

# Standing Orders proposals

Alastair Hargreaves-McManus

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## 1 Freedom of expression

The current freedom of expression clause is a somewhat too broad and absolute for the good governance of the JCR and could also benefit from readability improvements.

For clause P6.20 substitute:

6.20. The JCR must not interfere with its members' private freedom of expression.

6.20.1. The JCR may take reasonable steps to control expression where appropriate and necessary, such as expression that is:

- (a) being made in an official JCR capacity;
- (b) grossly offensive, indecent, obscene, menacing or otherwise illegal;
- (c) in violation of University regulations;
- (d) infringing copyright, defamatory or otherwise likely to result in legal action being taken against the JCR;
- (e) harmfully misleading;
- (f) in breach of JCR election or meeting rules in place to ensure the fair running of the JCR;
- (g) commercial in nature;
- (h) disclosing confidential information.

## 2 The JCR levy

### 2.1 Payment deadline

The current deadline for levy payment—the end of their first term of study—is clearly from a different time. Now that we collect levies by card payment through the JCR website, instant payment is possible. In many cases, payment is now possible prior to arrival in Durham; however, allowance should be made for international students who may be unable to pay until they have opened a UK bank account and that students may not wish (or may be unable) to pay until they have received their student loan payment.

In clause P5.3.1 omit “within their first term of study”.

In clause O9.12 for “will be charged” substitute “must pay”.

After clause O9.13 insert a new clause:

9.14. A new undergraduate member who does not pay their JCR levy by the end of week 2 of their first term without reasonable excuse is considered to have opted out of JCR membership.

9.14.1. For the purposes of this clause, what constitutes a “reasonable excuse” is at the discretion of the FACSO.

## **2.2 Exchange student levy**

The current practice of charging exchange students (such as those on the Erasmus programme) a reduced levy is not in the Standing Orders (though has been endorsed by the Executive Committee). This amendment rectifies this and enables the FACS0 to set the rate.

After clause O9.14 (old clause O9.13) insert a new clause:

9.15. A student visiting as part of an international exchange programme may pay a reduced levy (the “exchange student levy”) as set by the FACS0.

9.15.1. The exchange student levy must be set at a rate per academic term and must not be more than 1/9 of the full JCR levy.

## **2.3 Record of the levy**

Currently there is no authoritative record setting the levy. It is proposed that the levy amount (current and historical) is recorded in a new appendix to the Standing Orders—Appendix D.