CUSU COUNCIL MICH I MINUTES – 12TH OCTOBER

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT

Priscilla Mensah, CUSU President
Jemma Stewart, CUSU Coordinator
Robert Cashman, CUSU Education Officer
Helena Blair, CUSU Access and Funding Officer
Poppy Ellis Logan, CUSU/GU Welfare and Rights Officer
Charlotte Chorley, CUSU Women’s Officer*
Robert Corbyn-Smith, CUSU Disabled Students’ Officer*
Jack Renshaw, CUSU LGBT+ Chair*
Steph Hobbs, Homerton MCR President*
Ruby Stewart-Liberty, JCSU Vice President*
Joe Landman, UCS (Clare JCR) President*
Yannis Hemrich, UCS (Clare JCR) Vice President*
Carla Pastorino, Clare Hall GSB President*
Emily Miedzybrodzka, Newnham JCR Vice President*
Maya Raphael, Hughes Hall VP*
Maddie Tait, Newnham College (CUAI Secretary)
Anya Draycott, Queens’ College (CUAI Chair)

* - Voting member of CUSU Council

APOLOGIES

Rebecca Kershaw
Stephanie Ashenden

Council inquorate – motions passed will be ratified at the next quorate meeting.

OBJECTIONS TO THE ORDER OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

None

CORRECTIONS TO THE MINUTES OF THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING

None
MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING

Robert Corbyn-Smith requested an update on the accessibility of the new CUSU/GU Building. Jemma Stewart presented. The building is currently undergoing building work for the addition of a new wheelchair and power chair accessible lift, which will form part of the main entrance to the building when finished (current projection, mid-November). An email has been sent to Facilities Management enquiring about disabled parking, hearing loops and whether the current accessible lift by the fire exit to the building is suitable for power chairs, which we’re waiting for a response on. The mezzanine at the back, once building work has finished and the main CUSU office has relocated to its permanent space downstairs, will not be wheelchair accessible, however all other areas of the building will be once the new lift has been installed.

DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next CUSU Council (Michaelmas II) will be held on the 26th October at 7pm, location TBC.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY COMMITTEES, CAMPAIGN TEAMS AND THE EXECUTIVE

CUSU PRESIDENT – PRISCILLA MENSAH

- Strategic communication with students
  - Led an away day (team strategy meeting) on the best way to communicate with students
  - Development of CUSU Tent at the Freshers’ Fair (with Charlie)
  - Freshers’ Talks with JCRs and MCRs, spoke at 17 Colleges
- Autonomous Campaigns’ Roundtable – how CUSU and Autonomous Campaigns can support each other
- Presidents’ Roundtable on Friday - what Presidents need from CUSU in the year ahead
- Campaigns updates
  - Academic Parity: PVC for Education agrees this is a significant issue, supports the campaign and will attend any open meetings held. All Senior Tutors have been emailed and will be meeting and lobbying them by the end of November, with 12 met so far.

CUSU EDUCATION OFFICER – ROB CASHMAN

- Summer spent planning for the year ahead
- Rebranded the Students’ Unions’ Advice Service with Poppy and Charlie
- Meeting figures in the University to talk about going forward in the year ahead
  - Working with and talking to the Careers Service about how we can get student input into the future of the Careers Service
- National HE level
  - CUSU’s response to the quality of education assessment
- Normally done through the QAA, this is up for change
  - There’ll be a Green Paper looking at quality assessment for teaching within universities.
  - Working with the DSC and Poppy on Disabled Students Allowance cuts
  - Working with Helena on the Government’s student loan repayment consultation (post-2012 loans) and a response
  - The TEF: Universities already have the Research Excellence Framework. There are concerns that teaching is being neglected, which may get better with a Teaching Excellence Framework. Putting together plans for a discussion to inform what CUSU thinks about the TEF, putting together information for next Council.
  - Academic Parity Campaign
    - Met with five departments to figure out what they do to ensure the same level of academic provision regardless of college.
  - Examinations Review
    - Is it a good idea to have exams at the end of the year - consultation is still open and can be responded to

CUSU COORDINATOR – JEMMA STEWART

- Freshers’ Fair
  - Spent the majority of summer putting together the Freshers’ Fair
  - Now time to review, send out feedback forms and look to improve next year’s Fair
- Uni4 Bus
  - Following correspondence with Homerton’s JCR President on the rising costs of the Uni4, have found a contact to get in touch with to look into the contract and terms of the University and Stagecoach with regards to the Uni4 and investigating the current situation/what can be done to improve this
- Lighting Campaign
  - Sourcing a contact within the University to ask the University to lobby the City/County Council on the lighting issue
- Part Time Executive
  - Lots of people signed up at the Fair, will be working on publicity and information on how to join the PTE
- Website overhaul
  - The new website needs content updates, will be working on this over the next few weeks along with the rest of the team to make the website and information about CUSU more accessible
CUSU/GU WELFARE AND RIGHTS OFFICER – POPPY ELLIS LOGAN

- Currently the Acting President of the GU
- Putting together forms that JCRs and MCRs can use to keep us updated on what they’re doing and what support is needed from CUSU
- Welfare Ranking Campaign
  o Working with Priscilla on consultation from JCRs and MCRs about what to ask Colleges about provision of welfare facilities
  o Responses should be on what should/shouldn’t go into the questionnaire to be sent to Colleges
- Welfare training two weeks ago, including a consent workshop from Charlie, sexual health training (including appropriate referrals information)
- Attendance at transitional events organised by the DRC to introduce CUSU and the rights of students coming to University with specific learning difficulties, Asperger’s Syndrome and ADHD
- Planning welfare training (13th October)
- Rewritten the sexual health scheme that was presented in a committee today, continuation of sexual health provisions for next year
- Tutor training
  o Talking on behalf of disabled students as well
- Christmas College – a College will be working on festive celebrations for students staying over the vacation

CUSU WOMEN’S OFFICER AND WOMEN’S CAMPAIGN – CHARLIE CHORLEY

- Women’s Campaign on a break over summer as the team has been away
- Worked with Ballare and Kuda (Cindies and Life) on their ‘We Care’ campaign
  o Training staff with Good Night Out training and consent information
  o Taking this to the other night clubs in town
- Trained at least one member of every college on consent workshops
  o Looking to modify the training in conjunction with research from the Schools’ Consent Project
- Launched an investigation into the negative aspects of drinking societies, working with the PVC for Education on tackling lad culture
- Working to develop sexual harassment policies for Colleges
  o Meetings with heads of houses and college officers
- New handbook for Women’s Officers
- Women in Academia
  o Particularly following on from the Gender Attainment Gap (‘Mind the Gap’) Report
  o Working with the English Faculty as a pilot to develop an Alternative Reading List, to be launched in September 2016
  o Talking with Churchill and Murray Edwards to hold Women in STEM Access Days
- Women’s Committee are back
- Working on sexual harassment policy campaigns, Women in Academia Campaigns
  - Met Senior Tutors with Priscilla and trained tutors on racial and sexual harassment to make sure they’re giving the appropriate response in the first instance
  - University has agreed that the next training session for experienced tutors will be on these forms of harassment, collaborating with them on putting this session together
  - Ensuring that every college has racial/sexual harassment policies

**CUSU ACCESS AND FUNDING OFFICER**

- Priorities are to spread access engagement throughout the University to groups where it can be increased – e.g. mature students (particularly at a University that requires you to live in college accommodation), and working with societies and Autonomous Campaigns
- Increase CUSU’s campaigns on access issues at a national level
  - Working with Rob on issues such as tuition fee freezes, the scrapping of maintenance loans and tuition fee rises in line with inflation through the TEF
- Alternative Prospectus Redevelopment
  - Replicates the University’s prospectus but is written entirely by students
  - Got £30k of funding to redevelop the old website, now figuring out what is wanted to be in it
  - Web developer on board, getting students to write content, working on engagement
- Getting involved with NUS’ national lobby day on Maintenance Grants Cuts
  - Met with Daniel Zeichner (Cambridge MP) and talked about ways forward with him
  - Working with NUS and other SUs around the UK
- Qualification Reform for the University - reforms taking place to GCSEs and A Levels affects the way University assesses applicants for Undergraduate Entry. This would change the University’s admissions processes, which could have implications for access. Working on sitting on the committees and looking at the ways to get students involved in this process.
- Regional meetups - particularly for students coming from underrepresented parts of the UK. Looking at replicating for international students
- Shadowing scheme

**DISABLED STUDENTS’ CAMPAIGN - ROBERT CORBYN-SMITH**

- Visiting JCRs/MCRs and encouraging them to make a Disabled Students’ position or forming a working group
  - Email disabled@cusu.cam.ac.uk for more information
- Worked hard at the Freshers’ Fair with signups for the DSC. Accessibility hiccups, but otherwise a successful event
- Elections on Wednesday
- One campaign this term due to the limited size of committee, focussing on carving out spaces for disabled students to exist at the University (‘We Are Not Leaving’)
- Responded to Government’s consultation on DSA Cuts with help from CUSU, Poppy and Rob.
  - Trying to get Colleges and students to go on record talking about the DSA and what it means for access
- Ents workshops for how to run an accessible event
  - Statement generator for room accessibility on DSC website
  - Meeting with Agora to publicise widespread use of access statements
- Working with CUSU on the accessibility of the building and how to improve this
- Working with Poppy to run a session with welfare officers about the Equality Act and how to fight for justice in College
- The Office of Independent Adjudication and how to navigate this
- Passionate about disability liaison officers at colleges and giving them training/knowledge as opposed to people using it as a position for their CV.
- Student statistics office posted information about disabled students

CUSU LGBT+ CAMPAIGN – JACK RENSHAW

- Campaigns this term
  - Trans awareness month in November, events being organised by the Trans and Campaigns Officers
  - Lots of social events
    - Bar crawl and screening of Pride
    - LGBT+ Parenting Scheme Social
- Creation of the role of Disability Officer, will be elected along with the rest of the officers in the upcoming elections
- Lots of talks organised, including Evan Davis
- LGBT+ History Month planning taking place this term
- Hopes to apply for funding from CUSU Council Free Budget in the future

QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEES, CAMPAIGN TEAMS AND THE EXECUTIVE

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE COUNCIL

None
8. ORDINARY MOTIONS

A. MOTION TO SUPPORT THE CAMBRIDGE CALAIS REFUGEE ACTION GROUP

Proposed by Maddie Tait (mmt37@cam.ac.uk)
Seconded by Anya Draycott (amid2@cam.ac.uk)

PROPOSITION – MADDIE TAIT

Proposed from the Cambridge University Amnesty International Society (CUAI). The Student Union is well placed to give support to a Cambridge based charity of people interested in supporting refugees at the Cambridge camp. There’s a lot of student support for the refugee cause, evidenced by student attendance at the Refugees Welcome Rally. CUAI has a system of College Reps that can coordinate donation points in Colleges, making more specified, direct support for donations more accessible for students

SPEECH AGAINST

None

QUESTIONS

Jack Renshaw (CUSU LGBT+ Chair) – What is support defined as?

- Led by the CCRAG. Looking at creating a space here in the Union where donations can be stored, as the CCRAG doesn’t have the space at present. There’s lots of support to make donations, but nowhere to put them. Now that CUSU has moved buildings there’s more space available. Support could be making publicity, spaces for meetings, keeping up the momentum of support for the Calais Refugee Crisis. Keep this going with Union support, especially with Christmas coming up.

Ruby Stewart-Liberty (VP JCSU) – Does the CCRA work to support just Calais, or other refugees in Europe. Are you looking at supporting organisations in Greece?

- CCRA just supports Calais, CUAI is hosting more information and providing more support working on refugee rights around the world. It’s a crisis happening around the world, not just a media fad. If the space could be used to support refugees not just in Calais, that would be good. Looking to collaborate with as many groups as possible.

Maya Raphael (VP Hughes Hall) – The Refugee Action Group is looking for funding for coaches to send over. Are you also asking the SU for money, and additionally are you looking to publicise students going to Calais?

- Not currently, talking to Amnesty College Reps who have been focussing on raising funds as there hasn’t been the space. Haven’t been organising convoys -
supporting the CCRAG who are organising convoys. College reps can be used to publicise them.

Anya - Point of Information - When the motion says Supporting CCRAG, the CUAI are happy to facilitate this in as much as they can; support will be tailored to what is asked for.

SUMMATION SPEECH
Waived

VOTING RESULTS
For: 9
Charlotte Chorley, CUSU Women’s Officer
Robert Corbyn-Smith, CUSU Disabled Students’ Officer
Jack Renshaw, CUSU LGBT+ Chair
Steph Hobbs, Homerton MCR President
Joe Landman, UCS (Clare JCR) President
Ruby Stewart-Liberty, JCSU Vice President
Yannis Hemrich, UCS (Clare JCR) Vice President
Emily Miedzybrodzka, Newnham JCR Vice President
Carla Pastorino, Clare Hall GSB President

Against: 0

Abstention: 0

B. MOTION TO APPOINT STUDENT TRUSTEES
Proposed: The Student Trustee Selection Group

PROPOSITION - ROBERT CORBYN-SMITH
The Student Trustee Selection Group, composed of Robert Corbyn-Smith (CUSU Disabled Students’ Officer), Brendan Mahon (CUSU Chair/CUSU LGBT+ President) and three of the sabbatical officers from last year’s team. In their opinion have put forward the best possible candidates of the 9 applications; applications were strong across the board.

SPEECH AGAINST
None

QUESTIONS
None

SUMMATION SPEECH
Waived
**VOTING RESULTS**

**For:** 8
Charlotte Chorley, CUSU Women’s Officer  
Robert Corbyn-Smith, CUSU Disabled Students’ Officer  
Jack Renshaw, CUSU LGBT+ Chair  
Steph Hobbs, Homerton MCR President  
Joe Landman, UCS (Clare JCR) President  
Ruby Stewart-Liberty, JCSU Vice President  
Yannis Hemrich, UCS (Clare JCR) Vice President  
Emily Miedzybrodzka, Newnham JCR Vice President  
Carla Pastorino, Clare Hall GSB President

**Against:** 0

**Abstention:** 1
Maya Raphael, Hughes Hall VP

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- CUSU LGBT+ enquire about applications for the CUSU Council Free Budget. Motions should be put forward asking for funding. Please promote to students - if any students want to work on a campaign, they can apply for some of the money to work on anything throughout the year. This is about students running campaigns to make change within the University.