

JCR Committee Hustings Minutes

Meeting on 24.11.22 at 19.00 UK time

List of Committee Members

Names, initials, pronouns and * to mark non-attendance	Role
Jamie Charles, JC , she/her	President
George Stokes, GS , he/him	Vice President
James O'Garro, JO , he/him	Treasurer
Jacob Hougie, JH , he/him	Secretary
Keelan Shorten, KS , he/him	Welfare
Vasilisa Grachova, VG , she/they*	Welfare
Ben Palmer-Welch, BPW , he/him*	Welfare
James Walker, JW , he/him	Academic and Access
Kitty Joyce, KJ , she/her	Green
Yifei Zheng, YZ , he/him	Catering, Accommodation and Facilities
Matthew Wadey, MW , he/him*	Sports and Societies
Gosia Szakowska, GoSz , she/her*	Ents
Muhammad Mahmoud, MM , he/him*	Ethnic Minorities
Neve Baskar, NB , she/her	International Students and President-elect
Emma Gibson, EG , she/they/he*	LGBTQ+
Lucy Trusler, LT , she/her*	Gender Equalities
Malachi Gee, MG , he/him	Disabled Students
Dylan Mankin, DM , he/him*	Computing (non-voting)

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0. Administrative Matters

Meeting begins at 19.04

GS outlines rules and procedure and thanks JH for minuting and NB for minuting during the VP section to avoid conflict of interest between JH and RON.

1. Vice-Presidential Candidate

1.1 Speech – Jacob Hougie (JH)¹

Hello everyone – I am Jacob Hougie, and I am running for JCR Vice-President for 2023.

This time last year, I stood pretty much exactly here and said that I loved Corpus and wanted to do something to support the college I loved so much and that was why I wanted to serve as secretary.

One year later, here I am, having massively enjoyed my role as secretary and the opportunity it gave me to support and participate in college life. During my term, I was privileged to see a bit of how college works in JCC meetings (with the JCR/MCR and various parts of college staff) as well as open meetings and committee meetings. I was able to participate in the SU engagement debate and (somewhat unexpected) campaign. I've written hundreds of pages of minutes. I helped to write Active Policies, both by creating an initial draft of the Hybrid Meetings Active Policy and working with George and Jamie to improve the wording of the Class Act and Ethnic Minorities Active Policies. I got to

¹ NB takes over for the minutes

enjoy communicating with students on a regular basis through the Corporeal. So being secretary have me quite a taste for what being on the JCR entails.

But, not only has this given me a taste for the JCR, I also think it qualifies me to serve as Vice-President: I'm prepared for working with college, I'm prepared for reviewing plenty of documents to support the committee in general and I'm prepared for the significant volume of communication the Vice-President has to do, especially for the Room Ballot and Freshers' Week. So I've done this, to some extent, before and I hope that'll prepare for me for the big task of being VP.

Also, I've also learnt from some of my other experiences about organising events and working as part of a team, which I hope will help prepare me for fresher's week and some of the other responsibilities. Even better, I have a good relationship with the new President-elect Neve Baskar (happy birthday) which will help immensely in creating a strong JCR team.²

Finally, my time as JCR secretary also given me some ideas for how college could be improved: from benches (somewhere) in Old Court to a more intersectional antiprejudice course in freshers week (more than the anti-racism workshop we run) and the provision of a welfare zone during the hall party.

In sum, I think I have the passion, qualifications and ideas to be the Vice-President next year and I hope you agree! Thank you!

² NB notes for the minutes 'not him whoring me out'

1.2 Questions

JC – If you could do one thing better than the vice-president, what would it be?

JH – George has done an excellent job with the Active policies and Freshers' Week. As per, Pelikind, I could be the sexiest secretary we've ever had. There is nothing much better I could do.

MG - In my current role as DSO, I've found it important to consider improving the accessibility of room ballot content and suitable to actual student needs, how would you work with the next DSO?

JH - I would work with the next DSO to improve the room ballot content and the accessibility ballot.

GS – How would your skills complement the skill set of the President Elect?

The administrative side of my experience will complement the experiences that the President Elect has had with the Racial Harassment Reporting Form in working with college.

Ruth Chapman (RC) – You mentioned the welfare zone, how would you improve that?

JH – Welfare Zone – the sort of accessibility of a welfare zone with the normal slacks might be useful at the hall party. It is too noisy during the hall party and some people don't want to be in the space with lots of alcohol.

MG – What is the ideal shade of Corpus pink?

Need to double check, but I discovered this earlier - Hex Code #cc0066³

2. Disabled Students Officer Candidate

2.1 Speech – Claire Collins (CC)⁴

Well, it's that time of year again. I'm running for DSO, again. To those who don't know me, my name is Claire, my pronouns are they/them and I am an Engling finalist who has just returned from intermission. You will have also noticed Tilly, pronouns she/her, who is my assistance dog; ignore her.

Obviously, I am disabled in many ways, I have many physical and chronic health conditions, many mental health conditions and am currently being screened for some flavour of neurospiciness, so I have a range of personal experience in what it is like to be disabled at Corpus. I was DSO for the entirety of 2021, and re-elected for 2022, before promptly intermitting and leaving everyone in the lurch. I want to make up for lost time and am running for a third election. You can interpret that how you want. Third's the one with the hairy chest or third time lucky: I don't have a particularly hairy chest so I'm going to go with third time lucky.

So, I hope to build on the work of my previous tenure in the role and on the work done by Malachi. I realistically think I can achieve at least half of what I want, and hopefully more because I've learned not to take any of college's bs. I want to introduce a quiet time for Hall at least once a

³ JH resumes minuting

⁴ And, of course, Tilly the dog!

day for people with sensory needs and/or anxiety and/or the continued need to social distance.

I would like to lessen the number of general disability support groups (DSGs) in favour of running specific socials for people who share common conditions. On the note of DSGs, I will continue to run them twice a term with food options to suit every dietary need I can think of, as well as being sure to participate in Liberation Partees – which, by the way – I think we should rename Intersectionali-teas, right?

College have been annoyingly reticent with admitting their failings on the most basic level, and I will continue to annoy them into providing basic access into college, including motorised gates in Benet Street, and a ramp and handrails at the main gates. On a similar note, they need to be adding image descriptions to their social media posts.

I also want to follow up on my Sunflower scheme that seemed to be almost in the works before I intermitted.

As for experience, I feel I have regurgitated my manifesto enough so I will leave with an anecdote. Christ's college JCR has only just, this year, elected their first DSO. For the previous year, their DSO has been their Access Officer, who happens to be one of my closest friends. Every change she proposed and every document she wrote was run by me, to the extent that when we ran into the ex-vp of Christs' JCR, I was introduced as DSO by proxy. Despite not even being in college or elected, I have had my hand in amplifying the voices of disabled students in my own college.⁵

⁵ At this point CC sadly runs out of time

2.1 Questions

NB - College can be frustrating – how can you get them to continue implementing basic access?

CC – I'd work with the EDI committee, and I already have a good relationship with the Disability Champion. I also understand how college thinks so I have the preparation to fight.

JC – You've served before, so what have you learnt and what would you do better?

CC – I was flawless the first time. I'm now more confident which is the big thing in discussion with college. I also tend to overthink, but this means I've thought through everything.

3 Treasurer Candidate

3.1 Speech – Oliver Law (OL)

I'm here to try to convince you to vote for me for treasurer.

First, policies. I will try to increase money available to students in societies and improving the pool and table tennis tables. I will try to increase spending, but this depends on funding available. I pledge to seek to be fair in how to spend the money that is available – I won't be partial. I pledge to be transparent if elected. The summary of these is "facilitation, fairness and transparency".

I am hard working, good at team working and good at maths – definitely good enough for accountancy. I did Economics A-Level which would help me with making, running and communicating a budget.

I also pledge to regularly check and respond to emails and be very available.

3.2 Questions

JO – Best puns for emails?⁶

OL – not given it much thought, uses sarcasm more than puns

Jules Oldes – on what basis did you come up with the promise of a 15% increase in funding

OL – last year there was a 25% reduction because of covid so 15% was a conservative increase. Can't be held to it as it depends on what is possible

Brandon Davidson – how will you seek to be more transparent.

OL – Open Meeting and clear communication to whole college when there are OOPs.

4 Secretary Candidates

4.1 Speech – Luka Murphy (LM)

Good evening all. I'm Luka Murphy, a 2nd year HisPol, running to be your secretary.⁷ I have many talents, including balancing milk on my head, which is harder than it looks. My most important talent is as a secretary – I'm currently secretary of the fisher society, which is very similar to this role. As part of that, I've also been part of its general council, with formal

⁶ There is an audible groan as the audience plainly remember some of JO's excellent puns from the last year

⁷ At this point in the evening the audience have clearly not heard 'I'm X, I'm a Y year Z and I'm running to be your JCR ABC' enough so they proceed to whoop

meetings, which have given me a taste for proper ‘prestigious’ committee work.

I’m also the head of events for the Wilberforce Society – this role is not analogous to being secretary, but it has taught organisation and time management skills, will help with ensuring the corporeal and minutes are done on time. In this role, I’ve also learnt about having success because you get judged on your success very clearly from audience feedback at events. I’ve also learnt a lot of inter-personal skills – you have to communicate with senior people to run events and I could do the same for work with college.

My ideas are simple, but they represent quantifiable, simple, measurable change. Firstly, a regular time for the Corporeal, ideally a bit later in the day to help people win the prize if they wake up late. Secondly, I’d like to encourage participation in the Corporeal: students don’t often send things in but would like to work out how to do this e.g., prizes for submissions.

Vote for me.⁸

4.2 Speech – Daisy O’Connor (DO)

Hi, my name is Daisy, I am a first year law student and I am running for JCR Secretary. I would love to do this role as, as I said in my manifesto, I genuinely like admin and I’d love to get involved in the JCR using this.⁹ I’ll give you just brief rundown of my experience, then get into the actually interesting stuff which is the role. I’ve had an array of similar roles at school, including running the school paper, Sixth Form Ball

⁸ As he leaves the stage, LM falls over on the stairs, but managed to right himself and, like a cat, lands on his feet. This is followed by a round of cheers and applause for the impressive physical feat

⁹ A bit like the current secretary who, at the last hustings, declared “I actually like writing minutes”

Committee and the whole DofE programme, and I was the nominated committee member to take minutes for the Prefect and Environmental Committees. Therefore I've done minutes and committees before, and managed doing a lot of roles at the same time so I'm prepared for the role of the secretary. Also, with the DofE programme I had to email and interact with all 300 students doing the DofE at my school and instruct them in continuing the award, and as well as other school committees I am used to being around, and interacting people in a community so I'd like to do the same here. Also, I started and ran an initiative to pair students with departments for volunteer work at my school, including sign-posting opportunities and collecting information, which is something I want to bring to the Corporeal. Enough about me, in the Corporeal, I would like to gather from more sources, including the student body itself, and channel announcements in one direction so the Corporeal is a more comprehensive hit of information, hopefully reducing your email load! So I'd like to take any kind of announcement, for example from Corpus societies, as well as news, messages from students and more. Including fun stuff like birthday shoutouts, college engagements, etc would be really fun, especially as Corpus is such a small college.

I know not everyone reads the corporeal, but I would like to transform it into a more colourful and exciting email if there can be such a thing, by using different formats. I'd like to use a poster-esque format to bring colour, as well as keeping a plain text format for accessibility. I'd also like to have a quick audio format, to listen to when speed-walking to lectures, and to make it more varied and cater to more people. Also I'd like to start introducing social media updates, and a calendar. I want to make it possible to find out which societies and events are going on

around college and outside, and I think a calendar would be a really good compilation of these.

In terms of the minutes, I want to keep them engaging, so continuing Jacob's footnotes, and I would also like to include a summary of key points from meetings in the Corporeal for if you really just want a super-condensed version to keep up to date even in crunch weeks.

I hope this has convinced you to let me be the JCR Secretary for the next year, and if you have any questions do not hesitate to ask! I'm also open to any suggestions, especially in how to communicate well between the students, JCR and college. Thank you for your time!

I'm welcome to any questions or further suggestions.

4.3 Questions

JO – the secretary currently spends money on Open Meeting snacks which aren't always successful. How would you increase participation in Open Meetings?

DO – Making the Corporeal more accessible and eye catching would mean people would read it so they would see the announcements of the meetings. Making it clearer that there are snacks at Open Meetings (I didn't know there were any) would definitely help too!

LM – agrees about notices in the Corporeal, but also suggests a greater variety of snacks, much like themed parTEAs tend to have better attendance.

YF – top three snacks?

LM – A cookie,¹⁰ an apple (need to be healthy) and a pain au chocolat¹¹

DO – I'm now quite hungry. Biscuits. Chocolate cake. Cookie dough esque snack of any type.

JH – Can you touch type?

DO – Yes

LM – Yes. ¹²

5 Access Officer Candidate

5.1 Speech – Jess Morrissey (JM)

Hi, I'm Jess and I study bioinformatics but I make it my personality. I'm from a small town in Lancashire called Rawtenstall. It's about what you'd expect from a name like that. It's where I went to high school and sixth form both non-selective state schools. And it was only after I'd gotten my offer did I realise Cambridge was not in London.

I was a bridging course 2021 grad so I can tell you how brilliant it was not just for academic prep, but more my confidence. Having helped on both the CLASS and STEM smart summer schools I feel prepared to help organise and run the bridging course next year, using student feedback to make it both as useful and fun as possible.

I don't think I'm Christian (bare with me) but from a welfare standpoint I'm going to own being a queer at church camp as I've also got

¹⁰ LM sounds like an old man as he says this

¹¹ Truly, a man of simple pleasures

¹² Both candidates give a much more unequivocal answer than this secretary who said in his speech that he could 'not touch type, but could type by touch'

experience with safeguarding. So even though the bridging course is all shits and giggles, if it came down to it, I can deal with the shits.¹³

I've got a lot of experience doing tours, Q&As and mentorship programmes. I'd make an active effort throughout the year to encourage more student involvement in those, especially (without targeting a specific gender) in maths based STEM.

One of the things I'd like to do is remodel the website. Just adding a place with resources for prospective applicants whose schools might not provide much support with applying to Oxbridge. – e.g., resources for personal statements or admission assessments, as well as interview prep. Also adding more about the student experience from a non-Oxbridge typical backgrounds. That'll probably come in the form of forcing my friends to do day in the lives, but also making it explicit what financial support is available so money worries don't deter anyone from applying. I know this is something the candidates for class act officer are thinking of. If I got Access, I'd be excited to work with class act officer on some of their ideas, especially wanting to help set up potential funds within the jcr for current WP students- tech fund and travelling home fund. I've also got a good relationship with JDW, admissions and tutorial-evidence being on rather horrendous bookmark. Trust when I say I don't sleep easy knowing how many of those were given out and how humbling it was to see so many on the floor.

I'd like to also liaise with subject societies to invite students from widening participation backgrounds to some of their events (credit to the Schools Liaison Officer). For the lawyers that's a Moot (whatever a moot

¹³ It was unclear if the candidate meant diarrhoea or just bad situations, but either would be an important thing to be able to respond to during the Bridging Course I suppose

is), bios have a career fair etc. I know some subjects don't have proper societies or don't have any fellow involvement, but I'll work around that and think about that one. There's a few ideas for that- maybe subject specific open days on the down low-inviting widening participation students to meet current students with a tour of college and departments, and maybe an academic talk as well as an admissions talk.

I also enjoy talking to prospective students!

Thank you!

5.2 Questions

JW – how would you improve the Bridging Course?

JM – Right now there is a problem that there is the 3 week Bridging Course, followed by an 8-week term and then many participants stay for 2 weeks to help with interviews. This means many participants need a break in between because its so intense, so it might be good to change the timing. I'm open to feedback from students and from other colleges.

NB – what's your favourite TV show and how will that help?¹⁴

JM – Coronation Street – it'll help me resonate with students

JC – there is now going to be a co-director of the BC to help with post-graduate progression. The MCR have no Access officer, would you help with this in your role as JCR Access Officer.

JM – Yes. Access and Class Act can help and I also know the current director and have a good relationship with them.

¹⁴ The audience seems to find this question quite funny because it is followed by a round of laughter

6 Green Officer Candidate

6.1 Speech – Ryan Simpson (RS)

Hi, my name is Ryan, and I am a second year NatSci doing double earth science and Quantitative environmental science.

If elected, as the green officer, I would aim to reduce the volume of paper waste in the post room, by trying to reach a combination of some of the paper mail sent instead by email rather than paper copies that are put into everyone's pigeonhole, and to have a smaller amount of the paper copies on the side, that would be available to take if you would like.

I would also like to continue Kitty's work in implementing recycling bins, by trying to get a recycling bin and perhaps a food waste bin in each gym or kitchen to go along with the general waste, to reduce the proportion of recyclable waste going to landfill. It is important to dispose of this food waste correctly since if it is incinerated or dumped in landfill, then it is able to produce methane. Methane is about 25 times more effective at trapping heat compared to carbon dioxide, so has a much greater impact on the global warming effect.

I will also try to arrange more green formals as well as clothes swaps, to encourage reuse. I'm aiming to work more with other colleges and their green officers outside of the green weeks to plan more events that would be similar in style to those in the green weeks.

Furthermore, I would love to try and get planters around the college for students to use like a mini allotment or small herb garden, if students are in need of a small amount of salad, herbs, strawberries mainly in the

Easter term. This would have to be discussed further to see if this is even possible, but I would like to try to get these.

Previously, I have organised and run a beach clean as part of a group, as well as a litter pick. The rubbish from this was collected and either reused as part of an art project or recycled appropriately. I would like to continue this here, if possible, by arranging litter picks to help to clean up the litter in areas such as near the UL or on the way to West Cambridge.

Overall, if elected, I would try to reduce the amount of waste produced through a larger range of bins available in gyms, reduce in the number of each of the leaflets in post room that are put into everyone's pigeonhole. More green week like events ideally spread over the term, and hopefully some planters within the college for student use. Thank you for listening!

6.2 Questions

Maisie Johnson – the food waste bins in Newnham got infested. How would you ensure they were emptied?

RS – I'd chat to cleaning staff to check, otherwise I'd try and coordinate students to empty them.

Yosef Abdelhalim – every room except mine has a recycling bin. Will you correct this?

RS – I will have a chat about this.

RC – why does reducing paper waste in the post room matter?

RS – people don't always recycle what they get so reducing the amount sent in the first place would help.

7 Catering, Accommodation and Facilities Officer Candidates

7.1 Speech – Florian Sharpe (FS)

Hi I'm Flori, a 2nd year ASNC. ¹⁵

I have the experience for this role – I was great at club penguin pizza parlour and moshi monsters cupcakes. But seriously, during 6th form, I was the head of student voices so I'm used to communicating concerns to authority. Yifei did excellent work, but I want to work more on additional changes.

I've got lots of policies for those changes: it was raised in an Open Meeting this term that medical supplies are not easily accessible and that the porters are scary so it might be good to have first aid supplies in the same areas the welfare sexual supplies (and also at Newnham and Leckhampton), which would help if, for example you fell off of a Voi;¹⁶ Smart meters – its hard to know what electrical costs were and it varies massively by room, but college must know because that's how they bill us, so it would be good to either have smart meters or some sort of update from college about our bills. Quickly – I also think the toilet paper could be a better ply, we could have more computing facilities and more laundry machines.¹⁷

7.2 Speech – Yifei Zheng (YZ)

Hello I'm Yifei and I've been peer pressured into rerunning.

One year ago I said 'revolution is not the dinner party, the dinner party is the revolution'. This was said by Mao, another more sexy and strong

¹⁵ The candidate begins with 'Slay. Ready.'

¹⁶ Referencing a member of the audience to whom this happened, the audience begins to chuckle

¹⁷ At this point there was a final warning about lack of time and the candidate let out a small scream to the amusement of the crowd

Chinese lad. Much like Mao, Corpus Caf has undergone a great leap forward under my term in office.¹⁸

We've gone from the terrible days of November 2021, when Corpus appeared in the Sun with the headline headline 'Posh Cambridge students claim their university experience is crumbling – as there's no PASTRY CHEF',¹⁹ in which one student claimed the loss of a pastry chef has diminished his university experience and YZ notes that he is not here this year.

What have I done? I worked in the kitchen for the Bridgemas formal, which reflects his hard work. He helped with the recruitment of the new head chef Ilias, helping college to pick from the candidates. He ensured the introduction of more veggie and vegan options, as well as redoing the options available, especially the salad bar salad bar.

His term has been a game of two halves, like football, and Corpus is now described as having the best food in Cambridge on camfess by a Tit Haller. This is a testament to my success.

I have no policies except seeking to increase engagement and to reflect the desires of the student body because CAF is not about Yifei but about the students.

7.3 Questions

JO – what can you do to improve on the last CAF officer?

¹⁸ I'm not sure this is a historical allusion I'm comfortable with

¹⁹ If you want to see this article (in which Corpus Oxford's dining hall is pictured), you can click here: <https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/16901172/uni-students-experience-ruined-no-pastry-chef/>

YF – easy, current CAF officer is shit. Hall needs most work and college is working on that. We're reviewing the formal hall Active Policy. I'm looking at themed formals e.g. Chinese new year.

FS – more gluten free options – not that much at breakfast and brunch (hashbrowns could easily be made gluten free) and better formal bread would be great

MG – A major role for CAF is maintaining sports assets, how would you deal with the pool and table tennis equipment.

FS – I'm not super sporty, but pool cue cleaners are cheap. The pool table needs replacement after the last Bridging Course party, which stained it.²⁰

YZ – the pool cues were replaced entirely twice in the last year, so I would prioritise replacing them and the table if there is the budget.

JC – As CAF officer, you need to work with members of staff who are often quite firm. Can you give an example of when you haven't backed down.

YZ – I was recently speaking to the Catering manager, who had recently decided to increase the salad bar price by 50p. I organised a meeting and got him to back down to make it just a 20p increase.

FS – I have very firm in convictions. I already have had some, meetings with the Senior Tutor never backed down e.g. on sometimes needing to go home during term and did not back down.²¹

²⁰ GS nearly forgets to let YZ respond, but is quickly corrected

²¹ The candidate reassures the audience that they only live 20 minutes away so any such trips would not affect their role as CAF Officer.

8 Welfare Officer Candidates

8.1 Speech – Luke Tyler (LT)

I'm Luke, a 1st year law student. I understand that being a 1st year means I don't know as much, but as a first year, everything is much fresher in my mind – I know what was done well, what was overloading. We need to make information more coherent and digestible in terms of what is available for welfare support.

I would be a welfare officer for everyone. I've made friends in lots of year groups. I'm friendly and approachable and would continue this as a welfare officer. I'm flexible in helping people – pointing them in the right direction, chatting or just going for a drink. I recognise that people don't always need advice, but sometimes just need someone to offer to listen.

The current team have done well e.g. workshops and parTEAs, but we can tweak them, such as by running activities during parTEAs. It would be good to run more events in the middle of term when people tend to feel a bit low. I'd like to build a closer community and take advantage of being a smaller college to avoid loneliness and minimise the need for welfare support in the first place. I'd send more emails and create web pages to show people what is accessible.

Also, happy birthday to Neve.

Thank you and vote for me for welfare!

8.2 Speech – Eva ten Hoor²² (EtH)

Hi everyone! My name is Eva (she/her), 21 years old an exchange student from the Netherlands. I am running for welfare officer and that is because some years ago, I have struggled with mental health issues myself. Therefore, welfare has become a very important topic to me, which is why I really want to contribute to welfare and student well-being at Corpus.

Because I am an exchange student, I will only be here in Lent, Easter and part of the summer. But that gives me all the more motivation to really make most of my time here as your possible welfare officer. And although this is my first term in Cambridge, I am already a third-year student. Which means that, also as student tutor to first year law students back in the Netherlands, I have already seen much of student life and everything that comes with it.

With regards to my ideas. I would first of all like to expand welfare activities. I was thinking about doing things as welfare lunches, maybe some yoga and mindful sessions. Moreover, I think it would be interesting to organize an “imposter-syndrome workshop”, normally organized by the USC, specifically here at Corpus. Since this is a common issue at Cambridge. Other than that, I think we should make the library a more welfare proof place. I would be really open for your suggestions on this, but I was thinking to add some comfortable chairs or beanbags for instance or any other ideas.

More broadly, I really want to be a welfare officer that is approachable, and always available for help or anything you might need to improve

²² It is important to note that, in fact, JS spoke second, EtH third and JW fourth, but as a quirk of the way I set up this document changing that order would be a right pain. Sorry :/

your well-being. Additionally, I really hope to contribute to an environment where it is normal to talk about welfare with one another. Even though I think as society, we are (somewhat) going in the right direction in that regard, what I have noticed, for instance with my own friends, is that people still find it hard to talk about their problems amongst each other. That is an issue which I would really like to tackle as welfare officer.

But in the end, what I would really like to advise you, is to vote for a welfare officer that you'd feel safe and comfortable to go to whenever you are struggling with anything. If that is me, that would be great of course. But if that is Luke, Julia or James, that is also completely okay. Because at the end of the day, welfare officers are here for you, and your well-being. That should always come first.

8.3 Speech – Julia Sinkinson (JS)

I'm a 2nd year geographer running for welfare. Why do I want to run for welfare officer – it's the best aspect of the JCR because the welfare officers act as someone looking out for you who is concerned about you, which is especially good for freshers.

I'd always be friendly and approachable – someone to chat to. I had my own issues last year so I have plenty of empathy. From my own experience I know there are problems with college's response, especially in the way some tutors respond so I would work with them.

If elected I'd continue the work of last years officers – parTEAs, quiet areas, stress toys. I would also like to help freshers by making parTEAs more welcoming if you don't have people to go with e.g. have an activity (TV maybe). I'd run easter term sessions on exam stress e.g. support group, yoga, film night. I'd campaign for a second counsellor and provide

info on the university counselling service as counselling is not one-size-fits all. I'd work with the other liberation officers for intersectionality.

I'd like to get feedback on the parTEA snack selection to give the people what they want.

8.4 Speech – James Walker (JW)

I'm James, a 3rd year historian.

Why am I running for welfare? One of the most important things, and one at which Corpus excels at is being a small and welcoming community. Thus, the most important thing for a welfare officer is being open and approachable. I'm friendly and very happy to just have a chat.

I've also had experience with similar roles. I'm a bit of a geriatric – a 3rd year so I know what each year is going through as I've been through it. Also I've been an officer for two years so far (as Access and LGBTQ+ Officer respectively) so I know what's involved. I helped with the bridging course, slipstream and the shadowing scheme so I've got experience with welfare advice.

I would like to continue the hard work of previous officers, but also help to fight FOMO because it feels shit – everyone gets it but you think you're alone in it. To combat it, in the weekly update I would like to show people you're not alone by talking about my week. I'd also work with the other Liberation officers for intersectional support. I would also work with other colleges to provide greater support.

Vote for me.

8.5 Questions

FS – how to deal with change to fitness to study which has felt interrogative and like a court hearing. How would you get college to improve?

JW – sit down with the Senior Tutor to try and improve it. He knows college staff well and hopes he could work well with them.

EtH – I'd voice the impact on students. College don't want to destroy us so by showing the problems that would help.

JS – I'm good at not backing down and showing what we think is best. If that doesn't work, I'd help students directly

LT – I'd make us of an anonymous form to allow us to gather specific evidence to raise.

JC – who did you get as the 'which welfare officer are you' how did that make you feel.

EtH – Ben Palmer Welch – did a good workshop, so happy about this

JS – Keelan, would be happy with all of them, but also Keelan is great

LT – got ben. He is good vibes

JW – got Ben twice. He's slay.

Joe Philbrook – if you could go on a night out in Cambridge with any person from history as your designated driver. Who would it be?

JS – May Larson²³

²³ This receives a strong 'Woo!' from the back of the room

LT – Michael Schumacher, dedicated driver need to be quick if I'm not feeling great

JW – Charles Reed²⁴

EtH – Max Verstappen

KS – positions on continuing Krispy Kremes at ParTEAs

LT – big fan so would continue

JW – more the better, more frequent

EtH – hear, hear

JS – Slay

9 Sports and Societies Officer Candidates

9.1 Speech – Malachi Gee (MG)

Good evening. If you don't know me, how? I'm a Second year historian – which means I'm old and have free time.

I've been DSO since early Lent last year – almost a full tenure. Having done this, I've learnt about working with members of college staff to try and get more money for societies. As a society president, I know this is good so would work with treasurer and CAF too to improve sports facilities – especially the pool and table tennis tables.

My policies – fresher's fair: its too much, a bit overwhelming and although the system works it needs to be improved to make clear who

²⁴ As one of the favourite fellows in the college, this response receives a big cheer.

will be there and get societies to attend. I also want to organise a clear list of societies with contact information so people can join more easily.

Corpus Challenge – the biggest event, except may ball, in college. I'd like to Improve access to sports events and create more of them, including perhaps competitive knitting (perhaps with the Stitch and Bitch).

Vote me!

9.2 Speech – Amit Ramakrishna Prasad (ARP)

Hi everyone! I'm Amit and I'm running to be the new JCR sports and societies officer. First, a little bit about me. I'm a first year engineer who plays fives with the university and badminton with the college. I'm also a member of the Corpus Christi College knitting and crochet circle, aka Stitch and Bitch.

Now as anyone who's tried to join a society can attest to, the awareness of the existence of many societies is very limited. I remember wanting to join a badminton club but not being aware of the existence of corpus badminton until one day I saw a group of people hanging around by the plodge at 9:00. I wish there had been a way for me to find out, but alas, there was none. This is the first point in my manifesto as I would like to bring about change and make the world a better place by introducing an easy system with which anyone can find all the information they need about any club or society. Right now, if you miss the Corpus freshers fair, you miss out on the only opportunity to learn about the sports and societies that corpus has to offer because no one really checks the website.

I remember the good old days of school when we would all get together for some good old-fashioned competition in the field, where we would have a range of different events to hate on other people because of the colour of their kit.²⁵ Corpus could do with some incentives to encourage more people to take part in the freshers sports day, such as settling the all-important question of stem vs humanities. In addition to this, more events such as weightlifting and competitive sudoku could be introduced to the day. In addition to this, the possibility of a College wide summer sports day after exams could be investigated.

Aside from these main points, there are also 2 more things that I want to focus on as sports/socs officer. The JCR table tennis table is in desperate need of refurbishment. I intend on collaborating with the CAF officer and the treasurer to acquire new table tennis bats and balls, and to investigate the possibility of purchasing a new table (that doesn't have beer stains all over it). I'd also like an erg in college so rowers don't have to go to Leck.

Another thing that I want to bring about for Corpus Christi's Clubs, is a more transparent timetable of regular societies in the JCR, and outside of college. this will enable people to get a greater understanding of the societies available to them.

That just about sums up my plans for Corpus as the future sports and socs officer. just admit it, vote for Amit.

9.3 Questions

JO – as Treasurer I know we've had to buy lots of sports equipment. How would you prevent lost or damaged equipment?

²⁵ JO leads a strong laugh in response to this comment

ARP – a signing out system, which requires honesty but could work

MG – an honesty policy is ideal but otherwise it would be CCTV which would be ‘Orwellian’. Ideally replace the equipment afterwards, but if that is impossible people will just have to suffer

DO – looking at the Societies roster but I discovered lots don’t exist. How do you discover which are active enough and how would you increase engagement?

MG – I’ve worked with MW to update the list (though this has not yet been uploaded) but I’d also would remind societies to share events with wider community

ARP – a transparent timetable, which societies can add to, would help

NB – how would you ensure we crush Oxford at Corpus Challenge

ARP – we are superior so not too difficult. With the power of friendship, we will

MG – they have a bad crest, they stole our name and they’re from Oxford. They have no chance. Last year they cheated. This year events will fit our strengths. More variety. Also we’re better

10 Entertainments Officer Candidate

10.1 Speech – Neela Nee (NN)

I’m Neela, a 2nd year law student.

Why me? I’m the only candidate. But that’s not it.

I also like a good party and think its really important in somewhere like Cambridge.

I was designated house party host, so have experience. I have good music taste so there'll be good playlists.

I've done everything embarrassing so you can't be embarrassed.

I'd have good slacks with good themes e.g. Halloween and Bridgemas, but I'd also allow some democracy: I'd come up 4/5 ideas and let people vote on Facebook.

I want to carry on with mega BOPs and swaps with other colleges to reach out beyond Corpus.

I would carry on with Open Mic nights, but maybe add Karaoke nights for something less formal.

Ideally I would do a garden party and hopefully get a Leck Pool party with a BBQ afterwards in the summer.

10.2 Questions

MG – What non-drinking events/clubbing-style events would you do?

NN – the pool party, which wouldn't have alcohol anyway. Perhaps a non-alcohol slack, but I would brainstorm it.

Joe Philbrook – elaborate on good music taste?

NN – Perhaps I should share my Spotify playlists? I have a good party playlist and have been told I have good taste.

FS – did you have an emo or alternative phase. Would you do a slack themed like that? If you didn't have your own phase, who would you ask for support?

NN – would ask JS because she went through an emo phase, but I didn't go deep into an emo phase.

11 Ethnic Minorities Officer Candidates

11.1 Speech – Yosef Abdelhalim (YA)

I believe I've met all the first years but might not have met the others.

In general, my biggest motivation is what makes us different – our experiences. If we want to celebrate culture and be welcoming, we need shared experiences.

4 goals:

First, unprecedented interfaith program across the university and college and the faith institutions to experience the variety of faiths.

Second, college sponsored restaurant outings to experience a variety of cuisines.

Third, cultural formals to represent people. Following up on Neve's work.

Finally, continue hard work of MM e.g. more BME pizza nights to build community.

We need to get a bit uncomfortable – get out of comfort zones and learn more.

Thank you to outgoing JCR for hard work and congratulations to president elect and the next JCR.

11.2 Speech – Freddie Sehgal (FrS) ²⁶

I'm Freddie, a 3rd year theologian, which means I would only have two terms, but I'm unemployable (I can't be a priest) so I'll be able to support a successor. I have a good relationship with the head of the EDI team and with the access team and Corpus as a whole. In working with access, I have experience of speaking to people and being generally helpful.

My policies – finally have college events to celebrate events e.g. Chinese new year or Eid (which is not in the holidays this year). The EDI team does stuff for events, but we need to bridge the gap between staff and students so that we bring everyone into events. We need to have more for Black History Month from JCR the side. Neve did good stuff with the reporting form, but need some informal discussions and workshops to prevent worry about snitching.²⁷ Finally, movie nights in the McCrum because that's fun. Right now, most minority students need to go to societies to feel at home, but if we did more in college we wouldn't need to go out of college to do so.

11.3 Questions

JO – the current officer has been dynamic e.g. prayer mats and pizza socials. What can you build upon and improve upon his work?

YA – not just meet ups among Ethnic Minorities, but also special cultural experience for everyone in Corpus together

²⁶ Again, these speeches were out of order and in fact Freddie was first

²⁷ This would prevent the risk that, as the Stitch and Bitch like to say, 'Snitches get Stitches'

FrS – More to be done – more events, more festivals. It would be good to have Ethnic Minorities celebrated at a college-wide level not just among officer and JCR

JH – Any strong opinions on the Ethnic Minorities Policy?

FrS – Support it and glad it was clarified

YA – I agree with FS. I personally have not read the Active Policy to be honest and that is because I am focusing on improvements based of my first term experience – the first term is when the biggest impressions are made.

JC – as Ethnic Minorities Officer you have a counterpart on the EDI team who is likely to be a busy fellow, but you will need them. How will you ensure to reach them?

YA – I was a flight sergeant in the Air Cadets so had to work with actual officers, who were not so communicative, so I'm used to being persistent and assertive.

FrS – I would prioritise this over everything else in their life. If I need to track them down, I will

12 International Students Officer Candidate

12.1 Speech – Cosma Rubben (CR)

Hi I'm Cosma, 2nd year philosopher.

Why do I want to run? When I arrived, I was very nervous, coming from Germany, and was so worried. I worried about the cultural barrier, the language barrier and whether I would found friends. International

Fresher's Week was amazing and I made very good friends and I'm very grateful for it. It created a good structure for people to fit in. I want to give back for that.

I'd like to recreate that again, like Neve did. I want to give the best experience to everyone.

I also want to repeat International ParTEAs and make them more regular or have a section of international snacks at each parTEA.

I'd like to organise more activities in term breaks because a lot of International Students find that most friends go home over the holiday, but going home is expensive so having a cross-college group chat could be helpful to help alleviate loneliness.

More celebration of non-Christian holidays would be really nice e.g. formals.

I'd also like to work to improve access for international students – encouraging applications and providing information to do work toward this.

12.2 Questions

NB – What's one event you'd like to add to early arrivals week?

CR – I would enjoy an international club week. There's so much except that, but I would like to see if people would enjoy that.

MG – if there was one event from your home country you could have us celebrate.

CR – Oktoberfest in college would be nice, though beer is not necessarily for everyone.

13 LGBTQ+ Officer Candidate

13.1 Speech – Harley Chidley (HC)

I'm Harley, my pronouns are they/them (I say this correcting a comment from EL that 'if I'm not a lady am I a quire'). I wrote my manifesto in A&E with Jess.

Why do I want to be LGBTQ+ officer? I'm gay. I've seen what past officers have done. This is the first time I've felt properly included so representing that would be a priority and something I'd like to share.

Some ideas: Gaytherings, sound fun for pres for LGBTQ club nights; other LGBTQ events that aren't with alcohol e.g. Pride formals, while also considering exam terms; we need to make more information available about Gender expression fund to help people access it; a workshop at the beginning of freshers, possibly building on the meeting with Ewan earlier this term, which could be based on including in intersectional antiprejudice.

Also, I wore a pride headband for tonight.

13.2 Questions

JO – the gender expression fund has only been used once in the last year. How would you increase attention for it?

HC – I'd send emails round, maybe create a clearer form for binders and prosthetics to allow people to request in private. I would work with the gender equalities officer.

Eleanor Lewis – what other gender neutral terms would be good beyond squire

HC – I'm happy with squire!

JC – what is the gayest thing you've ever done

HC – other than your mum?²⁸

14 Gender Equalities Officer Candidates

14.1 Speech – Jamie Charles (JC)

If you don't know who I am, I'm offended – I've been president and access officer. I also have a tattoo that says feminist – this shows commitment.

My manifesto has some goals – an International Women's Day formal, like the pride formal, so I would also like to work with a charity to make it a bit of a thing with talks and such.

I want to run some Women and Non-binary events, much like I helped with the Girls Night In.

Isherwood agender is badly advertised and not many people go, but group outings to other colleges events could be a good way to get it started.

Other external and group events would be nice.

I'd like to improve intersectionality, working with other liberation officer to improve this.

²⁸ Slay. Understandably, this got a very long roar of approval from the crowd

I want to celebrate trans community more, building on flying the trans flag which took far too long to get agreed.

I have slowly taught rugby boys about misogyny, which has helped.

I'm used to talking to members of college staff about tricky things.

14.2 Speech – Maisie Johnson (MJ) ²⁹

Hello, as a bisexual, I love women a lot. I'm keen to be the Gender Equalities officer. I want to rejuvenate the Isherwood society and open it up for discussions for anyone to talk about gender or anything else – it should be a space for feminist discourse with snacks and drinks.

Period facilities need to be improved and I want to work with DoSes to spread information about periods, ideally allowing people to allow for short leave due to periods. I'd also want to increase access to stain remover.

I'd like to run a Women and non-binary formal on International Women's Day and run some Film nights. Ultimately, I want to help to build community and solidarity.

I'm also very passionate about deconstructing rape culture, especially about the way dress codes implies aspects of this, e.g. for matriculation and choir.

I'm currently repeating first year so academic demands are limited, but it also means I have friends in both year groups so I can increase turnout at events.

²⁹ It is, once again, important to note that these speeches are out of order and MJ, in fact spoke first

Finally, it is important to note that public execution for rape was on my manifesto, but that was a joke. Sexual assault is of course serious so I would try to improve support around it.

14.3 Questions

Ella Ducker – how would you get men involved in these issues?

JC – I'd clearly state events are open to everyone. I'd also reach out to Corpus community and normalise it.

MJ – I'd reach out to sports teams and other sites of toxic masculinity to try and encourage them to get more involved.

Harry Cullen (HC) – on sexual misconduct, what about people who aren't comfortable reporting it – how would you support those people?

MJ – there isn't a one-size-fits all approach. I'd work with welfare team to help people – I need to think more

JC – in my manifesto, I make reference to a report on problems and solutions for Trinity Hall including informal support and combatting rape culture. I'd like to implement the recommendations of this report by demanding EB consider it and I have previously asked college to consider data I'd gathered on it sexual misconduct.

NB – what's one idea from the other candidate you'd take?

JC – I would like to execute people, but can't. Otherwise, gender expression fund clarity and dress code stuff would be nice

MJ – collaborating with other colleges would be great for a sense of community

15 Class Act Officer Candidates

15.1 Speech – Eleanor Lewis (EL)

I'm not a homophobe – I play women's rugby.³⁰

I want to create a clear guide to funding for both applicants and current students. The current information is opaque and needing to go to your tutor is not ideal.

Funding for transport both at either end of terms and during term ought to be a priority, especially for people who live far away. This also discourages applications so making information clear about this would help.

We ought to engage in more outreach to non-English countries of the UK. Northern Ireland is an outreach area for College, but the other nations are underrepresented.

We also need to consider funding for transport to offer holders and open days. College offers this to students on free school meals, but other places lots of places are very expensive so this is a big barrier for underrepresented students.

15.2 Speech – Billie Moss (BM)³¹

I'm a 2nd year Engineer. Over past year, I've grown to love corpus as a community and how good it is at access, but it needs to be more inclusive once you get here.

I want to make sure no one faces additional challenges because of their background. Coming from a working class background, I know the

³⁰ This is a reference to the opening of HC's speech in which they mention that EL questioned whether 'Squire' was appropriate terminology.

³¹ For the final time, these speeches were in fact in a different order – BM, then EL, then JP

challenges people face in arriving in one of the poshest places in the country.

I'd like to introduce a centralised technology fund – the system is currently based on begging tutors so this isn't ideal. It needs to be easier to access the expensive technology needed for our courses, especially for STEM, where particularly powerful laptops are needed.

A centralised Travel fund for coming to and from Corpus during term or at either end of term would be helpful, especially with train fares so high.

I'd work with other liberation officers e.g. Gender, LGBTQ+ to face issues from a Class Act perspective because different backgrounds can give different perspectives on representing these groups.

I'd work to encourage more charity involvement from college.

Also, I made Neve birthday cheesecake.

15.3 Speech – Joseph Philbrook (JP)

Thank you Neve for the Beer.³²

My name is Leroy but I go by Joe. Thank you to the other candidates for good ideas, better than mine.

I have some ideas. I hate the SU – they came up with Class Act, but they don't represent Corpus for example their recent email.³³ We could

³² The candidate appears holding a can of beer, which, we can presume, was gifted by the president-elect

³³ If you haven't been made aware of this, the long and short of it is that the SU broke some rules around the engagement campaign by sending a mass email to Corpus students asking them to vote against the boycott.

steal their ideas and make them more Corpus friendly e.g. certain events.

I would be a good liberation officer – I'd listen to people, especially on finance. I would like to help people take more money from college. Lots of people don't like to ask for money because it feels wrong, but I would meet with students and tutors to encourage people to apply. College has enough money and they're very happy to give it.

Class Act ParTEAs and subsidised social events would be useful to help people have fun.

One of my big ideas is helping people with networking. The careers Service is a bit useless but a college Class Act networking event would be great. We could get Alumni to work with Class Act students and improve networking with them.

Yo, vote Joe.

15.4 Questions

Brandon Davidson – How would you reduce the discrepancy between tutors?

JP – a form would be good. I'd sit down individually tutors to tell them to be more helpful.

EL – a standardised approach to make it clear what tutors should do

BM – centralised funds that people can apply to rather than going through tutors. Otherwise, feedback on tutors could help create accountability.

JM – what would be the criteria for funds? Would it be self-identifying or would there be other criteria

EL – hard to distinguish so self identifying is best. People should have the decency to do the right thing

BM – self-ID is best but could be made more specific as to who ought to classify, perhaps with a bit more emphasis on the financial definition.

JP – as a liberation officer, I would fight for people. The hardship fund is available but big problem is having someone to be in contact with.

HC – how would you improve the availability of hardship funds and dealing with other costs over the £250 limit e.g., dental bills

BM – making things more streamlines than with tutors would help. For larger costs, I would advocate on your behalf, or encourage the use of anonymous forms for those uncomfortable with speaking directly to me

JP – it needs to be case-by-case, but I had not heard of the £250 limit – college has been happy to give more before. Tutors vary so there needs to be standardisation

EL – there needs to an individual, but still standardised approach. As Class Act officer I will be able to act as an advocate to help in conversations with college.

Meeting ends at 21.26