Keble College JCR General Meeting MINUTES

HT2015 – Sunday 2015 – Week2



1. Apologies of absence: Careers and Alumni Officer- Shakeel Hashim

2. Officers' Reports:

President (Sarah Shao)

- Not much- please be supportive to your adopted finalists!!
- JCR presidents have signed a letter to oppose the Chancellor that has condoned quotas to improve access. I have signed this. Speak to me if you oppose this- I thought that Keble would support this, The committee support this. I mentioned that I was president of Keble

Vice President (Isobel Roberts-Rajoo)

Meat free Monday survey- over 300 responses. Gov body will use it to make a decision.
Domestic bursar will try to improve the connection in the library.

Treasurer (Ellen Southall-Garrad)

Not present

Secretary (Patrick Hall)

- Please apply for International rep or Disabilities rep if interested.
- Elections for BME and LGBTQ+ reps will take place on Thursday.

Welfare (Jake Spitz and Susy Rees)

- Please come along to peer support
- Equal Ops (Folarin Odunubi)
 - Nothing
- Accommodation (Armand Rego)
 - Not present

OUSU Rep (Charilie Peto)

• Nothing- NUS referendum will come soon

Freshers' Week President (Louisa Butcher)

- Nothing
- Charities (Clara, Elena and Annie)
 - Please keep on playing croquet and send us the money for this.
- Entz (Laura, Matt and Fergus)
 - Nothing
- Arts & Pubs (Ione Wells)
 - Rada is billing the JCR for the Arts and Pubs finalists' free drinks.
 - Oxford Milenium Orchestra playing in the Sheldonian.
- Environment & Ethics (Jake Palmer)
 - Please vote in the survey for MF Monday.

Careers & Alumni (Shakeel Hashim)

- Plans to create a new form for finalists to write down their work placements and for other students to write down any internships that they will be doing. He hopes that everyone will complete this so that he can create a careers database.
- Academic Affairs (Niccie Baker)
 - Nothing
 - 3. Motions:

Project Soup

Proposed by: Clare Carlile

Seconded by: Clara, Annie and Elena

This JCR notes that:

- 1. Project Soup is a student-run microfunding initiative which was set up in 2013;
- 2. Every term Project Soup organises dinners made from surplus food, where everyone pays £4 for a ticket, 4 local charities pitch for the money, and all the guests vote on where it goes;
- 3. Since 2013 several thousand pounds has been raise for local initiatives;
- 4. Cost of venue hire for these events is about £100.

This JCR believes that:

- 1. Small, local charities can benefit greatly from these amounts of money, as well as the publicity the events provide;
- 2. Project Soup is a souper chance to bring local communities together with university students for an evening of music, friendliness and yummy food.

This JCR resolves to:

1. Donate £100 to Project Soup in order to support future events.

Proposer: The soup is really nice- great initiative.

Votes: 35 for, 0 abstain, 0 For- Unanimously passed

4. Matters for Discussion

Should OUSU disaffiliate with the NUS or not?

Niamh White speaking in favour-

-Student rail card

-No council tax

-350 million pounds for student funding

-NUS extra card- 110,000 pounds saved.

-Workshops funded by NUS

-Fight against tuition fee increases.

-NUS unity needed for change.

-Stand up to government proposal, such as the white paper, higher education bill.

-This would be a disaster for access at Oxford- this is an important thing at Keble.

-NUS can force government U-turns- opposed deportations of international students, cuts

for student payments, forced a parliamentary debate, opposed disabilities cuts.

-We could lose our seat at the table by leaving NUS and will lose battles.

-NUS gives support for students in Oxford- LGBTQ, CRAY, WOMCAM, It happens here, Target Schools. They rely on NUS support. NUS guide on Mental Health and Student support.

-Enforced rules on sexual violence on campus.

-Opposes racism on campus.

-NUS costs us less than it gives us.

-Liberation campaigns need support and resources, and not money.

-NUS introducing a Trans Officer and #changeNUS

-Institutional view into internal racism.

-We need to have our views heard.

Speaking against NUS (Harry Samuels from New College):

-We are better, not just fine outside of the NUS.

-199,999 students have no say on who they are going to elect as their leader.

-Increasing culture of anti-Semitism which has become a cult. Conference do not admit to this. Every Jewish society has condoned.

-Trans Officer is great but it has not gone far enough.

-People have failed to reform the NUS after 20-30 years- no reform has occurred after many attempts.

-NUS is not reformable.

-Sponsored a motion on one member, one vote- they mocked this motion.

-£19,000 is a real, publicly available figure that is the amount that Oxford pays for its membership.

-They lobby the government and foreign policy- made drinks more expensive.

-NUS actively misrepresents us.

-The government will not listen to the NUS.

-NUS failed to prevent the increase of tuition fees.

-Consent workshops were pioneered by Oxford and by OUSU.

-Liberation campaigns outside of the NUS, St Andrews and Imperial, have made great changes (mixed gender toilets).

-NUS committees butchered motions for actions on Mental Health.

-48,000 international students were deported. They themselves put the case forward.

-The cuts to disabled students are still happening.

-NUS have not achieved a victory.

-Former LGBTQ Officer- worked with OUSU and JCR Committees- I have done work in my college with the support of other societies and campaigns in the University, without the NUS.

Where can we access the figures for the NUS fee?

H: look at the OUSU budget figures online. NUS figures said that the fee would rise due to inflation- perhaps to £37,000 in 2019.

N: I got my £5,000 from the OUSU President, Becky Howe.

We can look at the OUSU figures online

Liberation groups? How will they survive?

H: I received no support from NUS. Other Unis have thrived with their campaigns after having left NUS. We would have a strong national voice outside of it.

NUS spent £54,000 lobbying against the Liberal Democrats? This does not represent people's views.

H: NUS can spend 4 million pounds on political campaigning.

N: we lose our campaign

H: NUS opposed Oxford's generous

Rose

-NUS generates poor media publicity.

-NUS can be poor in making change and supporting campaigns.

-NUS meetings call for bad media presence- they are inefficient.

-Oxford needs to threaten to separate

N: Young people who all campaign get bad publicity- that is why NUS get bad publicity.

The Right Wing press does not take us seriously- it is not the NUS.

We elect MPs to represent us in Parliament.

H: I was elected with a 14% turn out. I did not know who the NUS president would be even though I was elected by students at Oxford. NUS pass motions against Russia, and recognise Terrorists groups and refuse to condone them. Six times- NUS has voted down the chance for

N: One man, one vote does not work for sixth form colleges.

H: Students are excluded by NUS. We are not getting representation under the current system.

R: Agree with Harry- sorry for the comment on the Jazz Hands- How does the NUS relate to real life?

How long is the NUS president in office for- President is a culmination of a toxic cultureused the term "right wing smear".

Jewish soc- 80% of people voted for Disaffiliation- Malia declared racism believed that their anti-Semitic concerns were racist.

-Labour MP left NUS because she received anti-Semitism and was spat on for being Jewish.

-Entire NUS conference did not believe that Malia was out of order.

H: NUS tried to avoid condoning anti-Semitism. Jewish seat in the racism committee was removed by NUS.

How could we continue our discounts?

N: No-one really knows how we can continue our discounts- bod cards. Could OUSU negotiate it? This is only hypothetical. NUS gets such broad discounts and cheap rates-OUSU could not get this.

H: We have looked at every discounts- they would all exist without NUS as they are offered elsewhere- St Johns have their own discount card. Any student can get the St John's card without the £12 NUS discount card.

Why is the one man, one vote motion completely infeasible?

H: Oxford suggested a motion to provide a guide for all Uni Unions for representation- we asked why NUS could not do this?- five years later why this could not happen.

N: Motion fell because it did not demonstrate how the vote could be carried out without underepresenting certain unions that are less wealthy. Some unions could not run these elections. Energise 7 million student members would be needed to be mobilised- some universities could not fund this. The motion had not research enough to support one man, one vote.

H: If they can spend 4 million pounds to spend on political campaigning, they can support the one man, one vote system.

H: Independent student Union on a loose basis where people can work much more easily. It exists without foolish bans, like that on coke. Everyone would be represented.

H: there are lots of independent campaigns outside of the NUS, like that to cut tuition fees. These are specialised and have a far greater impact on the NUS.

Final 30 seconds.

H: not representative- inefficient and under-performing- so vote for disaffiliation.

N: we need a national platform to fight against rise in tuition fees.

-Campaigns are supported by the NUS. Campaigns have been supported by NUS and have almost unanimously voted in favour of staying in.

-Cannot do anything long term with money that we would get from leaving.

- Campaigns do not want more money

-The NUS can be reformed.

-Please vote NUS.

5. Any Other Business