

CUSU COUNCIL: MICHAELMAS III

Small Exams Hall, 17th November 2014

SABBATICAL UPDATES

AMELIA HORGAN (CUSU WOMEN'S OFFICER)

Has been working on prep for Free Education Demo. Women's Campaign activity: 1. Survey on mental health provision in Cambridge, please promote it. 2. Survey on inclusivity and access in relation to Women's Campaigns. 3. First Reclaim the Night planning meeting, contact Amelia to get involve, or to run mens' solidarity mark. 4, The Gender Agenda deadline is on Wednesday.

Question Do CUSU still provide pregnancy tests?

Answer Yes

JACK WRIGHT (CUSU GU WELFARE AND RIGHTS OFFICER):

Disabled Students Campaign elections before the end of term - all who self define as disabled can vote in the elections.

HELEN HOOGEWERF-MCCOMB (CUSU PRESIDENT):

Sorry if you expected President and Externals last week, extraordinary council was instead. Contact Helen if you want any help.

Helen has been working on planning round work, getting more money so we can best support students, also want the University to invest in education via SU investment, hopefully CUSU will get money into the Student Advice Service and more professional staff, for the students who are in the most need because their issues are most complex.

Building for CUSU: discussions have taken place on using the GU site, and getting student space for socs and meeting reps, lunch etc in centre of town.

Free Education Demo: Confirmed at Extraordinary Council last week, booked coach, we're asking for donations to go on campaigning throughout the year, there is a solidarity demo 12pm - 4pm in Cambridge. It should be a super accessible, visual and creative event to engage people on the street about why free education should be important - please publicise to students

ROB RICHARDSON (CUSU EDUCATION OFFICER):

Faculty rep elections nominations close tomorrow, posters should be in your J/MCR. The teaching awards are being prepared, and a welcome evening for elected reps

HELENA BLAIR (CUSU ACCESS OFFICER):

Applications for shadows close this week (Friday). Every avenue of publicity to get students on board. Working on the Access to Learning Fund review, how can a student consultation be done? Solidarity event on Wednesday in Cambridge - why value free education.

JEMMA STEWART (CUSU COORDINATOR):

Now bought a sofa! Having conversations with sabb links - still need to see Fitz, Johns, Clare and Emmanuel. Looking into provisions for sport: make sure any changes actually take place and are in student best interests.

Question: When is voting on the sport review?

Helen: It ends with end of month, the placet fly sheet was not included due to technical possibly misleading language in rules in latin.

Question: New Building - what is the situation with the University Centre vs Grad Union?

Helen: The CUSU Vision for a Student Union Building doc was created from consultation and national standards. The University Centre seemed to be the best fit and is the sort of building we would like. University talked to us about a phased move, now have changed their mind and will be in the grad union for about 7 years. Now trying to get the most out of the space they are offering for students. The vision of the University Centre still stand but need to be realistic and pragmatic.

QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL: ON THE PART TIME EXEC

Presented by Helen (CUSU President)

We are working on a range of options on what PTE might look like for next council

WHY DID YOU VOLUNTEER AND WHAT DID YOU GET OUT OF IT?

- Didn't like what university was doing to my friends, and I really wanted to change something about welfare
- It was difficult because I wasn't getting enough support in the right way
- I felt guilty because people work hard and noone like them
- Rent policy at Newnham was extortionate, and I wanted to do something about it
- As international rep, I wanted to change arrival day, then really liked being on JCR and felt they did more than anyone knows
- I liked being able to see all the changes we were making, and liked helping with freshers and meeting new people
- Need for college to understand actually what CUSU did, communication and representation in decision making, wanted to improve the link with CUSU
- I can confirm most people don't know what CUSU does, I wanted to find out what all the mystery about CUSU is all about
- 16/17 events in freshers were very unprepared, and I wanted to provide a range of activities to make that time less stressful

IF YOU WERE INVOLVED AND STARTED A NEW ROLE, WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO TAKE ON A NEW ROLE?

- Secretary to VP: did it because being in JCR is really fun, and get to find out how structures in Cambridge work

WHY DON'T YOU RUN FOR PTE POSITIONS?

- Want to do my best as JCR president and need to sacrifice other areas - would get involved if I thought it would make me better at the job
- what is the part time exec??

Helen (CUSU President): Volunteering system at CUSU - very specific roles, sabbs are head of teams

- Easier to be passionate about ethical affairs than student transport
- Lack of roles that people can feel passionate about
- Open portfolio is better

Helen: They get set up by a few passionate people then become integrated into CUSU structure

- Why is it easier to create than remove roles?
- Because specific roles are difficult to delete; it seems bad
- Awareness is not there - it is something I would be interested in but was not aware it was a thing
- The roles are too specific, nothing I wanted to get involved in
- I didn't go for it because the only available role was not something I wanted to get involved in

WHAT WOULD MAKE YOU WANT TO RUN?

- More information, and feeling like you would be able to do it, support and training so you felt you could do it
- Mostly people prefer specific roles
- If the roles are general, there are problems with awareness, you don't know what you can do; easier to approach people, more authoritative if you have a specific title
- If you don't have responsibility people won't have any work
- People could enter manifestos when they run of what they are going to do throughout the year
- People need to be self-motivated anyway

MOTION TO BOYCOTT EDE AND RAVENSCROFT

Proposed: Toby Crisford

Seconded: Huw MacDonald

Clarification: Motion says no response from Edes and Ravenscroft, but since hearing there would be a motion said the board of directors will give a response in 24 hrs - may need amendments since the developments

Friendly amendments: NOTES: Edes and Ravenscroft have been in contact promising a response in 24 hrs

RESOLVES Given the promise to respond, following measures will only be put in place if they refuse to drop fur practices

NOTES 2: change to since 2003

Amendments accepted.

Proposed: Edes and Ravenscroft circumvent the law by importing fur. Fur farming is unusually cruel as animals are not domesticated and are farmed in cages. The other option is trapping which is also problematic.

Speeches against 1: It has nothing to do with student, not going to affect every student this is not something for CUSU policy

Question: Are there methods of obtaining fur which would not be illegal in the UK?

Response: Trapping can't happen in the UK anyway, and fur farming is illegal, but don't know about laws.

Friendly Amendment: CUSU RES 1 replace Ryder and Aymes with 'other gown shops'

Friendly Amendment: add - it will stop if Edes and Ravenscroft stop fur sales

Amendments accepted

Speech in favour: I think it is a student matter - when you hire your gown you hire fake fur gowns, if buying hoods in real is an option and enough students care about it then it is something CUSU should be campaign on

Speech against from Girton - read out by CUSU Chair (*chair to provide separately*)

Question What products have fur?

Response: Judges and house of lords ceremonial gowns - this would make it a very high profile statement

Question: Why don't we also include amazon in the motion?

Response: The reason we focus on Ede and Ravenscroft is because students are in a specific position in relation to it

Speech in favour: There is a long history of boycott campaigns in trade unions.

Question: Is this the first of its kind, have we organised similar boycotts before?

Chris Halcrow (CUSU Chair): Nothing like this that we can remember

Helen: Nothing uncommon in the student movement but can't remember anything here. motions against certain practices eg fossil fuels divestment, is a similar thing.

Question: How do we tell Ede and Ravenscroft what the results are tonight - how will we engage in conversation with them?

Helen: Policy goes to the CUSU Coordinator and Sabb Team, and create action plan and publicise, support reps on the campaign

Question: What is the difference between fur farming and leather?

Response: The farming is inherently cruel, it involves cages, very unnecessary.

Speech against: Animal rights is a less pressing issue for most students than legitimate labour so maybe we should look into that first

VOTE ON THE MOTION

FOR 14

AGAINST 5

ABSTENTION 8

Motion Passes

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE ELECTIONS (6 PLACES)

ROB Richardson *introduces himself*

ROB Cashman *introduces himself*

Jack Wright *introduced by Helen, as Jack was not available.*

RESULTS:

RON: 3

Rob Richardson: 25 *Elected*

Rob Cashman: 24 *Elected*

Jack Wright: 23 *Elected*

Spoilt: 1