

## **Motions 101: a guide to writing an effective JCR Motion**

### **What is a motion?**

Any member of the JCR can write a motion about anything to do with life as an undergraduate student at Exeter College! Motions can be anything, ranging from the purchase of new equipment for the JCR (such as Wii remotes or cutlery) to changing the governance of the JCR itself (i.e. creating a new representative for the JCR Committee, such as the recent creation of a Faith Rep). If there's something you think can be improved, it's worth submitting a motion and giving it a go.

The JCR (that is, all 386 of us) vote on these motions every two weeks at General Meetings. These are held at 5pm on Tuesdays in the JCR itself, and students have the option to vote 'yes', 'no', or 'abstain' for each motion. Simply enough, the affirmative majority of those present and voting is required for a motion to pass!

### **What does a motion look like?**

Each motion must have a proposer and a seconder, both members of the JCR, announced at the start of their motion. Following on from that, a JCR motion is made up of three sections:

- 1) This JCR notes...
- 2) This JCR believes...
- 3) This JCR resolves...

The first section ("This JCR notes...") should contain objective fact, noting what reasons there are for bringing this motion forward. For example:

1. The JCR has a Wii
2. The Wii does not have any Wii Remotes
3. A Wii cannot be used without Wii Remotes

The second section ("This JCR believes...") should contain items of opinion that contribute towards persuading the JCR what to do. For example:

1. A Wii is fun to play with
2. It is in the interests of the JCR to make sure its members are having fun
3. The purchase of Wii Remotes will enable members of the JCR to have fun

The third section ("This JCR resolves...") is arguably the most important part of your motion, as it is what produces any change should the motion pass, be that by passing money or mandating an officer to perform a certain function/complete a task. If you can, be as specific as possible, whether by identifying the relevant officer you wish to perform the task or by specifying the fund you wish to draw upon.

Every item of your resolves should be supported by "Notes" and "Believes" items, and it should be easy to see when reading a motion why a person has resolved as they have done (even if you disagree). For example:

1. To purchase four Wii Remotes using the Entertainments budget

Therefore, a complete motion would look like:

**Motion: Purchase of four Wii Remotes for the JCR**

Proposer: Ricardo Zimbron

Secunder: Graham Campbell

This JCR notes:

1. The JCR has a Wii
2. The Wii does not have any Wii Remotes
3. A Wii cannot be used without Wii Remotes

This JCR believes:

1. A Wii is fun to play with
2. It is in the interests of the JCR to make sure its members are having fun
3. The purchase of Wii Remotes will enable members of the JCR to have fun

This JCR resolves:

1. To purchase four Wii Remotes using the Entertainments budget
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Note: If you copy and paste the above information into Chat GPT and ask it to write your motion, it will write a perfect motion for you