

JCR Presidential Hustings Minutes

Meeting on 17.11.2021 at 19:00 UK time

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0. Administrative matters

Meeting begins at 19:10.

Zachary Aw (ZA) laments the lack of drinking and the consequent death of Corpus student democracy. **ZA** notes the unfortunate fact that the other candidate HGR has not attended the hustings, and outlines the rules of the hustings.

1. Presidential Candidate Speech - Jamie Charles

Jamie Charles (JC): It is unfortunate that my stiff competition Hugh was disqualified from Husting's tonight, but I hope my speech will fill you with enough enjoyment from the both of us. In the next five minutes, I hope to address three main questions: why do I want to be president? why would I be a good president? what would I do as president?

I would like to be JCR president as I would like to make a difference to the corpus community. I found my role as access officer very rewarding, but I was constantly eager to help out with more, this includes contributing to welfare meetings and arranging events such as girl's night in. My impact as Access Officer was primarily on prospective students (and the bridging course cohort) but as President I would be able to make changes for all of our current students and the ones in years to come. The changes I wish to make concern the addition of a class act officer to the committee, welfare support, social media, communication and making the JCR a reliable body for student concerns. I will come onto how I hope to make these changes later.

Firstly, because I care about people, especially Corpuscles. I hope this attribute will motivate me to be resilient in delivering on my promises and student concerns.

As previously mentioned, I have gone above and beyond in my role as Access Officer. I took it upon myself to work with Nell and the welfare team to begin resolving concerns about sexual misconduct as I was aware that despite out of my remit, it was crucial that action was taken.

Moreover I have the skill set required. I am confident, approachable, organised and able to communicate student needs with Tutorial in an effective way. I have experience in the JCR and further committees and work well within them.

Because of how much I value Corpus and its community, and because of the skills I have acquired over my first year, I would never let myself or others down in the role.

Amending the constitution for this role would be fairly straightforward and make the world of difference. I believe this role should be an integral part of the liberation and welfare teams,

as we have an increasing number of state school students who are likely to identify as working class. Currently any welfare support for these concerns placed upon the access officer. The division of roles would allow both individuals to work together and become more specialised in their areas. Moreover, as with any other liberation role it means that only individuals identifying as working class can run for the role and experience with this background is crucial in providing welfare support for these issues, whereas Access officer may feel more passionate about inclusivity, Class Act officer is able to specialise.

I would like to put a case forward to Tutorial for the employment of an additional/more available college counsellor in order to reduce the wait times that students are currently facing. Moreover, I think it is important for college to provide alternatives to counselling as it is not helpful for everyone. Whether this takes the form of support groups, skills workshops or mindfulness, a greater variety of options allows for more satisfied students.

I want to promise that I will raise student concerns regardless of how difficult this conversation may be. I want students to be able to have trust in their JCR and freely communicate their concerns and know that the committee are working as hard as possible to make a difference. This development in the committee and student body relationship should make the JCR a more useful tool for students.

I want to re-vamp Corpus's online presence. Our favourites corpuscambridge and corpuscaf are much more active on instagram than us, and we're the youngest account owners. As much as Facebook has become a staple in my life since coming to Cambridge, we cannot doubt the utility of advertising our events and messages across a broader range of apps. This also gives us the opportunity to build a pleasant community for ourselves and potentially for prospective students – with a good array of pictures documenting life at corpus.

Lastly, I would continue the JCR update emails that Zac currently produces. The alterations I would make to this are making them more succinct and therefore accessible to students, and also including a chance to showcase the hard work and achievements of members of the wider student body, beyond the committee.

1.1. Questions for Presidential Candidate - Jamie Charles

Izaak Mammdov (IM): Stance on Cambridge Student Union and the affiliation status?

JC: Will not determine herself, would be guided by the student view.

Anna Gungaloo (AG): Opinion on strikes?

JC: Does not want to give a view for the student body, rather it would be a matter for the Committee, following the promotion of the student body.

Geethana Yogarajah (GY): Social media management?

JC: Would be preferable to have it shared between members of the Committee, perhaps as a sub-committee.

Malachi Gee (MG): Considering the candidates' manifestos, lack of democratic participation which leads to contested roles?

JC: No unfavourable candidates, and although some are not concerned with JCR democracy at the moment, believes that will be conducive to the promotion of JCR democracy.

Point of Information (POI) - Zachary Aw (ZA): Is the current JCR not chill?

JC: JCR Committee is presently chill, but the next one should be more chill.

Kit Edgecliffe-Johnson (KEJ): What will the punt be called?

JC: Would be a matter for the people, but an idea was suggested, which may not be reflected in the minutes.

ZA: How would JCR-MCR relations be handled, as there has been emphasis thereon in the current JCR?

JC: Sees that there is a platform of cooperation between the JCR and MCR, representing the interests of the entire student body against the College.

ZA: Opinion on MCR equivalence with the JCR, i.e. becoming their own independent body?

JC: Let democracy decide.

Ben Cliff (BC): Do you have any controversial opinions?

JC: No.

MG: Would the candidates support the reopening of nominations with the RON option?

JC: I am a democrat, so would accept the RON victory, if it happened. I would take the L.

IM: Studying a STEM subject like PBS, how will you manage the workload?

JC: Has proper time management with the Access Officer, and can find any reason to procrastinate the degree.

Deryn Warner (DW): Would it be possible for the candidate to explain their proposed alternatives to the College Counsellor?

JC: Suggests skills workshop sessions, akin to those which are run by the UCS, e.g. study skills support group, with plans already in the works for a group related to sexual misconduct in College.

MG: Would any of the candidates make any motions attempting to increase intercollegiate relations in their events?

JC: Would be worth pursuing, although there are strong links with CU officers already in these fields.

Nell Ivimey-Parr (NIP): Any ideas related to the creation of a community atmosphere in the JCR?

JC: Intra-Committee relations have been supported primarily recently through events such as JCR-MCR dinner, but has been unable to flourish beforehand, making sure that such events are not entirely insular.

ZA: What is the opinion of the candidate when it comes to the expansion of the College's student body, and what is the view on the students being placed out at Leck?

JC: Unsure of how facilities at Leck will be accessed, but negotiations may be ongoing with the JCR. Greater number of Corpuscles is not a concern on the basis that proper facilities and support are available, although this is to some extent out of our hands.

ZA: Detail in the candidates' manifesto about president emails being too long - is there something which **JC** would like to say?

JC: Would be preferable to write some kinds of summaries on the basis of making the emails accessible.

POI - ZA: The administration aims to separate out the spurious stuff in the emails.

DW: Would you agree that there may be too many emails?

JC: Yes.

Matthew Wadey (MW): Will Bene't the Bear remain in residence in the JCR?

JC: Yes, and he will be cleaned if the budget permits.

BC: What would Corpus do regarding working with the Decolonisation movement?

JC: Corpus has a tradition of apoliticalness, but does engage in issues when the student body is directly affected.

DW: Is the apolitical standpoint not necessarily a political standpoint in favour of the status quo, which is not fair when significant numbers of the JCR are minorities?

JC: This is to be considered sensitively when this is raised by the student body.

ZA: Is it not the case that decolonisation is now part of the canon and that it is not fair to place the onus on students to bring these issues forward in an institution which they feel perpetuates the status quo?

JC: This is something to be considered in line with the JCR Committee, specifically the BME officer, so that this issue can be managed sensitively.

MG: Does the President exist as an MP or as a husk into which the Committee's views can be placed?

JC: We must strike a balance between acting as a vessel for the views of the JCR and also expressing their own opinions, as have previous JCR Presidents.

IM: Favourite cocktail in the Pelican?

JC: Mary Collins.

NIP: Make any one change to the functioning of College, what would it be? What would you have as your legacy?

JC: Would have its own proper code of conduct on sexual misconduct.

ZA: **JC's** views on reading week?

JC: It would be something positive but would be hard to implement, rather this would be a long-term battle.

MG: Something.

AG: Favourite Doctor Who?

JC: David Tennant, after clarification.

James Walker (JW): Is the candidate 'swifty'?

JC: Of course.

MG: Has the candidate been annoyed by the questions?

JC: No comment.

ZA: Thanks for attendance.

Meeting ends at 19:46.

