**JCR Meeting Minutes**

**Date: TTW8 Sunday June 10th**

**1.** **Officer’s Reports**

President – Ronit Kanwar

Vice President – Verity Bligh

Treasurer – Ben Jacobs

Secretary – Caitlin Ashcroft

Welfare – Claire Castle And Adam Bradbury

Entz – Millie Chu, Lucinda Kirk And Bella Imi

* BOP Monday of 8th - still a few places available (incl guest places)

Academic Affairs – Ruha Akhtar

Equal Opps – Savi Chahal

Charities – Callum Coghlan, Seb Pippins And Ali Lane

Arts & Pubs – Mila Fitzgerald

Environment And Ethics – Ludo Findlay

Careers And Alumni – Emma Biddiscombe

Drama – Isobel Hambleton

Freshers’ Week – Yannis Baur

It – Morgan King

Accommodation – Josh Stimson

Bme Reps – Robert Pieters And Ope Oreyemi

Lgbtq – Bessie Yuill And Katie Winstanley

Sports – Jack Morrison And James Worthington

International Reps – Tiger Yuan And Lucas Buzaglo

Ousu – N/A

**2.** **Motions**

**2.1 Laundry Basket Motion**

**Summary**: To purchase 3/4 laundry baskets to prevent clean clothes being dumped on the floor when people want to use the washing machines.

**This JCR notes that:**

1. A large portion of the JCR shares the laundry room and this means there is a high demand for use of washing machines at certain times.

2. Clothes are often left in machines after they are finished washing/drying, stopping others using these machines.

3. There have frequently been clothes emptied onto the floor of the laundry room and it is very messy with unclaimed clothes everywhere.

4. It would be easier to empty clothes into spare laundry baskets so that students can pick up their items when they are free.

**This JCR believes that:**

1. No one should have their clean clothes emptied onto the floor as this means they must be cleaned again which is a waste of resources and money.

2. The use of washing machines and dryers should be maximised for students’ use.

3. The JCR has a responsibility to keep the laundry room functioning for the JCR members’ use.

**This JCR therefore resolves to:**

1. Spend up to £60 on 3 or 4 laundry baskets or bins so that clean clothes can be removed from washing machines in order to use the machines without dumping clothes on the floor.

Proposed by: Lizzie Boulter

Seconded by: Luke Dale

**2.1 Discussion**

* Are we enabling people to just forget about their washing?
  + Would probably happen anyway - this is just making the laundry more organised
* Could we get six? One for each machine

Amendment: Get six laundry baskets

**VOTE:** 35 for, 1 against, 2 abstaining

**MOTION PASSED**

**2.2 Donation to the Palestinian Society for Care and Development**

**Summary:** A motion to donate £200 to the Palestinian Society for Care and Development, to support the running of a summer school for disabled children that runs in the Al-Amari refugee camp throughout August every year.

**This JCR notes that:**

- The Al-Amari refugee camp, in the city of Ramallah in the West Bank, run a ‘Summer Camp for Handicapped and Socially Marginalized Children’ during August annually.

- While the camp is operated by the UNWRA, who support the refugees with primary care and education, the handicapped in the camp have historically been denied substantial medical and social care.

- The Palestinian Society for Care and Development was established in 2002 to work with volunteers from around the world to encourage inclusivity of disabled youth into wider social projects, provide them with basic services and fulfill their urgent needs.

- The summer camp has been running since 2007, the hope this year is to offer services to 150 socially marginalized and disabled children between the ages of 8 and 15.

- Whatever ones stance on the ongoing Arab-Israeli conflict, the difficulties faced by children in refugee camps, especially those with disabilities, are undeniable.

- SHORT TERM GOALS OF THE CAMP

- The inclusion and integration of handicapped and marginalized children into local society.

- Promoting relaxation and reducing anxieties through socialization and enjoyment.

- LONG TERM GOALS OF THE CAMP

- Improve the acceptance of the handicapped among families and local society, which would enhance their integration.

- Reduce the financial burden for families with disabled children.

**This JCR further notes that:**

- Tommy Walden-Smith is the Keble College Rep for the charity

- Former student Niccie Baker is currently working with the charity in Palestine, and is very happy to answer any questions.

- All of the money donated go towards specialist resources and materials.

**This JCR therefore resolves to:**

- Donate £200 to the Palestinian Society for Care and Development, to be put towards the costs of resources and the running of the Summer school.

Proposed by: Tommy Walden-Smith

Seconded by: Ben Howarth

**2.2 Discussion**

**VOTE:** 37 for, 0 abstaining, 0 against

**MOTION PASSED**

**2.3 Constitutional Motion: Defining the Speaker's Role**

**Summary**: To better define the role of the Speaker with regard to chairing JCR meetings.

**This JCR notes that:**

i. With regard to the meeting two weeks ago, there were numerous comments made by various members that were not authorised by the Speaker.

ii. In the new constitution, The Speaker’s role, to ‘chair all JCR Meetings’, is stated.

iii. The former constitution of the JCR mandates that ‘all remarks in debate shall be made through the chair’; however, this was removed in the constitutional reform programme and was not replaced by a similar requirement.

**This JCR believes that:**

i. It is necessary that the Speaker’s primary role: the selecting of members to speak, be constitutionally outlined.

**This JCR therefore resolves to:**

i. Have this role constitutionally defined as ‘all those who speak must be selected to do so by the chair’ or similar.

Proposed by: Oli Adcock

Seconded by: Noah Hearne

**2.3 Discussion**

* President: Point of the reform was to streamline the meetings, reason to remove ‘all Speaker’s go through the speaker’ was because that’s not typically how debates work - overly formal, adding an extra layer of bureaucracy, discussion will take longer
* Discourse tends to be people answering questions, relaying comments →
* Vice President: The Speaker still has the authority to veto comments or keep people in check if need be
* President: Just trying to remove these bureaucratic steps
* Proposer: Don’t think it’s bureaucratic, it says ‘chairing’ but doesn’t specify what that actually means
* Treasurer: When you elect a Chair/Speaker, you’re putting trust in them to monitor/direct the debate - shouldn’t be necessary to dictate in the Constitution PRECISELY what people are supposed to do
* Proposer: No contradiction between myself and the Treasure, the Speaker chooses who speaks in every Parliamentary democracy in the world
* Male Welfare: I agree, this increases likelihood of debates/discourse becoming stilted and being less free flowing
* Proposer: A lot of the free-flowing debate was taking place within the incumbent Committee, this is giving the people who are less likely to speak (or be listened to) have a voice. Adam could also

**VOTE:** 2 votes for, 25 against, 8 abstaining

**MOTION NOT PASSED**

**ALL FURTHER MOTIONS WITHDRAWN**

**2.4 Constitutional Motion: Defining the Speaker's Voting Rights - MOTION WITHDRAWN**

**Summary**: To clarify and constitutionally define the Speaker's voting rights.

**This JCR notes that:**

I. In the new constitution, it is required of the speaker to be ‘impartial’.

II. The pre-reformation constitution outlined the voting rights of the Speaker as ‘a single vote which shall only be used as a casting vote and shall be cast in favour of the status quo’.

III. The new constitution does not outline the Speaker’s voting rights.

IV. In the meeting of two weeks ago, the speaker voted in favour of the constitutional reform being proposed.

**This JCR believes that:**

i. It is necessary that the Speaker’s voting privileges be constitutionally defined.

**This JCR therefore resolves to:**

i. Constitutionally outline the Speaker’s voting rights as per the old constitution OR describe them as they now stand.

Proposed by: Oli Adcock

Seconded by: Noah Hearne

**2.5 Constitutional Motion: Debating Period for Constitutional Motions - MOTION WITHDRAWN**

**Summary**: To introduce a revision to the Constitution that require votes for constitutional reform to be allowed the full two-hour debating period if needed.

**This JCR notes that:**

i. Constitutional amendments are among the most important votes undertaken in the JCR.

ii. In the debate regarding the constitutional amendments of 6th week, JCR members still had comments to make but the debate was concluded by the speaker.

iii. In terms of calling a vote, the only constitutional guidance is that ‘the speaker shall then call for a vote’ [after debate] and that ‘after two hours of any meeting, a special procedural motion shall automatically be moved by the speaker to determine whether the meeting should continue’.

iv. The conclusion to the debate of 6th week might therefore be considered premature.

**This JCR therefore believes that:**

i. Meetings in which **Amendments to the constitution** are proposed should only be concluded when every member has had the opportunity to speak.

ii. There were new points to be raised by members who had not yet spoken.

iii. Hurried debates will disincentivise members from speaking and may affect the outcome of votes.

iv. It is very unlikely that any debate will require this two-hour period.

v. The below resolution will help protect the constitution and alleviate some of the ambiguity surrounding the role of the speaker.

**This JCR therefore resolves to:**

i. Have a constitutional mandate that requires votes on constitutional amendments to be allowed this full, two-hour debate period **should it be required**. After this point, it will be at the discretion of assembled members to decide whether the meeting continues (as outlined in the constitution).

Proposed by: Oli Adcock

Seconded by: Noah Hearne