CUSU Council Lent I
7pm, Monday 23rd January 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. Fortnightly; to be held in the same venue at the same time unless informed otherwise.
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. Proposed changes to CUSU’s Constitution (20 minutes)
9. Ordinary motions
   a. Supporting a Boycott of the National Student Survey
   b. Campaigning for Unconscious Bias Training in Colleges
10. Any other business
    a. Elections Committee Election
    b. Societies Syndicate Election
    c. Board of Policy Scrutiny Election
2. CORRECTIONS TO THE MINUTES OF THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING

Please click here: CUSU Council 21 November 2016 Minutes

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY COMMITTEES, CAMPAIGN TEAMS AND THE EXECUTIVE

AMATEY DOKU – CUSU PRESIDENT

- Meetings with College representatives:
  - Newnham JCR
  - Wolfson College Students Association
  - Robinson MCR
  - Corpus MCR
  - Clare MCR
  - Fitzwilliam MCR
  - Pembroke Graduate Parlour
  - Emmanuel MCR
  - Jesus MCR
  - Clare Hall CR
  - Kings MCR
  - Queens MCR
  - St Edmunds CR
- Attended a meeting of the InterConnect Steering Group
- Had a Critical friends meeting with key members of the University
- Met with Paul Mylrae the Communications Director
- Attended a Union Development Away day in London to discuss proposed changes to the Constitution and Standing Orders and had numerous meetings subsequently
- Met with representatives of the Truth for Giulio (Regeni) campaign to discuss
- Had a meeting with the Pro Vice Chancellor for Institutional and International Relations, Eilis Ferran
- Chaired a meeting of the Board of Trustees
- Attended Senior Tutors’ Committee
- Attended the Schools Liaison Officers Group deputising for the Access Officer
- Met two students from Universities in Ukraine who were visiting the UK on a scheme organised by the British Council to discuss student representation and University governance
- Attended the Campaign Advisory Board
- Hosted 12 student leaders from India as part of their trip to the UK, including two General Secretaries from the National Students’ Union of India
- Met with Umang Khandelwal, the Independent Member on University Council
- Attended an Unconscious Bias training session at Hughes Hall, run by the Equality and Diversity Department
- Attended Graduate Union Council on behalf of CUSU
- Attended a Discussion at the Senate House on drafts of the University’s new policy of harassment and sexual misconduct
• Attended the Planning and Resources Committee
• Met with the Chair of CUSU Council and the Democracy Support Coordinator to discuss lessons learnt from Council this term
• Met with Matthew Russel at the College of Intercollegiate services to discuss next steps with regards to the Affiliation fees proposals
• Attended two meetings of the University Council
• Attended the Resource Management Committee
• Met with new editors of the Tab, TCS and Varsity
• Attended a Training session at the Disability Resource Centre on Working with Disabled Students
• Attended the CamCORS Management Committee
• Attended the Information and Security Management Subcommittee
• Attended two meetings of the Council’s Committee for the Supervision of Students Unions
• Attended the CUSU Conference training session for volunteers and presented 2 sessions and gave the opening and closing remarks

ROBERTA HULDISCH – CUSU EDUCATION OFFICER

• Represented students on the following committees
  o General Board (x2)
  o General Board Education Committee
  o Senior Tutors’ Standing Committee on Education
  o Day-long Review Panel of the Institute for Continuing Education’s non-degree awarding course programme
  o Sexual Harassment Working Group
  o CUSU Board of Trustees

• Continued lobbying the University against participation in TEF2
  o Contacted all members of Colleges Committee informing them of student and staff opposition to TEF before they issued their recommendation
  o Got CUSU’s open letter included as an appendix to the University’s case for participation in TEF and spoke to it at General Board
  o Coordinated flyering and student presence outside the Senate House on the day of the decision
  o Article against TEF was published in Varsity
  o Began planning CUSU’s next steps after the University Council chose to participate in TEF

• Organised the Student-Led Teaching Awards 2017: opened nominations, began recruiting a judging panel and publicising the Awards, and worked on logistics for the ceremony
• Began organising the Liberate My Degree week later this term, with Audrey
• Helped prepare and run CUSU Conference and delivered two session: a talk/discussion on Higher Education policy and Student Academic Rep training & networking
• Opened a student consultation on reforming degree classifications
• Attended a Discussion at Senate House on the proposed University Sexual Harassment policy
• Met with Graham Virgo, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Education
• Met with the Computer-Based Exams Pilot Project Board to discuss communicating with students
• Met with Grad Union Vice President to discuss the Big Cambridge Survey and better support and training for postgrads who supervise
• Met with Richard Young from University Information Services to discuss the University Card Committee
• Weekly meetings with Alice Benton from Education and Student Policy
• Met with Meg Tait from Professional and Personal Development to discuss supervisor training
• Attended a workshop on Working with Disabled Students at the Disability Resource Centre
• Planned an activity for the Cambridge Shadowing Scheme participants

**JESSICA WING – DISABLED STUDENTS’ OFFICER**

To update at CUSU Council

**AUDREY SEBATINDIRA – CUSU WOMEN’S OFFICER**

• Put together and printed Gender Agenda 2015 anthology
• Organised Gender Agenda anthology launch event
• Put together Lent termcard
• Met with Roberta to discuss plans for Liberate My Degree Week
• Met with the Harassment Working Group
• Met with the Sexual Harassment Working Group
• Put together a Liberation 101 for CUSU Council and ran it on the day
• Organised women’s officers’ training
• Met with my exec committee
• Organised a contingent to go to the Women’s March on London
• Spoke at a panel event on intersectional feminism at LSE
• Met with the police and the Safety Advisory Group to discuss Reclaim the Night
• Went to sabb meetings
• Went to representation meetings
• Held WomCam Forums
• Attended a CUSU trustee meeting
• Met with students from a Ukrainian university
• Attended a sexism/sexual harassment seminar
• Met with the Head of OSCCA
• Attended Reclaim the Night meetings
• Spoke at the discussion at the Senate House on the Uni’s new sexual misconduct and harassment policy
• Attended reflective practice meetings
• Worked on creating a new WomCam website

**SOPHIE BUCK – CUSU/GU WELFARE AND RIGHTS OFFICER**

• Attended several meetings about Winter Vacation Activities
• Made a Facebook Group for students staying in Cambridge over the Winter Holidays/Vacation. Managed this Facebook group.
• Assisting Jessica in writing her ‘Undergraduate Guide to Intermission’
• Attended another meeting about the Sexual Health Supplies scheme
• Attended two Students’ Unions’ Advice Service’s ‘Reflective Practice’ Meetings
• Held a Welfare Officer Training Session (Nov)
• Held a Welfare Officer Meeting (Nov)
• Working on updating by Useful Welfare Contacts List
• Attended meeting about planning the CUSU Conference (where J/MCR committee members and autonomous campaign committee members can receive training and network with other officers)
• Attended College Nurses Meeting. The Head of OSSCA (the new university department for student complaints) presented the proposed University Sexual Harassment Policy.
• Attended GU Council
• Hour-long meeting with a student about the DRC. Discussed individual differences in people wanting or not wanting official diagnoses.
• Ran a screening of the Pixar film 'Inside Out' at St Edmunds for students still in Cambridge over the vacation. Snacks were provided. About 10 students attended.
• Attended the ‘Dissecting Masculinity III’ event in London, run by Consented. Went to two workshops: (1) Intimacy, (2) Sex and Patriarchy.
• Attended the British Neuroscience Society Symposium on Mental Health research, where many researchers presented their latest work. Greater diversity needed.
• Meeting with Jessica (CUSU DSO) and John Harding from the DRC. Discussed the Universal Lecture Recording Policy, the UNI4 Bus, the proposal for speeding up clinical diagnosis for students with ADHD, among other things.
• Working on a Best Practice for Intermission paper with Jessica to present to the Welfare and Finance Committee (a Senior Tutors off-shoot).
• Working on a Welfare and Rights Guide to Services (related to Useful Welfare Services list)
• Finished writing the Sexual Health Scheme 2015-16 Review (!)
• Provided comments on layout/wording of Big Cambridge Survey 2015-16 Draft Report
• Working on survey questions for Big Cambridge Survey 2016-17
• Made cover photo for UoC Offer Holders and Applicants Facebook Group
• Attended the Confidentiality Working Group, in which a comprehensive best-practice confidentiality policy for Colleges is being written
• Attended ‘Working with Disabled Students’ training at the Disability Resource Centre
• Attended Graduate Tutors Committee, and reported on the Winter Vacation Activities (e.g. St Edmund’s Potluck and the Winter Vacation Guide)
• Provided feedback to a company developing an emotional wellbeing app to signpost students to services in Cambridge
• Attended the Mental Health Matters zine launch
• Planning a one-off zine with Jessica, CUSU DSO
• Attended CUSU Conference, co-running two sessions
• Updated the Handbook for Welfare-Related Officers
• Attended the Welfare and Finance Committee (Senior Tutors’ Subcommittee): presented the Sexual Health Scheme Review 2015-16, discussed Winter Vacation Activities, Care Leaver Accommodation, and delays to the Sexual Harassment Policy launch, among other things.

ÉIREANN ATTRIDGE – CUSU ACCESS AND FUNDING OFFICER

• Attended the Hardship committee
• Spoke on a panel at the event ‘Universities and Schools: Selection, Sponsorship and Social Mobility’
• Attended a Trustee meeting
• Spoke to the 93% society from Bristol
• Selected applicants to take part in the shadowing scheme (both mature and standard age)
• Attended the Access Agreement Working Party
• Met with the St Edmund’s Senior Tutor to discuss the mature shadowing scheme
• Ran the first week of the CUSU Shadowing Scheme
• Attended Admissions Forum
• Met with JCR Access Officers to prepare for the Shadowing Scheme
• Attended Sabb meetings, elections meetings, CUSU conference meetings
• Took part in CUSU conference, ran a session on widening participation
- Trained mentors for the Shadowing scheme
- Attended the Outreach Steering Group
- Attended the College Outreach Monitoring Group
- Met with outreach workers at Anglia Ruskin

**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**
Updated by Audrey Sebatindira above

**8A. PROPOSED CHANGES TO CUSU’S CONSTITUTION (20 MINUTES)**
Amatey has asked for about 20 minutes of Council time to discuss proposed changes to the CUSU Constitution.

**9A. SUPPORTING A BOYCOTT OF THE NATIONAL STUDENT SURVEY**
Proposed by Amatey Doku (president@cusu.cam.ac.uk), seconded by Roberta Huldisch (education@cusu.cam.ac.uk)

**CUSU Notes:**

1. That the University decided in December to participate in the second year of the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF2) despite vocal opposition from students and staff;
2. TEF has been widely criticised for using metrics which do not primarily reflect teaching quality, such as student satisfaction and graduate destinations;
3. Participating in TEF allows Universities to raise tuition fees in line with inflation, with differential fee caps being introduced in 2019;
4. Fee increases are accumulative, which means that by 2020, students are likely to pay around £10 000 a year to attend University;
5. CUSU has existing mandates to oppose TEF and to support free education;
6. The National Student Survey (NSS), which is sent to all final year undergrads to complete, provides data for half of the TEF metrics;
7. The NSS requires a 50% response rate in order to be valid, leading the NUS and numerous Student Unions to call for a boycott of the Survey.
CUSU Believes:

1. That we should use the leverage students collectively have through the NSS to express our discontent with TEF and disturb its implementation;
2. That invalid NSS results due to a student boycott would frustrate the implementation of TEF in the future and show how easily TEF data can be manipulated;
3. That boycotting the NSS would not significantly affect CUSU’s ability to make students’ voices heard at a University level due to the existence of other more robust student surveys, such as the newly introduced Student Barometer, and CUSU's Big Cambridge Survey.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To actively encourage finalists at Cambridge to boycott the National Student Survey;
2. To allocate £100 of Council Free budget funding to go towards communicating the message to students and supporting the campaign;
3. To send out an email to all students, as soon as possible, explaining CUSU’s position and clearly detailing the link between the NSS scores, the Teaching Excellence Framework and rising fees.

9B. CAMPAIGNING FOR UNCONSCIOUS BIAS TRAINING IN COLLEGES

Proposed by Amatey Doku (president@cusu.cam.ac.uk), seconded by Audrey Sebatindira (womens@cusu.cam.ac.uk)

CUSU Notes:

1. CUSU has been working with the University’s Equality and Diversity Department on Unconscious Bias training for College staff, fellows and custodians for over a year;
2. In that time, CUSU has collated evidence and testimonials that a large proportion of students from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds believe racial or culturally-based prejudice is a problem at the University;
3. Proposals for carrying out Unconscious Bias and Equality and Diversity training were presented to Bursars, Senior Tutors and HR Managers as early as May 2016;
4. As a result of those discussions, Hughes Hall College was nominated to carry out an Unconscious Bias Training session as a pilot, which they did successfully towards the end of Michaelmas Term, 2016;
5. Incidentally, over the course of the previous year, all Colleges have been legally required to carry out Prevent training for staff and fellows under the government’s new anti-extremism strategy.

CUSU Believes:

1. That presenting staff and fellows with the impact that their biases can have on the lives of BME students can be an effective method of reducing those biases and protecting the students most affected by them;
2. That whilst Colleges seemed supportive of the proposals for Unconscious Bias training at the time, not enough Colleges have demonstrated a willingness to proactively train and educate staff, fellows and custodians in this area;
3. That in contrast, the Prevent training being rolled out across collegiate Cambridge encourages participants to rely on their biases in the pursuit of preventing people from being drawn to "extremism" as defined by UK Government policy;

4. That Unconscious Bias training is by no means the only solution to tackling the concerns consistently raised by BME students, but it may go some way to mitigating elements of the Prevent training which will disproportionately affect BME students.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To campaign for all members of College staff, fellows and custodians to attend Unconscious Bias training sessions, coordinated or supported by the Equality and Diversity department in conjunction with CUSU, targeting those individuals who regularly interact with students;

2. To work with JCR and MCR Committees to lobby Colleges to carry out the training;

3. To expand our campaigning to work with E&D and the schools and departments of the University to make Unconscious Bias training an essential part of training for supervisors.

10A. ELECTIONS COMMITTEE ELECTION

As Amatey and Audrey have resigned, CUSU Council is asked to elect up to three members to the CUSU Elections Committee. The CUSU Elections Committee is responsible for any Referenda, the scheduled cross-campus elections in Lent Term and any cross campus by-election. Members of the CUSU Elections Committee are in charge of putting together, publicising and running elections and referenda throughout the year.

It should be noted that no member of the Elections Committee, nor any person who was a member of the Elections Committee at any point during the period of four weeks before the opening of nominations in an election, can stand for a cross-campus election to the Executive or in a simultaneous NUS Delegation Election, nor can any member of the Elections Committee endorse or campaign on behalf of any candidate or choice in a referendum.

For more information, please contact alex.cicale@cusu.cam.ac.uk

Any member of CUSU is eligible to stand to be a member of the CUSU Elections Committee. Please send nominations to alex.cicale@cusu.cam.ac.uk by 5pm Sunday 22nd January 2017.

10B. SOCIETIES SYNDICATE ELECTION

The Societies Syndicate awards grants and guarantees against loss to registered university societies. In practice most grants are awarded by the Technical Committee with the full Syndicate only meeting to consider large or annual applications.

There are two positions available.

If you would like any further information, please contact president@cusu.cam.ac.uk. If you would like to run for the position please email the CUSU Coordinator at alex.cicale@cusu.cam.ac.uk. The deadline for nominations is 5pm Sunday 22nd January 2017.

10C. BOARD OF POLICY SCRUTINY ELECTION

The Board of Policy Scrutiny was established as a result of a motion passed last term. We are looking for 2 JCR Presidents/VPs and 2 MCR Presidents/VPs to serve on this committee.
You would be responsible for scrutinising the progress of all live policy passed at CUSU Council on behalf of the Council and holding officers responsible to account. You would also report back to Council on the progress of policy and make recommendations for the execution of policy and make recommendations for the amendments of policy to Council.

If you would like any further information, please contact president@cusu.cam.ac.uk. If you would like to run for the position please email the CUSU Coordinator at alex.cicale@cusu.cam.ac.uk. The deadline for nominations is 5pm Sunday 22nd January 2017.