CUSU Council Michaelmas IV
7pm, Monday 18th November

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
4. Date, time and venue of upcoming Council Meetings:
   a. Lent I: TBC
5. Announcements by Committees, Campaign Teams and the Executive
6. Questions to Committees, Campaign Teams and the Executive
7. Announcements by the Council
8. Ordinary motions
   a. Support for Keep the Streetlights Campaign
   b. Motion to Support the Cambridge Zero Carbon Society
9. Any other business
   a. Elections Committee Election
   b. TCS Board of Directors Election

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY COMMITTEES, CAMPAIGN TEAMS AND THE EXECUTIVE

PRISCILLA MENSAH - CUSU PRESIDENT

To update at CUSU Council

JEMMA STEWART - CUSU COORDINATOR

- Following from last CUSU Council, the cheque for £800 has been sent to the Cambridge University Calais Refugee Action Group
- Participated in a Free Periods webinar with NUS Welfare and Women’s Officers
- UNI4 bus: University did consultation with students in June 2015 and have used some of this information to feed into their re-tendering of the UNI4 contract – in particular taking feedback on board about the cost of the bus service.
- I’m the current Returning Officer for CUSU Elections and the GU By-Election
- Grad Union Elections: Nominations are open for the Graduate Union President by-election, closing on the 20th at 12pm. If you’re a graduate student interested in running, seek me out for a chat or email guelection@cusu.cam.ac.uk
- Part Time Exec Election: we now have 8 new members of the Part Time Exec, so I’ve been putting together induction documents, holding training sessions and will be talking to Heads of Teams about planning the new campaigns with our Campaigns Officers and giving support to the new Mature Students Officer.
• I’ll be working on reviewing this election with recommendations for the promotion of the PTE Elections next year.
• Continuing with Policy & website updates
• Had several meetings with students interested in getting CUSU Council’s support for the March for Climate, Jobs and Justice
• Attended the Council Committee for the Supervision of Students’ Unions and proposed part of CUSU’s Planning Round submission and CUSU’s electoral scheme

ROBERT CASHMAN – CUSU EDUCATION OFFICER

• Met with Director of the Careers Service to discuss how CUSU and the Careers Service can work more closely together
• Met with Head of the Disability Resource Centre to discuss how Cambridge will manage changes to Disabled Students Allowance (along with Helena (CUSU Access Officer), Poppy (CUSU-GU Welfare and Rights Officer) and Robbie (CUSU Disabled Students Officer)
• Met with person leading the FutureLib project - which is the team looking at exciting initiatives like SpaceFinder (https://spacefinder.lib.cam.ac.uk) to discuss how to improve student experience of libraries around Cambridge (along with Poppy and Robbie)
• Supported Spacefinder usability testing to encourage students to think about how this new initiative can be improved
• Attended meetings of General Board’s Education Committee and Senior Tutors’ Standing Committee on Education
• Met with the Vice-Chancellor and the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) to discuss CUSU’s priorities for the year, and the Green Paper
• Visited two Faculties to discuss Faculty Rep elections with students interested in running, and continued to advise students interested in running for these roles and continued to develop our publicity for the Faculty Rep elections on 26th November
• Began planning for Student Led Teaching Awards
• Started planning information to circulate to reps which will help plan CUSU’s response to the HEFCE consultation on NSS and Unistats
• Started planning how we can put together a CUSU response to the Green Paper
• Attended Queens' College Teaching and Learning Committee to discuss CUSU's plans and policy for education
• Met with one Senior Tutor to discuss academic parity
• Started drafting CUSU's response to the Class Lists consultation following the last Council meeting

POPPY ELLIS LOGAN – CUSU/GU WELFARE AND RIGHTS OFFICER

I raised the proposed lighting policy at the Education Committee's Committee on Student Health and Wellbeing. I'm happy to report that the university and inter-collegiate committees are taking this proposal extremely seriously and have committed to lobbying
against it ‘to the highest degree’. The Counselling Service have also offered their support and are very happy to write their own letters in protest of it as well as endorsing any letters that we write. In response to a possible contingency plan, the committee agreed that it would be better to do all they can to ensure that there needn’t be a contingency plan.

Other updates:

- Attended the Graduate Tutor’s Committee. Requested that an agreement is circulated to different colleges clarifying what storage space students need or should be provided by their college.
- Attended the Senior Tutor’s Education Committee in which we looked at the data from the NSS Survey. I raised the discrepancies shown between different demographics. One significant discrepancy lay in the quality of supervisions as reported by students with Specific Learning Difficulties as opposed to non-disabled students. I argued that the requirement for supervisors to provide inclusive teaching was not being met and the committee agreed to amend guidance for DoSes to state that they must extract the relevant parts of any Student Support Document and ensure that supervisors understand their responsibilities. The committee also agreed that the mandatory training for supervisors will be extended to clarify their responsibilities to provide the inclusive teaching that is outlined in Student Support Document.
- I wrote and presented the final Sexual Health Scheme review for 2014-2015 and successfully secured the agreement of those at Welfare & Finance Committee to propose that the scheme is funded for a further three years from 2016.

HELENA BLAIR - CUSU ACCESS AND FUNDING OFFICER

- Supported a student to run a free evening event with talks on Access and inequalities within education.
- Attended a working group set up by the university to develop Cambridge’s approach to the impact of GCSE and A Level reform on their admissions processes.
- Ran a meeting with organisers of the Regional Meet-Ups to plan a second round of meet-ups at the end of term - now publicising these.
- Met with the Vice Chancellor and Pro-Vice Chancellor (Education) to discuss the cost of higher education to students and campaigns on maintenance grants, tuition fees and the future of financial support for students.
- Sat on Undergraduate Admissions Committee, the Information and Publications Sub-Group Committee and Admissions Forum.
- Ran Access Forum with JCR Access Officers - discussed and developed ideas for the new CUSU Alternative Prospectus, volunteer recruitment for College Alternative Prospectuses, and the government’s new HE Green Paper.
- Continued organising and advertising the CUSU Shadowing Scheme - shadow applications close on 21st November.
- Met with two Computer Science applicants and their teacher from a South East London school as they visited Cambridge ahead of interviews - arranged for them to meet with current Computer Science students.
• Released statement in solidarity with BME campaign as they call for withdrawal of
  Dear World Yours Cambridge video.
• Attended Corpus Christi-CUSU affiliation debate.
• Recruited 4 new #CambTweet-ers!

**CHARLIE CHORLEY - CUSU WOMEN’S OFFICER**

• Met the Senior Tutor of Murray Edwards to plan Women in STEM Access Days
• Trained CULC in Good Night Out
• Lobbied Daniel Zeichner, MP, to canvas other MPs in Westminster about Good
  Night Out and sexual harassment
• Met with Graham Virgo to discuss the university harassment policy
• Proofed a code of conduct on harassment to be taken to Senior Tutor’s Committee
• Promoted the Good Night Out petition in anticipation of meeting with license-
  holders of night-time venues in Cambridge on the 25th
• Wrote a proposal to make consent workshops compulsory during Freshers’ Week
  to be presented to Senior Tutors Committee
• Sat on the Gender Equality Working Group, where we discussed Unconscious Bias
  Training and Sexual Harassment Awareness Training, as well as the gender pay
  gap within the university.
• Sat on the Joint Committee on Childcare for Students, at which we discussed the
  Central Cambridge Bursary Scheme and Cambridge Nursery places
• Sat on the Equality and Diversity in Education Standing Committee, where we
  discussed the Mind the Gap report and the Race, Ethnicity and Cultural Diversity
  Survey
• Hosted the LIBERATE YOUR CURRICULUM panel event at Trinity College
• Met with college Women’s Officers to discuss Good Lad workshops and sexual
  harassment policies
• Went to Pembroke SolidariTEA’s discussion on the sex industry
• Prepared points and research for the No Means No panel event which is
  happening on the 30th November
• Promoted the event and petition to remove the ‘Dear World, Yours Cambridge’
  video which has David Starkey as its public face.

**TIANTIAN & TESSA - ETHICAL AFFAIRS OFFICERS**

To update at CUSU Council

**CUSU LGBT+ CAMPAIGN**

• Trans Awareness Month - events have been successfully running all month,
  including:
  • panel event on being transness and disability
  • panel event on visibility
  • discussion on being trans in Judaism
  • discussions with college feminist societies
• introductory talk on non-binary gender identities
• workshop on supporting trans people
• film nights

• More events are running until the end of the month.
• We held an LGBT+ speakers event featuring the broadcaster and journalist Evan Davis.
• The 20th is Transgender Day of Remembrance, commemorating all the trans people who have been killed by transphobic violence in the last year, a small vigil has been organised.
• We attended the sexYOUality & centre 33 AGMs to connect with local charities supporting LGBT+ people.
• Our Make No Assumptions campaign is speaking at Hills Road Sixth Form College to raise awareness of trans people and the issues they face in the local area.
• We are looking into collaboration events with societies at the universities of Oxford and Brighton.
• We have written to Daniel Zeichner MP asking for his support of Early Day Motion 660: LEGAL RECOGNITION FOR PEOPLE WHO DO NOT ASSOCIATE WITH A PARTICULAR GENDER.
• We are currently working with RAG to improve the inclusiveness of their blind date event.
• We have begun a dialogue with the University Counselling Service to ensure LGBT+ students are getting the best support possible and to discuss how our organisations can work together to achieve this.

CUSU BME CAMPAIGN
To update at CUSU Council

CUSU DSC CAMPAIGN
To update at CUSU Council

ICUSU CAMPAIGN
To update at CUSU Council

8A. SUPPORT FOR KEEP THE STREETLIGHTS CAMPAIGN

Proposed by Cornelius Roemer (cr492@cam.ac.uk), seconded by Sophie Bell (sb2031@cam.ac.uk)

CUSU Notes:

1. That CUSU Council has already resolved to campaign against County Council’s proposal to switch off streetlights in Cambridge;
2. That CUSU sabbaticals are busy with many campaigns already and can thus spend only limited amounts of time and resources on every campaign;
3. That despite strong student opinion being united against the switch-off, little in terms of organised campaigning has happened thus far;
4. That the campaign “Keep the Streetlights On: Cambridge” has been started recently to give a strong voice against the switch-off by uniting concerned individuals and creating a powerful movement;
5. That the campaign will have a two-pronged approach: firstly, engage the public through posters, demonstrations and the media. Second, provide constructive input to the discussion through research such as traffic censuses and scrutiny of literature.

CUSU Believes:

1. That a strong campaign is in the best interest of Cambridge students and thus CUSU;
2. That an independent campaign is best placed to incorporate the view of everyone affected, such as ARU and 6th Form students as well as local residents, which adds legitimacy to the campaign;
3. That one-off funding is necessary to kick-start the campaign and allow to grow until donations are able to cover expenses;
4. That CUSU’s interests are represented and safe-guarded by having the elected Part-Time Executive Campaigns Officer Cornelius Roemer in place on the campaign team as a Liaison Officer.

CUSU Resolves:

1. That CUSU endorses the campaign through its various communication channels such as Facebook and emails;
2. That CUSU provides financial assistance to the campaign in the form of £600 from the Council Free Budget.

8B. MOTION TO SUPPORT THE CAMBRIDGE ZERO CARBON SOCIETY

Proposed by Angus Shaw (ajrs5@cam.ac.uk), seconded by

CUSU Notes:

1. That Cambridge Zero Carbon Society has launched a divestment campaign at the University, calling for divestment from fossil fuels, with 1700 signatures on their petition after two weeks;
2. That it is agreed across the world that global warming must not exceed 2 degrees Celsius, and that for this to happen 80% of current fossil fuel reserves must stay in the ground, resulting in warnings from HSBC and Mark Carney, the Governor of the Bank of England, of the moral and financial dangers of fossil fuel investments;
3. That the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership released a report earlier this year calling for “sustainable finance” and “a just transition to a low carbon economy”;
4. That CUSU passed a motion in November of 2013 calling for the University and its constituent colleges to “explicitly commit to pursuing low-carbon assets and
withdraw their investments from companies whose main business is the extraction and/or production of fossil fuels”;
5. That Zero Carbon staged a banner drop on Wednesday 4th November, for which one member of the campaign group on Clare Bridge was sanctioned, with the disciplinary process still ongoing and a financial penalty expected.

CUSU Believes:

1. That it is morally wrong for the University to invest in fossil fuel reserves while leading the way in sustainability research;
2. That fossil fuel investments pose a financial risk to the University’s endowment in terms of beached assets and the ‘carbon bubble’;
3. That the right to protest and freedom of speech on campus is indispensable, and should be upheld.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To support Zero Carbon’s divestment campaign;
2. To uphold the principles of divestment wherever possible at University Committees and other meetings where appropriate;
3. To apportion funds from the CUSU Council Free Budget to hire a coach to London for the March for Climate, Jobs and Justice on the 29th November - the cost will be based upon searching for quotes for an appropriately sized coach and using the cheapest option available;
4. To publicise and support a fundraiser for the student’s fine if appropriate.