

CUSU Council Michaelmas IV
7pm, Monday 20th November 2017
Cormack Room, University Centre

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
 - a. None
4. Date, time and venue of upcoming Council meetings:
 - a. To be confirmed via email and the CUSU Council Facebook page.
5. Announcements by Committees, Campaign Teams and the Executive
6. Questions to Committees, Campaign Teams and the Executive
7. Announcements by the Council
8. Discussions
 - a. None submitted.
9. Ordinary Policy Motions from Previous Council
 - a. Motion on Increasing the Number of CUSU Council Votes for Liberation Campaigns
 - b. Motion to Support Cambridge Rent Campaigns
10. Proposed Ordinary Policy Motions
 - a. CUSU Motion to Support Fossil Fuel Divestment
 - b. Motion to Encourage JCR and MCR Committees to Include Elected Student Minority Positions
 - c. Free Education Motion
11. Proposed Ordinary Action Motions
 - a. Motion to Clarify Quorum at CUSU Council, and to Change the CUSU Standing Orders Regarding Votes at CUSU Council
 - b. Motion to Help Us Improve Welfare Provision on the Year Abroad
 - c. Renewal and Lapsing of Existing Policy
12. Any other business
 - a. None

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

2. CORRECTIONS TO THE MINUTES OF THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING

Please click here: [CUSU Council 6th November 2017 Minutes](#)

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY COMMITTEES, CAMPAIGN TEAMS AND THE EXECUTIVE

DAISY EYRE – CUSU PRESIDENT

- Committees: Resource Management Committee, Campaign Advisory Board, Societies Syndicate, Sports Committee, Business Committee, Senior Tutors' Committee
- Attended various Breaking the Silence Events
- Spoke at the Union about Prevent
- Ran Michaelmas Elections including hustings and results announcement
- Corpus Christi reaffiliation debate
- Living Wage Campaign launch and email n chill
- Drafted our bid for the planning round
- Second intermitting students social
- Organised and held a Trustee Board Meeting
- Ran "CUSU finances explained" event

MARTHA KRISH – CUSU EDUCATION OFFICER

- Met with David Marshall from FutureLib to discuss ongoing research into library use and learning styles
- Had a focus group with Post-grad faculty reps to discuss how to best support their work
- Attended the Cambridge Centre for Teaching and Learning Steering Committee
- Attended the General Board Education Committee
- Attended the Senior Tutors Education Committee
- Attended a CUSU Trustee Board Meeting
- Went to London for an NUS briefing on upcoming government consultations
- Had a lunch meeting with the Vice-Chancellor
- Arranged a bus and went to the Free Education Demo in London
- Attended the Language Centre Committee of Management

FLORENCE OULDS – CUSU DISABLED STUDENTS' OFFICER

- Attended National Disabled People's Summit (notes from which are on the disabled students' campaign website)
- Wrote an article for Varsity about medication & mental health
- Began project with Homerton Union of Students to improve College's ability to carry out reasonable adjustments in accomodation
- Spoke at panel event on Mental Health as a Disability
- Hosted second Disabled Student's Forum of the term
- Met with the Vice Chancellor to discuss pressing student issues
- Attended National Free Educational Demo

LOLA OLUFEMI – CUSU WOMEN’S OFFICER

To update at CUSU Council

MICHA FRAZER-CARROLL – CUSU/GU WELFARE AND RIGHTS OFFICER

To update at CUSU Council

OLIVIA HYLTON-PENNANT – CUSU ACCESS AND FUNDING OFFICER

- Represented the university at HE Fairs in London and Peterborough
- Spoke at an 'Aspiration Day' at a school in St Albans
- Ran the Mature Students' Shadowing Scheme - huge thanks to the students who volunteered to be mentors and thanks to Gaia, Wolfson Student Outreach Officer
- Ran 4 DBS check sessions for students interested in being mentors for the Shadowing Scheme
- Met with senior admissions figures for Admissions Forum and Undergraduate Admissions Committee
- Met with Target Oxbridge
- Attended HEAT (Higher Education Access Tracker) training
- Began planning for extra/super-curricula sessions due to run during the Shadowing Scheme

CUSU LGBT+ CAMPAIGN

To update at CUSU Council

CUSU BME CAMPAIGN

To update at CUSU Council

CUSU DISABLED STUDENTS’ CAMPAIGN

To update at CUSU Council

CUSU INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS’ CAMPAIGN

To update at CUSU Council

CUSU WOMEN’S CAMPAIGN

To update at CUSU Council

CUSU ETHICAL AFFAIRS CAMPAIGN

To update at CUSU Council

9. ORDINARY POLICY MOTIONS FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL

Policy requires approval at two consecutive Councils. The approval of the 'starred' motion at the second Council will be deemed to be automatic unless this 'star' is removed by a single member at the second Council wanting to revisit the motion for further discussion.

Please find the starred policy motions that were passed at the last Council listed below:

- Motion on Increasing the Number of CUSU Council Votes for Liberation Campaigns*
- Motion to Support Cambridge Rent Campaigns*

10A. CUSU MOTION TO SUPPORT FOSSIL FUEL DIVESTMENT

Proposed by Hattie Hammans, Seconded by Angus Satow (Press Officer at Cambridge Zero Carbon Society)

CUSU Notes:

1. That the Paradise Papers have revealed that Cambridge University and many of its colleges have been investing large quantities in an offshore fund, the purpose of which is to avoid a US Unrelated Business Income Tax on profits from hedge funds;
2. That the fund's biggest investment was with Royal Dutch Shell, including a joint venture on deep sea oil exploration;
3. That the University has established a new Working Group on Fossil Fuel Divestment, which will report this academic year;
4. That a recent study from Oxford University concluded that there can be no new fossil fuel projects anywhere if global temperatures are to stay below the 2C increase agreed at the Paris Climate Summit;
5. That the University's previous Working Group on ethical investment concluded that as a charity the University may take into account environmental, social and governance considerations, and should not make investments that run contrary to its aims;
6. That the same working group suggested that the University might "divest progressively" due to financial concerns around stranded assets;
7. That the new Vice-Chancellor has declared that Cambridge should be "a social leader";
8. That Cambridge students elected a divestment candidate in the Michaelmas election, with the highest number of votes for the ethical campaigns role.

CUSU Believes:

1. That as a charity Cambridge should not invest its endowment contrary to its values;
2. That tax avoidance schemes run contrary to Cambridge's mission statement to 'contribute to society';
3. That profiting from fossil fuels runs contrary to Cambridge's 'concern for sustainability and the relationship with the environment';
4. That divestment from fossil fuels is a moral imperative;
5. That the formulation of an ethical investment strategy should be led by students and staff;
6. That vital student campaigns such as the Zero Carbon fossil fuel divestment campaign should be supported by their students' union.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To mandate the CUSU sabbatical team to make a written submission to the University Working Group supporting fossil fuel divestment;
2. To mandate the CUSU President and sabbatical officers to work with divestment campaigns in Cambridge, including Cambridge Zero Carbon Society;
3. To mandate the CUSU President and other sabbatical officers to lobby for divestment at meetings with University officials, especially the Vice-Chancellor;
4. That CUSU should make a public statement calling on Cambridge University and its colleges to divest from fossil fuels;
5. To allocate an additional £100 from the CUSU Council Free Budget to support the Zero Carbon divestment campaign at a critical juncture;
6. To formally adopt a policy position that the University and its colleges divest their endowments from fossil fuels.

10B. MOTION TO ENCOURAGE JCR AND MCR COMMITTEES TO INCLUDE ELECTED STUDENT MINORITY POSITIONS

Proposed by Simon Percelay, Chair of CUSU LGBT+, seconded by Leo Paillard, Chair of CUSU International.

CUSU Notes:

1. That some college JCR and MCR committees do not contain elected positions representing minority students (such as international, LGBT+, BME, disabled and women and non-binary students);
2. That some of the college JCRs and MCRs that do not have these elected positions instead have an elected "Equal Opportunities" Officer, who then informally appoints students to serve as minority student representatives in a sub-committee.

CUSU Believes:

1. That the best way to tackle the issues faced by and to provide welfare for minority students is to give them a dedicated representative on every JCR and MCR committee, in order for them to be able to represent the concerns of minority concerns more directly and effectively;
2. That formal elections are a fairer and more appropriate way of representing minority students than selection by an elected officer into a sub-committee.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To encourage all JCR and MCR committees to have formal elected roles on their committees for minority representation, including roles such as (but not limited to), women and non-binary Officer, LGBT+ Officer, BME Officer, Disabled Students Officer, and International Students Officer.

10C. FREE EDUCATION

Proposed by Matt Kite, seconded by Shannon Bernard Healey

CUSU Notes:

1. In recent years the costs of education have increased significantly, while support meeting those costs has got worse.
2. UK home students currently pay £9,250 per year in tuition fees, a figure which is expected to rise in future years.
3. From the 2016/17 academic year, maintenance grants were abolished for home students and replaced with loans, further increasing student debt.
4. The wealthiest 7% of students leave university with no debt at all, while the poorest home students graduate owing more than £53,000.
5. International students pay tuition fees of up to £62,000 per year.
6. The CUSU Education Officer was elected on an anti-marketisation platform, promising to fight tuition fee rises.

CUSU Believes:

1. An open and accessible Higher Education system would benefit both students and society. Tuition fees and student debt are barriers to that.
2. CUSU should resist the continued marketisation of Higher Education, of which tuition fees are a part.
3. The current funding model is unsustainable and creates a “time-bomb” of debt; universities cannot go on being funded by debts which most students will never earn enough to pay back.
4. Following the inclusion of free Higher Education in the 2017 Labour election manifesto and the recent minor concessions on tuition fee rises and repayment from the Conservative government, the student movement has a better prospect of achieving free education now than in many years.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To support and campaign for the abolition of tuition fees and the reintroduction of maintenance grants.
2. To mandate sabbatical officers to raise tuition fees in their meetings with senior figures of the university.
3. To mandate sabbatical officers to lobby the university to increase bursaries and take other measures to mitigate the impact of high tuition fees.
4. To support and encourage student participation in national campaigns against tuition fees and cuts to Higher Education spending.
5. To inform students about the increasing levels of debt they face and how Higher Education is being marketised.

11A. MOTION TO CLARIFY QUORUM AT CUSU COUNCIL, AND TO CHANGE THE CUSU STANDING ORDERS REGARDING VOTES AT CUSU COUNCIL

Proposed by Simon Percelay, Chair of CUSU LGBT+, seconded by Leo Paillard, Chair of CUSU International.

CUSU Notes:

1. That, in the third CUSU Council of Michaelmas Term 2017, an “action” motion was passed to give the CUSU Liberation Campaigns two votes at CUSU Council, rather than a single vote;
2. That, in the same CUSU Council, there was confusion regarding the exact amount of voting members needed for a CUSU Council to be quorate;
3. That Clause D.7i. of the CUSU Standing Orders states that: “Quorum of CUSU Council shall ordinarily consist of a number present equal to or greater than three-fifths of the number of Affiliated Common Rooms, provided the number of non-Executive Council Members present, i.e. Council Members other than those prescribed in D.6i.b), is greater than the number of Executive Committee Council Members present (as described in D.6i.b)).”

CUSU Believes:

1. That the CUSU Standing Orders should be changed to reflect the motions voted by CUSU Council;
2. That due to their voting power and their importance regarding quorum, JCRs and MCRs have a responsibility in sending at least one of their representatives to every CUSU Council;
3. That clarifying the situation regarding quorum and votes at CUSU Council is essential in showcasing the transparency of CUSU’s democratic system.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To change Clause D.6b)(3) of the CUSU Standing Orders from “the Heads of each Liberation Campaign as stipulated by Campaign constitutions in accordance with Article L (excluding Sabbatical Officers who are also Heads of Liberation Campaigns who already have a vote on behalf of their constituency via their status as both Sabbatical Officer); and,”
to
“the representatives of each Liberation Campaign, each Campaign being awarded two votes at CUSU Council (excluding Campaigns led by Sabbatical Officers who are also Heads of Liberation Campaigns, who already have a vote on behalf of their constituency via their status as both Sabbatical Officer, thus leaving only one vote to be awarded to another representative of the Campaigns in question), and the distribution of the two votes within the executive committees of the Liberation Campaigns being decided by the Campaigns’ committees themselves; and,”
2. To change Clause D.7i. of the CUSU Standing Orders from “Quorum of CUSU Council shall ordinarily consist of a number present equal to or greater than three-fifths of the number of Affiliated Common Rooms, provided the number of non-Executive Council Members present, i.e. Council Members other than those prescribed in D.6i.b), is greater than the number of Executive Committee Council Members present (as described in D.6i.b)).”
to
“Quorum of CUSU Council shall ordinarily consist of a number of present voting members equal to or greater than three-fifths of the number of Affiliated Common Rooms, provided the number of voting non-Executive Council Members present, i.e. voting Council Members

other than those prescribed in D.6i.b), is greater than the number of Executive Committee Council Members present (as described in D.6i.b)).”

3. To publish a list on the CUSU website of all the CUSU-affiliated Common Rooms, in order to make clear the required quorum for every CUSU Council;
4. To mandate the CUSU Chair to verify and declare at the start of every CUSU Council whether the quorum has been met, by certifying that the amount of voting members present is equal to or higher than three-fifths of the total of affiliated common rooms, and that the number of non-Executive Committee Council Members present is greater than the number of Executive Committee Council Members.

11B. MOTION TO HELP US IMPROVE WELFARE PROVISION ON THE YEAR ABROAD

Proposed by Micha Frazer-Carroll (welfare@cusu.cam.ac.uk), seconded by Daisy Eyre (president@cusu.cam.ac.uk)

CUSU Notes:

1. There is little support provided for year abroad students. The faculty is available to provide general advice but it is extremely difficult to provide every student with the support they need.
2. There has been growing student agitation for a leaflet such as this amongst AMES and MML students. In January 2017, a group of us – made up of several MML and AMES students on their Years Abroad – expressed concern to one another over the severe lack of welfare support given by the MML and AMES faculties prior to and over the course of the Year Abroad. Despite each student paying £1,350 to the faculties for this year, **there is little to no information or advice given regarding welfare on the Year Abroad**, not to mention there the clear lack of advice for marginalised students and students with disabilities.
3. After talking to other students, we realised that we were not alone in feeling this way: **an overwhelming number of students spoke up** about how difficult the Year Abroad had been in terms of their mental wellbeing, and how alone they felt in their struggles.
4. Although we cannot solve this problem in its entirety, **we can certainly take steps to improve the situation** for future Year Abroad students. After months of planning and working with **CUSU Welfare** and **Student Minds Cambridge**, we have now produced the first draft of a Year Abroad Welfare Resource for all students from the MML and AMES faculties. The leaflet is not prescriptive, rather it is **descriptive of other students’ experiences on the Year Abroad**. We hope that by providing a rich resource of student experience and advice, we will help future students to go into their Year Abroad better prepared for possible future challenges.

CUSU Believes:

1. That there is not enough support, and would appreciate information and encouragement between students. Many students have a very isolating experience on year abroad, due to dealing with a new language and culture and being away from their usual support systems.
2. That, in order for students to stay safe and get the most out of it their Year Abroad as possible, it is important that they are supported in every way possible.
3. That students deserve better. It is important that they do not feel let down by their faculty.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To proportion **£600** (see below) from the Council Free budget towards making and distributing the guide.
2. To encourage JCR Welfare and MML officers to **advertise** the guide.
3. Although we are working very closely with the faculty Year Abroad Co-ordinators, we would very much like this to be a **CUSU material**. This will give us more freedom to include the material that *students* want. The faculty have said that they will not be able to fund the project, because it will mean that they will have to endorse something that they themselves have not created.
4. It goes without saying that we will aim to keep costs as low as possible. Having looked at the company 'Cambridge Printing'* , we have the following estimates:
 - Each booklet: 15-20 pages
 - Number of students: Between 600 and 800 (we need to confirm this with the faculties)
 - 'Cambridge Printing' 20-page A5 Landscape Booklets x 1000 = £537
 - → **£600 (approximate cost)**

*We will ask around to find out the best and cheapest company; this is just being used to create an estimate.

We hope that you consider our application. If you have any questions, please email Michaela Hine at mh794@cam.ac.uk . Other co-ordinators: Jess Lindley and Eleanor Fawcett.

11C. RENEWAL AND LAPSING OF EXISTING POLICY

Proposed by Daisy Eyre (CUSU President), seconded by Florence Oulds (CUSU Disabled Students' Officer)

CUSU Notes:

1. That CUSU Council this term passed amendments to the Standing Orders to separate long-term motions, titled policy, from short-term motions, titled actions, in order to provide greater accountability of elected officers to working on the former.
2. That much of the existing policy of CUSU is no longer relevant and such motions are no longer necessary to hold officers accountable to.
3. That CUSU Council temporarily renewed all policy set to lapse at the beginning of this term.

CUSU Believes:

1. That motions that refer entirely to commitments which are no longer relevant and/or have been fully implemented, need not remain as policy.
2. That reducing the list of current policy to only include relevant resolutions will aid greater accountability of elected officers to these commitments.
3. That Council should have the opportunity to renew long-term policy that is set to lapse, but may refer to ongoing interests of CUSU members.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To lapse the following policies which refer entirely to now-defunct issues and/or have entirely and definitively had their resolutions achieved:
 - Motion on amendments to the CUSU Women’s Campaign Constitution
 - Calling an Extraordinary NUS Conference
 - Motion to remain affiliated to the National Union of Students
 - Motion to increase the size of the CUSU Trustee Board
 - Motion to appoint 3 external trustees
 - Motion to adopt a Memorandum of Understanding with the Graduate Union
 - Motion for CUSU “Have your cake and eat it” campaign
 - Motion to ratify the CUSU budget
 - Motion to appoint student trustees
 - Motion to increase the size of the CUSU Trustee Board
 - Motion to approve the constitutional referendum put forward by the CUSU LGBT+ Autonomous Campaign
 - Motion to allocate funding from the Council Free Budget to Cambridge Nightline
 - Motion to submit name-blind UCAS admissions motion to NUS National Conference
 - Motion to remain affiliated to UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA)
 - Motion to remain affiliated to the Cambridge Council for Voluntary Services
 - Motion to maintain affiliation with the NUS
 - Motion to take amendments to the CUSU Constitution to referendum
 - Motion to take amendments to the CUSU Standing Orders to referendum
 - Motion to ratify employment contracts for sabbatical officers 2017-18
 - Motion to elect two members to the Cambridge Student Board of Directors
 - Supporting the National Demo for Education
 - Supporting the National Education Demo
 - Moving NUS delegate elections to Michaelmas term
 - Support changes to CUSU’S affiliation fee model (Michaelmas IV 2016)¹
 - Appoint Student Trustees (Michaelmas II 2016)
 - Pilot the Board of Policy Scrutiny (BoPS)
 - Application of Council Free Budget to fund exam-related welfare events in Easter Term
 - Amend the proposed budget for 2016-17
 - CUSU EU Referendum
 - Appointment of the Student Trustee Selection Group
 - Approving the Sabbatical Officer Contracts 2016-17
 - Opening nominations for the CUSU Disabled Students’ Officer
 - Deferring the election of the CUSU Coordinator
 - Enact a referendum on disaffiliation from the National Union of Students
 - Appoint Connor MacDonald as Part-Time Education Campaigns Officer
 - Support for Keep the Streetlights campaign
 - Support the Cambridge Calais Refugee Action Group (Michaelmas III 2015)²
 - Supporting the National Demo for Free Education

¹ The more recent motion, also titled “Support changes to CUSU’S affiliation fee model” and passed at Michaelmas II 2016, involves ongoing resolutions for CUSU work.

² The earlier motion, also titled “Support the Cambridge Calais Refugee Action Group” and passed at Michaelmas II 2015, involves ongoing resolutions for CUSU work.

- Actively campaign against Cambridgeshire County Council's proposed streetlight switch-off
 - Appoint Student Trustees (Michaelmas II 2015)
2. To renew the following policy set to lapse this year:
- Increasing student input into CUSU's budget
 - Provide information and resources for ending abusive relationships
 - Fight the use of unpaid internships
 - End Week Five blues
 - Support the 'Good Night Out' project