CUSU Council Lent II Agenda
7pm, 1st February, Location TBC

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. Monday 15th February, 7pm, CUSU/GU Lounge
5. Announcements by Committees, Campaign Teams and the Executive
6. Questions to Committees, Campaign Teams and the Executive
7. Announcements by the Council
8. Discussions
   a. Student Affiliated Websites (Priscilla Mensah, CUSU President)
9. Ordinary motions
   a. Support for Persecuted Scholars
   b. Freedom of Information
   c. Motion to Appoint Connor MacDonald as Part-Time Education Campaigns Officer
10. Any other business

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY COMMITTEES, CAMPAIGN TEAMS AND THE EXECUTIVE

PRISCILLA MENSAH – CUSU PRESIDENT
To update at CUSU Council

JEMMA STEWART – CUSU COORDINATOR
- Running the Disabled Students’ Officer Referendum
- Attended the CUSU Trustee Board meeting
- Held a debate for the Disabled Students’ Officer Referendum
- Met with prospective candidates for the CUSU Main Elections
- Attended Societies Syndicate Technical Committee
- Assisted with welcoming Shadowing Scheme shadows to the University

ROBERT CASHMAN – CUSU EDUCATION OFFICER
- Attended a meeting of the Moodle Project Board
- Attended a meeting of the Senior Tutors’ Education Committee
- Continued to plan for the 2016 Student Led Teaching Awards, including starting to set up the student panel and setting a date (5 May)
- I have undertaken a review of the 2015 Department/Faculty/School Rep elections along with the University
- Attended a meeting of the General Board Education Committee
- I have been supporting the CUSU Shadowing Scheme
- I met with the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) along with Priscilla
- Attended a meeting of the examination review working group
- I am working with Poppy on re-establishing the Committee for Student Support and Rights
- I attended CUSU’s Board of Trustees meeting
- I am currently working on arranging the next meeting of the Academic Forum for all student reps whose role covers education (Department/Faculty/School Reps and others)

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

To update at CUSU Council

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

To update at CUSU Council

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

- Met with Trinity Hall Women’s Officer to help with a campaign
- Delivered consent training to Blues sports team
- Helped with students in the Shadowing Scheme 2016
- Member of Elections Committee overseeing the DSO Referendum
- Helped with a WomCam panel on Sexual Violence on Campus
- Led an ally workshop for Pembroke’s SolidariTEA society
- Met with Hills Road Sixth Form Feminist Society to discuss Reclaim the Night
- Met with Women’s Aid and Cambridge Rape Crisis to discuss an Intimate Partner Violence support workshop

**TIANTIAN & TESSA - ETHICAL AFFAIRS OFFICERS**

To update at CUSU Council

**CUSU LGBT+ CAMPAIGN**

To update at CUSU Council

**CUSU BME CAMPAIGN**

To update at CUSU Council

**CUSU DSC CAMPAIGN**
ICUSU CAMPAIGN

To update at CUSU Council

9A. SUPPORT FOR PERSECUTED SCHOLARS

Proposed by Stefan Theil (st608@cam.ac.uk), seconded by Kaitlin Ball (kb558@cam.ac.uk)

CUSU Notes:

1. That the Petition "Cantabs for Persecuted Scholars" (https://www.change.org/p/university-of-cambridge-cantabs-for-persecuted-scholars) to the University of Cambridge has been opened to signatures on 13 January 2016;
2. That it has so far gathered 400 signatures from the Cambridge University community as of 15 January 2016;
3. That the associated crowdfunding effort "Bursary for Persecuted Student" (https://www.gofundme.com/28svwxhw) is seeking to raise funding for a one year bursary for an "at-risk" or refugee scholar to pursue a Masters degree at the University of Cambridge;
4. That the crowdfunding effort has gathered £ 145 in donations as of 15 January 2016;

CUSU Believes:

1. That it is vital for the University of Cambridge, the Faculties and Colleges to play their part in alleviating the current migration crisis in Europe;
2. That notwithstanding past efforts, the University of Cambridge, the Faculties and Colleges can do more to support the work of established charities;
3. That this support must be practical, and include: recognizing the importance of the work of charities such as Cara, providing a centralised coordination point, financial support for at risk academics, as well as housing and other support for accepted at-risk academics and their dependents;
4. That the goal of funding a scholarship for an at risk or refugee scholar to study for a masters degree at the University of Cambridge deserves support;
5. That the University's support would be a powerful symbol, and an unequivocal condemnation of the terror and oppression spread by violent extremism;
6. That welcoming persecuted academics is an investment in a future where one of the University's most cherished values; freedom of thought and expression; prevails and flourishes;

CUSU Resolves:

1. To call upon all the members of the University of Cambridge, students, faculty and alumni to sign the Petition "Cantabs for Persecuted Scholars Petition";
2. To sign the above mentioned Petition;
3. To call upon all the members of the University of Cambridge, students, faculty and alumni to consider donating to the associated crowdfunding effort "Bursary for Persecuted Student";
4. To consider donating to the above mentioned crowdfunding effort in a separate debate.

9B. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Proposed by Angus Satow (ajrs5@cam.ac.uk), seconded by Cornelius Roemer (cr492@cam.ac.uk)

CUSU Notes:

1. The 31 colleges of Cambridge submitted a response to the freedom of information (FoI) commission's call for evidence, in which they argued for a categorical exemption
2. No such submission was made by the colleges of Oxford or Durham
3. FoI is an important element in scrutiny of college actions, both for student newspapers and student representatives
4. FoI already has safeguards in terms of both financial cost and commercial interests
5. Varsity and the Tab are opposed to a categorical exemption
6. Arguments proposed by colleges include:
   • “The burden on the Colleges is excessive. It is ultimately a financial burden, but also a significant deflection of skilled resources from the Colleges’ primary purpose of education”;
   • “The Colleges publish a great deal of information on their websites”;
   • “The Colleges have received many requests from journalists seeking to have their work done for them at the expense of the College.”
7. As far as we can see the National Union of Students made no submission, and consequently the commission may face an imbalance of viewpoints.

CUSU Believes:

1. Freedom of Information is beneficial to students and enables important discussions to be had;
2. Spending on the order of 0.1% of college budgets on the provision of Freedom of Information for public scrutiny is reasonable;
3. The demand for an absolute exemption on the grounds of not being public bodies is unreasonable;
4. Universities are places for free debate in which the principle of intellectual discussion is held in high regard, and that exemption of Freedom of Information would harm this principle.

CUSU Resolves:

1. This issue should be discussed between JCRs, MCRs and colleges; CUSU and the university; and the National Union of Students and the Government, to ensure the student view is heard;
2. The CUSU President should lobby Cambridge MPs and the NUS to publically and vociferously oppose this move;
3. CUSU should scrutinise the colleges’ response and issue a response in turn by the end of February.

9C. MOTION TO APPOINT CONNOR MACDONALD AS PART-TIME EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS OFFICER

Proposed by Connor MacDonald (cgm2@cam.ac.uk), seconded by Robert Cashman (CUSU Education Officer)

CUSU Notes:

1. That the two Part-Time Campaigns Officer positions on the Education Team remain unfilled;
2. That student academic success is inextricably linked to the mental health of and the welfare provided for students.

CUSU Believes:

1. That these Campaign Officer positions are invaluable, not just for CUSU but for the student body in general;
2. That education at Cambridge encompasses more than classroom and supervision learning, and that any approach to education must be holistic;
3. That Colleges and Faculties have conjunctive roles to play in regard to student academic success and student welfare;
4. That Colleges and Faculties should be held reasonably accountable for both the academic success and welfare of students;
5. That Faculty Reps need a wider range of tools at their disposal to gauge the needs of their Faculties;
6. That both quantitative and qualitative data is needed to assess the quality and provision of welfare and academic services.

CUSU Resolves:

1. That Connor MacDonald be appointed Part-Time Education Officer
2. That in his role, Connor MacDonald shall work collaboratively with Faculty Reps to create a survey system for the collection of opinions and views of students of both academic and welfare provision;
3. That in areas where such surveys do exist, it will be ensured that they are publicised and used by both Faculties and Colleges to improve resources offered to students;
4. That as Part-Time Campaigns Officer in the Education Team, he will also work with the Welfare and Rights Officer to encourage a welfare measurement scheme with Colleges, to supplement measurements of academic success;
5. That CUSU, through the Part-Time Campaigns Officer in the Education Team, creates a framework of accountability for both Colleges and Faculties through which to encourage action on the surveys and measurements described above.