CUSU COUNCIL LENT IV MINUTES – 6TH MARCH 2017

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT

Rachel Mander, CUSU Chair
Alex Cicale, CUSU Democratic Support Co-ordinator (Scribe)

Amatey Doku, CUSU President
Éireann Attridge, CUSU Access and Funding Officer
- acting as proxy for Audrey Sebatindira, CUSU Women's Officer*
Jess Wing, Disabled Students' Officer*
Chad Allen, Graduate Union, President*

Sofiya Gatens, Downing JCR, President*
Carl Martin, Fitzwilliam JCR, President*
Kayan Patel, Girton JCR, Vice-President*
William Hewstone, Homerton JCR, President*
Toby Matimong, Homerton JCR, Vice-President (External)*
Max Bowling acting as proxy for Katherine Boucher, Jesus JCR, President*
Victoria Taylor, Jesus JCR, Vice-President*
Alicia Pascieznik, Magdalene JCR, President*
Aidan Hilton, Magdalene JCR, Vice-President*
Beth Greenwood, Murray Edwards JCR, Vice-President*
Georgia Semple acting as proxy for Kat Karpenko, Murray Edwards JCR, President*
Frankie Gormally acting as proxy for Rachel Mander, Newnham JCR, President*
Bethany Bartlett, Newnham JCR, Vice-President*
Oliver Hulme, Pembroke JCR, President*
Helen Jennings, Pembroke JCR, Vice-President*
Rebecca Robinson, Peterhouse JCR, President*
Lizzie Palmer, Robinson JCR, Chair*
Rhys Goodall, Robinson JCR, President*
Darcy Levison, Sidney Sussex JCR, Vice-President*
Fran Jenkins, Sidney Sussex JCR, President*
Jonathan Ho, St Catharine’s College JCR, External Officer*
Dante Gaviano acting as proxy for Toby Henley Smith, Trinity JCR, President*
Dante Gaviano, Trinity JCR, Vice-President*

Jessica Dobrin, Darwin DCSA, Events Officer*
Alice Rees, Emmanuel MCR, President*
Nicholas Langford, Hughes Hall MCR, Vice-President*
Zoe Ye, Murray Edwards MCR, Vice-President*
Rachel Crosby, Newnham MCR, External Officer*
Hope Whitehead, Queens’ MCR, President*
Ivanna Didur, Robinson MCR, Vice-President (External)*
Vera Graup, Trinity Hall MCR, Vice-President*
Sebastian Wrobel, Wolfson College Students’ Association, External Officer*

Louis Ashworth, Varsity

Total voting members of CUSU Council present (*): 35

APOLOGIES

Nadine Batchelor-Hunt, Black and Minority Ethnic Campaign, President*
Tom Ashford (President, CUSU LGBT+ Autonomous 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

- Provisionally on Monday 1st May in the Cormack Room within the University Centre at 7pm.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY COMMITTEES, CAMPAIGN TEAMS AND THE EXECUTIVE

- Roberta Huldisch (CUSU Education Officer):
  - Was too ill to attend.

- Jess Wing (Disabled Students' Officer):
  - I’m very sorry I didn’t manage to provide Officer Updates for the 3rd Council of term – I sadly had a period of prolonged illness, and I therefore did not have that much to report. Below are my updates for the latter half of term, encompassing the 3rd and 4th Council meetings.

   Notices
   - Submit to In Camouflage, a zine on autism & gender!
   - Disability Activism: A Panel Discussion

We have had the Equality Act 2010. We have had years of ruthless cuts to services for disabled people. We have seen the bedroom tax, the dissolution of the Independent Living Fund, cuts to Employment Support Allowance, and in late 2016, the UN Convention on the
Rights of Persons with Disabilities deemed the UK government to be in breach of disabled people’s human rights. In recent data collected by Cambridge University Students’ Union, less than 50% of disabled students felt that their reasonable adjustments had been adequately provided.

It’s time to assess our activism in a contemporary context, in Cambridge and in the UK at large: What have we as disabled activists achieved? What are our goals? How do we make our activism inclusive from the get go – and not just as lip-service?

**Updates**

- Held a disabled students’ forum on Feb 14
- Worked with University staff to set up a working group on alterations to college best practice during intermission. This was using qualitative data collected from intermitting students over the course of Michaelmas and Lent term.
- Everyone at CUSU – staff and sabbatical officers – all had an away day at Oxford University Students’ Union (OUSU). This was a great opportunity to chat with our counterparts about the similar and differing issues and approaches at an institution that, for better or worse, is very similar to ours.
- Further planned Disability Activism Panel – March 7
- Finished implementing changes to the Intermission Guide and sent it off to the CUSU designer – it will now be published before the end of term!
- Begun planning the handover period in the first two weeks of July. This includes an individual “handover document” for my eventual successor, but also making a shortlist of sessions that the future sabb team will benefit from in their work.
- Attended and represented students at the following committees.
  - Health and Wellbeing. A case review procedure is being put in place after any “serious incident” involving a student occurs in college. This is so that staff are able to reflect, share good practice, and identify areas that require attention. More progress was also made on putting in place a system to “fast-track” those who need medical diagnoses of ADHD, so that this can be funded privately after the NHS waiting list has been closed. The committee also agreed to a proposal to implement an anonymous reporting system to monitor harassment and sexual misconduct, a draft code of practice for college counsellors which is being proposed by the head of the University Counselling Service, and a document for departments and colleges called “When To Refer”, to assist staff in signposting students to appropriate support.
  - Digital Teaching and Learning Subcommittee (DTLS). This committee chose academics who would be awarded with a grant from the Teaching and Learning Innovation Fund, based on their project proposals to develop innovations in teaching. It also received reports on the state of the University’s digital strategy for education, which basically currently takes the form in two pilot projects: lecture capture, and computer-based exams. Interestingly there has been very little uptake in computer-based exams so far, but lecture capture has had very positive feedback from students.
  - Cambridge Centre for Teaching and Learning Subcommittee, which I attended on behalf of the Education Officer. This committee works to reward examples of excellent teaching practice across the University.
  - Exam arrangements working group. Last year, a pilot was put in place allowing college nurses to provide the medical evidence necessary to provide students with examination arrangements, in the event that the nurse felt that their relationship with the student was strong enough that it would be appropriate to do so. This has been extended for this year’s examinations. Broadly we also discussed what would be helpful to put on for students
during exam term to encourage prioritising wellbeing over results. This will be discussed further at a second meeting in Lent. The main thrust of this working group is to find ways of facilitating and empowering students to get exam access arrangements in place as soon as possible, so that all students are aware of and access the support they need, but also so that colleges are left in the lurch as little as possible with supporting multiple students with complex last-minute adjustments.

- Equality and Diversity. This committee meets termly and received updates from the University’s equality and diversity section, as well as a lot of figures regarding the staff pay gap at the University and issues regarding the lag of women getting promoted in all staff positions. The main concern of the committee was finding ways of getting equality and diversity, for both staff and students, effectively onto the radar of departments across the University.
- Access Advisory Group. This group was founded with the desire to put physical access to the University’s property (i.e. all buildings that are not owned by colleges) back on the agenda. The group is still in the early stages but is seeking to formalise its structure.

**Audrey Sebatindira (CUSU Women’s Officer):**
- Was not in attendance.

**CUSU LGBT+ CAMPAIGN**

Tom Ashford sent an apology on behalf of the Campaign for their ill health.

**CUSU BME CAMPAIGN**

Nadine Batchelor-Hunt sent an apology on behalf of the Campaign as people had difficulties getting back from London.

She stated that ‘we’ve opened up to manifestos for the elections, and that I met with the Vice Chancellor for Education re racism/anti-semitism in Cambridge (statement on our fb page)’.

**CUSU DISABLED STUDENTS’ CAMPAIGN**

Updated by Jessica Wing above.

**CUSU INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS’ CAMPAIGN**

No representative was in attendance.

**CUSU WOMEN’S CAMPAIGN**

Audrey was not in attendance.

**CUSU ETHICAL AFFAIRS CAMPAIGN**

No representative was in attendance.
6. QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEES, CAMPAIGN TEAMS AND THE EXECUTIVE

• To Jess: The survey which the Welfare and Finance committee is running that is talking to different colleges and surveying their approaches, has it been reported back to the committee yet or are they still conducting it?

- Jess: They have circulated the questionnaire and have received some very interesting responses—these are currently private. The survey was essentially asking Colleges about their practices for setting exams for students as a condition to return from intermission. One interesting result was that one College expressed that they expected their students to sometimes gain a 2:I in that exam after a year out from intermission. This College may/may not provide no support for intermitting students who want to revise for that exam.

- I do not sit on the Welfare and Finance committee. Sophie does, but she has been on sick leave for three weeks. When she is back I will have a chat on whether we can forward that for Easter, but we are not leaving this.

- We need to have a strong approach as a University and as a Student Body in response to these practices. Rushing into any response to this kind of data is something we don’t want to do.

Did you see this document because of Sophie receiving it as part of the committee and sharing it with you?

- I met with Katherine Springthorpe, Administrative Officer for Educational and Student Policy, and she showed me it in confidence.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE COUNCIL

None

8. DISCUSSIONS

None were submitted.

9. ORDINARY MOTIONS

MOTION TO ALLOCATE FUNDING FROM THE COUNCIL FREE BUDGET TO CAMBRIDGE NIGHTLINE

• Maya Raphael, Cambridge Nightline Public Face, presents: Nightline is a welfare service that is run by Cambridge students for students. We operate through phones, instant messaging, emails and anyone is free to call up on any night in term with any problem they may have. This year with regards to funding we have gone for a name change. We used to be called Linkline but this year we have changed our name to Nightline because the wider organisation is called Nightline and we felt that would be more recognisable and our service could therefore be used and accessed by more people. We get the same funding every year and this does not cover a wholesale replacement of all the publicity that we have. Because we want students all over Cambridge to get the best welfare that they can have, we want them to know who we are, what our number is, and that’s why we’ve come to CUSU so we can get a wholesale replacement of our publicity. Ideally we are asking for £1000 of funding but any sum will help so we don’t want the figure to stop the prospect of funding.

Speech against (Amatey): It has been a manic week which is why I didn’t have the opportunity to raise some of the issues I had in as much detail as I could have done prior to this. I apologise for having to raise it here but that’s what CUSU Council is all about.
I have a number of concerns. These revolve around CUSU’s relationship with external organisations. I would be nervous about CUSU’s free budget being seen to be a resource for external organisations. In the case of a name change, I think if CUSU had been asked for support to lobby the University to give more funding to Nightline, knowing that there was going to be a name-change, that would be a better use of CUSU’s resources. I’m concerned for the precedent this sets for the Free Budget being used by external organisations.

The timing is also slightly unfortunate. The Union Development team have been working really hard on the Constitution and Standing orders. We have a policy about the guidance CUSU Council is supposed to have about the free budget and CUSU Council does not yet have this guidance. We’re hoping to bring this guidance to you by the beginning of Easter term. I don’t want Council to see the guidance next term and think ‘actually this is what the money is supposed to be for and we didn’t spend it correctly’. I support the work Nightline are doing but I believe the route of support from the University needs to be exhausted first, and I would be more comfortable with Council making the decision when it has seen and had a chance to debate the guidance behind how it spends money.

I would rather this motion be brought back to the first Council of Easter term after the guidance has been published

- **Friendly amendment to the motion:** CUSU Resolves 1. now reads ‘To allocate £1000 of funding from the Free Council Budget…’. This is to clarify the amount being requested.

**Questions:**

- **How much of the CUSU Free Budget has been used?** It’s nearly the end of Lent Term and in Easter Term I don’t envisage it being used much. I think it’s a very good cause.
  - £3910 remains in the CUSU Free Budget.

- **Would it affect you if the funding is delayed until Easter term?**
  - It would because we have to order the publicity materials and they take a couple of weeks to arrive. By the time you decide, we will have missed the point where we could put them up for people arriving back from Easter Term to use during exam term. Exam term is one of the terms where students need our services the most, so it is really important that we have our publicity out by then.
  - The name change means that we have seen a 50% increase on calls this year. We are expecting this increase to continue during Easter term.

- **Why is the use of your service going up whilst you claim to have lost name recognition?**
  - This is mainly the result of IM being introduced last year.
  - Nightline is the countryside organisation but in Cambridge we are doing it for students so they need to know this.

- **Is £1000 all that you need, or will you need more later?**
  - Linkline once had a huge presence around Cambridge. There was a time where you would go to every toilet stall and see a sticker with our name on it. This has gone away as we haven’t been able to maintain this from our budget from the University. We want to get posters in every department and in every College.
  - We therefore do not foresee applying for money in the future.
• How much interaction do you have with the wider Nightline organisation, are they linked with you at all?
  - We existed before Nightline national and they were modelled on us. We take tips from their training manuals but we have a policy of being independent from them. We also have a relationship with the Samaritans.
  - We go to the National Conference and exchange tips with other Nightlines.
• Do you use lower cost social media?
  - We do, but it gets to much more people with physical publicity. Because Nightline is anonymous and volunteers can’t go round telling people that they do it, publicity is the only way we can advertise the service to people.
• What are the campaigns that we have already supported during this academic year?
  - Michaelmas Council II: £800 was allocated to the Cambridge University Calais Refugee Action Group
  - Michaelmas Council II: £340 was allocated to Transport for the National Education Demo
  - Michaelmas Council III: £200 more was allocated to Transport for the National Education Demo
  - Lent I: £250 was allocated to supporting a boycott of the National Student Survey
• Your website also shows that you provide services to Anglia Ruskin University. Have you asked them for similar funding?
  - Our funding is separate. Any publicity funding that we would get from Cambridge goes into Cambridge publicity.
  - We ask them every year and we are chronically underfunded by Anglia Ruskin University. It is sad that we can’t afford to publicise there as much.
• What happens to the Council Free Budget if it is not spent, does it rollover?
  - We set it at the initial figure every year and it does not rollover.
• How much funding does Nightline get?
  - We get 17p per student. We are fairly thrifty.
• Do you have any plans to do more advertising with the Students' Unions' Advice Service?
  - This year we have worked specifically with CUSU and the Student Advice Service. We were talking to Sophie about trying to get cards into every student room which advertise both services. This ran into problems with tutors not being able to approve this on time to get cards into the rooms. We are hoping next year that this will happen and we think it is hugely important. But we want to continue working with the Student Union because they are complementary services – one works at day and one works at night.
• Have you contacted JCR’s? I know our welfare team would be willing to print our own advertising material for College and this wouldn’t cost that much.
  - I talk to welfare officers through the Facebook page. No-one has suggested funding and it would complicate our process of designing, printing and disseminating our material.
  - It’s a lot better value if we can order posters in bulk rather than asking each College to do less.
- With a decentralised College system and everything being anonymous, it is hard to get things through.

• What is the £1000 going to be spent on?

- Specifically it is on replenishing our publicity because of the name change. Posters, stickers, pens and magnets that go on fridges as well as Facebook.

• Can we mandate Sophie to print these materials for you so this money stays in CUSU in a bid to set a precedent?

- We could get our publicity team to work in cooperation with Sophie.
- I don’t think you can speak about the intention of the budget when the guidelines haven’t been released yet on what the budget’s intention is.
- As someone who was a member of CUSU last year and someone who applied for this budget, I originally went to Sophie who stated that she didn’t have a budget and we would need to apply for the CUSU Free Budget. Then we get told that the Free Budget isn’t for us so we are unsure about where to go as a welfare organisation that is complementary to the Student Union.

• Friendly amendment to the motion: New CUSU Resolves 1. now reads 'That in recognition of the fact that the guidelines complementing the CUSU Free Budget are scheduled to be published in Easter Term 2017, CUSU will make a single one-off payment to Nightline in light of its recent name-change to be spent solely on publicity of the rebranded service to Cambridge students alone. All future requests for funding from this budget from any individual/organisation will have to abide by these soon to be published guidelines'.

• Do you have a detailed breakdown on what you spend this money on? It seems a bit odd to give away £1000 on this vague ambition?

- We plan to create this when we have the money guaranteed. We know what we want to order and how much each item costs, it just depends on the quantity we can order. We want to buy as much as we can.
- **Alex Cicale, CUSU Democratic Support Coordinator:** The money has to spent by Nightline in first instance and is only reimbursed by CUSU once Nightline has filled in a detailed purchase order form outlining what this money has been spent on, how it has benefited Cambridge students, and with any relevant receipts/invoices attached. Nightline will not be receiving the money in advance.

• It’s becoming slightly embarrassing that we are grilling these people who are going to offer a really important service now that exam term is coming. £1000, given how much we have left and how long Council has to spend it, seems reasonable.

• Friendly amendment to the motion proposed given that CUSU will be debating how we spend our funds and in what way at the beginning of next term: New CUSU Resolves 2. ‘That before Council I of Easter Term 2017 Nightline will provide CUSU with a detailed breakdown of all costs associated with the way the aforementioned funds are spent’.

- This is just a report on how the funding has spent and is not a condition of receiving the funding.
• Voting Record:

For: 33

Éireann Attridge, CUSU Access and Funding Officer
  - acting as proxy for Audrey Sebatindira, CUSU Women’s Officer*
Jess Wing, Disabled Students' Officer*
Chad Allen, Graduate Union, President*
Sofiya Gatens, Downing JCR, President*
Carl Martin, Fitzwilliam JCR, President*
Kayan Patel, Girton JCR, Vice-President*
William Hewstone, Homerton JCR, President*
Toby Matimong, Homerton JCR, Vice-President (External)*
Max Bowling acting as proxy for Katherine Boucher, Jesus JCR, President*
Victoria Taylor, Jesus JCR, Vice-President*
Alicia Pascieznik, Magdalene JCR, President*
Aidan Hilton, Magdalene JCR, Vice-President*
Beth Greenwood, Murray Edwards JCR, Vice-President*
Georgia Semple acting as proxy for Kat Karpenko, Murray Edwards JCR, President*
Frankie Gormally acting as proxy for Rachel Mander, Newnham JCR, President*
Bethany Bartlett, Newnham JCR, Vice-President*
Rebecca Robinson, Peterhouse JCR, President*
Lizzie Palmer, Robinson JCR, Chair*
Rhys Goodall, Robinson JCR, President*
Darcy Levison, Sidney Sussex JCR, Vice-President*
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Jonathan Ho, St Catharine’s College JCR, External Officer*
Dante Gaviano acting as proxy for Toby Henley Smith, Trinity JCR, President*
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Rachel Crosby, Newnham MCR, External Officer*
Hope Whitehead, Queens’ MCR, President*
Ivanna Didur, Robinson MCR, Vice-President (External)*
Vera Graup, Trinity Hall MCR, Vice-President*
Sebastian Wrobel, Wolfson College Students’ Association, External Officer*

Abstain: 2

Helen Jennings, Pembroke JCR, Vice-President*
Oliver Hulme, Pembroke JCR, President*

Against: 0

None
The motion passes

**MOTION TO SUBMIT NAME-BLIND UCAS ADMISSIONS MOTION TO NUS NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

- **Amatey Doku (CUSU President) presents**: The timing of this motion wasn’t great. I received a motion from another Union who are submitting a similar motion. What happens at National Conference is that in order to get your motion anywhere, more than one Union has to submit a similar motion, support the motion and it then has to go to priority ballot before it is even considered at conference. Given that I personally have been trying to look at institutional racism, I thought this was a good way for us to show our support in the student movement for the issue of institutionalised racism and name-blind UCAS admissions. There is a lot of evidence to suggest that even with the same grades students from BME backgrounds are less likely to get into Russell Group universities. In terms of the practicalities of this, it depends on the NUS being able to carry this forward. We would hope that it would be in a position where it can if the policy is passed.

- **Voting Record:**

  **For**: 32

  Éireann Attridge, CUSU Access and Funding Officer
  - acting as proxy for Audrey Sebatindira, CUSU Women’s Officer*
  Jess Wing, Disabled Students’ Officer*
  Sofiya Gatens, Downing JCR, President*
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  Hope Whitehead, Queens’ MCR, President*
  Ivanna Didur, Robinson MCR, Vice-President (External)*
  Vera Graup, Trinity Hall MCR, Vice-President*
Abstain: 3

Beth Greenwood, Murray Edwards JCR, Vice-President*
Zoe Ye, Murray Edwards MCR, Vice-President*
Chad Allen, Graduate Union, President*

Against: 0

None

The motion passes

10A. CUSU ELECTIONS

Rachel Mander (Re-running for Council Chair): You’ve seen me in action over today and last term so if you want to re-elect me you can.

Rachel Mander: 34 votes
RON (Re-Open Nominations): 1 votes

Chad Allen (Running for Trustee Selection Group): I’ve been a member of four student unions and am currently president of CUSU’s GU. I’ve attended the Board of Trustees for the University and my College, interviewed various College appointments, and conducted Undergraduate admission interviews and GU staff appointments. I’ve been in Cambridge for a long-time and I am not trapped within ‘the bubble’.

Chad Allen: 34 votes
RON (Re-Open Nominations): 1 votes

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None