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
   1. **Election of CUSU Council Chair**
3. Announcements by Committees, Campaign Teams and the Executive
   1. **SUAS annual report**
4. Discussions
   1. **Democracy Review**
5. Ordinary Policy Motions from Previous Council
   1. **Motion to support student campaigns and movements working towards the demilitarisation of the University**
   2. **Motion to change standing orders for elections**
6. Proposed Ordinary Action Motions
   1. **Motion to approve Lent election rules**
7. Proposed Ordinary Policy Motions
   1. **Motion to support the provision of menstrual products**
8. Any other business

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

# OBJECTIONS TO THE ORDER OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

# MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING

* Minutes can be accessed via the CUSU council page at [www.cusu.co.uk](http://www.cusu.co.uk), email links or the folder shared on Facebook.
* **Election of CUSU Council Chair**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS BY COMMITTEES, CAMPAIGN TEAMS AND THE EXECUTIVE

* For updates from Sabbatical officers, please see accountability documents
* Liberation Campaigns and Ethical Affairs will update at Council.
* **SUAS Annual report** to be presented by Lisa Dery, Advice Service Manager

# DISCUSSIONS

* **Democracy review**- see supporting documents. Councillors are invited to read the discussion paper before Council and to ask any questions they have on the paper during Council. They will then be able to submit written responses to the consultation until Friday 8th February.

# 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:

**Motion to support student campaigns and movements working towards the demilitarisation of the University\***

CUSU Notes:

1. Over the past several months, a number of Varsity articles have been released detailing various financial links between the University and its constituent and affiliate bodies, and various arms manufacturing companies.

2. Specifically, that according to college responses to Freedom of Information requests as of November 9th2018, the 20 colleges who had responded hold between them over £6.5 million in investments in the arms industry (reported in Varsity 9/11/18).

3. That there is a lack of clarity at present around the precise nature of links of other forms, particularly in the realm of knowledge production broadly speaking, that may exist between the University of Cambridge and its constituent and affiliate bodies and the arms industry.[1]

4. That the University’s mission statement is “to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence,” and that among its core values are stated “freedom of thought and expression,” “freedom from discrimination,” “the contribution which the University can make to society through the pursuit, dissemination, and application of knowledge,” “the place of the University within the broader academic and local community,” and “concern for sustainability and the relationship with the environment.”

5. That CUSU’s mission statement is “to cultivate a university community where students can motivate progressive changes to the educational experience that students have at Cambridge and to level the opportunities available to all wanting to study and achieve in their time here.”

6. That significant student group mobilisation around this issue, among others, has occurred over the past month in the wake of Notes 1 and 2.

7. That CUSU has existing policy to support campaigns working towards, and to itself contribute to campaigning for, the divestment of the endowments of the University and its constituent and affiliate bodies from the fossil fuel industry.

**CUSU Believes:**

1. That it is antithetical to the University's stated "core values" of contribution to society, freedom of thought and expression and freedom from discrimination, among others, for the University and its constituent and affiliate bodies to be involved in resource provision of any kind (financial or otherwise) which contributes to the global arms trade and to industries whose primary goal is to supply, sustain, and profit directly from war(s) worldwide.

2. That the University and its constituent and affiliate bodies urgently owe to the members of the University a greater transparency regarding links, financial and otherwise, that may exist between the University and the arms trade.

3. That it is relevant to every student to be provided with information about, and to have a say in, the University's financial and other links with the arms trade. It is therefore within CUSU's remit in terms of representing the student voice;

4. That various CU student groups are already working to "motivate progressive changes" in this area, and that CUSU in its representative role should therefore be actively supportive of such groups, campaigns, and/or movements among the student body.

**Motion to change standing orders for elections**

**Proposed by: The CUSU-GU Elections Committee.**

**CUSU Notes:**

1. That Lent 2019 elections for the 2019/20 Sabbatical Officers and other roles are coming up, with nominations opening on the 20th February.
2. That the CUSU-GU Elections Committee is the body responsible for ensuring these elections are ran fairly and that the election rules are upheld.
3. That the final election rules for these elections will be sent to council for approval by L3 and that the current intention of CUSU-GU Elections Committee is to not change the Michaelmas 2018 election rules and incorporate the removed standing orders below into these rules.

**CUSU Believes:**

1. That the current CUSU Standing Orders have several rules found within them, these would be better placed within the ‘Election Rules’ section of the Elections Pack, which are reviewed termly by the CUSU-GU Election Committee, and are subject to approval by CUSU Council.
2. That some of the Standing Orders mentioned within CUSU Resolves, particularly those relating to social media are out of date and do not reflect the diversity that is now seem within CUSU elections campaigning on social media.

**CUSU Resolves:**

1. To remove Standing Order G.2.iii and replace with:  
    *“Elections Committee may review the rules for elections from time to time. Proposals for changes to the election rules and regulations are made at the Election Committee’s discretion, subject to approval by CUSU Council, and shall normally be communicated by the Returning Officer.”*
2. To remove Standing Order G.6.iv:  
   *“Candidates may not run as teams or slates.”*
3. To remove Standing Order G.8.iv:  
   “*Campaigners may not campaigns for multiple candidates at the same time*.”
4. To remove Standing Order G.8.v:  
   “*Candidates may not endorse each other or share resources*.”
5. To remove Standing Order G.9.i:  
   *“No pre-existing pages, groups or other social media accounts other than personal accounts may be used for campaigning.”*
6. To remove Standing Order G.9.ii:  
   *“No candidates may use pre-existing mailing lists to campaign.”*

# PROPOSED ORDINARY ACTION MOTIONS

**6A. Motion to approve election rules**

(see attached documents)

# PROPOSED ORDINARY POLICY MOTIONS

**7A. 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

# ANY OTHER BUSINESS