Keble College JCR General Meeting MINUTES

# HT2015 – Sunday 2015 – Week2



# 1. Apologies of absence:

# 2. Officers' Reports:

## President (Rosie Petersen)

• Looked into bike reselling-warden's looking into that

Vice President (Jonny Mitchell)

• Sky TV engineer came in on Sunday. Bar quiz will come back next week. Talking to college about prices in the bar-weren't as involved in conversation as would have liked

## Treasurer (Kate Dickinson)

JCR photo on Saturday

## Secretary (Scarlet Unsworth)

• Nominations for Arts and pubs and OUSU rep still open

## Welfare (Zoe Larkin & Joel Hide)

- Welfare fair is coming up.
- College have updated harassment policy

# Equal Ops (Ell Potter)

• Cuntry living are holding an event, raising money for Rape crisis. Will post info ad link to fb on noticeboard

## Accommodation (Matt Hawes)

Room swaps end tonight

# OUSU Rep (Hossein Sharafi)

• Can get break down of results from your prelims via a Freedom of information act.

# Freshers' Week President (Louisa Butcher)

## Nothing

- Charities (Lydia Ream & Sarah Peel)
- Sign up for sponsored three legged race. Same time as welfare fair Entz (Leanne, Beth and Olivia)
  - Welfare fair ft entz. JCR photo at 3

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

• Nothing

# Environment & Ethics (Helen Tatlow)

• Loyalty Cards scheme. Plastic bowls replaced with ceramic bowls

# Careers & Alumni (Robyn Murphy)

• Emails about careers advice- if enough people ask the guy will come into college- if people want advice, let me know.

# Academic Affairs (Alice Duffy)

• nothing

# Hustings

# President

# Tom

Main three directions-

- Involvement in JCR. High today but in many other sessions low
- Accessibility
- Clarity, transparency
- Many second years will be aware that the number of freshers in JCR was very low until the end of Michaelmas. I want more of a push on freshers right from the beginning. Already going to be involved with the freshers, as I'm on the freshers' week committee.
- Provide face to the JCR for people in a new environment.
- JCR stand in the Freshers fair, couple of committee members to ask question to. Family system involved. JCR officers bring their child to work day.
- Acessibility. Some people say they don't really know the roles of officers, what they do. Greater information about JCR officers put forward to all members of college. Push for us using the JCR website. Re use the website with contact numbers for all college members/ JCR Officers.
- Representation -People don't know that the JCR can deal with their issues. Surgery like sessions. Sit in the JCR an hour a week where anyone could come and have a chat about anything they want to do with the JCR, if someone else would like to join in then that could work. First point of call and contact within surgery sessions. People think motions are the only port of call- make it clear they could talk to the officer in charge instead. Free up JCR time.
- OUSU full of bureaucracy. Filter for bureaucracy. People get put off by bureaucracy. Remove that and create a better image, more accessible, more clear .
- Ultimately friendly open face to the JCR. I can provide that face

## Sarah

- JCR president should be both representative of the JCR and to the JCR. I would create a welcoming environment.
- Enhance Keble community. First idea to improve communications. Like the JCR website. Committee can post things where it won't get shoved down in the FB noticeboard. Read about what committee did that week.
- Get more exchange students involved.
- Make a display cabinet. People don't really know what the budget does or where it goes. People don't realise you can use the JCr budget for projects etc. Display cabinet online or physically. El Rogers. Can see what the JCR does that affects the community outside Keble
- Increase Keble spirit. Keble mascot. Wouldn't mind being in the costume. Keble drink.
- Events- welfare fare is a good example. Puppy petting zoo. Finalist week. Beginning of trinity term. Finalist can take a break have a chat drink tea. Community is already really strong

- Keble's really friendly, I'm a really proud member. Proactive in building on that sentiment by making sure everyone's included and involved and everyone's valued in JCR rulings. Fairly, everyone's viewpoint in the JCR included in in college and represented to college.
- Include some drop in sessions, couple of hours allocated to be in the JCr surrounded by snack and biscuits, if people want to know what's going on with the JCr. They could tell me what they think the real issues are in college. Would increase the accuracy of the representation of the committee. Approachable, friendly face. Don't feel you have to bombard committee with emails, something that they might be encouraged to do rather than feel they were encroaching on committee's time
- Use space more. A few more events to make people more involved- table tennis competition could work really well. Pairs could team up, knock out round. Free food and snacks. Sports screenings more. JCR good alternative spaces. 20 people get together to watch sports/ a film or something and agree apply to the JCR for some money, advertise it.
- Increased use of the website. Great informational tool. Keble noticeboard can get bogged down with things. Tabs for each of the committee members. Weekly updates. Efficiency, hold committee members accountable. Aware of what they are and aren't doing.
- Freshers really aware of roles in JCR and what they can do with them. Involvement of freshers from the first week would be really good.
- Contentious, but issue of instigating another vote for private voting. Idea of private voting wasn't an issue, it's the bureaucracy and time that was the issue.
- E clicker app. One hub computer, can connect as many devices as you want. Log in to main hub app, can vote anonymously. Instant results, not very expensive.
- Drop in sessions. Space. Website. Private voting

# *Qs- presenting the JCR to governing body- what skills do you possess which will convince governing body to put students first?*

**Tom**- argumentative person. Wouldn't back down or try to be quelled. Would be intimidating. Undergrads make up the most amount of people. Important their interests are put forward as much as possible. Argue for interests, best deal we can. Wouldn't back us into a corner. Most practical point is something I would push through in every meeting

**Sarah-** not argumentative- would compromise more. No reason to argue if it's not going to help. Should know what the JCr wants by collaborating as a whole. Relay that to governing body.

**Kat**- I would be assertive, but realistic. Pragmatic with situation. Would promote opinion as much as possible, but knowing boundaries of when requests aren't realistic.

## Water fountain in the gym?

Sarah- can get water bottle and get some from the fountainKat- health and safety- can't really do much about thatTom – why is it such a big deal?

# Should we be allowed to make political statements, given all the recent motions surrounding the issue?

**Tom**- Oxford is unique in that people here are quite politically active. Motions which are political, which will result in political connotations. Can't be affiliated with an organisation but nothing about making political statements. But just making statements which aren't attached to formal bodies is always going to be the case. Fine as long as we don't affiliate with a body.

**Kat**- would have to maintain apolitical stance. Shouldn't blur boundaries. Are other ways in which we can express political views. Not appropriate place for that.

**Sarah**- Constitution deals with things well. Everything is political these days. Just how the committee goes about delegating motions

#### What would you do to bring third years back?

**Kat**- hold more events, increased use of JCR space. One on one individual links. Third year only events, bring them back into college, back into physical room.

**Sarah**- getting involved myself is the best way to integrate with them. Get to know them if you participate. Finalist week. Music, drama, sports good way to meet people, good way to involve people.

**Tom**- more JCR events aimed at third years, getting the out of the library and their rooms. Third years lock themselves in their room- impression. Fan of the family system, get involved with grandparents and great grandparents. Make family system stronger, not focus only on parents, get more relatives involved

# *Every year there is an attempt to integrate Freshers with the JCR, and every year it falls short of its aims. What would you actually do differently?*

**Tom**- freshers are involved with JCr. Have an Actual stand in the freshers fare, couple of officers at the stand. Prompt interest. Get them involved first few sessions. Want to focus on the first few meetings. Bring your child to work. Bring along first years

**Kat**- didn't realise how much the JCR could do. Could have an Informal session with the JCR, let them know what the JCR can do for them. Link the website to the Freshers' fb page, more involved if there's more buzz.

Sarah- Add activities and what's going on in the week to the website

#### When did you first speak, was this the first time, when did you decide you wanted to be prez

Sarah- went in first term, there were hardly any freshers. I was born ready.

**Kat**- didn't know much about the JCR, first meeting last term. Want to become prez, started considering it towards the end of last term. Want to be more involved in college. Love everyone here.

**Tom**- sat at the back of meetings the whole time. Didn't speak until the Marine le pen motion. First one I spoke in. Start of Hilary knew wanted to be part of the JCR. First I wanted to be speaker. Then realised I wanted to try and represent everyone.

#### Treasurer

Ellen-

• Transparency, fairness and efficiency

- Second use of the JCr website. Treasurer page. People continually ask. Make a money box which empties as the year goes on. Would be nice to know where the money goes. Write some bullet points for the website
- Fariness- fight for cause on rent and punt negotiations. Strong researcher. Have all the facts for the bursar. Try to extend the discount scheme, refresh and replace them. Go for the places on the st johns discount scheme.
- Efficiency- efficient. Organised, make sure people had money when they needed it. Make sure JCR equipment is maintained really well.

### What should we have spent more money on?

Always spend more money on charities. Maybe get more food.

### Most stupid thing you've spent money on?

went to world challenge to morocco. Insisted that morccan pottery was THE thing bought this piece of pottery which I haggled for well. Broke on the route home.

## Surplus- what would you spend it on?

Bike shed. Make the JCR kitchen happen. Talk about and collaborate. Stocks? Hey we all trust Neptune!

# Academic Affairs and Access

## Niccie

- Obvious link between welfare and academic affairs. Adopt a finalist. Really successful. First and second years assigned a finalist, pidge them some sweets, give them a shoulder to cry on.
- Casual drop in at Keble night learn. Make sure subject rep was there, ask what you like, get advice about deadlines
- Subject reps- expand that as a role- most fulfilling aspects all in freshers week. Put each subject rep in charge of a google docs resource pool. Notes, essays, opinions of choices
- Cross subject socials, just for fun.
- Academic feedback, open and honest with tutors. Publish a form which would allow people to complain, make a complaint, hard to know who to approach.
- Access. I'm Active with Keble at large. Went on the Trip to Birmingham, take school trips around keble . Feel confident taking that over from a position of understanding. Children told her hopes dreams and fears.
- Internet- first thing that comes up is a 16 per cent acceptance rate. Want to make sure Keble's profile is open and accessible- interview practice and practice tutorials. Put an example of a tutorial online, would break down barrier
- Visit schools, give a message you are interested in what they have to say. Access road trip to Birmingham is as practical as possible
- Google docs- sign up for specific tours, put a link on the JCR website. Make sure there's increased continuity between years. Longevity of ideas.

#### Sophie

• Subject reps worked really well especially during Freshers week. Good idea to utilise subject rep meetings. Model essays, model essay plans and equivalents for science. Introduction to the subject as well. Talk to subject reps. Expand the meetings, helped having subject rep meetings. Have more regular and group sessions with subject reps

- Academic feedback- talking to Ali only isn't really getting anywhere. Introduce a survey format. Subject reps can create. Write down all issues you're having. And then get feedback, get more comprehensive feedback
- Access- benefitted a lot from access from Keble. We have a good system of tours, trips to Birmingham. Major gap is in the website and online resources, first thing one does is google it. Should have a friendly, approachable. Good immediate impressions.
- Keble at large has a webste which hasn't been updated since 2013. Write articles day in the life of a student, specific events, sports drama music. Room to create a diverse website from that for students.
- Alternative prospectus written by Keble students. Perspective of a student living and studying at Keble. What your life would be like at Keble. Such a nice social side that we can really make use of that . not just academic side. Big task, but worth starting.
- Student profiles- reate a great atmosphere so when people google college they see the more fun and diverse aspects.

## What would you do about complaints?

**Sophie**- Academic affairs officer talks to Ali about issues. All this comprehensive feedback goes via the officer. Give feedback through JCR, more transparent, in subject groups. **Niccie-** Get reps more directly involved. Get it to someone experienced.

### What would you do to tackle the stereotype perpetuated by that tab article?

**Niccie**- when you google keble, don't want to see that article. Instead perhaps an MTV cribs style video "this is our life", showing accurate aspects of Keble life. Can only dispel it by going against it **Sophie-** first thing you see shouldn't be that article, should be things put out there to advocate how great college is

## Examples of times with the access team?

**Niccie**- Trip to Birmingham- learnt so much on that day, learnt mostly about the impact you can have. In college, showing them round, seeing amazement on their faces, play on first impressions. **Sophie** - Wasn't aware until recently that there was a page, was involved in Keble interviews- talking to students and dispelling some of the myths they were still dealing with. Important to make sure they realised that everyone was still normal. Involved in access myself, something I feel strongly about myself. Keble in particular stood out, college was so normal.

## How would you tackle more direct contact in further regions?

**Niccie**- go as far as possible in a Northern direction. A tour of Keble. Get video tours, like being there **Sophie**- difficult to go to areas of the country- important to have such interactivity that you feel like you're there. Face to the college

# Accommodation

- Passionate about rooms. Actually carries a lot of responsibility. Everyone has a room.
- 2 main issues:
- visibility- make the role more involved and approachable. Can be awkward to directly contact Janet. Friendly face who could assist with whatever difficulties. New Scout came and then never appeared. Too uncomfortable contacting Janet for fear of getting him in trouble. Would have been easier to contact matt. Friendly emails, remind people I exist. There to help them
- Propose an alternative system. Students would have the choice of balloting in groups (up to six) then once this had been confirmed, randomised ballot order. Average each member's

position, this would establish their position. More egalitarian, can't leapfrog a load of other people. Streamline process of second year ballot.

Also in charge of bar, so Which alcoholic drink sums up you as a person? Ginger joe

What would you do to keep the VP under control. Tell him it's simply not on.

Would you rather live in arco or cowley? Cowley's nice, closer than I thought. But arco

*Like the idea of reforming the ballot system- why not just allow people to ballot in groups?* My system allows people to ballot how they want to, allows smaller and larger groups

Charities and Donations Annie, Clara and Elena

- Continue the wonderful work of current officers. Put on charity fundraising events. Blind date. Increase participation in college.
- Like to take your ideas on board now. Incorporate and collaborate with entz
- More Keble rep for RAG. Events by union. Bungee jumping sports tournaments. Involved in volunteering with charities in the past. All been involved with charities in the past.
- Friendly and approachable, feel comfortable approaching us. Make it really clear it's really easy to get involved. Take on creativity and ideas. Make events for everyone
- Work with diligence, time commitment, enthusiasm

#### How would you encourage people to volunteer?

Raise awareness. People hear about volunteering and put it to the back of their minds. Run some great schemes, can ask about it make it really obvious how to get involved. Charities couldn't run without student volunteering

#### What would you perform at an open mike night-

write a poem. We could sing. Dance. We will do anything suggested to us 100 per cent.

#### Who is the most charitable?

I volunteer Clara. (Clara says everyone). Elena: See, that's the most charitable answer.

# 4. Matters for Discussion

- 5. Could we put prez hustings on a different week
- 6. Probably won't get a pet this year
- 7.

OUSu rep- attend one OUSU council meeting a fortnight. Freedom of information and frshers and papers. LGBTQ rep, ton which go through OUSU. Coordination with other JCrs. Advertising positions within OUSU to be elected. Making sure people know what they're running for.

8. Any Other Business