

JCSU ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING 2018

Minutes of an Ordinary General Meeting of the JCSU held at 18:00 on Tuesday 6th March in the Webb Library.

MINUTES

Present: the President (Edward Parker-Humphreys), the Vice-President (Toby Twentyman), the Treasurer (Hena McGhee), the Secretary (Natasha Pearson), the Services Officer (Sofia Clini), the Access Officer (David Adeboye), the Ents Officers (Callum Moran and Nina Luckmann), the Women's Officer (Holly Scott), the Green Officer (Ali Golby), the Welfare Officers (Abby Watson and Joe Smallman), the Mental Health and Disabilities Officer (Maisie Keany-Frost), the LGBT+ Officer (Holly Bracewell), the Freshers Officer (Jess Tucker) and the Ethnic and Religious Minorities Officer (Omar Helmy).

Absent: the International Officer (Rica Lee), the Communications Officer (Fadle Arouna)

1. Executive reports of actions since last OGM

EPH: Since elected I have chaired regular meetings of the JCSU committee, sat on College Council, arranged the flying of the LGBT+ rainbow flag with HB. Also renegotiated party permit policy with College, sat on Student Affairs Committee where I discussed use of The Roost Café and Bar and use of the sports pitches. Also sat on the educational board, the Prevent committee and CUSU council. Lobbied college to change their policy on fridge-freezer provision and to provide subsidies for halfway hall

TT: Organised Halfway Hall and the stash order. Sat on Student Affairs Committee. Helped organise a working group to discuss the use of college sports pitches.

HM: Reimbursing for society expenditure. Purchase of scrum machine using JCSU reserves. Also used JCSU reserves for smaller capital purchases including a lacrosse goal and netball posts. Helped new societies organise budgets.

NP: Organising regular committee meetings and this OGM. Managing bookings of the JCR and ensuring it is being used appropriately and being left in a suitable state.

SC: Attended kitchen development committee, buildings committee and Student Affairs Committee. Circulated Caff survey in preparation for caff forum next week. Organised a gym committee to oversee correct use of the gym.

DA: Organised an access swap with Newnham and a workshop on how to approach going back to your old school. Set up a working group in college to discuss access issues for students already at the college. Implemented scheme for grads to sell back their second-hand gowns. Helped with the fresher room ballot and the CUSU shadowing scheme

AG: Worked with the catering manager to get biodegradable straws in The Roost Bar. Helped continue the compost bin provision scheme, which will soon be reviewed before being rolled out on a college-wide basis. Working on the green impact scheme along with various members of college to try and get a gold award. Lobbying college for divestment. Planning events for student switch off week.

CM/NL: Organised the bops at the start of term and after Halfway Hall. Organised deal with Clare Ents. Organised themed formals inc marriage. Preparing garden party and silent disco at the start of next term.

HS: Sat on Student Affairs Committee proposing motions about women's hour and gender neutral toilets. Pioneered and participated in a working group for provisions for sexual assault survivors. Helped organise text-a-tea. Organised International Women's Day formal.

AW/JS: Attended welfare and sexual health training. Organised drop-ins and used the anonymous messaging service. Organised several welfare cakes. Helped organise wellness week events including chlamydia testing and mindfulness

sessions. Helped with the text-a-tea initiative. Distributing sexual health supplies. Planning events for next term including a petting farm and puppies.

MF: Organised and ran two drop-ins with Tori McKee. Meeting with the domestic bursar to discuss physical accessibility. Pushing for assistive technology on Kwok Room computers. Began work on a learning resources page on the JCSU website. Pushing for more visible links to the Disability Resource Centre's building access guide on JNet and the college website. Ensuring accessibility information is listed for all JCSU events.

RL: helped compile resources for incoming international students regarding visas. Linked adoptive parents with American children. Welfare training and welfare messaging. Liaising with Selwyn to organise international students swap.

HB: LGBT month events including quiz, formal, film screening. Working with EPH to organise the flying of the rainbow flag. Welfare drop-ins and messaging service.

JT: Have prepared a welcoming email to be sent out to offer holders. Attended welfare training. Compiling subject guides which will be distributed to incoming freshers. Liaising with the gym committee for a spreadsheet detailing when sports teams will be in the gym.

OH: Worked with catering manager to improve halal diets in caff and formal. Work on fridge/freezer provision. Sat on Prevent committee. Welfare messaging.

2. Members' questions to the Executive

Will Thurwell (WT) : Is there a provisional date for the JCSU garden party?

NL: Possibly the Thursday of May Week.

WT: That's good. It is best to do it after May Ball due to potential complications.

3. Junior Treasurer report on JCSU Enterprise Account

HM: At the start of December £50 came into the account due to JCSU committee stash subsidies. Outgoing payments for halfway hall (band and photographer).

4. Ordinary Motions

(a) Motion to reform the role of the Ethnic and Religious Minorities Officer

MA: Proposed à la agenda

MA: I have decided on a few things that I want to change since originally proposing this motion. The Constitution does not say much about the ERM Officer's role and makes the role seem quite tokenistic. Welfare and concerns should be taken into account in the definition of the role. The role as it stands is outmoded and requires reform. The ERM Officer isn't currently held accountable to the students they're representing, and the role isn't sufficiently visible. The Constitution needs to outline certain responsibilities that have to be taken into account. This will help create a greater sense of community. We should have a committee of all ERM students to be brought together in more organised way. ERM Officer would facilitate this space. This would create a safe space in college and ensure that the ERM people of Jesus are in touch with the Officer. More transparency on issues such as Prevent is required. There is also an issue of the fact that more people vote than there are ERM students.

Daniel Patton (DP): Yes I support the motion, but if you say you want to amend it, can we pass it today?

MA: Further discussion is needed.

DP: Would the space you are envisaging be similar to HB's work with the LGBT community?

MA: Yes. Perhaps committee is the wrong word, more of a community.

OH: Updating the constitution is very valid point and an ERM forum is good idea. Also setting up a facebook group for ERM Jesuans could be useful. I have done lots of welfare work in my time as officer, which needs to be reflected in constitution. Regarding *The JCSU Believes* point 2, I think that I am held accountable in same ways as other officers, for example in regularly outlining what I have been doing at committee meetings and OGMS. Also I would argue there is transparency. I have dealt with issues such as the use of non-halal serving implements for halal foods in caff. Regarding *The JCSU Resolves* point 4, it can't be like these committees as they are all elected JCSU members. If, as you envisage it, this committee would involve all ERM people in college, then it is very different from this.

Sara Shaida (SS): I appreciate everything you have done Omar, but other students may have concerns going unanswered as visibility is key. We need a safe space for ERM people to address their concerns, rather than just the OGM. Once a term a meeting in the JCR would be useful.

OH: I agree that this kind of informal occasion would be useful.

EPH: Definitely in terms of improving communication between ERM officer and ERM community a forum on an informal basis would be a worthy thing to explore. These can be done without a formal motion being passed here tonight. The constitution does need updating, this isn't the only area in which it is not up-to-date. In terms of practical steps going forward it would be useful to not take this motion forward tonight, and we can get a concrete and formal motion forward to change the constitution. Concern about non-ERM people voting for the position, as outlined in the motion, is also one I share. But it is very difficult to restrict this in a practical way. Instead we need to make it more clear who should be voting. This is again something worth discussing outside the OGM.

Chair: Would the proposer like to take this to a vote?

MA: No

Motion is withdrawn without a vote.

(b) Living wage accreditation

EPH: proposes motion à la agenda

EPH: This is basically a motion to lobby college to seek Living Wage Accreditation (LWA) and ensure everyone is paid the real living wage. This is based on actual living costs rather than the Living Wage that the government defines. Big disparity between the legal requirement and living wage. The University has recently committed to seeking LWA, college should do the same as other colleges have. We have responsibility as a college to ensure all staff are paid the living wage. To do this we will investigate current wage structures of College and then lobby the College to become a fully-accredited Living Wage employer.

Theo Bearman (TB): Would like clarification on point 1 of *The JCSU Resolves*. How will these investigations take place? Will college comply?

EPH: We can submit a freedom of information request and they are legally obliged to comply.

JT: I would like to suggest that we might amend clause 2 of *The JCSU Resolves* to 'depending on results of these investigations', in case they show that the proposal is not viable.

EPH: No. Whatever the results of the investigation we are able to act. Either we act to lobby college to change the wage structures or, if they are already adequate, to go through the simple administrative task of gaining formal LWA.

AW: I would support amending clause 2. We need to consider the impact on students themselves of changing wage structures. Would we support this still if it negatively affected students?

EPH: I agree that we should be wary of college trying to pass this burden onto us, however amending the clause risks watering down the motion and making it easy for college to resist.

AW: I'm not saying we shouldn't be lobbying, but we need to work out how best to approach college.

EPH: My reservations about amending it is creating a 'get-out' clause that suggests we will give up in face of college resistance. If college try to increase living costs in light of this we would also look to resist this. Shouldn't put the two against each other, we need to be unequivocal.

Sorcha Keenan: Is there a danger that if living wage is pushed for they could threaten to put staff on zero-hour contracts?

EPH: I'm not 100% sure about the complexities of this but I believe that the intricacies of LWA do account for this as far as I know.

Chair: Are there any objections to moving to a vote?

Motion passes unanimously.

(c) UCU Strike Support

EPH: proposes à la agenda.

EPH: UCU has been on strike for the last 2 weeks. This has been a confusing, disruptive time for students. Under current proposals lecturers and staff will lose over 30% of money. This motion takes account of the disruption to students and their welfare while standing in solidarity with the striking lecturers. This motion is supporting academics and supervisors but also taking account of disruption to students and aiming to mitigate those effects.

Theo Bearman (TB): I take issues with clause 1 of *The JCSU Resolves*. It feeds into a wider conversation directed at CUSU. It seems to be supporting the strikes and not necessarily giving weight to students who don't. Although I personally support the strikes, I don't want other students to feel that they are having views imposed on them. We need to highlight the needs and beliefs of members of the JCSU who don't support the strike by saying 'members of the JCSU support the strike' for example.

EPH: But many do support it and want a public declaration. We have to be unequivocal.

TB: This is making assumptions which we can't make with so few people here.

Sofia Lyall (SL): Taking a firm stance actually benefits students with concerns as it will press management to make a deal to end strikes more quickly.

TB: Yes so the motion as a whole should be passed. But point one should be changed as we in the room should not presume to know opinions of everyone.

Daniel Patton (DP): But we at OGM are representative of student body.

EPH: If we support it saying that not everyone does, we undermine the substance of motion. We should, as the JCSU, take a position on the strike and this should be one of support.

JT: I have spoken to a number of freshers about this motion. Most people appreciated the welfare clause and thought it was great to press for changing exams. Disruption has been a huge concern, but generally people are supportive of the strike and especially supportive of lecturers who are doing their best to minimize disruption to teaching. However they are concerned that a public motion would be over-representative. We could definitely send out information about the strike. But this is overly political statement – we don't want to alienate people from JCSU.

EPH: it's not meant to be alienating. This is toned down compared to other JCRs and CUSU who have told people not to cross pickets etc. This is motion of general solidarity not the JCSU telling people to do this and this. Thing that helps the most is public shows of solidarity.

Matthew Sample (MS): perhaps the solution isn't to alter point 1 or 2. Point 4 of *The JCSU Resolves* should be fleshed out to recognise different impacts depending on different students. Also on point 5 I would change the wording to 'press for review of assessment and marking procedures' in case papers themselves can't be changed. I will formally submit these amendments later in the discussion.

DP: Is it the role of the JCSU to be making political decisions? People may feel like the JCSU is also against them. Is this actually helpful to students in what is meant to be a student union?

EPH: you can support the strikes and carry on as normal. Way of supporting them is entirely up to individual. This is why in the motion I have given no specific prescriptions as to what should and shouldn't be done. Motion is not condemning those who go to lectures. Yes there is a fine line in the role of JCSU. But there is political direction to any students union.

Sorcha Keenan: Welfare is a big part of this. This motion would make it difficult for those with negative experiences crossing picket lines to trust JCSU for this support. JCSU needs to let students know that they have rights in this situation, and people may feel that they can't turn to JCSU welfare in this situation.

EPH: yes there are times when people have to go to faculty and this is an individual decision. People are generally supportive and that is what this is about. People who are concerned about crossing picket lines can still get support through JCSU. Putting this statement out allows students to show solidarity without having to disrupt themselves more than necessary.

SK: would you distribute info on rights to cross picket lines?

EPH: Yes

Matthew Seccombe: JCSU stance wouldn't be propaganda. Everyone will benefit from strikes at the end of the day, so solidarity is not necessarily peer pressure thing.

AW: the problem that a number of people have highlighted is that the wording is not as effective as it could be in showing that the JCSU supports students. So this should be amended before these concerns are raised when it is published to the rest of student body.

EPH: I propose amendment to the JCSU resolves to add an additional clause (clause 6) which will read 'The JCSU resolves to recognise that the way in which students support the strikes or otherwise is a decision for the individual'.

Chair: Are there any points in opposition or abstention to this amendment?

No points in opposition or abstention.

Vote on amendment:

In favour: 12

In abstention: 9

In opposition: 1

Amendment passes.

EPH: I also propose an amendment to clause 4 of *The JCSU Believes* to read 'The JCSU believes that students should support lecturers and other staff members to the best of their ability, and the manner in which this is done is a decision for the individual student'.

Chair: Are there any points in opposition or abstention to this amendment?

DP: Is this actually different from previous amendment?

SL: Worth making it a separate point as currently undermining support.

EPH: but it is still echoing *The JCSU Resolves* clause 6 in same way.

Chair: Any other points?

No further points in opposition or abstention.

Vote on amendment:

In favour: 12

In abstention: 11

In opposition: 0

WT: how does public support translate practically?

EPH: *The JCSU Resolves* point 2 is most effective way of executing point 1. Supporting through attending rallies etc as well but this is individual thing.

MS: I propose an amendment to point 5 to alter it to read 'to push for a review of assessment and marking procedures in light of the disruption caused'

Chair: Any points in opposition or abstention?

No points in opposition or abstention.

Vote on amendment:

In favour: 23

In abstention: 0

In opposition: 0

SK: I propose an amendment to say info distributed should highlight rights of student

EPH: The newly added clause 6 encompasses this.

JT: perhaps we could amend it to 'balanced' information

EPH: I propose an amendment to point 3 of *The JCSU Resolves* to read 'The JCSU Resolves to disseminate information to students and encourage them to support this industrial action to the best of their ability, whilst making them aware of their individual rights'

TT: Any points in opposition or abstention?

No points in opposition or abstention.

Vote on amendment:

In favour: 23

In abstention: 0

In opposition: 0

TT: Any further points in opposition or abstention of amended motion?

No points in opposition or abstention.

Vote on amendment:

In favour: 11

In abstention: 5

In opposition: 4

Motion passes.

(d) Women's officer

HS: This motion needs to pass for second time to go into standing orders. Reads out new definition as in motion.

Matthew Sample: Is it appropriate that in the wording of the motion women and non-binary are considered one same minority 'group' (singular).

Daniel Patton: In this country women aren't actually a minority numerically?

HS: They are symbolically a minority. The wording isn't an issue to me but can change it to groups if people would prefer.

HB: as LGBT officer I would support this

HS: I accept this as a friendly amendment.

TT: Any points in opposition or abstention to this motion?

No points in opposition or abstention.

Motion passes nem con and goes into the Standing Orders.

(e) Motion to have the tennis courts painted as netball courts

HS: There is currently only one netball court and three tennis courts. So the netball team struggle to host cuppers. The netball lines can be painted onto the tennis courts. This could be done in summer, as has been agreed with maintenance.

Surina Fordington (SF): As tennis captain, I know that this issue has been discussed considerably in the past. I would like to explain why it has been opposed in previous years. Reason is because you only need one court for whole netball match, but for tennis cuppers matches one match is multiple courts. Having netball lines painted on tennis courts disrupts more than you'd think. Could we agree to have dark lines as this would be better? People always avoid using court with netball painted on it. Want to encourage lots to play. Is it really necessary if it just for the one cuppers weekend? Tennis stretches over whole year.

HS: yes really useful, especially with larger up-take at the moment. It is really hard to train with just one court. Have just bought another set of posts as we are an expanding team. Dark lines would be fine, I agree to a friendly amendment.

SF: can you just have extra posts to train with? Would the extra lines stretch across all three courts?

HS: you need lines to practice shooting. Yes would stretch across all courts. In light of supporting sport in general this is necessary. We should be able to host cuppers as currently disadvantaged.

TT: Any further points in opposition or abstention?

Vote on motion:

In favour: 7

In abstention:13

In opposition: 0

Motion passes.

5. Emergency motions

(a) Motion to ensure the JCSU Constitution is up-to-date on the JCSU website

MS: I would like to submit a motion to make sure the publicly available version of the JCSU constitution is up to date

EPH: I will offer a guarantee that this will happen

MS: I withdraw the motion, but will propose again at next OGM if action is not taken

Motion is withdrawn

(b) Motion to have further discussion on the ERM Officer's role in the next OGM

Sara Shaida (SS): want recommitment to discuss ERM role in next meeting.

DP: it is in the minutes – this is accountability.

EPH: do you want to pass a formal motion?

SS: that's fine, I withdraw.

Motion is withdrawn

6. Any other business

None

The meeting closed at 19:38.