Keble College JCR General Meeting MINUTES

MT2014 - Sunday 26th October 2014 - 3rd Week

1. Apologies of absence:

Mina

Lily

Greg

Deanna

Zoe

Katie Millard

2. Officers' Reports:

President (Rosie Petersen)

1. Blinds happened, went well – thanks for everyone being sensible and having a good night Vice President (Jonny Mitchell)

- 1. Meeting with DB about laundry, lunch prices and Yorkshire puddings
- 2. End of survey this evening about provisions for people who miss formal hall
- 3. University challenge stuff coming out this week trials on 5th and 6th November
- 4. Bar subcommittee applications close at midnight tonight

Treasurer (Kate Dickenson)

- 1. Finance committee went through last year's accounts went well
- 2. Reopened orders for stash 20 orders already, orders end in 5th week should be here in 7th week: jumpers and bobble hats only

Secretary (Katie Davies)

1. None

Welfare (Zoe Larkin & Joel Hide)

- 1. C card scheme is up and running packs coming out this week, see email this week if you missed signing up first time
- 2. Peer support exchange scheme can message peer supporters from Somerville and St John's if you want to talk to someone outside college
- 3. Sending out a big welfare email this week: all the welfare information, C card scheme
- 4. Still working on college's response to ghosts situation will discuss next week

Equal Ops (Rachel Hulme)

- 1. Spectrum facebook group join that if interested in first meeting: Wednesday 6-7pm this week
- 2. Disabled access speaking to college to ensure all parts are accessible to best of college's ability, working out where college have dropped the
- 3. Equal opps event this term any interesting ideas please get in touch

Accommodation (Matt Hawes)

- 1. PS3 contacted JK but on holiday (!!)
- 2. Organising living out talk next week, chasing up with OUSU on this

OUSU Rep (Hossein Sharafi)

- 1. OUSU Council on Wednesday at 5.30pm free education debate (motion coming up) and something about vegetarianism
- 2. OUSU elections coming up please run for these!



Freshers' Week President (Katie Millard)

1. Not here

Charities (Lydia Ream & Sarah Peel)

- 1. Lots of nominations for charities sorting out the voting system at the moment
- 2. First charity event of the term will be in 5th week in aid of Children in Need: raffle, tournaments etc.

Entz (Deanna Greenhalgh, Greg Albery & Severin Limal)

1. Halloween mini-bop next Friday: decorations and music; selling tickets for Wahoo afterwards (will be very busy!)

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

- 1. Art soc on Friday very quiet (but no fruit bank)
- 2. Discussing organising an artist workshop
- 3. Recruiting for arts committee very soon

Environment & Ethics (Jake Palmer)

- 1. Student switch off campaign Keble not doing especially well: post pictures on facebook!
- 2. 5th November Student Swtitch off ambassador training get a free t shirt!
- 3. On 3rd November at 1pm in town hall speaker event from Colombia about mining activism

Careers & Alumni (Emma Brand)

1. Talk and drinks on Tuesday in Jean Robinson with an alumni working in banking

Academic Affairs (Alice Duffy)

- 1. Meeting with Ali Rogers tomorrow to discuss academic feedback and rustication
- 2. Keble at Large training session tomorrow
- 3. school visit in the pipeline planning on doing a debating day with the students, sign up if interested

3. Motions:

Motion 1: In Support of Free Education

Proposer: Esther Hodges **Seconder:** Hossein Sharafi

This JCR Notes:

- 1. Tuition fees and associated marketisation have decisively failed to create a sustainable funding system for universities.
- 2. In order to fund tuition fees, the Government can now expect to loan in excess of £10 billion per year, much of which it will never recover.
- 3. Fees act as a deterrent to access, making education seem unaffordable to some.
- 4. Germany has recently abolished tuition fees.
- 5. Recently, the National Union of Students voted to campaign for a new deal for education, that is free, publicly-funded, accessible, and funded by greater progressive taxation and clamping down on tax avoidance.
- 6. Free education is also the policy of the University and College Lecturers' Union (UCU), and the Trades Union Congress (TUC).
- 7. Large public investment in access schemes, funded by this system, is a sustainable way to fund for the extremely vital access initiatives our university needs.
- 8. Contrasting the model of free education adopted by Germany, UK Conservative and Liberal Democrat politicians have made several statements calling for uncapped tuition fees, while our own Vice-Chancellor asked that fees be raised to £16,000 in a speech last year (condemned by OUSU at the time).

- 9. The NUS is supporting a national demonstration for free education on November 19th.
- 10. The success of previous campaigns NUS has run that OUSU has supported, such as the postponing of cuts to Disabled Students Allowance and the cancelling of the student loan book sell-off.

This JCR Believes:

- 1. We face a clear choice in education funding: either our system is going to continue down the road towards an American-style model of private universities with uncapped fees, or we can take it closer to a German model of free, public and accessible education.
- 2. The German model of free education is preferable to the current UK system of high fees, debt, cuts to staff wages, and privatisation of the education system.
- 3. That we should join the campaign to fight for a better education system.
- 4. Access is a public benefit, and as such requires a public-owned and funded education system rather than the current model of privatisation, fees and debt, which does nothing to incentivise good access schemes.
- 5. That national co-ordinated action, through bodies like the NUS, is the best way to achieve national policy changes from political parties, as evidenced by recent campaign successes.
- 6. With a year until the general election, there are clear opportunities to make substantial gains for students, if we put out a clear message and mobilise the movement.
- 7. That the threat of uncapped tuition fees requires a strong response from the student movement.

This JCR Resolves:

1. To support free education as a policy and the NUS campaign against fees and debt.

Issues Raised:

- **Proposer:** the motion is part of a university wide campaign to get OUSU in support of free education; other JCRs have passed this motion in support (5-6), something to promote Keble as a college which is open to access good reputation; importance of free education as a principle; if we pass this motion it is a good step in the right direction
- How will education be funded? NUS idea that education would be funded through tax and dealing with tax avoiders
- Possible amendment: vote on Wednesday at OUSU on same topic, Keble brings the JCR
 President OUSU rep and someone else, so amendment to mandate the President and OUSU
 rep to vote in favour for this motion, what do people think about mandating the third
 person to vote for the motion? JCR constitution can only mandate JCR officers to do things
 within their role but cannot mandate a JCR member to do a certain thing
 - Friendly amendment: to mandate JCR President and OUSU rep to vote in favour of this motion at Wednesday's OUSU meeting
- What is this motion actually going to do? Says Keble JCR is supportive of this initiative
- How has this worked in Germany? A different system from the UK, in Germany education is more of a choice anyway and education is heavily funded by government subsidies; have had lower fees for years but now university education is free
- How much of it in Germany is to do with the fact that they have a stronger economy? It is a
 big encouragement to go to university e.g. Welsh students pay only 1/3 of tuition fees for UK
 universities

Time against:

• This motion is quite vague, about finding the money etc.; issues of sustainability in funding free education – not just about education for university students e.g. in Scotland university is free but has had impact on other routes out of school e.g. resulted in cuts to college courses

- and apprenticeships etc.; If a degree is that valuable to you then you should pay off this investment, and if you don't pay back the tuition fee loan then
- Tuition fees tripled when the economy was strong this is more ideological than a practical step; the argument about apprenticeships etc. this should be a policy alongside free university education? NUS campaign is too late to try and achieve this by the 2015 election, students have a preoccupation with tuition, should be looking to funding other kinds of education
- Do you not think that if NUS doesn't stand up to oppose tuition fees then this might snowball to create uncapped fees? Yes should work to reduce fees but having university fees is important, fees aren't paid upfront, if your degree is not helpful in increasing your salary then you don't have to pay for it, loan is like a graduate tax
- Is this getting too political? Nothing wrong with a political discussion in the JCR
- The current government scheme is costing them a significant amount of money, don't know where this money is coming from so if there was a tax to fund higher education then this might guarantee the debts are not paid? Not fair to force someone who has not been to universities
- This motion is focusing on students but on access to free education in apprenticeships in general
- Idea that people who don't go to university shouldn't pay taxes to go to university but that's how the UK tax system works? Not fair that people should pay for people choosing to go to university when they have chosen not to do so
- Point from OUSU academic affairs and access officer, opposes this motion: will explain how
 this will negatively affect the system until tomorrow, will affect the officers' ability to
 improve and maintain the system of bursaries etc. to students from lower income
 backgrounds
- Clamping don on tax avoidance etc. also costs money and does not guarantee increasing funds for education, unlikely this will happen, attempting to raise taxes to pay for university will be unattractive to the general public; the OUSU motion is too strong
- We cost the university much more than we pay e.g. scientists cost the university over £15,000 a year so £6,000 students are not paying for, with free education there is a likelihood of universities will not pay for students e.g. in France
- If this motion fails, will there be another chance for Keble to show its stance e.g. to stop further increases in tuition fees; voting against this motion suggests Keble JCR is uninterested in potential fee increases; bring a motion next week; but Keble won't get good publicity for this but in Cherwell there has been some unbiased reporting: what is more important, publicity or the views of the JCR?
- The timing though, OUSU is voting on this motion this week

VOTES FOR: 11 VOTES AGAINST: 14 ABSENTIONS: 5

THIS MOTION FAILS.

Motion 2: Good Lad Workshop

Proposer: Sam Warren

Seconder: Jonathan Mitchell

This JCR notes that

- Goodlad workshops are a charitable initiative offering opportunities for clubs and societies throughout Oxford to discuss issues of masculinity, particularly with regard to alcohol, women and each other
- 2. OURFC has stated that every College Rugby Club must attend a session
- 3. The Keble College Boat Club (KCBC) Committee have agreed that the Men's Senior and Novice squads would both benefit from a session as well
- 4. Being a charitable initiative, Goodlad asks for a £100 donation from each sports federation
- 5. Keble College would constitute a single sports federation

This JCR believes that

- 1. Developing a better understanding of these issues benefits everyone and is a progressive move for society more generally
- 2. Neither KCBC nor KCRFC can afford the donation, as it would come from the general budget which is tightly restricted for both clubs, despite generous sponsorship and subsidisation in other areas

This JCR therefore resolves to

- 1. Give £100 directly to the Goodlad programme
- 2. Encourage other societies, teams and clubs to attend a session

Issues Raised:

- Proposer: the Goodlad workshop: team discusses issues raised, positive team building
 exercise, how to conduct oneself in different situations where misogyny could occur,
 awareness of choices you make as individuals and in a group, tries to overcome stigma
 associated with sports team esp. rugby
- If this passes who will do it? Through OURFC has stated all of KCRFC has to attend this, and KCBC has agreed to make it mandatory too
- What other sports teams and societies? The £100 covers all societies
- The Goodlad workshop is very unique to Oxford, a really good thing esp. other universities have had bad situations in the past esp. at Keble with the situation at the ghosts game and the bop
- This JCR currently seem to be a really positive group, not something that would happen with previous JCRs e.g. response to ghosts game
- What will happen if someone doesn't attend it? OURFC enforces this at a club level, the job
 of the club to get people to attend; last year the majority of people attended, discussing
 with the club what would happen if people do not attend
- Danger with forcing people to go, there should be an option for people not attending for personal reasons, there should be a trigger warning associated with this

VOTES FOR: 36 VOTES AGAINST: 0 ABSENTIONS: 0

THIS MOTION PASSES.

Motion 3: Drama Cuppers

Proposer: Shakeel Hashim, Producer **Seconder:** Ione Wells, Director

The JCR notes that:

- 1. Entering Drama Cuppers costs £85 per team £35 entrance charge and a £50 budget for marketing/production.
- 2. Keble has an interest in maintaining its strong drama reputation.

The JCR believes that:

1. This year's Cuppers team should receive funding, as an important way to get Freshers involved with drama.

The JCR therefore resolves to:

1. Donate £85 to the Drama Cuppers team to cover the costs for the production of 'No Exit'.

Issues Raised:

- To clarify last year a similar motion went through, the ex-treasurer was mandated to create a drama fund to reimburse the JCR for funding this using Martin Eslin Soceity money
- **Proposer:** 8 people in a production of Satre's no exit in 5th week, everyone please come along to the Burton Taylor
- What do you think your chances are of winning cuppers? Actors are great, rewriting the play a bit
- Friendly amendment: please come back to the JCR to perform a short excerpt of the play
- Improvisation please!

VOTES FOR: 35 VOTES AGAINST: 0 ABSENTIONS: 0

THIS MOTION PASSES.

4. Matters for Discussion

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5. Any Other Business

- Ping pong balls for the table tennis table in the bar (message from Ollie Robinson) – Kate to be responsible, money should be from the table tennis budget – Bas as sports rep to look into
- The Pillowman is on this week Wednesday –Saturday at Oxford Playhouse every night at 7.30pm except on Friday at 8pm
- Lift in ARCO is still broken please talk to JK about this Matt! Also talk to maintenance in the lodge about this
- Can internet in the JCR be sped up? By the end of the year everywhere in college should have access to internet
 - During telethon in the JCR the wifi was perfect, shows that college is able to do this

- o Is not strong in the places it should be e.g. the library
- o ARCO is getting eduroam at Christmas
- Keble sport making a good start to the term
 - If anyone is interested in playing a sport contact Bas about setting a team up
- KCRFC against New College clash for the top of the league KCRFC families day, bring your college families along! 2pm on the Keble pitches in University Parks