

JCR General Meeting

TTW2 30/04/22

Danson Room



Meeting Introduction

- Ayesha → Today 5 motions to get through (2 constitutional amendments are being postponed), then we have hustings. Thanks for coming.

Motion 1: solidarity with trans community

Proposed by: Alfie Davis

Seconded by: Finn O'Shea

This JCR notes that:

- The Oxford Union has invited notorious transphobe Kathleen Stock to speak this term
- Stock is a transphobic and trans exclusionary speaker, and has actively worked against trans rights. This includes supporting gender identity conversion therapy, despite a professional consensus on the ineffectiveness and harmfulness of this practice, has repeatedly portrayed trans women as dangerous and predatory despite a total lack of evidence for such, and is a trustee of trans-exclusionary hate group the LGB alliance.
- Stock is also well known for spreading misinformation about the trans community, often using arguments that disregard empirical facts and research. None of her writing on gender has been subject to peer review, and yet she is being invited to likely espouse her views on such by the union committee.
- LGBTQ+ members of the university and this college have received threats of violence as a result of speaking out against Stock's platforming, which the union has yet to publicly condemn or apologise for.
- Trans people, especially trans women, are more likely to face abuse, violence and attacks as a result of their gender identity.
- 41% of british trans people reported facing transphobic violence over just a 12 month period (Stonewall, 2018)
- In 2022 trans people experienced the biggest increase in hate crimes of any group, up 56% (BBC, 2022). This has been linked by some to a growing wave of hatred from far right groups against the trans community.
- The IPSO (2020) found a 400% increase in coverage on trans issues in the past 5 years, with Prof. Paul Baker (2019) finding there has been an overwhelming increase in negative portrayals of trans people in newspaper coverage over the past decade.

This JCR believes that:

- The rights of any minority group to exist should never be up for debate.

- Right to free speech does not pertain to include the right to a platform to amplify your views, especially a platform this prominent and exclusive.
- The Union has made the choice to amplify a voice that actively harms trans students, trans people and the trans community at large
- Doing so, the Union will be both complicit and responsible in spreading transphobic rhetoric; and the consequences of such, should it choose to promote Stock via this event, adding to the current wave of attacks towards the trans community in British politics, governance and mainstream media.
- Transphobes should not feel welcome in Oxford, or in this college.
- Trans people are valued and loved members of this university, this college and society at large, and they deserve to feel welcome and supported in their home.
- Showing solidarity with the trans community across Oxford is more important than ever, and this must be done both publicly and meaningfully

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- Condemn the Oxford Union for platforming Kathleen Stock, and call on her invite to be rescinded in support of the trans community.
- Reaffirm this JCRs solidarity with the trans community in Oxford and beyond, that trans rights, trans lives and trans happiness matters and must be protected.
- Release a public statement (written by the LGBTQ Rep) detailing such on its communications platforms, as well as sending a copy of said statement to the Oxford Union president to inform the institution of its disapproval.
- Donate £75 to the trans rights charity, Gendered Intelligence.

Discussion/Questions

- Alfie → Personally have received threats of people showing up at my house, threats of violence. Has been more explicit for other people in the community at the university. Have spoken to Jay, and according to college regulations we are completely allowed to publish this on the JCR instagram as long as it is clear it is from the JCR and not college.
- Rosie → Current treasurer of the union. I think views of Kathleen Stock are disgusting and abhorrent, and think that protesting is very powerful. From the point of the union, there are things being put in place to make sure this is a challenge rather than a platform for hateful views. There is going to be a condemnation released tonight about the threats that people have received. We are not condoning any of that behaviour as it is really disgusting. Just so people are aware as to what we are doing so it is a useful discussion rather than platforming (finalise tomorrow with emergency meeting tomorrow):
 - Welfare spaces available with committee reps from the union but also open to reps from OULGBTQ+ as well if they want
 - Will have reserved seating for OULGBTQ+ members so they can be questions
 - Will have a forum that people can submit questions online before hand in case they don't feel comfortable in person, challenges asked on their behalf
 - Open to the whole university, not just Union Members. Understand it shouldn't be restricted.
 - Anyone is welcome to come to the meeting at the Union at 1.15 Monday 01/05
- Cosmo → if there are that many measures being put it place, does that not question why this person was invited in the first place?

- Chloe → been committee member as well for 5 terms. Most people will know that these views are disgusting, not really views that many people at the university agree with. Important to note that the union is a private member's club that is not under the university. She has already been platformed by the state (she has an OBE) and is already recognised. Not to be platformed but to provide a place to challenge, where else is going to do that?
- Alfie → if the union would really want to challenge these views, you would invite people who are experts in their fields, transgender people ++ That is constructive. She hasn't been peer reviewed, not really a nuanced discussion. Other voices aren't being heard and platformed. This is a massive controversy and she thrives off of that.
 - Chloe → Debate last term about post-gender. Both sides have to be shown otherwise we are showing bias.
- Helen → Will there be protests and is included in the statement?
 - Alfie → not in the statement because it is still being organised, but yes there will be a protest/more of a celebration. Other colleges will be bringing forward similar motions soon and mentions of protest will be included in those.
- Chloe → all of this is fine, but maybe the JCR could provide a group that feels comfortable going down together from Anne's.
- Finn → whether you theoretically agree with free speech at the union is another matter. We all know that Kathleen Stock is going to come to the union whether we like it or not, but this is about showing solidarity, making sure voices are being heard, donating to charity. People have already been sent death threats (both Finn and Alfie) over this, people have been Doxed. This is about actually doing something.
- Ayesha → Worth noting that according to Chloe and Rosie, it is not possible for Stock's invite to be rescinded anyways. Would just be symbolic if this motion passes.

Voting

For: 56

Abstentions: 7

Against: 0

Motion passes

Motion 2: Motion to help fund the Keble Garden Play 'Pretty Little Lawyers'

Proposed by: Krishh Chaturvedi

Seconded by: Gaspard Rouffin

This JCR notes that:

- The Mollys productions is putting on their original play, Pretty Little Lawyers, in 3rd week of Trinity Term as this year's Keble Garden Play.
- Pretty Little Lawyers is a fun play which satirises the genre of 'whodunnits', and who better to satire in Oxford than the students themselves! The plot revolves around seven lawyers who are

<p>invited to a dinner party with their tutor, only for their host to drop dead mid-way through, with suspicion cast on the seven students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Throughout production, Pretty Little Lawyers has aimed to promote an inclusive environment for everyone involved – this includes focusing casting on BAME and LGBTQ+ creatives as well as those from lower socio-economic backgrounds, and having a welfare officer both on- and off-set for all creatives involved. • Particularly in the stressful exam-season of Trinity Term, events such as plays are invaluable assets for student welfare. Pretty Little Lawyers aims to provide a much-needed break from the stresses of Oxford season life, while shining a tastefully satirical light on Oxford itself. • If any profit is made from the production, it will all be reinvested directly back into the student drama scene. Absolutely no profit will be personally returned to those involved in the play.
This JCR believes that:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is important to support student drama and provide a well-deserved, and much-needed, break from studies to students, particularly in Trinity term. Therefore, funding Pretty Little Lawyers will support the wider Oxford community. • Funding is extremely important for the play to fulfil its potential, and even be put on at all. Being performed in an outdoor space, it has been possible to avoid spending money on the often-costly lighting and sound design required of indoor spaces, however plays are nonetheless expensive to put on. Funding provided by this JCR would allow for venue hire, front of house, purchase of props and costumes, and insurance. • The production team and cast of Pretty Little Lawyers contains several students with experience in drama, and many with little to no experience. By funding this production, we support the organic development of talent within the university in many forms including acting, set design, directing, and production. It is particularly important, in such an academically driven environment, to continue supporting and stimulating students' artistic endeavours and creativity
This JCR therefore resolves to:
Donate £50 to the production.

Automatically passes because the request is only for £50. Can come directly out of the Art's budget.

Motion 3: Support the MCR financially in providing JCR members welfare support during the vacations

Proposed by: Matilda Jackson-Long

Seconded by: Alfie Davis

<i>This JCR notes that:</i>

- The JCR Committee has proposed a new vacation residence policy
- The Domestic Bursar raised concerns regarding this, in that the winter vac in particular is lonely, isolating and there is little welfare provision available
- The MCR welfare reps have agreed to allow JCR members to use the MCR during the vac, attend welfare events and receive welfare support from the reps, on the condition that we can provide financial support for such.
- An MCR motion complimentary to this motion has been drafted and will be proposed at the next MCR GM.

This JCR believes that:

- The Vac Res policy needs to be changed, and MCR support is an important provision to ensure it is passed by college.
- Having better welfare support during the vacations would be nice for JCR members anyway as these can be pretty isolating.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- Have the Welfare Reps collect a list of names and contact details of JCR members who are staying in college during the Vac at the end of each term, and pass these on to the MCR welfare reps.
- Provide adequate and proportional financial support the the MCR, dependent on how many (if any) JCR members will remain in college and attend MCR welfare events during the vac.
- This motion will be nullified if the MCR fails to pass a respective motion allowing JCR members to receive the aforementioned welfare support during vacations.

No discussion/questions

Voting

For: 56

Abstentions: 0

Against: 0

Motion passes

Motion 4: Give £100 from the Arts fund to assist a production of The Metamorphosis

Proposed by: Matilda Jackson-Long

Seconded by: Ellie King

This JCR notes that:

- The Metamorphosis is a production being put on at the Pilch next term, with involvement from Matilda Jackson-Long who is a student of St Anne's, who is an important part of the crew as the lighting designer.
- The Metamorphosis is an innovative and ambitious production with many tech-heavy elements which require funding - in particular lighting and sound.
- St Anne's has a precedent for funding shows with college involvement in cast or crew

This JCR believes that:

- It is right for St Anne's to support its students' productions

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- Grant Matchbox Productions £100 to assist with tech and set costs, allowing St Anne's students to help bring the play to life and representing St Anne's in the university-wide arts scene.

Discussion

- Ellie → it is special lighting, Mathilda (not present) has already incurred cost. This would mean that the personal costs she incurs for the production would be limited

Voting

For: 55

Abstentions: 1

Against: 0

Motion passes

Motion 5: To support Oxford University's West Country Society for their Cheese Rolling Competition.

Proposed by: Ellie King

Seconded by: Dan Nixon

This JCR notes that:

- Oxford West Country Society (WCS) is a recently established, thriving and expanding (nearly 400 Facebook members), cultural society with the purpose of connecting students through the West Country culture.
- In celebration of WCS's anniversary, the society is holding a Cheese Rolling competition.
- Cheese Rolling is a historic and unique West Country tradition that WCS will be re-creating in South Parks 4th week. Both the event and society are open to any and every student with an appreciation or connection to the West Country.
- WCS is seeking a small, limited, one-off subsidy to help WCS provide the materials (cheese which is being rolled) for the event.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual student's endeavours such as wild swimming, student productions etc are frequently supported by the motions budget. WCS is a cultural and social society that provides an equally positive impact on student life and welfare.
This JCR believes that:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WCS is a recently established society that does not have access to financial resources, (in fact the committee has been run and self-funded by 3 Crankstart students). Despite that, WCS has procured a sponsorship from the Thatchers Cider Company and obtained partnerships with various alumni groups and hosted the Mayor of Bristol. This will be a ticketed event, so any money invested will not be lost and will be sustainably re-invested for future events, therefore having a doubly positive impact. Students should be empowered and supported when pursuing activities that benefit the St Anne's and the wider community
This JCR therefore resolves to:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support WCS with a £30 subsidy.

Discussion/Questions

- If its ticketed why do you need the money?
 - Ellie → We don't get the money back until after the event. So a tiny bit of money would go a long way
- 4th week saturday, collaborating with cheese society. There will be nibbles and drinks as well

Voting

For: 55

Abstentions: 1

Against: 2

Motion passes

Hustings

Domestic (Georgia): written quite a lot in my manifesto. Want to work with ethnic minorities rep to introduce labelling in hall to tell whether food is halal, working with RSH rep to run themed events there, work with Entz as well. Try and get cinnamon rolls in STACS. Open to any suggestions, will make sure there are plenty of feedback forms. Would work really hard and put a lot of time in.

- Alfie → Ideas for halfway hall?
 - Anne's themed. Lots of awards which will be the fun part, take in suggestions for awards and set up a form so that people could vote. Was head of a prom committee in school so have experience event planning.

- Helen → mentioned tours of different accommodation blocks in your manifesto. Who would run these?
 - Me (Georgia)
- Hustings challenge:
 - Take the christmas tree to the office
 - MTV cribs tour video of your accom

Sports (Benaiah): use the college gym quite a lot, the process of getting things fixed can be complicated so would like to help with that. College sports, lots of them don't have enough participants so want to publicise this a lot. Help different sports teams get budget for kit/socials, great way for people to get to know each other within and between colleges. Would also like to provide support for Uni level sports through the blues reimbursement scheme.

- Holly → Long term gym plans?
 - Know money is tight as subscriptions are the only source of income. Might be good to ask for a one time grant from the JCR so it isn't a cycle of not having enough people sign up because the facilities are poor.
- Holly → How can we foster college sports spirit?
 - Make a big deal out of spectating, getting groups together to go and watch, provide drinks etc.
- Hustings challenge:
 - Get selfies with as many sports captains as possible and post on the JCR facebook page

Environments

- Hari → main priority would be engaging the sustainability action plan Mia has worked on. Has a lot of experience in the NGO sector and with environmental things. Want to spruce up funding, cross events with welfare and other reps, invite alumni to lots of events.
- Shalina → Mia has done a great job, want to continue that. Making sure it's clear what goes where in terms of recycling bins. Bike scheme should be updated. Biodiversity programs around colleges e.g butterfly feeders/bee houses as well. Sustainable tip of the week in the newsletter. So many things going on across Oxford so people know about it, engage with other colleges/societies. Running a clothes swap as well.
- Questions:
 - Mia → How would you navigate the fact that you might get shut down when the environment is just in the periphery of a lot of people's minds?
 - Hari → disappointing when people don't show up to events, it happens a lot. Directly voice things through John Banrooke would be important, linking things to specific staff members, their lives and their roles. Showing why it is relevant to them.
 - Shalina → getting events throughout the year, especially at the start so people are engaged right from the beginning when they come to Anne's. Little things.

- Simon → a lot of other colleges are a lot tougher than Anne's when it comes to student involvement and changing things in colleges. Any ideas for how things can be helped outside of Anne's in other colleges/departments?
 - Shalina → Different social enterprises across Oxford. Getting involved with them. Sharing these things within our community and inspiring other colleges.
 - Hari → Working with other environment reps and SU. Earth day passed and botanical gardens did stuff, use those spaces to inspire people. Intercollegiate events, e.g celebrate earth day together? Healthy competition with other colleges to see who can be the most environmentally friendly
- Helen → Your manifestos are different, what are your personal views on what the most effective use of your time and energy is in this role i.e individual/uni level?
 - Hari → personally of the view that big businesses are to blame. Individuals do try but it's not really our fault. We can still try our best though. We're still doing our part. That is what the environments role is about
 - Shalina → agree it is big corporation's at fault. But at the individual level it is all about making things habit. Small changes add up. Something that we can contribute to is biodiversity, there are quite a few things that we can do on a college scale, might not make a global impact but definitely at the Oxford level.
- Hustings challenge:
 - Design for an eco friendly welfare tea with minimal budget/activity. Post on the facebook page.

IT (Angela): able to take on the challenge. Thank you for your service Sam. Maintaining the website, keeping up to date with the minutes. Want to revamp the website, modernise it. Short introductions for each JCR committee member, also helpful for the JCR and for prospective students to find out how things work. A lot of students aren't aware that the website exists, make sure that people know that, working with the secretary.

- Sam → thank you for running. The college runs website so we only have limited access to how we can change it, what other specific ideas do you have?
 - Adding the bios for committee members. Before coming to Anne's, people aren't really aware of the sports/arts stuff going on, so maybe could have a specific page for that. Talking a bit more about life at Anne's.
 - Holly → does exist already, new updated bios and stuff
 - Angela → build on that, do it more
- Hustings challenge: make a fake fishing email, point out the usual red flags. Put that on the facebook JCR page.

Charities (Anais): experience in fundraising, NGO sector and volunteering. See charity as a mindset that can be further integrated in the Anne's community. It's about awareness, not just fundraising goals. Social change as a collaborative effort and process, working with the equal

opportunities, environment and entz officers as well. Want to make giving back as accessible as possible, create a termly newsletter focusing on charities. Want to strengthen local connections - organise weekly student groups from Anne's to go out and volunteer. Bring more of the outside real world into the oxford bubble.

- Beth → cost of living crisis, people don't have a lot of spare money. How would you navigate that?
 - Collaborating across the the JCR committee, making cross over events. E.g garden party with environments. People are willing to pay for a good time.
- Beth → Had an issue with not enough people signing up for the charity formal. What could we do with that?
 - Definitely continue them. Crucial to Anne's ethos. Potentially trialling it as an optional 2 pound donation?
- Alfie → Do you want to focus just on local charities, or have a wider scope too?
 - Definitely want to focus on the communities around us. Potentially having that as the vote. We should still make it a choice for everyone, so the JCR can choose.
- Hustings challenge:
 - There is meant to be one event in trinity term, plan an event that we could possibly run. Write it on the facebook page.