

## CUSU COUNCIL MICHAELMAS IV MINUTES – 21<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2016

### ATTENDANCE

#### PRESENT

Rachel Mander, CUSU Chair  
Alex Cicale, CUSU Democratic Support Coordinator (Scribe)  
Amatey Doku, CUSU President  
Roberta Huldish, CUSU Education Officer  
Éireann Attridge, CUSU Access and Funding Officer  
Jess Wing, Disabled Students' Officer\*  
Sophie Buck, CUSU/GU Welfare & Rights Officer  
Audrey Sebatindira, CUSU Women's Officer\*

Nancy Thorpe, Christ's JCR, Vice-President\*  
James Burn, Christ's JCR, President\*  
Max Edwards, Churchill JCR, Vice-President\*  
Tom Meadows, Downing JCR, President\*  
Kavish Shah, Emmanuel JCR, Vice-President\*  
Katie Craven acting as proxy for Tom George, Emmanuel JCR, President\*  
Toby Matimong, Homerton JCR, Vice-President (External)\*  
William Hewstone, Homerton JCR, President\*  
Ellen Parker, Jesus JCR, Vice-President\*  
Daisy Eyre, Jesus JCR, President\*  
Ceylon Andi Hickman, King's JCR, President\*  
Amy Clark, King's JCR, Vice-President\*  
Alicia Pasiiecznik, Magdalene JCR, Vice-President\*  
James Antell, Magdalene JCR, President\*  
Beth Greenwood, Murray Edwards JCR, Vice-President/External Officer\*  
Bethany Bartlett, Newnham JCR, Vice-President\*  
Zach Berenson Barros, Pembroke JCR, Vice-President\*  
Clo Ryan, Pembroke JCR, President\*  
Frances Hawker, Peterhouse JCR, President\*  
Joseph Levin, Queens' JCR, President\*  
Sam Dixon, Queens' JCR, Vice-President\*  
Rhys Goodall, Robinson JCR, President\*  
Elizabeth Palmer, Robinson College Students' Association, Chair\*  
Oliver Hudson, Sidney Sussex JCR, President\*  
Darcy Levison, Sidney Sussex JCR, Vice-President\*  
Dylan Carroll, St Catherine's JCR, President\*

Alex Ho, St Catherine's JCR, External Officer\*  
Finn Kristensen, Trinity JCR, Vice President\*  
Jean Lavarenne, Christ's MCR, External Officer\*  
Elaine Gray, Darwin DCSA, President\*  
Susanna O'Brien, Emma MCR, Vice-President\*  
Alexandru Savu, Girton MCR, Welfare Officer\*  
Nicholas Langford, Hughes Hall MCR, Vice-President\*  
Ilma Bogdan, Murray Edwards MCR, Social Secretary\*  
Rachel Crosby, Newnham MCR, External\*  
Craig Burns, Pembroke MCR, President\*  
Mark Mawdsley, Queens' MCR, External Officer\*  
Mark Driver, Robinson MCR, Vice-President (External)\*  
Sebastian Wrobel, Wolfson, External Officer\*  
Chad Allen, Graduate Union President\*  
Harry Curtis, Varsity  
Louis Ashworth, Varsity  
Monty Fynn, Varsity  
Nadine Batchelor-Hunt, Black and Minority Ethnic Campaign, President\*  
Matthew Kite, Robinson College  
Simon Scutts, Darwin College Students' Association, External Officer\*

Total voting members of CUSU Council present (\*): 44

---

## APOLOGIES

Tom Ashford (President, CUSU LGBT+ Autonomous Campaign)

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

- Motion 9A ('To Support the "Stop Funding Hate" Campaign') has been postponed to a future Council.
- As there is an absence of nominations for the Societies Syndicate and Elections Committee elections, items 10b. and 10c. have been withdrawn.

### 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

- The next Council will be held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January 2017 from 7pm to 9pm in the same venue (the Hicks Room, University Centre).

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

### • Roberta Huldisch (CUSU Education Officer):

- Since the last Council I've represented students on the following committees:
  - o Senior Tutors' Education Committee
  - o Standing Committee on Student Mobility
  - o General Board Education Committee
- Met with the new Part Time Executive members
- Worked on the TEF Campaign – attempting to convince Cambridge to opt out of taking part in the Teaching Excellence Framework – by doing the following things:
  - o Collecting information and putting together the case against TEF
  - o Publishing an open letter which has over 300 signatures and circulating it
  - o Contacting academics
  - o Speaking to students and JCRs
  - o Interviewed on CamFM
  - o Spoke to students at Sidgwick Site about the reforms to higher education
- Organised the Cambridge contingent of the National Demo and attended it with Éireann Attridge (CUSU Access and Funding Officer)
  - o Managed signups and logistics
- Attended two Cambridge Defend Education meetings to get ideas on how to work together on things like tuition fee rises and Prevent
- Met with the heads of several college and faculty libraries to discuss study skills workshops and transitional workshops for students
- Spoke to students about Faculty Rep and School Rep elections
- Attended a TEF briefing in London

---

### CUSU LGBT+ CAMPAIGN

Tom Ashford sent an apology on behalf of the Campaign.

---

### CUSU BME CAMPAIGN

We've been analysing the Emergency Motion presented at this meeting and we are looking into changing the name of the Campaign.

---

### CUSU DISABLED STUDENTS' CAMPAIGN

Updated by Jessica Wing in the agenda.

---

### CUSU INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' CAMPAIGN

No representative was in attendance.

---

### CUSU WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN

Updated by Audrey Sebatindira in the agenda.

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

• **Could we ask the LGBT+ Campaign to come to Council as they haven't been represented once this term which is a bit of a shame?**

- **Alex Cicale (CUSU Democratic Support Coordinator):** I've emailed the presidents of all the campaigns including LGBT+ every week since Council I. There is communication with the campaign, however despite repeated promises to attend Council, no representative has attended so far. It is ultimately the responsibility of the campaigns to ensure that they follow through on their promises and report to Council. I will continue to communicate with the various campaigns and push for representation in future meetings.

• **Could Tom Ashford's (President, LGBT+ Autonomous Campaign) pronoun be noted as 'they' in the minutes?**

• **To Nadine Batchelor-Hunt: Are you going to reschedule the workshop?**

- Yes, the workshop will be rescheduled.

## 7. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE COUNCIL

None

## 8. DISCUSSIONS

None were submitted.

## 9. ORDINARY MOTIONS

### MOTION TO CREATE AN ACCESS SUB-COMMITTEE

• **Éireann Attridge (CUSU Access and Funding Officer) presents:** This motion isn't controversial, essentially I want to set up an access sub-committee. I'm mandated to do a few things all at the same time. Because this term is very hectic due to arrangements for the Shadowing Scheme, it means that a lot of projects don't get as much of my attention as others. Essentially, I have a big workload which includes sitting on over 15 committees, all of which last for at least 2 hours with potentially an hour worth of reading in advance. I'd like to ensure that projects such as the alternative prospectus aren't neglected – this has happened in previous years. These roles will ensure that the projects are always run by students and will potentially give the holders a better insight into what the Access and Funding role requires.

I propose four key roles for the sub-committee:

- Shadowing Scheme Assistant Coordinator
- Alternative Prospectus Coordinator
- CamTweet Coordinator
- Promotion and Outreach Coordinator

All of these individuals will be responsible for gathering volunteers for all of the various projects and overseeing them throughout the year. We're hoping that these roles can be elected at the same time as Part-Time Executive roles in Michaelmas term.

**No speeches against.**

**Questions:**

**Projects have been undertaken, but not to the best of their ability over the past couple of years.**

**Does having this committee mean there are new things you'd like to work on?**

- **Éireann:** No, I'd like to make sure that the Shadowing Scheme can be my only priority in Michaelmas term. However, there is a possibility that successor access officers will want to introduce new things in the future.

**Whilst in the future it is great that the individuals on this new committee will be elected, for now, where will these positions be advertised and how will they be filled?**

- Through Facebook. Because they're co-opted it is possible that there could be a vote in Council. There's only one more position to be filled if this motion passes through.

**In future years will there be open-elections to fill these roles in future?**

- Yes, these will take place alongside the Part-Time Executive elections.

**Does the Access and Funding role have too many responsibilities?**

- No. It's only a positive if students are more involved with access initiatives.
- **Jess Wing (Disabled Students' Officer):** Every sabbatical officer position has either an entire committee of students or a Part-Time executive of students. Eireann has two people on her Part-Time Executive and I think it is 'the norm' for sabbatical officers to have people supporting them.
- These are student-led initiatives. It's not that I can't do them, it's that I want them to be done well and I believe that having more people to oversee them will help them be the best that they can be.

**• Voting Record:**

**For: 38**

Joseph Levin, Queens' JCR, President  
James Burn, Christ's JCR, President  
Mark Mawdsley, Queens' MCR, External Officer  
Finn Kristensen, Trinity JCR, Vice President  
Nicholas Langford, Hughes Hall MCR, Vice-President  
Nadine Batchelor-Hunt, Black and Minority Ethnic Campaign, President\*  
Simon Scutts, Darwin DCSA, External Officer  
Elaine Gray, Darwin DCSA, President  
James Antell, Magdalene JCR, President  
Alicia Pasiiecznik, Magdalene JCR, Vice-President  
Kavish Shah, Emmanuel JCR, Vice-President  
Oliver Hudson, Sidney Sussex JCR, President  
Alex Ho, St Catherine's JCR, External Officer  
Katie Craven acting as proxy for Tom George, Emmanuel JCR, President  
Amy Clark, King's JCR, Vice-President  
Ceylon Andi Hickman, King's JCR, President

Frances Hawker, Peterhouse JCR, President  
Ellen Parker, Jesus JCR, Vice-President  
Mark Driver, Robinson MCR, Vice-President (External)  
Sebastian Wrobel, Wolfson, External Officer  
Daisy Eyre, Jesus JCR, President  
William Hewstone, Homerton JCR, President  
Toby Matimong, Homerton JCR, Vice-President (External)  
Clo Ryan, Pembroke JCR, President  
Zach Berenson Barros, Pembroke JCR, Vice-President  
Craig Burns, Pembroke MCR, President  
Elizabeth Palmer, Robinson College Students' Association, Chair  
Nancy Thorpe, Christ's JCR, Vice-President  
Rachel Crosby, Newnham MCR, External  
Tom Meadows, Downing JCR, President  
Darcy Levison, Sidney Sussex JCR, Vice-President  
Susanna O'Brien, Emma MCR, Vice-President  
Rhys Goodall, Robinson JCR, President  
Jess Wing, Disabled Students' Officer  
Beth Greenwood, Murray Edwards JCR, Vice-President/External Officer  
Bethany Bartlett, Newnham JCR, Vice-President  
Ilma Bogdan, Murray Edwards MCR, Social Secretary  
Max Edwards, Churchill JCR, Vice-President

**Abstain: 2**

Jean Lavarenne, Christ's, MCR External Officer  
Chad Allen, Graduate Union President

**Against:**

None

**The motion passes**

---

**\*EMERGENCY MOTION 1\* SUPPORT CHANGES TO CUSU'S AFFILIATION FEE MODEL**

**Amatey Doku (CUSU President) presents:** I brought this motion to the second council of term. Unfortunately Chad - the Graduate Union President who proposed his proposals alongside me and who I have been working closely with - was unable to be at that Council meeting. I said at the last Council that we were going to undertake a consultation process and we have managed to do that this week – we have taken feedback on board.

As you know, at the moment as far as we're concerned the way in which the funding model works means that incentives aren't aligned. A JCR or MCR can vote in favour or against affiliating or disaffiliating to CUSU, but their individual members are in no way affected by that vote apart from losing their seat at Council. However, there is a lot of money that disappears from CUSU/the Graduate Union. We're trying to make a fairer system, where the poorest and richest Colleges do not subsidise the individual members of Colleges who have chosen to disaffiliate.

The proposal changes the system in such a way that affiliation fees are brought very low, to about £100, and then the College pays a fee to CUSU and/or the GU. That money only starts to decrease if individual members of the College resign their membership.

To take the example of Corpus, 35% of students at Corpus decided that 100% of their College's funds should not go to CUSU. Under the proposed new model, if 35% of students resigned their membership, 35% of the fees would be withdrawn (if my maths is correct). The main point is that the system becomes more proportional and the amount of money that CUSU and the GU loses is based on the amount of members that individually resign, not whether the JCR or MCR has disaffiliated. All JCRs who are affiliated to CUSU will save money under this proposal as well two-thirds of MCRs.

The Bursars have set up a fund for those colleges who are deemed to be the least well-off colleges in Cambridge.

This is not a new proposal. This is the culmination of a very long process – of going back and forward with the bursars in a bid to get a more equitable funding proposal.

There are a couple of amendments to the motion that I'd like to take as friendly:

The reality is that there are some MCRs represented here who are not affiliated to the GU but are affiliated to CUSU. Ultimately, their College will be paying for the GU as a result of this proposal. Some MCRs find themselves in the difficult situation that their College might remove funding for their budget. Therefore the following will be added to the resolves section of the motion:

- 'any alteration of a College's budget allocation to its common rooms as a consequence of the new funding model be made in consultation with both common rooms, to ensure that both retain sufficient disposable funding and neither is put in undue financial hardship'.
- 'To mandate the President to assist the common rooms at those Colleges who would pay more under the new funding model with any consequent budget negotiations, including by producing a full briefing document'.

**What has changed from the policy that Council sent back last time? From what I can tell it is exactly the same.**

- What we agreed to do was carry out a consultation process where we could better explain to people exactly what impact this proposal will have on their common room. That's what we have done. I procedural motioned myself to carry out this consultation process.

**Some of my concerns last time included the fact that we are now voting on behalf of the disaffiliated bodies who are not represented here and giving them a huge bill. There were also questions about whether it destroys any incentive for CUSU to be accountable to this body. It doesn't feel like any of these have been addressed.**

- If people have issues about particular elements of the motion, I'm happy to discuss changes.

### **How much will affiliation fees end up costing per student?**

- At the moment, per capita undergraduates pay £6.70 to CUSU. Graduates pay £3 to CUSU and £3.50 to the Graduate Union. Under the new proposals undergraduates will pay £6, and graduates will also pay a combined total of £6.

### **I feel that if the motion passes it removes the incentive for CUSU to address its engagement issues and be accountable.**

- All other student unions across the country receive block funding from their universities yet they still undertake a whole host of activities regardless of student satisfaction. Under this new funding model there are two different levels of accountability, one is JCR affiliation and the other is individual student affiliation. In most student unions in the country, if a student disaffiliates individually it has absolutely no bearing on how much money the union receives. The idea that the only incentive for us to be doing our jobs is the loss of money is one I wouldn't agree with.

### **How do students individually disaffiliate?**

- All universities have to allow for some sort of process for students to resign their membership. If you google it you can find the online form on the University's website which goes to the University, and the University lets us know.

### **Have you thought about making it opt-in rather than opt-out?**

- The law doesn't allow us to do that. Students are automatically members of their university union and they have to resign their membership to opt-out.

### **Could we ban students from disaffiliated Colleges from using CUSU services instead?**

- This would be legally tenuous, especially if we look at turnout in disaffiliation referenda. A union is not able to discriminate against its own members based on whether or not they are members of a completely orthogonal union.

### **I can't find anything online about the process of opting out. Do you think there should be a simplified opt-out system?**

- The first hit on 'CUSU opt-out of membership' is the form. JCRs and MCRs should let their members know and it is included in the full proposal that it will be an obligation of the union to advertise it.

### **If a disaffiliated College individually approaches its Bursar and asks him/her not to pay CUSU, could this occur?**

- The Bursar's Committee will outline a policy on this. There is nothing to stop a disaffiliated College from disaffiliating en masse.

### **If I decide to leave the GU, but stay as part of CUSU, what rights do I lose?**

- Because the services are joint, if you opted out of one of CUSU or the GU you would still have access to all of the services but your college would pay all of the money owed. It is only when you resign your membership of both bodies that the college would no longer pay.

## **Will the levy be annually adjusted in line with inflation, is this the case now?**

- This decision would be taken out of our hands as the Bursars Committee has its own way of working out the increases in levies. We set a per capita figure for now, and that may rise over the years. The fees have been frozen for the last four or five years.

## **Once this goes to the Bursars committee, will you bring this back to Council for final approval? My main concern is where this money is going to come from and whether individual JCR/MCRs will be affected.**

- Voting this through is at the very least putting it on the table of Bursar's Committee. We don't have representation on this committee but we have a way in through the Joint Advisory Committee but they won't look at this until CUSU Council votes on it. Once they do have this conversation we will, as the earliest convenience, relay back any changes. We will bring it back before it is ratified.

**Mark Driver (Robinson MCR, Vice-President):** CUSU's funding model has constantly been arising for the last 4 years that I've been coming to Council. This is the first time I have seen a concrete move towards a block grant. This may not be the best option for some Colleges but I believe that this is the first step towards a much better system overall.

### **• Voting Record:**

#### **For: 27**

Max Edwards, Churchill JCR, Vice-President  
Ilma Bogdan, Murray Edwards MCR, Social Secretary  
Beth Greenwood, Murray Edwards JCR, Vice-President/External Officer  
Bethany Bartlett, Newnham JCR, Vice-President  
Jess Wing, CUSU Disabled Students' Officer  
Rhys Goodall, Robinson JCR, President  
James Burn, Christ's JCR, President  
Susanna O'Brien, Emma MCR, Vice-President  
Darcy Levison, Sidney Sussex, Vice-President  
Tom Meadows, Downing JCR, President  
Rachel Crosby, Newnham MCR, External  
Nadine Batchelor-Hunt, Black and Minority Ethnic Campaign, President\*  
Nancy Thorpe, Christ's JCR, Vice-President  
Elizabeth Palmer, Robinson College Students' Association, Chair  
Craig Burns, Pembroke MCR, President  
Zach Berenson Barros, Pembroke JCR, Vice-President  
Clo Ryan, Pembroke JCR, President  
Toby Matimong, Homerton JCR, Vice-President (External)  
William Hewstone, Homerton JCR, President  
Daisy Eyre, Jesus JCR, President  
Sebastian Wrobel, Wolfson, External Officer  
Mark Driver, Robinson MCR, Vice-President (External)  
Ellen Parker, Jesus JCR, Vice-President  
Frances Hawker, Peterhouse JCR, President

Ceylon Andi Hickman, King's JCR, President  
Amy Clark, King's JCR, Vice-President  
Chad Allen, Graduate Union, President

**Abstain: 6**

Katie Craven acting as proxy for Tom George, Emmanuel JCR, President  
Alex Ho, St Catherine's, JCR External Officer  
Oliver Hudson, Sidney Sussex JCR, President  
Kavish Shah, Emmanuel JCR, Vice-President  
Alicia Pasiecznik, Magdalene JCR, Vice-President  
James Antell, Magdalene JCR, President

**Against: 7**

Elaine Gray, Darwin DCSA, President  
Simon Scutts, Darwin DCSA, External Officer  
Nicholas Langford, Hughes Hall, MCR Vice-President  
Finn Kristensen, Trinity JCR, Vice President  
Jean Lavarenne, Christ's, MCR External Officer  
Mark Mawdsley, Queens' MCR, External Officer  
Joseph Levin, Queens' JCR, President

**The motion passes**

**10A. CUSU PART TIME EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS**

**Daisy Eyre (Running for Union Development):** I am just about to finish being JCR President at Jesus. It has been an absolute pleasure and I've loved representing the students. Amatey is my predecessor as JCR President and I spoke to him about the fact that I really enjoyed being JCR President and I wanted to continue to be in a position to listen to student voices and get things done. Having been at CUSU Council over the last year I have come to see that it is a really important body. The Union Development team will work in consultation with Amatey to scrutinise policy, and I'm more than happy to do that. I have experience as JCR President and I feel this will hold me in good stead when scrutinising policy.

**Daisy Eyre:** 40 votes

**RON (Re-Open Nominations):** 0 votes

**Matt Kite (Running for Education):** I'm a second year philosophy student at Robinson and currently its LGBT+ officer. I ran to be JCR President but lost, but I'd still really like to be involved in CUSU and I believe one way I can do this really well is on the CUSU Part Time Executive education team. In particular, I want to campaign on supervisor training. This is something that was in Roberta's manifesto last year and I think this is really important, particularly as small changes to supervisor training has the potential to make a huge difference to the students who are supervised by them. This is also an area where CUSU has a chance of success.

**Matt Kite:** 39 votes

**RON (Re-Open Nominations):** 1 votes

**11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None