



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

Article I Preamble

- (1) The name of the body herein constituted shall be the New College Junior Common Room (JCR). The New College JCR shall be an association of the Undergraduate Members of New 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 New College when negotiating with New 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, financial, recreational, communal, welfare-related and cultural interests of its Members.
 - (b) Representation and involvement for its Members in the government and administration of New College.
 - (c) 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 New College JCR shall be regulated by this Constitution adopted in Trinity Term 2008 (subject to five-yearly revisions).
- (5) Revision of the Constitution requires two parts, followed by the Dean of New College's approval:
 - (a) That a motion resolving to renew the Constitution, with or without amendments, is passed in two consecutive JCR Meetings. For a motion containing amendments to the Constitution, this must be done, in both meetings, either by show of No Opposition or two-thirds majority vote. If the motion contains no amendments, in both meetings No Opposition or a simple majority vote shall be required.
 - (b) That the JCR is informed in the previous JCR Meeting of the upcoming renewal, sent the latest version of the Constitution at least one week in advance of the Meeting at which the motion is first presented and encouraged to propose possible amendments or bring items for discussion, pertaining to the Constitution, to this Meeting.

- (6) 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.
- (7) Terms of reference must be agreed between the JCR and College about the college policies to which the JCR must apply (i.e. data protection and information security)

Article II Membership

- (1) All Members of New College who are studying for an Undergraduate degree whilst at New 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 in JCR Elections, subject to the qualifications elsewhere in the Constitution and Standing Orders.
- (3) 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.
- (4) The JCR may vote, by a simple majority at a JCR Meeting or the 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 the Meeting showing No Opposition to such a revocation.
- (5) Honorary Members have all the rights articulated in Article II(2), except they may not vote in JCR Meetings, may not stand as Candidates in JCR Elections and may not be Members of the JCR Committee.

Article III Committee

- (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 Committee. It shall be headed by a JCR President, within whom all executive power not assigned to other Members of the Committee shall reside.
- (3) There shall also be other Committees that shall aid the Members of the JCR Committee in their work.
- (4) 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 New 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 executive-committee members of the JCR, in addition to the President, shall be the Vice-President and the Vice-President for Operations and Finance.
- (4) The system of voting shall be Alternative Voting.

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.
- (2) JCR Meetings shall be overseen by a Chair, who shall be a Member of the JCR, 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. 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 New 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 New College's approval.

Article VII 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, or to disaffiliate, from these organisations annually.

Article VIII Complaints

- (1) JCR Members have the absolute right to complain to any Member of the JCR Committee, or to the Dean of New College, and doing so shall not prejudice their future relationship with the JCR.

Article IX Finances

- (1) The JCR shall be required to keep accurate and detailed financial records, and to liaise with New College to ensure these records are legally acceptable. This shall be the responsibility of the Vice-President for Operations and Finance, as set out in the Standing Orders.

(2) The JCR bank account shall be managed by the Vice-President for Operations and Finance in compliance with the banking regulations of the relevant bank. The Vice-President for Operations and Finance shall be empowered to be the one to sign to make payments from the account.

Article X Procedures of the Committees

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