CUSU COUNCIL LENT III MINUTES – 15TH FEBRUARY

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT

Priscilla Mensah, CUSU President
Jemma Stewart, CUSU Coordinator
Robert Cashman, CUSU Education Officer
Helena Blair, CUSU Access and Funding Officer
Charlotte Chorley, CUSU Women's Officer*
Ashley Chhibber (proxy for Sarah Gibson, CUSU LGBT+ President)*
CJ Liu, iCUSU Chair*
Nancy Chu, CUSU Mature Students' Representative*
Max Edwards, Churchill JCR External Officer*
Yannis Hemrich, Clare JCR Vice President*
Ed Taylor, Downing MCR Vice President*
Rachel Evans, Emmanuel MCR Vice President External*
Ruth Taylor, Homerton JCR President*
Leonardo Buizza, Homerton JCR Vice President External*
Maya Raphael, Hughes Hall Vice President*
Daisy Eyre, Jesus JCR President*
Angus Satow, Magdalene JCR Vice President*
Beth Craig-Geen, Murray Edwards JCR President*
Ilma Bogdan, Murray Edwards MCR General Member*
Cloran Ryan, Pembroke JCR President*
Miles Edwards (proxy for Amy Dolben, Pembroke JCR Vice President)*
Craig Burns (proxy for Alice levens, Pembroke GP President)*
Elizabeth Lloyd, Peterhouse JCR VP & External Officer*
Joseph Levin, Queens’ JCR President*
Sam Dixon, Queens’ JCR Vice President External*
Anna Fee, Robinson MCR Co-President (proxy for Kayani Kayani, Robinson JCR Chair)*
Mark Driver, Robinson MCR Vice President External*
Ellen McPherson, Selwyn JCR Vice President*
Olly Hudson, Sidney Sussex JCR President*
Joe Miller, Sidney Sussex JCR Vice President*
Finn Kristensen, Trinity JCR Vice President*
Louis Ashworth, WCSA Secretary & Varsity Reporter
Alisa Molotova, Biology Faculty Rep*

* - Voting member of CUSU Council – 28
APOLOGIES

Poppy Ellis Logan, CUSU/GU Welfare and Rights Officer
Tiantian Chen & Tessa Lee, CUSU Ethical Affairs Officers
Ahmed Elmi, Wolfson College Student Association President
Connor MacDonald, HSPS Faculty Undergraduate Representative

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

None

Date, time and venue of upcoming council meetings

February 29th, 7pm – venue TBC but likely Mill Lane Lecture Theatre

Announcements by committees, campaign teams and the executive

**Priscilla Mensah - CUSU President**
- Attended Council Committee for Supervision of Students’ Unions (CCSSU)
- Liaising with University stakeholders and students on CUSU Affiliation fees
- 4 meetings with students
- Finished first draft of Handbook on Racial and Sexual Harassment
- Started Letter to University Counselling Service on Behalf of Presidents and Externals
- Liaised with College reps to secure rooms for Rents Workshops

**Jemma Stewart - CUSU Coordinator**
- Returning Officer’s Report for the Disabled Students’ Officer Referendum
- Meetings with 3 students
- Attended the Council Committee for the Supervision of Students’ Unions (CCSSU)
- Organising General Manager annual review
- Meeting with the Disabled Students’ Campaign
- Gearing up for CUSU Lent Elections(!)
- Working on Policy document
- Meeting with prospective candidates for elections
- Assisting students with setting up societies
ROBERT CASHMAN - CUSU EDUCATION OFFICER

- Attended the initial review meeting for the second of my Learning and Teaching Reviews
- Held an Academic Forum meeting, and am currently planning the next one
- Attended a meeting of the Digital Teaching and Learning Subcommittee, and discussed the development of the University’s Digital Education Strategy
- Undertook a visit to a Department in advance of a Learning and Teaching Review
- Supported the running of the three weeks of the Shadowing Scheme
- Took part in the SUAS roadshow at the Sidgwick Site, and will be present at the Downing Site roadshow this Friday (12 February)
- Attended a CUSU Welfare Network meeting
- Helped organise and facilitate a student focus group on joint Triposes, along with the Schools of Arts & Humanities and Humanities & Social Sciences
- Attended a meeting of the Library Syndicate
- Attended a meeting of the General Board
- Attended a meeting of the Standing Committee on Student Mobility (a committee whose remit covers study abroad)
- Organised the first meeting of the Student-Led Teaching Awards panel, and recruited further volunteers to the panel
- Will be attending the CUSU Full Executive meeting on Friday 12 February
- Am writing a paper for the Senior Tutors’ Education Committee on cross-collegiate academic parity

POPPY ELLIS LOGAN - CUSU/GU WELFARE AND RIGHTS OFFICER

- Apologies sent
- Organised yoga classes for disabled students (Thursdays at 6:30pm in the GU Lounge)
- Met with a Welfare Officer interested in running for election
- Met with a student and entrepreneur to start work on developing an app signposting Cambridge students to the sources of support around them
- Spoken to the head of Education and Student Policy about the accommodation problems at Murray Edwards
- Hosted Welfare Network Forum
- Met with a faculty rep about linking up welfare with faculty provision
- Organised a careers event for students with AD(H)D and/or Dyspraxia (GU Lounge, 2pm on 17th February)
- Asked for student testimonials of how long waiting lists delaying diagnosis or treatment of learning difficulties, behavioural conditions and/or mental health conditions have impacted on their exam results
- Worked on my ‘Where to go for support’ document which is now available for all Common Room websites to use
- Organised two Self-Leaders events to take place in the GU next term (for graduate students only)
- Attended the Counselling Service Executive Meeting
- Met with Alison Burgess regarding the HPS Learning and Teaching Review
- Met with Louise Atkin from the Equality and Diversity section to work on enforcing compulsory E&D training to staff across the university. We also discussed the possibility of planning a Student Wellbeing Festival to match the Festival put on for staff.
- Spoke at the International Students Welcome Event
- Delivered, alongside our professional Student Advisor, Welfare training to newly elected officers
- Circulated my information about the prescription collection / delivery service in place for students to all Senior Tutors and College Nurses
- Provided the resources for an easy, visual, 'Body-Positivity/Self-love' campaign to all Welfare Officers for them to optionally hold in their college over the weekend of 13-14th.
- Attended a meeting to discuss creating a mediation service for students
- Started organising The Big Chill for the fourth week of Easter Term (12th of May).
- Started organising a Meet the Animals event for Easter Term.

HELENA BLAIR - CUSU ACCESS AND FUNDING OFFICER

- Finished up the Shadowing Scheme
- Recruiting students for Alternative Prospectus writing
- Meeting with Part-Time Executive
- Working on design for AP
- Committee work on bursaries and teacher engagement

CHARLIE CHORLEY - CUSU WOMEN’S OFFICER

- Was a member of Elections Committee for the DSO Referendum
- Planned the Women’s Officer Training Day for Sunday 6th March
- Attended Women of the World Festival Development Group meeting
- Liaised with Autonomous Campaigns about membership on Equality and Diversity Committee
- Began sourcing stewards and speakers for Reclaim the Night on Sunday 6th March
- Helped plan the Liberate the Curriculum panel event
- Organising Movement for Justice event on International Women’s Day
- Held Committee 1:1s
- Met with Hills Road Feminist Society to talk about consent workshops and plan a talk about intersectionality

TIANTIAN & TESSA - ETHICAL AFFAIRS OFFICERS

- National Vote Registration put posters in colleges distributed leaflets around Cambridge
- Working on a speech on social housing
- Promoting CUSU Elections
CUSU LGBT+ CAMPAIGN

- Attended LGBT+ hate crime networking meeting with Cambridge constabulary
- Launched the I Don’t exist campaign with great involvement within the university and with other SUs wanting to get involved
  - Campaign will be running for at least another week
- Helped co-ordinate colleges flying the rainbow flag to celebrate LGBT+ history month
  - Many colleges doing it for the first time
  - Many still going up throughout the month
- Spoke on local rainbow radio on Cambridge 105 which will air next week
- Attended the final shadowing scheme meet the students event
- Working with staff members from different colleges to improve access events for LGBT+ people
- Organised a crafting session for LGBT+ history month
- Providing feedback on tutor training from CUSU
- Working on making events accessible guide
- Organising our elections
- Holding a forum

CUSU BME CAMPAIGN

No update submitted

CUSU DSC CAMPAIGN

No update submitted

ICUSU CAMPAIGN

- Holding a Talent Show this Sunday at 7.30pm, West Road Concert Hall
- Organising elections for 2 weeks’ time, working on role descriptions
- Creating a college league table ranked by international friendliness

QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEES, CAMPAIGN TEAMS AND THE EXECUTIVE

Angus Satow: Last Council it was asked that for campaigns who weren’t attended, written submissions would be asked for. Why aren’t they here?

- Jemma Stewart: Sent out an email for submissions for the agenda and they weren’t provided - there’s not much we can do if we ask and they aren’t submitted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE COUNCIL

None

DISCUSSIONS
SELECTION PROCESS FOR STUDENT TRUSTEES

Robert Cashman (CUSU Education Officer) presented.

To those familiar with the CUSU Constitution & Standing Orders, matters relating to the Board of Trustees sit within the UD Team. CUSU has a Board of Trustees with 8 people sitting on it – President, Education, Women’s, Access & Funding ex officio, two externals (aren’t members of CUSU but provide an external perspective to offer advice on things more broadly related to Charity governance) and two student members who sit on the Board for what is intended to be early Easter until the day before the start of Full Easter Term the following year, to ensure that we have a good mix of people on the Board of Trustees. This makes sure that CUSU submits accounts to the Charity Commission, ensures activities are in line with statutory requirements, and formally employs staff on behalf of CUSU. The time has come to employ trustees – we need two current sabbs, two Part-Time officers, and two members of CUSU Council – and potentially an additional person acting as Chair. The intention is to get a sense from the room as to whether there’s anyone who’d like to go forward with this, and find two people from each of the categories. There would then be a motion brought to CUSU Council. Now is a good opportunity for Council to discuss this and see if anyone is interested.

Questions or desires to be involved?

Receive applications from interested parties, and decide who to be appointed. These will be put forward to Council Easter 1 to appoint student trustees. If anyone is interested or would like to know more, drop Priscilla an email.

Heads of Teams and ACs can publicise this within their Teams and Campaigns.

SABBATICAL OFFICER WORKLOAD

Priscilla Mensah (CUSU President), presented:

Some discussion at the last CUSU Council with concerns raised about the workload of sabbatical officers. This is how the systems and structures work. Sabbatical officers run on platforms, campaign objectives and projects – with the staff team we do have, sabbs shouldn’t have to do as much admin as they would campaign work. There are consistent attempts through support staff, which ranges from Reception to Membership Team (design, representation & change, membership engagement). Attempt to ensure that sabbs don’t have administrative burdens. We don’t have administrative staff, so sabbs have to manage and prioritise their time effectively.

- If a sabb has to take leave for a time, there are structures in place to hire temps to fulfil administrative needs
- In the instances where sabbatical officers are not around/in, we have situations in place for short term basis to proxy for meetings that we can’t attend.
- It’s a difficult situation, where we have to prioritise. The workload of officers is significant and we do our best with the resources available to us
Questions:

- Angus: Do sabbs leave time in their schedules for motions passed through Council
  o Manifestos
  o Motions passed throughout the year
  o Day-to-day activities
  o Inevitably varies week to week for each officer - some work is an emergency/requires immediate prioritisation. Other priorities that arise from the student body - how easy it is to fulfil a manifesto pledge with a situation of time management. There is no regimented system, nor could there be
  o Helena: we have planning days at various points in the year to plan through our years, figure whether we’re thinking about our plans realistically to fit things in

- Angus: related to this, question to committees, campaign teams, etc.: could the Coordinator and President please update Council on how far if at all the FOI motion that was passed two weeks?
  o Jemma posted in the Officers group, NUS is posting something shortly
  o Priscilla sending Jiscmails
  o There’s scope to change things within a matter of weeks
  o This needs to be prioritised greatly in terms of the depiction of the University as a public body. It’s a matter of time – other things have schedules.

- Beth Craig-Geen – is there any way of having a factsheet on the FOI information?
  Set of reasoning to fire back
  o Angus did research including correspondence with the Head of OIS. Angus can put this with the P&E Facebook Page

- Angus – has anyone spoken to their Colleges?
  o It often feels like we pass motions and expect CUSU to do something about it but we as members can do things too

ORDINARY MOTIONS

None

EMERGENCY MOTIONS

EMERGENCY MOTION TO CALL FOR A FULL INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF GIULIO REGENI

Proposed by the CUSU Sabbatical Officer Team 2015-16.

PROPOSITION: PRISCILLA MENSAH

An emergency motion proposed by all six sabbatical officers which doesn’t need seconding on the UK Government & Parliament petition calling for a full investigation into the death of Giulio Regeni. We now have an understanding of the petition and would like
to mandate ourselves to sign the petition and ask that JCRs and MCRs circulate. The student body can respond powerfully to Giulio’s death. The university has published their response with nothing from students.

**OPPOSITION**

None

**QUESTIONS**

Ed Taylor (Downing MCR): What has the University’s response been?


Leo Buizza (Homerton JCR): Has the University said they’re going to do their own internal investigation?

- Not to our knowledge

Mark Driver (Robinson MCR): What’s the quoracy of Council?

- 18 members, simple majority

Angus Satow: Add an amendment to Resolves: circulating petition to other Universities

- Accepted as friendly

Leo Buizza: Add an amendment to include open letter to the Italian Ambassador

- Accepted as friendly

**MOTION WITH AMENDMENTS**

**CUSU NOTES**

1. That the death of Giulio Regeni, a PhD student at the University of Cambridge, has been widely publicised in local and national media following his disappearance;
2. That both the University and an open letter signed by 4,600 academics and published in *The Guardian*, have called for a full investigation into Giulio’s death;
3. That there is a UK Government & Parliament Petition calling for a full investigation of Giulio’s death ([https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/120832](https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/120832)).

**CUSU BELIEVES**

1. That students should be united in their call for a proper investigation into the death of a fellow student;
2. That there should be a complete and full investigation into Giulio Regeni’s death.
CUSU RESOLVES

1. To publicise the Students’ Unions’ Advice Service as a source of support to all students;
2. To mandate the CUSU Sabbatical Officers to sign the UK Parliament Petition calling for a full investigation into the circumstances surrounding Giulio’s death;
3. To circulate this petition to JCR and MCR Presidents to be publicised to their constituent members;
4. To mandate the CUSU President to write an open letter, to be signed by JCR and MCR Presidents, student representatives and students, to the British & Italian Ambassadors to Egypt.
5. To mandate the CUSU Sabbatical Officers to circulate the petition to other students’ unions.

VOTING RECORD

For: 28
Charlotte Chorley, CUSU Women’s Officer*
Ashley Chhibber (proxy for Sarah Gibson, CUSU LGBT+ President)*
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Joe Miller, Sidney Sussex JCR Vice President*
Finn Kristensen, Trinity JCR Vice President*
Alisa Molotova, Biology Faculty Rep*
Against: 0
Abstentions: 0

The motion passes