CUSU Council Michaelmas II
7pm, Monday 24th October 2016
Cormack Room, University Centre

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
    a. Autonomous Campaign attendance (Alex)
4. Date, time and venue of upcoming Council Meetings
5. Announcements by Committees, Campaign Teams and the Executive
    a. Sophie Buck (CUSU/GU Welfare and Rights Officer) to update.
    b. Amatey Doku (CUSU President) would like would like to notify Council about the dates of the NUS/PTE elections as confirmed the new CUSU Elections Committee:
        Nominations Open: Thursday 20th October
        Nominations Close: 12 Noon Wednesday 26th October
        Campaigning Opens: Friday 28th October
        Voting Opens: Tuesday 1st November
        Voting Closes: Thursday 3rd November (23:59)
6. Questions to Committees, Campaign Teams and the Executive
7. Announcements by the Council
8. Discussions
    a. None submitted
9. Ordinary motions
    a. Funding for Cambridge University Calais Refugee Action Group
    b. Supporting the National Education Demo
    c. Limiting CUSU's promotion of external events to those that have step-free access
    d. Opposing the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF2)
    e. Moving NUS delegate Elections to Michaelmas Term
    f. Support the Truth for Giulio Regeni Campaign
    g. Support changes to CUSU's affiliation fee model
    h. Appoint Student Trustees
    i. Pilot the Board of Policy Scrutiny (BoPS)
10. Any other business
    a. Elections Committee Election

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

2. CORRECTIONS TO THE MINUTES OF THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING

Please click here: CUSU Council 10th October 2016 Minutes

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY COMMITTEES, CAMPAIGN TEAMS AND THE EXECUTIVE

AMATEY DOKU – CUSU PRESIDENT

- Had meetings with JCR Presidents/Externals and Committee members individually from Selwyn, Sidney Sussex, Fitzwilliam, Jesus, St Catharine's, Corpus Christi, Magdalene, Queens', Christs, Emmanuel, Downing, Peterhouse, Pembroke, Gonville and Caius, Clare, Murray Edwards, Newnham, Homerton and King's Colleges
- Attended a meeting of the Joint Advisory Committee where proposals to update CUSU's funding from College's were presented
- Attended Resource Management Committee
- Discussed the changes to the Uni4 Bus deal with Duncan Maskell the Senior Pro- Vice Chancellor, responsible for Planning and Resources
- Met the former MP for Cambridge Julian Huppert
- Had two meetings with the newly Elected Elections Committee and discussed the timetable for upcoming elections
- Attended University Council Self-Effectiveness review group
- Attended University Council
- Attended an Unconscious Bias presentation organised by the Equality and Diversity Department
- Interviewed applicants for the position of Student Trustee
- Gave a short presentation about CUSU followed by a dinner at Madingley Hall for new part-time students studying an Mst in Creative Writing

ROBERTA HULDISCH – CUSU EDUCATION OFFICER

- Represented students on the following committees and working groups
    - University Research Ethics Committee
    - General Board Education Committee
    - Examination Review Board
    - Senior Tutors' Standing Committee on Education
- Planned CUSU's response to the Higher Education reforms and specifically the Teaching Excellence Framework
- Provided publicity for the first round of student rep elections to Faculties
- Met with Richard Young from the University Information services to discuss collaboration, e.g. a Cambridge app
- Spoke in opposition at the THW Save The Class List emergency debate at the Cambridge Union
- Began planning a student consultation on undergraduate workload and feedback
- Interviewed five student trustee candidates with Amatey and selected new trustees
- Prepared motions for CUSU Council
- Attended a seminar on Decolonising the Curriculum
- Met with a graduate School rep to discuss supervisor training

- Discussed a consultation on how technology can aid student supervision with Chris MacLeod from the UIS
- Attended Eireann's Access Squash
- Met with representatives from the Graduate Ethical Teaching Forum to discuss how CUSU can work for and with postgrads who teach

JESSICA WING – DISABLED STUDENTS' OFFICER

- Planning a student consultation on aspects of University policy usually (but not always) pertaining to disabled students - including intermission, exam arrangements, exam warnings, student support documents, etc. This will be for students to pose questions they'd like to have answered, so I can produce a guide that covers these issues as fully as possible. The consultation will take place on Tuesday 25th at 4pm, in the GU Lounge at CUSU (17 Mill Lane)
- Writing the guide and interpreting University policy
- Met with the disability consultant at the Disability Resource Centre to discuss plans for an accompanying workshop
- Ran the DSC freshers' squash
- Attended a working group on exam arrangements, which convened to address the large rise in students needing exam arrangements for reasons of depression and anxiety, and consider ways of best supporting them. We are discussing, amongst other things, how best to encourage students to disclose disabilities and illnesses earlier so as to get adjustments in place before the deadline

AUDREY SEBATINDIRA – CUSU WOMEN'S OFFICER

- Ran the WomCam jumble sale
- Ran Forum
- Organised and chaired a panel discussion on black feminism
- Produced the text for an infographic on the new sexual harassment guidelines
- Reviewed guidance documents on new formal University complaints procedure
- Attended and reviewed University workshop on unconscious bias
- Continued research on sex workers' rights in order to begin to provide support for student sex workers
- Attended Trinity Hall feminist society meeting to lead a discussion on intersectionality
- Attended Corpus feminist society meeting to talk about future plans for the Women's Campaign

SOPHIE BUCK– CUSU/GU WELFARE AND RIGHTS OFFICER

To update at CUSU Council

ÉIREANN ATTRIDGE – CUSU ACCESS AND FUNDING OFFICER

- Attended the Schools Plus Information Evening and gave a brief talk promoting the Shadowing Scheme
- Met with graduate recruitment officer from Teach First so that the Shadowing Scheme is advertised in Teach First schools
- Attended the University Hardship Committee
- Organised and hosted the Access Squash
- Signed and sent off DBS checks for volunteers on the Fitzwilliam Shadowing Scheme

- Held the first Access Forum of term with JCR Access Officers. Items of discussion included: the shadowing scheme, running an access squash, BME access, open access forum, the new Connect to Cambridge initiative, the NUS national demo
- Trained volunteers for the Emmanuel College shadowing scheme
- Met with individual JCR Access Officers and College School Liaison Officers
- Continued to recruit mentors for the Shadowing Scheme. We've had over 170 volunteer sign ups so far
- Continued to promote the CUSU Shadowing scheme to prospective applicants. We've had over 600 sign ups so far
- Attended a meeting with the Outreach Steering Group

CUSU LGBT+ CAMPAIGN

To update at CUSU Council

CUSU BME CAMPAIGN

To update at CUSU Council

CUSU DISABLED STUDENTS' CAMPAIGN

Updated by Jessica Wing above.

CUSU INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' CAMPAIGN

To update at CUSU Council

CUSU WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN

Updated by Audrey Sebatindira above.

9A. FUNDING FOR CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY CALAIS REFUGEE ACTION GROUP

Proposed by Alex Goldin, Cambridge University Calais Refugee Action Group, Co-President (asjg3@cam.ac.uk), seconded by Martha Aitken, Cambridge University Calais Refugee Action Group, Co-President (mmca2@cam.ac.uk)

CUSU Notes:

1. That the refugee crisis is a humanitarian disaster;
2. That the refugee crisis in France will be exacerbated in the coming weeks and months by the French authorities' demolition plans for the Calais camp;
3. That there are over 7,000 refugees inhabiting the Calais camp alone, many of which are children;
4. That there is great interest in Cambridge in volunteering in the camps, as evidenced by CUCRAG's extensive mailing list (over 800 people) and by the 160 people who attended trips to volunteer in Calais and Dunkirk in the first year of the society.

CUSU Believes:

1. That Cambridge students have a duty of care to assist where possible;

2. That CUCRAG managed to have a positive impact on the refugee crisis in Calais from 2015 – 2016, through activities such as sorting and distributing donations, building shelters, cooking and teaching, and therefore that Cambridge students' interest in volunteering ought to be facilitated and encouraged;
3. That Cambridge students can make an important difference through volunteering in the camps and with local charities in the field.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To allocate funding from the Free Council Budget to CUCRAG for the year 2016-2017, without which their work would not be possible;
2. To continue to fulfil our duty to have a positive impact on the refugee crisis by financially supporting CUCRAG;
3. To continue to support CUCRAG in their taking trips to the refugee camps if suitable, and in their carrying out fundraising and awareness-raising campaigns in Cambridge.

9B. SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL EDUCATION DEMO

Proposed by Emily Dyson (emd49@cam.ac.uk), seconded by Jack Wearing (jw811@cam.ac.uk)

CUSU Notes:

1. The ongoing changes in national Higher Education policy which are leading to a rise in tuition fees, funding cuts and greater marketisation of the sector;
2. CUSU is mandated by existing policy to support free education and is dedicated to access and widening participation to HE.

CUSU Believes:

1. That the National Demo is a way of bringing public attention to the changes in Higher Education, express discontent and link up with students from across the country;
2. That the aims of the National Demo align with CUSU policy and commitments;
3. That students should be able to attend the Demo regardless of finances and with adequate support and information about logistics and risks.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To support the National Demo by publicising it and providing support and information to students who want to attend;
2. To make available £340 from the Council Free Budget to hire transport to London, splitting the costs with Anglia Ruskin University.

9C. LIMITING CUSU'S PROMOTION OF EXTERNAL EVENTS TO THOSE THAT HAVE STEP-FREE ACCESS

Proposed by Jessica Wing (disabled@cusu.cam.ac.uk), seconded by **TBC at Council**

CUSU Notes:

1. That CUSU is dedicated to providing events and opportunities for the entirety of the Cambridge student body;

2. That the city of Cambridge is notoriously inaccessible to wheelchair users;
3. That the ability to book many of the city's accessible rooms and buildings is limited by the availability of funds, and that businesses are far more likely than student societies and groups to have access to these resources;
4. That in the majority of cases, events run by external organisations that CUSU advertises are talks and presentations.

CUSU Believes:

1. That external organisations advertising presentations, talks, and other similar events should do more to make their events accessible to all members of the student body;
2. That CUSU should not endorse businesses that do not at the very least hold events with step-free access.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To cease promoting and advertising businesses and other external organisations which fail to provide step-free access to their events;
2. To more widely publicise this requirement through relevant channels.

9D. OPPOSING THE TEACHING EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK (TEF2)

CUSU Notes:

1. That the University is in the process of deciding on its participation in the second year of the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF2) which is detailed in the Government's Higher Education and Research Bill;
2. TEF2 has been widely criticised for using metrics which do not primarily reflect teaching quality, such as student outcomes and graduate earnings;
3. Participating in TEF allows Universities to raise tuition fees in line with inflation, with differential fee caps being introduced in 2019;
4. Cambridge has already increased fees for the 2017/8 intake to £9250;
5. Fee increases are accumulative, which means that by 2020, students are likely to pay around £10 000 a year to attend University;
6. While many prominent Universities are expressing discontent at TEF internally, most are reluctant to be the first to publicly refuse to participate.

CUSU Believes:

1. That TEF as it currently stands is ill thought-out and will not improve teaching quality, and that tying tuition fees to questionable metrics is irresponsible and harmful;
2. That participating in TEF, while allowing the University to raise fees in the short term, is antithetical to its long term goals of access and widening participation;
3. That Cambridge, considering its reputation and standing, is in an ideal position to challenge TEF and encourage other universities to do the same.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To lobby the University not to participate in TEF2 and instead work together to devise better measures of teaching quality;

2. To write an open letter to the University outlining students' concerns about TEF;
3. To provide information to JCRs, MCRs and the wider student body about opposing TEF;
4. To reassess CUSU's position on TEF2 if the University does resolve to participate, with a view to being fully involved in all discussions and decisions going forward.

9E. MOVING NUS DELEGATE ELECTIONS TO MICHAELMAS TERM (REPEATED FROM LAST COUNCIL)

Proposed by Amatey Doku (president@cusu.cam.ac.uk), seconded by Roberta Huldisch (education@cusu.cam.ac.uk)

CUSU Notes:

1. 6 NUS delegates, including the CUSU President, represent Cambridge students at NUS National Conference in April;
2. 5 Open place NUS delegate elections are currently run in March in the Lent term as set out in the Standing Orders;
3. CUSU runs Part Time Executive elections in Michaelmas Term.

CUSU Believes:

1. That there is an opportunity in Michaelmas Term where CUSU runs elections for the Part Time Executive for CUSU to bring forward the NUS delegate elections;
2. That given the recent referendum on our affiliation with the NUS, NUS delegates must be accountable and must seek out and represent the views of Cambridge students;
3. That with little over a month between their election and being required to attend conference, NUS delegates do not have sufficient times in their capacities to seek out student opinions and sufficiently represent Cambridge students;
4. That NUS delegates should be involved in drawing up policy for NUS Conference which they currently are unable to do because of the proximity of their election to the national conference.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To amend the Standing Orders and move NUS Delegate Elections to Michaelmas term coinciding with the elections for Part Time Executive as laid out in the attached paper, subject to two Councils;
2. To publicise the NUS delegate Elections alongside the Part-Time Executive Elections;
3. To make clear to all nominees that their nomination is subject to the approval of two Councils.

9F. SUPPORT THE TRUTH FOR GIULIO REGENI CAMPAIGN

Proposed by Amatey Doku (president@cusu.cam.ac.uk), seconded by Eleanor Hegarty (eh501@cam.ac.uk)

CUSU Notes:

1. In Lent III earlier this year, CUSU Council passed policy to call for a full investigation into the disappearance and murder of Giulio Regeni, a PhD candidate studying at Girton College, who was killed while doing fieldwork in Egypt;

2. Amnesty International and Egyptian human rights organisations have documented hundreds of similar cases of enforced disappearances carried out by the Egyptian authorities over the past year alone;
3. The Egyptian authorities have admitted to investigating Giulio Regeni because of his research into independent unions in Egypt;
4. Amnesty International in Italy established the Truth for Giulio campaign with the support of Giulio's parents and that this is also supported by Amnesty International UK, the lecturers union UCU and the National Union of Journalists.

CUSU Believes:

1. More needs to be done within the University of Cambridge to raise awareness of the Truth for Giulio campaign as the anniversary of Giulio Regeni's death approaches.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To continue to support the campaign alongside Amnesty International, including making a contribution towards local publicity costs;
2. Support the campaign in the organising of an Open meeting/ Panel discussion open to all in which all members of the Cambridge community will be able to find out more about the case;
3. Facilitate a meeting of key members of the campaign with senior figures within the University;
4. To contact other student unions across the UK and urge them to support the national campaign of activities and public meetings planned by Amnesty and UCU for February and March next year.

9G. SUPPORT CHANGES TO CUSU'S AFFILIATION FEE MODEL

Proposed by Amatey Doku (president@cusu.cam.ac.uk), seconded by Chad Allen (president@gradunion.cam.ac.uk)

CUSU Notes:

1. That as it stands there is no link between personal membership and funding for CUSU;
2. CUSU has for years been campaigning to reform the system and to ask Colleges to pay for the central students unions through a levy;
3. Affiliation fees have also been frozen for a number of years which has meant that the central students unions have taken a real terms cut in funding.

CUSU Believes:

1. That under the current system students of a disaffiliated J/MCR benefit without contributing, and students of affiliated J/MCRs pay more than necessary to support students of disaffiliated J/MCRs;
2. This creates a picture of financial uncertainty for both unions caused by needing to provide a fixed service demand but fluctuating funding;
3. This adversely effects CUSU/GU's attempts to improve their representation because affiliation debates are centered on commercial and transactional arguments not on political ones;

4. As long as this model places the burden on the budgets of disaffiliated MCRs and JCRs there is no incentive for them to affiliate.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To support the new funding model outlined in the Executive Summary of the main proposal attached to the motion;
2. To publicise the final version (the current iteration of which is available on request) of the main proposal to voting members of Council, before taking it to the Bursars' Committee;
3. To circulate the final full proposal with all voting members of CUSU Council before presenting the proposal to the Bursars' Committee;
4. To encourage all JCR and MCR Presidents to sign a letter of support for the proposal.

9H. APPOINT STUDENT TRUSTEES

Proposed by Amatey Doku, CUSU President, Chair of the Board of Trustees, (president@cusu.cam.ac.uk), seconded by Roberta Huldisch, CUSU Education Officer, Deputy Chair of the Board of Trustees (education@cusu.cam.ac.uk)

CUSU Notes:

1. A Selection Group was tasked with recommending the appointment of student trustees was established at Easter I of CUSU Council, its membership being as follows:
    a. Charlie Chorley (CUSU Women's Officer)
    b. Ruth Taylor (HUIS JCR President)
    c. Priscilla Mensah (CUSU President, former Chair of the Board of Trustees)
    d. Robert Cashman (CUSU Education Officer, and former Deputy Chair of the Board of Trustees)
    e. Brendan Mahon (CUSU Chair)
    f. Audrey Sebatindira (Coordinator, FLY)
    g. Cornelius Roemer (Union Development Team);
2. That due to various circumstances, the group were unable to communicate the positions effectively thus only resulting in 2 applications;
3. The entirety of the Trustee Selection Group no longer held their positions in relation to CUSU after they completed their terms;
4. That at the meeting of the CUSU Trustee Board meeting on 14 th July, the situation was reviewed it was decided by the Board that the incoming CUSU President (Chair of the Board of Trustees) and the incoming CUSU Education Officer (Deputy Chair of the Board of Trustees) review the applications and keep the application period open;
5. That this was on the basis that a full selection group would be unable to be convened at a time when most students were on their vacation and the need to get students appointed for the first Trustee Board meeting of Michaelmas Term was paramount;
6. That the application period was left open until Thursday 22nd September at 12pm;
7. In total, 5 applications were received;
8. All 5 candidates were invited to CUSU for interview and were made aware of the process outlined above and reasons for it;
9. It is ultimately up to Council to ratify the selections made by the Chair and the Deputy Chair of the Board of Trustees.

CUSU Believes:

1. The applications received were of a high standard and represented students with varied degrees of experience;
2. Despite the challenges of the selection process, those who have been put forward for Council to ratify have a wide range of experience between them covering institutional knowledge of Cambridge as well as expertise in charity law and the previous Trustee experience.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To appoint Page Nyame-Satterthwaite to the CUSU Board of Trustees as a student Trustee;
2. To appoint Péter Juhász to the CUSU Board of Trustees as a student Trustee.

9I. PILOT THE BOARD OF POLICY SCRUTINY (BoPS)

Proposed by Amatey Doku (president@cusu.cam.ac.uk), seconded by Daisy Eyre (dee24@cam.ac.uk)

CUSU Notes:

1. That currently CUSU has no provision for scrutinising policy outside of CUSU Council;
2. That the current CUSU President included in his manifesto the creation of a small group elected by CUSU Council to chart the development of policy and advise CUSU sabbatical officers on policy.

CUSU Believes:

1. That CUSU Council is not the right forum to discuss each policy in the detailed required to ensure that policy is being enacted well;
2. That the task of reviewing policy in greater detail and holding officers to account should be delegated to a smaller elected body;
3. That this space should also be an opportunity for voting members of Council to advise sabbatical officers on wider matters, as well as a further opportunity for voting members to get advice on issues facing their constituencies;
4. That this group should have no power to change policy but can make recommendations to Council for amendments to motions;
5. That Council should be given the confidence that policy passed is reviewed in detail.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To pilot the Board of Policy Scrutiny as laid out in the Terms of Reference;
2. Hold elections at the end of the Michaelmas II and subsequently at the end of the Lent I;
3. Review the pilot and report to Council before including it within the wider CUSU governance review in Lent Term which will involve changes to the Standing Orders.

10A. ELECTIONS COMMITTEE ELECTION

CUSU Council is asked to elect up to three more members of the CUSU Elections Committee. The CUSU Elections Committee is responsible for any Referenda, the scheduled cross-campus elections in Lent Term and any cross campus by-election. Members of the CUSU Elections Committee are in charge of putting together, publicising and running elections and referenda throughout the year.

It should be noted that no member of the Elections Committee, nor any person who was a member of the Elections Committee at any point during the period of four weeks before the opening of nominations in an election, can stand for a cross-campus election to the Executive or in a simultaneous NUS Delegation Election, nor can any member of the Elections Committee endorse or campaign on behalf of any candidate or choice in a referendum.

For more information, please contact alex.cicale@cusu.cam.ac.uk

Any member of CUSU is eligible to stand to be a member of the CUSU Elections Committee. Please send nominations to alex.cicale@cusu.cam.ac.uk by 5pm Friday 21st October 2016.