2017-18 Policy

Motion to promote a more accessible Cambridge for students in receipt of the full Cambridge bursary

CUSU Notes:

1. That some aspects of life at Cambridge (such as society dinners, balls and events in May Week) are inaccessible to some students due to their cost
2. That while in receipt of a full bursary, some students still remain unable to afford to attend such events
3. That moves have been made to make Cambridge more accessible to students in receipt of a full bursary Hughes Hall’s 20% discount on May Ball tickets and the heavily-subsidised Cambridge Union’s Access Membership

CUSU Believes:

1. That aspects of life at Cambridge must be made more inclusive for students from low-income backgrounds;
2. That progressive pricing systems are one way in which events can be made more accessible to students from low-income backgrounds;
3. That progressive pricing systems should be implemented more widely to ensure that students are able to participate fully in all that Cambridge has to offer;

CUSU Resolves:

1. To mandate the CUSU Access Officer to email all May Ball and June Event presidents at the start of Michaelmas and Lent Terms to encourage subsidised ticket options for students in receipt of the full Cambridge Bursary
2. To mandate the CUSU Access Officer to contact society Access Officers at the start of Michaelmas, Lent and Easter Terms to encourage the provision of subsidised tickets to formal dinners, balls, galas etc. for students in receipt of the full Cambridge Bursary
3. To mandate the CUSU Access Officer to contact sports societies at the start of Michaelmas, Lent and Easter Terms to encourage subsidised ticket options for post-Varsity match dinners for students in receipt of the full Cambridge Bursary
Motion to mandate CUSU to work with Cambridge Refugee Scholarship Campaign to lobby the University to create scholarships

CUSU Notes:

1. That the plight of refugees remains a matter of concern both in the United Kingdom and around the world;
2. That the University of Cambridge has no sustainable system of funding scholarships or other forms of financial support for refugee students whilst 59 UK universities, including the University of Oxford, do;
3. That CRSC has been working towards providing scholarships for future refugee students at the University of Cambridge;
4. That CRSC has been endorsed by refugee-related groups in Cambridge and 5 J/MCRs.

CUSU Believes:

1. That access to higher education should be based on merit, and not nationality, race or financial situation;
2. That the University of Cambridge has a responsibility to support refugee students;
3. That due to the university’s prominence by supporting this cause, it has the potential to influence the policy pertaining to student refugees at a national and international level;
4. That such a scheme would not only change the lives of the refugee students, but also enrich the Cambridge community.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To lobby the university to introduce scholarships covering course and maintenance fees for refugees and individuals who have been granted international protection by the state in which they reside lawfully;
2. To encourage J/MCRs to support CRSC by passing motions at college councils to endorse the campaign.
3. To assist CRSC in any potential campaign attempting to raise awareness or provide resources regarding the aforementioned issues, specifically in terms of increasing the visibility of such campaigns and putting pressure on the relevant institutions.
Motion to encourage the uniformization of LGBT+ rights across the University

CUSU Notes:

1. That the Cambridge collegiate system, due to the autonomy of colleges in multiple policy areas, is responsible for wide inequalities in the provision of rights and support to students;
2. That as of February 1st, 2018, only four out of thirty-one Cambridge colleges had not yet allowed for the Rainbow flag to be flown on the main college flag pole on the first day of LGBT+ History Month;
3. That there are wide inequalities in terms of how much of a say student representative may have in certain departments or faculties;
4. That LGBT+ related issues have rarely been raised within faculties and departments.

CUSU Believes:

1. That the relative independence and autonomy of colleges within Cambridge’s governing structure should not be responsible for negatively affecting the experience of LGBT+ students at Cambridge;
2. That the University has a responsibility in ensuring that LGBT+ students are provided with a safe and tolerant environment when they arrive at Cambridge, and thus that they should have all access to similar rights and support as University members;
3. That it is CUSU’s role to assist and encourage JCRs and MCRs to address certain issues related to the welfare of Cambridge students, by providing resources, information and support;
4. That CUSU is the best placed institution to help faculty and department student representatives to address accessibility and welfare issues in Cambridge faculties and departments.

CUSU Resolves:

1. Every year, as long as is necessary, to send out an email to all JCRs and MCRs to remind them to consider ways in which they could attempt to change college policies in order to improve support towards and the rights of LGBT+ students, especially on the following issues:
   a. The provision of gender-neutral toilets across college;
   b. The flying of the Rainbow flag on the main college flag pole on the first day of LGBT+ History Month;
   c. DE gendering college dress codes on occasions such as formal dinners, matriculation and graduation ceremonies, by making sure that college does not assign different dress codes based on their perception of what is appropriate for each gender;
d. Providing training in LGBT+ issues to relevant staff in college, such as nurses, tutors, or counsellors, especially on the topic of gender identity issues;

e. Ensuring that sexuality and gender identity and any other relevant LGBT+ identities are built into the college’s bullying and harassment policies;

f. Ensuring that colleges have an easily accessible protocol regarding name changes, and that guidance is provided on how to change Criss;

2. To support and encourage all faculty and department representatives to address relevant LGBT+ related issues in their faculty and department meetings, on topics such as the provision of gender-neutral toilets or training lecturers and supervisors in understanding and respecting LGBT+ identities;

3. If and when relevant, to assist CUSU LGBT+ in any potential campaign attempting to raise awareness or provide resources regarding the aforementioned issues, specifically in terms of increasing the visibility of such campaigns and putting pressure on the relevant institutions.

**Students not Suspects**

CUSU notes:

1. The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a statutory requirement on public bodies and specified authorities – including universities – to prevent people being drawn into terrorism and to implement the Prevent Duty.

2. That, under the Prevent duty, Cambridge University interfered with the composition of a panel, in a way they now admit was wrong

3. The Prevent Duty, as part of the Governments anti-extremism work has been used to create an expansive surveillance architecture to spy on the public and to police dissent, systematically targeting BME people and Muslims.

4. That this architecture has been part of the further criminalisation of Muslims and BME people and comes amidst a campaign of fear and demonization from the government - Muslims had an approximate 1 in 500 chance of having been referred to Prevent last year, approximately 40 times more likely than someone who is not a Muslim.

5. Under Prevent, lecturers have been known to report students as being at risk of radicalisation for merely taking an interest in political affairs in class, or for observing their religion more closely, whilst politically active students have found themselves visited by counter-terrorism officers.
6. The Government’s counter-terrorism/security policy is fundamentally flawed in its approach; its operant concepts of extremism and radicalism are ill-defined and open to abuse for political ends.

7. That the National Union of Students (NUS) and University and Colleges Union (UCU) have both passed motions at their conferences opposing the Act and Prevent.

CUSU believes:

1. That students are not suspects.
3. That the Prevent Duty consistently targets Muslim people and BME people, being structured in ways that encourage increased suspicion of these groups.
4. That the Prevent agenda discourages free expression and analysis of ideas. Academics, as well as anyone in a public-sector job, should not have to be part of this surveillance.
5. That the Prevent agenda is based on flawed research and hasty legislation.
6. That the Prevent training used by the University undermines its commitment to taking a light touch to the duty.
7. That the implementation of the Prevent duty undermines the University’s commitment to accessibility and openness.
8. That universities and colleges are places for education, not surveillance.
9. That the implementation of the Prevent duty not only isolates Muslim students but undermine the civil liberties of other groups such as environmental, political and humanitarian activists.

CUSU resolves:

1. To oppose the Prevent Agenda and its implementation at the University.
2. To encourage the University to take a rights-based approach to Prevent, similar to that of Oxford University.
3. To work to reform the University’s Prevent Training.
4. Not to implement the Prevent Duty in our capacity as the Students’ Union.
5. To survey students about the impacts of Prevent on their education and wellbeing, thereby gathering data about the chilling effect of the duty.
6. To work with students to take action on Prevent, including writing a report on the workings of Prevent in Cambridge, and gathering...
information (action plans, risk assessments) from the University and Colleges

Motion to support the Sustainable Ball movement through Ethical Affairs

CUSU Notes:

1. That May Balls in their current state are extremely unsustainable;
2. That they use an excessive amount of resources, create a huge amount of waste and produce a lot of extra greenhouse gasses;
3. That student organisers are in position to mitigate the environmental impacts of May Balls;

CUSU Believes:

1. That the environmental impact of May Balls is everyone's concern;
2. That we have a responsibility as both organisers and attendees to mitigate this impact;
3. That there are sufficient resources available to make May Balls significantly more sustainable;

CUSU Resolves:

1. To officially support the Sustain-a-ball campaign jointly with other interested parties (namely Cambridge University Environmental Consulting Society, CUECS);
2. To mandate the CUSU Ethical Affairs Team to work towards greener May Balls
3. To provide resources and a platform for this campaign through the Ethical Affairs team;
4. To co-opt a member to facilitate a working relationship between the Ethical Affairs Team and CUECS
5. To encourage all JCRs to make sure there is a green officer or equivalent on every ball committee.

CUSU Motion to Support Fossil Fuel Divestment

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.

**Motion to Encourage JCR and MCR Committees to Include Elected Student Minority Positions**

**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.

**Free Education Motion**

*Officer responsible - Matt Kite (Education)*

**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 marketized.

Motion to support student rent campaigns

CUSU Notes:

3. Rents make up a large part of the cost of living for students in Cambridge;
4. There is a large disparity between rent costs at different colleges;
5. Rents often increase annually above inflation;
6. Many students face unfair changes in addition to their rent, such as the Kitchen Fixed Charge or punitive fines added to college bills;
7. The Big Cambridge survey (BCS) 2016-17 found that only 55% percent of students were satisfied by the value for money of their accommodation, and at some colleges the proportion satisfied is as low as 12%;
8. That many students feel unfairly treated in accommodation matters, as evinced by the BCS.

CUSU Believes:

3. High costs of living are a material barrier to access;
4. Students should not face significant differences in quality of life across colleges;
5. Rents at some colleges are too high;
6. All students have the right to financial security while at Cambridge.

CUSU Resolves:

2. To endorse student-led campaigns, including ‘Cambridge, Cut the Rent’ to reduce rents in their colleges.
3. To mandate CUSU sabbatical officers to support these campaigns through data collection and any other such measures;
4. To mandate CUSU sabbatical officers to raise the issue of rents, and their effect on access and student quality of life, where appropriate in their meetings with the university and colleges.

Combating Sexual Misconduct and Violence in Cambridge

CUSU Notes:

1. The University is launching a Campaign called “Breaking the Silence: Cambridge Speaks out against Sexual Misconduct” on October 24th 2017 which aims to convey a zero-tolerance approach to all forms of sexual misconduct and violence experienced by staff and students and is the first time the university has spoken publicly on the issue of sexual misconduct.
2. The Women’s Campaign has consistently collected data on the impact of sexual violence on students. The Cambridge Speaks Out Survey (2014) found that 77% of respondents had experienced some form of sexual harassment in their time as students and that women were the most likely group to experience sexual violence.
3. The NUS Hidden Marks Survey from 2012 found that 68 percent of respondents had experienced sexual harassment and 1 in 7 survey respondents has experienced a serious physical or sexual assault.
4. The University has recently hired a new sexual assault advisor to be an integral part of the university wide sexual assault procedure that has been launched under the umbrella of the Campaign.

CUSU Believes:

1. That sexual violence affects everyone and sexual misconduct is a serious and endemic problem in our society that must be tackled head on by all members of the university.
2. One of the benefits to tackling sexual violence is dismantling a culture of complicity and ensuring that survivors are more likely to access specific support services and receive the aftercare they need.
3. That justice looks different for every survivor and that prescribing a particular “recovery route” is unproductive.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To mandate future sabbatical officers to dedicate time and appropriate resources to raising awareness about sexual misconduct and violence in Cambridge and run active campaigns where possible to tackle the issue.
2. To publicly support the University’s new campaign and commit themselves to improving support services in Cambridge for student survivors of sexual misconduct and violence.
3. To publicise attempts to combat sexual violence such as Consent workshops, events and campaigns from the Women’s Campaign and other relevant groups
4. To mandate future sabbatical officers with special emphasis on the women’s officer, to ensure a good working relationship with the New Sexual Assault Advisor, SUAS and OSCCA.

Motion to support the Living Wage Campaign

CUSU Notes:

1. That the Living Wage is £8.45/hour.
2. That there are more than 3,000 Living-Wage employers, including the University of Oxford.
3. That some colleges are committed to paying the Living Wage (though the situation in most colleges is unknown)
4. That all directly-employed University staff are paid the Living Wage, but this may not be true of contracted workers
5. That CUSU is applying for Living Wage Accreditation
6. That CUSU Ethical Affairs are mandated to fight for the Living Wage.
CUSU Believes:

1. That respecting the dignity of all those who work at the University of Cambridge involves paying them a decent wage.
2. That we are part of the University of Cambridge and we have a responsibility to all who work here, whose work builds towards our educations.
3. That claims of “excellence” by the University should be well-rounded, involving not just academia, but social responsibility and values.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To fight for the University and Colleges to pay all workers the Living Wage, whether directly employed or contracted
2. To ensure that the living wage is implemented without any disadvantaging current staff
3. To make sure that any implementation of the living wage pays rises in accordance with the national living wage
4. To encourage the University to apply to Living Wage Accreditation.

**Increasing student input into CUSU’s budget**

CUSU Notes:

1. That a number of students’ unions across the country are implementing ‘participatory budgeting’ which allows students to discuss and debate how funding should be allocated, rather than simply being presented with a fixed budget determined by officers;
2. That changes to CUSU’s Standing Orders in February 2015 introduced Campaigns Officers to CUSU’s executive structure;
3. That the budget prepared by the Coordinator for 2015/16 includes a reduction of Executive Team budgets and a significant expansion of the Council Free Budget.

CUSU Believes:

1. That CUSU’s funding priorities should be set by the student body as a whole, not just by a small group of elected officers;
2. That Campaigns Officers, by their nature, are difficult to assign budgets to under CUSU’s traditional funding system as it is unclear when CUSU’s
budget is drawn up which campaigns will be selected by students and what resources they will require;

3. That those outside of the CUSU executive should also have the opportunity to seek funds from CUSU for projects and campaigns which students support and which further CUSU’s charitable aims;

4. That it is important to introduce a structure which allows the funds within Council Free Budget to be distributed to campaigns and projects responsibly and with maximum student input.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To hold CUSU’s Michaelmas Term Open Meeting after the election of CUSU’s Campaigns Officers, with allocation of Council Free Budget funds as the first agenda item;

2. To implement a bidding process by which students can submit funding bids and have them deliberated on by attendees, within the context of other bids submitted;

3. To aim to assign the balance of the Council Free Budget, minus £1000, to campaigns and projects through this bidding process;

4. To work with elected Campaigns Officers to determine the resource requirements of their campaigns and support them in developing their budgets and bids;

5. To advertise the opportunity for campaign funding to the student body, with clear guidelines for what sort of activities CUSU would be able to fund and support for those who wish to develop a bid;

6. To promote the Open Meeting widely to all students to ensure as many people as possible take part in decisions about the allocations of these funds.

Provide information and resources for ending abusive relationships

CUSU Notes:

1. That 1 in 4 women are victims of domestic violence, and men also can be;

2. That women ages 16-24 are at the highest risk for being victims of domestic abuse;

3. That misconceptions about the nature of relationship abuse are held by the general public, abusers, and especially victims;

4. That the University of Cambridge is lacking in readily available information for students or staff about recognising or seeking help for one's self or others in cases of abusive relationships;

5. That seeking help can be very difficult for victims both emotionally and physically;
CUSU Believes:

1. That no one should be victim to emotional or physical abuse;
2. That the University and Colleges have a responsibility to provide for the health and safety of their students;
3. That the University and Colleges are able to provide information and support that would help students avoid and escape abusive relationships;

CUSU Resolves:

1. To place posters in toilet stalls in all Colleges with information on recognising and seeking help for victims of abusive relationships;
2. To equip all college porters and tutors with information about how to support students who approach them for help, including how to access community services;
3. To provide training opportunities for porters and tutors in understanding and dealing with such situations.

Fight the use of unpaid internships

CUSU Notes:

1. That, despite the UK having a national minimum wage, there are around 15,000 people in the UK working as unpaid interns;
2. It is increasingly common for employers in certain sectors to demand a period of unpaid work experience in order to gain entry to paid employment;
3. More than 1 in 3 graduate interns are working in unpaid positions;
4. That the estimated cost of a 6-month internship is £5,556 in London and £4,728 in Manchester, exclusive of transport costs;
5. That 74% of Britons believe that a young person in their family could not afford to take up an unpaid internship.

CUSU Believes:

1. That paid internships can be a valuable experience for many students and graduates, while also providing significant benefits to employers;
2. That, by relying on interns having access to their own financial resources, unpaid internships favour the wealthy and prevent those who are less well-off from accessing work in many industries;
3. That current use of unpaid internships takes unfair advantage of minimum wage exemptions for voluntary positions;
4. That the current situation will prevent many Cambridge students from pursuing the careers they would wish, or leave them struggling to make ends meet as they attempt to enter the job market;

5. That change is needed to prevent exploitation of young people and recent graduates and to ensure fairness in entry to all sectors of the job market.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To provide information to students to help them understand their rights and options regarding unpaid internships;

2. To campaign for legislative change to prevent minimum wage exemptions for volunteers from applying to long-term internships;

3. To work with national organisers such as NUS and Intern Aware to lobby Parliament and political parties to adopt this stance.

End Week Five blues

CUSU Notes:

1. That the ‘Week Five Blues’ - a week of intense anxiety, worry, and often sadness - are seen as a regular and normal fixture of Cambridge undergraduate life.

2. That most universities allow their students a ‘reading week’ during the middle of term, to relieve pressure and give students time to rest and reflect.

3. That Cambridge has a very high incidence of mental health problems.

4. That the “End ‘Week Five Blues’” initiative seeks to draw attention to the unnecessary pressure put upon Cambridge students by encouraging students to refuse to hand in work during Week 5 Lent term.

5. That this wouldn’t mean students were encouraged to not do their work, but simply to not hand it in.

CUSU Believes:

1. That the way in which Cambridge terms are structured negatively impacts the mental health of some of its students.

2. That it is possible to have longer terms without any serious disruption to the functioning of the University.

3. That student mental health is an issue that needs to be taken more seriously by the University and its constituent colleges.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To support the #endweek5blues initiative.
2. To inform senior tutors at every college of the initiative.

3. To raise awareness of the goals of the project and related issues around student mental health.

**Support the ‘Good Night Out’ project**

**CUSU Notes:**

1. That sexual harassment of LGBT+ people is a very serious and very common problem within night-time venues in Cambridge, as evidenced by the joint CUSU Women’s Campaign and Varsity survey last year;

2. That the Good Night Out project, a national scheme founded by the NUS Women’s Officer and Hollaback London, has recently launched;

3. GNO provides training for club and bar staff on how to deal with harassment, and encourages them to sign up to pledge promising to take sexual harassment seriously. It has successfully signed up and trained several large venues across the city.

4. That the cost of training and signing up to the scheme is £250 per year.

**CUSU Believes:**

1. That harassment should play no role in University life;

2. That CUSU should work to eliminate harassment and discrimination in all its forms;

3. That the GNO project offers a useful way of countering harassment and educating night-time venues about the difficulties and harassment faced by women and LGBT+ people at their events;

**CUSU Resolves:**

1. To sign up to the pledge ourselves, and ensure it is in place and relevant staff are trained, especially for any ‘ents’ events we may hold in the future;

2. To fund training for the Women’s officer and relevant members of the CUSU Women’s Campaign Committee and CUSU Executive, which would enable us to train bar and club staff (including college ‘Ents’ teams) on how to deal with sexual harassment;

3. To allocate £250 for the training from the Council Free Budget for this year, and to budget for this expense in future years.

4. To publicise the Good Night Out project, and to encourage local venues - both within colleges and within the town generally - to sign up.

**Appendix: GNO Pledge:** “If something or someone makes you feel uncomfortable, no matter how minor it seems, you can speak to any member of staff and they’ll work with you to make sure it doesn’t have to ruin your night.”
2016-17 Policy

Motion to fund a society for male survivors of sexual abuse

CUSU Notes:

1. That 1 in 6 men are survivors of sexual abuse;
2. That for various reasons male survivors often lack opportunities to talk about their experiences;
3. That many services for survivors, including the Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre, are not open to men;
4. That a quote for half a day's workshops in training is £150.

CUSU Believes:

1. That it is important male survivors have a place to talk through their experiences;
2. That male survivors among the student body deserve support from their Student Union;
3. That it is vital to have a trained facilitator leading these discussions.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To support the society in its aims of supporting male survivors of sexual abuse;
2. To mandate CUSU sabbatical officers to aid the society in finding rooms and in potential affiliation to CUSU as an (autonomous) student group next academic year;
3. To set aside £250 from the Free Budget for training and other costs (such as printing and providing food & drink for meetings).

Motion to adopt the recommendations from the NUS report into the experiences of Jewish students

Officer responsible - Christine Pungong (Welfare & Rights)

CUSU Notes:

1. NUS recently completed a report which aimed to improve knowledge of the Jewish student experience in 2017;
2. Full report: https://nusdigital.s3-eu-west1.amazonaws.com/document/documents/33405/aecc116c1782ddf59da03dc329f04f2c/The_experience_of_Jewish_students_in_2016-17.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAJKEA56ZWKFU6MHNOQ&Expires=1494374149&Signature=Z7Qg4F7usGE%2BKOO6xEALrD63XpM%3D;
3. The report made recommendations for NUS, for the wider HE sector and for students' unions, namely that:
a. Students’ unions identify an officer who is responsible for engaging with Jsocs and Jewish students who identify as ethnic minorities and that this officer is given suitable training to carry out their role, and consider whether staff supporting officers need further training in addition;
b. Students’ unions commit to actively support and engage with their Jewish societies by actively showing how Jewish students are represented in their union;
c. Together with their parent institution, students’ unions should ensure Jewish students have a space in which to talk about issues which affect them, where this does not already exist;
4. Representatives from Cambridge University Jewish Society expressed a need to consult more widely about the provision of Kosher food and how timetabling might affect Jewish students in Cambridge.

CUSU Believes:

1. That against a backdrop of rising anti-Semitism and hate crime across the UK, and after incidents at Cambridge, everything must be done to ensure that Jewish students feel safe on campus;
2. That these measures go some way into ensuring that CUSU plays its role in ensuring that Jewish students feel safe and welcome at Cambridge.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To adopt the 4 recommendations for students’ Unions from the report;
2. To consult more widely on the provision of Kosher food and how timetabling might affect Jewish students in Cambridge.

Motion to create an enquiry committee with regard to CUSU’s recent financial losses

CUSU Notes:

1. That in the financial year 2015-2016 CUSU incurred a loss of £59,000;
2. That for the ongoing financial year 2016-2017 CUSU is projected to incur a loss of £140,000 (1. and 2. jointly “the financial losses”);
3. That the financial losses were incurred due to a shortfall in projected income from external publications;
4. That the reasons as to why the projected income was set too high remain unclear.

CUSU Believes:

1. That the student body deserves to know how and why the financial losses were incurred;
2. That mistakes made in the past while setting the budget should not be repeated;
3. That CUSU’s governance should undergo structural changes (if necessary) to avoid future financial losses;

CUSU Resolves:

1. To form an Enquiry Committee to determine how exactly the financial losses were incurred, how the decisions that led to the losses were made, and if and how CUSU’s governance should be changed to reflect these findings and avoid future losses;
2. To mandate seven members of CUSU to be part of this Enquiry Committee; any vacancies shall be co-opted by the Enquiry Committee.
3. To ask the Enquiry Committee to present its Final Report at the last CUSU Council of Michaelmas term 2017;
4. To authorise the Enquiry Committee to ask for any evidence and witness statement that members of CUSU and CUSU staff may lawfully give in so far as it is needed for the purpose of this investigation;
5. To deem findings of facts or proposed changes in CUSU’s governance by the Enquiry Committee pertaining to staff of CUSU not to be harassment within the meaning of the Staff-Student-Protocol;
6. To mandate all members of the Enquiry Committee to secrecy about any findings and business of the Enquiry Committee in so far as they are not part of the Final Report.

Supporting a boycott of the National Student Survey

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.

Campaigning for unconscious bias training in colleges

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

Motion to support the ‘Stop Funding Hate’ campaign

CUSU Notes:

1. That hate crimes, xenophobia and racism have increased in recent times;

2. That some of this is contributed to by Newspaper Publications which perpetuate bad feeling toward and unfairly stigmatise migrants and asylum seekers;

3. That these newspapers draw large parts of their funding from companies which pay to advertise within them;

4. That some companies have already committed to withdraw their advertising in light of this.

CUSU Believes:
1. That all members of our society should feel safe in the company of and supported by those around them;
2. That publications responsible for stigmatising any group of people should be held accountable for the divisions they create;
3. That lobbying for companies to review their advertising policies will put pressure on newspapers to review their editorial stance on these issues;
4. That it would incentivise businesses to comply if we were to offer businesses which cease publishing in these newspapers a period of free publicity advertising their positive decision courtesy of CUSU;

CUSU Resolves:

1. To mandate the CUSU President to write letters to high profile businesses which advertise in newspapers that frequently write articles stigmatising migrants or asylum seekers explaining our stance and offering them a period of free publicity advertising their positive decision courtesy of CUSU if they cease advertising in these publications;
2. To distribute all appropriate responses to these letters to students at the University of Cambridge, making businesses aware of our intention to do so;
3. To circulate a letter template to JCR and MCR Committees, asking them to do the same (subject to their constitutional requirements);
4. To attempt to collaborate with other Student Unions in order to increase the success of this policy.

Motion to create an Access sub-committee

CUSU Notes:

1. That the Access and Funding Officer role involves a large amount of student facing work as well as representation on committees;
2. That this work goes on beyond the working hours of the Access and Funding Officer.

CUSU Believes:

1. Access is most effective when it is student-led;
2. Involving more students in the work of the Access and Funding Officer will: - give students a greater understanding of the Access and Funding Officer role. - ensure that student opinion and voice is at the heart of access work.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To develop an Access Subcommittee with the following roles: - Shadowing Scheme assistant coordinator - Alternative Prospectus coordinator - Cambtweet coordinator - Promotional and Outreach coordinator;
2. For these roles to be elected alongside the part time executive each year in Michaelmas term;
3. For these roles to be co-opted this year;
4. To appoint the following students to the subcommittee: - Gaia Fay Lambert (Shadowing scheme assistant coordinator) - Ellie Wood (#Cambtweet coordinator) - Tom Bevan (Promotional and Outreach coordinator)

Support changes to CUSU’s affiliation fee model - Michaelmas IV 2016

CUSU Notes:

1. That as it stands there is no link between personal membership and funding for CUSU;
2. CUSU has for years been campaigning to reform the system and to ask Colleges to pay for the central students unions through a levy;
3. Affiliation fees have also been frozen for a number of years which has meant that the central students unions have taken a real terms cut in funding.

CUSU Believes:

1. That under the current system students of a disaffiliated J/MCR benefit without contributing, and students of affiliated J/MCRs pay more than necessary to support students of disaffiliated J/MCRs;
2. This creates a picture of financial uncertainty for both unions caused by needing to provide a fixed service demand but fluctuating funding;
3. This adversely effects CUSU/GU’s attempts to improve their representation because affiliation debates are centered on commercial and transactional arguments not on political ones;
4. As long as this model places the burden on the budgets of disaffiliated MCRs and JCRs there is no incentive for them to affiliate.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To support the new funding model outlined in the Executive Summary of the main proposal attached to the motion;
2. To publicise the final version (the current iteration of which is available on request) of the main proposal to voting members of Council, before taking it to the Bursars’ Committee;
3. To circulate the final full proposal with all voting members of CUSU Council before presenting the proposal to the Bursars’ Committee;
4. To encourage all JCR and MCR Presidents to sign a letter of support for the proposal.
Motion to campaign for easy opt-out class lists

CUSU Notes:

1. That a referendum was held on the question “Should CUSU campaign to keep the Class Lists with an easier opt-out system?” on 1st to 3rd November
2. That the results were Yes 2633 (55.34%), No 2106 (44.26%), blank 19 (0.4%) and the 10% yes-voter threshold was met
3. That on 13th July 2016 the University Council proposed Grace 3 which provides, inter alia, for the abolition of Class Lists
4. That the Regent House will vote on Grace 3 from 28th November to 8th December
5. That a fly-sheet is a document circulated to all the members of the Regent House setting out the position of its authors on the Grace before it
6. That under Chapter 1, Section 4 of the University Ordinances students may sign a fly-sheet provided it includes the signatures of at least five of the following: “the President, the Deputy Presidents, and the Women's Officer of Cambridge University Students' Union, the President of the Graduate Union, the three student members of the Council, the Presidents of College Junior Combination Rooms and Middle Combination Rooms”

CUSU Believes:

1. That the student referendum must be respected
2. That Grace 3 is inconsistent with the expressed views of the students
3. That Council must pass this motion in order to comply with the new CUSU policy following the result of the referendum;

CUSU Resolves:

1. To, in conjunction with the Yes campaign, draft a non placet fly sheet in relation to Grace 3;
2. To ensure that all eligible and mandatable CUSU officers sign the fly sheet.
3. To lobby the university for keeping the Class Lists and for an unconditional right to opt out

Funding for Cambridge University Calais Refugee Action Group

CUSU Notes:

1. That the refugee crisis is a humanitarian disaster;
2. That the refugee crisis in France will be exacerbated in the coming weeks and months by the French authorities' demolition plans for the Calais camp;
3. That there are over 7,000 refugees inhabiting the Calais camp alone, many of which are children;
4. That there is great interest in Cambridge in volunteering in the camps, as evidenced by CUCRAG’s extensive mailing list (over 800 people) and by the 160 people who attended trips to volunteer in Calais and Dunkirk in the first year of the society.

CUSU Believes:

1. That Cambridge students have a duty of care to assist where possible;
2. That CUCRAG managed to have a positive impact on the refugee crisis in Calais from 2015 – 2016, through activities such as sorting and distributing donations, building shelters, cooking and teaching, and therefore that Cambridge students’ interest in volunteering ought to be facilitated and encouraged;
3. That Cambridge students can make an important difference through volunteering in the camps and with local charities in the field.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To allocate funding from the Free Council Budget to CUCRAG for the year 2016-2017, without which their work would not be possible;
2. To continue to fulfil our duty to have a positive impact on the refugee crisis by financially supporting CUCRAG;
3. To continue to support CUCRAG in their taking trips to the refugee camps if suitable, and in their carrying out fundraising and awareness-raising campaigns in Cambridge

Limiting CUSU promotion of external events to those that have step-free access

CUSU Notes:

1. That CUSU is dedicated to providing events and opportunities for the entirety of the Cambridge student body;
2. That the city of Cambridge is notoriously inaccessible to wheelchair users;
3. That the ability to book many of the city’s accessible rooms and buildings is limited by the availability of funds, and that businesses are far more likely than student societies and groups to have access to these resources;
4. That in the majority of cases, events run by external organisations that CUSU advertises are talks and presentations.

CUSU Believes:

1. That external organisations advertising presentations, talks, and other similar events should do more to make their events accessible to all members of the student body;
2. That CUSU should not endorse businesses that do not at the very least hold events with step-free access.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To cease promoting and advertising businesses and other external organisations which fail to provide step-free access to their events;
2. To more widely publicise this requirement through relevant channels.

Opposing the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF2)

CUSU Notes:

1. That the University is in the process of deciding on its participation in the second year of the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF2) which is detailed in the Government’s Higher Education and Research Bill;
2. TEF2 has been widely criticised for using metrics which do not primarily reflect teaching quality, such as student outcomes and graduate earnings;
3. Participating in TEF allows Universities to raise tuition fees in line with inflation, with differential fee caps being introduced in 2019;
4. Cambridge has already increased fees for the 2017/8 intake to £9250;
5. Fee increases are accumulative, which means that by 2020, students are likely to pay around £10 000 a year to attend University;
6. While many prominent Universities are expressing discontent at TEF internally, most are reluctant to be the first to publicly refuse to participate.

CUSU Believes:

1. That TEF as it currently stands is ill thought-out and will not improve teaching quality, and that tying tuition fees to questionable metrics is irresponsible and harmful;
2. That participating in TEF, while allowing the University to raise fees in the short term, is antithetical to its long term goals of access and widening participation;
3. That Cambridge, considering its reputation and standing, is in an ideal position to challenge TEF and encourage other universities to do the same.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To lobby the University not to participate in TEF2 and instead work together to devise better measures of teaching quality;
2. To write an open letter to the University outlining students’ concerns about TEF;
3. To provide information to JCRs, MCRs and the wider student body about opposing TEF;
4. To reassess CUSU’s position on TEF2 if the University does resolve to participate, with a view to being fully involved in all discussions and decisions going forward.

Support the Truth for Giulio Regeni campaign

CUSU Notes:

1. In Lent III earlier this year, CUSU Council passed policy to call for a full investigation into the disappearance and murder of Giulio Regeni, a PhD candidate studying at Girton College, who was killed while doing fieldwork in Egypt;
2. Amnesty International and Egyptian human rights organisations have documented hundreds of similar cases of enforced disappearances carried out by the Egyptian authorities over the past year alone;
3. The Egyptian authorities have admitted to investigating Giulio Regeni because of his research into independent unions in Egypt;
4. Amnesty International in Italy established the Truth for Giulio campaign with the support of Giulio’s parents and that this is also supported by Amnesty International UK, the lecturers union UCU and the National Union of Journalists.

CUSU Believes:

1. More needs to be done within the University of Cambridge to raise awareness of the Truth for Giulio campaign as the anniversary of Giulio Regeni’s death approaches.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To continue to support the campaign alongside Amnesty International, including making a contribution towards local publicity costs;
2. Support the campaign in the organising of an Open meeting/Panel discussion open to all in which all members of the Cambridge community will be able to find out more about the case;
3. Facilitate a meeting of key members of the campaign with senior figures within the University;
4. To contact other student unions across the UK and urge them to support the national campaign of activities and public meetings planned by Amnesty and UCU for February and March next year.

Opposing changes to the Universal bus route

*Officer responsible - Emrys Travis (Disabled Students’)*

CUSU Notes:
1. That the Universal bus service (formerly known as the ‘Uni 4’) is the only public transport link between Homerton, the Education Faculty, and the Sidgwick and West Cambridge sites, as well as the hill colleges;
2. That students attending Homerton and the Education Faculty make up over 10% of the student body;
3. That following the changes approved at the University Planning and Resource Committee (March 2016), as of November 2016 the bus route will no longer service Hills Road, and instead run along the guided busway;
4. That the cited reason for this change is an estimated profit of £63,000 p/a;
5. That disabled students in particular will be adversely affected by this route change, which will result in an inequality of access to academic study.

CUSU Believes:

1. That disabled students are entitled to equal access to education and social events;
2. That the changes to the Universal bus route will create a significant barrier to accessing education and social events for the University’s disabled students.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To oppose the changes to the Universal bus route;
2. To support and publicise the petition to oppose and reverse the decision
2015-16 Policy

Mandating CUSU to work with Cambridge African-Caribbean Society CUACS to host an annual access event to increase the number of black students at the University

CUSU Notes:
1. Black students at the University are extremely underrepresented accounting for 1.5% of all students (full-time and part time);
2. Black students at the University of Oxford are also extremely underrepresented; however, the University actively works with the Oxford African-Caribbean Society to address the issue;
3. The University of Cambridge currently has no relationship with CUACS to address the underrepresentation of black students.

CUSU Believes:
1. That current access initiatives do not do enough to address the issue that is a lack of black students;
2. That the University and CUSU should do more to support and encourage access initiatives targeted at attracting black students;
3. Currently, the most effective way to ensure that access initiatives meet the needs of black students is to work with CUACS;

CUSU Resolves:
1. To lobby the University to introduce an annual access event aimed at increasing the number of black students at the University of Cambridge;
2. To mandate that CUSU Sabbatical Officers work with CUACS to offer access initiatives that aim to increase the number of black students at the University of Cambridge, including an annual access event that works towards this resolve;
3. To assist CUACS to explore possible sources of funding to help cover costs for the annual event.

Ensuring that CUSU sabbatical officers can live among students

CUSU Notes:
1. That depending on their College, some CUSU sabbatical officers have access to College accommodation during their year with CUSU.
2. That therefore depending on the College sabbs will either student rent prices or much higher market rent prices
3. That the University recognises that high market rents are a significant problem for low income staff, who are paid at a similar rate to CUSU sabbs.
CUSU Believes:

1. That it is unfair for some sabbs to have less disposable income depending on College membership from Colleges that do not provide accommodation in town
2. That it may put people from less generous Colleges off running.

CUSU Resolves:

1. That CUSU sabbatical officers raise this issue with the University and Colleges at appropriate committees with a view to
2. Securing provision for CUSU sabbs to live in College provided student accommodation
3. Ensuring that such provision does not indirectly disadvantage current students, i.e. displace from their College.
4. Exploring options for wealthier Colleges to offer accommodation to sabbs from less wealthy students.
5. In particular, to raise the issue at Senior Tutor’s committee and accommodation syndicate, emphasising that this is a student, not sabbatical-led proposal. 6. That the President reports back at the Council following the Senior Tutor’s committee.

Ensuring fair, equitable rent negotiations and prices within collegiate Cambridge

CUSU Notes:

1. That the cost of rents within the Cambridge Colleges, and within the city of Cambridge are high (and in some cases considered economically unattainable) for Cambridge students;
2. Of those students who responded to the 2015 Big Cambridge Survey, 86% lived within College accommodation, and of these just over half (51%) were satisfied with value for money;
3. Of those students who responded to the 2015 Big Cambridge Survey, 45% of students said that finances had some impact on their time at University;
4. Mature and graduate Colleges express the most concern about finances, according to the 2015 Big Cambridge Survey;
5. During the Lent Term of 2015, the CUSU President undertook a series of rent workshops across Collegiate Cambridge. These sought to provide cross-Collegiate advice and tools for rent negotiations, so that negotiations take a long view of rent price trajectories, keeping all student groups and how they will be affected in mind;
6. The CUSU President 2015-2016 created a Rent Guide for College Representatives;
7. The CUSU President 2015-2016 created a template Equality Impact Assessment for College rent price increases (see attached template) which
seeks to ensure Colleges explicitly address how a rent increase will affect the different economic situations of students within their College.

CUSU Believes:

1. Rent prices should not bar a student from applying to study at a College, nor bar a student from being able to complete their degree due to economic stress;
2. Any rent price increase proposed by a College should be equitable, fair and provide ample opportunity for student consultation and input before a final decision;
3. In the instance a College proposes a rent increase, the proposal should seek to critically and comprehensively evaluate how proposed increases will affect the varying economic and social groupings of students;
4. Simultaneous to any College rent increase deliberation, the necessary calculations should be made with regards to how much hardship or bursary support the College will need to offer;
5. Any ultimately decided rent increase should come with the necessary, preemptively calculated hardship or bursary support for the incoming year, any proposal which cannot assure this should be reconsidered;
6. No more than a certain percentage of a students’ overall, annual income should be spent on accommodation so it is not likely to cause financial stress;
7. College representatives should feel empowered to ask their College to meet certain economic funding arrangements for students in the event of rent increases which tip over a certain point.

CUSU Resolves:

1. That CUSU, led by the CUSU President, should continue to make equitable, democratic rent price negotiations a priority and work both centrally through University Committees and with College JCR and MCR representatives on individual and collective action;
2. College JCR and MCR representatives embarking on rent negotiations should pay due regards to the equality impact rent assessment as a way of holding their College stakeholders to account on the rent increases they propose, and how they will potentially affect mature, postgraduate, disabled, international, those within receipt of Government maintenance support and ‘squeezed middle’ income students, among other identified economic student groupings;
3. CUSU should campaign with students against a College decision, where the above requirements have not been met, and a College so decides to proceed with an increase.
Assisting the Islamic Society in the provision of a venue for Friday prayers

CUSU Notes:

1. That since construction work has been taking place in the New Museums site, the Small Examinations Hall which was previously used for Friday prayers has been unavailable and the Islamic society has had to resort to hiring a hall in St Columba’s Church at a cost of £660 a year;
2. That there are around 150-200 people who attend the Friday Prayers every week and the Muslim student population in Cambridge has been growing steadily such that space during Friday Prayers has started becoming an issue and is stretching the Islamic Society’s resources;
3. That the nearest mosque in Cambridge is prohibitively far for students who have lectures before or after the prayer and does not have the capacity to cope with the demand from university members were they to go there.

CUSU Believes:

1. That students should not be placed under financial burden for wanting to exercise their religious beliefs;
2. That the University should provide adequate space for students of any religion to exercise their religious beliefs;
3. That students should not find great difficulty in balancing their religion with the hectic schedule that Cambridge demands, and should not be forced to choose between religious and academic commitments;
4. That it is important to assist minority groups within the university and display that Cambridge is a welcoming and amenable university to both current students and prospective ones who may be put off by lack of provisions related to their religious beliefs.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To assist the Islamic Society in finding an adequate University venue for Friday prayers;
2. To reimburse the costs incurred by the Islamic Society since the closure of the Small Examinations Hall (£660), from the CUSU Council Free Budget in this Academic Year;
3. To apportion a further £1320 should any future costs be incurred from this year’s Council Free Budget.
Call for a full investigation into the death of Giulio Regeni

CUSU Notes:

1. That the death of Giulio Regeni, a PhD student at the University of Cambridge, has been widely publicised in local and national media following his disappearance;
2. That both the University and an open letter signed by 4,600 academics and published in The Guardian, have called for a full investigation into Giulio’s death;
3. That there is a UK Government & Parliament Petition calling for a full investigation of Giulio’s death (https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/120832).

CUSU Believes:

1. That students should be united in their call for a proper investigation into the death of a fellow student;
2. That there should be a complete and full investigation into Giulio Regeni’s death.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To publicise the Students’ Unions’ Advice Service as a source of support to all students;
2. To mandate the CUSU Sabbatical Officers to sign the UK Parliament Petition calling for a full investigation into the circumstances surrounding Giulio’s death;
3. To circulate this petition to JCR and MCR Presidents to be publicised to their constituent members;
4. To mandate the CUSU President to write an open letter, to be signed by JCR and MCR Presidents, student representatives and students, to the British & Italian Ambassadors to Egypt;
5. To mandate the CUSU Sabbatical Officers to circulate the petition to other students’ unions.

Support for persecuted scholars

CUSU Notes:
1. That the Petition "Cantabs for Persecuted Scholars" (https://www.change.org/p/university-of-cambridge-cantabs-forpersecutedscholars) to the University of Cambridge has been opened to signatures on 13 January 2016;
2. That it has so far gathered 400 signatures from the Cambridge University community as of 15 January 2016;
3. That the associated crowdfunding effort "Bursary for Persecuted Student" (https://www.gofundme.com/28svwxhw) is seeking to raise funding for a one year bursary for an "at-risk" or refugee scholar to pursue a Masters degree at the University of Cambridge;
4. That the crowdfunding effort has gathered £ 145 in donations as of 15 January 2016;

CUSU Believes:

1. That it is vital for the University of Cambridge, the Faculties and Colleges to play their part in alleviating the current migration crisis in Europe;
2. That notwithstanding past efforts, the University of Cambridge, the Faculties and Colleges can do more to support the work of established charities;
3. That this support must be practical, and include: recognizing the importance of the work of charities such as Cara, providing a centralised coordination point, financial support for at risk academics, as well as housing and other support for accepted at-risk academics and their dependents;
4. That the goal of funding a scholarship for an at risk or refugee scholar to study for a masters degree at the University of Cambridge deserves support;
5. That welcoming persecuted academics is an investment in a future where one of the University's most cherished values; freedom of thought and expression; prevails and flourishes;

CUSU Resolves:

1. To call upon all the members of the University of Cambridge, students, faculty and alumni to sign the Petition "Cantabs for Persecuted Scholars Petition";
2. To mandate the CUSU Sabbatical Officers to sign the above mentioned Petition;
3. To call upon all the members of the University of Cambridge, students, faculty and alumni to consider donating to the associated crowdfunding effort "Bursary for Persecuted Student";
4. To encourage JCRs and MCRs to bring similar motions to their representative structures.
Freedom of Information

CUSU Notes:

1. The 31 colleges of Cambridge submitted a response to the freedom of information (FoI) commission’s call for evidence, in which they argued for a categorical exemption
2. No such submission was made by the colleges of Oxford or Durham
3. FoI is an important element in scrutiny of college actions, both for student newspapers and student representatives
4. FoI already has safeguards in terms of both financial cost and commercial interests
5. The editorial opinions of both Varsity and the Tab are opposed to a categorical exemption
6. Arguments proposed by colleges include:
   - “The burden on the Colleges is excessive. It is ultimately a financial burden, but also a significant deflection of skilled resources from the Colleges’ primary purpose of education”;
   - The Colleges publish a great deal of information on their websites”;
   - “The Colleges have received many requests from journalists seeking to have their work done for them at the expense of the College.”
7. As far as we can see the National Union of Students made no submission, and consequently the commission may face an imbalance of viewpoints;
8. That the University made a separate submission not calling for exemption from FOI requests.

CUSU Believes:

1. Freedom of Information is beneficial to students and enables important discussions to be had;
2. Spending on the order of 0.1% of college budgets on the provision of Freedom of Information for public scrutiny is reasonable;
3. The demand for an absolute exemption on the grounds of not being public bodies is unreasonable;
4. Universities are places for free debate in which the principle of intellectual discussion is held in high regard, and that exemption of Freedom of Information would harm this principle.

CUSU Resolves:

1. This issue should be discussed between JCRs, MCRs and colleges; CUSU and the university; and the National Union of Students and the Government, to ensure the student view is heard;
2. The CUSU President should lobby Cambridge MPs and the NUS to publicly and vociferously oppose this move;
3. CUSU should scrutinise the colleges’ response and issue a response in turn by the end of February.

Support the Zero Carbon Society

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 “suitable 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

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’.

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 £300 based upon a quote of £510 and donations from trade unions and the council.

4. To publicise and support a fundraiser for the student’s fine if appropriate.

**Encourage the use of access statements**

CUSU Notes:

1. That without access information, disabled students cannot make informed decisions about the events they attend;

2. That a comprehensive access statement includes but is not limited to:
   a. Describing access into, around and out of the venue or event. For example: whether there is wheelchair access, step-free access or stepped access; whether there are automatic doors; the wayfinding and signage available;
   b. Describing the facilities the venue or event has. For example: whether there is an accessible or partially accessible toilet; whether there is an induction loop; the seating available;
   c. Providing a named contact for all access enquiries.

3. That access statements are not, currently, widely used across the University;

4. That event providers may not be aware of how to provide access information or what information to include in an access statement;

5. That a short grace period will allow CUSU to develop and improve existing resources for event providers.

CUSU Believes:

1. That providing comprehensive and accurate access information is the first step in making all events accessible to as many students as possible;

2. That CUSU needs to do more to ensure disabled students are welcome at and encouraged to participate in events across the University, not just specific disabled students events;

3. That not providing access information when advertising events unfairly disadvantages disabled students, regardless of how accessible the event is.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To work with the Disabled Students’ Campaign [DSC] to improve and publicise the access statement generator on the DSC website, and, following an open consultation of disabled students, establish guidelines on what an access statement should minimally contain by the end of Michaelmas 2015;
2. From the beginning of Lent term 2016, to include a comprehensive access statement with all CUSU organised events;
3. From the beginning of Lent term 2016, to refuse to advertise any event without a suitable accompanying access statement;
4. To mandate the CUSU Coordinator, working in conjunction with the DSC, to create a training session on the subject of hosting accessible events, to be delivered at the beginning of Lent term 2016 and open to all students of the University (but targeted specifically towards JCR/MCR/AC Officers and Society Committee Officers).

Eradicate collegiate ranking tables
CUSU Notes:

1. That there are 31 Colleges that constitute the University of Cambridge;
2. That without the Colleges, the University would be without a core provider of education to students;
3. That due to the founding of Colleges at different times, and with varying levels of resource, the Colleges that make up the University of Cambridge possess very different characters;
4. That the different Colleges endeavour to provide an equal standard of educational and pastoral provision, and that the University of Cambridge Prospectus for 2016 entry (p.111) states that ‘no College is better...’

CUSU Believes:

1. That not enough is done to ensure that all Colleges are considered equal and that students at a College do not feel negatively impacted by perceptions of, or the level of resource and reputation of, their College;
2. That students are negatively impacted by contemporary academic metrics which pit students and more specifically their performance against each other in an attempt to suggest an overall academic inferiority, or superiority of students at one college or another;
3. That Collegiality suffers due to these metrics. This is harmful to University and departmental attempts to ensure that, regardless of College, all students are catered for in a fair system where there is equal opportunity to succeed;
4. That these metrics do not foster fair competition between Colleges, but rather foster an unhealthy and destructive culture which is contrary to efforts to target intercollegiate inequality.
CUSU Resolves:

1. That cross-collegiate academic metrics, such as the Tompkins Table (published in The Independent each year), and the ranked form of the Baxter Table (a confidential, internal rankings table), are damaging to efforts to ensure intercollegiate social and academic equality of opportunity; 2. The elected officers will work together and independently to campaign for the University to get rid of the Tompkins Table and amend the way in which other tables will be published; 3. That all students, and Colleges, stand on equal academic footing.

Ask for student representation on the University Bursars’ committee

CUSU Notes:

1. That the University Bursars’ Committee is constituted of all College Bursars and is one of three main intercollegiate committees, along with the Senior Tutors’ and Colleges’ Committees;
2. That the Bursars’ Committee agenda, papers and minutes are not made publicly available;
3. That, whilst there is CUSU representation on senior committees at the institution, currently we have no representation on the Bursars’ Committee.

CUSU Believes:

1. That the Bursars’ Committee is influential in University business and thus the lives of all students at Cambridge;
2. That a precedent has been set by having student representation on other University committees of great importance, including the above mentioned and the Education, Welfare & Finance, and Graduate Tutors’ Committee;
3. That student representation on matters that affect students is absolutely necessary.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To ask all committees that would assist CUSU’s ability to bargain with the University to present the motion “This JCR believes there should be student representation on the University Bursars’ Committee” at an Open Meeting to their members.
2. To subsequently apply pressure to the University to allow a CUSU representative at the Bursars’ Committee.
3. That non-confidential information, if such exists, is accessible and minutes are published (like University Council). To subsequently apply pressure for this to be done.

*Increase democratic legitimation of CUSU business through CUSU Council involvement*

CUSU Notes:

1. That the majority of CUSU Council business is currently administrative or very particular in nature;
2. That the attendance at CUSU Council is undesirably low;
3. That Students feel there is a lack of involvement in CUSU policies and that they lack democratic legitimation;
4. The reputation of CUSU is low, especially compared to other JCRs and University Student Unions;
5. That not all policies of elected officers necessarily have broad agreement amongst students despite their election – election success does not mean endorsement of all policy proposals;
6. That the CUSU Executive’s constitutional role is to execute motions passed by Council, the governing body. There is a substantial difference between the election of an individual and their policies. CUSU elections are concerned with the election of individuals. Any proposed policies need to be ratified by Council.

CUSU Believes:

1. That there is a lack of scrutiny of CUSU Executive policies that extends beyond sabbatical elections;
2. That low attendance at CUSU Council is due to a lack of engaging motions;
3. That broad and engaging debates of CUSU policies at CUSU Council are desirable and strengthen the democratic process and student satisfaction. Student politics would benefit from more debates;
4. Elected CUSU officers are doing what they think is in the best interest of students, yet there needs to be affirmation of their policies through a representative body;
5. CUSU Council through its broad participative basis is ideally suited to fulfil the role of body of scrutiny and affirmation.

CUSU Resolves:

1. Accepts that changes to existing policies should be mandated, subject to further discussion;
2. To keep an up to date archive of accepted and current motions;
3. To keep the website up to date;
4. To bring more motions from CUSU internally.

Support the Cambridge Calais Refugee Action group

CUSU Notes:

1. The Cambridge Calais Refugee Action (CCRA) is a group of people who live in and around Cambridge working to help the refugees living in the camp in Calais. Their aim is to raise awareness of the situation and to provide practical help to the refugees by fundraising and organising donations of clothing and other items;
2. The CCRA does not have a donation point in the centre of Cambridge;
3. Our new building move, there is now social space shared with the Graduate Union;
4. Our capacity as a student body to give a platform to groups such as CCRA and to coordinate large numbers of students quickly;
5. In August there were 5,000 recorded people living in Calais camps and around 39,000 people have attempted to cross from Calais to Britain in the last year;
6. The existing Jules Ferry centre and adjoining slum does not fulfil the resident refugees rights of access to clean water, safe housing and food;
7. Student donations through CCRA will enable students to contribute whatever they can towards improving the quality of life of the thousands living in Calais slums.

CUSU Believes:

1. That we should support efforts by charities in providing and coordinating the response to the ‘Refugee Crisis’

CUSU Resolves:

1. To work with the CCRA to provide donations to refugees in camps across Europe;
2. To provide storage for student donations;
3. To work with CUAI, whose college reps will organise in-college collection points in order to make donation points more accessible to students;
4. To work with volunteers from CUAI, other concerned/interested charitable university societies, and any interested students, to transport and organise donations for CCRA.