

# JCR Committee Minutes

Meeting on 12.02.2022 at 13.00 UK time

## List of Committee Members

Names, initials and pronouns	Role and * to mark non-attendance
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
Izaak Mammadov, <b>IM</b> , he/him*	Computing

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### Summary of Key Points

1. The Budget is mainly complete, but the punt may need to be postponed and the Corpus Challenge may need to be only subsidised by the JCR.

## 0. Administrative Matters – Apologies

The meeting began at 13.30.<sup>1</sup> **JW**, **YZ** and **BPW** were absent with apologies. **VG**, **GoSz**, **MM**, **NB**, **LT** and **IM** were absent without apologies.

## 1. Budget 2022 (**JO**)

**JO** detailed the main changes to the budget:<sup>2</sup>

- Income has risen by £1500 due to the enlarged undergraduate body to £40,000
- The Punts need to be paid for and will have running costs and it is unclear how the previous JCR Committee intended to fund this, but this is not yet fully taken account of in the budget
- Societies are requesting significantly more money - £6000 more, of which **JO** is allowing them £2000 extra<sup>3</sup>
- Corpus Challenge Buses need to be paid for and it is possible that, due to people being sick, we may lose the deposit, which would mean a total cost of £4000
- Sky is being cancelled to save significant money

The JCR Committee noted that buying two punts,<sup>4</sup> one for the MCR and one for the JCR, felt excessive and that reducing costs from the punts might help to balance the budget. However, if a deposit has already been put down by the MCR, this could be difficult. The JCR recognised it

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<sup>1</sup> As of 13.10, only the First Year members of the JCR had arrived, so a productive discussion took place about the College Marriage formal. After other members of the JCR arrived, informal discussion ensued and then, finally, JC arrived

<sup>2</sup> Having been in the allotted time and place for a little while, **EG** had to leave at this point

<sup>3</sup> This significant austerity is sad, but far worse than was discussed at the Open Meeting of 7/10/2021

<sup>4</sup> I say the JCR, but I do in fact mean 7 people

would be best to check with the MCR how many punts are actually being purchased and what their financial situation is. **JC** decided to meet with the MCR and then with college to gain an understanding of this situation.

The JCR recognised that charging for the Punt was unlikely to cover the running costs, which seem to be higher than expected.<sup>5</sup>

**JO** noted that many other colleges charge a JCR fee to balance their budgets, but that this was not something we'd want to consider.

**JO** has already had to significantly cut Sports and Societies budgets in order to create a balanced budget with enough room for One Off Purchases, given the cost of the punts and buses to the Corpus Challenge.

The punts could be funded via the Ringfenced Investment fund, since in theory they could make some money, but it does not make sense to do the same for the Corpus Challenge buses since these are a bi-annual cost.

The JCR agreed that, if it could be explained that it was necessary to pay £10 each for the buses, given the consequences of the misbalanced budget, would save £1500, but this would still not leave a very large One Off Purchase fund. **GS** noted this could cause particular problems for Fresher's Week and make us less prepared for other contingencies.

**MW** has not yet paid a deposit on the buses, so it is possible to cancel a bus if people no longer wish to come after adding a £10 charge to the

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<sup>5</sup> They are now estimated at £800, whereas they were previously estimated at £600

college bill to the terms of coming. The JCR agreed that £10 is a very reasonable price for a day trip to Oxford.<sup>6</sup>

**GS** queried if College rather than the JCR could pay for the transport of the choir, but **MW** noted this may not save much.

The JCR agreed that Societies need to detail how they will spend the money they request so that **JO** can verify that the spending is necessary and that some societies might need to be asked to charge their members more.

**JO** noted that part of the reason many societies have requested more funding because equipment has been lost or broken during the absence.

**JO** agreed that Kings JCR not contributing to the CCK Rugby club was somewhat unbalanced.

**GS** questioned the logic of duplication between Squash Funds for subject societies, and the separate budget item of subject drinks, and that many subjects have subject drinks funded by their DoS.

**JC** and **JO** questioned why the Swimming Society need to book out lanes, rather than just subsidising a booking. **GS** noted that a similar system could be used to the Climbing subsidy. **MW** noted that booking a single lane might be more cost effective than individual bookings, and that this could still be funded by the JCR equivalent to a subsidy.<sup>7</sup>

**GS** questioned if some kit purchases – where the kit is functional but slightly old - could be delayed until next year.

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<sup>6</sup> £10 is the cheapest trip to anywhere outside of Cambridgeshire that could reasonably be expected – even a trip to London would be >£25 by train

<sup>7</sup> **KJ** noted that swimming in the Cam could be a good alternative.

**JO and MW** suggested the Badminton Society may be able to find a cheaper court somewhere, such as other colleges or university facilities.

**JO** asked if an Open Meeting could be held on whether to buy a punt, whether to fund it from the Ringfenced Investment fund and on how to fund the Corpus Challenge. **JC** noted that there was already a plan for an Open Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> February on the financing of the punt. **GS** noted that the original funding plan for the punt no longer seems to hold true and that it should be investigated with the MCR and our predecessors whether there would be any unavoidable costs should we need to consider walking away from the punt.

**JC** recommended that the discussion of the punt be postponed and that any future funding for it come out of the ringfenced investment fund. **JO** noted that if this happens and the Corpus Challenge transport was only part-funded by the JCR, then the budget might work. **JO** noted that some larger budgeted societies might need to see larger budget cuts, especially the swimming society. **MW** noted that some smaller societies are willing to make smaller requests, but that the savings would be negligible.

**JO** asked **GS** to ask about the possibility of creating further indoor sports facilities in the Estates Masterplan to save money from future budgets.

The JCR also noted that the deadline to publish and approve the Budget before this term's EB meeting deadline has already passed, but there may be flexibility.

**JC** questioned if an emergency EB meeting could be held to approve the budget late and **GS** suggested that the previous treasurer be asked how a budget was approved late last year.

Summary: The Budget is mainly complete, but that there are some unresolved punt issues<sup>8</sup> and the Corpus Challenge may need to be only subsidised by the JCR.

### 3. Pool Cues (**JO**)

**JO** noted that it is reasonably needed to ensure that those who break pool cues should have to pay for them, but it is hard to practically ensure this works.<sup>9</sup>

### 2. Any Other Business

**JH** asked if an Active Policy should be drafted on online voting for Open Meetings and it was agreed this would be a good idea when time allows.

Meeting ends at 15.15.

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<sup>8</sup> Only at O\*bridge do the minutes of meetings contain the phrase 'unresolved punt issues' 😬

<sup>9</sup> It's a good job that the Budget discussion ended so promptly because at this point, **GS** had to leave for one of his multitude of other jobs