



JCSU Executive Committee Meeting

May 3 2021 on Zoom

Present (15): the President (Jacob Powell, *in the Chair*), the Vice-President (Estelle Cho Lin Wing), the Treasurer (Matthew Chan), the Secretary (Lewis Westwood Flood), the Access Officer (Robyn Briggs), the Male Welfare Officer (Angus Harron), the Female Welfare Officer (Eva Timlin), the Women's and Non-Binary Officer (Mojola Akinyemi), the LGBT+ Officer (Jack Ward), the International Students' Officer (Tara Khanna), the Freshers' Officers (Bella Manfredi & Maddie Mitchell), the Services Officer (Will Zeng), the Mental Health & Disabilities Officer (Immie Parsley), and the Communications Officer (Aurelio Petrucci).

Apologies (1): the Environmental & Ethical Affairs Officer (Ellie Doran).

Absent (3): the Ents Officers (Cian Fielden & Ben Millard) and the Ethnic & Religious Minorities Officer (Imran Mulla).

One Minute Summary

This is not a substitute for the minutes and is not an official record.

- Officer work focused on exam welfare, returns, and post-exam celebrations, where possible.
- College is currently keen to stick to the government's reopening schedule, and the JCSU will continue to work with them on this.
- The Committee discussed the Rent Strike at some length, including issues of student safety, approach to communication, and the role of the JCSU. It was decided that the JCSU Committee was unable to take a position on the issue formally, but will provide full welfare support to any students partaking in the strike. This will go hand in hand with providing a neutral pathway for negotiations with College should the strike go ahead.
- The flag consultation should be going ahead imminently, and the Committee discussed ways of providing detailed and nuanced reasons to fellows to help in convincing them on the issue.
- ~~There will be an OGM in the first half of term, most likely online due to weather and ongoing COVID restrictions, and the Secretary will circulate more details ASAP.~~
At the meeting on May 17th, the Secretary confirmed that the OGM would occur in the week of the 21st of June, most likely in person.
- There will be two elections, for MH & Disabilities Officer and College Council Rep, alongside a referendum on a constitutional amendment this term.

Minutes

Meeting opened at 19:04

1.0 - Approval of the [Draft Minutes from the 16th March 2021](#)

The Committee **APPROVED** the draft minutes as the official record.

2.0 - Officer Reports

All officers will give a brief verbal report on their activities over vacation, the beginning of term, and the term ahead.

- Tara: Over the vacation, travel rules roadmap, working with others on fundraising links. Also the international students campaign on exam timings and mitigations.
- Matthew: Kept accounts up to date and budget work, which is due to the Council by end of May.
- Robyn: Over vacation, slowly ticking away on admin stuff for the alternative prospectus, and had to push back a couple of the deadlines due to exam term. Katie also emailed out a competition for photos of College for the publication, especially as we are lacking photos of the current student body. Also working on message re: Caesarian Sunday, drinking culture, drinking society culture. Also note that we don't formally recognise drinking socs as per the OGM.
- Immie: Talking to different individuals about exam adjustments, mostly specific cases. My term isn't that long, obviously, and I want to try and setup a buddying system for disabled students, as it often feels like there isn't much of a community. Not much desire to join big GCs or events in some cases due to stigma.
- Will: Talking to some people about college bill changes. Ballot for second years is pretty soon, then freshers is two weeks after. Will send out an email re: welfare support soon.
- Jack: Trying to not become disillusioned by the state of College, especially re: flags. Working with James on training for welfare tutors.
- Lewis: Minutes, privacy and data protection policy, which I will discuss with Jacob and Aurelio soon. OGM planning and photo planning, and hopefully gonna spend quite a lot on pizza this term.
- Maddie & Bella: Freshers BBQ, Town Hall with offer holders, filmed the tour, just continuing that work.
- Estelle: Working on stash, which is a nightmare, especially as people aren't collecting their stash and I can't find them + other stash missing. Meeting with the Careers Committee this week to discuss the third years career panel I ran, re: what went well, etc.
- Eva & Angus: We've got a lot of budget for exam term, so been thinking about what we can do. So, lots of food and welfare things like that. Gonna try and put out a survey on welfare, esp with lower attendance last term. Hopefully incentivizing activity via hampers, tickets to paintball, etc.
- Jacob: Doing the usual JCSU President meetings with college, especially over flags and redundancies. Not as much as during term, but keeping stuff working during term.
- Aurelio: Working on ethernet adapters, about 15 orders for those which is good!

3.0 - COVID-19

3.1 - General Updates

- Jacob: Not much to say right now, College is following, right now, the roadmap out of lockdown to the letter. Should allow indoor mixing when permitted under the regs, and currently the library is the main 'battle', as librarians are not keen for expanding spaces. Tori wants Alexis [Manciple] to put study spaces in the Forum. Hopefully more people partaking in the testing regime.
- Aurelio: What are Colleges' plan for May 17th and June 21st? Jacob: As I understand it, lots of desire to run events and relax in line with guidelines. Even garden parties if a fellow is present. Maybe even a party on June 26th, but who knows.

4.0 - Rent Strike

President

- Jacob: Sure you will have all seen the Rent Strike increasing their publicity right now. This is to discuss the JCSU stance on it. Not about my personal view, but having spoken to several students seems to be less of a desire to back the rent strike. Also issues re: college and OGM motion nullification.
- Aurelio: Personally in favour, but I don't think the JCSU should adopt a line on it. Would be inappropriate for the JCSU to get involved if we want, especially, Jacob and Estelle to act as 'honest brokers' in discussions with College. May jeopardise other work we're doing. Doesn't preclude working against evictions and the like if they happen, also noting the 31st May eviction ban. Welfare support too.
- Jacob: Definitely on welfare.
- Lewis: Just to add to what Aurelio said, maybe also issue over President/being a College Council Trustee and Charity law. Not an expert but something to consider re: an inevitable OGM motion.
- Robyn: 100% need to prepare a plan for evictions/fines or any sort of penalty for taking part.
- Jacob: Yes, Dean is very much against fines. Really hope that they will avoid issuing them, given the other penalties they rely on need no Covid.
- Aurelio: Would be great if we could get a document from Council what the policy on fines is.
- Matthew: Definitely agree on not taking a position as a JCSU. Don't want College getting angry at us for no reason because we *didn't* take a stance. Also, some of the demands of the rent strike are things we (the JCSU) are already working on, which may be an issue of communication.
- Lewis: I don't think silence will be a problem, if that was under contention. Would be pretty ridiculous if they had a problem with us not taking a position.
- Aurelio: I think we need to say to College 'we are here as mediators' and are willing to work with College constructively, without supporting the rent strike itself. Also need to talk to students, say their concerns are valid, and note that, while we can't take a position, we are there to support them with individual issues and serve as that middle point.
- Jack: Also need to stand against evictions, fines, **but most importantly** the withdrawal of accommodation offer for next year needs to be opposed.

- Jacob: What kind of 'deal' are the rent strike gonna say they are happy? Aurelio: Well, it's collective, and I can't speak for them but likely a change to culture, financial changes to KFC, student inclusion, divestment? Rent demands are not quite as pressing as at other colleges, are sort of included because that's the central message. KFC and other issues are more important, I think.
- Jacob: We know College quite well, and they dislike compromise. I can't see the College compromising on something like the KFC, and then what happens? Aurelio: I mean the history of rent strikes is success, so the most obvious success is the '70s strike at King's. And most of the current strike's demands are *not* financial. They are culture and governance. Divestment. Not something massive like rent reduction. Should be widely supported. They aren't tinkering round the edges, but College should at least work seriously on these issues.
- Jacob: Do they [the rent strike] want the JCSU to sit down with College and work on this, or do they want to lead on this. Aurelio: College will likely chat with other colleges with previous experience on this.
- Mojola: My concern is safety. 20 or so students interested in rent striking right now, from what I've heard on the grapevine, and we know College are willing to screw people over. Are people aware of the risks, don't want to be patronising but it is dangerous. Who is on the Committee, what are the mechanisms?
- Aurelio: Not on the Committee, but am in the facebook group. Each College has a threshold they feel comfortable with to reduce risk, so Jesus' threshold is 35. The idea being that this guarantees safety. Mojola: From the college being willing to evict over flags in exam term?
- Estelle: People taking part are aware of the very serious risks.
- Lewis: What is the thing about the SU bank account and contributing to that? Jack: As I understand it, is an escrow account, which does allow withdrawal of money on an individual level but that would, of course, fuck over your fellow strikers. Aurelio: Idea being it's a guarantee for the College that 50 grand will be released when demands are met, and also some arcane contract law on a third party safety standpoint re: giving it in trust.
- Jacob: Is it worth the JCSU getting in touch with the Rent Strike, re: governance, democracy, and us being aware if stuff is happening.

5.0 - Flag Situation Updates

President and applicable officers

- Jacob: Nearly there with the consultation, is genuinely happen this term. Just need that to kick off.
- Jack: Want to know what involvement Queer students has been occurring? Especially if homophobes are given equal weight. Jacob: Colleges' view is that this applies to all flags, Sonita gives example of the BLM flag even.
- Aurelio: Agree with Jack, especially given the importance of the issue to Queer students in particular, especially if Fellows and Staff overwhelm student views. Also, not convinced, re: lawyer discourse, it is legal for College to stop us flying flags.
- Jacob: Dean sent me a very long email with legal justifications, which I can forward to Committee, and I do think it's important to stress the importance of democracy in College. Need to ensure that College don't backtrack or overwhelm student views with over-weighting students.

- Maddie: We could FOI request if they have been bothered by flags before February? Jacob: Do believe that has been requested, so we can keep an eye on that. Not sure what the benefit will be.

Jacob at this point moved, and the Committee **RESOLVED**, to extend the meeting time limit.

- Aurelio: What form will the consultation take? A form? A discussion? Something valuable to hearing Queer voices maybe. Also, need to stress that a consultation is not actually democratic inherently, and so maybe a referendum would be more valuable? Especially when minutes can be manipulated. Jacob: Agreed on minutes, given some stuff I say at meetings is just not minuted at all. I think it will take the same form as the Rustat consultation, with context, and qualitative and quantitative questions.
- Jack: Really quite stressed by how the Master and the Domestic Bursar have handled this, given emails I have received from four LGBTQ+ students stating that they feel this is explicitly homophobic, and that is such a failure. I have emailed, others have emailed, and have heard nothing in response. Don't know what I can do, email again? Jacob: I raised the email issue, Sonita said she would respond, and that clearly hasn't happened, which isn't exactly acceptable.
- Jacob: Consultation should probably be run by James, given he is viewed as neutral by both staff and students.
- Immie: Format wise, seems pretty unanimous that a form is better, and more accessible. Want to avoid a discussion format which is not accessible for students. A discussion *on top of* that could be important. Jacob: Definitely the most accessible, and obviously need to take into account exams and timings. Aurelio: Exam timings on Sunday evenings should be pretty free. Overall, I agree with Jack whole-heartedly. If College had issues coming in from other groups, such as racism or sexism, and I do wonder if this is the sort of thing where College feels they can ignore concerns. Homophobic tropes? Most Colleges would have met with Queer students, or *at least* replied to say they hear the concerns and will work with them as soon as possible. Not *even* an email from the welfare team. The choice not to respond when the pride flag is at issue is interesting.
- Matthew: Any update on the consultation going ahead depending on license agreement? Jacob: Sounds like a load of rubbish when Master said it in her email, seems very strange and like we are back in primary school. Bad precedent for College as well, and seemed clear from my discussions with Sonita that she wasn't entirely aware that was in the email. Would be a shame if by two Councils later there was no consultation.
- Mojola: Appreciate you meant well, but Aurelio you saying if they had emailed about race College would have responded is very weirdly worded. We don't know for sure, and I don't like the framing at all. Aurelio: I completely understand that, and I am sorry. Mojola: Appreciate the apology, thank you.
- Lewis: Could also look at using Fellows' interest in lengthier discussions and so on, especially those involved in governance, to allow circulation of lengthier written responses.
- Estelle: Want to make sure the convincing arguments put forward by students and fellows are heard well.
- Mojola: Privacy covers on windows, are they covered? Aurelio (in chat): No, only flags, notices, banners, or posters. Could put up a chopping board with 'labour' on it.

6.0 - Meeting Dates for Easter Term

Secretary

*“That the JCSU Executive Committee **NOTES** the meeting dates for the remainder of Easter Term 2021 in [the Annex](#), in general every other Monday at 7pm, and recognises this as the requisite notice under Article 4.8(1) of the Constitution.”*

Noted without opposition.

Sub-discussion point: From the next meeting, Monday May 17th, should the JCSU hold **outdoor in-person** meetings? This was agreed, weather permitting.

7.0 - OGM Scheduling

Secretary

To discuss whether to hold the OGM in person after May 17th or online before or after, or a hybrid approach.

- Brief discussion, agreed to hold the first half of term if possible and probably online due to weather, COVID, and so on. Actual date to be circulated.

8.0 - Constitutional Amendment Referendum

President & Secretary

*“That the JCSU Executive Committee **NOTES** the intent to hold a referendum on a constitutional amendment adopted at the [OGM on February 11th 2021](#) [item 4.9], and directs the President to set a ballot date before the division of Easter Term, as specified at the OGM.”*

Noted without opposition.

- Jacob noted that Hustings for Immie’s position and Zak’s position [College Council representative] will need to be held too.

For reference, the OGM directed that voting be using an online ballot.

9.0 - Any other business [AOB]

Any business not raised before the meeting may be raised by an Officer under this agenda point for a lengthier discussion. Points raised during the meeting may also be deferred to this point by the Secretary or President.

9.1 - As raised by officers

Meeting closed at 20:20

Annex 1 - Meeting Dates for Easter Term 2021

All meetings begin at 7pm

Week 1: Monday 3rd May

Week 3: Monday 17th May

Week 5: Monday 31st May

Week 7: Monday 14th June