



CUSU Council

Michaelmas I

Small Exams Hall, 20th October 2014

Sabbatical Updates

Helen Hoogewerf-McComb (CUSU President) Introduced herself, previously CUSU Welfare and Rights officer. Launched a new brand and logo and new website - a new platform which will offer lots more to societies and students, event ticketing and membership payments. Everything will soon be transferred to the new website. We will be moving to a new elections platform later in the year.

We are working on getting a new building, as this one is being knocked down, most probably into the Mill Lane site where the GU is based. University disciplinary procedures, making them more accessible to students, and making them less intimidating.

The strategic plan is being sent around university to to get buy-in and more funding for student initiatives.

Freshers talks and societies fair: we really want to come and talk to your students, so tell us about open meetings etc

Link sabbs: Assigned to each college, so if you want to know more or get support, let us know what is going on in your college so we can see how best to represent and support you. Get in touch with your link sabb. [List of link sabbs at end of minutes]

Rob Richardson (CUSU Education Officer): Introduced himself. Over the summer attended an NUS course on putting the role in context in the HE sector. NSS (National Student Survey) PTES (Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey) came out over the summer and identified areas that are likely to be issues in the future.

Faculty rep elections have been set for 25th November and nominations close week before. We enlist current reps to get involved and recruit. We want to get the university to get a more centralised system, the university will record each rep and get everyone sent to us. University setting up thorough review committee on exam operations, this is a really important part of Rob's work. Details will be brought to council, and opportunities for getting students involved in this review. Teaching awards will be running again this year, run alongside a broad campaign on teaching quality.

Rob is also sitting on graduate application and release of student data committees.



Jemma Stewart (CUSU Coordinator): Spent much of the summer organising the soc fair, made it less sweaty. Currently organising campaigns to get CUSU more engaged in student life, sabbs on the sofa, getting out and talking to students about the issues they care about

Wifi campaign: getting wifi in the places students want it - get into social spaces in town.

Blues and sports funding, looking into getting more funding in the student experience.

Helena Blair (CUSU Access and Funding Officer): Organising the CUSU shadowing scheme, applications are open at the moment, mentors applications close on 31st October, getting a good amount of interest going but we want to make it bigger and better. Getting year 12 shadows and potential mature students on board. Admissions tutors passed a new system of accommodation which extends room shares to room donation, this would allow students who are not mentors can move out of their room for 3 days and open up their room to stay in a friends room

Target Scheme: Campaign to get students going to their old schools, the new site will allow students to see what the most high priority schools are, buddying up and resources.

Alternative prospectus: Key plan to get it completely revamped and make it more interactive, and make it more of a forum feel - just got funding to get this going and will be gathering content in the year.

Committee work has focussed on WPPF and AS level reforms, keeping WP in mind in these decisions.

Jack Wright (CUSU-GU Welfare and Rights Officer): Mostly trying to revive the disabled students campaign, email disability officers and people in the University, we are organising events and putting together groups to discuss their issues, and cross-college events as much of the welfare varies across colleges. Invisible disabilities collective has started, and runs on alternate Tuesdays at Wolfson. Training welfare officers, a meet for disabled graduates, talking to people about what they would like to get done with disability activism. At the moment it's about getting people together, and directing people towards Jack if you want to change things. Nothing hugely exciting on committees as of yet.

Amelia Horgan (CUSU Women's Officer): Mainly consent workshops over the summer, last year 1 college ran one, this year 21 colleges had workshops or talks - 3000 freshers would have had this. A big shout out to Trinity Hall and Pembroke who had really big participation. Committee changing a bit more, enabling committee



members on what they want to do. Listed main campaigns: contact campaign managers if you want to get involved.

Women in academia, looking at how people treat their supervisees differently running training

Next week: meeting for living wage, gender agenda, NUS Women's Officer is doing a talk on intersectional feminism, and facilitation.

Helen Hoogwerf-McComb (CUSU President): Shout out to Ethical Affairs team that university have gone to living wage! They have not actually signed up but raised the pay scale, now we need to make sure sub-contracts are not below the living wage, and staff wages are increased with inflations. Congrats to all involved.

Discussion: On the general election

Helen Hoogwerf-McComb presented the debate: 2015 - Student vote in Cambridge very important, last year lib dem /labour margin was less than the student vote so it actually can swing vote. Getting people engaged in voting: how will we encourage students to vote and engage voters. Lots of ways in which the lower rate of voting among young people affects legislation eg GP funding

Issues for debate are:

- 1 Registering students to vote
- 2 Informing students to vote
- 3 How we pick important campaign issues
- 4 Voting on the day

Feedback from council members:

- open discussion is a good idea, and it's very important to get people politically engaged, we should be active because students should be dedicated and are targeted by legislation - CUSU apathy is part and parcel of wider political apathy
- like the idea of the couches, getting people out around the university and talking to people about policy
- does the Big Cambridge Survey have any gage on how students feel politically - how do you find public transport etc, there is a student life question that has a political life aspect as a good starting point.
- need to be aware that there are a lot of people who cannot vote so not to solely focus on this

Question: **Helen Hoogwerf-McComb:** How do we engage people with political ideas: approaching varied political groups to right on single issue topics

- quite obvious flaws, which parties would be involve and how would this reflect on CUSU, with smaller parties like the greens and ukip
- difficult to reflect the range



- students voting in Cambridge wouldn't be in Cambridge very long - important to give people an idea of what has been at stake in Cambridge over the last few years and general elections
- excellent point to give some history - how do we balance saying this thing happened without blaming/congratulating particular MPs
- important to point out the ways that MPs have acted without reference to party politics

The ukip question:

- if people are running in Cambridge invite them, if not, don't.
- but what if people can vote at home as well
- important distinction between a student society and candidate, if there is a ukip student society for e.g. then we engage with them in a different way

Question: are people happy if we limit ourselves to the political spectrum in Cambridge:

- Yes but make sure people can still vote at home

Discussion: on the safe space policy in CUSU events

Helen Hoogewerf-McComb: There was an issue at soc fair, there were worries as to the safeness of the space for things that might be triggering and conflicts in the room. We have a safe space policy in CUSU council but not for general CUSU events - this is about making sure that there is not hateful or harassing speech and balancing this with free speech.

Points from council members:

- make societies stalls conditional on things like good behaviour, and that they have to leave if they break it
- what would removal be enforced upon, does it have to be a complaint, if they say a complaint is wrong, this would be very hard and complex to enforce.
- absence of policy does not mean absence of issues - not looking to have people thrown out as soon as they make a complaint, but making sure people feel safe
- letting students know that there might be groups there that could be troubling and triggering
- there is a problem if the warning makes people feel excluded it does not give people a choice.
- worth pointing out that soc fair is not a forum for discussion, its there to inform students and not debate between societies.
- we could put this in policy about where we do and do not expect debates between societies
- might be worth thinking about how freshers fair is different because people are more vulnerable as they don't know anyone yet and it is their first week away from home

Motion Supporting the National Demo for free education



Proposed: Ben Platt

Seconder: Johannes Woolf.

Speech in favour of the motion: Noted that the demo for free education and against low cuts and debts is basically calling for a stance against attacks against higher education. Over the last decade, fees, cuts, research council funding, access to learning funds. NUS voted to oppose all challenges to free education, this motion calls for us to back the national campaign for free education. Germany has just got rid of fees, this is affordable and doable, it is just a question of priorities.

Speech against the motion: Asked how do we defend university education and make sure that it defends the worst off in society. Noted that 50% of young people will soon be in higher education. The answer is not with this free education movement. Counterintuitively the movement for free education is socially regressive - we need to think about who will pay for it and who will gain? The people who pay are the taxpayer who may not have benefitted from education, and the gains will go to those who go through higher education that often come from richer backgrounds and could pay anyway.

In Scotland this has caused maintenance cuts instead.

The phrasing of the motion is very vague, using Germany as examples, but they have a very different economy, we need to be more specific.

Neutral point: The 50% figure is wrong, that is an aim from the last labour administration.

Question: How much would it cost?

Response: £500 would take a coach from Cambridge to London with 40 people. We have £2000 of free budget to spend on this kind of cost in the free budget where cost usually come from

Point Against: Given that it is the general election year it would be a lot to spend a quarter of the budget already

Question: Is it a problem that we name parties by name?

Speech Against: As a rep of Newham jcr, I can't support this motion despite my personal political leanings because I need to represent the broad views of my college.

Speech For : Important not to shy away from issues that are political for students with a small p - each campaign says free education should be a more progressive taxation system so the poor are not worse off. If you don't like language in this take it out,



don't be afraid to take a small political decision, CUSU should be proud of its history for free education and I would endorse it.

Point of Context: Re general elections this is an opportunity for us to make a stand, politicians listen to Cambridge students, it's a campaigning platform for us coming towards the election, it does not mean you endorse specific taxation- until very recently the education was free, and it is easy to forget this because this is all we have known, but it was only 10 years ago that it was free, and we should use this platform

Votes on the motion

For: 13

Against: 4

Abstain: 7

Motion passes

Motion to amend the constitution of The Cambridge Student

*Proposer: Ashley Chhibber, Chair of the TCS Board of Directors
(aac52@cam.ac.uk)*

Seconder: Jemma Stewart, CUSU Coordinator (jks50@cam.ac.uk)

Chris Halcrow (CUSU Chair): Reads out changes - accepted the following friendly amendments:

- Replace C5 with "A CUSU Staff Role, as appointed by the CUSU Trustee Board." Replace all subsequent mentions of "Business Manager" with "designated CUSU Staff Role".
- Replace all mentions of the Press Complaints Commission with "Independent Press Standards Organisation"
- Replace all mentions of 2/3rd majority of the CUSU Trustee Board to "decision of the CUSU Trustee Board"
- Delete the final sentence of F2 and replace with: "The CUSU Trustee Board shall also be entitled to remove such an article where it's publication places undue legal, financial or other risk on the organisation.

Motion Proposed: Ashley Chhibber, (Chair of the TCS Board of Directors): The constitution has not been updated for 8 years, it pre-dates the website where editors can upload their own articles. Most of the changes are in practice, for example we now have an easter term editor and mentions about content being taken down from the website. I've also introduced an AGM so people who have been involved in the paper throughout the year can see what needs to be



updated. Also taking changes to council instead of the trustees, this will make things run more smoothly.

Neutral speech: Moving powers to approve changes to the constitution of an arm of CUSU to the trustee board would be a significant change in the powers it has, as trustees usually make brader decisions

Question: If the motion passes and trustees approve changes would council get to see it?

Response: The constitution should be online and we can make it a custom to take it to council

Question: From experience with the LGBT+ campaign, I don't know how useful council is to approve the constitution, we end up ignoring or breaking it

Response: The changes to the Autonomous Campaign constitutions are different from TCS.

Question: It is editorially independent but is it legally or financially independent ?

Response: No

Vote on the motion

For 19

Against: 0

Abstain 4

Motion passes

Motion to support The Good Night Out Project

Proposer: Amelia Horgan (CUSU Women's Officer)

Seconder: Helen Hoogewerf-McComb (CUSU President)

Motion Proposed: Amelia Horgan: This is a national campaign to train ents workers to deal with sexual harassment and homophobic harassment. This does not in any way say sexual harassment only affects women. We go in and train businesses on how to deal with sexual harassment seriously, they sign a pledge and it benefits businesses as it should widen their reach, it should make the whole of Cambridge nightlife better. Lots of clubs and JCR ents are really keen, we would like the funding to come from the council free budget and we would have the policy coming from this for ents.



Neutral Speech: We should include LGBT+ campaign into the training and can we have inclusion of harassment of men as well

Response: This is the programme's focus in the programme is not perfect, and we want to work with with LGBT+ to make the programme more inclusive. I think it makes sense to highlight women as they bear the brunt of harassment but we can add women 'and other people of all genders'.

Question: Can we include people with disabilities?

Response: Not currently in the programme but it is something I would like to work on. There are 2 things at play, the condemnation of harassment to everyone and what groups are in the programme.

Speech by CUSU LGBT+ Campaign Chair: Disappointed not to be consulted , how will this affect the autonomous campaigns who might be breaking it as soon as the campaign starts

Response: It does not mean that if people don't sign up that things can't happen in the future

Neutral Speech: I don't think that this motion is about what happens in the immediate future, just to commit to getting the training

For: 23
Against: 0
Abstentions: 0

Motion Passes

Motion on the Appointment of Student Trustees

Proposed: The Democracy and Development Team

Motion Proposed: Helen Hoogewerf-McComb: Explains that the body of CUSU that is ultimately responsible for everything that goes in. We have 2 student members who have been appointed, we need vote on this.

For: 23
Against: 0
Abstention: 1

Motion Passes