



Minutes of
St Hugh's JCR Meeting
Second General Meeting Hilary Term 2025
09.02.25
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

- survey - report being made to governing body and everyone else it will be distributed to in the next few days

Vice President- Ernesto Castro Melendez

- meeting with college about the ballot - has to be during the vac

Secretary- Kate Moir

Treasurer- Edward De Bono

Access Rep- Rivka Dasari

- prospect of doing a free brunch for those who do access events

Welfare Reps- Tabitha Nott, Alex Gong, Annabelle Parbrook

- chocolate and compliments for valentines week - pidging

Entz Reps- Erin Butler and Natasha Hermer

LGBTQ+ Reps- Valerie Mann and Benjamin Robinson

- pronoun pins

International Rep- Siddhartha Bandyopadhyay and Ludwig Illies

Environment and Ethics Rep- Isha Yadav



- next week is green action week - look out for emails about this

BAME Reps- Rowan Yin and Natalie Tan

- cultural cooking again this week

Disabilities Rep- Finn Elkington

Charities and Community Rep- India Matthews

Sports and Societies Rep- Lara Machado

Careers and Academic Affairs- Audrey Davidson-Houston

- late collection form coming out this week

Director of Digital Operations – Ferdinand Al-Qassab

- website will be updated this week

Freshers' Rep- Oscar Mowatt

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

- £640

3. Late motions for admission

none.

4. Action motions for debate asking for funding

Motion 1: Funding for the Oxford Fashion Gala's Charity Show

The JCR notes: The Oxford Fashion Gala is a yearly event which raises money for the Oxford based charity Oxford mutual aid. Aside from fundraising, the gala aims to promote creativity, diversity, and sustainability as well as being an exciting and entertaining event for the students of the university. The main event will take place in the second week of Trinity term, and this term we are hoping to host a variety of collaborative events with other societies, culminating in our launch party at the end of term in order to help promote the gala. The gala is a wonderful opportunity for aspiring student fashion designers to properly showcase their work, acting as a platform for creative expression, which is especially important in such an academically rigorous environment like Oxford. We aim to promote values of community, by connecting students with shared interests across the university, inclusivity, by working with a diverse selection of models, and sustainability by encouraging recycling and reusing of old clothes and by partnering with small fashion businesses. The gala offers the chance for a multitude of students to get involved with a university-wide event and show off their various talents, whether as models, musicians, designers, or working behind the scenes. As a fundraising event, the gala donates all profits to charity, meaning that we currently have to rely on ticket sales to cover the costs for venue hire, entertainment, and promotional material for the various events happening in Hilary and Trinity. Funding from the JCR would help cover these costs such that the gala can be as profitable as possible, raising as much money as we can for charity.



The JCR believes: Funding will help the Oxford Fashion Gala to host events in Hilary and Trinity, allowing a greater profit to be raised and donated to the charity Oxford Mutual Aid

The JCR resolves to: Allocate funding of 50 pounds to the Oxford Fashion Gala to support its initiatives and events for Hilary and Trinity

Proposer and seconder: Julia Szypuła and Layla Sarakbi

POI:

- N/A

POD

- N/A

Favour 29

Against 0

Abstaining 0

MOTION PASSED

Motion 2: Jekyll and Hyde funding

The JCR notes:

1. Jekyll & Hyde is a theatrical adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's classic novella, presented as a gripping and powerful musical.
2. This production aims to make theatre more inclusive and accessible, including by featuring a live British Sign Language (BSL) interpreter. Theatre productions often face barriers to accessibility for individuals with disabilities, limiting audience inclusivity. Broken Wheel Productions, the team behind Jekyll & Hyde, is committed to fostering inclusivity by:
 - 2a. Selling tickets to Oxford students at an affordable price.
 - 2b. Training students in technical theatre, including lighting, sound, and stage design, to cultivate the next generation of theatre practitioners.
 - 2c. Prioritizing accessibility measures, including the incorporation of BSL interpretation.
 - 2d. Producing a large-scale musical is a resource-intensive endeavor, and financial support from JCRs is often crucial to achieving its artistic and outreach goals.
3. Members of our College community are involved in this production: Imogen Bowden, playing LUCY; myself, head of sound; Cayden Ong, sound assistant.

The JCR believes: Funding for this production would primarily support costs associated with costumes, lighting, sound, accessibility measures (including the BSL interpreter), and other production expenses.

Supporting initiatives that prioritize accessibility and outreach aligns with the values of inclusivity and social responsibility.

Backing the arts fosters creativity, community engagement, and personal development within and beyond the university.

The JCR resolves to: Provide a grant of £80 to support Jekyll & Hyde from the Motions budget, helping to cover production and accessibility costs.

Proposer and Seconder: Michelle Tse and Cayden Ong



POI:

- in the interest of everyone gets fundings - motion requests get cut done slightly
- amended by £70 suggested by president
- suggested to do £50 for all of them - as people can reapply for more at the end
- happy to amended to £60

POD

- N/A

AMENDMENT TO £60

Favour 29

Against 0

Abstaining 0

MOTION PASSED

Motion 3: Funding for Hamlet student production

The JCR notes: Seabass Theatre, a new production company, is staging Hamlet in the Dennis Arnold Hall at the Music Faculty in Week 8 of this term.

This production of Hamlet brings alive one of Shakespeare's greatest plays, with a bold artistic vision using bio-sonification, the transformation of electrical data from plants and fungi to sound, and more. This grant funding would help support the production lower expenses for those taking part in the show (e.g. marketing and costumes), increasing inclusivity and access.

This production currently has 4 students at St Hugh's, involved in sound design, marketing and lighting.

The JCR believes: This college must remain a forerunning proponent of the arts in the University, and by supporting theatrical productions with crucial St Hugh's College involvement, this will further help boost not only the flourishing dramatic world at Oxford, but also reinforce St Hugh's standing within this context.

This grant funding will help fund the show's expenses, crucial to lowering the show's breakeven. This production, in particular, will be centring exciting, exceptional standard, professional quality theatre which will further boost the aforementioned benefits.

The JCR resolves to provide a grant of £80 to Seabass Theatre Productions' production of Hamlet.

Proposer: Katie Li

Seconder: Lucian Ng

POI

- Amended to £50 - suggested by proposer

POD

- N/A

AMENDED TO £50



Favour 29
Against 0
Abstaining 0

MOTION PASSED

Motion 4: to help fund Root Ginger Productions' King Lear

The JCR notes: Root Ginger Productions is putting on Shakespeare's King Lear, in the 7th week of Hilary Term in the Keble O'Reilly Theatre, an Oxford drama venue. King Lear is one of the most renowned and revered works of Shakespeare's oeuvre, and as a tragedy depicts themes of madness, isolation and the desire for power.

Ellie Yau, a student at this college, is a part of the production as Assistant Producer.

Michelle Tse, a student at this college, is a part of the production as Sound Designer.

Natalie Tan, a student at this college, is a part of the production as Head Stage Manager.

Throughout production, King Lear has promoted an inclusive environment for all involved, in line with guidance and regulation from the Oxford University Drama Society.

This play involves many people new to Oxford drama and has been supporting them in their roles so they can continue to be involved in future drama.

Any profit made from production will be reinvested into future student drama in Oxford, in line with guidance and regulation from the Oxford University Drama Society.

No profit will be personally returned to those involved in the play.

The JCR believes: Oxford Drama is a fun and useful outlet for cast, crew and audiences during Term time which can be stressful, particularly for freshers settling into university.

Without funding, this play cannot be put on. There are costs to costumes, venue hire and props, although no payment goes to students themselves. The production is also hiring an external fight coordinator to instruct the actors how to perform fights in a safe manner.

A healthy creative scene within the University benefits all Oxford students and the wider Oxford community.

The JCR resolves to: donate £75 to the production

Proposer and seconder: Natalie Tan and Michelle Tse

POI

- amended to £60

POD

- N/A

AMENDED TO £60

Favour 29
Against 0
Abstaining 0

MOTION PASSED.

5. Action motions for debate not asking for funding

Motion 5: Free Sanitary products in college provision



The JCR notes: The United Nations considers menstrual hygiene management a fundamental human right. It is also part of the commitments listed in Sustainable Development Goals five and six.

- People suffering from endometriosis - among other health conditions that provoke heavy bleeding - can have to change pads or tampons every 1 to 2 hours. Current welfare pigging provisions are simply insufficient faced with this kind of issue.
- Many other colleges (e.g. Magdalen, Univ, Corpus, etc.) have free sanitary products available around college sites (e.g. toilets) in the case of sanitary emergencies.
- While the JCR provides these supplies through pigging, anyone who has had a sanitary emergency knows that one cannot always foresee when these situations will arise, easily finding oneself in the midst of one, the only solution being a not insignificant walk to Tesco's (an extremely uncomfortable thing to do with no sanitary products in this scenario).

The JCR believes: Sanitary products are not a luxury and should be available to all students.

- These need to be provided in college in case of emergency, as the current system does not provide for unforeseen occasions.
- Adding a small stock of such products around college - as many other colleges already do - would be very straightforward and inexpensive (especially considering the potential benefits).
- Concerns that one person would take too many are unfounded. There is no evidence of this happening at other colleges. Furthermore, anyone who experiences sanitary emergencies will know the potential impacts of depriving others of this kind of relief and so is highly unlikely to act in such a way.
- This is not an extra or a luxury. It is such a basic need that college should be responsible for implementing it, rather than the JCR.

The JCR resolves to: To call upon college to stock and regularly restock sanitary products in all of the non-accommodation toilets in St. Hugh's - overseen by the housekeeping team - using this motion to prove that this is a concern which the student body firmly places itself behind.

Proposer: Lara Machado

Seconder: Morien Robertson

POI

- not a criticism of the pigging system
- works in other colleges
- Pres and Welfare met with college - already in discussions
- practical terms if this is a motion from the JCR - college more likely to respond
- motion clarifies it is college stock

POD

- N/A

Favour 29

Against 0

Abstaining 0

MOTION PASSED.

Motion 6: Michael Biggs LGBTQ+ talk



The JCR notes: On Monday, the Department of Sociology is planning to host, as part of an LGBTQ+ History Month seminar series, a talk by Dr Michael Biggs, titled "Gender Identity in the 2021 Census of England and Wales: How a flawed question created spurious data"

Dr Biggs is involved with two anti-trans groups:

- He is the director of the anti-trans pressure group Sex Matters.
- He is an advisor to the "Society for Evidence-Based Gender Medicine" (SEGM), designated as an anti-LGBTQ hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Both groups routinely promote anti-trans fringe theories and conversion therapy.

Dr Biggs has also:

- Compared gender-affirming care to "eugenics".
- Said that "transphobia is a word created by fascists".
- Claimed that the elevated rates of suicide among the trans community are greatly exaggerated.
- Appeared in an anti-trans film produced by Ickonic, the production company of the conspiracy theorist and Holocaust denier David Icke.

Biggs has 6 policy-source references, meaning he is actively involved with shaping government policy on the topic of trans rights, using his academic status and research to have an impact.

The Sociology Dept has been informed of Dr Biggs' views and has stated:

"We understand that some staff and students may disagree with the speaker's views and may not want to attend. The seminar does, however, relate to a topic that is of academic relevance to our Department and does also relate to LGBTQ+ identity. In the spirit of supporting academic freedom, respectful debate, and the open exchange of views, we will be proceeding with the seminar. We would reiterate that seminars such as this are a place where views can be questioned and challenged."

The OULGBTQ+ society is hosting their own alternative panel at the same time to counterbalance any negative impact of the talk, by providing a positive opportunity for trans and non-binary academics to share their research.

The JCR believes: We recognise the right to academic freedom, and we do not take issue with the direct content of the paper referenced in the seminar title. However, in this particular case, given the nature of Dr Biggs' previous work, granting him a platform may potentially lead to harm and distress amongst LGBTQ+ members of our college community, particularly within the context of this being a designated LGBTQ+ History Month event.

The JCR resolves to: To release a statement extending support to LGBTQ+ members of our community, as follows:

"The JCR is aware of a seminar hosted by the Department of Sociology which will be given by Dr Michael Biggs, who has repeatedly expressed views widely considered to be transphobic. The JCR respects the right to academic freedom and recognises that he is being given a platform in the context of open academic discussion. However, it is important to consider that an event such as this, and the implications inviting such a speaker may carry, has real impacts on real people.

We therefore extend our support to any students who are affected by his platforming and would remind that the St Hugh's JCR is a safe and welcoming space for all students regardless of gender identity. We stand in solidarity with transgender rights and condemn efforts to restrict them.

We also note that the **LGBTQ+** society is hosting their own alternative panel at the same time to counterbalance any negative impact of the talk, by providing a positive opportunity for trans and non-binary academics to share their research."

Proposer: Valerie Mann

Secunder: Harriet Alexander

POI

- other colleges are putting forward a motion to actively condemn him
- but this could invite issues before he has even done his talk - exact contents not known yet
- instead send out a positive statement about support - saying there is potential for harm
- his paper being discussed is not explicitly anti trans - he as individual is



- not appropriate he has been selected but talk has not yet been had
- he is part of the Sociology Department
- further action can be taken after his talk if needed
- **wording of the statement - 'For' instead of 'With'**
- did not read entire appear but enough of it - his academic paper is fine - that is not being criticised
- personal beliefs about him being in the department is not expressed - lots of thought has gone into the approach of this statement

POD

- directly criticising the Department - different conclusion on this issue compared to what the motion is suggesting
- having an impact - science community will always have an impact - yes but the issue with the impact is negative on trans students - protected characteristics because they already experience marginalisation and discrimination
- we are not infringing on him doing the talk - on his academic freedom of speech we are just recognising the potential for negative impact on student - not that he shouldn't talk

Amendment for wording 'For' instead of 'With' and LGBTQ+ [typo]

Favour 26

Against 0

Abstaining 1

MOTION PASSED - statement by St Hugh's JCR to be released.

6. Statement motions for debate

None.

7. Items for discussion

None.