

JCR Open Meeting Minutes

Meeting on 28.04.2022 at 16.00 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
Malachi Gee, MG , he/him	Disabled Students
Izaak Mammadov, IM , he/him*	Computing

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Summary of Key Points

- The JCR reflected on feedback and will aim to consolidate communication, improve moderation of Corpus blogs, improve the provision of non-drinking events and Welfare Zones, investigate Hybrid Meetings and investigate welfare provision during breaks
- GS explained the difficulties in changing the date of the room ballot, but recognised that it did not take place at an ideal time this year, which was a consequence of the delayed Corpus Challenge
- The JCR discussed the Class Act Officer Active Policy, which is intended to guide students in whether they might self-identify as part of the electorate for the Class Act Officer. The Policy will only need to be passed in Michaelmas so the JCR Committee hopes to engage with all members of the JCR on how best to write this guidance
- **JC** updated the JCR on the inclusivity reasons for renaming the punt (from 'The Blessed Virgin Ferry' to 'Punty McPunface') and on the timeline for the naming ceremony and booking system
- The JCR discussed the optimal length of time for the punts to be bookable for
- **GS** consulted with the JCR about plans to encourage college to fly the Trans Flag during Day of Remembrance in November and Trans Day of Visibility in March and to fly the Pride Flag during the whole of Pride Month, as well as gauging views on whether lobbying for the 'Progress' flag instead was important to those present.

Action Points

1. Amend Active Policy to reflect that fitting into any one category might be sufficient to self-identify as 'Class Act'
2. Further investigate lack of clarity around BME terminology and how the JCR could clarify
3. MCR to be asked about a shorter lease on the booking system
4. **GS** to continue investigating storage options
5. MCR to be asked about the load weighting of the punt
6. **GS and EG** to work to encourage the college to fly the trans flag for trans events and the pride flag for all of pride month.

0. Administrative Matters – Apologies and Welcome

Meeting begins at 16.10. **GoSz, KJ, MW, LT, JOG, IM and NB** are absent with apologies. **MM and KS** are absent.

JC welcomed everyone to the meeting and back to term and went on to explain that since no votes were required at this meeting, no quorum was required, but that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Class Act policy and discuss other updates on JCR business.¹

1. Reflection on the JCR Feedback Form (**JC**)

1.1 Major Points of Reflection²

1. JCR will aim to send fewer emails, but to consolidate the messages we send more, including by making use of a more regular email from the president.
2. The Welfare team has decided to meet with the authors of non-JCR publications to ensure that they consider welfare needs when making jokes about people and has agreed to try and improve its own moderation of Pelikinds.
3. The JCR will aim to improve its provision of non-drinking events, expanding on Yoga, ParTeas and Open Mic Nights with events like pub quizzes and possibly outdoor Yoga and mindfulness.
4. The JCR will try to ensure that Slack Welfare Zones remain quiet enough for people that need it.

¹ Snacks were provided at this meeting and the turnout was fairly good – a coincidence?

² For more detail please see the Committee Meeting Minutes from 27/04/22

5. **JC, GS and JH** will work on introducing an Active Policy to regulate Hybrid Meeting, improving the accessibility of JCR Meetings without producing the same difficulties of previous online voting and attendance.³
6. **JC** will include summaries of JCR activity in weekly emails, in addition to the existing minute summaries to further improve the accessibility of JCR activity⁴
7. Although the Welfare team can't always stay in college, or be expected to provide welfare events during breaks, they will discuss with the MCR and College to investigate co-ordination on out-of-term welfare events, and consider running online events to improve the provision during breaks

1.2 Discussion of feedback on Room Ballot timing

GS explained why the Room Ballot would be difficult to move to a time of year when it was less stressful – Easter term is more stressful;⁵ if it were earlier in Lent term, there wouldn't be time to organise it or to provide photos and reviews; **GS** also recognised that this year was worse because it took place in Week 8 because it had to be after the Corpus Challenge, which had been postponed, but that in future Week 6/7 or, in extremis, Week 8, would probably still be the best time.

Daniel Starkey (DS) asked why it couldn't be done over the summer holiday, but **GS** responded that over the summer is harder because people are less engaged with college life, some people are at work or on

³ **cough** **cough**

⁴ Weekly emails? I feel like I've heard that before

⁵ Please help us

holiday so can't be reached during a certain slot and no one can visit rooms before choosing.⁶

Anna Harper (AH) asked why it couldn't take place immediately at the end of Lent Full Term, but **GS** explained that some people will have already left or be in the process of leaving and unable to be available for a certain slot – for example many international students will spend much of that weekend at airports and on flights..

Summary:

- The JCR reflected on feedback and will aim to consolidate communication, improve moderation of Corpus blogs, improve the provision of non-drinking events and Welfare Zones, investigate Hybrid Meetings and investigate welfare provision during breaks
- GS explained the difficulties in changing the date of the room ballot, but recognised that it did not take place at an ideal time this year, which was a consequence of the delayed Corpus Challenge

2. Discussion of the 'Class Act' Definition (**JC**)⁷

JC explained that a draft policy had been sent out in advance of the meeting and that the intention was now to discuss this active policy.

JC outlined that like most other Liberation officers, the Class Act Officer electorate would be based on self-identification, with officers representing and supporting those in their electorate. Self-identification is not 'policed', but is a matter for personal feeling, but it was felt that an

⁶ As someone on the reserve list, I can confirm that all of these aspects are quite stressful

⁷ Viz. <https://www.cambridgesu.co.uk/organisation/6054/>

Active Policy giving guidance on what circumstances might lead someone to identify as a part of the Class Act electorate would be helpful, especially because it is new terminology and new freshers might not understand what it means.

JC explained that the draft Active Policy is based on the CSU definition:⁸ those who have faced (or are facing) social, educational, cultural or economic disadvantage, where this isn't solely the result of a characteristic which falls within the remit of another Liberation Officer.

The draft Active Policy also includes examples to provide guidance: those who identify as working class, who come from a low-income family, who attended a non-selective state school, who are the first generation of their family to attend university, as well as care leavers, estranged students, refugees, asylum seekers and those who have experienced unstable accommodation or homelessness.

Finally, the draft Active Policy also includes guidance to international students on how to consider these ideas and examples from the UK system and apply them to their own experience.⁹

JC recognises that some people have concerns about using self-identification, but notes that we already place trust in self-identification for other officers and that there haven't been any notable issues about 'fraudulent' self-identification.

AH asked if there was a caveat for people who went to private schools on bursaries – **JC** responded that other categories (other than state school) would apply like low-income or working-class. **JH** asked if it was

⁸ Not that we affiliate with the CSU, of course

⁹ The Draft Active Policy was attached to the email announcing the Open Meeting and (hopefully) is also attached to the Corporeal and the website

worth stressing that any one category could be enough to self-identify as Class Act.

James Hazell (JaHa) asked whether International students might need guidance to recognise that income levels in the UK and their home country may be different and that class might consequently be different by country, but **JC and GS** felt that simply giving guidance on using ‘whatever indicators they consider appropriate’ would be sufficient. **JaHa** suggested it might be worth adding guidance on what ‘low-income’ looks like, but **GS** noted that this might make it less of a self-identification because it looks more rigid and **JC** felt not to be overly concerned about people whether people don’t fit other people’s ideas of a ‘Class Act student’, so long as self-identification is genuine and argues that since there are nuances in the term ‘Class Act’, the Active Policy tries to recognise this.

JaHa asked for clarity on the the role of the Class Act Officer and **JC** explained that the Access Officer was never technically a Liberation Officer, yet was often informally expected to act as one, whereas the Class Act Officer would formally be 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).¹⁰

Luka Murphy (LM) asked if the other roles have definitions. **JC** responded that the constitution does define roles and **GS** notes that there is less contestation over the terms for the other officers.

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

However, **JH** raises that there is some contestation over the term BME and that consequently the government no longer recommends the term and **VG** adds that BME includes all non-White British people including herself, but she chooses not to self-identify as BME as a White-European person. **JC** recognises this lack of clarity, but adds that constitutionally the officer is called the Ethnic Minority officer, but is known informally as the BME officer, but that further clarity on the term might be needed.

LM asked if 'Class Act' would include religious minorities, but **GS** recognises that many Class Act people may well not be from a religious minority and that religious minorities are already de facto represented by the BME officer and the rest of the JCR, such as at Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) team meetings and notes **MM**'s success in improving the provision of halal food and its labelling.

Action Points:

7. Amend Active Policy to reflect that fitting into any one category might be sufficient to self-identify as 'Class Act'
8. Further investigate lack of clarity around BME terminology and how the JCR could clarify

Summary:

- The JCR discussed the Class Act Officer Active Policy, which is intended to guide students in whether they might self-identify as part of the electorate for the Class Act Officer. The Policy will only need to be passed in Michaelmas so the JCR Committee hopes to engage with all members of the JCR on how best to write this guidance

3. Update on the punt (**JC**)¹¹

JC explained that the original name for the punt (The Blessed Virgin Ferry), was offensive to some and sparked some concerns relevant to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, especially as not many people know it is a reference to the second part of the college's name, and that consequently the punt had to be renamed.¹² **JC** explained that we are still waiting for the MCR to inform us of when the punt will be usable and when the naming ceremony can happen.

JC explained that there was no time for a second round of suggestions and voting, so there was only a vote based on the original suggestions, as the name has to be removed from the punt and repainted.

JC announced that the new name is Punt McPuntface and although Clare already have a punt called that¹³, **GS** explained that, although this isn't particularly imaginative, there doesn't appear to be any practical hurdle to having a duplicate name.¹⁴

JC recognised how exciting it is to finally be able to use the punt after some real trials and tribulations,¹⁵ but did note that some extra costs had to be funded from Ringfenced Invested Funds (RIF), which was deemed appropriate as the amount was small and it was in the spirit of the ballot we'd already had on funding the punt from the RIF without affecting the

¹¹ I'm still slightly traumatised by minuting this punt

¹² The College of Corpus Christi and Blessed Virgin Mary

¹³ Which **AH** noted had originally been set to be called the Clarebuoyant, which is perhaps an even better pun than 'The Blessed Virgin Ferry'

¹⁴ Upon the announcement of the name there were some shaking heads and some excited jubilation

¹⁵ **cough** **cough**

annual budget.¹⁶ Constitutionally, the amount could be approved by the Committee and **JC** reported that it was yesterday.

DS asked where the punt would be stored. To which **GS** responded it would be moored at St John's in the summer when in use and in winter it would either be stored with the boat maker (which would be expensive) or that he is working with college staff to find a cheaper on-site alternative, likely at Leckhampton.

AH said it could be stored near the Squash Courts, but **GS** understands that other possibilities are currently the main focus of discussions.

YZ asks about the booking system and **JC** says the MCR Computing Officer is working on this and that the system will involve either book for ½ a day or 1 day for a small fee. **YZ** asks if there could be an option to book for just 1 hour, but **JC** recognises that the logistics of making sure this happens is complicated because people may not return the punt on time. **MW** says other colleges have this, but we might need 30 minute buffers between bookings to ensure that people do indeed return on time. **AH** suggests 2.5 or 3 hours might be good periods for short leases. **YZ** recognises that it might be busy immediately after we gain access to the punt, so shorter periods would let more people use it and that shorter periods would be helpful as people are likely to be bad punters and prefer short leases.¹⁷

GS also explained that both MCR and JCR members can use either the MCR or the JCR punt.

¹⁶ In light of the difficulty in producing a balance budget, viz. Committee and Open Meetings on 22/02/22, this is much appreciated

¹⁷ I'm actually scared of boats so I'm too much of a coward to think I could book a punt for more than a few minutes

MW wanted to check what the load weighting was, but **GS** didn't know and will have to ask the MCR.¹⁸

Action Points:

1. MCR to be asked about a shorter lease on the booking system
2. **GS** to continue investigating storage options
3. MCR to be asked about the load weighting of the punt

Summary:

- **JC** updated the JCR on the inclusivity reasons for renaming the punt (from 'The Blessed Virgin Ferry' to 'Punty McPunface') and on the timeline for the naming ceremony and booking system
- The JCR discussed the optimal length of time for the punts to be bookable for

4. Any Other Business

GS explained that the EDI team had met with the JCR and MCR Liberation Officers on the morning of 28/04/22 and that **EG**, **GS** and Ewan St. John Smith had discussed flags flying on the college flagpole. **GS** explained that while college is good at flying the Pride flag and the pan-African flag, and we were one of the first for the Ukraine flag, **GS** expressed the hope that Corpus could become a leader on flag flying.¹⁹

GS suggested that the JCR may wish to advocate to the college authorities to fly the trans flag (since lots of colleges do this) on appropriate days (likely Trans Awareness Week and Trans Day of

¹⁸ Only an architect would want to know the load weighting, but it is a very important thing to know

¹⁹ I'd like to think that we would/could be a leading college for diversity and inclusion, but leading for flag flying might work as an interim measure as part of working toward that

Remembrance in November and on Trans Day of Visibility in March), as well as flying the pride flag for the whole month of pride (June), rather than just the first and last days of that month. **GS** explains that this would look more welcoming to prospective LGBTQ+ applicants and help make current students feel more included.

GS explained that the decision was for the Master (and possibly GB), but that the JCR may wish to lobby for it, and he sought the view of the Open Meeting before setting this in motion.²⁰

JC added that Ewan had already recognised that there are some specific days in June that we might need to swap out the Pride for another flag (e.g. Corpus Christi Day) if we had the Pride flag for the rest of the month of June.

GS also asked for views on whether we should we fly the progress flag instead. **GS** feels it is not a priority because we already asking for the trans flag to be flown (he suggests this should be top priority) and the pan-African flag is already flown, but that the progress flag is also not yet the most-widely used symbol of pride month in the UK in his view. **GS** asked if there were strong opinions on either side, but there didn't seem to be many.

MW asked if we could ask college to be flexible and **GS** explained that subsequent requests under the flag ordinance²¹ could be made by future committees, but that the aim is simply for the EDI team & JCR liberation team to push for what they see as an improvement on current practice.

²⁰ There were nods of approval

²¹ How is there a flag ordinance?! This is almost the pinnacle of bureaucracy - https://www.corpus.cam.ac.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/additional_ordinances_approved_june_2018.pdf , p.15 (Section B - ORDINANCE ON FLYING FLAGS FROM THE COLLEGE FLAGPOLE)

Coby O'Brien suggested it could be a good idea to survey the student body, but **GS** doesn't want to raise false hope of a free choice by the student body because the matter is the Master's decision. **GS** adds that if the JCR changes its mind about progress, it can push for change again.

JC also adds that a vote might raise questions about the need to prioritise the views of LGBTQ+ people in a formal decision like a vote.

JaHa says that flying the pride flag and other flags combined is about equal to flying the progress flag instead of the pride flag and **GS** recognises that the priority should be to ensure the trans flag is also flown.

AH asks about a return to the pre-covid music room booking and **GS** recommends asking the porters because they are working on a new system, but there he is unsure what the current system is before the new system is ready.

The meeting also wished **JC** luck for the union debate this evening.²²

Action Points

- **GS and EG** to work to encourage the college to fly the trans flag for trans events and the pride flag for all of pride month.

Summary:

- **GS** consulted with the JCR about plans to encourage college to fly the Trans Flag during Day of Remembrance in November and Trans Day of Visibility in March and to fly the Pride Flag during the

²² The motion before the house was "THB Private Schools are a Force For Good", for which **JC** was opposing the motion

whole of Pride Month, as well as gauging views on whether lobbying for the 'Progress' flag instead was important to those present.

Meeting ends at 16.45.