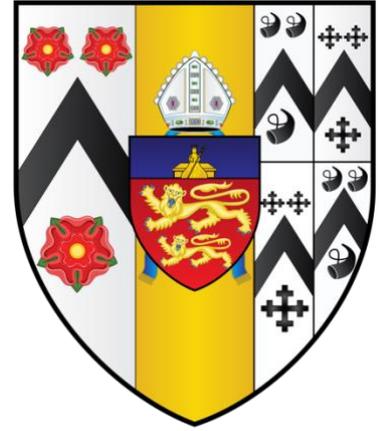


# Brasenose College JCR

## Meeting Minutes: Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> Week Michaelmas Term 2020 (25/10/20) 8:30 PM



### *Meeting Begins*

*(Pierce explains functioning of JCR Meetings)*

#### Motion 1: Objection to New Artwork Installation Plans

*(Pierce cedes chair to Alfie)*

**Pierce Jones:** There is a piece of artwork being proposed by some fellows in the college which they want to install in Frewin following conclusion of Frewin New Build, before which they want to display in Old Quad. JCR Committee have reflected on this piece of artwork and do not find it suitable for the ascetic of college. As such we are asking you for your opinions on the artwork. The proposal supported by the JCR committee is to display it in in the Sports Ground, and this is supported by some staff with college. The artwork itself is suitable for the sports ground as it resembles a large athletic foot. I don't feel that the proposers of the artwork have taken our opinions into account or attempted to mediate with us, which seems vital when it is going to be placed in student accommodation. Myself and the HCR President have voiced quite strong opposition to placing the artwork in undergraduate accommodation, which has been subsequently ignored. I would like to go to Governing Body next week with a strong vocal opposition/support for the statue with the hope of representing the JCR's views.

**Mediocre Duck Leg (Yasmin, Thomas, Nick, Juliet, Ella and Lucy):** The statue is disgusting. Is it made by someone in the college?

**Alfie Bullus:** A Brasenose alumni has gifted it.

**Jake Fremantle:** Given value of the artwork, how likely are we to achieve anything other than antagonising Governing Body and jeopardising other more important issues like rent.

**Pierce Jones:** I don't believe that is how college views issues. Issues like rent are dealt by individual staff like the Domestic Bursar, whether the decision to place a statue is decided by every fellow of the college many of whom have no influence on the day to day running of the college.

**Jake Fremantle:** The person pushing for the statue is however a Senior Member of college.

**Pierce Jones:** The Vice Principle is pushing for the statue you are correct. However, I don't think grudges are held, and the Vice Principle doesn't influence day to day running of college. Additionally, there are a few fellows who support this proposal as they don't think there is enough room in college, thus we are tapping into a sentiment rather than kick-starting. Finally, I think it is the role of college officials to listen to us, and I think it is vital we get our views heard on such an important issue.

**Gus Smith:** How much is the artwork worth?

**Pierce Jones:** I am not sure exactly. But it is worth a lot of money and requires a large crane to lift into college.

**Edward Peckston:** The principle here is that this artwork is ugly, and this is our home and thus our permission should be needed to add something to our home. It is nice that he has gifted it to us however.

**Pierce Jones:** I agree. It was housed in a college in Cambridge beforehand.

#### Motion 2: Separating Fresher's Rep & Access and Admissions Rep

**Anna Wright:** My motion is a slight rejig of the JCR Committee roles in order to split the previously combined Access role into two roles of 1) Fresher's Rep and 2) Access & Admissions Rep. Firstly the role is a lot of work, and means you are unable to devote 100% of your effort into the separate parts of it because the timings overlap. The roles also require different skillsets (being devoted to access and having an Entz-approach), and to have both is quite unusual. Michaelmas is also a very busy term for the Access Rep with interviews and fresher's week, which for third-years with coursework is quite a large load. Many other colleges also have a separate Fresher's Rep so it is quite common. On top of this, given we are rewriting this section of the constitution we thought we would include social media (Facebook, Instagram) under the Access and Admissions rep role. In the future, we may want to split this into a further role all together but I think it is best to go one step at a time.

**Alfie Bullus:** If the JCR was held in person with motions being voted for at the time, then this motion would have to go to a referendum. But because all motions are being voted for online this one will also automatically be.

**Dillon Lim:** Thank you for all of your hard work Anna. However, do you feel that Fresher's Rep would have enough work given that Fresher's Week is only one-two week compared to Access and Entz which is a full year role, and is it worth creating a new role for this.

**Anna Wright:** Fresher's Rep workload actually begins end of Hilary/Trinity when they select their committee. Constitutionally it does make more sense to have them as a member of the JCR committee. It is also helpful given that Entz Reps, Access Rep and VP would work alongside the Fresher's Rep often, and the Fresher's Rep can learn how to run events and work with college if they are part of the committee. Other colleges also have Fresher's Rep on the JCR committee.

**Pierce Jones:** The motion does state they will be elected in 6<sup>th</sup> week, but given that JCR meeting only happen on odd weeks would you prefer the election in 5<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> week.

**Anna Wright:** 5<sup>th</sup> Week

**Pierce Jones:** Can I propose a friendly amendment to change it to 5<sup>th</sup> Week

**Anna Wright:** I accept

**Alfie Bullus:** Would it make sense if the Fresher's Rep did the college families?

**Anna Wright:** I thought about this, but given the Access & Admissions Rep has been with them from the start I think it makes more sense for them to remain doing it.

### Motion 3: CUSHIONS & THROWS & FAIRY LIGHTS

**Geneva Roy:** My motion is about jazzing-up the marquee, as at the moment it looks quite bare. I am proposing to put up some fairy lights, cushions and throws to make it look homelier. With the help of Elena and Katie, we have concluded that a combination of grey and light blue cushions and black throws would look nice, so that is what we are hoping to do. Looking online, cushions cost around 5 pounds each and throws around 10-15 pounds but these are obviously not the highest of quality which I think is sensible as they are unlikely to last. I have a Secretary's Budget of 150 pounds which I will be devoting to this, but I am looking for the JCR to give me an extra 100 pounds. This would work out to about 8 throws, 20+ cushions and 4 rooms worth of fairy lights.

**Finley Bettsworth:** In terms of being Covid secure, what is the difference between cushions/throws and board games in terms of needed to isolate them between uses. Would it be possible then to get more money and operate a rotation process of putting a set out, then isolating them and putting a new set out, and rotating through?

**Geneva Roy:** I am not entirely sure what the Covid rules regarding cushions etc. are. I would be very happy to operate a cyclical process, but the only issue is that instead of spending around 250 pounds I would need to spend close to 1000 (which I am very happy to do!) If that is the Covid rules then it would perhaps be safer, but I don't want to expect the JCR to give me that much money.

**Pierce Jones:** It is up to college to enforce those rules and keep public spaces Covid-safe, and often they suggest plastic wrapping on cushions etc. Geneva perhaps we could email Matt Hill with a proposal and check with them.

**Geneva Roy:** Sounds good!

**Liberty Wright:** I'm just wondering given the Marquee hasn't been kept in the best of shape recently, is this will cause a problem for things like throws and cushions?

**Geneva Roy:** The reason I brought this to the JCR was because I did agree that this concern existed and wanted to hear how big a concern everyone thought it was. I did believe it would be ok because they aren't very expensive cushions and thus if they have to be thrown out at the end of the term it isn't the biggest issue. Additionally, my experience with Michaelmas term is that public spaces become a lot less busy as term goes on and I would expect the Marquee use to decrease, so the cushions and throws should hopefully be ok. However, if everyone thinks they will be ruined very quickly I am happy to purchase other things.

**Liberty Wright:** I agree it probably will die down.

**Beth Nott:** Given coronavirus will eventually pass, from an environment perspective what will happen to the cushions?

**Geneva Roy:** I was hoping that the cushions could be used to replace the older ones in the JCR, and we could just move the throws to the couches in there too! The colour scheme should also work because the couches are the same ones. Fairy lights wise, I was planning on putting some of them up in the JCR and keeping the spares for Entz events. If that wouldn't be possible I would be very willing to donate them, based on what the JCR would prefer.

**Laura Harray:** There are sprays which you can spray on cushions to keep them Covid secure, which we could spend some of the budget on buying?

**Geneva Roy:** How much is the spray?

**Laura Harray:** I'm not sure exactly, but definitely cheaper than buying rounds of cushions.

**Geneva Roy:** I would be happy to spend a little more money on buying a stock of those sprays.

**Pierce Jones:** I do think that Covid-security should be something college spends money on. So perhaps we could approach college and if they say no then come back to the JCR.

**Laura Harray:** If this a JCR proposal, and we are choosing to buy cushions we are probably expected to maintain the Covid-security of them too. Given these sprays are so cheap, would it not be easier to just to add it.

**Geneva Roy:** To satisfy both Pierce and Laura, I could buy these cans then check with college and if they want further action ask them to pay for it.

**Laura Harray:** I think also show college we have had some initiative in the proposal. I move a friendly amendment to add 50 pounds to this budget to be dedicated to buying sprays.

**Geneva Roy:** I accept. To clarify, this would bring the total the JCR is additionally giving me to 150 pounds (on top the Secretary's budget of 150 pounds). Additionally, if you think the college scheme is not great please let me know and I would be happy to change it!

#### Motion 4: Yoga Equipment

**Finley Bettsworth:** This motion is a couple of things rolled into one. We hold yoga twice a week and it is reasonably popular. We currently don't have enough yoga mats to sustain this interest, particularly if we need to operate a yoga mat loan scheme, whereby people can rent the mat for a term and use it exercise in their rooms and attend the sessions as well. With Covid the nature of having a mat near your face etc. it would make sense to have this loan scheme. Then additionally because we don't need a huge amount of yoga mats but it is cheaper to order in bulk, these extra mats could be bought off the JCR and we would only be paying for 10 yoga mats. They will be made of a reasonably environmentally friendly material and are recyclable. Finally, they will be stash-like, black on the bottom, yellow on the top with a crest on the face, and because the order is in bulk they will be cheap.

**Pierce Jones:** To clarify how much money would be needed?

**Finley Bettsworth:** Exact amount is unknown because it is in dollars and we may need to pay import duty, but it is around 413.19 pounds. But some of this will be paid back in renting, and thus it comes to about 200 pounds in total.

**Pierce Jones:** We aren't able to give more than 250 pounds in a single motion, so before this motion could be verified it will need to be passed at two separate JCR meetings.

**Finley Bettsworth:** Could I split it into two motions and would it need to just be passed twice.

**Pierce Jones:** It would need to be passed twice.

## Motion 5: JCR President's Manifesto Word Limit

*(Pierce cedes chair to Alfie)*

**Pierce Jones:** This term we have all the elections for JCR Committee positions. In the constitution, it states that manifestos can be no longer than 150 words, and I think this isn't long enough given that the JCR President can have quite a large degree of scope. Additionally, given that the position is crucial to the running of the JCR I think more time should be devoted to scrutinising the candidates. So, my motion will just double the number of words from 150 words to 300 words.

**Alfie Bullus:** It is worth noting we also usually only have a small number of people running for JCR President.

**Alex Roberts:** Why do you think 300 words is the suitable amount, rather than more or less?

**Pierce Jones:** 300 words is just doubling the normal amount so it is easy to visualise, and I thought it would work as quite a good benchmark test and we could change it in coming years. I think there is a lot of benefit to short manifestos as it increases engagement compared to other colleges would very large limits. 300 words is a good amount to get a solid overview while also leaving room for questions in the hustings. But if anyone thinks it should be longer/shorter then I would be happy to hear your thoughts, or we could change it in the future.

**Laura Harray:** So, I was just googling the artwork and it turns out that the artist has been displayed at the Tate Modern and the Museum of Modern Art. Additionally a sketch of the sculpture sells for \$5000. So, this artwork is incredibly valuable and this artist is quite famous irrespective of what you think of the artwork. Perhaps it is useful to keep this in mind when voting, and to think of why college might want us to have this artwork and what it means to us.

**Pierce Jones:** I would note that it isn't necessarily college that want it in Old Quad, but the Vice President and Head of the Art Department. We will find out what college wants at the Governing Body.

**Laura Harray:** Yep exactly. I just wanted to make that point clear because it may not be obvious straight away.

**Jim:** Is there a list of where to put this statue and other places that are being considered?

**Pierce Jones:** There is indeed. The four places that were put to the committee were Old Quad, New Quad, Frewin or the Sports Ground. The committee chose to reject New Quad as there is currently the marquee there and with the Ball and Arts Week there is often a Marquee put up. Which left the other three options to decide between. Most of the committee support putting the artwork in Frewin once the New Build is completed and temporarily storing it in Old Quad for a year or so. Both the HCR and JCR support putting it in the Sports Ground, and we will find out what the rest of Governing Body supports next week.

**BNC Bar (Aaron & Jack):** Can someone please come down to the Bar, we are bored. We have only had one order all night and it was for a bag of skittles. Best Bar in Brasenose!

**Claire Nash:** With college rejecting New Quad because of the marquees, there is also going to be marquees on Old Quad for the ball and thus it could get in the way.

**Pierce Jones:** This point was considered as well. The marquees that are in Old Quad usually don't cover the whole quad, they are usually smaller and to the sides. We did however raise the point that they might be disrupted.

*(Alfie explains functioning of JCR Voting)*

Meeting Ends