



The CONSTITUTION of the JUNIOR COMMON ROOM of UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, OXFORD

Article I - Preamble

1. The name of the body herein constituted shall be the University College Junior Common Room (JCR). The University College JCR shall be an association of the Undergraduate Members of University College, a constituent college of the University of Oxford.
2. The JCR shall be a democratic body. It shall also be the sole legitimate representative body of the Undergraduate Members of University College when negotiating with University College, the University of Oxford or any other such body.
3. The objects of the JCR shall be:
 - a) The promotion and defence of the academic, disciplinary and financial interests of its Members.
 - b) The promotion of amateur sport and the arts amongst its Members.
 - c) The provision of welfare support to its Members, both financial and pastoral support.
 - d) Representation and involvement for its Members in the government and administration of University College.
 - e) Representation of its members in regard to the affairs of the University, and in other external affairs of importance to students, through all affiliated bodies.
4. The University College JCR shall be regulated by this Constitution adopted in Trinity Term 2009 (subject to five-yearly reviews).
5. The JCR's legitimate authority to act as a body, in whatever capacity, shall be comprehended within the provisions of the Constitution followed by those of the Standing Orders, and then Policy.

Article II - Membership

1. All Members of University College who are studying for an Undergraduate degree whilst at University College are automatically Members of the JCR for the duration of their Undergraduate degree.
2. Members shall have full rights to participate in the life of the JCR, use all the facilities of the JCR, attend, speak and vote at JCR Meetings and run as Candidates and vote in JCR Elections and Referenda, subject to the qualifications elsewhere in the Constitution and Standing Orders.
3. Every Member of the JCR shall have equal protection and equal benefit under the JCR's Constitution and Schedule of Standing Orders.
4. Any Member may opt out of JCR membership by sending a letter to that effect to the JCR President before the end of 5th Week of Michaelmas Term. They may opt back in, becoming Members again, at any time, by sending a letter to that effect to the JCR President.
5. Any Member of the JCR entering their fourth or subsequent year (or holding Senior Status) of an undergraduate degree may become a Member of the WCR. Members are able to opt- in as Social Members of the WCR by sending a letter to that effect to the JCR and WCR Presidents by Sunday of 5th Week of Michaelmas Term. In matters of representation and legislative rights, all those on undergraduate degrees shall be considered members of the JCR, even if they are also Social Members of the WCR.
6. The JCR may vote, by a simple majority at a JCR Meeting or by a Meeting showing No Opposition, to confer on any person not covered by Article II(1) Honorary Membership of the JCR. That membership shall last until it is revoked by a simple majority at a JCR Meeting, or by a Meeting showing No Opposition to such a revocation.
7. Honorary Members have all the rights articulated in Article II.2 and II.3, except they may not vote in JCR Meetings, may not stand as Candidates or vote in JCR Elections and may not be members of the JCR Committee.
8. The JCR may make an annual charge to its Members, subject to a simple majority in a referendum on the specific charge. Any referendum must explicitly state the reason for the proposed charge, and an accurate description must appear on the ballots.

Article III - Committees

1. There shall be elected and appointed positions within the JCR.
2. The body within which executive power shall be vested shall be the JCR Executive Committee. It shall be headed by a JCR President, and shall include at a minimum the following positions of Vice-President/Treasurer, VP JCR Affairs, Male and Female Welfare Officers and Academic Affairs Officer, plus such other positions as determined in the Standing

Orders.

3. There shall also be a JCR Committee incorporating the elected representatives of the JCR Executive Committee and other elected representatives of the JCR.
4. There shall be other Committees that shall aid the Members of the JCR Executive Committee in their work. The executive power to establish and dissolve *ad hoc* committees is reserved for General Meetings of the JCR by simple majority.
5. There shall be such other positions as the Standing Orders state.

Article IV - Elections

1. Elections shall be run with the overarching principles of democracy, equality and fairness.
2. Elections shall be run by an independent Returning Officer who shall be a Member of the JCR. All elections shall be overseen by the Dean of University College.
3. All rulings of the Returning Officer, and all actions during all elections, shall be open to appeal to an Electoral Tribunal, which shall also consist of independent JCR Members.

Article V - The Electoral System

1. There shall be three stages to all Elections: nominations shall be opened and manifestos received; then hustings shall be held; then a vote shall be held, counted and the results announced.
2. The vote shall be a secret ballot of all JCR Members, if they wish to participate. It shall be carried out to the highest standards of impartiality and professionalism by the Returning Officer and those working under them.
3. The system of voting shall be Single Transferable Vote.

Article VI - Meetings

1. All legislative power, and the ability to overrule any executive decisions made by elected or appointed Members of the JCR, shall be vested in the decisions of quorate JCR Meetings. Quorum shall be set at twice the number of JCR Executive Officers plus one.
2. JCR Meetings shall be overseen by a Chair, who shall be a Member of the JCR, who shall be elected at a JCR Meeting and shall serve for one Term.
3. Within JCR Meetings there shall be time to make announcements, question the JCR Committee, create Policy, amend the Constitution or Standing Orders, Censure or have No Confidence in any Member in an elected or appointed position within the JCR, and elect such positions as are required within the JCR and that are stated by the Constitution or Standing Orders to be elected at JCR Meetings.

4. JCR Meetings are the only places where the Constitution and the Standing Orders can be changed except by referenda. Changing the Constitution requires two consecutive JCR Meetings to either show No Opposition to such a change, or to vote by a two-thirds absolute majority for such a change, followed by the Dean of University College's approval. Changing the Standing Orders requires one JCR Meeting to either show No Opposition to such a change, or to vote by a two-thirds absolute majority for such a change, followed by the Dean of University College's approval. Changing the Constitution or Standing Orders by referenda shall require a two-thirds absolute majority for such a change, followed by the Dean of University College's approval.
5. Any Member of the JCR (excluding Honorary Members as described in Article VI.1) shall have the right to request referenda provided they present a petition of 50 Members (excluding Honorary Members) to the President and VP JCR Affairs or by passage of a motion requesting a referendum by a simple majority in two consecutive JCR Meetings. Once the petition's validity has been verified or a motion passed the second time, a referendum shall be held within the following two weeks. There shall be a process of appeal for those whose petitions are held to be invalid with an appeal board constituted from independent JCR Members.
6. The JCR President shall have the right to convene Extraordinary Meetings of the JCR provided that all Members are notified more than 48 hours before the proposed meeting would take place. Extraordinary JCR Meetings shall be subject to the same schedules as laid down in the Standing Orders for JCR Meetings with the exception that quorum be set at 3 times the number of current JCR Executive Members.

Article VII – Schedules

1. The Standing Orders of University College JCR shall be those contained in the Schedule of Standing Orders appended to this Constitution, as amended from time to time in accordance with Article VI above.
2. Standing Orders shall specify the procedures to be followed in JCR Meetings, Direct Elections, Referendums, Elections in JCR Meetings, and Indicative Polls.
3. Standing Orders shall specify the procedures as required by Article X below as regards finance and publications, supplemented by the University College JCR Policy Book.
4. Standing Orders shall specify the Complaints Procedure and other means not covered herein by which JCR Members may exercise their various rights, and by which University College JCR shall fulfil its various obligations, under the Education Act 1994. The Dean of University College shall have the power to investigate complaints relating to the conduct of any Election, Referendum or Indicative Poll where a complaint is upheld, to take such measures as may be required to secure effective redress.
5. Standing Orders shall specify the procedure to be followed when an Interpretation of the Constitution, or of Standing Orders, is required.
6. Standing Orders shall specify the duties and responsibilities of all members of the Executive

and all other officers, representatives, and appointees of University College JCR.

Article VIII - Affiliations

1. The JCR shall be allowed to affiliate to outside organisations if it so wishes.
2. The JCR shall be required to re-affirm its affiliation to, or to disaffiliate from, these organisations annually.
3. Motions of affiliation or disaffiliation shall require a two-thirds majority in two successive quorate JCR meetings.

Article IX - Complaints

1. JCR Members have the absolute right to complain to any Member of the JCR Committee, or to the Dean of University College, and doing so shall not prejudice their future relationship with the JCR.
2. In the case of electoral complaints JCR Members also have the absolute right to complain to the Returning Officer for those elections.

Article X – Finances and Publications

3. The JCR shall be required to keep accurate and detailed financial records, and to liaise with University College to ensure these records are legally acceptable.
4. The JCR shall be required to maintain and present its accounts in accordance with the guidance to best practice of the UK Charities Commission as an agreed standard.
5. Any Member of the JCR may request to see the JCR's accounts and this request must be met within 72 hours by the VP/Treasurer or another member of the JCR Executive Committee.
6. Each year the JCR shall be required to produce an Alternative Prospectus, a Financial Budget and an Annual Report.
7. The JCR may not give any money to individuals on the basis of the understanding that they will then donate it to charity

Article XI - Procedures of the Committees

1. The Committees formed within the JCR shall be regulated as the Standing Orders lay out