

Black Minority Ethnic Students' Campaign Constitution

The Constitution was passed at Council 1, Easter Term, 2000-1.

A - The Objectives Of The Campaign

A.1 The principal objective of the Campaign shall be to offer unified representation, and act in, the best interests of its members.

The Campaign shall pursue this objective by:

- i. the provision of welfare and cultural support to members
- ii. the provision of a social activities network for its members, which will be provided by BAC, and which shall also be open to all students who are sympathetic to the aims of the Campaign;
- iii. the representation of the membership on the decision-making bodies of CUSU, and at a national level in the NUS Black Students' Campaign, and acting as a channel of communication between these bodies and its members;
- iv. working with CUSU campaigns that also promote tolerance and seek to reduce prejudice and discrimination based on ethnicity, religion, culture and nationally with in the University of Cambridge and society at large.
- v. liaison and co-operation with College JCRs and MCRs with regard to the interests of its members within their Colleges;
- vi. working with the NUS Black Students' Campaign and other bodies towards the complete incorporation and representation of Black students in all societal and social institutions.

In furtherance of this aim, the Campaign shall seek:

- a. to outlaw all legislation policy and practice discriminating against Black students
- b. to campaign for equal rights and equality of opportunity for Black students to be enforced by law
- c. to challenge overt and institutionalised racism .

A.2 The Campaign shall be independent of any religious body or party-political organisation, and (except in so far as may be necessary for the support of a disadvantaged section of society or of the Black student community) shall pursue its object without regard to race, religion, nationality, colour, disability, gender orientation, age, sexual orientation, or HIV status, provided that this provision shall not invalidate the provision of clause G.2 (concerning the election of the officer with special responsibility for the Women's Committee of the Black Students' Campaign).

A.3 The Campaign shall be a democratic body.

B - Membership

B.1 The Black Students' Campaign, a Representative Campaign of CUSU, shall be an association of those members of CUSU who self-define as Black. For the purpose of this constitution Black shall be an embracing term covering those students who, by virtue of not being white, are at risk of racist discrimination and prejudice.

B.2 The rights of the Membership shall be:

- i. to participate in the making of Campaign policy at Open Meetings (see Article C)
- ii. to vote in Elections (see Article G)
- iii. any other rights as may be decided by the resolution of the Open Meeting, and applying equally to all members.

C - Open Meetings

C.1 The Open Meeting shall be the primary policy-making body of the Campaign. All officers and subsidiary bodies of the Campaign shall, with certain exceptions laid out herein, be bound in the exercise of their function by the mandates of the Open Meeting, and shall be held to account in this regard by subsequent Open Meetings. Policy derived from a resolution of the Open Meeting shall only be amended or revoked by a subsequent resolution of the Open Meeting.

C.2 The voting membership of the Open Meeting shall comprise all members of the Campaign, as defined in B.1 above.

C.3 The quorum for a resolution of an Open Meeting shall be 10 members of the Campaign exercising their vote. No person may, at any time, exercise more than one vote, transfer their right to vote to another individual, or count more than once towards the quorum.

C.4 Except where otherwise stated herein, a simple majority shall pass a motion at an Open Meeting. A motion passed shall be a resolution of the Open Meeting, and shall become the Policy of the Campaign.

C.5 Motions shall be submitted in writing, signed by a proposer and seconder (both by members of the Campaign), to the Campaign Chair(s) not later than the deadlines publicised by the Executive.

C.6 The meeting shall be chaired by the Chair of the Campaign (or one of the two Chairs, in the case of a job-share). The Chair shall have no voting rights.

C.7 All debate shall be conducted through the Chair. All members of the Campaign shall have the right to speak.

C.8 There shall be at least one scheduled Open Meeting each Full Term. Dates, times, and venues of future meetings shall be decided at the Open Meeting and publicised to the membership by the Executive.

D - The Black Students' Executive

D.1 The Executive shall run the Campaign according to the directions of the Open Meeting, to whom the Executive shall be accountable.

D.2 The Executive of the Campaign shall comprise the following members, who will be elected by the membership:

- i. the Chair of the Campaign (this post may be held by two people as a job-share);
- ii. six to eight Executive Officers. In the case of job shares, each post has only one vote.

The Executive shall be able to co-opt onto the Executive any member in a non voting capacity.

D.3 The Executive shall meet at least once every two weeks during Full Term. Any member of the Campaign may attend Executive meetings as an observer and will have speaking rights. Dates, times and venues of future meetings shall be decided by the Executive and made available to any member of the Campaign on request.

D.4 A decision at an Executive meeting shall be passed by a simple majority of the voting members, providing that the number of votes in favour shall not be less than four. A motion passed shall be a resolution of the Executive.

D.5 A member of the Executive shall be deemed to have resigned:

- i. if (s)he gives notice of resignation to an Executive meeting; or
- ii. if (s)he ceases to be a member of CUSU; or
- iii. if (s)he fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the Executive during any one University Term without sending his/her apologies in advance on at least one of those occasions; or
- iv. if a Motion of No Confidence in him/her is passed by a two thirds majority at two successive Open Meetings.

D.6 It shall be the duty of the members of the Executive, when acting in their capacity as Officers of the Campaign, to act in accordance with, and in a manner consistent with the objects of the Campaign as those objects appear in this Constitution and in Campaign policy as passed by resolution of Open Meeting.

E - Black Students' Representatives

E.1 It shall be the duty of the members of the Executive to encourage members of the Campaign in each College to act as representatives of the Campaign, to consider standing for their JCR or MCR and, whilst respecting JCR and MCR autonomy, to seek Black Student representation on their JCR or MCR.

E.2 Except where the College JCR or MCR maintains an elected position for a Black Students' post, the post of Representative shall be voluntary and elected by Black Students in that JCR or MCR

E.3 The Black Students' Officer shall have special responsibility for liaison with college representatives. Such liaison shall include:

- i. co-ordination of the representatives as a group;
- ii. giving support to the representatives both individually and collectively;
- iii. encouraging College JCRs and MCRs to give their College Black Students' representatives recognition, co-operation and support.

F - Subsidiary Committees

F.1 In addition to the Executive Committee, there shall be subsidiary committees of the Campaign, whose membership shall be voluntary. These shall be:

- i. the Women's Committee (see F.2);

- ii. any other subsidiary committees that shall be set up by resolution of Open Meeting.

F.2 The membership of the Women's Committee shall be restricted to those members of the Campaign who are female. The Committee shall represent and work to further the interests of all women within the Campaign. One officer from the Executive shall have special responsibility for the Women's Committee and will be elected by the 'Womens' Caucus', a meeting of women members. In addition to chairing the Committee, she shall represent the interests of female members of the Campaign on the Executive.

G - Elections

G.1 All Campaign Elections shall be conducted by secret ballot and counted by STV. All counts shall be public.

G.2 Only Members of the Campaign shall be eligible to stand for the Black Students' Officer and for posts on the Executive. Only members will be eligible to vote in these elections. Those members wishing to stand for election to the post with special responsibility for the Women's Committee must be female.

G.3 The job descriptions of the Black Students' Officer, Executive Officers and the Chair shall be determined by the resolution of the Executive prior to the opening of nominations, and shall be made known to all prospective candidates.

G.4 Scheduled Elections shall normally be held annually in Full Lent Term.. Nominations shall open on the tenth day before the date of the Elections, and shall close at noon on the third day before the date of the Elections.

G.5 The Returning Officer for the Elections shall be the Chair, except where otherwise stipulated by resolution of Open Meeting. In the case of a job share, the Open Meeting shall select only one of the two Chairs to act as Returning Officer.

G.6 It shall be the duty of the Returning Officer, in conjunction with the Executive and the College Reps, to publicise the date of Elections to every college at least ten days before the Elections, and to ensure that a ballot box shall be openly available at the CUSU Offices, or in a place equally accessible as determined by resolution of Open Meeting.

G.7 Electronic voting shall only be employed if the system of voting employed is secret and secure. Electronic voting may only employed in addition to, rather than in place of, voting in person, and suitable arrangements must be made to ensure the validity and accuracy of the vote.

G.8 The conduct of the Elections shall be the responsibility of the Returning Officer, who may not stand for election to the Executive, nor endorse or campaign on behalf of any candidate. (S)he must ensure that the ballot form indicates the criteria for Membership of the Campaign.

G.9 All candidates may submit one manifesto of not more than 250 words, to be publicised by the Returning Officer over email and in any other way as shall be determined by resolution of Open Meeting, and made known to candidates prior to the opening of nominations.

G.10 Candidates may not issue any publicity before the close of nominations. Photographs of the candidate, or details about any particular supporter or proposer of a candidate are not allowed on any publicity or the manifesto.

H - Finance

H.1 The Black Students Officer shall have special responsibility for finance. (S)he shall be accountable to the Executive for the day-to-day running of the Campaign's finances, and shall present a Financial Report for approval to the first Open Meeting of the Easter Term, detailing the Campaign's income and expenditure, both current and expected, for that financial year. Unbudgeted major expenditure (i.e. exceeding a tenth part of the total Campaign Budget) shall not be undertaken without being first passed by resolution of Open Meeting.

I - CUSU

I.1 The Campaign shall be a Representative Campaign of the CUSU, as laid out in the CUSU Constitution, Article I. The Chair(s) of the Campaign shall represent the interests of the Campaign on the CUSU Executive, and at CUSU Council. The Black Students Officer is accountable to the Open Meeting for his/her votes at CUSU Council. (S)he shall act as a channel of communication between the Campaign and CUSU.

J - Amendments to the Constitution

J.1 The Constitution shall be the primary document governing the transaction of all Campaign business. It may only be amended by a motion passed by a two-thirds majority at two consecutive quorate Open Meetings.