

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

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**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, revised in Hilary Term 2022, which is 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 while at University College are automatically members of the JCR for the duration of their undergraduate degree, even if they have temporarily suspended their studies.
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. They shall not be unfairly disadvantaged, with regard to the provision of services or otherwise, by reason of their having done so. They may opt back in, at any time.
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 to confer on any person Honorary Membership of the JCR. That membership shall last until it is revoked by a simple majority at a JCR Meeting.
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.
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 — Positions**

1. There shall be elected and appointed positions within the JCR, as laid out below, and in the standing orders.
2. The body within which executive power shall be vested shall be the JCR Executive. It shall consist of a JCR President, Vice-President/Treasurer, and a Vice-President/JCR Affairs.
3. There shall be other Committees that shall aid the Members of the JCR Executive in their work. The executive power to establish and dissolve committees is reserved for General Meetings of the JCR by simple majority. These shall consist of the following:
  - a. The Welfare, Equality, and Diversity Group, headed by the JCR President and including a male+ welfare Officer, female+ welfare Officer, junior welfare

Officer and the Liberation reps, namely Class, International students', LGBTQ+, Racial equality, students with disabilities, women+.

- b. The Entz group, headed by the VP/Treasurer and including three entz Officers, Arts, sports, charities reps.
  - c. The JCR Operations group, headed by the VP/JCR Affairs and including the Academic Affairs Officer, two Hall & Accommodation Officers, IT Officer, Access Officer, services czar, environment rep, 1st year rep, Armourer
4. The duties and responsibilities of the holders of all positions named above shall be appended to the standing orders, and other positions may be created therein.

## **Article IV — Meetings**

1. All legislative power, and the ability to overrule any executive decisions made by Members of the JCR, shall be vested in the decisions of quorate JCR Meetings. Quorum shall be set at five percent of the number of full members of the JCR.
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 holders of JCR positions, amend the Constitution and schedules, Censure or have No Confidence in any holders of JCR positions, pass motions, and hold elections.
4. Any full Member of the JCR shall have the right to request referenda provided they present a petition of 50 full Members to the President or VP/JCR Affairs or by passage of a motion requesting a referendum by a simple majority in a JCR Meeting. Once the petition's validity has been verified or a motion passed, a referendum shall be held within the following two weeks. Those whose petitions are held to be invalid have the right to appeal to the Dean of University College. Referenda shall be governed by the same procedures and rules as Elections.
5. 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 the same as JCR Meetings with the exception that quorum be set at seven and a half percent of full JCR members.

## **Article V — Elections**

1. Elections shall be run with the principles of democracy, equality and fairness.

2. Elections shall be run by an independent Returning Officer who shall be a full Member of the JCR. All rulings of the Returning Officer, and all actions during all elections, shall be open to appeal to an Electoral Tribunal, which shall consist of the Dean of University College and members of the WCR.
3. There shall be three stages to all Elections: nominations shall be opened and manifestos received if required; then hustings shall be held; then a vote shall be held, counted and the results announced.
4. The vote shall be a secret ballot of all JCR Members, if they wish to participate.
5. The system of voting shall be ranked-choice voting.

## **Article VI — Schedules**

1. The Standing Orders appended to this Constitution shall specify the procedures to be followed in all JCR Meetings and Elections, and when a Rule of Interpretation is required.
2. Appended to the Standing Orders shall be the duties and responsibilities of holders of JCR positions, the timetable of elections, the Order of Business to be followed in Meetings, JCR Policy Documents, and Rules of Interpretation.
3. JCR Policy Documents shall include:
  - a. The Financial Policy, which shall specify how the JCR shall keep accurate and detailed financial records, and liaise with University College on financial matters. Any Member of the JCR may request to see the JCR's Accounts and this request must be met within 72 hours by a member of the Executive.
  - b. The Publications Policy, which shall specify how each year the JCR is required to produce an Alternative Prospectus, an Annual Report, and a Budget.
  - c. The Representation Policy, which shall specify how the JCR represents its members to the College, and Oxford SU.
  - d. The Complaints Policy, which shall specify the Complaints Procedure, including the investigatory powers of the Dean of University College.
  - e. The Policy on Compliance with the Education Act 1994, which shall specify how the JCR complies with the Education Act 1994, under which it is defined as a "Students' Union".
  - f. The Ball Committee Policy, which shall specify how the Ball Committee is to be formed and operate.
4. Changing any part of the Constitution or appended documents shall be done in JCR meetings, or by Referenda:

- a. Changing the Constitution requires a two-thirds absolute majority to vote for such a change, either in a Referendum or in two consecutive JCR meetings, followed by the approval of the Dean of University College.
- b. Changing the Standing Orders or JCR policy documents requires a two-thirds absolute majority to vote for such a change, either in a Referendum, or a JCR meeting, followed by the approval of the relevant college authority.
- c. Changing the timetable of elections or order of business, or overturning a rule of interpretation requires a simple absolute majority in a JCR meeting, and may be moved at any time in a meeting.

## **Article VII — Complaints**

1. JCR Members have the absolute right to complain to any holder of a JCR position, 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 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 JCR meetings.