



# CUSU Council (Easter II)

Monday 11th May 2020, 2pm (UK time)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88614208207?pwd=U2pXTGY2NW9hOVJZNVRTMzB4MUpmZz09>

## Agenda

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1. Objections to the order of items on the agenda
  - No objections
2. Matters arising from the minutes of the last Council Meeting
  - Rensa Gaunt (DSC) noted that the final minute is an error.
  - The amended minutes were approved.
3. Announcements by Committees, Campaign Teams and the Executive
  - a. Officer accountability
    - Edward Parker Humphreys (President) gave an update on his work.
    - Stella Swain (Welfare & Rights Officer) gave an update on her work.
    - Ali Hyde (Education Officer) gave an update on his work.
    - Lily-Rose Sharry (Access & Funding Officer) gave an update on her work.
      - Henry Wright (Homerton JCR) asked if the university is putting measures in place to look at representation of BME and disadvantaged students in admissions when predicted grades are used.
        - Lily-Rose Sharry (Access & Funding Officer) answered that she has raised this in admissions committees, and a new committee has been set up, which will meet later this week to discuss this.
      - Jasmine Wei Loo (iCUSU) asked if there is any way for iCUSU to show support for this, given international students potentially being able to sit English proficiency exams.
        - Lily-Rose Sharry (Access & Funding Officer) answered that she would happily meet iCUSU to discuss this.
    - Kate Litman (Women's Officer) gave an update on her work.
  - b. Updates from Campaigns and the Executive
    - Daniel Quigley (LGBT+) gave an update on the work of the LGBT+ Campaign.

- Amy Bottomley (Class Act) gave an update on the work of the Class Act Campaign.
  - Jasmine Wei Loo (iCUSU) gave an update on the work of the International Students' Campaign.
  - Roshni Parmar-Hill (BME) gave an update on the work of the BME Campaign.
  - Rensa Gaunt (DSC) gave an update on the work of the Disabled Students' Campaign.
  - Alice Gilderdale (Ethical Affairs) gave an update on the work of the Ethical Affairs Campaign.
4. Draft Cambridge SU Budget Presentation
- Edward Parker Humphreys (President) gave a presentation on the draft budget for Cambridge SU.
  - Rensa Gaunt (DSC) asked why Cambridge SU can afford to make a loss?
    - Edward Parker Humphreys (President) stated that the Charities Commission guidance is to keep reserves at around 3 months of spending, which Cambridge SU reserves are above.
  - Rensa Gaunt (DSC) asked whether there would ever be a chance for a Council to approved?
    - Edward Parker Humphreys (President) stated that if serious concerns existed, they could be raised in Michaelmas, but a budget must be in place in July. The final budget will be published. Student Trustees are always part of the board.
  - Rensa Gaunt (DSC) asked why details of Campaign budget consultations were not included?
    - Edward Parker Humphreys (President) answered that this was because there is no change to the overall campaigns budget, but how it is allocated between them.
  - Freddie Poser asked why banking interest is so low when the reserves are at £400,000.
    - Edward Parker Humphreys (President) said he would look into this and feed back.
  - Freddie Poser asked what the £21,000 for "Business Development Services" is for.
    - Edward Parker Humphreys (President) stated that this is a contract we pay for income generation through selling advertising and commercial stalls at Freshers' Fair.
  - Freddie Poser asked what the £1,000 for Yoga is?
    - Edward Parker Humphreys (President) stated that this is currently a Graduate Union project that the GU sought to see continued under the new union.

- Stella Swain (Welfare & Rights Officer) states that the GU tried to pause this at one point, and there was outrage. It is consistently well-attended.
- Edward Parker Humphreys (President) stated that he is looking into finding cheaper ways to deliver this.
- Freddie Poser asked what Bad Debt write off and Depreciation stem from?
  - Edward Parker Humphreys (President) stated that he will look into this.
- Andrew Salkeld (Fitzwilliam JCR) asked whether the SU has looked into putting excess reserves into an investment pot?
  - Edward Parker Humphreys (President) stated that a new reserves policy will be a priority for the new board.
- Andrew Salkeld (Fitzwilliam JCR) asked whether the new board has been involved in setting the budget?
  - Edward Parker Humphreys (President) stated that the new trustees will have a chance to engage in July.
- Peter McLaughlin asked whether the campaigns have to worry about budget cuts or not? Is the budget fixed or not?
  - Edward Parker Humphreys (President) stated that if these types of changes were made, he would insist it was brought back to Council.
- Peter McLaughlin asked whether the Student Council will be the governing body of Cambridge SU, or will it be the Board of Trustees?
  - Student Council will be the democratic decision-making body, while the Board is responsible for the organisation's serious legal and financial concerns, but should where at all possible follow the lead of the Council. The normal approval procedure will be for a budget to pass through an AGM. Legally, the Board is able to take these decisions under the Education Act. Will look into this in more detail.
  - Rory Kent (Education PTE) asked on behalf of the DSC whether the proposed campaigns budget system should be discussed now?
    - Edward Parker Humphreys (President) answered that this is very much an open consultation and not a final proposal. This is not an imposition.
  - Amy Bottomley (Class Act) asked whether an emergency meeting could be held in Summer?
    - Edward Parker Humphreys (President) said there are restrictions on when meetings can be held, but he will look into this.
  - Joshan Parmar asked how the cost on income generation is broken down?
    - Edward Parker Humphreys (President) said that the primary costs are goods purchased for resale, which don't generate huge profits, and the

Freshers' Fair costs, which do lead to a large profit. These are partially fundraising activities and services provided to students.

- Peter McLaughlin asked what sort of margin is made of goods purchased for resale? And could instead be invested?
  - Edward Parker Humphreys (President) stated that these services are very much demand-driven, including thesis-binding, bike equipment. We generate a small income on these. Would be happy to provide a more detailed breakdown.
- 5. Appointment of one member to Cambridge SU Student Trustee Selection Group
  - Henry Wright (Homerton JCR) nominated himself.
  - Council approved the appointment with 29 Yes votes and 1 No vote.
- 6. Ordinary Policy Motions from the previous meeting
  - a. Motion in Support of a Formal Institutionalised Language Policy (ILP) and Collegiate Contribution for In-sessional Academic English Courses for Non-native Speakers\*
  - b. Motion to collaborate with the Cambridge City Council and local organisations to provide public accommodation during the COVID-19 crisis\*
    - Hannah VDS asked whether thought had been given to how to handle this when university re-opens, and the increased costs this would place on staff.
      - Stella Swain (Welfare & Rights Officer) answered that the authors of the motion are aware of these concerns, and are only suggesting using available capacity. In the long-term, other solutions should be sought, but this is intended as a proposed solution in a time-limited crisis. Students would not be paying rent on these rooms anyway. Cooperation with the Council would be key to this. The Council has plans for supporting these people after the crisis.
- 7. Proposed Ordinary Policy Motions
  - a. Motion on supporting the NUS' Student Safety Net Campaign
    - Ali Hyde (Education Officer) spoke in favour of the motion.
    - Henry Wright (Homerton JCR) asked what the implications for university finances would be?
      - Ali Hyde (Education Officer) stated this was the reason for supporting the NUS policy, rather than fee refunds.

- Lily-Rose Sharry (Access & Funding Officer) stated that it was vital to include lobbying on accessible hardship funding due to potential for students to slip through the net.
- Peter McLaughlin asked what the point is of debt write-off if the policy is about student hardship?
  - Ali Hyde (Education Officer) answered that there are separate issues in the motion. There will be longer-term impacts on students graduating this year. The NUS's aims are linked in the motion. Would happily include another notes section in the motion.
- Andrew Salkeld (Fitzwilliam JCR) asked how CUSU feels the NUS is prioritising the hardship funding the same way?
  - Ali Hyde (Education Officer) stated that they are still getting feedback on this new campaign at the moment, and he is happy to provide this.
  - The motion was approved with 31 Yes votes and 1 No vote.
- b. Motion to provide information on College Student Provisions; Equality and Diversity Policy; and Reporting Procedures
  - Roshni Parmar-Hill (BME Campaign) presented the motion.
  - The motion passed with 32 Yes votes and 0 No votes.
- 8. Any other business
  - Edward Parker Humphreys (President) noted that this is the last ever meeting of CUSU Council and wished Council members a good summer. He wished the Cambridge SU team well.
  - Charlie Innes (Chair) thanked Council.