 7<sup>th</sup> week due to non-advertising possibly. Last week had half quorum and half not. Happened last year as well.
- If this happened would it give people more responsibility for coming down to meetings as if they didn't turn up it would put votes into others' hands Yes it should still be a priority to have as many at meetings as possible.
- Have we considered doing it like anonymous voting and having a trial? Trial would be to see who turns up, I don't know if 4 weeks would be enough to see if participation increases
- How would this affect emergency meetings? No 24 hours' notice, emergency meetings are a potential issue, but everyone would have to know

#### Time Against:

• Sean: Agree with James that quorum is arbitrary but it's important to keep it. Problem is not not having 35 we need this but the problem is precedent with abstaining and removing quorum. Abstaining forces motion to fail. Sean wants to change it so that if there are 35 people at a meeting or more then abstentions wouldn't have an effect on that, that's when abstentions have more weight than a no vote. Clause 24 says to pass a motion but has to be quorate; Sean followed precedent by previous committees. He would raise this next week.

## VOTES FOR: 14 VOTES AGAINST: 26 ABSENTIONS: 2

THIS MOTION FAILS (standing order requires 2/3 majority)

# Motion 6: BOPs and Entz budget

Proposed by: Rosie Petersen Seconded by: Joel Hide

This JCR notes that:

- 1. Keble currently has 2 BOPs per term organised by the Entz team.
- 2. The budget for each BOP is £500, 75% of which is spent on drinks tokens.
- 3. Many other colleges (including Catz, Wadham, St.Anne's and Exeter) have three or four BOPs per term, even Merton.

This JCR believes that:

- 1. BOPs are enjoyable and inclusive college events.
- 2. A slight reduction in the number of free drinks tokens available wouldn't significantly reduce people's enjoyment of the BOP.
- 3. Many members of college would enjoy having BOPs more frequently.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

1. Mandate the Entz team to investigate the possibility of increasing the number of BOPs per term to three, funded by decreasing the amount of money spent on drinks tokens.

#### Issues raised:

- Proposer: Last week it was brought up that 75% of budget for a BOP is drinks tokens. Most people would prefer having not just free drinks at a BOP saving £2 and people would get more benefit from having more BOPS rather than free drinks. You'd only have to reduce tokens by half to fund a whole new BOP. You could have a cheap drink at the BOP instead, boptail.
- Do the college seem agreeable? Entz: We're glad this came up as this is what they've been doing in the last week. Meetings with the Dean were about having 3 and they were fine with it. Issue is Matt and Emile being away in 5<sup>th</sup> week and Matt 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>. He doesn't want BOP in the bar while he's not there. We're looking into out of college BOP but there's a possibility for mega-bops and Shuffle Nights are keen. We agree that one drinks token per person is not worth it but we need to find something else to spend it on.
- What is money spent on that's not on drinks? Decorations and a bouncer. Bouncer is paid for by us. Gerard did it previously for free.
- Do we need a bouncer? Yes, there's no arguments about it, MCR BOPs have 2 so what we've been told is we only have one. We have tried it without but can't do it.
- The free tokens is it out of our budget? Would come to BOP anyway, would make more money by not handing them out anyway. Yes.
- We have a random mini-BOP that no one goes to; could that be extended into a BOP BOP? Yes. We've already got a mini one for halfway hall, red bop, an out of college bop and 8<sup>th</sup> week bop.
- There is a problem with people being jaded, at St John's too frequent. Yes we want to do that to avoid people not caring.
- What about non-bop events? Entz: Yes we would have more money for themed weeks, outdoor fun days and events, sounds lame but you get what I mean – social things around college.
- Unfriendly amendment: Move to other events? Proposer: Well we want another BOP not just other events

# VOTES FOR: 38 VOTES AGAINST: 2 ABSENTIONS: 1

#### THIS MOTION PASSES

#### Who is in favour of an external BOP?

- Entz want to do vote count to see who would want out of college BOP we've been trying to arrange the options and we can have it at Junction and host it with other colleges, maybe 2 others. We're speaking to Entz teams at other colleges to see if they would be keen. It's because we couldn't have one 5<sup>th</sup> week in the bar and that was popular on the Entz Facebook group so we want to arrange something else instead.
- Have we even got money for that? Yes
- If we were to have it at another college would they be in attendance? No it would be at a venue

- How does a bop in a club differ from just a night out? The plan would be specifically themed and we could put extra decorations up and it would be restricted to people in the know rather than randomers. It would also be subsidised and we would pay for tickets. Merton have their bops in St Catz and we could look into that if necessary.
- How many people does Junction take? Capacity is 720, working on 200 per college.
- Would there be an entrance fee? Also why don't we just go to club nights? It would be more like a big college night out but it would be subsidised, there was £2 entry fee at Junction maybe.
- What about Babylove, £150 just for free entry for everyone.
- How would it work getting friends in? If you tried to bring one other it would likely be ok. Unlikely to subsidise visitors but they could get in probably.

# VOTES FOR: 32

THIS INFORMAL POLL PASSES

## **EMERGENCY MOTION 7: Super Bowl**

Proposer: Eshan Shah Seconder: Samuel Steinert

This JCR notes that:

1. Last year there was an event held for JCR students where money was provided by the JCR for the purchase of pizzas during the Superbowl.

2. The event was a big success and provided great comfort to those watching the game.

This JCR believes that:

1. The JCR should support events that are attended by JCR students.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

1. Refund Eshan Shah for the purchases of refreshments for general consumption in the JCR during the Superbowl.

2. The total refundable amount shall be no more than £175

#### Issues raised:

- Proposer: The Superbowl is on tonight, last year about 30-40 watched it in the JCR and Matt Craggs got money to buy pizza at midnight to keep people going, we just want people to have fun. 175 is just an upper limit, quite a fun thing to do, lots of people have work, will pop down for a break.
- Quite popular out of college event at UGA house? No they're coming here to watch it. Elsewhere is irrelevant.
- There is on leaflets 50% off online? Yep we've got that
- This has happened every year so let's not break the tradition
- The distribution was really poor, last year didn't get anything. Will get bouncers in like Anthony and Sam to help out.
- How much does it buy? About 25 pizzas
- Will there be vegetarian? Yes.

VOTES FOR:37 VOTES AGAINST: 0 ABSENTIONS: 1

THIS MOTION PASSES

# 4. Any other Business:

- Sean: Related to quorum, thinking about new meetings, what would people think about moving to online voting (general 'no' in the meeting). The only points are that lots of people read minutes but don't come to the meetings e.g. 3<sup>rd</sup> years. Argument against is not getting it until midweek. People here possibly not fairest summary on it! People could get their friends online to vote; however this has been a problem at actual meetings. This is met with a no so will be dropped.
  Didn't people trial having meetings online so it's not ridiculous?
- Katie's bedtimes story A joke! What do you get a if you pass an ice cream with a detective? A choc ice? Meant to be Magnum PI apparently.