

JCR Open Meeting Minutes

Meeting on 07.03.2023 at 17:30 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

College accommodation rent is increasing by 6% next academic year, and the college invites students to talk to their tutors about financial support if that is going to affect them.

Gym safety ideas are to be taken to college.

4 redundant Active Policies were allowed to lapse after a vote by the student body.

Action Points

The JCR are to bring suggestions for Leckhampton gym safety to Gemma Donaldson.

The 4 Active Policies mentioned are to be allowed to lapse.



0. Administrative Matters

Meeting begins at 17:41

OL, YZ, EL, DM absent with apologies.

1. Rent (**NB**)

College has announced that rent will increase 2023-24 by 6%. Marina Frasca-Spada, the Senior Tutor (**MFS**), and Jenny Raine, the Bursar (**JR**) were in attendance at the meeting to answer student questions.

NB: How did we come to the 6% increase?

JR: Setting rent has been difficult, and has previously been guided by Consumer Prices Index including housing costs (CPIH). Now the college is trying to find a balance between covering costs and making it feasible financially. The CPIH this year is 8.7%, meaning that college is under pressure from gas and electricity costs (£0.5 million increase next year). While they do not want to increase rent by an amount that is difficult for everyone, they cannot allow too large a deficit. The aim is to smooth out the rent increase over the next 5 years.

MFS: The college has always offered a lot of financial support, and would like to emphasise that it is not about 'hardship', but about financial support for all who need it before hardship occurs.

The college has restricted funds, which are the results of benefactions with stipulations, often requiring that they go towards student support. While these are not enough to provide a universal subsidy, they are enough to provide help to all those who need it, and everyone in college

should be aware that this support is available. Additionally, the university and colleges have the Cambridge Bursary Scheme to provide help for those who already need financial assistance,. Please talk to your tutor about any financial support you may need.

MJ: Are the electricity prices charged on the college bill going to change?

JR: The college has not yet worked out what the charge is going to be for the students

LT: A lot of first years are confused by how electricity is charged in general - how does it work?

JR: Expecting to be charged by the end of the term, she will contact **NB** about the details

NB: If we went to our tutor and did not qualify for the Cambridge Bursary Scheme, what would we be able to do?

MFS: There is no threshold to qualify for the College's financial support, the college considers cases individually. If there are problems with speaking to the tutor, then students should go to **MFS**, but she has no recollection of anyone that has been refused assistance in the last 15 years, as the system is individualised.

Jamie Charles: Previous applications for financial assistance to college have required filling out a spreadsheet with expenses and income, which is difficult to do. Will there be some kind of guide if this is needed for the rent assistance?

MFS: Would suggest speaking with your tutor, and she can ask the tutorial office to provide a guide. What kind of guidance is needed?

Jamie Charles: Helpful guidance would be how to calculate expected expenditure, what comes under different categories, etc.

MFS: The JCR should have a conversation to decide what guidance is needed, and then return that to college.

JR: Another college previously ran workshops on budgeting, and she is happy to offer that provided by the finance and/or tutorial office.

College member: Has college done anything to improve insulation as the rooms are very cold, with energy costs in mind?

JR: The college have commissioned a piece of work to see how rooms across college can be insulated, though it is very expensive, so the plan is in development and will take a long time.

College member: Is there any visibility for the buildings committee?

JR: it does get discussed in the buildings committee, for which **JH** is the representative

If anyone has any questions, feel free to directly contact Jenny or Marina

2. Gym safety **(NB)**

In the previous meeting, we discussed how Gemma Donaldson is concerned about how the gym is far away and is used at many different times, so if there is an injury, it is not that easy to alert people. The college is talking about installing CCTV cameras. At a previous meeting, the JCR was unsure whether people are comfortable with the CCTV cameras. Are there any other ideas? Gemma proposed a few days a

week where the CCTV is on, and other days where people must go in groups.

Attendants of the meeting expressed concerns about people being able to see what occurs in the gym at all times while CCTV cameras are used in most normal gyms, though considerations about whether there is anyone going to notice if you are hurt are prominent. Ideas suggested by college were a tap-in/tap-out system using CamCards, and lone worker alarms, depending on college budget.

3. Active Policies (JH)

The Active Policies being considered are the Green Officer AP, Resignations Procedure AP, DSO AP, and JCR Policies AP, all of which are mostly included in the new constitution, so are now irrelevant. The JCR is required to bring them to an Open Meeting after a after 2 years, but we recommend letting them lapse for that reason.

Vote: 28 votes in favour of letting all of the Active Policies lapse

3. Any Other Business

Meeting ends at **18:17**