

CUSU COUNCIL MICHAELMAS I MINUTES – 10TH OCTOBER 2016

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT

Amatey Doku, CUSU President and Acting CUSU Chair
Alex Cicale, CUSU Democratic Support Coordinator (Scribe)
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*

Sebastian Wrobel, Wolfson, Student
Matthew Gutteridge, Trinity Hall, Varsity
Louis Ashworth, Wolfson, Varsity
Martha Krish, Robinson, JCR President*
Mark Driver, Robinson, MCR Vice-President (External)*
Kavish Shah, Emmanuel, JCR Vice-President*
Elaine Gray, Darwin, DCSA President*
William Hewstone, Homerton, JCR President*
Safieh Kabir, King's, Student
Zach Berenson Barros, Pembroke, JCR Vice-President*
Cloran Ryan, Pembroke, JCR President*
Ceylon Hickman, King's, President of KCSU*
Amy Clark, King's, Vice-President of KCSU*
Bethany Bartlett, Newnham, Vice-President*
Humaira Bhadelia, Downing, JCR Vice-President*
Tom Meadows, Downing, JCR President*
Toby Matimong, Homerton, Vice-President (External)*
Ellen McPherson, Selwyn, Vice-President*
Frances Hawker, Peterhouse, JCR President*
Elizabeth Lloyd, Peterhouse, JCR Vice President*
Jacob Telfer, Wolfson, JCR/MCR External Officer*
Craig Burns, Pembroke, GP President*
Tom Baxter, Pembroke, GP Vice-President
Leticia Salmon, Homerton, Student
Fenella Keevil, Fitzwilliam, JCR President*
Carl Martin, Fitzwilliam, Vice-President*

Beth Greenwood, Murray Edwards, JCR Vice President*
Nicholas Langford, Hughes Hall, MCR Vice-President*
Sam Dixon, Queens', JCR Vice-President (External)*
Alex Ho, St Catherine's, JCR External Officer*
Tobias Roeder, Clare MCR, Vice-President*
Daisy Eyre, Jesus JCR, President*
Ellen Parker, Jesus JCR, Vice-President*
James Antell, Magdalene, JCR President*
Alicia Pasiiecznik, Magdalene, JCR Vice-President*
Jean Lavarenne, Christ's, MCR External Officer*
Joseph Levin, Queens', JCR President*
Oliver Hudson, Sidney Sussex, JCR President*
Darcy Levison, Sidney Sussex, Vice-President*
Tom Albrow-Owen (proxy for Mark Mawdsley), Queens', MCR President*
Finn Kristensen, Trinity JCR, Vice President*
Shani Wijetilaka, Trinity, The Tab

Total voting members of CUSU Council present (*): 37

APOLOGIES

None

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

- **Chris (King's Student):** In the AOB of the last meeting, the election of the Ethical Affairs officer was discussed. Why is this not on the current agenda?
- **Amatey Doku (CUSU President):** We are planning to hold the election for the Ethical Affairs Officer alongside the Part-time Executive elections later this term.
- There's also the Ethical Affairs supported campaign, will that be chosen at the same time?
- **Amatey:** Yes. There are three positions. Ordinarily there would be someone in place to head the team, that position wasn't filled, so there will be elections to all three positions at the end of this month.

4. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

Amatey: Council meetings will be fortnightly but they might not be at the same venue. We are looking into other venues at the moment. Our current venue is costing us but we are looking into

agreements with the University for other spaces. We will let you know venues when the agendas go out.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY COMMITTEES, CAMPAIGN TEAMS AND THE EXECUTIVE

Please see the agenda.

6. QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEES, CAMPAIGN TEAMS AND THE EXECUTIVE

• **Joseph Levin (Queens', JCR President)** to **Sophie Buck (CUSU/GU Welfare & Rights Officer)**:

Wondering about the investigation into changing condom provider as the Queens' Welfare Reps informed me that they were unable to obtain condoms at the start of the academic year.

- **Sophie:** The inability to obtain condoms was due to a changeover of CUSU Receptionist which meant that some orders were lost. Condoms are however now available and the brand is EXS. I am looking into whether to go back to the Durex ones but these are double the price. I am investigating whether it's worth paying more but potentially having less condoms.

• **William Hewstone (Homerton, JCR President)** to **Amatey:** As you haven't managed to yet, do you have any plans, before the next meeting, to meet with Professor Duncan Maskell, Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor who chairs the Planning and Resources Committee, relevant to the upcoming motion about Uni 4? He made the decision unilaterally which prompted this motion.

- **Amatey:** What happens moving forward will depend on what the motion is. I come across him in various situations and would be more than prepared to raise this matter with him. I am more than happy to talk to you afterwards about how CUSU can move forward if the motion does pass.

- It was noted that no representative was present from the CUSU LGBT+ Autonomous Campaign.

- It was noted that no representative was present from the CUSU BME Autonomous Campaign.

- Jess Wing (CUSU Disabled Students' Officer) was present from the CUSU Disabled Students' Autonomous Campaign.

- It was noted that no representative was present from the CUSU BME Autonomous Campaign.

- It was noted that no representative was present from the CUSU International Students' Autonomous Campaign.

- Audrey Sebatindira (CUSU Women's Officer) was present from the CUSU Women's Autonomous Campaign.

- Audrey added that the Campaign has started having events.

- **Louis Ashworth (Wolfson, Varsity):** I understand that there are often problems with people from the Autonomous Campaigns turning up to Council as has been discussed in the past. Attendance from these Campaigns is still very low. Do you have any ideas about how you can arrange for these representatives to turn up to Council? They are meant to be held to account as they receive funding from CUSU.

- **Roberta Huldish (CUSU Education Officer):** Several autonomous Campaigns haven't properly switched over committees yet, such as CUSU LGBT+, and this is one of the reasons why this is occurring.

Louis' question was seconded by **Shani Wijetilaka (Trinity student)**.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE COUNCIL

None

8. DISCUSSIONS

None were submitted.

9. ORDINARY MOTIONS

MOVING NUS DELEGATE ELECTIONS TO MICHAELMAS TERM

- Audrey Sebatindira, CUSU Women's Officer, temporarily replaced Amatey as Council Chair as Amatey proposed the motion.
- **Amatey Presents:** A very straightforward motion. At the minute we elect our NUS delegates in March at the same time as the Sabbatical Officer elections. NUS Conference is the following month in April. For me, that system doesn't make sense and now would be a good time to change it. We run part-time elections this term at the end of this month. If we vote this motion through today, because it is a change to CUSU standing orders, it will need to be ratified at the next CUSU Council which conveniently coincides with when campaigning opens for Part-time Executive elections. All candidates who, as the motion states, are running for NUS delegate positions would be told when nominations open that this is subject to approval at the next Council. The idea is that as we move forward in this post NUS referendum world that we're in, I've made it very clear that just because we've voted to stay affiliated to the NUS doesn't mean that nothing changes. I was in London today talking to Richard Brooks, the Vice-President for Union Development, about his ideas for changing democracy within the NUS. The idea is to try and work alongside the NUS and do things in Cambridge that make the NUS delegates more accountable. Please support this motion, this is the first step in us really responding to the issues that came out of the referendum, making sure that our delegates are not only accountable, but are involved in the entire process of forming our response to the NUS. It makes sure that they are involved in all the consultations that we might run, certainly with Jewish students that I am planning to run this term, to ensure that by the time NUS gets to National Conference, delegates are fully clued up about what student's views are on the NUS. It will also ensure that people in Cambridge know who their NUS delegates are and when they say that they are representing Cambridge they can be held fully accountable and can be involved in drafting policy which is something that the current system does not allow them to do. There is the opportunity for us here to draft policies, in conjunction with other universities that go to NUS conference.

No speeches against.

Questions:

Tom Albrow-Owen (proxy for Mark Mawdsley), Queens': In the past with NUS delegates and the NUS Conference, one of the issues that has arisen is the spread of delegates that we send to the

conference. We haven't always been able to fill the positions, and when we have been able to several individuals haven't been able to participate in some committees and vote on some decisions. Can we look at ways of making the NUS delegates more representative of the University as a whole?

- **Amatey:** The only real way, bar the stipulations from the NUS about the gender balance of the team, is making sure that it's widely publicised and that a wider range of people are encouraged to apply. I believe this is the best way of doing this.

Mark Driver, Robinson, MCR Vice-President (External): As someone that has been on Elections' Committee before, when you run these elections at the end of Lent term, if the positions aren't filled you have no way of calling a by-election to elect people for the remaining positions. This issue occurred in Lent 2016 when a few positions weren't filled. It is not always practical for CUSU Sabbatical Officers to fill these remaining places on such short notice. Doing it in Michaelmas if there are unfilled positions means that there is an entire term with which there can be by election(s) if required.

The last time I can remember CUSU submitting amendments or motions to the NUS was in 2012. It has been a long time since CUSU has had people engage with NUS motion drafting.

- **Amatey Summarises:** For me this is just the beginning of a broader conversation we are going to have about the NUS. The point is that if we get NUS delegates in place we can have that conversation with them as elected representatives and that will be part of their job – to be part of the broader relationship CUSU has with the NUS.

- **Voting Record:**

For: 34

Carl Martin, Fitzwilliam, Vice-President
Tobias Roeder, Clare MCR, Vice-President
Bethany Bartlett, Newnham, Vice-President
Beth Greenwood, Murray Edwards, JCR Vice President
Zach Berenson Barros, Pembroke, JCR Vice-President
Mark Driver, Robinson, MCR Vice-President (External)
Martha Krish, Robinson, JCR President
Fenella Keevil, Fitzwilliam, JCR President
Jess Wing, Disabled Students' Officer
Craig Burns, Pembroke, GP President
Toby Matimong, Homerton, Vice-President (External)
Daisy Eyre, Jesus JCR, President
Alicia Pasiiecznik, Magdalene, JCR Vice-President
Frances Hawker, Peterhouse, JCR President
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Finn Kristensen, Trinity JCR, Vice President
Jacob Telfer, Wolfson, JCR/MCR External Officer
James Antell, Magdalene, JCR President
Ceylon Hickman, King's, President of KCSU
Sam Dixon, Queens', JCR Vice-President (External)

Abstain:

Jean Lavarenne, Christ's, MCR External Officer
Darcy Levison, Sidney Sussex, Vice-President
Audrey Sebatindira, CUSU Women's Officer

Against:

None

The motion passes

OPPOSING CHANGES TO THE UNIVERSAL BUS ROUTE

- Amatey reassumes position of Chair.

Jess Wing (Disabled Students' Officer) Presents: Students of Homerton are angry about this. We live a long way out and the Uni 4 has recently been changed to the Universal bus service in July, ironic as it now cuts out 1/10th of the University student body – Homerton and the Education Faculty. This change will happen in November, it has not currently happened. This is in the name of efficiency. This decision was made at the Planning and Resources Committee in March/May, and for a proposed estimated profit of 63k per annum. From the perspective of a disabled student, I use that bus to get to my lectures and many of my supervisions, I probably would not have completed my degree without it and I certainly wouldn't have been able to afford taxis there and back regularly. It would be good if we could oppose the change and to have Council's backing. Not entirely sure what can be done in terms of contracts at the moment, but already looking into it.

No speeches against.

- **William Hewstone (Homerton, JCR President)** proposes a friendly amendment become CUSU Notes 6:

'Neither the body of students and staff of both Homerton College and the Education Faculty were consulted on these changes. It came as a surprise to Homerton's Principal - who has stated this publically - as well as the Head of the Education Faculty'.

- Jess accepts this amendment as friendly.

• **Voting Record:**

For: 37

Carl Martin, Fitzwilliam, Vice-President
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Bethany Bartlett, Newnham, Vice-President
Beth Greenwood, Murray Edwards, JCR Vice President
Zach Berenson Barros, Pembroke, JCR Vice-President
Mark Driver, Robinson, MCR Vice-President (External)
Martha Krish, Robinson, JCR President
Fenella Keevil, Fitzwilliam, JCR President
Jess Wing, Disabled Students' Officer
Craig Burns, Pembroke, GP President
Toby Matimong, Homerton, Vice-President (External)
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Sam Dixon, Queens', JCR Vice-President (External)
Jean Lavarenne, Christ's, MCR External Officer
Darcy Levison, Sidney Sussex, Vice-President
Audrey Sebatindira, CUSU Women's Officer

Abstain:

None

Against:

None

The motion passes

10A. CUSU COUNCIL CHAIR ELECTION

- Amatey explains the information on the 'CUSU Council Voting Form' that the delegates were given.

Rachel Mander: Second year philosopher at Newnham. I'm standing because I passionately believe in what CUSU does. Last year I was on the Part-time Executive as one off their Access and Funding Team. I am also on Newnham's JCR and am Governing Body representative so I have a lot of experience with meetings and I know what a difference a good chair vs a bad chair makes in terms of efficiency and how pleasurable/unpleasurable a meeting is.

Leticia Salmon: From Homerton and studying education with history. A first year, so I'm very new to all of this as a fresher. Background to some of the experience I have to similar things like this: I was on my School Council and was Head Girl at my school which involved a lot of responsibility including note-taking and representing the student body – what CUSU does. I actively want to make a difference here at Cambridge and I think that CUSU is the perfect platform to do that. As Chair you have to be diplomatic and open minded to everyone and all of the opinions that people put forward and I'd like to think that I'm an open minded person so I would be there to consider all sides of the argument. I am very interested in the welfare of Cambridge students and this was partly the reason behind why I put myself forward to be CUSU Chair.

Sebastian Wrobel: From Germany and doing a Masters in Law here – from Wolfson College. Why should you elect someone who hasn't been here before? Three points: 1) I've done a comparable thing in Germany in the Students' Parliament for 4 years, I've been President of the Students' Parliament for almost 2 years so I know a lot about chairing those meetings. I've also sat on the Council of my old University for 2 years so I have done my fair share of meetings in the past 4 years. I know how those meetings work and I feel I can chair CUSU's in a neutral way. 2) As a law student from a Civil Law country I am good with statutes so I know my way around standing orders and constitutions and those which CUSU have. From what I've heard before they are not that different to what we had at my old University. 3) I'm completely new to this, having literally arrived last year, I don't have any quarrels with any of the CUSU members (I hope), I am completely impartial to what the CUSU members do here and I'll be able to Chair the meetings in a completely neutral manor.

There were 35 ballot forms handed in. The votes were counted after CUSU Council and Rachel Mander was elected. The results were:

Rachel Mander: 21 votes

Leticia Salmon: 4 votes

Sebastian Wrobel: 8 votes

RON (Re-Open Nominations): 1 vote

Spoilt ballot: 1

Rachel Mander was therefore elected.

10B. ELECTIONS COMMITTEE ELECTION

Sam Longton: There are two reasons why I'd ask you to make me a member of your Elections' Committee: 1) I'm a fresher who studies Law at Peterhouse. I could really bring a unique perspective to the committee. 2) I think I really understand what the Elections Committee is all about.

Being a fresher means I'm literally going to bring a fresh pair of eyes to the committee. I don't know anything about the seedy world of student politics as it has been described to me, but what this does mean is that I can come into this as an unbiased truly neutral member of the committee which is vital for its function.

Why is the Elections' Committee important? Without a strong non-partisan and accountable committee CUSU loses its most important feature, it loses its democracy. CUSU without democracy is like a College without its Porters, the University without degrees, King's without its chapel, the Conservative Association without port etc. CUSU without democracy means that it cannot go to the University and tell them what students' want. The Elections Committee allows the Students' Union to have a strong and accountable democratic landscape. I ask you to make you a member of the Committee so that I can serve the student body in my first year here in Cambridge.

Jon Wall: I'm a third year Natsci at Queens', don't hold that against me. Those of you who haven't seen me before, I have spent far too much time at CUSU – that's not necessarily a bad thing. Elections Committee is about regulating how three different groups interact in election season: CUSU, the candidates and the press. I fulfil all of those roles. I've been a CUSU Trustee for the past year and a bit, thankfully my time in this role will soon be over. I've been an unsuccessful election candidate so I've seen how that works. I've also done a bit for Varsity so I've seen how the press works as well, I have the misfortune to know some of the hacks.

The results were:

Sam Longton: 9 votes

Jon Wall: 23 votes

RON (Re-Open Nominations): 2 votes

Spoilt ballot: 1

Sam Longton and Jon Wall were therefore elected.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None