

JCR Committee Minutes

Meeting on 22.01.2022 at 17.00 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
Claire Collins, CC , they/them	Disabled Students
Izaak Mammadov, IM , he/him	Computing

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Summary of Key Points

1. The Committee approved the creation of MML Soc
2. You will see us in beautiful Pink Soon
3. The committee agreed on putting the Accessible Formats, Accessible Statements, Confidentiality and Gift Declaration Active Policies to the next Open Meeting

4. Discussions with Corpus Christi, Oxford are ongoing, but there was consensus that the JCR budget could cover the bus tickets, making all other individual costs voluntary
 5. The Committee Agreed to a new Active Policy amendment allowing the President to choose a different prize ballot room, subject to College and Open Meeting approval
 6. The Committee discussed proposed changes to the Prize Room Ballot suggested by college
 7. The President and Vice President came to understand the mechanics of the Gender Expression Fund; Formal hall menus may go up in advance; Slacks will have fire wardens; Queer Movie Nights will be Queer and in the McCrum (hopefully); JCR Officers will be budgeted for.
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0. Administrative Matters – Apologies

Meeting begins at 17:06.

1. Introduction and Welcome (**JC**)

JC welcomed the new JCR and thanked them for participating in JCR politics. **JC** noted the excitement in the room for the agenda and reminded the JCR of general procedure.

2. Vote on MML Soc Proposal (**MW/JC**)

JC noted that this is fairly uncontroversial as many subjects have societies and their budget requests are reasonable.

Vote: 15 in favour and 1 abstention.

Summary: The Committee approved the creation of MML Soc

3. Pink Jumpers (**JH**)

JH briefed the JCR on the situation with JCR jumpers, included limited Large and XL stock and asked that those that ordered Large and XL email if they wish to change their order due to limited stock.¹

Summary: You will see us in beautiful Pink Soon

¹ Whoever **JH** is, they did a really good job on this agenda item – they should get a promotion or something

4. Renewal of Active Policies (**GS**)²

GS explained the nature of Active Policies and the vital need to renew them to avoid his own impeachment.³ **JC** decided these should be voted on separately.

4.1 Accessible Formats

GS explained that this details what Accessible Formats involve and when they are needed.

Vote: 16 in favour

4.2 Accessibility Statements

GS explained that this details the need for Accessibility statements for physical events. **GS** noted the existence of templates, which **CC** had never been told about.

Vote: 16 in favour.

4.3 Confidentiality in welfare and liberation roles

GS explained that this sets out what is confidential

Vote: 16 in favour

4.4 JCR Committee gift declaration

GS explained that if you receive something in your capacity as a JCR officer, worth more than £3, then you have to email **JH**.

Vote: 16 in favour⁴

² When the Open Meeting announcement these and the Active Policy discussed in Agenda Item 6 will be emailed out. For the current active policies, please see <https://www.jcr.corpus.cam.ac.uk/active-policies>

³ Which would be an actual disaster – as far as I can tell, the JCR would cease functioning

⁴ We did bother to vote on all of these separately

Summary: The committee agreed on putting the Accessible Formats, Accessible Statements, Confidentiality and Gift Declaration Active Policies to the next Open Meeting

5. Update on Corpus Challenge (**MW**)⁵

MW informed the JCR about the limitations on how much can occur and the Covid based reasons for the delay, as well as changes to Bops due to Covid, potentially including going to a club instead. Bus times are not yet confirmed, but they may be affected by the new Choir activities as part of the events, which might require the buses to leave by 7 or 8 AM, otherwise buses may leave between 8 and 9 AM.

MW noted the challenge of asking for sign-ups before prices can be formulated. People would be paying via their college bills. Coaches, formal halls and clubbing are the main costs, especially buses, which cost over £1000 per return trip (£18-£20 per person). **MW** notes that in past the JCR has paid for bus trips and **JO** confirmed that this would likely be possible again. **JC** noted that, if buses were paid for, it would be much easier to start asking for sign-ups. Capacity would be 100, though the JCR felt that, especially with the MCR (who ought to pay for their coaches), this may be exceeded.

MW noted the problems with clubbing all night before the only buses leave and **CC** also noted that this would not be terribly accessible – there was hope that alternatives could be provided.⁶ **MW** noted college's concerns if any entertainments happen in a club (as the JCR is

⁵ Due to certain people not being present at the start of the meeting, this agenda item was actually discussed first

⁶ At this point, IM and BPW arrive with JC's McDonalds

organising an event and may have liability for any covid infections), though **GS** noted that this may not be college's concern, as it would be offsite.

MW noted Oxford also hope to do a competitive charity event, but that this may be slightly unfair. **MW** noted the need for alternative payment arrangements for food.

JC noted that it would be nice for the JCR Presidents and Vice-Presidents to go to the formal and **GS** noted that it would be useful to check with previous JCR executives if this has precedent.

Summary: Discussions with Corpus Christi, Oxford⁷ are ongoing, but there was consensus that the JCR budget could cover the bus tickets, making all other individual costs voluntary

6. O0 Active Policy (**GS**)

JC handed over the chair to **GS** for the duration of the agenda item. **GS** explained that this policy would fulfil **JC**'s request to not live in O0. **JC** explained that this policy applies generally and handles this circumstance for the future.⁸ **GS** then continued to explain that this change would allow the President to reject O0 and choose a different prize room, subject to the approval of a JCR Open Meeting and agreement of College, with O0 returning to the Prize Ballot. This Active Policy amendment also needs approval from college, but so far they've been supportive.

⁷ Do I have to include the name of the other place in these minutes?

⁸ This intervention from **JC** was quite helpful, but perhaps it shows the passage of the chairmanship had a less significant effect than implied.

GS explained that this policy allows the Presidency to still come with rewards, and ensure that the President gets a big prize room to store things in. The downside is that this breaks a tradition and could be considered just giving a President what they want.

CC noted this could improve accessibility due to the step into O0. **JC** noted that there are also further accessibility benefits for those who need their own cooking facilities.

GS answered the question from **MW** about avoiding the President living far away from college by noting that Open Meeting or College could still reject the request in circumstances such as these and **JC** noted that specifying certain locations could limit the accessibility benefits.

JO asked a question about logistics – the order of events – and **GS** explained, but noted that details on the order of events may need to be added to the new Active Policy, especially as **JC** assented, including the need to specify which room the President wants.

VG asked about precedent for presidents needing accessible rooms and **GS** noted there had been a precedent for Presidents returning to the main ballot if they didn't want O0 and noted that O0 was not always the president's room.

IM noted that the president only live in O0 for one term so this has limited consequences anyway. **GS** noted that the most important time for the president to be in O0 is fresher's week, when lots is stored, and that there is convention that presidents emeritus store stuff in their rooms.⁹

⁹ Even if this causes problems for stash distribution

clarify procedure by requiring President to make a request to the VP for a specific alternative prize room 5 days prior to the first Open Meeting of Lent Term, with the VP then putting this to a vote: 15 in favour, 1 abstention

Vote to put to Open Meeting: 15 in favour and 1 abstention

Summary: The Committee Agreed to an Active Policy amendment allowing the President to choose a different prize ballot room, subject to College and Open Meeting approval, should be put to Open Meeting, in a slightly amended form

7. Room Ballot (**GS**)

GS briefed the JCR about some changes College are keen to make to the Prize Rooms and Room Ballot, which include more randomness for Prize Rooms amongst those who get a first and changing what happens when someone rejects their prize (with implications for the reserve list), and solicited opinions on those potential changes. **JC** noted that college feel these changes allow the reward for academic success to not be mixed up with systems for the financially disadvantaged. **GS** noted he had reservations about the proposals and suggested that there were a variety of views within the JCR: he thus proposed informal votes to gauge the committee's views and further discussions at Open Meeting. The JCR also hope to come to find some sort of compromise proposal.¹⁰

¹⁰ I don't really understand the Room Ballot so didn't really understand these discussions. Is a room ballot even a sensible way to allocate rooms in the first place? After listening to this discussion – I'm convinced there are literally no good systems.

IM noted the possibility of using the ‘Hungarian’ system, but this could be complicated.

Informal vote to gauge opinion on randomising Prize Ballot among all Firsts, not just top 10: 11 in favour, 5 against, 1 abstention.

Informal vote to gauge opinion on not getting a discount and the room going back to the prize list rather than people getting a discount and the room going on the reserve list, when prize rooms are rejected: 1 in favour, 15 against, 1 abstention

Informal vote to gauge opinion on time slots to choose prize rooms in order rather than ranking the prize rooms: 1 in favour, 14 against, 1 abstention.

Summary: The Committee discussed proposed changes to the Prize Room Ballot suggested by college

8. Any other Business

JC noted that **LT** and **EG** need to agree that the Gender Expression fund budget claim should be shared between Gender Equalities and LGBTQ+ under the new constitution, rather than only Gender Equalities claiming it on their budget – **JC** and **GS** it is done this way, rather than being a fund, to protect anonymity. **GS** noted that it may not need to be in the constitution if it is just a budget claim.

EG noted that the nurse needs to be informed about the Gender Equalities fund and that there were few ways to actually do it anonymously – **JO** noted that anonymously claiming budget would be

difficult without specifying that it is for the Gender Expression fund. **IM** noted an Active Policy with College could help with this.

KJ asked if the Committee what could be done for Green Week. **GS** suggested a Vegan formal and **YZ** said he'd contact Iain.

MW asked if formal menus could be posted and how many formals could be done. **YZ** noted that he hopes to either increase capacity or increase the number of formals, or both. **YZ** noted he'd try to get formal menus sent out. **GS** asked if termly menus for normal hall could be sent out by email, but it was noted this may be too subject to change.

GoSz asked for volunteers for fire wardens for slacks, who need to be from the JCR. At least one person needs to be in the bar, so they cannot all be in the welfare zone. **KS** noted that the Welfare officers could be fire wardens and rotate between the bar and welfare area. **JO** volunteered. **VG** also volunteered.

EG is hoping to organise Queer movie nights, beginning in Week 3. Copyright shouldn't be needed, but Carolina is checking. **JC** confirmed it films have happened before, so should be ok. **GS** said he could check with Kate, the college secretary.

JO reminded the JCR of the need to submit their Officer budgets within 1 week, up to 9 days. **GS** reminded Officers to check with their predecessors.

Summary: The President and Vice President came to understand the mechanics of the Gender Expression Fund; Formal hall menus may go

up in advance; Slacks will have fire wardens; Movie nights will be Queer; JCR Officers will be budgeted.¹¹

Meeting ends at 18.38.¹²

¹¹ By this point, we may also have been hungry

¹² I booked a restaurant for 18.15 because there were no spaces left after that until 20.00 – I was clearly feeling far too hopeful when I made that booking