



Minutes of
St Hugh's JCR Meeting
1st GM Trinity Term 2025
04.05.25
8:00pm, JCR

Agenda:

- 1) Reports from members of the JCR Committee
- 2) Statement by the JCR Treasurer of the balance of the term's motion budget and the balance of any other budget relevant to this meeting
- 3) Late motions for admission
- 4) Action motions for debate asking for funding
- 5) Action motions for debate not asking for funding
- 6) Statement motions for debate
- 7) Items for discussion

1. Reports from members of the JCR Committee

President- Ellie Yau

- organised formal with Clare college - sign ups open for whole JCR - inclusive for all.

Vice President- Ernesto Castro Melendez

- formal schedule sent out
- finalist formal sorted through college
- ballot getting sorted

Secretary- Kate Moir

Treasurer- Edward De Bono

- sending budgets out later today

Access Rep- Rivka Dasari

- more outreach to international schools - want to build bridges
- read Pres newsletter for outreach information

Welfare Reps- Tabitha Nott, Alex Gong, Annabelle Parbrook

Entz Reps- Erin Butler and Natasha Hermer

LGBTQ+ Reps- Valerie Mann and Benjamin Robinson

- motion to be discussed
- alternative pride to be run on a separate weekend due to sponsors of official pride controversy.



International Reps- Siddhartha Bandyopadhyay and Ludwig Illies

Environment and Ethics Rep- Isha Yadav

BAME Reps- Rowan Yin and Natalie Tan

Disabilities Rep- Finn Elkington

Charities and Community Rep- India Matthews

Sports and Societies Rep- Lara Machado

- punt booking now out - new system - email was sent last week with information for this.
- funding finalised

Careers and Academic Affairs- Audrey Davidson-Houston

- Careers panel on Tuesday - organised by college.

Director of Digital Operations – Ferdinand Al-Qassab

- working on a new way to book the mattress
- replacing mario kart.

Freshers' Rep- Oscar Mowatt

- currently sorting college wedding ceremony event

Faiths and Beliefs Rep- Amber Goodman

Cat Rep- Max Gallagher

2. Statement by the JCR Treasurer of the balance of the term's motion budget and the balance of any other budget relevant to the meeting

£800

3. Late motions for admission

4. Action motions for debate asking for funding

Motion 1: Funding for the Oxford Scientist Women's Health Symposium

The JCR notes:

The Oxford Scientist student publication is organising a women's health symposium in collaboration with OxWEST in Week 4 of Trinity. The symposium will host professionals speaking about novel research and facilitating important discussions about women's health. With a combination of keynote presentations, student research showcases, and networking opportunities, the event offers a valuable platform for knowledge-sharing. Hugh's students are actively involved in the organisation and execution of this event and 3 Hugh's students are on the Oxford Scientist's senior team.

The JCR believes:

Funding from the St Hugh's JCR would allow the event to be subsidised for students and cover the cost reimbursing speakers, some of whom are coming from outside of Oxford, as well as help cover the cost of the venue and catering. Financially contributing alongside numerous other Oxford colleges



is of great importance to supporting the STEM and research community at Oxford and will be much appreciated by OxSci. This funding would help support Oxford students to explore and share research with the global scientific community and connect with individuals from diverse backgrounds.

The JCR resolves to give £75 to the Oxford Scientist's Women's Health Symposium.

Proposer: Katee Li
Seconder: Teertha Nitin

POI:

- **multiple motions asking for funding - all motions read out before voting as in line with constitution.**

POD:

Favour : 34
Abstain: 0
Against : 0

AMEND TO £50

MOTION PASSED

Motion 2: Cyrano de Bergerac

The JCR notes:

Cyrano de Bergerac, a touching play revolving around the illusion of appearance and the truth of love, is being performed at the Pilch in Week 1. A large number of Hugh's students, including Lara (director), Michelle (producer), Cayden (lighting designer), Ellie (cast), Morien (assistant producer), Ali (welfare officer), have been involved. The production was originally aiming for a mid-Trinity performance slot, but Cyrano was allocated the Week 1 slot in the Pilch, and was informed of this mid-Week 8 of Hilary Term. On this short notice, the team has worked tirelessly to juggle academic work and rehearsals over the vacation.

The JCR believes:

The cast and crew of Cyrano have both put in immense efforts to make this show possible over the vacation. Marketing was a particular challenge, as there was limited time to market in-person, reducing our reach. Funding is also more difficult to secure over the vacation than in term time, leading to us relying more on pro-rata loans. As such, JCR funding for Cyrano would provide essential practical support for the costs of this production, particularly for repaying loans and the costs undertaken by students. It would also be support for the hard work that the team, especially the members of our college, has put in to make this show possible.

The JCR resolves to give £80 to 2046 Productions

Proposer: Michelle Tse
Seconder: Lara Machado

POI:

- successful production
- show already happened
- need to pay everyone back

POD:



- university based or other? — the production company is based entirely on Hugh's students
- short turn around for applying to funding - moved quite last minute
- also applying to other colleges for funding
- is thing a thing that can wait/ is it immediate — immediate

Favour : 34

Abstain: 0

Against : 0

MOTION PASSED.

STARTING HERE; Motion 3: Funding for St Hugh's Christian Union

The JCR notes:

Money is needed to cover food expenses.

The JCR believes:

Funding for the Christian Union will allow us to offer food at Bible studies, prayer meetings and other events. Anyone at College is welcome to join meetings or take food.

The JCR resolves to provide £80 for Trinity Term expenses.

Proposer: Ester Hattingh

Seconder: Jedidiah Olaleye

MOTION MOVED TO OTHER FUNDING AVAILABLE

Motion 4: Folly Magazine

The JCR notes:

- Folly Magazine is a new magazine dedicated to high-quality long-form writing, both fiction and non-fiction
- The editorial team includes two St Hugh's students

The JCR believes:

- Printing a lot of copies of the paper is expensive and should be subsidised by the JCR
- It's important to support student journalism and the arts

The JCR resolves to give £75 to Folly Magazine

Proposer: Morien Robertson

Seconder: Lara Machado

POI:

- funding from JCR for other publishing costs in the past

POD:

PASSED ONTO NEXT MEETING - PROPOSER AND SECONDER NOT PRESENT
[voted on]



Motion 5: Suddenly Last Summer Grant

The JCR notes:

- Suddenly Last Summer is a lesser-known yet powerful play by renowned American playwright Tennessee Williams, being staged in Trinity Term Week 4 at the Burton Taylor Studio by the new student company, Analogia Productions.
- This production offers a bold and original interpretation of Williams' work, exploring themes of memory, repression, and truth through an innovative set and sound design. It places special emphasis on mythological and theological symbolism, rarely foregrounded in previous stagings of this play.
- Supporting this production promotes student-led art that engages seriously with literature, theatre, and social commentary — encouraging rigorous artistic exploration within the Oxford community.
- Several members of our College community are directly involved in the production, helping to lead and perform in what promises to be a thought-provoking and visually striking show.
- A grant from the JCR will directly assist with essential fixed costs such as performance rights and venue hire, which form the majority of the budget. These are critical to ensuring the production can go ahead, allowing wider access to theatre for students and community members alike.

The JCR believes:

- Student-led theatrical productions form an essential part of college and university culture, promoting creativity, collaboration, and community engagement.
- Supporting Suddenly Last Summer's production aligns with the JCR's goal of enriching student life and providing opportunities for artistic expression.
- Analogia Productions' creative interpretation of Suddenly Last Summer presents an original and intellectually rich perspective worthy of student and public attention.
- Assisting with production costs can significantly increase the likelihood of the show's success and financial viability.

The JCR resolves to provide a grant of £100 to support Suddenly Last Summer, aiding with essential production costs and enabling this creative student-led endeavour to reach its full potential.

Proposer: Yue Wen

Seconder: Michelle Tse

POI: n/a

POD: n/a

Favour : 33

Abstain: 0

Against : 0

AMENDED TO £50

MOTION PASSED.



5. Action motions for debate not asking for funding

None.

6. Statement motions for debate

Motion 1: JCR Statement regarding Supreme Court Ruling of 16th April
[voting will take place online after GM]

The JCR notes:

- On the 16th of April, the UK Supreme Court ruled on a case titled: "Is a person with a full gender recognition certificate, which recognises that their gender is female, a "woman" for the purposes of the Equality Act 2010?" The judgement declared that, in relation to the Equality Act's definition of the protected characteristic of "sex," trans women are not women.
- No trans or intersex people or their organisations were invited or allowed to speak to the Supreme Court for their consideration. Furthermore, the ruling's appeal to a "binary biological sex" is not scientifically accurate and does not reflect the modern scientific understanding of sex.
- Although the case brought before the court related only to trans women being allowed on women-only shortlists in Scotland, the Supreme Court chose to extend its scope to the whole of the Equality Act 2010. The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has used this as justification for issuing interim guidance calling for a UK-wide ban on trans people using spaces that align with their gender identity, and in some cases from any gendered space at all. The EHRC guidance directly legitimises the policing of bathrooms, where access to single-sex spaces may be challenged based on gender presentation.
- In its guidance, the EHRC states: "trans women ... should not be permitted to use the women's facilities and trans men ... should not be permitted to use the men's facilities." It goes on to additionally state that: "the law also allows trans women ... not to be permitted to use the men's facilities, and trans men ... not to be permitted to use the women's facilities." Whilst this guidance is not law, it has been supported in its interpretation by Parliament.
- This guidance and aspects of the Supreme Court ruling are being investigated as possibly conflicting with previous rulings of the European Court of Human Rights.

The JCR believes:

- The complex legal implications of this ruling have made it difficult for trans and non-binary students to know how access to college facilities has been affected. Students deserve urgent clarity and support from College, but none has yet been provided.
- The transgender and non-binary students of St Hugh's deserve respect as valued members of our community, and College should support them fully.

The JCR resolves to issue the following statement:

We as the St Hugh's JCR stand opposed to the UK Supreme Court ruling of April 16th, and the EHRC interim guidance published April 25th. We reject their reduction of "womanhood" to "biology", a stance which is harmful to everyone, especially trans people. The policing of access to any toilet facility is ableist, dehumanising and degrading.

As a JCR, we are proud to support all members of our student community. To the trans and queer members of our JCR: you belong, and you will always be respected here. All gender identities are valid and deserve recognition.

Regardless of College's intent, significant harm is being inflicted by the lack of communication on this issue due to the uncertainty created. Students do not know whether College will stand by them if they are challenged, policed, or harassed in bathrooms for how they present. St Hugh's students deserve better than to be left hurt and confused by College's silence and perceived inaction.



We call upon College to address the issue with unwavering support to its transgender community. Part of College's response must be urgent clarity on how access to college facilities, especially bathrooms, will be handled. Since no single statement can cover every aspect of the situation, we call for greater communication between College and its trans and non-binary students.

Proposer: Valerie Mann

Seconder: Tabitha Nott

POD:

- if you are trans, you can't use the bathroom you would prefer to be using/ leave questions as to which one trans people can use - clarity on this
- position could be stronger - should be making clear to college we can't hide behind EHRC
 - motion should be stronger
 - EHRC - official body issuing guidance - parliament stands behind this interpretation - very little that can be done against this directly - different ways to attack it. anyone who doesn't follow this guidance may be sued.
 - there is a lot of support in educational sector - but the risk is if we overpush on this it can force places into taking a stance that is more harmful than wanted.
 - challenged in short term makes them fall in line with guidance
 - guidance should be challenged directly - national - so not where student body can have effect as this moment in time
- calling for communication to open a dialogue with college with this - feels overdue from college's end of communication
 - in comms with the Dean - been brought up in one meeting but not properly addressed - no policy decided. report shown to people centrally/ internally - waiting for this to be published publicly
 - should be eye-opening - silence from college is difficult
 - report - statements from those who have been affected by this ruling - mainly trans voices
 - q. are universities following this policy or is it just work places?
 - a. a lot of resistance in education sector - support can only go so far - saying not following guidance can lead to suing
 - but will this effect education sectors?
 - issues lies with what institutions think is unlawful/ persecuting these groups
 - but will oxford specifically be effected?
 - point of motion is COMMUNICATION from what college will do.
 - do college have an existing policy on this - but not been a thing legally directly challenges so may not be clear cut policy - so now being directly reviewed.
 - do not like being in the news for any kind of controversy - uni of oxford
 - have our say with college now before publishing
 - we as a jcr body disagree but also calling for more urgent clarification and communication from college.
 - more internal conversation the better
 - previous statement did not address the issues
 - mindful how different groups interpret different things
 - Damien wants a clear statement from MCR/ JCR so that they are clear from college's perspective where we stand on this issue - so statement will be sent to college directly.
 - getting right balance of how far we can take this.
 - suggest: not tell college what we want to sensor
 - BUT that is not what we are asking for in the statement - want them to make it clear it is not enforceable - want them to say that it is unenforceable and we are fine with that - ideal outcome. especially when it comes to how bathrooms will operate.
 - everyone is effected - more than just those who identify as trans.
 - college knows what it can do/ its limits which is why communication is so important.



- this statement is not providing legal guidance for college - but just what we believe it right and why we should be in communication with college.
- this is a JCR WIDE statement - collective and collaborative effort - which is why we are opening it up now - why it will be for online vote.
- wants to represent what everyone think
- q. will this go to the governing body - a. something that we could potentially help determine how college addresses this.
-

For:

-

Against:

-

Vote to be online.

7. Items for discussion

None.