

JCR General Meeting

MTW6 13/11/22

Danson Room



Meeting Introduction

- Ayesha: Welcome everyone, pizza will be coming soon. 2 motions and then hustings for elections.

Motion 1: Host a revote for charity of the year

Proposed by: Bethan Cornick

Seconded by: Teresa Habib Meriggi

This JCR notes that:

- Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) was voted by the JCR as the charity of the year
- Since the charity of the year was announced, further research into the organization prompted members of the JCR committee to raise concerns about racist allegations, unbeknownst to the JCR committee previously, MSF have faced:
 - A letter signed by 1000 staff members in 2020 accusing MSF itself and its management of strengthening colonialism and a global white saviour complex
 - An advert for a fundraising campaign in Canada which had to be pulled because of accusations by both staff and the general public that it was reinforcing a white saviour complex and racist stereotypes
 - The resignation of several employees of colour on the basis of a prejudiced work environment

This JCR believes that:

St Anne's should not support a charity with a history of racist allegations

This JCR therefore resolves to:

Host a revote for charity of the year, with the charities previously nominated by the JCR

Discussion

- Beth: we did not know about the issues surrounding MSF at the time, it won by a substantial majority democratically so we weren't sure what to do. Accusations came to light towards the end, in a JCR committee meeting after it had won. This motion wants to host a revote for charity of the year without MSF.
- Teresa: went to a MSF talk in the past and it made POC in the room feel very uncomfortable, did some research when Beth announced they wanted to come and do a talk and found out the things mentioned in the motion.

Questions

1. What are the implications of being Charity of the Year and doing the revote?
 - a. Beth: what would happen is we would donate the charity levy to them at the end of the year. It would be 2.5k, don't really want to be supporting them if that is the case. Because we haven't given any money away yet, we can still change it. Not committed yet.

Voting

For: 24

Abstentions: 1

Against: 0

Motion passes

Motion 2: Create a Class Officer role on the JCR Committee

Proposed by: Ellie King

Seconded by: Farabee Pushpita

<i>This JCR notes that:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is currently no Class Officer position on the JCR Committee.• Class issues are not represented by anyone from St Anne's at the Student Union Class meetings and the Access Officer cannot sit on the Equalities meetings that the Equal Opportunities team has with the College staff.• The Access Officer on the JCR Committee has to balance access-related issues concerning prospective students and class issues faced by current students at the same time.
<i>This JCR believes that:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Both class and access related issues are currently undermined as a result of the constitution demanding that the Access Officer should tackle both.• Class issues should be properly addressed and students from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds should be represented.• As a result of the proposed change, the Access officer will be able to fulfil their role more efficiently and effectively.
<i>This JCR therefore resolves to:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a Class Officer position on the JCR Committee.• Hold an Election for the Class Officer in Hilary Term this year.• Make the Class Officer a member of the Equal Opportunities Committee and allow them to attend the meetings the team have with the staff.• Change the constitution so that it reads as:
The Access Officer shall:
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Work alongside other colleges in providing outreach services and opportunities

2. Review the Alternative Prospectus and update if necessary. The Access Officer should ensure that the prospectus can be easily accessed both in published form and/or via the JCR website
3. Organise the JCR's role during the interview period. The Access Officer may formally delegate these responsibilities to other JCR members subject to a General Meeting's approval and subsequent accountability to the Committee
4. Liaise with the College Admissions staff to co-ordinate student involvement in College tours, Open Days and Interviews
5. Promote both college-based and University-wide access schemes and events and co-ordinate access initiatives run by St Anne's students
6. Represent the JCR's opinions on matters pertaining to Admissions to the appropriate persons
7. Support the Class officer in their role, recognising that both roles are interconnected and that both officers may require support from each other. This may require them to provide underrepresented groups at Oxford (this includes but is not limited to socio-economic disadvantaged students, underrepresented ethnic minorities and disabled students) who are members of the JCR with specific assistance, information and support beyond the responsibilities of Welfare

The Class officer shall:

1. Represent the interests of socio-economically disadvantaged students at St. Anne's
2. Work as a member of the Equal Opportunities Committee and attend the termly Student Union Class meetings and College Equalities meetings
3. Support the Access officer in their role, recognising that both roles are interconnected and that both officers may require support from each other
4. Provide underrepresented groups at Oxford (this includes but is not limited to socio-economic disadvantaged students, underrepresented ethnic minorities and disabled students) who are members of the JCR with specific assistance, information and support beyond the responsibilities of Welfare
5. Help students access financial support by giving them advice about their college and university's application processes, give students advice about complaints procedures.
6. Host socials to create a sense of community in your college (for an example, they can get involved with the 93% Club, SU Class Act)
7. Offer academic advice through bridging workshops for freshers or essay advice sessions.
8. Show students that they are not on their own and there is someone they can speak to that will understand them, and it will also normalise conversation about class and socioeconomic background, which are often stigmatised

Discussion

- Ellie: Now quite stretched because trying to do both Access and Class rep roles. Want to add an amendment to say that if class role isn't filled, then it would fall under Access rep instead of equalities just because it makes more sense as there is more overlap already (discussed in the committee meeting).
- It's been fine in the past because whoever was in the access position was also looking out for class and has been from a working class background, but might not always be the case in the future. They might not understand class issues and then it would be a problem. Also allows class issues to be addressed MORE than what is happening now.

Questions

1. Kaleb: Access and Class roles do massively overlap, is there a way of differentiating them a bit more clearly, otherwise the same role is just duplicated with minor adjustments.
 - a. Ellie: the main distinction is at other colleges the access rep works with future students, class rep is with students currently at the college.
 - b. Ayesha: access is just things on the website as well, just outreach in general not necessarily focus on class.

Voting

Need $\frac{2}{3}$ majority because it is a constitutional amendment, no absentions

For: 27

Against: 1

Motion passes

Hustings

1. Fresher's Reps

- a. Krishh: studying chemistry, 1st year. Standing for fresher's rep because passionate about voicing interests of the year group, believe primary aim of freshers rep role is to voice opinions and be a line of communication. Have had leadership roles in school's student council, participated in MUN and debate so communication skills and working as part of a team. Difficult to adjust as an international student, so I understand. Always ups and downs throughout the year, want to make sure I am accessible, anyone can voice their opinions and problems to me and will relay back to the JCR. Hope to organise events throughout the year and help out with fresher's week next year. Organising with different colleges and in different locations, drinking and non drinking events, offering a lot more opportunities for social interactions with other colleges. Understand that turn out at meetings are not great, try and get fresher's to come, will pass on everything that is discussed.
- b. Sara: Want to listen to everyone, no matter their background. We have club nights and bar events, love how inclusive the college is, want to make sure everyone feels welcome, equally able to socialise, fresher's week side of things to organise stuff. I am accessible, use instagram and whatsapp more, google polls, freshers are not on facebook as much so will try to use other platforms to engage them more. Do more outreach so they feel more involved in JCR. Have run for local council 2 times, very experienced in listening to people and what they want changed. Have run a few charity events at my school, advertising and coordinating things. Been a school prefect, on the school council, have organised a trip which means have history with administration and financial planning.
- c. Question1: bit of controversy this year with non drinking events, held but no one really comes to them. What would you propose:

- i. Sara → Getting people to answer polls and vote, taking part in decisions on making the events so there is more democracy. Booking involved then people would naturally have a bit more of a sense of investment to that. With other colleges as well, then can get higher numbers if we work together.
 - ii. Krishh → had a lot of similar points. Personally only attended a few events, personal availability, but could have been advertised a bit more. Maybe something more chill, disagree with the formality element of it, chill hangout instead of something more formal that you would have to vote or book for. That's what non-drinking events should be like. Use platforms other than facebook as well so freshers are kept in the loop.
- d. Question2: this year fresher's rep is going to involve the accommodation stuff, will have to help people in your year with moving to RHS, how would you deal with that
 - i. Krishh: I am on 4 year course, so I know what it's like being stressed about accommodation. Want to keep in contact with people who are having to move out so they have support from the JCR and the resources they need. That's the main thing, support and keep in contact. In case any problems arise it can be raised with the relevant committee members, i.e liaise with domestic rep ++
 - ii. Sara: biggest issue is people have only been here for a few weeks, a lot more of a shock to be told to move out and to organise housing straight away. It was so sudden. Something that I could do is create a document that summarises everything really clearly and share that everywhere. The fact is that people don't quite know what is going on so this could be a go-to resource. Stressful to have to dig around and find things. Communicating it via social media. During fresher's, the assemblies were very helpful and I think the meetings with the accom department were really good so maybe do more of that? First years don't seem to be as invested, but need to make sure there is a link with them and the administration
 - iii. Krishh: majority will be living in RHS, major role of freshers rep would be any issues that arise from living there
 - iv. Sara: transport, international students will face problems too. More to avoid the stress of hitting the ground running and having things set up before moving in.
- e. Beth: Can you give us a concrete example of non drinking event?
 - i. Sara: something like a movie night in the theatre, or maybe a museum trip during the day. Even if it is a small turnout, still cheap and accessible.
 - ii. Krishh: mario kart tournament was good, or like a billards tournament. Smaller games like that. Maybe even a restaurant outing, so they are familiar with places to get food around town. Can vote to see where people want to go.

- f. Alfie: it's hard to get fresher's engaged, only 20 people signed up for RHS tours even though most are going to end up living there. How would you deal with this?
 - i. Krishh → daunting because it is a little bit far out. Increase awareness, so people know there are loads of busses, bikes are easily accessible.
 - ii. Sara → crisis of participation, people are just really scared, disengaging and don't really want to think about it. Just having someone they can approach as a fresher's rep. Need to get people on facebook and to join the JCR page seeing as Instagram or whatsapp aren't really the right kind of platform.

Hustings challenge: Run a non drinking event in the Danson room and post about it on the Facebook before the elections.

2. Visiting Student rep

- a. Jhanay: visiting from Johns Hopkins, doing a dual program here. Want to run because of the wonderful experience of getting to know some of the visiting students and some of the permanent students too. Want to plan activities and events, as well as serving as a point person for people to come to. Seen some gaps between visiting students and full time students, would want to bridge those gaps especially with the group coming next semester. Getting integrated into the community, create some spaces for them to interact with the wider JCR community. Want to create spaces to celebrate different cultures as visiting students, been learning about it and want to bring that to the rest of the JCR.
- b. Question1: there is not really a bridge with current and visiting students. What kind of stuff would you do to integrate everyone?
 - i. Further advertising events that go on, announcing events that are already going on for the rest of the student body but withing visiting student chats. Having visiting student teas that already go on but maybe we can open that up to other students so they can all meet each other. Working with international rep for events.

Hustings challenge: make 1 group chat for all the visiting students so we can centralise announcements, and get as many of them as possible to join facebook. Then make a post about it saying how many you got to join.

3. Arts rep

- a. Ashley: visiting student, go to colombia, study english and politics. Whenever I join a community I like to join an artistic space. Lot's of past experience, here I've joined the oxonian review, doing different types of art work. Ideas I have come up with: at the end of the year could make a year in review magazine where could collage things, make postcards and send them home. Make origami and have a little wine night. Paint shoes. A space for people to bond through art and express their own voices.
- b. Question1: so may different artistic societies around and you don't know about them. Kind of intimidating to branch in as a fresher, how would you make people feel comfortable enough to share work and join all these different societies:
 - i. Make sure people know it doesn't matter what you study, I still love to do art. There is a joy to things even if you are not professional. Make sure to

advertise all the different things going on. Make things that has visibility so it can spread through word of mouth.

- c. Question2: big part of the job is handling arts rep budget, a lot of people end up asking for money so how would you deal with that?
 - i. Probably set like a deadline for people to apply and then we can manage things, dividing it on a case by case basis.

Hustings challenge: Ayesha wants to decorate the Danson room, get the student body involved in doing a wall. Plan what kind of stuff we could put up there in a rough design. Make a post about it and put it on Facebook.

4. Disabilities rep

- a. Warwick: maths and philosophy, second year. Want to run because I have ADHD, first year at Oxford was quite affected because of it. I've been through the disabilities system at Anne's and it was helpful but there are problems that I would like to address. Want to help students who might be trying to tackle that for the first time, relay back to the organisers and administration on how it can be made better. Would love to work with other JCR members to try and make other events accessible, can be a little isolating otherwise. Can cause loads of stress and cause work and socialisation to be affected, think it's really important to address and get people together so they can have a community.
- b. Question1: top 3 things you'd like to do as Disabilities Rep
 - i. Work with other JCR members for accessible events, also relaying info back .Would also like to organise and promote talks for awareness and information because not many people know what is going on with the disability system at Anne's/at the uni and also just about disabilities in general. Events where people can meet up and just talk, different types of disabilities for example? Invisible disabilities as well.
- c. Question2: what about events, making sure everyone can access life at university. How would you help people feel included and integrated into the community?
 - i. Love to have nights where it's specifically for disabilities, people are aware that they can come without having problems they might have at other events. Make sure it's well known.
- d. Question3: How would you amend events that are already going on to make them more accessible? What concrete measures would you put in place?
 - i. Take the advice of people themselves. Monitoring the lighting for people who get overstimulated. Make sure there are wheelchair ramps. Could do online events as well. Mainly just ask what people need and provide that.

Hustings challenge: think of an event you would want to do, and make a plan of it and post on the JCR Facebook