CUSU Council Easter II Agenda
7pm, Monday 16th May, CUSU/GU Lounge

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. Michaelmas I: 10th October 2016
5. Announcements by Committees, Campaign Teams and the Executive
6. Questions to Committees, Campaign Teams and the Executive
7. Announcements by the Council
8. Motions to be Ratified
   a. Ratification of the CUSU Budget 2016-17
9. Ordinary motions
   a. Motion for Rational and Consultative Budgeting for 2016-17
   b. Motion to allocate funds from the CUSU Council Free Budget to the Welfare and Rights Team
   c. Mandating CUSU to work with Cambridge African-Caribbean Society (CUACS) to host an annual access event to increase the number of black students at the University
10. Any other business
ANNOUNCEMENTS BY COMMITTEES, CAMPAIGN TEAMS AND THE EXECUTIVE

PRISCILLA MENSAH - CUSU PRESIDENT

- Hosted Joint Advisory Committee and discussed implementation of banded rents
- Attended meeting with CAO on holding Black Students’ Open Day Event
- Worked with Girton College on Rent and Accommodation Strategy
- Led meeting between UCS and JCR/MCR Reps
- Led Prevent Taskforce meeting with College reps, society reps, autonomous campaigns reps and faculty reps
- Attended Senior Tutors’ Committee
- Attended University Council and supported Class Lists abolition decision
- Attended Prevent Committee
- Delivered two workshops on racial and sexual harassment at Hughes Hall, another to be delivered at Homerton this week
- Participated in the full-day Music Learning and Teaching Review, advocated on workload and course structure in particular

JEMMA STEWART - CUSU COORDINATOR

- Attended a sub-committee for the Sports Committee, looking at the registration and compliance of sports clubs within the University
- Attended the Learning and Teaching Review for Genetics
- Updated the Policy Document
- Set up the Referendum and DSO Election Rolls for Roll Checking Period
- Line management responsibilities
- Been on sick leave

ROBERT CASHMAN - CUSU EDUCATION OFFICER

- Met with staff in the Planning & Resource Allocation Office and Estate Management to discuss student facilities at the West Cambridge site. I am currently organising a focus group for students to discuss new student facilities at the West Cambridge site.
- Attended the first meeting of the Prevent Taskforce.
- Organised and hosted the Student-Led Teaching Awards ceremony. We received 703 nominations this year, and I am now working on preparing a report on the Awards which will detail key findings and recommendations for next year.
- Continued to work with Priscilla and Poppy on the Welfare Grid.
- Attended a meeting of the Library Syndicate.
- Attended a meeting of the School of Arts & Humanities and Humanities & Social Sciences Undergraduate Admissions Committee to discuss joint degrees.
- Worked on writing the minutes of CUSU Council Easter I.
- Arranged a meeting on 12th May between the Islamic Society, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education), the Head of the Student Registry and CUSU, to discuss space requirements.

**POPPY ELLIS LOGAN - CUSU/GU WELFARE AND RIGHTS OFFICER**

- For Poppy’s updates, see the Welfare Bulletin - https://docs.google.com/document/d/12D2uOtCslsTdyD7rBaglH8RFdSu4RzjMc5_iMpi/edit?usp=sharing

**HELENA BLAIR - CUSU ACCESS AND FUNDING OFFICER**

- Written Shadowing Scheme 2016 Report!
- Worked with African Caribbean Society on event at Cambridge Open Days
- Co-wrote paper on engaging PGCE students in access activity
- Presented above paper at University’s Teacher Engagement Strategy Group
- Attended University’s Outreach Forum (speaker event bringing together staff involved in outreach)
- Schools Liaison Officer Mid-Season Review
- Attended Student-Led Teaching Awards
- Committees: Cambridge Bursary Scheme Sub-Group

**CHARLIE CHORLEY - CUSU WOMEN’S OFFICER**

- Attended the first ever student-led PREVENT meeting
- Hosted the last Forum of the year, focusing on self-care
- Delivered training on racial and sexual harassment to Hughes Hall
- Attended the Equality and Diversity Education Committee
- Helped out at the Big Chill
- Attended the NUS Women’s Conference on Lad Culture
- Ran a craftivism event with HerStory and NUS Women
- Ran JCR/MCR Consent workshops
- Wrote postcards to Yarls Wood with Amnesty International
- Continuing on Elections Committee for DSO Election and NUS Referendum
MOTION FOR RATIONAL AND CONSULTATIVE BUDGETING FOR 2016-17

Proposed by Cornelius Roemer (cr492@cam.ac.uk), seconded by Miriam Shovel (mes60@cam.ac.uk)

CUSU Notes:

1. That the Constitution prescribes the following process to determine and ratify CUSU’s Budget:
   a. “K.3 An Annual Budget for the year beginning 1st July shall be prepared by the Coordinator and submitted to the first Council of Easter Term for ratification, having been made available for inspection at the CUSU Offices during office hours for the two weeks prior to the day of the Meeting. […] It shall be a duty of the Coordinator to ensure that the Budgets presented to Council do not propose that expenditures shall exceed income in any Financial Year.”
   b. “K.8 It shall be within the competence of Council to amend the Budget, both at the time of presentation and in the subsequent Year to which it refers, by a resolution which simultaneously reduces a Budget Heading and increases one by the same stated amount.”
   c. (Link to Constitution as of May 2016: http://goo.gl/XsXA2o)
2. That, hence, CUSU Council has the power not to ratify the budget;
3. The two week inspection period has not been satisfied this year, despite a one week delay of the first CUSU Council of Easter Term;
4. That the Standing Orders do not further constrain the budget ratification process and it is thus within CUSU Council’s statutory power to determine the precise process beyond what is specified in the Constitution;
5. That the possibility of a funding cut for The Cambridge Student (TCS, student newspaper owned by CUSU), forcing it to abort its Print edition has been widely covered in the local and national media (Independent: http://goo.gl/UVrLuk, TCS: http://goo.gl/9fDlsW, Tab: http://thetab.com/uk/cambridge/2016/04/22/74328-74328, Varsity: http://www.varsity.co.uk/news/10123)
6. That, according to an article published by Varsity, the CUSU Board of Trustees mentioned further cost-cutting options. These include:
   a. Restructuring staffing in the Business Team;
   b. Forming a shared service with the GU with profit and cost-sharing;
   c. Reducing the size of the Sabbatical Team by deferring the election of the next CUSU Coordinator;
   d. Reducing the size of the staff team;
   e. Raising affiliation fees.
7. That by-elections for the sabbatical positions of Coordinator and Disabled Students’ Officer have not yet been announced. The Constitution and Standing Orders are vague on whether a by-election for Coordinator must be held. Further, the status of the Constitution after the DSO Referendum is unclear;
8. That minutes of CUSU’s Trustee Board meetings are currently not publicly available;
9. That, according to Article X of the Standing Orders (https://goo.gl/IZeVHv), CUSU Council should have a vote on affiliation to external organisations at the first Council of Lent Term. This Article has been violated this year.

CUSU Believes:

1. That the decisions made in the budget are of high importance and have long-lasting effect on CUSU and Cambridge students in general. It is regretful that the process of determining the budget has been delayed and opaque. Despite the delay, the process should not be rushed.

2. That CUSU Council, as the “principal representative, policy-making and administering body” (cf. Constitution) should be fully involved in the budget setting process from now on;

3. That Council requires detailed briefings to make well-informed, rational decisions, and should thus be provided with a report setting out financial and non-financial implications of the cost-cutting and revenue-increasing measures that are being considered for this budget. This needs to be available well before the next Council on the 9th of May to provide sufficient time for the formulation of emergency motions;

4. That important policy decisions such as the funding cut for TCS or the deferral of Coordinator by-elections should not be pre-empted by action or inaction of CUSU’s Trustees, Executive or staff before the matter has been decided upon by Council. Specifically, it is important that preparations are made for by-elections of Coordinator and DSO in case Council decides to hold these elections;

5. That to fulfil its role as CUSU’s principal representative, policy-making and administering body, CUSU Council needs to know what is discussed at Trustee Board meetings;

6. That Sabbatical Officers have a duty to obey the Constitution and Standing Orders and should not ignore it.

CUSU Resolves:

1. That the Trustee Board publish, by Friday 6th May, an options paper of around 10 pages, setting out CUSU’s budgetary position and describing financial and non-financial implications of the cost-cutting and revenue-increasing measures that are being considered for this budget, including, but not limited to the options mentioned in the Varsity article:
   a. TCS funding cut
   b. Affiliation fee increase
   c. Restructuring staffing in the Business Team
   d. Forming a shared service with the GU
   e. Reducing the size of the Sabbatical Team
   f. Reducing the size of the Staff Team
   g. Disaffiliation from NUS
   h. Discontinuing the CUSU Mail Service
   i. Discontinuing the CUSU Reprographics Business
   j. Re-instituting the publication scheme that has been discontinued recently
k. Making use of the significant reserves (£500k+)

2. That a short advisory legal briefing note be prepared and circulated by the Executive by Friday 6th May, to inform Council of the constitutionality of deferring the CUSU Coordinator and DSO Elections;

3. That preparations for the by-elections of the Coordinator and DSO Sabbatical Officers are started as soon as possible to allow for the elections to be held by the end of Easter term. CUSU Elections Committee will report back to Council at the next meeting with a timetable;

4. That preparations for the by-elections of Coordinator and DSO are to be aborted only upon an explicit CUSU Council motion;

5. That from now on, the Board of Trustees publish minutes of meetings online within two weeks after the respective meetings take place. In addition, minutes of the meetings having taken place since July 2015 should be published as well. In case of discussions being commercially or legally sensitive, the Board of Trustees can censor parts of the minutes, as required;

6. That Article X of the Standing Orders be executed at the next CUSU Council. In particular:
   a. 'X1: The current list of affiliations shall be presented to CUSU Council in the first Council of Lent Term with information on the cost of affiliation and a review of interaction with the organisation in the last year, presented by an appropriate Executive Body for the information of Council.'
   b. 'X2: There shall be a separate vote on each affiliation.'
APPLICATION OF COUNCIL FREE BUDGET TO FUND EXAM-RELATED WELFARE EVENTS IN EASTER TERM

Proposed by the CUSU Welfare and Rights Team (proposition speech deferred to Chad Allen, GU President)

CUSU Notes:

1. That each Campaign Team has a discretionary budget of £400;
2. CUSU’s system of participatory budgeting allows, among others, Officers, Teams, Autonomous Campaigns, student groups and students to request funds from the CUSU Council Free Budget, in order to meet the costs of running projects and/or campaigns;
3. That the CUSU-GU Welfare and Rights Officer is running ‘The Big Chill’ event this term;
4. That the CUSU-GU Welfare and Rights Officer plans to run ‘Destress Fests’ this term;
5. That each of these has, or is likely to, incur costs which cannot be met from the Welfare and Rights Team’s discretionary budget;
6. That the Graduate Union is contributing half of the costs of the Big Chill and half of the costs of the ‘Destress Fests’

CUSU Believes:

1. That each of these activities is important, and the remaining funding required should be funded by the Council Free Budget, as per the intended function of the Free Budget, and as other funding is not available.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To allocate £125 from the CUSU Council Free Budget to cover half the costs of ‘The Big Chill’;
2. To allocate £125 from the CUSU Council Free Budget to cover half the costs of the ‘Destress Fests’.
MANDATING CUSU TO WORK WITH CAMBRIDGE AFRICAN-CARIBBEAN SOCIETY (CUACS) TO HOST AN ANNUAL ACCESS EVENT TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF BLACK STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY

Proposed by Olivia Hylton-Pennant (CUACS President), seconded by Helena Blair (CUSU Access and Funding Officer)

CUSU Notes:

1. Black students at the University are extremely underrepresented accounting for 1.5% of all students (full-time and part time);
2. Black students at the University of Oxford are also extremely underrepresented; however, the University actively works with the Oxford African-Caribbean Society to address the issue;
3. The University of Cambridge currently has no relationship with CUACS to address the underrepresentation of black students.

CUSU Believes:

1. That current access initiatives do not do enough to address the issue that is a lack of black students;
2. That the University and CUSU should do more to support and encourage access initiatives targeted at attracting black students;
3. Currently, the most effective way to ensure that access initiatives meet the needs of black students is to work with CUACS;

CUSU Resolves:

1. To lobby the University to introduce an annual access event aimed at increasing the number of black students at the University of Cambridge;
2. To mandate that CUSU Sabbatical Officers work with CUACS to offer access initiatives that aim to increase the number of black students at the University of Cambridge, including an annual access event that works towards this resolve;
3. To assist CUACS to explore possible sources of funding to help cover costs for the annual event.