CUSU COUNCIL LENT II MINUTES – 1ST FEBRUARY

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT

Priscilla Mensah, CUSU President
Jemma Stewart, CUSU Coordinator
Robert Cashman, CUSU Education Officer
Helena Blair, CUSU Access and Funding Officer
Em Travis (proxy for Sarah Gibson, CUSU LGBT+ President)*
CJ Liu, iCUSU Chair* (no voting sheet)
Tiantian Chen, CUSU Ethical Affairs Officer
James Fox, Christ's JCR President*
Auriane Terki, proxy for Churchill JCR President*
Nick Ash, Churchill JCR Vice President External* (no voting sheet)
Yannis Hemrich, Clare JCR Vice President*
Jamie Carr, Downing JCR Vice President*
Ed Taylor, Downing MCR Vice President* (no voting sheet)
Kavish Shah, Emmanuel College JCR Vice President*
Fenella Keevil, Fitzwilliam JCR President*
Carl Martin, Fitzwilliam JCR Vice President*
Ruth Taylor, Homerton JCR President*
Leonardo Buizza, Homerton JCR Vice President External*
Ellinore Ahlgren, Hughes Hall MCR President*
Ellen Parker, Jesus JCSU Vice President*
Eleni Courea, KCSU President*
Gabriel Fleming, KCSU Vice President*
James Antell, Magdalene 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*
Amy Dolben, Pembroke JCR Vice President*
Tam Blaxter, Pembroke GP Vice President*
Fran Hawker, Peterhouse JCR President*
Elizabeth Lloyd, Peterhouse JCR VP & External Officer*
Martha Krish, Robinson JCR President*
Kayani Kayani, Robinson JCR Chair* (no voting sheet)
Mark Driver, Robinson MCR Vice President External*
Arnav Kapur, St Catharine’s JCR President*
Benjamin Weber, St Catharine’s JCR External Officer*
Ellen McPherson, Selwyn JCR Vice President*
Olly Hudson, Sidney Sussex JCR President*
Cornelius Roemer, Trinity JCR President*
Ahmed Elmi, WCSA President*
Louis Ashworth, WCSA Secretary & Varsity Reporter
Connor MacDonald, HSPS Faculty Undergraduate Representative*

* - Voting member of CUSU Council – 36

APOLOGIES

Poppy Ellis Logan, CUSU/GU Welfare and Rights Officer
Charlie Chorley, CUSU Women’s Officer

OBJECTIONS TO THE ORDER OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

None

CORRECTIONS TO THE MINUTES OF THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING

Angus Satow (Magdalene VP External) announces minute corrections to clarify statements made in his proposition of the motion. These have now been updated.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING

None

DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

February 15th, 7pm, CUSU/GU Lounge

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY COMMITTEES, CAMPAIGN TEAMS AND THE EXECUTIVE

PRISCILLA MENSAH – CUSU PRESIDENT

- Primarily working on College Rent negotiations, producing workshops to be rolled out across colleges
- Working with Charlie on tutor training and racial/sexual harassment, hopefully to become part of the training taking place at the end of Lent
- Joint Advisory Committee (reports to the Bursars’ Committee) to talk about CUSU Affiliation Fees
- Meeting with Bursars to find out about rent increases

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

- Apologies sent.

HELENA BLAIR – CUSU ACCESS AND FUNDING OFFICER

- Shadowing Scheme – flagship access scheme of three weeks of sixth formers and potential mature students coming to stay with current students over the weekend to see and experience life as a university student. Will be welcoming the final students and mature applicants this Thursday
- Committee work, especially concerning A Level Reform and the University’s admissions processes – trying to keep access as the main focus throughout

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

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<tr>
<th>TIANTIAN &amp; TESSA - ETHICAL AFFAIRS OFFICERS</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Working with the City Council on the National Voter Registration Drive with local and police commissioner elections taking place in May</td>
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<td>- University sustainability strategy committee last week, met with the PVC</td>
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<td>- 65% of buildings are energy efficient – aiming to increase this to 90% by 2018</td>
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<tr>
<th>CUSU LGBT+ CAMPAIGN - EM TRAVIS</th>
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<td>- Coordinating over 20 events for LGBT+ History Month, some central and some in Colleges, including:</td>
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<td>o Panel and discussion events</td>
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<td>o Formals</td>
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<td>o Hobby meets</td>
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<td>o Club nights</td>
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<td>- Closed the University-wide survey and analysing data from 112 responses</td>
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<td>- Taking photos for the I Don’t Exist Campaign for non-binary gender legal recognition</td>
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<td>- Attended the Shadowing Scheme</td>
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<tr>
<th>CUSU BME CAMPAIGN</th>
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<tr>
<th>CUSU DSC CAMPAIGN</th>
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<th>ICUSU CAMPAIGN</th>
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<td>- Working on the iCUSU survey to get more of an understanding of the issues affecting international students</td>
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<td>- International storage, associated costs and college fees</td>
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<td>- It’s difficult to ask college to standardise fees, but would like more transparency surrounding College fees</td>
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**QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEES, CAMPAIGN TEAMS AND THE EXECUTIVE**

Yannis Hemrich, UCS VP – administrative issue in not receiving the agenda, can we make sure it’s done correctly?

- Jemma Stewart, CUSU Coordinator: administrative difficulties in getting the agenda out, will do some publicity around getting students to sign up to the Council Mailing List
Cornelius Roemer, TCSU President - what’s the current state of the Policy Document?

- Jemma Stewart: still in process, lots of administrative cost. Will seek to find alternate ways to get it done (e.g. staff support)

Angus Satow - concerned about the resources of CUSU with officers being overworked. No reply to emails from Welfare, concerns with P&E and the Referendum and things coming out late. Doesn't blame individual officers, but doesn't see how an SU can keep running. When officers are ill or need time off, who replaces them? There's no support in particular and this needs to be addressed.

- Priscilla Mensah (CUSU President): CUSU attempts to address the systematic lack of resources at every available funding opportunity and there are wide resource difficulties in question - such as the funding of JCRs and MCRs resulting in less funds for CUSU to have support staff.
- There needs to be more work on advertising volunteer positions

Cornelius Roemer - CUSU has limited staff, so needs to question their priorities and how they're allocated. It would make sense to allocate time to certain tasks

Louis Ashworth, Varsity - was Poppy at the last meeting? What are her updates?

- Jemma Stewart: we’ll ensure getting written updates

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE COUNCIL

None

DISCUSSIONS

STUDENT AFFILIATED WEBSITES

Priscilla Mensah (CUSU President) presented.

A review of CUSU’s affiliated websites and online presence was begun in November 2015. Following the Tab’s article on the formerly named CUSU WomCam Self-Care Tips group, CUSU needs to respond to a lack of oversight on online groups. The current plan is to implement policy of a central register with a code of conduct that groups can be added to and removed from, pending further discussions with both CUSU Council and Autonomous Campaigns. Questions, comments and concerns are noted below in order to be taken into account when putting the policy together.

Em Travis (CUSU LGBT+): does every website and Facebook page have to be part of the affiliated package, or are private Facebook groups exempt? Questions around the wording of social media policy - is this about internal CUSU policy or about Autonomous Campaigns too? CUSU LGBT+ has a social media policy.

Louis Ashworth: will there be a retrospective checking of the current social media groups, or will there be a review of their social media presence? If there’s another incident such as with the Self-care page, would CUSU force affiliated campaigns to take responsibility?
Note that we need to improve the clarity as to how things will be dealt with if they arise

Em Travis: in terms of accountability and legal implications, will people be held personally accountable and in what way?

Mark Driver: in producing this to Council, we can figure out what the code of conduct or framework should look like. Once this has been presented and approved, there will be an automatic disaffiliation of groups, with groups reaffiliating when the policy has been adopted.

Cornelius Roemer: As CUSU Council is the governing body, whenever a policy or guideline is created, shouldn’t it be passed through CUSU Council? Will it be possible to do this with other things that have recently been passed as guidelines (e.g. press guidelines). Things that are of strategic importance should be passed through Council.

- The press guidelines influence how officers may respond to press scrutiny and is more internal than public policy.

Gabriel, KCSU VP: a general comment on tension with Autonomous Campaigns as they aren’t accountable to CUSU Council.

Em Travis: it may infringe on the autonomy of Autonomous Campaigns

Beth Craig-Geen, Murray Edwards JCR President: the worry is that by creating this policy, CUSU is taking responsibility for what happens on all of the Facebook groups without actually having control - CUSU would be automatically responsible.

Kayani Kayani (Robinson JCR Chair): on Cornelius’ point, CUSU Exec is elected to make policy decisions on students’ behalf - not everything has to be voted through Council. It’s important to let the Exec retain some power to make policy on matters that affect them, and the ability of CUSU to communicate with the student body should remain with the elected officers.

Priscilla Mensah: On the press guidelines, these weren't policy but rather guidelines responding to the way sabbatical officers have been treated by student press. Students can bring it to CUSU Council in order to amend it.

Angus Satow: Think about posting sabb meeting minutes

Louis: with newly affiliated campaign rules, will it be enforced that reps have to start coming to CUSU Council?

- Autonomous Campaigns can’t be enforced. We also need to think about the accessibility of CUSU Council.

Question from the Tab on the press regulations and student press interactions with elected officers

Projected time scale of between now and the end of Lent Term, ensuring contact with Autonomous Campaigns before coming back to CUSU Council.
ORDINARY MOTIONS

SUPPORT FOR PERSECUTED SCHOLARS

PROPOSITION
Stefan Thiele presents on petitioning to the University to do more for refugee academics rather than making it so that charities need to discuss with each college individually. Asking to create a central administration point that can speak on behalf of the University and Colleges with information that charities need.

OPPOSITION
None

QUESTIONS
Cornelius Roemer: have you spoken with the University’s Development office?
  - This is the first time running a campaign, and they want a level of support from colleges.

Are you a society or a group?
  - A loosely affiliated group of four friends

Beth Craig-Geen: Friendly amendment accepted to introduce “CUSU Resolves 5: To encourage JCRs and MCRs to bring similar motions to their representative structures.”

Friendly amendment from the CUSU Chair to CUSU Resolves 2 accepted to add “Mandate the CUSU Sabbatical Officers to sign the petition”

Friendly amendment accepted from Angus Satow to remove CUSU Believes 5 “The University is a powerful symbol”

Leo Buizza (Homerton JCR VP External): friendly amendment to remove CUSU Resolves 4 accepted.

VOTING RESULTS

For: 30
Em Travis (proxy for Sarah Gibson, CUSU LGBT+ President)*
James Fox, Christ’s JCR President*
Auriane Terki, proxy for Churchill JCR President*
Yannis Hemrich, Clare JCR Vice President*
Jamie Carr, Downing JCR Vice President*
Kavish Shah, Emmanuel College JCR Vice President*
Fenella Keevil, Fitzwilliam JCR President*
Carl Martin, Fitzwilliam JCR Vice President*
Angus Satow proposes. The Cambridge Colleges submitted a joint response to the Review of the Freedom of Information Act calling for a total exemption. The University, as a part of the Russell Group, faced the issues of FOI better by calling for tightened restrictions rather than exemption. Students need to cooperate – from JCR to NUS level and with student media - to oppose the Colleges calling for exemption from FOI on the basis of lazy arguments of journalists being lazy and costing money.

Friendly amendments accepted to CUSU Notes 5 to ensure that this is reflective of Editorial opinions and not of the papers as a whole.
Friendly amendment to add CUSU Notes 8, that the University made a separate submission not calling for exemption from FOI requests.

Beth Craig-Geen: Do we know who made this decision on a College level?

- It was submitted by the Head of the Office for Intercollegiate Services, Dr. Matthew Russell, who stated that a group of Heads of Houses and Bursars met at fairly short notice.
- A joke is made about FOiling for this information.

Leo Buizza: Where does the figure from CUSU Believes 2 come from?

- The total expenditure of colleges and the claimed cost of FOI requests

Connor MacDonald, HSPS Rep: Are we interested in stating that members of the University should be able to get information, but not external bodies (e.g. national press)?

- Appreciate the sentiment, but the University’s response spoke about tackling problems and not a total exemption that needs to be opposed

Louis Ashworth: it’s not always a case of lazy journalism (inc. student journalists) as it can often be that the Colleges have no standard way of releasing information - e.g. with budgets, where it’s incredibly hard to find comparable statistics. Currently Varsity and the Tab, maybe TCS, are trying to send fewer FOI requests in order to reduce the pressure on the University.

Gabriel Fleming: Campaigns have similarly made FOI requests and only been successful because of them. Friendly amendment accepted to CUSU Notes 3 to add “student campaigns”

CJ Liu (iCUSU Chair): FOIs are useful to look at the disaggregation of money when colleges are lacking in transparency - for instance, with international students’ College Fees

VOTING RESULTS

For: 28
Em Travis (proxy for Sarah Gibson, CUSU LGBT+ President)*
James Fox, Christ’s JCR President*
Auriane Terki, proxy for Churchill JCR President*
Yannis Hemrich, Clare JCR Vice President*
Fenella Keevil, Fitzwilliam JCR President*
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Ellinore Ahlgren, Hughes Hall MCR President*
Ellen Parker, Jesus JCSU Vice President*
Eleni Courea, KCSU President*
Gabriel Fleming, KCSU Vice President*
MOTION TO APPOINT CONNOR MACDONALD AS PART-TIME EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS OFFICER

PROPOSITION

Connor MacDonald proposes, as the current HSPS Faculty Rep. He would like to focus a campaign on education representatives who have few resources. Faculties actively rely on these reps, but with so many students and so much fragmentation in departments and divisions it can be difficult to coordinate. Connor would like to institute a system of surveys tailored to the faculties, and would work with the CUSU/GU Welfare & Rights Officer on the issue of college welfare provision, which is linked to academic success. He would like to make faculties more accountable.

SPEECH AGAINST

None

QUESTIONS

Cornelius Roemer – as a school and course rep, believes this is a tremendous idea.

VOTING

For: 28
Em Travis (proxy for Sarah Gibson, CUSU LGBT+ President)*
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Martha Krish, Robinson JCR President*
Mark Driver, Robinson MCR Vice President External*
Benjamin Weber, St Catharine’s JCR External Officer*
Olly Hudson, Sidney Sussex JCR President*
Cornelius Roemer, Trinity JCR President*
Ahmed Elmi, WCSA President*
Against: 0
Abstain: 1
Connor MacDonald, HSPS Faculty Undergraduate Representative*