

# JCSU ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the OGM of the JCSU held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at 7:30pm in the Webb Library.

## MINUTES

**Present:** the President (Katherine Boucher), the Treasurer (Kirsty McKnight), the Secretary (Max Bowling), the Services Officer (Olivia Argent), the Communications Officer (Caspar Ramsay), the Access Officer (Matthew Kevin Sample), the Ents Officer (Ollie Brown), the Women's Officer (Alex Rowe), the Welfare Officers (Holly Hamilton & Cormac Devlin), the Mental Health and Disabilities Officer (Sophie O'Reilly), the LGBT+ Officer (Holly Bracewell), the Ethnic and Religious Minorities Officer (Heval Turel) and the International Officer (Nikhil Dwivedi)

**Absent:** the Vice-President (Vicky Taylor), the Ents Officer (Mary Kiernan) and the Green Officer (Lili Bidwell)

### 1. Executive reports of actions since last OGM:

**KB:** Met with the new bursar about KFC and drew up a report on its impact on students in college, met with the Master with VT, consulted Paul Dominiak about the graduation lunch, speaking with the sports captain at Jesus Oxford about organising varsity game with Jesus Oxford, garden party preparations, organised and wrote the report for the JCSU Annual Survey, attended CUSU Council, College Council and Student Affairs Committee, consulted Richard Dennis about changes to the elections procedure in the JCSU Constitution, went to a burger tasting session with OA, wrote an update from the Undergraduates for the Jesuan News, met with Tim Nugent, Rob Shepherd, Richard Dennis and KM about boat club financing, sent out advice about exams, worked with KM on buying new bean bags and croquet set, consulted with OA about marking out a second netball court, took part in HB's Chapel event, organised rainbow lights for the chimney

**VT:** Met with the Master with KB to discuss college matters, met with Geoff to negotiate JCSU position on C Sunday, started sorting the Easter Term Stash including exploring new stash options, began sourcing entertainment for the JCSU Garden Party, met with Paul Dominiak about graduation lunch costs

**KM:** Continued the process of refunding receipts, sorted out a new cheque book, meetings about rowing funding

**MB:** Continued to organise a number of bar quizzes, organised OGM, helped produce write-up of JCSU Survey, continued preparations for JCSU Sports and Societies Photos, attended CUSU council

**OA:** Caff forum, implementing Caff changes with Caff staff and LB, met with Simon Hawkey to discuss various requests from students

**CR:** Attended Communications committee, updating and fixing website

**MKS:** Access Tour, attended a number of meetings with both students, staff and JCSU, supported a student-led campaign on the price of graduation buffet, updated the applying section of the JCSU website

**LB:** Caff matters with OA, plant sale, green formal, intercollege green event planning for May Week, intercollege divestment discussions, Green Impact, organising Streetbite shifts

**OB/MK:** Organised 5-a-side football tournament, helped with green bop, showed boxing in JCR, preparations for garden party

**AR:** Advised on and am making plans for implementation of new sexual harassment policy, ran International Women's Day formal and tea party, running fortnightly women's forums, met with Geoff Parks about C Sunday

**HH/CD:** Continued welfare cake and started welfare lollies and fruit, organised Zumba class with fresher Lara Tritton, organised welfare puppies and bouncy castle, running survive and succeed in exam term event with Paul

Dominiak, following up domestic bursar about condom machines and pictures in the bar, sat on education board

SO: Sent out email regarding uni counselling service services, published new guide to intermission published by Jessica Wing, published important info for exam term regarding opting out of class lists, currently arranging coloured overlays, planning lots of things for mental health awareness week

HB: Hosted Chapel event, currently exploring the possibilities of working alongside the MCR who do not have an LGBT+ rep, discussed a potential mixer with the MCR, started the process of organising the queeries awards

HT: Welfare phone, planning events with ND

ND: Welfare phone, reorganising formals with St John's and Sidney Sussex, planning Jesus international themed formals with HT, planning events such as International Film Night, liaising with iCUSU for international fresher week preparations

## **2. Members' questions to the Executive**

MKS: Feedback from JCSU Student Survey – 30% report witnessing discrimination on socio-economic grounds. Discrimination on any basis is not acceptable. Please tell relevant officer on JCSU if you experience it, should be a community where everyone feels safe.

## **3. Junior Treasurer report on JCSU Enterprise Account**

N/A

## **4. Ordinary Motions**

### ***(a) Motion 1: Motion to Define the Policy of the JCSU with Regards to the Purchase of Alcohol***

MKS: Outline a bit of background to this. In the past, it has been JCSU policy that we don't allow societies to use their budget to buy alcohol. No concrete rules in place for this. The proposal of this motion is in light of this fact. First, see it as an opportunity for Ents officers. Currently, Ents events rely on College to provide alcohol, better service to students if student provision of alcohol. Ents events are open to all students, regardless of whether or not they would like to drink, e.g. garden party. This is not the case for societies. Society funding exists to make sure students can afford to join societies. Given in good faith to run that society. No society requires alcohol to function (e.g. rugby, debating society). Previous budget required cuts. JCSU is struggling to make sure all societies can function properly. Pot of money set aside. Alcohol will affect day to day workings of those societies. But this is more than just a financial issue. JCSU-funded societies are required to be open to all members, thus providing an inclusive and welcoming space. People join societies to take part in those societies, not to drink. Not everyone wants to drink e.g. for health or religious reasons). If we allow societies to purchase alcohol, then we're excluding quite a few people. Not what the JCSU money is there for. Don't want to police societies, saying who will be more responsible. Not saying that societies can't put money together to buy alcohol, but it is not the place of JCSU to tell societies what they can or cannot do. JCSU money for all students. Benefit all students equally.

Todd Gillespie (TG): Context of this – creation of society at previous OGM. Asked if could buy a few bottles of wine for this society using JCSU funding. Would like to support a positive environment within college, where people enjoy themselves. Would like to respond to all sections of MKS's motion. Why the JCSU funds should be allowed to purchase alcohol. Point about money is misleading. Budget surplus for all societies. £11,000 not spent. Problem of misallocation of resources. Not the JCSU budget under strain. Had a meeting with College accountant. JCSU has surplus reserves, which do not go to fund societies, but rather into a reserve pot for capital expenditure. Any money that is not used cannot be redistributed. JCSU can make an appeal to College. No reason to say JCSU is underfunded. Debating society spent only half of the budget, plus other examples given. Only 5 societies out of 43 used their entire budget allocation.

Point about necessity. Sure, we don't need alcohol, but societies are attended better with alcohol provision. E.g. Clare Politics, plus others, better attended elsewhere. We can't attract people from other colleges. Can't give drinks to speakers at events. Point about inclusivity. Should trust other societies to be inclusive. Regulations in place. Should be trusting of student body to provide inclusive environment. Initiation ceremonies, drinking societies are out of the question. Not being proposed to fund social events. On basis of policing the societies, not taking a moral stance. Amendment passing simple guidelines that limits occasions when societies cannot be used to fund alcohol. Logistically impossible, would just require a breakdown of receipts. Misleading, done regularly at other colleges. Don't see why we cannot do this here at Jesus. Not a question of money, not of necessity (increase participation, can be done easily and cheaply), and can be easily regulated. Where has this gone wrong before or elsewhere? Never. Works well at other places. No harm in trying, we can try things out but then we can respond to that.

CR: Points of abstention?

KB: Amendment to scrap clause 3, 4.1, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5 of MKS's motion.

CR: Justification?

KB: Important that those who vote for the motion, vote for it on the right terms. Clause 3 - unique opportunity to empower Ents officers. As it stands, no rule against buying alcohol. Not changing something from how it was. Clause 4.1 – true that lots of people need to cut their budgets, but there was an £11,000 underspend. This is an argument for Societies to submit the bare minimum, allow for more liquidity in budget – not an argument against alcohol. Budget under strain could potentially accommodate alcohol. Rather, it's about restructuring budget. Clause 4.3 – exclusionary nature of alcohol. Misleading with Ents clause. Clause 4.4 – don't think it's turning the JCSU into a moral body. 4.5 – JCSU regulates everything that is bought, no stash, etc. Quite easy to regulate alcohol. Within a £100 debating society, £40 for alcohol. Everyone submits receipts to Kirsty. Can see both sides.

CR: Voting on the wording of the motion?

Ellie Williams (EW): Quick point on funds – yearly budget figures quite difficult to predict. E.g. boat club with unpredictable expenditure.

Daisy Eyre (DW): IF you strike clause 3, should be some clarification – previously the JCSU did have a rule. More clarity to point 2. Suggestion for KB's amendment:

'This allows the JCSU to review our current approach (which is not to spend our money on alcohol) to regulating the purchase of alcohol using JCSU funds ...' in clause 2

KB: Happy to accept that as an amendment. Boat club is a massive chunk of money. £2000 of £11000 left unspent.

CR: Proceed to a vote on procedural motion about amendment.

In proposition: 37

In opposition: 1

In abstention: 2

CR: Amendment passes. Currently debating the amended motion suggested by KB.

SO: Requests clarification. Emphasised importance of common sense. At discretion of both treasurer and Richard Dennis. Very important to provide concrete guideline. What plans do you have? Beyond 'alcohol as primary purpose'? Quite vague.

TG: Look back case-by-case whether it has been used reasonably.

SO: More in the case where societies make their budget. Quite vague at the moment.

KB: When write budget, subdivide into category and say how much is spent on each. At budget can see what each society is spending.

SO: More about a guideline for the budget.

DE: SO has hit the nail on head. The kind of language 'within reason' and 'common sense' is contradictory itself. E.g. a glass of prosecco at formal. Not a clear boundary. Ironically, allowing the JCSU to give some societies alcohol is more paternalistic than policy as it is now. Not a policing body. There is no necessity for alcohol. Informal rule in place, so there has been no necessity. That rule has allowed us to be more inclusive.

MKS: Similar point to DE. Could put in place most stringent rules in how societies may use alcohol. In practice, execution is not clear cut. Much more work for Treasurer, receipt for 10 bottles of wine for evening of discussion and chat. How on earth is Kirsty meant to know that? Slightly absurd argument, we can make as many rules as we want. Always going to be an ambiguity. More paternalistic than it is as it currently stands. Unfair burden on JCSU, overstepping reach of JCSU.

TG: Making it more difficult for treasurer is not an acceptable reason. Students are responsible, JCSU should have faith in its students. Not just a blanket ban.

OB: Treasurer having more work. Trial period. Would be good to see what people do at other colleges.

EW: One of the main issues about this is that there are not enough structures in place to prevent misuse. Societies at the moment can request alcohol. If motion does not pass, no rules in place. Not enough concrete information – alcohol can have a really big effect. Alcohol can be exclusionary. Need to be careful that we are legislating this carefully.

MKS: EW made a good point. Propose an amendment. Not to change standing orders, but to make it JCSU policy. Better to pass aims of this motion. Can revisit at a later date.

CR: Vote on this procedural motion:

In proposition: 39

In opposition: 0

In abstention: 0

Mihir Sood (MS): Don't know if it's relevant. Find it strange that alcohol is seen to be exclusionary. So much of college social life revolves around alcohol. May Ball, Ents, JHAF, subject dinners, etc. No talk of those things being exclusionary.

SO: Respond to JHAF comment. Drinks served in separate room, accessory to the event.

Daniel Patton (DP): Isn't the point of Todd's change that alcohol is not a central part of an event?

MB: Costs and benefits of Todd's suggestion.

Elle Prince (EP): Drinks companies could sponsor events. Why take it off the JCSU? If you have such great speakers, surely companies would be willing to sponsor you and pay for some alcohol.

TG: More difficult for a small society in College. These societies have to be publicised.

Yash Singh (YS): It's not being said that social money is being spent. KM said no to my request regarding the football annual dinner

MKS: Responding to MS's point – spirit of this motion is partly because there is a lot of alcohol in college social life. Whether you disagree with that or not is slightly less relevant. Request a procedural to go immediately to a vote.

*Clear majority against.*

EP: How would we define inappropriate behaviour?

TG: Behaviour that is reported to Dean of College. Would like to propose an amendment.

DE: Slight misunderstanding of £11,000. Being part of JCSU is complex. Often it's a matter of complying with what College tells us to do. Reserves don't work how you say. College asks us to increase reserves. Strike point 3 and point 4. If you criticised MKS's motion for reference to moral issues, then it is only fair to take out all references to moral issues. It is not the JCSU's position to take a moral stance on the nature of alcohol. Furthermore, point about inappropriate behaviour is naïve. Cases of sexual harassment, e.g. would not be reported.

TG: Accept all, strike points 3 and points 4.

CR: Proceed to a vote on TG's amendment (see appendix).

In favour: 33

In opposition: 11

In abstention: 5

CR: Todd's amendment is now the motion being debated.

DP: If TG's motion passes, can anyone buy alcohol before the next AGM?

KM: Budget isn't binding. At Kirsty's discretion.

TG: Already breakdown in society's budgets. Clear discretion. If out of proportion, can be turned down.

CR: Go to a vote on TG's motion

In favour: 35

Against: 16

Abstention: 5

CR: Motion passed.

DE: Something got raised and lost in the discussion: the voice of those people who do feel excluded by alcohol. Student feedback. Does our college child want to drink? Need to consider emotions.

### ***(b) Motion 2: Formation of an Investment Society***

Austin Kelly (AK): Proposed à la agenda (see appendix).

EP: Society funding?

AK: Yet to be decided. Possibly from College or JCSU Reserves. Open to everyone. Present stock ideas.

CR: Any points in opposition or abstention?

DE: Nervous about using Jesus money in an investment society. Would it go back into the College? Can think of much better use of money.

AK: Much more accountability. Passed through society and other levels of supervision.

DP: Pot of £60,70k – money to spend throughout the year, funds should go up rather than down. Same as any other society.

Niall Devlin (ND): Use not lose money. Society funding debate will occur at a later OGM.

AK: Benefits for career – investment in portfolio stocks, what I've presented to society, real return to that. Returns when applying to jobs. Some people find looking at the stock market fun. Clare College already run their own investment society.

DE: Nudge society to use some % of profits to charity.

AK: Some charities are picky about where the money comes from.

DE: Suggests amendment that the Investment Society might possibly look into returning some money to charity.

Richard Cartwright (RC): How much does the JCSU pay to charity?

DP: May Ball gives a lot of money to charity.

DE: Vote on amendment to consider looking into it.

*Passes with a majority.*

Bea Shepherd (BS): Some people don't have an opportunity to get 8-week-long internships in the summer, so excellent opportunity from an access point of view.

CR: Proceed to a vote:

*Passes with majority.*

## **5. Emergency motions**

N/A

## **6. Any other business**

N/A

Meeting concluded at 21:05.

## APPENDIX 1 – AGENDA

1. Executive reports of actions since last OGM
2. Members' questions to the Executive
3. Junior Treasurer report on JCSU Enterprise Account
4. Ordinary Motions

### **(a) Motion 1: Motion to Define the Policy of the JCSU with Regards to the Purchase of Alcohol**

#### **1. The JCSU notes:**

1. Having recently undergone a review of the JCSU Constitution, as well as College Regulations, contrary to popular belief, the JCSU is in a position at present to use our annual budget to purchase alcohol.
2. This allows the JCSU to review our current approach to regulating the purchase of alcohol using JCSU funds, and move beyond the informal current arrangements, allowing for a clearer policy for both the student body at large, and the incumbent JCSU.
3. We believe that there is a unique opportunity to empower the Entertainments Officers of the JCSU to use their standard budget to purchase alcohol (alongside soft drinks and other refreshments as they currently do) for events. Currently, to consume alcohol at these events would require students (such as, for example but not restricted to, bops, and the annual garden party) to pay bar prices, when the JCSU could provide a cheaper and more accessible alternative. This provision would also be alongside providing soft drinks, and these events would remain, as at present, open to all members of college.
4. However, we also believe that without refinement of our position, there currently also exists a serious risk of misuse of JCSU funds if the ability to purchase alcohol is extended to the societies affiliated and funded by the JCSU. We feel this is the case for a number of reasons:
  - 4.1. The annual budget of the JCSU is currently under great strain, demonstrated by the fact that a number of societies were asked to cut the budget they felt they needed for the 2016-17 academic year by the previous treasurer, in addition to a number of societies we were unable to fund; and also, the small size of the reserves, that have already been needed this academic year
  - 4.2. The societies affiliated to the JCSU have all proven able to function effectively and conductively to student involvement without alcohol at present, suggesting there is no *necessity* for societies to purchase alcohol with JCSU funds, which are meant to support the good and effective running of societies; further, per College Regulations, to consume alcohol within college rooms would require the provision of alcohol by the college, which would put significant strain on these budgets due to the cost of alcohol purchased by the college
  - 4.3. The purchase of alcohol for events in societies could be construed as an exclusionary measure, as funds should be used to foster the inclusion of all members of society in its events (per the JCSU constitution, which requires societies to be open and inclusive to all), as students for religious, cultural, physical and mental health, or personal reasons who do not drink alcohol could feel excluded from events where alcohol is provided. This would be a particularly acute issue if an event was solely oriented around the consumption of alcohol (for example, in 'initiation ceremonies')
  - 4.4. It would be to take a policing role that is completely inappropriate for the JCSU if we were to regulate which societies could or could not purchase alcohol on their subjective merit; it is not for the JCSU to take a moral position on the value of a society if they abide in full the constitutional regulations of the JCSU constitution on affiliation
  - 4.5. It would be logistically impossible in any case for the JCSU to institute any regulation of societies in their purchase of alcohol, as this would put an altogether unfair burden on the working of the Treasurer of the JCSU, which at present is already a demanding role in tandem with academic and other commitments
5. We feel that it is appropriate for the JCSU to institute in its standing orders these principles regarding this issue; also, if the student body in future changes its position, they are capable of overturning the standing order through two consecutive Ordinary General Meetings (OGMs), unlike more permanent constitutional change

**2. The JCSU believes:**

1. The purchase of alcohol using funds from the JCSU annual budget should not be used by the societies affiliated to the JCSU, with the exception of the Entertainments Officers, who should be permitted to use their regular budget to purchase alcohol.

**3. The JCSU resolves:**

1. To allow the budget of the Entertainments Officers to be employed in the purchase of alcohol, alongside other refreshments and their current financial commitments.
2. To proscribe the purchase of alcohol by the wider societies that are affiliated to the JCSU, in the interests of the concerns noted above.

**4. Proposed by:** Matthew Kevin Sample

**5. Seconded by:** Alex Rowe and Lili Bidwell

**Point of information: Removed Motion**

Since this argument directly conflicted with the above motion, it was removed from the agenda

We have included it as record for your information

***The JCSU notes:***

- 1. The previous OGM provoked discussion over the question of funding for alcohol in JCSU societies, which was informally banned.*
- 2. There is not clarity over the issue.*
- 3. The domestic bursar of the college has expressed that he would not put restrictions on this funding.*
- 4. Many (if not all) other undergraduate unions/JCRs in Cambridge permit the purchase of alcohol using funds provided by them to societies.*

***The JCSU believes:***

- 1. Societies should be allowed to use their funds as they wish.*
- 2. No extra funding should be provided for the purchase of alcohol above what is the norm for societies' funding. Therefore, the JCSU budget will not be hurt.*
- 3. Permitting societies to do this would provide more sociable forums, especially for societies which facilitate socialising and debate.*
- 4. External speakers and attendants from outside of college may often assume they will be provided with alcohol, and students should not be expected to provide this from their own pockets.*
- 5. Members of the undergraduate body should be trusted by their representatives and not expected to abuse something which has not even been implemented and has worked without issues at other colleges.*

***The JCSU resolves:***

- 1. To allow the use of JCSU-allocated funds for societies and JCSU ents for the purchase of alcohol consumed within the college.*
- 2. To give the treasurer discretion to reject claims for funding of alcohol if abuse or inappropriate behaviour has occurred.*

**(b) Motion 2: Formation of an Investment Society**

**The JCSU notes:**

1. That there is currently no society related to investing or financial management currently in the college

2. That students would value the opportunity to learn how to manage their finances
3. That there are many students at the college interested in going into careers requiring an understanding of markets

**The JCSU believes:**

1. That students ought to have educational resources in personal finances more easily available to them
2. That students would benefit from the opportunity to participate in an educational society that teaches people how to handle investments

**The JCSU resolves:**

1. To set up an Investment Society

**Proposed by:** Austin Kelly

**Seconded by:** Kirsty McKnight

**5. Emergency motions**

**6. Any other business**

## APPENDIX 2 – TG'S AMENDED MOTION THAT PASSED

### **The JCSU notes:**

1. Having recently undergone a review of the JCSU Constitution, as well as College Regulations, contrary to popular belief, the JCSU is in a position at present to use our annual budget to purchase alcohol.
2. This allows the JCSU to review our current approach to regulating the purchase of alcohol using JCSU funds, and move beyond the informal current arrangements, allowing for a clearer policy for both the student body at large, and the incumbent JCSU.

### **The JCSU believes:**

1. Alcohol might be used as a facilitator for sociability and help student-run events and societies might be more appealing.
2. No general increase in budget allocations should be required since a very small proportion of JCSU-affiliated clubs and societies use their whole allocation.

### **The JCSU resolves:**

1. To clarify that the use of JCSU funds for alcohol are allowed only for events where socials and alcohol are not deemed the central purpose of the event in question, with further guidance from discussion with other colleges, student unions and the College, which the treasurer and JCSU will undertake. The JCSU Ents officers will be able to purchase alcohol for events they organise.
2. To continue to prevent the misuse of funds by refusing to reimburse the budget allocation for any alcohol which has led to inappropriate behaviour.