

CUSU COUNCIL MICHAELMAS I MINUTES – 8TH OCTOBER 2018

ATTENDANCE

Total voting members of CUSU Council present: 53

APOLOGIES

PROXY NOTIFICATIONS:

1. OBJECTIONS TO THE ORDER OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Evie Aspinall, CUSU President: Move the elections of Chair and Elections Committee forward to the beginning of the meeting (previously placed under point 12, AOB).

Nominations from the floor for Chair:

- Aberdeen Powell, Peterhouse: for Deputy Chair
 - o Chose to put themselves forward as no one else was. Would encourage anyone else interested to run as well, but feel well suited to the role as enjoys admin, has decent connections and organisational skills.
- Guillermo Íñiguez, Peterhouse: for Chair
 - o Previously a member of the elections committee. Feels that the CUSU Council is relatively unheard of and unknown so would like to change this with the Chair ensuring that the student body know about meetings. Efforts have been made to increase the transparency of the Council, however, the following changes are proposed, 1. Chair to run the meetings completely impartially and 2. For CUSU council to be advertised so that it becomes more empowered.

There were no objections so the Chair and Deputy Chair were accepted.

[New Chair, Guillermo Íñiguez, takes over council; the Chair is not able to vote]

Nominations for Elections Committee:

6 members needed, Evie, as President is already on the committee.

- Emrys Travis, semi-traditional to have a sabbatical officer on the committee and has a good understanding of policy and statutory rules
- Connor MacDonald, would offer a unique voice as was a candidate in the past for both this and other campaigns.

- Alice O’Driscoll, worked at ARU supporting elections so has experience and also on a personal level enjoys bureaucracy.
- Alex Russell, on the board of Trustees, previously on elections committee and jcr vp.

No objections to the candidates, all candidates elected.

2. CORRECTIONS TO THE MINUTES OF THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING

None.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING

None.

4. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

22nd October

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY COMMITTEES, CAMPAIGN TEAMS AND THE EXECUTIVE

CUSU President:

- Changes to CUSU Council- meetings will now start at 6:45 for pizza and promptly start at 7. Improved accountability for sabbatical officers with new accountability documents. Their documents are full at the moment as they cover the whole summer and all points relate to previous policies or election manifestos. There are plans to improve representation and the mailing system is changing so others can see the agenda etc., will be shared in the bulletin. All voting members will still receive emails. The deadline for motions is Tuesday 5PM, after which they will not be included in the next meeting.
- Council members will be receiving a questionnaire this week as part of an overhaul on council (e.g. how council meets etc.)
- Visibility: lots of updates on Facebook, at freshers meeting new students.
- Lounge improved, committee to improve lounge has also ben created.
- College inequality: review to be released shortly
- Other business: meeting about Cambridge bursary, cut the rent meetings, drinking societies- discussion later so no detail now, industrial actions, now on strike action task force
 - Q: Would there be another policy vote on strikes as changes since last vote?
 - A: Yes, different strike so different vote if the strike does take place
 - Q: lack of transparency on rent is an issue for grad students, is this being looked at or just undergraduate?
 - A: Both are being considered
 - Q: Is inequality looking at grants?
 - A: Yes

CUSU Education Officer:

- NUS welfare and resisting marketisation following policy- Cannes Hall at 5pm
- Activisation reading groups on Sunday
- Plans to use student data more positively- launching a joint review on representation, surveyed former academic reps and any current reps encouraged to speak with at the end of session.
 - Q: Elaboration on prevent progress

- A: Positive movements from the university but doesn't look as promising on a broader level.
- Q: Prevent is mainly implemented by staff is there anything that can be done to circulate in terms of students?
- A: Yes, sounds a good idea, will investigate student angle.

CUSU Disabled Students Officer

- Focussing on inclusive teaching and learning. Currently doing surveys to build a system of inclusivity on curriculum and policy. It has been tricky since committees have not been meeting, due to summer, but have sat in some and met UCU.
- Discussing what disability is via Facebook groups and there is also a term card for people to get involved
 - Q: Lots of Disabled students don't use Facebook, is there other resources available?
 - A: Currently working on restarting a defunct mailing list and other mechanisms to spread information.
 - Q: there was a discussion on exam arrangements before summer and it was mentioned that there is no pooling system so collages would use this as an excuse to not fund medical evidence/ adjustment fees for rooms and special requirements
 - A: It will be brought up in discussions
 - Matt: the way it is being governed is being changed by university to a new structure to be more accountable.

CUSU Women's Officer:

- Main manifesto points were sexual harassment, supporting trans students and marketisation
- Many meetings already regarding sexual harassment. There is a womcam term card available and all women and non-binary are welcome.

CUSU Welfare and Rights Officer:

- Work has been focussing on improving and widening, training and continuing work on welfare is political
- Has been implementing previous years provisions on mental health, including better accountability for councillors, anonymous feedback forms have been designed to statistically record the prevalence of certain complaints.
- Intercultural training has been brought up for councillors, currently working to make sure they get this. There will be specialised training throughout the year.
- Alternative families campaign coming up
 - Q: Is the training just for students?
 - A: Currently working on making training mandatory for college staff. Specialised training is specifically for welfare and liberation.
 - Q: Are fellows included in the training or are they separate, as colleges often distinguish them to be?
 - A: Not too sure about that, but the vision is to see all supporting members of staff trained, fellows included.

CUSU Access and Funding Officer

- Working on the underrepresentation of women in STEM subjects and certain regions.
- External work: Generation Medics to help improve general BME access to medicine

- Working on the class act, rebranding and relaunching to make an inclusive environment for the working class.
- Trying to allow rights to be more known regarding unpaid internships, these are the norm in some sectors. Working alongside careers service.
- Shadowing scheme- using role models is the best way to encourage people to apply.

LGBT+ Campaign

- Freshers week was busy. Work has included a term card, socials, subsets of the group have also been targeted with events as well as gender neutral campaign work regarding dress codes etc. Partnering with student mind about queer mental health

BME Campaign

- Compiled resources over summer. Work has been done for signposting for JCRs as well as workshops about diversity to help inform. Events such as freshers squash have went down well.
 - Q: Are there resources for MCRs?
 - A: The resources are accessible for everyone but not all will be relevant to MCRs.

Ethical Affairs Committee

- Had a stand at the freshers fair where they were promoting campaigns and networks which have been set up. Attended a sustainability meeting and are planning to hold the university to account for failing to meet targets. There is a meeting about pay on the 23rd and living age training on Thursday 2:30-4:30. There is also an environmental policy meeting at Robinson. Creation of a green officer network and a calendar created. Supporting college political organisation meetings.
 - Q: What is the content of the political meetings?
 - A: Depends on the college, different colleges have different political issues e.g. cut the rent. It depends what they are interested in.
 - Q: Will colleges not on the list be encouraged to join in
 - A: Yes, the list of colleges taking part are currently those who signed up when the scheme was advertised. Others are welcome to join in.

6. QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEES, CAMPAIGN TEAMS AND THE EXECUTIVE

None.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE COUNCIL

Response to the financial enquiry from the trustees- full document can be seen in supporting documents for council meeting.

The trustees thank those involved in the enquiry, it is good that people are engaged and the Trustee Board appreciate the spirit of enquiry. It must be remembered that there are distinct differences between CUSU Council and the Board of Trustees as trustees are legally responsible and can't undermine their legal obligations to maintain CUSU financially. Changes have been made, for example last year a financial sub-committee of the trustees was created to scrutinise finances and have students involved in this. The mid-year review was announced to CUSU Council. New changes include an annual timetable of business and the uploading of trustee meeting minutes which will also be sent to council so that they can ask questions. Evie may not be able to answer all enquiries immediately as she cannot speak on behalf of the entire board. Removed embargo on student press questions. Making sure sabbatical officers come to Council was mentioned, all are present.

8. DISCUSSIONS

Drinking societies- presented by the CUSU President

- Previous President got societies to pledge to make a code of conduct. So far, 28 societies have pledged. However, the contents are vague. Discussions have been had with Good Lad and a few possible options have been created. A motion will be brought forward based on what is informally decided in this discussion.
- 3 options for dealing with drinking societies:
 1. All drinking societies get together and collectively decide on a code of conduct which applies to all drinking societies, however may not create a sense of ownership, making some people feel forced, however, it will be easier to hold to account.
 2. Send all drinking societies to Good Lad workshops
 3. Any form of code of conduct may be seen as legitimising the societies and so would prefer to say CUSU don't get involved but the problem is they may still be underground without any controls.
- Questions
 - Good lad option- how many times have the university offered to pay?
 - A: VC informally offered funding.
 - Q: 28 signed up, but how many drinking societies are there?
 - A: Approximately 60, typically 1 male and 1 female society per collage although this varies.
 - Q: What happens if the code of conduct is breached?
 - A: This is another problem as who holds them to account? Students could potentially take it to presidents or their college.
 - Q: Downing currently has about 7 drinking societies, how far will this code of conduct extend? Many sports societies have a drinking society aspect to them and behave in similar ways
 - A: Currently any society putting themselves forward is being accepted
 - Suggests another problem- identifying what is a drinking society?
- Peterhouse doesn't currently have a drinking society but people are considering it; they believe the code of conduct legitimises drinking societies
- [International student] there is a drinking culture back home, and the only way to deal with it was to create a code of conduct for all societies which has clear avenues on how to complain about individuals so that they are punished, a fourth option could be that a code of conduct is created regarding drinking for all colleges and societies.
- As JCRs meet with CUSU regularly at council meetings, it could make more sense to deal with JCRs about drinking societies rather than the drinking societies themselves
 - Issue with this is that JCRs don't have access to tools that can change the behaviour of the drinking societies, would appreciate assistance with this as can't deal with it on their own.
- Needs to be managed top down as it is a culture not an individual. By involving JCRs we would be creating a conflict of interest, last term drinking societies felt like they were no longer represented by their JCRs so they need to be a more neutral.
- Mixed opinions heard about Good Lad

- Possible attitude to have: 'CUSU opposes drinking societies and feel they don't have a place within university, but recognises students' rights to attend drinking societies and feel that a code of conduct should apply to all drinking elements of societies'
- Harassment etc., are often a result of drinking so would be in favour of expanding the code of conduct. However, many have pointed out that the societies operate under the radar, maybe have a senior figure from the societies to have a specific duty of care, rather than just disbanding as the society could just go underground
 - EA: must be careful with how individual it is made. This option would require CUSU to lobby the university to give every student a code of conduct
- Sidney JCR previously attempted to impose a drinking society code of conduct- large pushback as society didn't feel they were involved with the code
 - Sidney are signed up for the CUSU code of conduct
- Are options 1 and 2 mutually exclusive?
 - Good Lad felt that it undermined what they do at Good Lad when working with a group.
- Christ sports clubs went to a Good Lad workshop and it went down well and is good for college societies in general
 - Issues with funding it for every society
- CUSU have limits and so wouldn't be able to enforce the code. Disciplinary actions by university are inadequate
- Training may be good to help JCRs improve drinking awareness e.g. with freshers
- Summary: majority feel that CUSU should do something and that code of conduct and Goodlad workshops are a good idea.

9. ORDINARY POLICY MOTIONS FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL

No objections were made and these motions were consequently passed.

10. PROPOSED ORDINARY POLICY MOTIONS

MOTION FOR THE RENEWAL OF 2015-2016 POLICY "ENCOURAGE THE USE OF ACCESS STATEMENTS" WITH AMENDMENTS

Presented by proposer:

Edits to the motion can be seen in the supporting documents. After 3 years, a policy can lapse. However, it is felt that this motion still applies but has not been successfully implemented yet. There was not a DSO at the time that the policy was created so should be able to deal with it more efficiently now. Resolves has changed and there is a society directory where all events and access to these events can be added.

Speeches in opposition: None

Questions:

- Did lots of work over the summer on access statements in Peterhouse, however found it difficult as doesn't personally have many access requirements to it was quite ambiguous and hard to deal with. Will there be steps to help with access in future?

- A: CUSU Resolves, point 4: there is training on the 14th and 18th for people interested in the matter of how to produce guides. Compulsory access information will help resolve this.
- When the matter is ambiguous will you be the point of contact?
 - Yes, won't necessarily know everything but as a general rule it is good practice to say how wide the threshold is etc as people will generally know their own requirements. Descriptive not prescriptive.

Voting on motion:

Unanimously passes

MOTION TO ENCOURAGE THE COMMEMORATION OF BRITISH WAR VETERANS ON REMEMBRANCE DAY ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Presented by proposer:

The issue of remembrance is a national issue. These people serve as an inspiration to others. Cambridge can sometimes be a bit of a bubble and usually see very few people wearing poppies. Proposer believes that far more can be done as students should appreciate all that soldiers have done on behalf of the country. In fact, there is a direct reference to university history as famous historical figures have been from the university. Veterans are more likely to suffer from PTSD and other mental illnesses and it is a national disgrace to not care.

Questions:

- Proposer mentioned war vets are victims of many issues- the motion seems to be celebrating. Why are you proposing more recognition rather than support for veterans? Strategically best way is to raise awareness is poppies for British legion or supporting other charities out there already.

Amendment

AMENDMENT: MOTION TO ENCOURAGE THE COMMEMORATION OF ~~BRITISH WAR VETERANS- THOSE WHOSE LIVES HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY WAR-ON-REMEMBRANCE DAY~~ ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CUSU Notes:

- 1) That Remembrance Day is observed annually on November 11th in many countries across the world, inaugurated after the First World War as a memorial day observed in Commonwealth member states to commemorate the members of their armed forces who died in the line of duty.
- 2) That, shaped by the context of the Second World War and other wars since its initial inauguration, Remembrance Day today is marked by war remembrances in many countries across the world, both Commonwealth member states and non-Commonwealth member states, and commemorates members of the armed forces and civilians who have lost their lives during, or whose lives were affected by, war.
- 3) That organisations of former soldiers and their families, including Veterans for Peace (who advocate the celebration of the International Day of Peace on Sept. 21st - <https://www.veteransforpeace.org/>) and Military Families Against the War (<http://www.mfaw.org.uk/>), have undertaken active efforts to reshape remembrance away from glorification and valorisation of war and towards a commitment to the spirit of 'never again', campaigning against the militarism that has devastated the lives of so many.

4) That there are at least five ongoing conflicts today that have caused at least 10,000 direct violent deaths in the current or past calendar year.

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_ongoing_armed_conflicts)

CUSU Notes:- CUSU Believes:

1) That the ~~general valour, courage and heroism of serving or formerly serving members of the British armed forces is deserving of our sympathy and recognition~~ lives and deaths of all those who have been affected by war globally and throughout history, including but not limited to those of the First and Second World Wars, are deserving of recognition and remembrance.

2) That the ~~immense personal sacrifices undertaken by members of the British armed forces both during and after their period of service are considerable and worthy of appreciation recognition.~~

3) 2) That the commemoration of ~~British war veterans~~ veterans and casualties of war is an ~~apolitical civic~~ mark of respect for the lives lost and altered by war.

CUSU Believes:

1)-3) The University of Cambridge and its constituent colleges ~~dedicate inadequate effort to honouring British war veterans the remembrance of veterans and casualties of war and~~ should do more to remember those whose lives have been affected by war ~~this end~~ as part of encouraging an educational practice among students of productive criticism and analytical scrutiny, in general and when examining war and its global and political contexts, both historically and in the present.

2)-4) Relevant college and faculty authorities should be more proactive in promoting the remembrance of all lives lost and affected by war. ~~cause of Remembrance.~~

3) 5) That raising awareness of this issue amongst the student population ~~represents not only a positive demonstration of tribute towards British war veterans, but also gives students examples of inspiration from instances of human fortitude and gallantry, including that which was practised by undergraduates of this very University~~ serves not only as a mark of respect and commemoration to the lives lost and affected by war, but also as a part of the active promotion of a global view of institutional memory and Cambridge's place within this context.

CUSU Resolves:

1) To lobby the University to take practical steps towards greater recognition of ~~British war veterans~~ those whose lives have been affected by war. ~~such as but not limited to asking for a minute's silence on Remembrance Sunday or sending email reminders to students about the availability of poppies.~~

2) To ~~produce its own publicity material in promotion of Remembrance. to promote the remembrance of those whose lives have been affected by war.~~

2) To use to the best of its ability, its power and resources to ensure that ~~remembering those whose lives have been affected by war~~ Remembrance Day becomes a well-established and well-marked ~~event~~ across the University in the future.

Presented by proposer of amendment:

Broadly- proposer agrees it's important to remember all those lost in all wars. CUSU should reflect international institution, global community and must recognise diversity. Important that we recognise all different backgrounds not just British, not just WW1 and WW2 as there are many instances to reflect on. CUSU note should have been CUSU believes in original motion, this has been changed- added facts. Also mentioned British veterans in initial motion, amended to casualties and veterans and soldiers. Must think about Cambridge's place in this and focus on remembering but in a constructive and critical way.

Speeches against amendment:

Strongly opposed to both motion and amendment- both strongly from British perspective. Both assumes past tense but still affected presently. Don't believe any one remembrance can do justice to diversity of stories from wars. Single campaign can't significantly make a change. Many more

campaigns more broadly deal with the issue. Get involved in campaigns if you want to but CUSU doesn't have a place in telling people how to remember people. It is down to the individual.

Speech for the amendment:

Having read it I feel it captures a lot of points which are missing in the original motion. Don't want to tell people how to remember. CUSU cannot, as a body, capture the pain or resolve damage but doesn't mean shouldn't try. Amendment does deal with very well. Shows awareness of ongoing conflicts (CUSU notes 4)- can avoid some of the issues with original motion. Amendment captures what we want to say- community want to show respect.

Speech against amendment:

All points raised are valid but before going into amendment, it could be suggested to have a separate motion to encompass international peace day etc. to complement ongoing commemoration. Removal of British is slightly problematic as does it describe objective enemies of war? Issue is title is quite broad, as may not want, could identify ISIS within the statement. British term being removed seems a political point, motivated by political concerns. Remembrance Day should be apolitical. Unless you want to accept mentioning British as political? We are a British university despite international status. No issue with remembering own people as do in many other countries. Therefore, there is not a legitimate reason to remove. To preserve certain concepts and apolitical- reject amendment.

Vote on accepting amendment:

Favour: 41, Against:1, Abstain: 5

Amendment passes.

Speeches against motion (full motion with new amendment):

Original proposer- urge people to reject amended motion because it dedicated insufficient attention to British war veterans and there are shaky points. Emphasis on everyone effected. This could lead to legitimisation and so affect British soil and communities elsewhere.

Second speech against amended motion- Did not agree to the original motion, but reacts strongly to points made in its favour. Would agree that the commemoration is political. It has been 100 years since November 11th and feel is disgraceful that people won't commit to the allied forces and commit to dedicating the day to them.

Dissemination:

Proposer of the amendment feels that it is good that the amendment is accepted as it mentions ongoing crises. Having heard the opinion of those with more global expertise, would also be happy if motion was voted down.

Vote on motion:

Favour: 3, Against: 32, Abstention: 9

Motion fails to pass

MOTION PROPOSING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN CUSU, THE GU AND CAMBRIDGE UCU

Proposer presents:

Whilst supporting strikes, CUSU, the GU and UCU got used to collaborating. Realised there's a large overlap in membership and interests and it would be effective to work together. If any group feels the need to opt out that is acceptable at any time.

Speeches against: None

Questions:

- What happens if there is a conflict of policy?
 - The memorandum is written in a way that allows for minor disagreements e.g. different stances on lecture capture but if needed the agreement would cease.
- GU is often segmented from UG events can there be more work between them?
 - Already worked on over summer
- Shouldn't this be between the GU and CUSU as CUSU appear to act servile to UCU on some things e.g. strikes?
 - Memorandum already exists with the GU and all decisions regarding the UCU were approved by council using the democratic process
- DSO- often work on the same issues, would be more effective to talk together about them.

Voting on motion:

1 Abstain, majority in favour

Motion passes

11. PROPOSED POLICY ACTION MOTIONS

MOTION TO FUND A PORTION OF THE AFRO-CARIBBEAN SOCIETY AND CUSU BME CAMPAIGN'S "WINDRUSH AT 70: CARIBBEAN HISTORY, RESISTANCE, AND IDENTITY" FROM THE COUNCIL FREE BUDGET

Presentation of motion by proposer:

As October is Black History Month, it is a chance to make the university feel more inclusive. Black access is a problem for students as is feeling isolated. It is important for them to celebrate their place at university. Organised events such as the joint panel on windrush are a part of this. The speakers attending are charging the bare minimum, for some its only enough to cover their travel expenses. Whilst the cost is low, it is difficult for campaigns to cover the cost. The VC has agreed to cover most of the cost so it is asked that CUSU cover £260 as it is a chance for CUSU to support meaningful action.

Speeches in opposition: None

Questions:

- How much free budget is there?

- £3000 which is not usually spent by the end of the year

Friendly amendment: CUSU Believes: 1- 'many feel alienating...'

Vote on motion:

52 in favour- unanimously passes.

MOTION TO FUND A PORTION OF THE 2018 CAMBRIDGE 'DISORIENTATION GUIDE' FROM THE COUNCIL FREE BUDGET

Presented by seconder:

Students worked over the summer to create a guide to help new students which was then distributed at freshers. It makes students aware of the campaigns they can participate in. A all CUSU liberation campaigns are involved and CUSU policy encourages access, would like to request £250, the rest of the cost has been covered by crowdfunding.

Speeches in opposition: None

Questions:

- Why does the request not ask for a larger amount of funding?
 - Other sources of funding were successful so there is no need to ask for more
- How many guides were produced?
 - 1500 which were mostly handed out at the freshers fair
- Is there a pdf?
 - Yes, it's on the Facebook group and also trying to produce a plain text version

Vote on motion:

Unanimously passes.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Welfare and rights officer can only attend half of the councils as must attend GU meetings also