



CUSU COUNCIL LENT II

MONDAY 4TH FEBRUARY 2019, 7PM

ROOM 1, MILL LANE LECTURE THEATRES

Agenda

1. Objections to the order of items on the agenda
2. Matters arising from the minutes of the last Council Meeting
3. Announcements by Committees, Campaign Teams and the Executive
4. Discussions
5. Ordinary Policy Motions from Previous Council
 - a. **Motion to support the provision of menstrual products**
6. Proposed Ordinary Policy Motions
 - a. **Motion to resolve international applicant access difficulty**
 - b. **Motion to resolve inter-college discrepancy in international student vacation storage and accommodation provision**
7. Proposed Standing Order Changes
 - a. **Balanced motion: Democracy Review Proposal A and B**
8. Any other business

Supporting Information

1. OBJECTIONS TO THE ORDER OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST COUNCIL

Minutes can be accessed via the CUSU council page at www.cusu.co.uk, email links or the folder shared on Facebook.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY COMMITTEES, CAMPAIGN TEAMS AND THE EXECUTIVE

For updates from Sabbatical officers, please see accountability documents and videos. Liberation Campaigns and Ethical Affairs will update at Council.

4. DISCUSSIONS

5. ORDINARY POLICY MOTIONS FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL

Policy requires approval at two consecutive Councils. The approval of the 'starred' motion at the second Council will be deemed to be automatic unless this 'star' is removed by a single member at the second Council wanting to revisit the motion for further discussion.

Please find the starred policy motions that were passed at the last Council listed below:

5a. Motion to support the provision of menstrual products*

Proposed by: Ellie Brain, JCR President Fitzwilliam College

Seconded by: Claire Sosienski Smith, CUSU Women's Sabbatical Officer

CUSU Notes:

- Over 25% colleges at the University of Cambridge fail to provide any menstrual product provision for their students.
- Of the colleges that provide menstrual products, 47% have less than £100 a year for the scheme. Over 70% of colleges have less than £200 a year.
- A year of menstruation is averaged to cost one person £128 a year (PLAN International).
- Of the colleges that provide menstrual products, 30% do not provide products in the mens or gender neutral toilets, and 40% do not provide products in disability access toilets.
- Only five colleges provide any form of menstrual products other than sanitary towels and tampons.
- In a survey conducted in 2019 by CUSU Women's Campaign, colleges are showing substantial resistance to implementing schemes, arguing the scheme "favours one gender", or "not something college are willing to give us money for".
- Menstrual products are being provided in intimidating and inaccessible locations (e.g. Porter's Lodge, Laundry Room, only available on request, etc.).

- Very few departments provide menstrual products in their facilities, where students may have a full timetable and begin menstruating, not having time to return home.
- No exam venues provide menstrual products.

CUSU Believes:

- Gender equality and student welfare should be paramount to CUSU's principles.
- Menstrual products provision is an important step for gender equality and help challenge taboos around menstruation.
- Students in colleges with no menstrual product provision who begin menstruation at particular times of the day face serious emotional distress and health concerns if they are forced to resort to unsanitary short term measures.
- A lot of colleges that are providing free menstrual products do not have an appropriate budget for their schemes, and do not provide products in places where they are accessible to all menstruating students.
- College Women's/Welfare/Gender Equality Officers are struggling to keep up with the demand of distributing menstrual products.

CUSU Resolves:

- To campaign for menstrual products to be freely accessible to all students in all colleges and departments.
- To liaise with College Women's/Welfare/Gender Equality Officers to ensure menstrual products are provided in all toilets across college/the department, including disabled, gender neutral, and mens toilets.
- To campaign with the goal of menstrual products being provided by colleges and departments as toilet paper is provided.
- To campaign for menstrual product provision schemes to be provided and distributed directly through college funds, not JCR/MCR/CR welfare officers/budgets or college Feminist Societies

6. PROPOSED ORDINARY POLICY MOTIONS

6a. Motion to resolve international applicant access difficulty

Proposed by: iCUSU

CUSU Notes:

1. Currently, video interviews are offered in limited subjects and colleges. It is not offered in most science subjects due to the test and collaboration environment required.
2. Applicants interviewed in overseas settings often cannot be granted an interview with tutors from their chosen college and faculty. Applicants felt pressured to attend face-to-face interviews in fear of admission disadvantage.
3. There is currently no overseas interview offered in the continent of Africa.
4. Colleges and scholarship organisations do not currently offer bursary nor subsidisation for international applicants' travel fees.
5. Applicants from certain nationalities are pressured by the tight timeframe to apply for visa in order to attend UK or overseas interviews.
6. International and domestic applicants are given similar time of notice (usually two weeks) by most colleges. International students are pressured to process flight booking, visa application and interview preparation in a tight timeframe. The incurred expense can go beyond £1,000 due to peak flight costs, accommodation and express visa service (standard service is 15 days).

CUSU Believes:

1. That all students, regardless of background, should be able to attend interviews at Cambridge
2. That the University must do more to ensure that it is accessible for international students

CUSU Resolves:

1. To encourage faculties and colleges to use video interviews.
2. To establish a video interview induction and lobby for a video interview room facility for admission officers with technical difficulties.
3. To lobby the University for overseas interview opportunities in Africa.
4. To lobby the University to give at least three-weeks interview notice for international applicants.

6b. Motion to resolve inter-college discrepancy in international student vacation storage and accommodation provision

Proposed by: iCUSU

CUSU Notes:

1. Based on survey results, there exists considerable discrepancy amongst the provision of vacation storage and accommodation across colleges. Most colleges cannot guarantee accommodation provision during short and long vacations.
2. The provision of international scholarships and bursaries are also varied across colleges.
3. Most international students surveyed are under informed regarding the financing capability of their colleges when they were applying.
4. International students surveyed commented the access to international student grants will influence their college selection choices.
5. Surveyed international scholarship holders criticised the inefficiency of the current scholarship platform and remarked that they had to browse colleges' sites individually to discover more scholarship provisions.

CUSU Believes:

1. It is important that students are able to make informed choices when selecting what college to apply for
2. It should be easier for international students to access information about scholarships

CUSU Resolves:

1. To encourage and support the University and colleges in updating the existing scholarship search platform.
2. To inform international students regarding potential financing and expense variation across colleges.
3. To lobby the University to provide centralised holiday accommodation for international students who are unable to secure college accommodation.

7. PROPOSED STANDING ORDER CHANGES

A balanced motion is one that presents two alternative options. Council will be invited to vote for its preferred option and then to vote on whether to pass the preferred option. As this is a standing order change the vote on whether to pass the preferred option must reach a 2/3rds majority to pass.

Balanced Motion: Democracy Review Proposal A

Proposed by: CUSU Executive

CUSU Notes:

1. That during an all-student consultation the top three things students felt that CUSU Council should focus on were: academic issues (83%); college life issues (80%); and the role of students and the University in society (52%)
2. That Appendix B proposes changes to CUSU's campaign structure, the Part-Time Executive and the composition of CUSU Council and that more in depth explanation of these changes is outlined in the accompanying 'explainer' document.

CUSU Believes:

1. That the following will help improve the effectiveness of CUSU:
 - a. Moving the elections of the Part-Time Executive to alongside sabbatical officer elections
 - b. Creating 'CUSU Campaigns' which would include the CUSU liberation campaigns and Ethical Affairs and which would allow for the creation of more campaigns in the future
 - c. Replacing the Union Development Team with a Democracy Steering Group
2. That in order to best represent academic and college issues it is most effective to devolve Council and create two bodies designed specifically to address these issues

CUSU Resolves:

1. To adopt the Standing Order Changes outlined in Appendix A

Balanced Motion: Democracy Review Proposal B

Proposed by: CUSU Executive

CUSU Notes

1. That during an all-student consultation the top three things students felt that CUSU Council should focus on were: academic issues (83%); college life issues (80%); and the role of students and the University in society (52%)
2. That Appendix B proposes changes to CUSU's campaign structure, the Part-Time Executive and the composition of CUSU Council and that more in depth explanation of these changes is outlined in the accompanying 'explainer' document.

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 - c. Replacing the Union Development Team with a Democracy Steering Group
2. That in order to best represent academic issues faculty representatives should be voting members of CUSU Council

CUSU Resolves:

1. To adopt the Standing Order Changes outlined in Appendix B

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS