

MT2021 WK 2– JCR motions

Motion 1:

This JCR notes:

- Gender dysphoria is a feeling of distress associated with a disconnect between a person's perceived gender, their gender identity, and appearance
- This affects people at Exeter college and uni-wide. There is evidence of higher levels of anxiety and stress in LGBTQ+ students as can be seen in the OUSU report on Student Welfare, Mental Health and Support
- There are many gender-affirming items that can be obtained (such as binders, concealing underwear, packers and breastforms), and can go a long way towards preventing gender dysphoria, improving welfare and mental health
- Items such as these can be expensive, or incur shipping costs, discouraging people who would benefit from these items from buying them. For example, the average binder costs £30 but must often be shipped from the US. Good quality breastforms may cost over £70
- The OULGBTQ+ society has its own Gender Expression fund but it is very limited, so many other colleges have created their own, including Sommerville, St Johns and Wadham...
- The uni-wide LGBTQ+ society recommends that an application at college-level be made prior to applying to the university-wide fund
- That whilst the college has an LGBTQ+ budget of £350, this is reserved for socials and cannot cover the cost of gender-affirming items

This JCR believes:

- Students' welfare is important and the JCR should strive to develop suitable welfare provisions for all its members
- A Gender Expression Fund should be made available to provide financial assistance for students whose welfare would be benefited by the purchase of gender-affirming items, but would otherwise be unable to afford them
- Having this fund in place would show to any questioning students that Exeter College is a safe, supportive, and open environment
- The college's transgender and gender non-conforming community deserves continued support

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- Start off with providing an additional £350 to be used by students solely for the purchase of items aiding in gender expression – but this is subject to be amended if it isn't enough
- Make it the responsibility of LGBTQ+ Officers to ANONYMOUSLY reimburse LGBTQ+ and/or gender non-conforming students from this fund on a case-by-case basis of up to £80 per student, subject to increase or decrease depending on remaining funds and the individual's circumstances.
- Allow students travelling to Gender Identity Clinics for appointments with gender specialists during term time to claim reimbursements for travel expenses.
- Mandate the JCR LGBTQ+ Officers to maintain the anonymity of students requesting reimbursement from this fund by sending anonymized receipts to the treasurer, who would reimburse the LGBTQ+ officers, who would in turn reimburse the individual.

Proposer: Sara Pelham

Seconded: Sarita Williams, Holly Barker

For: 26

Against: 0

Abstain: 1

Motion 2:

This JCR notes:

- Some trans people wish to use gendered toilet facilities but feel uncomfortable due to others' reactions
- Some students, including trans students, would prefer using gender-neutral toilets
- The UK Transgender Equality Enquiry (2015) states that trans students at UK universities are concerned about the lack of gender-neutral toilets on campus
- Whilst there are public Gender Neutral toilets in Cohen Quad, they do not exist on the main Turl Street site, meaning that students in college are forced to either use gender specific facilities, or travel across Cohen in order to access them.

This JCR believes:

- The availability of gender-appropriate facilities is an access issue, and that students may be reluctant to make use of college due to a lack of facilities that they would feel safe and comfortable using
- That all students at Oxford and specifically Exeter college, including transgender and gender non-conforming people, deserve to feel comfortable and safe using public facilities on campus e.g. bathrooms
- Many trans and gender non-conforming people find it uncomfortable using gendered bathrooms and other intimate gendered spaces
- Many cis students may also want to use gender-neutral toilets
- That converting the gendered toilets to gender neutral toilets is an easily implementable first step
- The college's transgender and gender non-conforming community deserves continued support from the college and the JCR

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- Convert the gendered JCR toilets to gender neutral
- Change the signs on the JCR toilets from the gendered stick figures on the toilet doors to 'Toilets with urinals' and 'Toilets without urinals', describing the cubicles for what they are and not assigning a gender to them
- To publicise their existence, and the reasons for them at the beginning of every year.
- To make sanitary pads and tampons available in both sets of toilets in a similar manner to in the 'women's' toilets
- That none of these changes should impinge on the provision of disabled toilets on site

Proposer: Sara Pelham

Seconded: Sarita Williams, Holly Barker, Danny McNamee

For: 23

Against: 2

Abstain: 2

Motion 3:

This JCR notes:

- That Oxford life is often hectic, especially for those taking part in associations or sports outside of college.
- Most of these events take place in the evening and clash with the dinner times set by college

This JCR believes:

- That students should not have to make a choice between eating sociably and being engaged in the university's sports and association

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- Ask that the timings for meals be extended and made more flexible, especially when an event organized by the college (such as chapel or sports) clashes with set mealtimes in the hall.

Proposer : Inigo Bailon

Seconded: Victoria Fletcher

For: 24

Against: 3

Abstain: 0

Motion 4: Microwaves should be allowed in Turl Street rooms or at least, in the corridors of each floor.

This JCR notes:

- Microwaves are not any more dangerous than kettles and toasters, as long as proper instructions are followed (e.g. not putting an entire egg/metal in).
 - Microwaves are not any more prone to misuse compared to kettles and toasters. Trying to make grilled cheese sandwiches by inserting cheese along with bread into the toaster, or cooking pasta in a kettle (therefore causing overflow) are also misuse, but these are not banned by the college.
 - Many other Oxford colleges allow the use of microwaves, including St Annes, Keble, and Somerville to name a few. Yet these colleges have not have large accidents.
 - The risks caused by improper use of microwaves can be mitigated by placing safe use information sheets/leaflets in each room, or requiring the attendance of a brief safety talk in order to be allowed a microwave in rooms, similar to how we must attend an induction to be allowed to use gym equipment.
 - To further reduce the risk, the JCR can consider allowing microwaves in the corridors of each floor only so that the microwaves are not in rooms, and therefore have less chance of causing harm even in the case of an accident.
 - A cleaning fine/property damage fine can also be imposed to further deter improper and dangerous use of microwaves.
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- It is well acknowledged that the main site (Turl Street site) of Exeter does not have enough cooking facilities (only 1 small kitchen among all students).
 - This makes it difficult for students to cook their own meals, so many end up eating in halls or eating out, which are more expensive options.
 - Being unable to cook disproportionately affects students who are financially less well-off, as they are forced to spend more money on food than their counterparts in other colleges where microwaves are allowed.
 - This leaves less money for academic expenses, entertainment, and social activities, potentially furthering the already present class divide in Oxford, reducing the positive impact of the many equality initiatives Exeter implements.
 - We acknowledge that it is difficult and expensive to expand/build kitchens, and that it takes time.
 - However, allowing microwaves in rooms/corridors is a simple, quick way to increase access to self-catering facilities at no extra expense to the college, except for perhaps a small table in corridors for microwaves.

This JCR believes:

- To combat financial inequality in Oxford, microwaves should be allowed in rooms, or at least corridors.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- Make microwaves, and in the future, cooking facilities, more accessible and available to all in Exeter.

Proposer: Eunice Poon

Seconded: Patrick Oliver

For: 24

Against: 2

Abstain: 1

Motion 5:

This JCR Notes:

- In 2015, the Paris Agreement was set up with an aim to limit global warming to well below 2°C warming above pre-industrial levels by 2100, and preferably 1.5°C. We are now on track to at least 3°C warming by 2100. 1.5°C warming would drastically change the Earth system and humanity's dependence on it, particularly damaging nations in the Global South – let alone anything greater than 1.5°C.
- That the Oxford SU, the Cambridge SU, the Oxford Climate Justice Campaign and Oxfordshire Fossil Free have partnered together to create the Climate League of Oxford and Cambridge (CLOC) Green Norrington and Tompkins Table.

- That the Green Norrington and Tompkins Table will rank every College based on commitments they have publicly made in the following four areas: decarbonisation, divestment, delinking and governance.
- That every College was emailed a questionnaire, to be completed before October 25th, asking them to provide information about any commitments made in these four areas to ensure every College is given an opportunity to publicize any positive commitments made.
- That Exeter has refused to answer this questionnaire and has instead followed the Conference of Colleges in stating that progress regarding climate change should be based on a process that is “collaborative rather than competitive” and that Colleges have not had sufficient time to address these concerns.

This JCR Believes:

- The colleges of the University of Oxford are world-leading in research, and collectively have enormous financial and social capital. This incurs an environmental and ethical obligation to lead by example.
- That Exeter should be transparent about what commitments it has made to tackle the climate crisis and that without being transparent Exeter can neither be held accountable for its commitments nor can its positive achievements be celebrated.
- That the establishment of a Green Norrington and Tompkins Table will provide students and Oxford citizens with greater awareness of how Colleges are tackling the climate crises and would incentive Colleges to continue to make positive steps to tackle the climate crises.
- That Exeter has had more than sufficient time to address the concerns raised by the Green Norrington and Tompkins Table and that greater transparency will only fuel more collaboration between Colleges in tackling the climate crisis.

This JCR Resolves:

- Support the creation of a Green Norrington and Tompkins table that will highlight College’s progress towards tackling the climate crisis.
- To call on Exeter to change its position and to positively engage with the Oxford SU by providing answers to the questions being asked of it.

Proposers:

Jakub Michalski

Seconders:

Jack Klein

For: 27

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion 6: Raise Oxford

This JCR notes:

- Raise Oxford is a student initiative that encourages students to donate the average price of a ball ticket, or any amount significant to them, to charity with the aim of changing the way students think about charitable giving in the long-term, prompting them to consider it to be something that should be celebrated as opposed to a sacrifice.

- At the end of the year, everyone who donates comes together at a Summer Party run by Raise to celebrate their collective impact and show that deliberate giving can be a meaningful and positive experience.
- Any donations made to Raise by students are matched by external sponsors and donated to the Against Malaria Foundation - a consistently top rated GiveWell charity that funds nets and ensures they are distributed and used to protect the most vulnerable people worldwide from malaria.
- Raise Oxford aims to collect enough money from student donations to provide mosquito nets to about 24,000 people a year. This is equivalent to protecting the entire student population of Oxford University from getting malaria.
- Money is needed to publicise Raise throughout the university, as it is a new organisation, and to fund events run by them to aid the celebration of charitable giving.

This JCR believes:

- The Exeter College JCR should support Raise Oxford and aid them in accomplishing their goal of persuading as many students to donate to charity as possible.
- Encouraging students to donate to charity themselves is more effective than just donating to the charity directly as it can change the way the students think about charitable giving in the long-term and result in them giving significant amounts of money to charity even after they graduate from Oxford.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- Donate £300 to sponsor Raise Oxford.

Proposer: Edwin Roberts

Seconded: Matt Lister

For: 25

Against: 1

Abstain: 1