

**Cusu Council EASTER I**
Monday 29TH APRIL 2019, 7pm

1. Objections to the order of items on the agenda

2. Matters arising from the minutes of the last council

Minutes can be accessed via the CUSU council page at www.cusu.co.uk, email links or the folder shared on Facebook.

3. Announcements by committees, campaign teams and the executive

Evie:

* Reminder that council is now being operated under the new structure as the change has been officially implemented as the constitution has now changed
* Because of the democracy review we need elections this term to elect part time execs alongside the sabbs. Nominations are open and elections will be held next week alongside the liberation campaign elections.
* Elections committee has dwindled so Evie will be interim returning officer
* Normal elections: local elections on Thursday, make facebook events and encourage people to vote as local elections are usually won by small margins.
* Updated society directory, if anyone has questions on this get in touch
* Need to elect a new trustee next council so ned someone to offer to help in the committee to decide.
* VC open meeting tomorrow, it’d be great to have a high turnout. If you have applied to attend on the event you are going.

Matt:

* Student led teaching awards to be announced next week and working on reasonable adjustment support

Claire:

* working on anti-marketisation
* VP of higher education elects for NUS
* planning for forums over the next terms
* working with disciplinary procedure

Christine:

* lots of training this term for wellbeing and liberation
* has arranged a programme for mental awareness week which looks at supporting yourself and others

Emrys:

* DSC committee elections coming up. If you think you may identify as disabled but aren’t sure, get in contact
* Zine submissions

Shadab:

* Email president or access officer by 2nd May, few ideas so far but need thoughts to show engagement.

Questions:

Q: There is no mention of PG students in the accessibility info, what can we do to resolve this?

A: Email in to using the subject ‘where are the grads?’. The aim is to make more accessible and open to everyone. If you email in before changeover, we can ensure student politics are more accessible for mental illness.

Ethical Affairs:

* Elections coming up, 6 positions two are open roles, others include carbon neutral or community rep.
* Working on carbon neutral targets and have a big meting coming up, we need student support to push university.
* Green officer meeting on Wednesday @ 6:30
* Activist hack for all college level campaigns
* 9th information workshop regarding direct action, links on facebook page about social justice etc.

LGBT+ Campaign:

* Rainbow ball and garden party coming up, raising money for amnesty with opportunities to contribute at all events.
* Active allies event, more on facebook page

iCUSU:

* Finished by-elections so full committee, collecting survey on scholarships for internationals society

Class Act Campaign:

* Big formal the other week
* Elections nominations are open, lots of different roles available

4. Discussions

Student representation (moved to after point 7)

Presented by Evie: CUSU underwent a review of post grad representation 3 years ago and decided to review in again. Survey over the holidays on representation of structures. This year were working more closely with the GU, as well as faculty and college reps. Found in the survey that PG understanding of what CUSU do is very low so clearly missing the mark. We’re looking at how we can better represent them and suggestions of how to do this.

Starter questions for discussion:

* How do we as student reps ensure that we engage PG’s in activities and advocate for them and their issues?
* How can we change events to include PG students?
* Can we make spaces more available and accessible, so they are more included?
* How can we work better together?

Feedback summary

* How to involve PG’s in existing activities?
	+ Fresher fair related activities in the evening, such as inductions or pop up freshers’ fairs in colleges/ refresher fair where grads are e.g. Addenbrookes, library’s etc as they will rarely see things in colleges but might in departments.
* Representation
	+ Make sure college level representation is equalised, collaborate on rent issues, open meetings and divestment
	+ More collaboration. Elections mean that MCR/JCR presidents may miss each other. Rounders/ other committee-based activities could help them collaborate more.
	+ Different structures co-exist and do not work well together. PG students are represented by lots of different groups and lose track. This is particularly true at department level, which is particularly hard to navigate, as different things could be dealt with in different faculties, schools or departments.
	+ Masters students are probably in the most difficult situations as, unlike PhD students who have their long-term supervisors, they are only at university for 9 months in which they rarely meet their support staff. This is the same with GU staff. Living wage campaigns etc help the PhD students but masters do not. Exist in between the two categories.
* Getting PG students involved
	+ Some colleges don’t even have UG students so never see the UG students, especially those who didn’t go to Cambridge for their UG degree. Some PG students would enjoy mentoring or research idea sharing which may be beneficial to both parties.
* University structure
	+ The university structure is in 8 week terms, reflecting the UG degrees. However, as PG populations is nearly even, there should be a structure that reflects this.

5. Ordinary policy motions from previous council

The following motions were approved at council:

**Motion to mandate the development of CUSU CamSpire - a novel outreach initiative\***

**To approve changes to the Disabled Students Campaign constitution**

As this is a constitutional change, it **was voted through** a second time, and received a unanimous vote.

6. Proposed ordinary POLICY motions

7. Proposed Standing order changes

**Motion to Support the Disabled Students’ Campaign Accessibility Pledge**
Proposed: Rensa Gaunt (Part Time Exec for Part Time Students)

Seconded: Jess O’Brien (CUSU Disabled Students’ Officer-Elect)

Presented by Rensa Gaunt: Essentially the wording of the pledge asks CUSU to support the pledge and make MCR/JCRs aware that they can also support it. Find that support for students is often lacking, many students study double time for illness reasons and are often unaware and left out of student event. Accessibility is one factor that is an issue with this as often no one would make clear what the accessibility was like and it is often easier to not go. 13% of students registered with a disability and the real number is likely higher. Small changes with accessibility, even if it is to let people know when accessibility requirements can’t be met, makes people feel a lot more welcome and it makes it clear that the clubs and societies are on their side.

Clarification: guidance is already provided by CUSU, as seen in supporting documents.

Comments:

Emrys: If anyone would like access to the powerpoints for accessibility training get in touch, there will also be training next year.

Vote:

Unanimously in favour. Motion passes.

8. Any other business

College forum next week- covers college-based issues, e.g quiet periods, mental health awareness fortnight and more informal JCR level work.

Democracy review- academic forum coming up and discussing academic staff, potential plan to scrap fines etc.