

# JCR Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting on 29.09.2022 at 16.00 UK time

## List of Committee Members

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

# Agenda

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## Summary of Key Points

1. The committee voted to approve the creation of the Thouless society, the amendment of the JCR Committee Elections Active policy, the new Hybrid Meetings Active Policy, the new Punt Hire Policy, the new Class Act Officer Active Policy and the new Ethnic Minorities Officer Active Policy.
2. The committee discussed the new Heating Active Policy which will grant students more certainty over temperature and cost by relying on objective measures.

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## 0. Administrative Matters

This was a hybrid meeting with **GoS and MM** attending via Zoom.

Meeting begins at 16.08.<sup>1</sup> JC welcomed everyone back to the new academic year and offered support to the committee.

**MW, NB and KJ** are absent with apologies.

**JC** made a declaration of interest as the proposed president of the Thouless society.

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## 1. Corpus Challenge Subcommittee

**MW** has suggested the creation of to a Corpus Challenge Subcommittee, to help organise such a complex event, especially given the cross-over between JCR committee roles such as CAF, Ents and Sports and Socs. The committee agreed by assent to establish the committee.

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## 2. Thouless Society Proposal

The chair was handed over to **GS**, due to a conflict of interest.<sup>2</sup> This society would be for Corpus PBS undergraduates and Corpuscles interested in psychology. It would only apply for JCR funds to get its squash funds entitlement.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> After a brief BeReal break

<sup>2</sup> Viz. 0. Administrative matters

<sup>3</sup> Viz. The Squash Budget Active Policy (30/11/2020), available at [http://services.jcr.corpus.cam.ac.uk/archive-file-download.php?file\\_id=1378](http://services.jcr.corpus.cam.ac.uk/archive-file-download.php?file_id=1378)

**JC** commented that the society sounds like it would enrich Corpus life.<sup>4</sup>

The committee voted to establish the society with 2 abstentions and 9 in favour.

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### 3. Renewal of amended JCR Committee Elections Active Policy

The Chair returned to **JC**.

This policy has been amended since it was last passed so it is not simply being renewed. **GS** explained that: the Class Act officer was added to the policy; the policy was reorganised to include rules on manifestos within the right heading;<sup>5</sup> a substantive change was made making by-elections for DSO and Class Act officer anonymous by mandating that they be held alongside other elections.<sup>6</sup>

**JW** and **MG** agreed the changes made sense.

The committee voted to amend and renew the policy with 11 votes in favour.

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### 4. Hybrid Meetings Active Policy

In previous online meetings, the JCR has had difficulty with the security and integrity of votes,<sup>7</sup> but hybrid meetings are useful for improving

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<sup>4</sup> Conflict of interest aside, this does seem like a pretty sensible idea for a society

<sup>5</sup> I don't know about you but I think it would be fun to just move every line of an Active Policy to a random place and just see the chaos that might ensue. Or not. Maybe no one outside the JCR committee reads the Active Policies and nothing would happen. :/

<sup>6</sup> This is necessary because, when JCR votes are held a list of voters can be seen and if there was only one election at the time it would be clear how people identified.

<sup>7</sup> Viz. Open Meeting of 3.2.2022

accessibility so this policy aims to make that possible in a secure manner.

This policy took **JC**, **GS** and **JH** a long time to work out, but in order to ensure the policy can be long lasting, it has had to leave space around secret ballots (a rare occurrence in Open Meetings): it is not ideal to prescribe a specific method for secret ballots (e.g. Zoom polls) because it forces the hand of the next committee ignoring issues of proprietary software, the number of attendees and the technical ability of the committee.<sup>8</sup>

The policy also sets out a procedure for hybrid meetings that allows accessibility and ensures votes are handled securely.

The committee voted to approve the Active policy with 10 in favour and 1 abstention.

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## 5. Punt Hire Active Policy

**GS** note that since the JCR and MCR received the punts, they have been well used and provided enjoyment to all members of college.<sup>9</sup>

**GS** explained that this policy would allow students, staff and fellows access to the punts. It establishes two rates: one for students and staff and another for fellows and alumni. The policy establishes a system for distributing funds and funds will be split equally between the MCR and

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<sup>8</sup> I actually found an academic research paper about how difficult it is to do secret ballots online – that's how bad it is. Trust me when I say that flexibility is needed.

<sup>9</sup> Even though I have been scared of boats for a long time, even I have enjoyed my time on the punts (though I did threaten to divorce my college husband a few times)

JCR equally (as the funding to buy the punts was), which we hope will help to fund the punts and storage.

**GS** noted he had been keen for staff to be charged the same rate given everything they do for us and is also just the decent thing to do.

**JW** questioned the higher rate and **JC** explained that fellows can better afford the higher rate, and it was only slightly higher with £10 per slot being far cheaper than punting companies offer.

**GS** and **JC** took this opportunity to ask for volunteers for punting freshers and carrying punts out of the river.<sup>10</sup>

The committee voted to approve the Active policy with 10 votes in favour and 1 abstention.<sup>11</sup>

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## 6. Class Act Officer Active Policy

**JC** explained that this policy explains the electorate for the Class Act Officer and what the term 'Class Act' means to allow people to understand how they self-identify. The definition used is a combination of the SU's definition and our own wording.

Since it was last discussed, the EDI team has been consulted about the policy and they have given their support.<sup>12</sup>

**GS** has also added, based on the last meeting,<sup>13</sup> a note about International Students identifying based on circumstance in their home country and stressing that students are not expected to identify with all,

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<sup>10</sup> Unfortunately, the JCR committee is made up of some of the less sporty members

<sup>11</sup> Someone may not have been paying attention

<sup>12</sup> The response from the EDI team was, reportedly, "Slay"

<sup>13</sup> Viz. Open meeting 28.04.22, point 2

or even multiple, of these suggested criteria, in order to reasonably self-identify as part of the Class Act electorate.

The Committee voted to approve the Active Policy with 11 votes in favour.

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## 7. Ethnic Minorities Officer Active Policy

**JC** explained that following on from the last meeting, we considered the need to better define who might consider themselves part of the electorate for the Ethnic Minorities Officer.<sup>14</sup> **GS** also noted that Jewish students in particular, have and still are, frequently unsure about where they fit in and that this policy helps to resolve that issue.

**GS, JC, MM and JH** spent along time on working out how to sensitively word the policy and the EDI team have also given their support.

**JC** noted the particular complexity of terminology on this topic and explained the policy mainly follows ONS terminology.

The committee voted to approve the policy with 11 votes in favour.

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## 8. Heating Active Policy

Since the final version of this policy is not yet ready, **GS** explained the principles of the new policy to the committee.

Historically there was a complex policy involving Open Meetings to turn the heating on and off. This meant that if the heating was turned on early

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<sup>14</sup> Viz. JCR Open Meeting Minutes 28/04/22, Point 2



or off late students would be charged, even if they voted against using more heating.

This policy wasn't followed during covid and the new bursar is more flexible. So a new policy needs to be created (since we are not following the old one) and can be made more flexible. The new policy involves turning the heating on when predicted temperatures show that, by the time the heating is operative, buildings would become cold. Students would not vote for heating to be turned on, but would also not be charged for the heating being on for longer if it was colder.

The new policy gives certainty because it is based on objective measures rather than the subjective feelings of staff responsible for the heating, as happened during covid, or the majoritarian principles of an Open Meeting. It also ensures buildings don't get too cold and that energy isn't wasted. Moreover, students would not be given extra charges.

The exact figures are still being discussed and there are discussions about provisions allowing for students to initiate a process of turning the heating on early or off late.

**GS, JC and YZ** are happy with the policy.

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## 9. Any Other Business

At this point, **MW** and **KJ** arrived from choir.

The May Ball proposal will be presented to EB soon, and the JCR Access Officer and President will be consulted on the Access section of this.<sup>15</sup>

Meeting ends at 16.36.

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<sup>15</sup> **GS** noted this, but with his May Ball president hat on rather than his Vice-President hat.