CUSU Council Michaelmas III
7pm, Monday 9th November

AGENDA

1. Objections to the order of items on the agenda
2. Corrections to the minutes of the last Council Meeting
3. Matters arising from the minutes of the last Council Meeting
4. Date, time and venue of upcoming Council Meetings:
   a. Mich IV: 23rd November, 7pm. Location TBC
5. Announcements by Committees, Campaign Teams and the Executive
6. Questions to Committees, Campaign Teams and the Executive
7. Announcements by the Council
8. Ordinary motions
   a. Motion to Encourage the Use of Access Statements
   b. Motion to Eradicate Collegiate Ranking Tables
   c. Motion to Ask for Student Representation on the University Bursars’ Committee
   d. Motion to Support the Cambridge University Calais Refugee Action Group
   e. Motion to Campaign to stop publishing class lists
9. Any other business
   a. Elections Committee Election

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY COMMITTEES, CAMPAIGN TEAMS AND THE EXECUTIVE

PRISCILLA MENSAAH - CUSU PRESIDENT

To update at CUSU Council

JEMMA STEWART - CUSU COORDINATOR

- UNI4 bus: have been back in touch with University contact asking for student feedback to be included in the redevelopment of the UNI4 bus contract renewal, alongside asking for consultation on the route.
- Updating the CUSU website: an ongoing process of updating the content on the website and looking at areas that can be improved (I now spend 45m a day on this, so if you find anywhere that needs updating let me know!)
- Grad Union Elections: Dates and rules have been confirmed, so we'll be going ahead and electing a Graduate Union President. Nominations will open on Friday the 13th November.
- Part Time Exec election: Nominations are now open and have been discussing various campaign ideas with prospective nominees. More information: http://www.cusu.co.uk/get-involved/representation/part-time-executive
• Booked a coach for the National Demo, will be attending on the 4th November, sending out information to those attending the demo.
• Met with Heidi Allen (MP for South Cambs) to discuss cuts to Maintenance Grants & DSA with Helena and students/reps from Homerton and Girton
• Putting together a policy document, working a little each day on this
• First meeting of first (of two) Learning and Teaching Reviews. This one is looking at the Graduate side of the Clinical School.

ROBERT CASHMAN - CUSU EDUCATION OFFICER

• Facilitated the discussion of the Business, Innovation and Skills Select Committee inquiry into quality assessment and the Teaching and Excellence Framework at the last CUSU Council meeting, and used the points made to write a discussion (now submitted)
• Met with the University’s Director of HR to discuss how we can develop and embed excellent teaching at Cambridge
• Attended the NUS Higher Education Zone Conference, and took part in discussions relating to national developments in HE
• Met with two Senior Tutors to discuss intercollegiate academic parity
• Met with the University’s exams review group
• Met with the Teaching and Learning Services Steering Group and fed into the planning of the University’s digital education strategy
• Discussed rep elections with the Faculties of Architecture & History of Art, Biology, Music, Philosophy & the School of Biological Sciences, and made plans to support and publicise these elections through promotion & by holding drop-ins. Also been discussing the elections with a number of students interested in running
• Preparing information about the Education Team for the Part-Time Exec Elections
• Met with Heidi Allen MP to discuss HE funding
• Met with the University’s Head of Academic Practice to discuss academic parity and training for supervisors
• Attended meetings of the Teaching, Learning and Examination Space Working Group, and of the Language Centre Committee of Management

POPPY ELLIS LOGAN - CUSU/GU WELFARE AND RIGHTS OFFICER

• Planned my ‘Week 5, Take 5‘ craftivism campaign.
• Got Halloween-themed sexual health supplies.
• Researched the possibility of getting a GU kitten.
• Worked with JCRs to support their planning of ‘Week 5‘ activities.
• Planned the inter-collegiate Trick or Treating event.
• Secured a film license for the GU.
• Met with the Chair of College Nurses.
• Did a really great training session (3rd November) which had loads of different people and groups represented including: undergrad student parents, families
(and students' partners), CUSU BME Campaign, DSC, iCUSU and CUSU LGBT+ Campaign.

- Attended meeting of the Committee for Communicable Diseases.
- Met with the Principal of Newnham to talk about violence towards women.
- Made progress on my project with RAG and Foodcycle.
- Made my craftivism packs!
- Met with a student from Downing and we planned out what they will be doing for week 5. I will be giving a talk on mental health at Downing next Tuesday.
- Wrote a welfare officer bulletin template which I've sent to all welfare officers which provides a joined up report from all the college based services (MCRs, JCRs, nurse, counsellor, peer2peer) as well as University services (me, University Counselling Service, Linkline, Students’ Unions’ Advice Service etc) in order to make one interconnected welfare service.
- Made a really intense Google doc where students all over Cambridge have written testimonials of things they wish other people understood about being a student here when your experiences are non typical - mainly due to mental health conditions but also other things like being Trans.

HELENA BLAIR - CUSU ACCESS AND FUNDING OFFICER

- Continued planning the 2016 Shadowing Scheme.
- Had consultations with JCR Access Officers.
- Arranged meetings with university officials to discuss maintenance grants.
- Went to NUS Zones Higher Education Conference.
- Attended a breakfast meeting with the Bursars and Senior Tutors to discuss access and funding.
- Closed the undergraduate Shadowing Scheme applications.
- Met with Heidi Allen MP.

CHARLIE CHORLEY - CUSU WOMEN’S OFFICER

In the week beginning 26/10, I met with the Alumni and Development Office to begin plans for a Women's Alumni Network, had a planning session with the feminist leaders of Hills Road Feminist Society to get work going for Reclaim the Night, and did a TEDx talk in Brighton on Friday about the beauty industry. For the week beginning 02/11, I met with the student representative on the University Wide Committee for Sexual Misconduct at Yale to discuss their strategy for dealing with sexual harassment and how it can be implemented at Cambridge. I also met with several women's officers to discuss the cutting of lights in Cambridge. I also hosted the No Pay Day event on Wednesday 4th November, looking at the gender pay gap. And I went to the BME Working Group to look at how Cambridge can address racial diversity.

TIANTIAN & TESSA – ETHICAL AFFAIRS OFFICERS

Working plan of CUSU Ethical Affairs this academic year:
1. Cambridge University Ethical Festival (Nov.15-Nov.21)

The 2015 Cambridge University Ethical Festival (“the Festival”) will be held from Nov.15 to Nov.21. This year, the Festival will target on climate change. It is in an effort to raise awareness of various climate changes issues and offer an opportunity for Cambridge University students as well as local residents, non-profits and business to work together to promote sustainability. The week-long Festival will be held at various locations across the University of Cambridge. And activities will include talks, workshops, discussion panels, workshops, film screenings, garden visit and etc.

Confirmed activities:

- Nov.15 Opening night in Lola Lo Cambridge
- Nov. 16 Heidy Rehman’s speech on ethics in the fashion industry, especially fashion and the environment
- Nov. 16 Working for the UN
- Nov. 16 Working for the UNDP
- Nov.17 Green Impact Project Assistant Training
- Nov.18 Cambridge Carbon Footprint workshop
- Nov.20 Getting in and Getting On in the UK Charity Sector
- Nov.21 Cropshare-Be an organic farmer of a day
- Nov.15-Nov.21 National Student Union Online Quiz for Climate Change

Activities to be confirmed:

- Feast for Future
- Green Officers social events

2. Green Officers’ Training

In addition to organizing training sessions and social events, we plan to draft an orientation brochure for green officers. Content includes introduction of the roles of green officers, introduction of ethical societies, and introduction of our ethical team.

3. Mr. Lewis Pugh’s Speech (Lent term)

Mr. Lewis Pugh will talk about his negotiations with President Obama and President Putin on marine issues.

CUSU LGBT+ CAMPAIGN

To update at CUSU Council

CUSU BME CAMPAIGN
8A. MOTION TO ENCOURAGE THE USE OF ACCESS STATEMENTS

Proposed by Robert Corbyn-Smith (CUSU DSC Disabled Students’ Officer), seconded by Richard Birkett (CUSU DSC Computing Officer)

CUSU Notes:

1. That without access information, disabled students cannot make informed decisions about the events they attend;
2. That a comprehensive access statement includes but is not limited to:
   a. Describing access into, around and out of the venue or event. For example: whether there is wheelchair access, step-free access or stepped access; whether there are automatic doors; the wayfinding and signage available;
   b. Describing the facilities the venue or event has. For example: whether there is an accessible or partially accessible toilet; whether there is an induction loop; the seating available;
   c. Providing a named contact for all access enquiries.
3. That access statements are not, currently, widely used across the University;
4. That event providers may not be aware of how to provide access information or what information to include in an access statement;
5. That a short grace period will allow CUSU to develop and improve existing resources for event providers.

CUSU Believes:

1. That providing comprehensive and accurate access information is the first step in making all events accessible to as many students as possible;
2. That CUSU needs to do more to ensure disabled students are welcome at and encouraged to participate in events across the University, not just specific disabled students events;
3. That not providing access information when advertising events unfairly disadvantages disabled students, regardless of how accessible the event is.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To work with the Disabled Students’ Campaign [DSC] to improve and publicise the access statement generator on the DSC website, and, following an open consultation of disabled students, establish guidelines on what an access statement should minimally contain by the end of Michaelmas 2015;
2. From the beginning of Lent term 2016, to include a comprehensive access statement with all CUSU organised events;
3. From the beginning of Lent term 2016, to refuse to advertise any event without a suitable accompanying access statement;
4. To mandate the CUSU Coordinator, working in conjunction with the DSC, to create a training session on the subject of hosting accessible events, to be delivered at the beginning of Lent term 2016 and open to all students of the University (but targeted specifically towards JCR/MCR/AC Officers and Society Committee Officers).

**8B. MOTION TO ERADICATE COLLEGIATE RANKING TABLES**

Proposed by Priscilla Mensah (CUSU President), seconded by Robert Cashman (CUSU Education Officer)

CUSU Notes:

1. That there are 31 Colleges that constitute the University of Cambridge;
2. That without the Colleges, the University would be without a core provider of education to students;
3. That due to the founding of Colleges at different times, and with varying levels of resource, the Colleges that make up the University of Cambridge possess very different characters;
4. That the different Colleges endeavour to provide an equal standard of educational and pastoral provision, and that the University of Cambridge Prospectus for 2016 entry (p.111) states that ‘no College is better…’

CUSU Believes:

1. That not enough is done to ensure that all Colleges are considered equal and that students at a College do not feel negatively impacted by perceptions of, or the level of resource and reputation of, their College;
2. That students are negatively impacted by contemporary academic metrics which pit students and more specifically their performance against each other in an attempt to suggest an overall academic inferiority, or superiority of students at one college or another;
3. That Collegiality suffers due to these metrics. This is harmful to University and departmental attempts to ensure that, regardless of College, all students are catered for in a fair system where there is equal opportunity to succeed;
4. That these metrics do not foster fair competition between Colleges, but rather foster an unhealthy and destructive culture which is contrary to efforts to target intercollegiate inequality.

CUSU Resolves:

1. That cross-collegiate academic metrics, such as the Tompkins Table (published in *The Independent* each year), and the Baxter Table (a confidential, internal rankings
table), are damaging to efforts to ensure intercollegiate social and academic equality of opportunity;
2. The elected officers will work together and independently to campaign for the University to stop, where relevant, participation in the publication of these tables;
3. That all students, and Colleges, stand on equal academic footing.

8C. MOTION TO ASK FOR STUDENT REPRESENTATION ON THE UNIVERSITY BURSARS’ COMMITTEE

Proposed by Harrison Gower (hjg35@cam.ac.uk), seconded by Annie Magee (arm73@cam.ac.uk)

CUSU Notes:

1. That the University Bursars’ Committee is constituted of all College Bursars and is one of three main intercollegiate committees, along with the Senior Tutors’ and Colleges’ Committees;
2. That the Bursars’ Committee agenda, papers and minutes are not made publicly available;
3. That, whilst there is CUSU representation on the other two main committees, currently we have no representation on the Bursars’ Committee.

CUSU Believes:

1. That the Bursars’ Committee is influential in University business and thus the lives of all students at Cambridge;
2. That a precedent has been set by having student representation on other University committees of great importance, including the above mentioned and the Education, Welfare & Finance, and Graduate Tutors’ Committee;
3. That student representation on matters that affect students is absolutely necessary.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To ask all affiliated JCR Committees to present the motion “This JCR believes there should be student representation on the University Bursars’ Committee” at an Open Meeting to their members.
2. To subsequently apply pressure to the University to allow a CUSU representative at the Bursars’ Committee.

8D. MOTION TO SUPPORT THE CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY CALAIS REFUGEE ACTION GROUP

Proposed by Peter Martin (pm505@cam.ac.uk), seconded by Tom Tyson (tmt27@cam.ac.uk)

CUSU Notes:

1. That the newly formed society, Cambridge University Calais Refugee Action Group, plans to make multiple trips to Calais to volunteer in the refugee camps;
2. That the charity CalAid, based in Calais, has received a large amount of donations and supplies over the last month, but does not have enough people in Calais to sort through the supplies and distribute them;

3. That over 350 Cambridge students have already expressed an interest in travelling to Calais to help, working in conjunction with CalAid;

4. That, given that the CUSU Minibus Scheme is currently out of action, the cost of travel to, and accommodation in, Calais would cost each student around £50 to volunteer for one weekend;

5. That CUCRAG has organised one trip of 10 people to Calais and is planning its next trip for the 13th-15th November;

6. CUCRAG notes that including a £210 subsidy for the costs (provided by Amnesty International fundraising), each student on the trip paid £53 each to cover all of their expenses;

7. That CUCRAG is distinct from, but working in association with, CCRAG (Cambridge Calais Refugee Action Group), a Cambridge residents based group, which has different organisational structures not easily fit for University students given that most residents have their own cars and greater resources to go to Calais.

CUSU Believes:

1. That as winter approaches, the refugees in Calais would benefit from our direct assistance in helping to ensure supplies are distributed from the CalAid warehouses and that shelters are built;

2. That due to the potentially high costs of transportation, CUSU is prepared, along with other funding bodies such as Amnesty and RAG, to help to help enable students to travel to Calais and volunteer during this period of crisis.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To apportion £800 of the CUSU Council Free Budget to Cambridge University Calais Refugee Action Group (CUCRAG).

8E. MOTION TO CAMPAIGN TO STOP PUBLISHING CLASS LISTS

Proposed by Poppy Ellis Logan (CUSU-GU Welfare and Rights Officer), seconded by Robert Cashman (CUSU Education Officer)

CUSU Notes

1. That in the last academic year there was a petition calling for students to be able to opt-out of class lists, which attracted over 1000 signatures;

2. That University Committees, including the General Board’s Education Committee and the Senior Tutors’ Education Committee have discussed the publication of class lists;

3. The University is looking to undertake a full consultation on the future of published class lists;
4. CUSU has previously had policy on class lists, and campaigned for results to be made available via CamSIS. CUSU has previously consulted students on this issue - such as in 2008 (https://cusu.co.uk/campaigns/education/exams/classlists.pdf).

CUSU Believes

1. If the University is to move forward with this consultation it is important that CUSU has policy so that it can best represent the views of students;
2. That the current system of class lists denies students privacy with their results and is damaging for the welfare of many students.

CUSU Resolves

1. To campaign for the University to stop publishing class lists;
2. To work with other student campaign groups who are seeking to do the same.