

## CUSU COUNCIL MICHAELMAS III MINUTES – 6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2017

### ATTENDANCE

#### PRESENT

Rachel Mander, CUSU Chair

Daisy Eyre, CUSU President

Martha Krish, CUSU Education Officer

Olivia Hylton-Pennant, CUSU Access and Funding Officer

Florence Oulds, CUSU Disabled Students' Officer\*

Lola Olufemi, CUSU Women's Officer\*

Micha Frazer-Carroll, CUSU/GU Welfare and Rights Officer

Jake Gilbey, Clare JCR, Vice-President\*

Connor MacDonald, Emmanuel JCR, President\*

Blaise Sadler, Girton JCR, President\*

Miranda Hewkin Smith, Homerton JCR, President\*

Ben McGuigan, Homerton JCR, Vice-President (External)\*

Vicky Taylor, Jesus JCR, Vice-President\*

Nina Grossfurthner, KCSU, President\*

Alice Hawkins, KCSU, Vice-President\*

Alicia Pasiecznik, Magdalene JCR, President\*

Aidan Hilton, Magdalene JCR, Vice-President\*

Georgia Semple, Murray Edwards JCR, Vice-President\*

Oliver Hulme, Pembroke JCR, President\*

James Hedge, Robinson JCR, President\*

Valentine Lauwereins, Robinson JCR, Chair\*

Jay Vinayak Ojha, Sidney Sussex JCR, Vice-President\*

Francesca Jenkins, Sidney Sussex JCR, President\*

Luigi Dante Gaviano, Trinity JCR, Vice-President\*

Luis Nobre, Darwin DCSA, President\*

Oliver Fleck, Darwin DCSA, External\*

Nicholas Langford, Hughes Hall MCR, Vice-President\*

Pallavi Panda, Murray Edwards MCR, Vice-President\*

Rachel Crosby, Newnham MCR, External Officer\*

Sofia Hewson, Pembroke MCR, President\*

Juraj Mavracic, Robinson MCR, Vice-President\*

Reece Oosterbeek, Trinity College MCR, Liaison Officer\*

Simon Percelay, CUSU LGBT Autonomous Campaign, Chair\*  
Mark Driver acting as proxy for Felicity Kersting, Welfare PTE\*  
Leo Paillard, CUSU International Autonomous Campaign, Chair\*  
Matt Kite, CUSU Part Time Executive, Education Team Member\*  
Shannon Bernard Healey, CUSU Part Time Executive, Access Team Member\*  
Angus Satow, Magdalene, NUS Delegate\*  
Tom Ashford, CUSU LGBT Autonomous Campaign, President  
Louis Ashworth, Wolfson, Journalist  
Patrick Wernham, Downing, Journalist  
Caitlin Smith, Downing, Journalist  
Emrys Travis, Disabled Students and Women's Autonomous Campaigns, Member on committees

Total voting members of CUSU Council present (\*): 33

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## APOLOGIES

None.

### 1. OBJECTIONS TO THE ORDER OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

9B is listed on the agenda as policy motion, is in fact an action, as intended by the original proposers.

### 2. CORRECTIONS TO THE MINUTES OF THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING

- Micha Frazer-Carroll's name is being spelt wrong.

N.B. This is currently incorrect on CUSU's website here:

<https://www.cusu.co.uk/representation/meet-your-team/welfare-rights-officer>

- Reece Oosterbeek was listed as a representative of Trinity JCR. Reece in fact is the Liaison Officer for the Trinity College BA Society, its MCR.

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

None.

### 4. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

As on the agenda.

### 5. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY COMMITTEES, CAMPAIGN TEAMS AND THE EXECUTIVE

- **Daisy Eyre, CUSU President**
  - Three Council attendees will win two tickets to ice-skating
  - CUSU is today a Living Wage Accredited Organisation, as part of our initiative to encourage the University to pay all of its staff the Living Wage. On Wednesday we have 'Email and Chill', an event in which students can email academics in their College trying to encourage them and the wider University to pay the Living Wage
  - Rent workshops – especially relevant to JCR/MCR Presidents

- The next intermitting students social will be on next Monday, welfare officers should be aware of this.
- **Martha Krish, CUSU Education Officer**
  - Attended NUS Zones conference in Sheffield with Micha. Went to interesting workshops on Brexit and the Black Attainment Gap.
  - Started planning for CUSU Conference
  - Planning and trying to find funds to expand the CUSU Student Teaching Awards
  - Had a team meeting about the CUSU Strategic Plan
  - Had a meeting about the Shared Facilities Hub
  - Was doing work on Faculty Audit Resource
  - Attended the Decolonising the English Faculty Working Group
  - Read many papers for many committees
  - I would encourage people to run to be Faculty Reps. Many elections are coming up!
  - I will not be at the next CUSU Council as I will be on leave.
- **Florence Oulds, CUSU Disables Students' Officer**
  - Writing the DSO Training Workshop that will hopefully happen by the end of term
  - Trying to collect a list of accessible rooms that students can book to host an event, preferably within a central college. I will most likely create a Google form to facilitate this. In the meantime if you have any rooms, please email me.
  - On the 22nd of November in Emmanuel College, the Disabled Students Campaign, along with the Disabled Rep on the LGBT+ Campaign, will be screening 'Unrest', a documentary about a woman who has CFS/ME, and her struggles with the medical system and how the disease is being poorly portrayed within the media.
- **Lola Olufemi, CUSU Women's Officer**
  - Reading group on Sunday looking at Bell Hooks' 'Theory as Liberatory Practice'
  - Organised a working group for the Decolonising the English Faculty and had a meeting with the Head of the Faculty to move in that direction
  - Spoke at the Decolonising the Curriculum rally
  - Went to the official Breaking the Silence event organised by the University and live tweeted it on my Twitter
  - Went to feminist readings in the English Faculty to mark the announcement of Breaking the Silence
  - Had a meeting about student archives
  - Elected a Graduate Rep and Disabilities Rep to our committee
  - Working with the trans working group on admissions
  - Banner making tomorrow from 7pm-9pm in the CUSU Lounge
  - BME Campaign have invited the gender non-conforming artist, Travis Alabanza, to give a performance and have a short talk on the 21st of November in Trinity OCR.
  - Second Decolonising the Curriculum working group focused on the History Faculty happening on Tuesday 28th of November at 12pm in Mill Lane Lecture Theatre 9
  - I also won't be at the next CUSU Council

- **Micha Frazer-Carroll, CUSU/GU Welfare and Rights Officer**
  - Last week I was working on designing a new 'guide to support services' poster. It was last made by Poppy, and the new one features a lot of the same information, but is arguably more accessible and clearer.
  - Ran Self-care 101 last Sunday – made a comprehensive list of notes from the workshop with all the materials you would need if you wanted to run it in your own College. I will post this online, and it would be great if you could encourage your own JCR and MCR officers to run it themselves in individual colleges.
  - The training that officers would most like to attend is supporting students with mental health problems. We will run this at some point.
  - Made an FAQ flyer on the sexual health scheme that has all of the FAQs I frequently get from officers.
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- **Olivia Hylton-Pennant, CUSU Access and Funding Officer**
  - Working on the Shadowing Scheme. Signups have now closed and DBS checks will be happening this week. Your access officers should be promoting this.
  - Preparing for the Mature Student Shadowing Scheme happening this weekend. Mature students are students over the age of 21, there are 6 from around the UK who are coming down to Wolfson.
  - Visits in and around schools in London next week, one every day apart from Friday.
  - Went to a debrief dinner for a STEM Fair. Cambridge got very good feedback and met over 961 students over that day. Keen to work with us going forward.
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#### CUSU LGBT+ CAMPAIGN

##### **Tom Ashford, CUSU LGBT+ President:**

- This is my last Council. We have elections that are ongoing, the ballot is opening on Tuesday.
- We have been working on a new sponsorship package, formalising how we work with corporate sponsors. Introducing a tiered system of bronze, silver and gold packages.
- Collaboration with the Law society for an event in Lent. We will hopefully have a publication circulated and talks on various issues related to LGBT+ legal matters.
- Working on a survey from all LGBT+ students which we will hopefully get a lot of data from. We will send this to various faculties etc.
- Preparation for history month in February is ongoing. There is a real sense of collaboration between groups including college representatives.
- Considering to add a further rep to our standing orders, a non-binary representative. We currently have a trans-rep, and have had various people come to us saying that they would like more non-binary specific things.

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#### CUSU BME CAMPAIGN

No representative was in attendance.

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#### CUSU INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' CAMPAIGN

##### **Leo Paillard, CUSU International Autonomous Campaign, Chair:**

- Apologies for the last Council where the proxy arrived late and was unable to make the update.

- We had a busy week last week. We organised the International Food Festival which is held every year. This was successful with a venue at capacity and more than 200 people coming. Thinking of relaunching this in lent-term.
- Launched a petition about the name of students with a non-western name structure on transcripts. There is an option to change them on degrees, but not on transcripts. Apparently according to the Student Registry, there would be legal issues involved with changing this.
- Finishing our Brexit survey before publishing the results
- Working on international access projects and doing things for international students staying in Cambridge outside of term.
- Otherwise we are planning elections to fill the vacant position on the committee.

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## CUSU ETHICAL AFFAIRS CAMPAIGN

No representative was in attendance, however it was suggested that this was because the committee was elected today.

### 6. QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEES, CAMPAIGN TEAMS AND THE EXECUTIVE

- **What is the quoracy number we are operating with? Is it 3/5s of all voting members from JCRs/MCRs (around 100), or 3/5s of the total number of affiliated JCRs/MCRs (around 50)? This affects whether the last Council was quorate or not.**
  - Daisy: This is open to interpretation by Council. Council can choose to interpret this either way. This is worth a discussion between the Democratic Support Coordinator, the Chair and myself. I would suggest there is a vote in Council over how to interpret this.
  - Alex: I don't think we would normally use that figure, we tend to use the figure for the total number of affiliated common rooms.
  - Daisy: If Council is happy to accept that, I am happy to go with that.

#### **Could we suggest a motion to change the standing orders for the next CUSU Council?**

- Daisy: Yes. Instinctively I would think 3/5 of 100 is the figure for quoracy, in which case you'll be completely right that last Council did not meet that.
- Rachel Mander ultimately stated that we abided by the smaller number last year, but that this is something we need to look into in the future.

### 7. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE COUNCIL

- **Mark Driver:** Has been coming to Council for five years, worthy of a huge congratulations from Council.
- The tickets for going to the Education Demo on the Cambridge bus are already available online.

### 8. DISCUSSIONS

None were submitted.

## 9. ORDINARY POLICY MOTIONS FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL

No objections were made and these motions were consequently passed. Item 9B is now classed as an action, not a policy.

## 10. PROPOSED ORDINARY POLICY MOTIONS

### MOTION ON INCREASING THE NUMBER OF CUSU COUNCIL VOTES FOR LIBERATION CAMPAIGNS

**Emrys Travis presents:** I'm the Trans Officer on the Disabled Students Campaign, Disabled Officer on the Women's Campaign (not the Women's Officer as incorrectly stated on the agenda). Each college gets three votes between their representative bodies in Council, each of the Liberation Campaigns only gets one vote. The largest college represented body is five times smaller than the smallest Liberation Campaign by informed guestimate.

**No speeches in opposition.**

**Questions/comments:**

- To clarify why this is needed. Some of the Campaigns such as LGBT+ have a co-leadership structure. More generally, there have been decisions made specifically about Campaigns recently, and it would be great if the Campaigns have a greater institutional voice at Council. Theoretically, Campaigns are massively outweighed in terms of votes by Common Rooms.
  - It seems like Council attendance is increasing. A lot of JCRs are getting more involved in Council, we worry that this will mean autonomous campaigns are more likely to be drowned out.
  - In CUSU Notes it states that Autonomous Campaigns represent 7000-8000 students in Cambridge
  - Also, this motion wouldn't really change the JCR/MCR balance and it will not give overwhelming powers to the Campaigns.
- **Do we think this will mean that the Autonomous Campaigns will have two votes which will need to be the same, or can one of them be different?**
    - There will be two voting members with potentially separate votes which could potentially cancel each other out.
    - Either of the voting members must be at Council in order to cast their vote, or must send a separate proxy. One member could not cast both votes.

**Voting Record:**

**For (31):**

Florence Oulds, CUSU Disabled Students' Officer\*

Lola Olufemi, CUSU Women's Officer\*

Jake Gilbey, Clare JCR, Vice-President\*

Connor MacDonald, Emmanuel JCR, President\*

Blaise Sadler, Girton JCR, President\*

Miranda Hewkin Smith, Homerton JCR, President\*

Ben McGuigan, Homerton JCR, Vice-President (External)\*  
Vicky Taylor, Jesus JCR, Vice-President\*  
Nina Grossfurthner, KCSU, President\*  
Alice Hawkins, KCSU, Vice-President\*  
Alicia Pasiecznik, Magdalene JCR, President\*  
Aidan Hilton, Magdalene JCR, Vice-President\*  
Georgia Semple, Murray Edwards JCR, Vice-President\*  
Oliver Hulme, Pembroke JCR, President\*  
James Hedge, Robinson JCR, President\*  
Valentine Lauwereins, Robinson JCR, Chair\*  
Jay Vinayak Ojha, Sidney Sussex JCR, Vice-President\*  
Luigi Dante Gaviano, Trinity JCR, Vice-President\*

Luis Nobre, Darwin DCSA, President\*  
Oliver Fleck, Darwin DCSA, External\*  
Nicholas Langford, Hughes Hall MCR, Vice-President\*  
Rachel Crosby, Newnham MCR, External Officer\*  
Sofia Hewson, Pembroke MCR, President\*  
Juraj Mavracic, Robinson MCR, Vice-President\*  
Reece Oosterbeek, Trinity College MCR, Liaison Officer\*

Simon Percelay, CUSU LGBT Autonomous Campaign, Chair\*  
Mark Driver acting as proxy for Felicity Kersting, Welfare PTE\*  
Leo Paillard, CUSU International Autonomous Campaign, Chair\*  
Matt Kite, CUSU Part Time Executive, Education Team Member\*  
Shannon Bernard Healey, CUSU Part Time Executive, Access Team Member\*  
Angus Satow, Magdalene, NUS Delegate\*

**Abstain (2):**

Pallavi Panda, Murray Edwards MCR, Vice-President\*  
Francesca Jenkins, Sidney Sussex JCR, President\*

**Against (0):**

**The motion passes.**

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**MOTION TO SUPPORT CAMBRIDGE RENT CAMPAIGNS**

**Angus Satow presents:** Today, my friend Shannon was elected to the CUSU Part Time Executive on the mandate of cutting rents. I am asking you to extend this in a CUSU Council motion. Nationally there are various cut the rent Campaigns which have achieved broad successes. At UCL, they secured rent freezes over several years. Too often student experiences in Cambridge are worsened by accommodation issues as colleges have monopolies of accommodation. There are also high fines levied. Some Colleges such as Girton, Newnham, and Robinson have extremely high rents. Rents have been going up by more than inflation e.g. in Kings from 2016 to 2017 rent was increased by over 5% above inflation. This is creating a cost of living crisis where many students suffer financially. In the 2015 Big Cambridge Survey there was large dissatisfaction with several Colleges, especially

Newnham, Girton and Medwards. As a result, this requires an active political campaign to secure wins for students in Cambridge alongside initiatives such as the CUSU Rent Workshops.

### **No speeches in opposition.**

### **Questions/comments:**

- **Not all colleges provide accommodation for all three years. I'm a representative of Darwin and we provide accommodation guaranteed for one year. A lot of our international students require guarantors for living outside of College after their first year. This is basically impossible for a lot of them. While I agree that rent is becoming an untenable situation, we need to start looking at some kind of provision for international students who want to live outside of college.**
  - The Campaign isn't just focusing on rents, it's focusing on various issues around accommodation and this is a very important area.
  - It's not an issue just concerning Darwin. Quite a lot of colleges do not provide accommodation for postgraduate students, particularly PhD students, for the duration of their course. Common policy across colleges is usually two years.
- **Rent is something that CUSU has discussed before and is something that Priscilla facilitated through rent workshops. Priscilla stated that she took discussion to the Bursar's Committee about rent. Could CUSU comment on what the current message is from the Bursar's Committee?**
  - Daisy: We don't sit on Bursar's Committee and I would predict the message would be 'each to their own'.
- **What are the practical steps that you're looking to undertake?**
  - Setting up various working groups within colleges
  - Making demands, looking at which issues are most concerning e.g. Kitchen Fixed Charge or out of term residency
  - We will petition colleges and escalate this if necessary
- There is a large body of work going on nationally that we can definitely tap into.
- Medics and vets are also in an awkward situation regarding accommodation because of the length of their courses. This should be considered.
- There was some discussion as to whether a motion would be put expressing Darwin's concerns about international and/or postgraduate students. It was ultimately decided to bring a separate motion to Council IV.

### **Voting Record:**

#### **For (31):**

Florence Oulds, CUSU Disabled Students' Officer\*

Lola Olufemi, CUSU Women's Officer\*



Jake Gilbey, Clare JCR, Vice-President\*  
Connor MacDonald, Emmanuel JCR, President\*  
Blaise Sadler, Girton JCR, President\*  
Miranda Hewkin Smith, Homerton JCR, President\*  
Ben McGuigan, Homerton JCR, Vice-President (External)\*  
Vicky Taylor, Jesus JCR, Vice-President\*  
Nina Grossfurthner, KCSU, President\*  
Alice Hawkins, KCSU, Vice-President\*  
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Aidan Hilton, Magdalene JCR, Vice-President\*  
Georgia Semple, Murray Edwards JCR, Vice-President\*  
Oliver Hulme, Pembroke JCR, President\*  
James Hedge, Robinson JCR, President\*  
Valentine Lauwereins, Robinson JCR, Chair\*  
Jay Vinayak Ojha, Sidney Sussex JCR, Vice-President\*  
Luigi Dante Gaviano, Trinity JCR, Vice-President\*

Luis Nobre, Darwin DCSA, President\*  
Oliver Fleck, Darwin DCSA, External\*  
Nicholas Langford, Hughes Hall MCR, Vice-President\*  
Rachel Crosby, Newnham MCR, External Officer\*  
Sofia Hewson, Pembroke MCR, President\*  
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Matt Kite, CUSU Part Time Executive, Education Team Member\*  
Shannon Bernard Healey, CUSU Part Time Executive, Access Team Member\*  
Angus Satow, Magdalene, NUS Delegate\*

**Abstain (2):**

Pallavi Panda, Murray Edwards MCR, Vice-President\*  
Francesca Jenkins, Sidney Sussex JCR, President\*

**Against (0):**

**The motion passes.**

## **11A. ELECTIONS TO THE CUSU FINANCE INQUIRY**

**Simon Percelay:** I'm the Chair of CUSU LBT+ and we currently have no Liberation Campaign represented on the Inquiry so far. Considering that our budget of all the Liberation Campaigns got cut by £500 last year, and I believe that Campaigns are part of the more active side of CUSU, I believe it is quite important that they are represented.

**Simon was elected onto the Inquiry.**

## 11B. APPOINTING 2 MEMBERS TO THE SOCIETIES SYNDICATE

**Daisy:** I emailed a huge range of people, but I haven't had any response, so I'm asking you to run. This is a University Committee which deals with applications for funding by societies over £1500. They only hold only 2 meetings all year. Council is asked to provide 2 members to serve on this committee.

**Connor MacDonald:** I like sitting on committees and I'd like to meet some cool people.

**Francesca Jenkins:** I'm the Sidney Sussex JCR Pres. I'm involved in University sports societies and the like, I think society funding is a really important issue, and I'd be pleased to sit on this committee.

**Leo Paillard:** I'm Chair of iCUSU. I'm also President of the French society. With my active society involvement, I would like to represent CUSU on this committee.

**Francesca and Leo were elected.**

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.