

CUSU COUNCIL MICHAELMAS II MINUTES – 23RD OCTOBER 2017

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT

Rachel Mander, CUSU Chair

Daisy Eyre, CUSU President

Olivia Hylton-Pennant, CUSU Access and Funding Officer

Florence Oulds, CUSU Disabled Students' Officer*

Lola Olufemi, CUSU Women's Officer*

Connor MacDonald, Emmanuel JCR, President*

Blaise Sadler, Girton JCR, President*

Kayan Patel, Girton JCR, Vice-President*

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

Aidan Hilton, Magdalene JCR, Vice-President*

Alicia Pasiecznik, Magdalene JCR, President*

Frankie Gormally, Newnham JCR, Vice-President*

Hope Whitehead, Queens' JCR, President*

Ben Collins, Queens' JCR, Vice-President*

Lizzie Palmer, Robinson JCR, Chair*

Matt Kite, acting as proxy for Rhys Goodall, Robinson JCR, President *

Francesca Jenkins, Sidney Sussex JCR, President*

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

Jonathan Ho, St Catharine's College, External Officer*

Luis Nobre, Darwin DCSA, President*

Oliver Fleck, Darwin DCSA, External*

Jennifer Chalmers, Pembroke MCR, Vice-President*

Quentin Peter, Queens' MCR, External Rep*

Juraj Mavracic, Robinson MCR, Vice-President*

Conrad Watt acting as proxy for Charlotte Kenealy, St Catharine's MCR, Co-President*

Reece Oosterbeek, Trinity College JCR, Liaison Officer*

Louis Ashworth, Wolfson, Journalist

Patrick Wernham, Downing, Journalist

Gordon Hao, Caius

Simon Percelay, CUSU LGBT Autonomous Campaign, Chair*

Darshana Joshi, Graduate Union President*

Total voting members of CUSU Council present (*): 25

APOLOGIES

Ella Irwin, CUSU Ethical Affairs Campaign

1. OBJECTIONS TO THE ORDER OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

None.

2. CORRECTIONS TO THE MINUTES OF THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING

None.

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

- Micha and Martha were at an NUS Conference. Daisy provided updates in their absence.
- **Martha Krish, presented by Daisy**
 - The Cambridge Campaign on Fees and Debts meeting went well on Friday and encourages more people to come along.
- **Micha Frazer-Carrol, presented by Daisy**
 - Wishes to inform Council that she was very unwell last week
- **Daisy Eyre, CUSU President**
 - We are continuing to work on finances.
 - We had a meeting on Campaigning on the Living Wage.
 - Encourage more people to come to the Cambridge Campaign on Fees and Debts.
 - In the next two weeks we will be advertising a joint CUSU-GU rents workshop to help students with rent negotiations.
 - The first intermitting students welcome back event was a real success, and expressed a desire to hold another one this term.
- **Florence Oulds, CUSU Disables Students' Officer**
 - As of today CUSU/the Disabled Students Campaign will possibly be working with OFO, a bike rental company, to run basic cycle training workshops for freshers or for people who are unsure as to their bike-riding ability. There will be free sessions run for students in November, the dates are to be confirmed, but email me or Daisy if you are interested.

- Will be running college DSO training soon. Please comment on my post in the Presidents and Externals group if you feel your JCR hasn't been contacted.
- The Disabled Students Social Groups are having their first initial meeting to discuss what the groups do on the 1st of November.

• **Lola Olufemi, CUSU Women's Officer**

- The 'Breaking the Silence' launch is tomorrow, a new initiative that the University is launching to tackle sexual misconduct within the University. There are many things happening from a student perspective to mark this.
 - o On the 26th the English Faculty is doing an hour of feminist readings
 - o On the same day I will be running a demystifying event on Breaking the Silence and the University-wide sexual assault procedure.
- On the 1st of November there will be a 'Decolonising the Curriculum' working group.

• **Olivia Hylton-Pennant, CUSU Access and Funding Officer**

- We need mentor signups for the Shadowing Scheme, please promote this in your respective Facebook groups
- We are on track to have the highest number of prospective students sign-up for the shadowing scheme.

CUSU LGBT+ CAMPAIGN

Simon Percelay, CUSU LGBT+ Chair: We have held several events over the past two weeks. Sophie Labelle gave a talk, a Freshers' Squash and a film-night are examples of just a few. Our first Open Meeting occurred yesterday.

CUSU BME CAMPAIGN

Jason Okundaye, BME Campaign President: Running and participating events including a panel discussion on what it means to be Black in the UK and a Decolonise Now rally.

CUSU INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' CAMPAIGN

Daisy Eyre, CUSU President: The International Students' Campaign has started a petition to try to get people's names written correctly on their degree certificate. I will share this.

The International Food Festival is on the 4th of November in the University Centre.

CUSU ETHICAL AFFAIRS CAMPAIGN

Written update provided by Ella Irwin, CUSU Ethical Affairs Officer:

- We signed up over 300 people to our mailing list at Fresher's and are having our first meeting of term this week. We are also excited to be collaborating with other CUSU campaigns on the Living Wage campaign being discussed in the meeting this week, to which I heavily lend my support. Finally, our positions are up for election and we have 2 amazing candidates to fill our positions.

6. QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEES, CAMPAIGN TEAMS AND THE EXECUTIVE

None.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE COUNCIL

None.

8. DISCUSSIONS

None were submitted.

9. ORDINARY POLICY MOTIONS FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL

No objects were made and these motions were consequently passed.

10. ELECTIONS TO THE CUSU FINANCE INQUIRY

Connor McDonald: Emmanuel College JCR President. Managed a large budget of £23,000 yearly turnover. I was one of the more vocal members about CUSU Finances. I and Amatey had long discussions about CUSU's Financial Position and I hope to contribute some ideas and some proposals on how CUSU can move forward.

Angus Groom: Not on a JCR. This inquiry is important because it is about making sure we use the resources CUSU have to do things as effectively as possible, as well as restoring CUSU's reputation. I am an economist and organise the finance for the Cambridge Schools Debating Competition. This involves me managing a five figure budget, which I hope provides useful experience. This is not about apportioning blame, but reaching a decision on what we can change in terms of processes to allow CUSU to be at its best going forward.

Daisy Eye speaking on behalf of Ryan Newman: 'I write this statement on support of my application to the Scrutiny Committee to look into the conduct of CUSU financial affairs in recent times. Being a law student at the University, I have a keen interest in ensuring the legal and procedural rules and regulations are followed. I appreciate that sometimes innocent mismanagement can occur which inevitable leads to undesired outcomes. Rather than a proverbial witch-hunt, I believe this Inquiry is a prime opportunity for key lessons to be learned in order to ensure that CUSU becomes sustainable moving into the future.

Daisy Eyre: Looking into CUSU Finances and how we can be as sustainable as possible is part of my job. I agree things can't go on as they are currently. I believe having Trustees on the Inquiry is very helpful as we can get the wisdom of previous Trustees who have worked with CUSU over the years, as well as the ability to access data that can be helpful for this Inquiry. I believe it makes sense for Sabbatical Officers to be on this Inquiry as we are looking on past events to learn from any mistakes, and as a result of this focus on the past there will be no conflict of interest.

All candidates were subsequently elected onto the Inquiry.

- Will we have three remaining seats?
 - Yes. I would love it if more people would apply. I am happy with three applicants in the first round, however my idea was to have an initial meeting with the first round of applicants and subsequently decide the next steps going forward. We can certainly keep nominations open.

11. PROPOSED ORDINARY POLICY MOTIONS

COMBATING SEXUAL MISCONDUCT AND VIOLENCE IN CAMBRIDGE

• **Lola Olufemi presents:** This motion wants to mandate future CUSU teams to work with the University of Breaking the Silence. I believe it is important to mandate future teams to work with survivors of sexual violence and work with relevant Campaigns and students. Please encourage all Women's Officers to come to forum, as this is the place where we talk about the direction of the Women's Campaign.

Questions:

None.

• Voting Record:

For: 24

Florence Oulds, CUSU Disabled Students' Officer*
Lola Olufemi, CUSU Women's Officer*
Connor MacDonald, Emmanuel JCR, President*
Blaise Sadler, Girton JCR, President*
Kayan Patel, Girton JCR, Vice-President*
Ben McGuigan, Homerton JCR, Vice-President (External)*
Aidan Hilton, Magdalene JCR, Vice-President*
Alicia Pasiecznik, Magdalene JCR, President*
Frankie Gormally, Newnham JCR, Vice-President*
Hope Whitehead, Queens' JCR, President*
Ben Collins, Queens' JCR, Vice-President*
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Matt Kite, acting as proxy for Rhys Goodall, Robinson JCR, President *
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Jennifer Chalmers, Pembroke MCR, Vice-President*
Quentin Peter, Queens' MCR, External Rep*
Juraj Mavracic, Robinson MCR, Vice-President*
Conrad Watt acting as proxy for Charlotte Kenealy, St Catharine's MCR, Co-President*
Reece Oosterbeek, Trinity College JCR, Liaison Officer*
Simon Percelay, CUSU LGBT Autonomous Campaign, Chair*
Darshana Joshi, Graduate Union President*

Abstain: 1

Jonathan Ho, St Catharine's College, External Officer*

Against: 0

The motion passes

The motion passes

SUPPORT THE FREE EDUCATION DEMO

- **Matt Kite presents:** This was submitted on behalf of the Cambridge Fees and Debt Campaign. We are asking for £300 contribution for a cost of a coach to take students to the National Education Demo on the 15th of November in London. We are noting a number of changes to Higher Education in recent years with a current National movement to oppose and defer these changes, and we think Cambridge students should have the opportunity to be part of that.

- **Connor McDonald speech in opposition:** We know this government will not change its policy on tuition fees, whether or not there is a demo in London. It is also being organised by the National Campaign against Fees and Cuts which is an organisation which hurled abuse at Priscilla Mensah and Amatey. I think this is an awful organisation and I have no intention in supporting them.

Questions and comments:

- **The government has already changed its policy on tuition fees, this is therefore the time to be taking action on behalf of students.**

- **This is the first time in 30 years that free education has as an issue gone from a fringe opinion to making it into the manifesto of a major party.**

- **We should show solidarity with the cause even if we don't support the organising organisation.**

- **Voting Record:**

For: 16

Florence Oulds, CUSU Disabled Students' Officer*

Lola Olufemi, CUSU Women's Officer*

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

Aidan Hilton, Magdalene JCR, Vice-President*

Alicia Pasiecznik, Magdalene JCR, President*

Frankie Gormally, Newnham JCR, Vice-President*

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Reece Oosterbeek, Trinity College JCR, Liaison Officer*

Darshana Joshi, Graduate Union President*

Abstain: 5

Jonathan Ho, St Catharine's College, External Officer*
Francesca Jenkins, Sidney Sussex JCR, President*
Luis Nobre, Darwin DCSA, President*
Oliver Fleck, Darwin DCSA, External*
Kayan Patel, Girton JCR, Vice-President*

Against: 4

Simon Percelay, CUSU LGBT Autonomous Campaign, Chair*
Jay Vinayak Ojha, Sidney Sussex JCR, Vice-President*
Blaise Sadler, Girton JCR, President*
Connor MacDonald, Emmanuel JCR, President*

The motion passes

MOTION TO CHANGE THE CUSU-GU AFFILIATION FEES MODEL

Daisy confirms this motion is being seconded by Florence.

• **Daisy Eyre presents:** The same motion came to Council one year ago, it proposed that CUSU-GU Affiliation Fees should be changed from a model where a College pays affiliation fees depending on whether they are affiliated to the Unions, to a collegiate levy. This was intended to recognise that even if a college wasn't affiliated to CUSU, they would still be entitled to receive CUSU services. This aims to take the finances out of the decision as to whether a college should affiliate to CUSU.

A straightforward levy is not popular amongst the Colleges. On the other hand, Chad and Amatey realised that the previous amount we were getting in affiliation fees was almost the same amount as CUSU spends on welfare provision. The colleges were much more receptive of their responsibility to pay for welfare needs and were able to pass this model on these terms. This motion passing should have no impact on disaffiliated College's MCR or JCR budgets.

Questions:

• **Under the Education Act 1994 you are not allowed to deny services to students if they disaffiliate. How does CUSU plan to stop disaffiliated individuals from using CUSU services?**

- I don't want to stop those individuals from using CUSU services. Their disaffiliation should be a political decision and have a political impact. This of course might change if there was a mass effort to disaffiliate from CUSU.

• **What did you mean by welfare being the responsibility of the Colleges?**

- This is a political matter of the University. As a devolved body the Central University does not see it as its duty to do the on the ground welfare work for students. I think this is one of the important roles of CUSU, drawing University-wide and Faculty issues to the attention of the University.

• **How will this not affect disaffiliated College JCR's funding?**

- The Bursar from those colleges, by agreeing to this, should not be taking this amount from the existing JCR/MCR budget. If this does happen, please get in touch immediately because this is not the principle in which this proposal has been made.

• **Will funding be going from Colleges straight to the Students' Union Advice Service, or will it go via CUSU and the GU who will give that money to SUAS?**

- It will go via CUSU and the GU.

• **Are you pushing for unfrozen levies?**

- It was negotiated that fees will be frozen for this year. There will be scope for the next CUSU and GU Presidents to ask for an increase next year, but this agreement is based on the principle of reduced/ frozen per-capita fees.

• **Do you think it is fair to disconnect finances with politics?**

- From a practical level, I think they should be separated. If CUSU was underperforming and finances were cut, CUSU would only get worse and students will be left worse off. CUSU is the way for students to get in contact with the central university, and without it this would not be possible.

Questions:

None.

• **Voting Record:**

For: 20

Florence Oulds, CUSU Disabled Students' Officer*

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Connor MacDonald, Emmanuel JCR, President*

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Alicia Pasiecznik, Magdalene JCR, President*

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Abstain: 5

Jonathan Ho, St Catharine's College, External Officer*
Ben McGuigan, Homerton JCR, Vice-President (External)*
Kayan Patel, Girton JCR, Vice-President*
Blaise Sadler, Girton JCR, President*
Quentin Peter, Queens' MCR, External Rep*

Against: 0

The motion passes

MOTION TO SUPPORT THE LIVING WAGE CAMPAIGN

Daisy confirms this motion is being seconded by Matt Kite.

• **Daisy Eyre presents:** The Living Wage seems to be increasing in momentum in Cambridge. Cambridge Labour, Cambridge Defend Education, the Ethical Affairs team, are all on board in getting student support for this. Every person who works for the University adds to the student experience in some way, and it is our responsibility to ensure that they are paid a decent wage.

Questions:

• **Who started this initiative? Is it a CUSU one?**

- It is its own national campaign.

• **Voting Record:**

For: 24

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Simon Percelay, CUSU LGBT Autonomous Campaign, Chair*

Darshana Joshi, Graduate Union President*

Abstain: 1

Jonathan Ho, St Catharine's College, External Officer*

Against: 0

The motion passes

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.