

JCR Open Meeting Minutes

Meeting on 14.02.2023 at 19:30 UK time

List of Committee Members

Names, initials, pronouns and * to mark non-attendance	Role
Neve Baskar, NB , she/her	President
Jacob Hougie, JH , he/him	Vice President
Oliver Law, OL , he/him	Treasurer
Daisy O'Connor, DO , she/her*	Secretary
Luke Tyler, LT , he/him	Welfare
Julia Sinkinson, JS , she/her*	Welfare
James Walker, JW , he/him*	Welfare
Jess M, JM , she/her	Academic and Access
Ryan Simpson, RS , they/them	Green
Yifei Zheng, YZ , he/him*	Catering, Accommodation and Facilities
Amit Ramakrishna Prasad, AR , he/him	Sports and Societies
Neela Nee, NN , she/her	Ents
Freddie Sehgal, FS , he/him	Ethnic Minorities
Cosma Rubben, CR , she/her	International Students
Harley Chidley, HC , they/them	LGBTQ+
Maisie Johnson, MJ	Gender Equalities
Claire Collins, CC , they/them*	Disabled Students
Eleanor Lewis, EL , she/her*	Class Act
Dylan Mankin, DM , he/him*	Computing (non-voting)

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Summary of Key Points

OL proposed a budget with a One Off Purchase fund of £4041 (an increase of c.£2000 on last year) and fulfilling most requests.

The JCR approved the Room Ballot Active Policy, which removed the prize ballot.

The JCR approved the President's Room Active Policy, which moved responsibility for moving requests for a different room to the Senior Tutor and adjusted for the end of the prize ballot.

The JCR approved the Cultural Events Survey, which involves an annual survey of Cultural Events celebrated in college.

The JCR approved taking 2 constitutional amendments to ballot.

The JCR was open to Women and Non-binary hours at the Gym, but cautious about using CCTV for Health and Safety purposes.

Action Points

Budget to go to ballot

NB and **JH** to discuss Room Pointing with College

Survey on Gym hours

Further discussions on Gym CCTV

6. Administrative Matters

Meeting begins.

DO, YZ, EL, DM, JS, JW, CC absent with apologies.

1. Budget (**OL**)

Income this year was slightly reduced, though there is hopefully more financial stability going into the rest of the year.

Total income: £39,385

Total expenditure not counting one-off-purchase fund: £35,259.50

One Off Purchase fund: £4,041.35 (last year £2182.32)

There was a noticeable decrease in the number of society requests for funding from last year, allowing an increase in finance for nearly all requests.

While this must go to EB it must also be approved by the Open Meeting.

Vote to approve the Budget: 28 votes in favour, with 1 abstention.

6. Room Ballot AP (**JH**)

Last term the Room Ballot AP was not approved. A different AP has been proposed this time, including many of the changes included in the draft last term, but removing the prize ballot. There will instead likely be larger prize grants and financial support. This allows for a fairer allocation of rooms according to the random-and-reverse system.

Yosef Abdelhalim: If the prize ballot is removed, does that remove some of the incentive to work well for exams?

NB: The assessment mechanism does not work the same way for all the degrees, with different marking systems, so there is a lot of disparity in who gets considered for the prize ballot. It can affect people mentally who do not get a prize room, so a financial grant would allow for some incentive without the pressure and disparity.

Question: does this mean there are more unaffordable rooms?

JH: All prize rooms will all go onto the main room ballot, with possible re-pointing after a further discussion. Prize rooms were often taken at the unreduced price anyway through the reserve list.

In favour of the Room Ballot AP: 25 in favour (including proxy vote from **JS**), 3 against.

6. President's Room AP **(JH)**

Last year the Active Policy passed included that, if the President rejected OO, they could request a different prize room with the approval of an Open Meeting. It is now entirely the Senior Tutor's prerogative, which aligns with the de facto situation that the Senior Tutor is in charge of room allocation; this change was made at the request of the senior tutor.

Previously, if the room was not taken by the president, it became a prize room, but because of the removal of the prize ballot some changes have also had to be made. If the president resigns after the room ballot, the room would be kept for whomever wins the by-election and the president that resigned would go on the 4th year ballot. If there is a situation where the president is going on a year abroad and will have to resign later. In either situation, if the by-election winner rejects OO, it may go on the 4th year ballot. These situations are not likely to occur frequently.

27 in favour (including one proxy vote from JS) of the President's Room AP, 1 abstention.

4. Cultural Events **(JH)**

The idea is to create a calendar of cultural events celebrated by members of the college, for JCR members and the College to view and plan events around, and to find ways to celebrate those events by planning events accordingly. There would be a survey every academic year to set up the calendar.

28 in favour, including proxy vote for JS.

5. Constitutional Amendments **(NB)**

2 constitutional amendments, which still need to go both to the Executive Body (EB), and a ballot for which 50% of the college body

must vote. The first is to include the Class Act Officer in the list of JCR members for the welfare body (which was left out by mistake). Also to change the JCR financial year to the calendar year, rather than the fiscal year (April-April), to align with elections and other timings.

Voting on referring changes to ballot: 28 in favour (including 1 proxy vote from JS)

5. Room Pointing (**JH**)

Old Court rooms (O0, N1, Q1, Q2) are fairly unpopular due to the loo situation, but with the end of the prize ballot they are entering the Room Ballot, while they are still bands A and C, so very expensive. Ideally we would like to have a discussion about repointing Old Court rooms, but that is unrealistic before the Room Ballot this year. College are willing to reduce the points on these rooms (whereas normally there needs to be a zero-sum change in the rent college collections), as there is normally a rent reduction on prize rooms so the college would not actually lost money. Looking at similar rooms in Old Court for reference in repointing.

LT: I think that they should be repointed and reduced by more than one band, due to the quality of the rooms and facilities attached.

College member: there is a general problem that Old Court rooms are not at a level in which they justify the costs of an extremely high band.

JH: we need to ensure that ex-prize rooms are not substantially cheaper than other Old Court rooms.

NB and **JH** to discuss with College.

6. Women and Non-binary Gym Hours Discussion **(NB)**

There have been discussions about having specific hours for women and non-binary students at the Leckhampton gym. How many people use the gym?

A few people cautiously raised their hands.

College member: Making some hours unavailable to college members might change the schedule of some people

NB: In general it has been a popular suggestion

JH: We can send out a survey as to when the most convenient time is to have the restricted hours, possibly mentioned in the Corporeal or on the Instagram

AR: Information can be included in future gym inductions.

7. CCTV in Leckhampton Gym **(NB)**

There has also been the idea of having CCTV in the gym for health and safety purposes due to its distance from first-aid and 24/7 open hours. With CCTV, the porters would be able to see in case people have an accident or emergency, and the footage would be deleted. The Porters would not be constantly watching the CCTV, but it would increase the chance that someone would notice. Not everyone can access the CCTV footage, so it is safe in the sense of surveillance.

College member: uncomfortable with the idea of the Porters being able to see what is going on through CCTV, as they can look whenever.

NB: can discuss with Jenny Raine, the Domus Bursar, to evaluate options, as it is very discretionary.

LT: if the Porters do not check fairly regularly, is there a point in having the CCTV? Would they need to check every 5-10 minutes in order to properly assist in the case of a heart attack or other emergency?

NB: the idea is that in case something happens, at least somebody has a chance of seeing.

17. Any Other Business

No AOBs, meeting ends at **8:20**