Keble College JCR General Meeting MINUTES

TT2013 – Sunday 20th October 2013 – 2nd Week

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1. Apologies of absence:

Entz

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2. Officers' Reports:

President (Sean Ford)

1. Approval of non-committee appointments; year book rep position still open
2. Piano!
3. New bike locks on sale in lodge
4. Bike registration over next few weeks in lodge – see email
5. Academic committee not much to say
6. Well done Emma Alexander for freshers week

Vice President (Luka Boeskens)

1. University challenge team trials on 6th and 7th November; fill out questionnaire with standard questions, 5 best from MCR and JCR; DB promised to buy case of champagne to team that gets to TV stage
2. Food in hall changes – new sandwiches, vegetables now plated than in trays to reduce waste; trying to be more fresh, catering is very flexible; DB keen on making food locally sourced, healthier
    a. Get ideas about flavours, normal sandwiches back!

Treasurer (Rishi Chotai)

1. Budget presentation – not much has changed, Ed Peel gave sports budgets at beginning of week, also budget about exceptional budget e.g. hockey kit send application to Rishi and Ed Peel

Secretary (Katie Davies)

1. None

Academic Affairs (Matt Gompels)

1. None

Welfare (Flo Barnett & Ollie Robinson)

1. welfare tea on Friday, only 2 attendees – don't need to need welfare to attend, lots of free food

Equal Ops (David Harris)

1. black history month this month, film night 'Do the right thing'' – racial tensions in early 20th century NY, Wednesday/Thursday, please come along, discussion maybe afterwards

Accommodation (Angus McDonnell)

1. 2nd year ballot pack today – please read and fill in google docs spreadsheet
2. Applications for bar committee this week, lot smaller – trying to add to the bar; last year: TV currently being negotiated, hopefully by next meeting, then can buy a PS3, pub sign

competition only one person applied hopefully get freshers involved – winner will get champagne and sign up outside the bar, blank wall free for Keble shield design in the bar send Angus a sketch

OUSU Rep (Nicole Chui)

1. First OUSU meeting on Wednesday, motion re Vice Chancellor's comments on cost of Oxford education – passed a motion to condemn it, brought back to JCR motion to be voted on later

Charities (Georgina Ndukwe)

1. Big week – JCR vote, posted on FB asking for suggestions
    a. Sparkle appeal – supports disabled children living in south Wales, facilities and activities incl. sensory rooms, state of the art facilitieis
    b. Oxford food bank – collects food from local shops, for every £1 received £25 donated
    c. Oxford homeless pathways – helps homeless people in Oxford get back on track
    d. Alia house – Romania disabled children aged 0-5, fundraising to build specialist building, also supports parents and training for staff and volunteers

Entz (Sascha Eady, Joel Duddell & Tom Stokoe)

1. None (not here)

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

1. Art society this week Thrusday in ARCO basement, chilled out materials etc. 1-6pm

Environment & Ethics (Fiona Elliott)

1. Ladies JCR bike is broken, repairs by Tuesday new bike motion anyway; will also send out photos, don't put personal bikes on JCR bike rack!!
2. Student switch off – thanks for signing the petition, so far Keble is leading! Sign up sheets might continue… hopefully win £250 prize

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3. Treasurer's Budget

- Full budget shown on powerpoint screen to whole JCR
- Key points (Rishi):

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4. Non-Committee Appointments:

- LBGQT Rep – Michael Tilby; F: majority A: Ab:
- IT Officer – Sam Littley; F: majority A: Ab:
- Sports Rep – Heli Copley; F: majority A: Ab:
- Year Book Rep – *as yet undecided*; F: A: Ab:

- Have been ratified by the Committee

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5. Motions:

Motion 1: 'Jews of Egypt' Film Premiere:

Proposed by: James Newton
Seconded by: Andy Hoyal

This JCR notes that:

1. On the 28th October Keble will be hosting the Oxford Premiere of the documentary film 'Jews of Egypt' in the Pusey Room at 6pm.
2. The director of the film, Amir Ramses, is coming to Oxford to give a lecture on the film and present it to members of Keble.
3. The premiere had originally been planned for last term but the cost of travel was too expensive to be viable.
4. The Keble Association has given a £200 grant to help fund Amir's visit and the film screening. £100 of this has already been spent on his airplane ticket and the remainder is going towards his accommodation. His accommodation (three nights at the Lina Guest House) is £165 in total. He will also need some spending money for food and travel (minimum of £30 per day). This means that there is a deficit of £155 running on the event.
5. The Pusey Room can only hold 30 people per viewing. If demand is high enough we will run additional screenings earlier in the day.

This JCR believes that:
1. The event is an important cultural event for Keble.
2. The Arts should be promoted in Keble and equally open to all.
3. The event should therefore be free of charge.

This JCR therefore resolves to:
1. Award a grant of £180 (£155 plus a £25 safety net) to James Newton, the organiser of the event, to fix the gap and avoid charging tickets for the screening from the JCR surplus.
2. That the receipts be produced to the JCR Treasurer and any unspent money be returned to the JCR.

Issues Raised:

- Proposer: planned by JCR committee last year, only day we can do it but good enough demand can do several screenings; bad time in Egypt at the moment cultural exchange between functioning democracies is a good idea; Keble doesn't do enough cultural activities
- What's the film about? Reply: used to be a huge Egyptian Jewish population, murdered/deported change in social attitudes over past 100 years, good but needs to be seen film
- If it's oversubscribed then do Keble students get priority? Reply: yes, but open to the university as a whole
- Selling refreshments? Reply: no, Dean and staff need to supply it, costly; taking director out to dinner afterwards for questions

VOTES FOR: 58
VOTES AGAINST: 0
ABSENTIONS: 2

THIS MOTION PASSES.

Motion 2: Open Letter to Vice Chancellor

Proposed: Sean Ford

Seconded: Helena Copley

The JCR notes that:

1. The Vice Chancellor used his annual oration last week to propose that the University should be able to charge £16,000 a year in fees, the notional "full cost" of an Oxford Education.
2. OUSU Council passed a motion this week opposing the statement.
3. Common Room Presidents have agreed to issue a joint statement in opposition to the proposal.

This JCR believes that:

1. A near doubling of tuition fees would have disastrous consequences for the work of ensuring Oxford is open to all, with entrance based on ability not wealth.
2. Oxford University already has to work hard to combat an image and reputation as an institution for the rich and privileged and statements such as these threaten that work.

This JCR therefore resolves:

1. To mandate the JCR President to sign the joint statement.

Issues Raised:

- Proposer: (see OUSU's full statement; appendix) important to note fees not threatened currently, groups like Keble at Large do so much work but most feedback suggests it costs too much to be educated here – in the media is portrayed poorly and is problematic to those applying here; 11 others have passed this
- Time against: last year made a strong attempt to politicise the JCR and risk alienating the members, in the future this might set precedent for the future
- What kind of examples of this? Reply: sending students to student protests in London re: tuition fee cuts
- Statement: hugely damaging to work of JCR's outreach, any minor issues not the point
- Are we against the idea that £16,000 is not the real cost, or opposed to the fact that this discourages people from applying? Reply: Divide in OUSU, greatest reasons are for access, infeasible for £16,000 tuition fees to actually occur but immediate effect on access to university, increases concerns about cost of studying here; but some in OUSU opposed because against the cost in general
- Statement: with regard to politicised question, previous case was an example of opposition to the government but this is more specific to Oxford
- There are institutions with a legal obligations to pass motions that are political, our interests as students will always have political implications so no way to advocate JCR's interest without being so

VOTES FOR: 55
VOTES AGAINST: 1
ABSENTIONS: 4

THIS MOTION PASSES.

Motion 3: Anonymous Voting

Proposed: Andrew Paine

Seconded: James Newton

This JCR notes that:

1. Following a referendum earlier in TT13, the JCR conducted two trial periods of anonymous voting in JCR General Meetings.
2. The previous motion, which was passed by the JCR, note that:
    a. The current system of voting is vulnerable to peer pressure
    b. The JCR should represent the honest beliefs of the undergraduate student body.
3. This was done in mind for further debate before deciding to implement anonymous voting.
4. This motion is for debating the merits of the trial, anonymous voting in general, and whether the JCR should adopt the system.
5. The JCR trialled two methods:
    a. Ballot box.
    b. Eyes down, hands up.
6. The JCR Committee preferred the latter system.
7. This motion may be amended in favour of other anonymous voting systems subject to debate.

This JCR believes that:

1. We still stand by the principles passed in the previous Referendum Motion, that:
    a. Anonymous voting is a fundamental principle of a democratic organization
    b. Any voting system should be as convenient as possible.
2. The 'eyes down, hands up' system was the more convenient, and least disruptive, of the two methods trialled.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

1. Implement Anonymous Voting.
2. To implement the 'eyes down, hands up' system.
3. To change the Standing Orders accordingly:

Insert and delete:

"<u>The Constitution:</u>

...

JCR Meetings

…

[insert as a separate point]: All votes shall be conducted anonymously as laid out in **SO 2.27**.

<u>The Standing Orders:</u>

…

2. JCR Meetings

...

Procedure for Debating and Voting on Motions

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27. Voting shall be anonymous. The Chair will ask those present to look down so that they cannot see how others present are voting. The vote is then by a show of hands. The Secretary shall conduct the count. Once all votes have been counted, the Chair shall invite those present to look back up.

Issues Raised:

- Proposer: seen this twice before, so will keep this short, David Harris in place of Andy Paine – near unanimous vote in JCR, worked reasonably well in trial period, genuinely does help, want to keep votes as private as possible, likely to have an effect on voting behaviour especially in controversial motions
- Every single motion will be under this? Reply; yes, anything regardless of how trivial; wouldn't take longer to conduct
- If non-anonymous voting is good enough for UK Parliament then why not us? MPs need to be accountable
- Any evidence of peer pressure? For charities lots more votes against charity motions etc. made people more comfortable
- Is head down eyes up a secure way of anonymous voting? Reply: make sure not to look up, Speaker will make sure; not fool-proof but works; several meetings about respective advantages of alternatives, others were impractical and added time and bureaucracy
- How about button voting? Reply: why not propose it to the JCR as a motion
- Need 2/3 majority in 2 consecutive meetings, second time of asking
- We did agree last time to vote anonymously for the motion; as precedent had been set in previous motion vote as a friendly amendment
- What happens if people look up? Reply: will be removed, and vote conducted again
- Last year has taken a long time and much discussion – adds more bureaucracy to meetings previous JCR Presidents not keen on it as an idea, confusion shows makes meetings slow and confused; eyes down hands up is not fool proof and can be abused, down the line likely to be ignored, went over debate last year – try and vote for it now
- Are we voting for eyes down hands up or anonymous voting in general? Reply: both
- What happens if more than half abstain? Reply: counts as not having voted on it, so if we drop below quorum then vote is disregarded and needs 2 further consecutive meetings to pass it through

VOTES FOR: 30
VOTES AGAINST: 18
ABSENTIONS: 8

THIS MOTION FAILS.

Motion 4: Charities Motion: Meningitis UK

Proposer: Matt Gompels, Jonty Lord and Elliott Rogers.

Seconder: Georgina Ndukwe

This JCR notes that:

1.) Meningitis is a serious and life threatening disease, with university students ranking in the highest risk category.

This JCR further notes that:

1.) Several Keble students nearly drowned in torrential rain completing the Oxford Half Marathon last weekend, to raise funds for Meningitis UK.

This JCR believes that:

1.) Meningitis UK conduct vital work in raising awareness about the symptoms of Meningitis and in researching potential treatments and vaccines.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

1.) Donate £250 to Matt, Jonty and Elliott's fundraising for Meningitis UK.

Issues Raised:

- Proposer: cause raising money for over the past year, personal involvement, a big concern for students, would all love JCR's support

VOTES FOR: 57
VOTES AGAINST: 0
ABSENTIONS: 1

THIS MOTION PASSES.

Motion 5: Cricket Trophy

Proposer: Miles Dilworth
Seconder: George Saunders

This JCR notes that:

1. Last year the Rugby team were provided with £150 worth of JCR funds to pay for the framed, signed shirt that is on display in Keble Bar. At the end of last season, the Keble Cricket Team won the OICCL League for the first time in 19 years.

This JCR believes that:

2. Although Keble is traditionally a rugby college, the two achievements are of equal merit.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

3. Donate £150 to go towards a trophy and a signed bat that can be put on display in the Keble Bar trophy cabinet.

Issues Raised:

- Proposer: trophy will be engraved etc. would be nice to have recognition of achievement displayed in college bar
- Are you basically buying yourself a trophy? Reply: league doesn't buy one
- How about a plaque? Reply: less issue of what it is

- Are you going to donate it to the league afterwards? Reply: not much of an organisation, if we were to would need to be reimbursed
- Why need to be commemorated? Reply: good enough for the rugby team, cricket bats to be signed are expensive cost the same as a trophy
- There's a trophy from bursar's office from 1970s to commemorate JCR's victory in
- Does this set a precedent for other teams wishing to do the same? Reply: no doesn't constitutionally set a precedent
- If this does set a precedent then cause a drain on JCR's finances; propose an amendment to buy a bat for cheaper than a trophy, but still have £150
- Rugby is being compared to, but they have a commemorative shirt rather than trophy/medals which celebrates the team
- Fact is isn't a trophy team haven't been given, people will be proud of it for so long, shows a team and a college thing
- Add wins every year on trophy?
- A trophy for a win or a trophy as a momento?
- What are sports budgets for, should there be money set aside for a sporting achievements fund? Reply: equipment, running costs, pitch hire etc.
- If £150 is still being given why does the JCR have to choose what is bought to recognise the achievement? Reply: need to discuss the amendment, but money still needed to display in the JCR
- Trophy takes up less space can always engrave it if win again, don't need to worry about precedents not really an contentious issue; precedent already been set about framing singed shirts, bar is running out of space

- Amendment – donate £150 to buy a signed bat to be displayed in the bar
    - Vote against: 24
    - Abstentions: 25
    - Votes in favour: 4
    - Amendment fails

VOTES FOR: 31
VOTES AGAINST: 6
ABSENTIONS: 14

THIS MOTION PASSES.

Motion 6: New JCR Bike

Proposer: Felix Hamer
Seconder: Andy Pursley

This JCR notes that:

1. Of the two JCR bikes only one functions properly
2. Not every member of the JCR has a bike; and there are many instants that having a bike is necessary, for example sports fixtures at Iffley Road

3. The JCR bikes are at present very much in demand which far outstrips the current supply of JCR bikes, particularly considering the current state of one JCR bike

This JCR believes that:

1. A new bike will benefit almost every member of the JCR

This JCR therefore resolves to:

1. Spend £100-£150 procuring a new bike and bike lock for the benefit of JCR

Issues Raised:

- Proposer: just voted for £150 for a trophy of not much use, but bike is always in use and one of them is dangerously broken so perhaps get a new one
- How long have we had the current bike? Reply: bought 2 bikes last term, are second hand but got a good deal with company for free repairs, part of a wider agreement with college to get scrap bikes for free (whereas college had to pay previously), men's bike is a good one but much cheaper
- Would you want to do this yourself outside the system currently in place? Reply: yes
- New bike actually new? Reply: just a bike suitable for
- Will we still have to go to the lodge to get the key or to the proposer, will the bike be fixed by the same guy, under the same system, will the bike be able to be ridden by everyone? Reply: yes passed to the lodge, will get one with an adjustable seat
- Only one bike helmet in lodge, needs to be part of the system or else the college will get sued for accidents? Reply: friendly amendment to add this to the motion

VOTES FOR: 40
VOTES AGAINST: 0
ABSENTIONS: 0

THIS MOTION PASSES.

Motion 7: Keble Football Shirt Display

Proposer: Elliott Rogers
Seconder: Alan Aberdeen

This JCR notes that:

1. The bar is still looking for further decoration and memorabilia
2. Keble rugby club last year obtained funding to produce and display a framed and signed rugby shirt in the bar

This JCR believes that:

1. Keble College men's football is a successful team having won the League last year, and thus deserves equal recognition
2. College sport should be recognised and celebrated in a social space such as the college bar

This JCR therefore resolves to:

1. Give £175 to the football captain to make and frame a signed college football shirt

Issues Raised:

- Proposer:
- Happy to change to £150 same as rugby team, costs the same amount for rugby team
- Shirt will not have sponsorship
- League win? Reply: also shows that Keble is a football college too, to celebrate this fact

VOTES FOR: 34
VOTES AGAINST: 1
ABSENTIONS: 10

THIS MOTION PASSES.

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2. Speaker Hustings:

- Nominees - Jack Field
- Speeches:
  - Want to be the vessel for motions to pass through, ideas might change college life a little or a lot but will come through me and change College life from new driers, to signed football shirts, an exciting opportunity for everyone. Assertive when needs be (some may already be aware) keep things going at a reasonable pace, can divert but things will go on track, can read English. Can also speak. Can also read French.
- Questions:
  - None

- Hustings challenge: within ½ hour tell us a story including elements from the room: Matt the barman in a cat-suit, Ben Poster in a cage
- Votes:
  - RON: 0
  - Jack: 47

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3. Any other Business:

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4. Appendix:

- OUSU's full statement:
  Joint Statement by Common Room Presidents
  The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Andrew Hamilton, set out in his oration for the beginning of the new academic year his apparently new belief that the University and a few other élite universities should be permitted to charge up to £16,000 a year in tuition fees.
  As representatives of current students at Oxford, we believe:

- that this is a marked, sudden and disappointing shift from the approach developed collaboratively since the introduction of higher fees in which the financial needs of the University were balanced against a shared desire not to make an Oxford education the preserve of the rich once again and not to concede the idea that education should be priced according to market value
- that a £16,000 tuition fee will deter students from the poorest backgrounds applying to Oxford or even considering doing so
- that Oxford now has, from a low starting point, a lot of excellent work in access and outreach and a very impressive student financial support programme. All this good work would be sabotaged by a near-doubling of the tuition fee

We therefore urge the Vice Chancellor to reconsider his new view and to consult with students and with those working in access and outreach on the consequences of such a course of action.

We note with disappointment that the Vice Chancellor has used this opportunity to shift the focus of the debate towards increasing student fees instead of lobbying for further funding from government and we view this as a serious failure in his duty towards current and future students and Oxford University' opportunity to attract the most able students disregarding their financial background.

We affirm that we will work to prevent this proposal becoming the University's policy and seek to persuade our Heads of House and Senior Tutors to do the same, collaborating with our fellow Common Room Presidents and the Executive Officers of Oxford University Student Union.

(Signed*: Hugh Baker, Hertford College Alex Bartram, Balliol College James Blythe, Brasenose College Margery Infield, St Edmund Hall Rachel Jeal, Lincoln College Edward Nickell, Exeter College Andrew Rogers, Jesus College Amelia Ross, Magdalen College Stuart Sanders, Trinity College Anya Metzer, Wadham College Alfred Burton, The Queen's College*)