



JCR General Meeting 10 - Minutes

TT21, Sunday 16th May

Motion: Ruskin School of Art Degree Show 2021

Proposed by: Katie Morris

Seconded by: Maya Coleborn

This JCR notes that:

- The Ruskin's Degree Show is an annual exhibition that represents the culmination of all graduating Fine Artist's work. The Degree Show acts as a launchpad for some of the brightest careers in the arts, helping young artists to gain recognition and support at the crucial early stages of their profession. It is also a public facing event that engages with both local and online audiences, as well as being the most significant event in the calendar to increase access to the Fine Art course at Oxford University.
- The impact of the pandemic and remote learning is felt particularly hard by Fine Art finalists, who can no longer have a Degree Show in the usual format before the point of graduating in 2021. The graduating cohort are in the process of resolving an alternative Degree Show programme, and are considering a combination of a short and longer publication, online exhibition, and / or using fundraised monies to organise an exhibition, when it is safe to do so.
- The Degree Show is an annual event that on average comes in at an expense of £11,500. Students are expected to fundraise the majority of this. So far, we are attempting to fundraise through drawing sales, marketing events, and JCR donations. Under the limitations of the pandemic, our fundraising outlets are restricted.
- Each year this JCR has generously committed a minimum of £600 per Fine Art finalist studying at St Anne's.

This JCR believes that:

- That St Anne's has a close and intimate relationship with The Ruskin as a neighbouring department and has two JCR members who will / would have exhibited at The Degree Show this year.
- It is important to invest and support our local artistic community, especially those who are a part of our JCR.

- It is important that the JCR helps to prevent its Fine Art member's future prospects being severely limited by the impact of the pandemic on the Degree Show, and that this can be done by financially supporting the cause.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- To contribute £600 for the Fine Art JCR members exhibiting at The Degree Show 2021
- That if the Degree Show in its revised format falls under the estimated costs, that all excess monies contributed by the JCR will be returned.

PROPOSER:

- We need the money to fundraise for an online exhibition and two publications
- The main thing you work for in a fine arts degree
- Influential people will be invited to view the art
- Will need to advertise more (as its harder to drum up interest when its online, not matter how exciting the attractions are) which requires a little bit more money this year.

QUESTIONS:

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DEBATE:

1) Supporting the motion:

-

2) Against the motion:

-

VOTE:

For: 24

Against: 1

Abstain: 1

The motion has passed

Motion: Creation of Alumnae Relations Officer Role for the JCR Committee

Proposed by: Amy Langer

Seconded by: Bilal Aly

This JCR notes that:

- Based on work started this academic year by the JCR Women's Representative, it would be beneficial for the JCR Committee to elect a dedicated role for an individual to lead student-alumnae relations so that the benefits of the student-alumnae partnership and the work of the Women's Representative can both be of maximum benefit to the JCR.
- The St Anne's Society (St Anne's alumnae network) holds termly main committee meetings at which there is currently no formally established student representation. This is significant due to the fact that all St Anne's students become members of the St Anne's Society on matriculation.
- (The use of *alumnae* as opposed to *alumni* is in line with college's usage of *alumnae* to refer to all past students of St Anne's, regardless of gender. See *Why are former St Anne's students called 'alumnae' instead of 'alumni'?* here: <https://www.st-annes.ox.ac.uk/alumnae/our-alumnae/>)

This JCR believes that:

- An Alumnae Relations Officer should be elected to the JCR Committee. This Officer would work with the JCR, the St Anne's Society and the Development Office to maintain and improve student-alumnae relations.
- Benefits of the student-alumnae relationship to the JCR include: increased opportunity to host events for the JCR with alumnae; mentorship and networking opportunities; increased sense of community for both students and alumnae; fundraising opportunities; maintaining students' connection with college post-graduation.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- Add the role of 'Alumnae Relations Officer' to join the JCR Committee.
The constitution should be amended to facilitate this as follows:

Addition to Section 3 – Duties and functions of the JCR Committee Officers – Subsection 20:

19. The Alumnae Relations Officer Shall:

- Act as an interface between the JCR and the St. Anne's Society (SAS); liaising with the JCR President where necessary;*

- ii. To develop a closer working relationship with the SAS in order to support undergraduate JCR members more effectively*
- iii. To attend the termly Main Committee meetings of the SAS*
- iv. To encourage alumnae to engage with local Oxford University access and outreach activities, and raise the profile of the College among aspiring students.*
- v. To facilitate the freshers' events (more recently online events) run by the Branches that provide an opportunity for students to meet each other and prepare for going up to Oxford.*
- vi. To encourage alumnae to work with the Development Office to provide personal development and careers advice in their specialist fields.*
- vii. To work with the SAS to identify online activities of mutual interest or benefit, for example Linked In training.*

PROPOSER:

- Started working with the SAS through a chance meeting
- They have a lot of resources the JCR could capitalise on
- They are keen to engage with more current students
- Currently only have a connection to college, not the JCR
- We could get more money for college if we build a personal relationship

QUESTIONS:

1. Would the first election be this term?
 - a. Yes – if not it can roll over until next year.
2. Do you mind it being unofficial this year (as the SU does not have this role in their election system yet)?
 - a. The best logistical way forward to be discussed in the next JCR Committee meeting
3. How will you make sure someone applies as we have a low uptake for committee positions this year?
 - a. Social distancing has made engaging with the JCR harder for Freshers this year, so worse case we roll it over to next year when (hopefully) we can have more in-person JCR events and meetings.
 - b. Happy to be the 'face' of the position and promote it to others (e.g., emphasise the networking opportunities)
 - c. You don't have to be a fresher to apply

DEBATE:

3) Supporting the motion:

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4) Against the motion:

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VOTE:

For: 26

Against: 0

The motion has passed

Motion: Donate £500 to the Oxbridge Student Action for COVID Relief in India fund

Proposed by: Hayden Searle

Seconded by: James Ng

This JCR notes that:

- The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on both Indian civilian life and the healthcare system, principally due to the shortage of oxygen supplies it has engendered.
- India's daily COVID deaths continue to rise, with a seven day average of over 4,000, as well as almost 400,000 daily cases (as of 12th May).
- Global media has reported patients dying in hospital for lack of oxygen, people dying in queues on the streets waiting to be treated, and the bereaved having to fight to cremate loved ones.
- North American and Western European states have regularly blocked vaccine component exports to the Global South and have benefitted from the Global South continuing to export both vaccines and vaccine components.
- Hundreds of Oxford University students and staff members have personally watched loved ones in the crisis in India suffer from afar, unable to be with them in their last moments.
- There is a strong track record of Common Rooms giving one-off donations to urgent and pressing causes when local and global events have transpired.
- Over 90% of India's oxygen supplies have already been diverted for medical use. The situation will turn, crucially, on international supplies of oxygen and medical aid.

This JCR believes that:

- The Oxbridge Student Action for COVID Relief in India fund is a reputable organisation consulting with experts in both the UK and India in order to distribute donations to the regions and sectors in hospitals and wider society where the greatest effects would be seen.
- The JCR should offer financial support to relief efforts in India via this fundraiser

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- Donate £500 to the Oxbridge Student Action for COVID Relief in India fund.
Link: https://www.gofundme.com/f/oxford-student-action-for-covid-relief-in-india?utm_medium=copy_link&utm_source=customer&utm_campaign=p_lco%20share-sheet&fbclid=IwAR1nIHkUzMqdn4I_wwQW0xWu66gPWz6GA3PrJAfGNPb7P1mC1xFPpKs6P6I

PROPOSER:

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QUESTIONS:

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DEBATE:

5) Supporting the motion:

-

6) Against the motion:

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VOTE:

For: 26

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

The motion has passed

Hustings for Access, Disabilities, LGBTQ+ and BAME Reps

Access

- **Dan (he/him):**
 - Need someone relatable in the role
 - Three focuses: encouraging prospective applicants, welcoming interviewees, supporting students with imposter syndrome
 - Getting alumnae involved
 - Being visible and approachable
- **Emily (she/her):**
 - Making sure students involved in outreach are also part of minority groups that are being targeted
 - Encouraging intercollege events, such as the uni-wide SU initiative 'Class Act'. This will widen the reach of students with similar background
 - Make the financial assistance (such as applying for hardship funding) more accessible, more transparent and less scary.
- **Immy (she/her):**
 - 80% increase of state schools in oxford in last 5 years – come from internal structures and she wants to continue this trend
 - Difference between getting in and getting to the other side - we need to support students all the way through their degree
 - Run fun social events for people to meet others from similar backgrounds in a casual setting
 - Also, some more targeted welfare discussion sessions.
- **Question:** How will you be honest in your outreach work if you know that the imposter syndrome continues throughout your degree?
 - **D** – No access rep can resolve imposter syndrome, but they can empathise, listen and help guide them to appropriate help.
 - **E**- Important to run events that aren't just subject based, using honest students and asking them to be transparent in their accounts of college life. Use statistics. Important to not segregate students from the mainstream body, open events which approach taboos topics for all to join in if they want to.
 - **I** – make sure outreach comes from an empathic voice. There is nothing abnormal about imposter syndrome, you will feel less alone during the term if you meet people who feel the same
- **Question:** It's currently hard to get people involved in events, how will you encourage people to come (e.g. this year's imposter syndrome workshop had a very small turn out)?
 - **D** – Working with other colleges to spread the reach of the event (invite their students to join in).

- **E**- Building on Dan's idea, some other colleges have more class disparity - more collaborative events will help improve access across the whole university. More of a variety of events, not just speakers, but fun ones to build the connections and make people comfortable with each other in the first place. Collaborate with welfare reps to create more class-specific welfare events.
- **I** – You would like to think that if it is still online people will get more comfortable. Link with other members of the equalities team, for example disabilities, to create events directed at multiple demographics in order to widen the net.
- **Question:** What is the one incentive that you would priorities?
 - **D** – Collaborating with other colleges for larger scale events.
 - **E** – Communicating finance information and improving support from the treasury (bursaries, scholarships, continue the budget spreadsheet)
 - **I** – Improving application support (including more interview and entrance exam guidance). Create a Stanner Instagram page to follow along the application process with updates and tips

Challenge – Create 4 Instagram posts! Will be posted both on Instagram and on the JCR Facebook group.

Disabilities

- **Kaleb (he/him)**
 - Making the disabilities support process more transparent and providing more guidance
 - The Disabled Student allowance is a maze – we need to make it easier to navigate
 - Give students the chance to submit questions anonymously via google forms
 - Liaising with college staff about all teaching and accessibility issues raised by students
 - Providing social support to give students a chance to chat or vent to each other.
 - Be a point of contact for support, giving advice or just to listen.

Challenge – plan an event for Michaelmas term 2021, either for just for students with disabilities or the whole Stanner community.

LGBTQ+:

- **Adam (he/him)**
 - Work with the welfare reps to provide LGBTQ+ specific welfare resources (including sexual health and support)
 - Subsidises Tuesday drinks

- Increase inter-college events
 - Help second and first years engage in the events they were denied this year
 - Add more non-alcoholic events
 - Work closely with the other equalities' reps on intersectionality
 - Has experience working in a mental help service.
- **Questions:** what event would you plan to help students ease back into un-locked down life?
- **A-** a chill 'speed-dating' event is a fun way to get to know new people quickly. Welfare teas and subsidized drinks with games and quizzes in small, new but less intimidating, groups.

Challenge: come up with a hypothetical pride week itinerary. Post this on the JCR Facebook group.

BAME:

- **Kat (she/her):**
- Tackle imposter syndrome
 - Making sure that college life is inclusive
 - Encourage the meeting of students of colour in college and intercollege events
 - Recognizing that students of colour have different experiences and need the opportunity to talk to others in similar situations
 - Work with the stanner international student body
 - Host a compulsory anti-racism workshop in freshers week (like the consent workshop)
 - We live in an Oxford bubble, we need to recognize that we are a global community and reach out the rest of the world in solidarity
- **Question:** Do you have ideas for a BAME social?
- K - An BAME reading group (books about racism or written by people of colour). Continuing events such as the ethnicminorityTEA
- **Question:** How will you help ease the culture shock when people first come to Oxford?
- Work with the access rep to make sure the transition is smoother. Helping facilitate communication to help improve the community outlook, such as the workshops to create a community all students feel secure in.
- **Question:** Do you have any thoughts on students mixed heritage, who appear British or white, feeling like they can't attend BAME events?
- The experience of being non-white is not necessarily the same experience as being mixed, but there are a lot of similarities and points of contact. Will angle the advertisement of events so that mixed-race students also feel welcomed and included.

Challenge - TBC