

JCR Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting on 27.04.2022 at 3.30 UK time

List of Committee Members

Names, initials and pronouns	Role and * to mark non-attendance
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
Emma Gibson, EG , she/they/he	LGBTQ+
Lucy Trusler, LT , she/her	Gender Equalities
Malachi Gee, MG , he/him	Disabled Students
Izaak Mammadov, IM , he/him*	Computing

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Summary of Key Points

- The JCR voted to approve an application to pay for additional punt-related costs through the Ringfenced Invested Fund
- Due to concerns about inclusion when using a religious figure for a joke, the punt has had to be renamed, which has delayed the naming ceremony. The naming ceremony ought to take place soon and will be a fun social event, with drinks.
- The JCR Committee discussed ways that the Active Policy might be improved before a wider consultation the wider JCR.
- The JCR Committee agreed to send fewer emails and combine more together, including **JC** sending more regular emails summing up JCR business
- It was decided to encourage more welfare consideration in non-JCR Corpus Publications
- It was decided the JCR Committee should aim to organise more non-drinking events, to investigate improvements to Welfare Zones and to investigate the greater provision of Welfare events during the holidays
- It was decided to investigate Hybrid Open Meetings with the aim of having a well designed Active Policy for next Michaelmas
- The JCR agreed that it would be unhelpful to move the timing of the Room Ballot
- The JCR Committee agreed to make greater use of the JCR Instagram to demonstrate how amazing Corpus is!

Action Points

1. **JC** to email David Greaves that JCR approved the Ringfenced Invested Fund Application
2. **JC** to amend the Active Policy to reflect that not all electorates for Liberation Officers are based on self-identification
3. **JC** to amend the Active Policy to include asylum seekers
4. JCR to send fewer emails
5. JCR to combine more emails together and make use of Facebook for other messages
6. **JC** to begin sending more regular emails including JCR business
7. Welfare team to meet with the authors of non-JCR Corpus publications to improve welfare consideration
8. Welfare team to be more cautious about potentially subtly cruel Pelikind posts
9. JCR to organise more non-drinking events
10. JCR to give more thought to improving Welfare Zones including testing sound levels and instructing Stewards to move noisy people away from Welfare Zones and towards the Snug
11. **JC, GS and JH** to draft Active Policy on how best to do Hybrid Meetings
12. JCR to begin announcing that they are going to Yoga and to investigate running Yoga or Mindfulness sessions on Old Court
13. JCR to investigate online or hybrid welfare events during the holidays
14. JCR to investigate co-ordination with the MCR for in-person events during the holiday
15. JCR to ask college about organising events during the breaks
16. JC and JW to co-ordinate about a Bridging Course post

17. JCR Committee to co-ordinate for photos about events including Slacks and Corpus Challenge
18. YZ to co-ordinate about a JCR Mukbang
19. JCR Committee to consider further ideas for developing an online identity

0. Administrative Matters – Welcome and Apologies

Meeting begins at 15.35. **BPW, KS, IM and MW** are absent with apologies. **MM** is absent.

JC welcomed everyone back and noted the JCR's appreciation for the end of constitution and punt discussion.¹ **JC** expressed a hope that this term would give officers more scope to do what they want to do with their roles, but reiterated the need for officers to consider their own welfare during Easter Term and the exam season.

1. Ringfenced Invested Funds Application (**JC**)

JC outlined that the MCR had accidentally overspent on the punt² and that the cost of registering the punt had been higher than anticipated. After discussions with **GS and JO**, **JC** felt that that the best way to cover the increased price was to withdraw the amount needed to cover the additional costs from the Ringfenced Invested Fund.³

Neither an Open Meeting nor a ballot is needed to approve withdrawals under £1000, so only a committee vote is needed to approve this application.⁴

Motion to withdraw £250 for the additional punt costs: 8 in favour, 3 abstaining⁵

¹ We hope that this is true just as much as you do

² I had to look this up the first time I saw this word – apparently, it refers to the pole used while punting

³ With austerity already imposed on the JCR and JCR Societies, this was by far the least impactful way of funding this.

⁴ As per clause 10 (d) of the constitution

⁵ Please see the motion attached to this email or on the JCR website

Action Points:

20. JC to email David Greaves that JCR approved this

Summary:

The JCR voted to approve an application to pay for additional punt-related costs through the Ringfenced Invested Fund

2. Punt Name (**JC**)

JC explained that concerns were raised by members of the College about using a religious figure for a pun-based punt name.⁶ While no concerns had been raised by members of the JCR body, it was decided that it was best to change the name and, after a vote was run to choose a new name, the result will be announced on 28th April.⁷ Unfortunately, the previous name has to be scraped off the punt and repainted, so the naming ceremony will likely be slightly delayed. Once that is done, there will be a naming ceremony soon – hopefully next weekend.

The MCR originally called this a ‘christening’,⁸ but **JC** noted that this would be nonetheless a non-religious ceremony and instead a social event with drinks and a chance to relax.

Summary:

Due to concerns about inclusion when using a religious figure for a joke, the punt has had to be renamed, which has delayed the naming

⁶ Who doesn't love a good pun(t)

⁷ If you've forgotten, the original name was 'The Blessed Virgin Ferry', a joke about The Blessed Virgin Mary, which is a part of the name of this college (The College of Corpus Christi and The Blessed Virgin Mary)

⁸ One might say, a Corpus Christi(ning)

ceremony. The naming ceremony ought to take place soon and will be a fun social event, with drinks.

3. Class Act Active Policy Discussion (**JC**)

JC explained that she and **GS** had drafted the policy and it had been slightly redrafted with **JH**.

JC expressed a hope that members of the JCR would add their views on who might self-identify as Class Act to this policy, because the Class Act officer only has to be elected in Michaelmas, which gives time for consultation.

IM had added before the meeting that the Gender Equalities Officer is not elected by self-identification and that the proposed Active Policy needed to be edited to reflect that.⁹

NB noted that it is very hard to identify the income brackets for International Students, so it hard to say who might be Class Act. **JC** asked how the Active Policy could be improved, as the current draft aims to reflect what sort of student might be Class Act to guide International Students as well as domestic students. **NB** noted that most countries already have government/non-government school divides so International Students would likely be able to use the Active Policy to gauge whether they might identify as Class Act.

GoSz asked what the responsibilities of the Class Act officer would be, as compared to the Access Officer. **JC** explained that the Access Officer was never technically a Liberation Officer, but the Class Act Officer

⁹ IM was not present so this was done by email

would act as a Liberation Officer: the constitution gives them the role of representing Class Act interests, organising events to support students and work with the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion team and Access Officer to encourage applications (which are similar to what other Liberation Officers are tasked with). Whereas, the Access Officer works with Admissions, organises the JCR's involvement with the Bridging Course and Shadowing Scheme, and helps to run Open Days and other admissions events. **GS** notes that this allows the Access Officer more time for their formal role, rather than taking on the role of a Liberation Officer informally. ¹⁰

NB asked if International Students would be perceived as able to run because they are perceived as more wealthy due to higher fees – **JC** agreed that this might cause issues due to the assumptions people make, but that International Students would be able to explain why they self-identify as a candidate and **GoSz** added that many International Students do come on scholarships so it is important for them to be represented.

JH noted that asylum seekers might need to be included in the list of examples since it is comparable to homelessness and unstable accommodation, which are already included.

JC expressed a hope that the Open Meeting would be a good opportunity to explain the purpose of the Class Act Officer.

Action Points:

1. **JC** to amend the Active Policy to reflect that not all electorates for Liberation Officers are based on self-identification

¹⁰ Viz. Annex 3, clause (l) to (q) of the new constitution

2. JC to amend the Active Policy to include asylum seekers

Summary:

The JCR Committee discussed ways that the Active Policy might be improved before a wider consultation with members of the wider JCR.

4. JCR Feedback (**JC**)

4.1 Emails

JC noted that a lot of people complained about the number of emails they receive from the JCR, especially ones that don't apply to them. **JC** particularly noted that this makes JCR members less likely to read the emails which do apply to them.¹¹

JC suggested that more messages could be grouped into single emails by making use of the Corporeal, the weekly welfare update or a regular Presidential message.

JC also proposed that Facebook, the weekly welfare update and the Corporeal be used more for non-urgent communication.

It was noted that officers and members of college staff they work with, such as **YZ** and the Catering Manager, ought to co-ordinate to prevent duplication.

JOG and YZ noted that humorous emails (when emails are necessary) are useful to encourage people to read them.

Action Points:

1. JCR to send fewer emails

¹¹ [viz. 4.2](#)

2. JCR to combine more emails together and make use of Facebook for other messages

Summary:

Based on feedback, the JCR Committee agreed to send fewer emails and combine more together.

4.2 Presidential emails

The feedback suggested that **JC** give more updates about EB and to give more frequent emails, which could include other committee updates.

Action Points:

1. **JC** to begin sending more regular emails including JCR business

Summary:

Based on feedback, it was decided JC should send more regular emails summing up JCR business

4.3 Non-JCR Corpus Publications

The feedback suggested that the Welfare team should work more with the authors of the Room Ballot blog and Pelican't. The JCR agreed that although these are non-JCR publications and should be fun, there is a welfare duty to make sure jokes aren't made at the expense of people.

The authors of these publications have agreed to meet with the Welfare team.

Action Points:

1. Welfare team to meet with the authors of non-JCR Corpus publications to improve welfare consideration

Summary:

Based on feedback, it was decided to encourage more welfare consideration in non-JCR Corpus Publications

4.4 Pelikind

The feedback included comments that a small number Pelikind posts have occasionally been used to subtly make cruel jokes in ways that the Welfare team may not notice, so it was agreed that if anything has the potential not to be kind, it ought to be discussed to check.

Action Points:

1. Welfare team to be more cautious about potentially subtly cruel Pelikind posts

4.5 Non-drinking events

The feedback suggested that it would be appreciated if the Ents team had more events for non-drinking people, rather than just welfare zones at drinking events.

GS noted that the Starlight Soiree during fresher's week is always successful, despite the JCR not providing alcohol.¹²

Action Points:

¹² Certain members of the **JC(R)** did note that they may have drunk at this event regardless

1. JCR to organise more non-drinking events

Summary:

Based on feedback, it was decided the JCR Committee should aim to organise more non-drinking events

4.6 Welfare zones during slacks

There were some comments in the feedback about the amount of noise coming from the bar during slacks, so the JCR agreed that lower volume or other locations should be considered. But, **VG** noted that no other room, except for a bedroom can be used because EB won't let food and drink into college event rooms and it is useful to have the Welfare Zone in the JCR because it is accessible from the bar be nearby. **VG** also highlighted that using other people's room is not ideal for attendees or the person whose room it is.

JC suggested testing the sound levels before a slack, but **GoSz** noted that a lot of the noise comes from people chatting. **GS** noted that the Welfare Zone is also good for a quiet area to chat or not to drink, so **JC** suggested that the stewards make sure that the Welfare Zone is kept quiet and that people that just want to chat go to the Snug in the bar instead.¹³

Action Points:

¹³ There was also a discussion here about the difficulty in getting Slacks approved this term due to restrictions on social events during exams

1. JCR to give more thought to improving Welfare Zones including testing sound levels and instructing Stewards to move noisy people away from Welfare Zones and towards the Snug

Summary:

Based on feedback, it was decided to investigate improvements to Welfare Zones

4.7 Hybrid Open Meetings

Some comments suggested that lots of people find they're busy or in between things so can't make it in person, but do want to come and **JC** noted that hybrid attendance would make this possible and (under the new constitution) certain types of hybrid meeting would help to reach quorum.

JC and GS agreed that an Active Policy on attendance and voting using hybrid means would be needed to ensure that there is proper communication in such a way that would meet the needs of the constitution.

JH noted that for voting at meetings, it would be necessary to ensure that it can be clearly seen how someone has voted (e.g. writing in the chat), but **GS** noted that there is procedure for secret voting so this could not be the only means of voting.

JOG noted that you can check using a google form that people only vote once by requiring that people be logged in.

GS noted that at the last online meeting, online voting was difficult to manage, with people voting in multiple ways, voting more than once and even impersonating people.

GS noted that it might be best to give this more time to be considered, perhaps by writing an Active Policy over the long vac, to ensure that when we come back in Michaelmas an ideal solution could be used.

Action Point:

1. **JC, GS and JH** to draft Active Policy on how best to do Hybrid Meetings

Summary:

Based on feedback, it was decided to investigate Hybrid Open Meetings with the aim of having a well designed Active Policy for next Michaelmas

4.8 Accessibility of documents

The feedback highlighted that people like the clear summaries in minutes, but email communication should detail clearly what meetings and votes are coming up and what their consequences are.

JC suggested that she could include in her email what has happened in previous votes and **NB** asked how this would differ from existing minute summaries. **JC** elaborated that she could combine various different sources of information (about meetings of the JCR, EB, Welfare meetings, Buildings Committees etc.) and put in a more prominent place within an email so that people can easily find summaries and understand what is going on.

4.9 Holiday Welfare Provision

The feedback form brought up that welfare provision during the holiday would be very useful, especially because people that don't go home during the break often have very good welfare reasons not to go home. However, it was agreed that the Welfare team need a break too, but that there was a possibility that college could be asked to provide something during the breaks.

VG said a ParTea during the holidays had been discussed, but it was decided that not enough people stayed for there to be enough attendance. **VG** highlighted that the Welfare Team is always reachable, even during the holidays, but that a welfare team member isn't always staying over the break and they can't be required to stay. It was suggested that any member of the JCR could run online events like a zoom quiz or virtual libraries (both of which were popular during covid) and that this could be enjoyed by people who had gone home as well.

GS asked if there could be co-ordination with the MCR, as they stay over the break, to allow JCR members to participate.

NB noted that because yoga is at Leckhampton, not many undergraduates go. **JC and NB** noted it is best if members of the JCR announce they're going together to encourage people to go.

In Easter Term, **VG** noted that Old Court could be used for mindfulness, which is just sitting (and thus within the rules), but for Yoga, **GS**, noted it would have to be booked and approved using the new booking system.

VG asked when the best weeks for Yoga would be this term (given that there is only enough budget for 5 sessions to run). The consensus was

that there is a brief period between early exams and the main exam period, which might be best.

Action Point:

1. JCR to begin announcing that they are going to Yoga and to investigate running Yoga or Mindfulness sessions on Old Court
2. JCR to investigate online or hybrid welfare events during the holidays
3. JCR to investigate co-ordination with the MCR for in-person events during the holiday
4. JCR to ask college about organising events during the breaks

Summary:

Based on feedback, it was decided to investigate the greater provision of Welfare events during the holidays

4.10 Room Ballot timing

GS noted that moving the timing is not good – it's currently when students are in residence so that they can look at rooms; it can't be during Easter when there is too much going on; it can't be during May Week when people are already busy; ideally, it should be Week 7 (not Week 8, like this year, when people can be very busy), but it was in Week 8 this year only because of Corpus Challenge; **JC** noted that people that work during the holidays would struggle if it was out of term; and finally, **GS** highlighted that it already takes a long time to prepare and it couldn't be done any earlier – preparation started in Lent Week -1 this year so there is no way it could be much earlier.¹⁴

¹⁴ Is it Lent Week -1 or Michaelmas Week 14?

Summary:

The JCR agreed that it would be unhelpful to move the timing of the Room Ballot

4.11 Positive Feedback

Lots of people gave positive feedback about the JCR working hard and noting appreciation for our work.¹⁵

4.12 Use of the JCR Committee for co-ordination and discussion

JC suggested that officers make use of the JCR chat more to get input on ideas they have so that everything can be run better.

5. JCR Social Media Posts (**JC**)

JC welcomed that all members of the JCR committee have had their headshots posted on the Instagram.

JC expressed a desire to have some fun posts about the JCR Committee with some fun facts that show that we are actual humans.¹⁶

GS also noted that, historically, previous JCR committees had used takeovers on the Instagram for this purpose, which might add even more humanity than using random fun facts.

JC also noted that the JCR instagram could be used to show off Corpus to potential applicants so it might be useful to show off why we picked Corpus, the Bridging Course, the amazing food (potentially using a JCR

¹⁵ Massive ego boost for all of us here

¹⁶ I promise you, we are humans. BEEP BOOP 🤖

mukbang¹⁷), to explain and advertise the introduction of the Class Act Officer, to show off the Corpus Challenge and other events like slacks, or to show off a JCR Committee photo.¹⁸ **MG** also suggested everyone try and draw the Crest as a competition, which could show personality, and **JC** suggested a competition to choose the best pets in Corpus, both of which could be fun breaks from revision.¹⁹

The JCR agreed that we need more of an online personality, especially as Camfess seems to think that that we're boring.²⁰

Action Points:

1. JC and JW to co-ordinate about a Bridging Course post
2. JCR Committee to co-ordinate for photos about events including Slacks and Corpus Challenge
3. YZ to co-ordinate about a JCR Mukbang
4. JCR Committee to consider further ideas for developing an online identity

Summary:

The JCR Committee agreed to make greater use of the JCR Instagram to demonstrate how amazing Corpus is!

¹⁷ For those of you out of the loop (I don't know if it is good to be out of the loop on this or not), Mukbang is a Korean word referring to eating and chatting on camera

¹⁸ The Committee also took a brief break here to appreciate our new Head Chef, Ilias, who really does put the 'Christ' in 'Corpus Christi' with his amazing food

¹⁹ Break or procrastination?

²⁰ Did anyone see the tab article about which BuzzFeed quiz each college was? Apparently we're gossipy?

6. Any Other Business

GoSz is expecting no more than 70 people (exam term) at the slack and there are already 2 steward volunteers, but any volunteers would still be appreciated.

Meeting ends at 16.45