



CUSU Council

Michaelmas II

Small Exams Hall, 3rd November 2014

Apologies

Apologies received from Helen Hoogewerf-McComb (CUSU President) and Helena Blair (CUSU Access and Funding Officer).

Sabbatical Updates

Rob Richardson (CUSU Education Officer) Working on Faculty Rep elections, working with Priscilla to turn the Cambridge Race, Ethnicity and Cultural Diversity Survey compiled last year into a report for the Equality and Diversity Committee.

Amelia Horgan (CUSU Women's Officer) Wants to collaborate with the CUSU LGBT+ Campaign on the Good Night Out project. Working on a report about the efficacy of the consent workshops that took place in Freshers' Week and would like input from colleges who participated. Producing a night map and asked for information to be added to it. Also announced Living Wage Week and the protest, celebrating the progress so far and asking for people to remember how much is left to be worked on.

Jemma Stewart (CUSU Coordinator) Has been working on the funding bid to the university, wrote the *placet* fliersheet for tonight's motion, is going to buy a sofa for our 'Sabbs on the Sofa' campaign project.

Jack Wright (CUSU Welfare and Rights Officer) Organising meetings for the Disabled Students' Campaign, organising surveys of student experiences of provisions for disabled students within Colleges, trying to gain more support for JCR and MCR Welfare Officers to be trained in disabled student accessibility issues.

Updates in Absence: **Helen Hoogewerf-McComb** (CUSU President) has been working on the Planning Round bid, **Helena Blair** (CUSU Access and Funding Officer) has been working on Shadowing Scheme applications (which are now closed for student volunteers) and the Target Schools Website.

Motion to Postpone Part-Time Executive Elections

Proposed: The CUSU Sabbatical Team

Speech in favour of the motion: Wanting to postpone the Part-Time Executive (PTE) elections as, with the exception of the Ethical Affairs Campaign positions, the PTE has largely remained unfilled for a number of years. We want to take this time to reform and restructure the executive, look into the reasons why students don't run, and make it more accessible for students to be a part of the PTE.



No speeches against the motion

Question: Who holds the positions until the postponed elections?

Response: The Ethical Affairs team have indicated that they're okay with the postponement and can stay in their positions until the next elections

Question: Why can't we just fill the positions now, and do the reform whilst they're in position?

Response: Just 'filling out' the positions isn't really possible, as we've seen a lack of people wanting to be involved in recent years. Anyone elected might not gel with a new structure

Votes on the motion

For: 20

Against: 2

Abstentions: 4

Motion Passes

Motion to Support Opposition to Proposed Changes to the Universities Superannuation Scheme

Proposer: Rob Richardson, CUSU Education Officer

Seconder: Amelia Horgan, CUSU Women's Officer

Motion Proposed: Rob Richardson (CUSU Education Officer): Rob speaks against the changes in the superannuation scheme, including the current final salary system being replaced with an average salary system. This is not good for academics who tend to be badly paid, especially early on. He believes it will be detrimental in the long term to our ability to employ and retain top notch academic staff. Notes that it would disproportionately affect women and minority groups.

Question: How would it disproportionately affect women and minority groups?

Response: It has been shown that all cuts tend to affect such groups - also women tend to take time out mid-career and be even more underpaid early on. She also notes that it would impact people's choices to stay in academia in that people already go elsewhere for money, affecting the quality of teaching - using the economics faculty as an example.

Note: CUSU should be acting in support of students - this strike will affect students negatively.



Response: A lot of our students want to go into academia or are (in the case of grad students) *in* academia, so supporting academics is supporting them. It's also arguably the role of a Student Union to try to ensure the ongoing quality of education, and the strike is likely to just be a threat anyway.

Amendment Proposed: To promote discussions between UCU and UUK to ensure students are not adversely affected by any action taken by members of UCU (clarification added as students could be adversely affected by things other than their action).

Speech Against: It's important to remember that the action is in our long-term interests - repeats that many students are in academia

Votes on Amendment

For: 18

Against: 3

Amendment passes

Question: If so few academics here are in UCU, is the strike really reflective of what academics here want?

Response: The collegiate system makes it hard, as they don't recognise the unions or see them as important.

Point of Information: This has been the highest turnout in UCU history in support of an action.

Question: Is the Education Officer supporting action against students?

Response: The Education Officer believes that it's about the quality of future education, which is what CUSU is for.

Point of Information: The Graduate Union voted on this but did not reach quorum.

Votes on the motion

For: 15

Against: 2

Abstentions: 9

Motion passes

Motion to Support Sports Provision at Cambridge

Proposer: Jemma Stewart (CUSU Coordinator)



Seconder: Helen Hoogewerf-McComb (CUSU President)

Motion Proposed: Jemma Stewart (CUSU Coordinator): Introduces the motion as outlined - the University has conducted a Review into the Governance of Sport and has produced a series of recommendations that are being taken to a ballot at the Regent House. Personal belief that this is in the best interest of sport, as it draws the proposed Sports Committee into the central government processes so it can be included in wider discussions for student provision, introduces the need for a clear strategic plan for sport within the Collegiate University and offers more chance for funding through bids in the Planning Round.

Speech Against: President of the Women's Blues Committee reads a non-placet flysheet. A single person couldn't support or represent the needs of both male and female athletes and of both large and small sports clubs. There is no evidence that this restructuring will lead to more actual funding. There are 52 sports clubs in the Sports Syndicate, and only 10 gave evidence. Far more people are involved in sport than have been involved in the petition and feedback. The petition is flawed, as there are replica and non-Cambridge signatures, and the majority of people in Cambridge sports have not signed it. This could be revisited more effectively in the near future.

Question: Can the placet flysheet be redrafted, and can both of the flysheets be circulated?

Response: We can redraft the flysheet and circulate both to JCR and MCR Presidents.

Question: Are we voting to adopt a flysheet as the official CUSU position?

Response: If passed, the flysheet will be signed by the appropriate CUSU representatives. We're also submitting the motion to see if JCR and MCR Presidents would be willing to sign it.

Neutral Statement: Everyone thinks there should be a change, and many of the signatures in the petition do not reflect a desire for this specific change.

Pat Marsh (Fellow from Magdalene) requests to speak: Unanimous vote to give permission to speak.

Pat Marsh: Wrote the initial draft for the Review. We established the Sports Syndicate in 1981, when the University was 95% male and mostly team sports; very collegiate. Nothing has changed since then. If a sports club is affiliated with the Societies' Syndicate, there are very few health and safety restrictions. If they're within the Sports Syndicate, there are many more. There were 15 recommendations in the Review of the Governance of Sport, which were unanimous. This [the system from the 1980s] has changed at Oxford, who have had two Reviews. We as the Sports Syndicate are isolated away from the changes that have happened since '81 - we have been



stationary for 30 years. If this Review fails it might be an awfully long time before we get these recommendations through again. In order to give the student body a vote (because this will be decided at Regent House, where there are no students), she circulated the petition. She checked the figures on Monday morning (5 days into the petition) and there were 724 members signed - 71 Captains and Presidents have signed for a placet vote, with 91 different sports represented. When the current system came into place, there were 5 major sports. The Review is one we've been waiting 33 years for, and she urges Council to take this seriously. The report is available to see publicly in the Reporter.

Comment: People have been signing the petition without knowing exactly what the proposed changes are, and people are regretting signing it. The biggest concern is that there would be less student representation.

Comment: Why is this only being discussed now - we all want the change, but not this change. The Women's Blues Captains were mostly in favour of the recommendations.

Pat Marsh: The Oxford system has the PVC for Education as the Chair. We have expended a lot of time on the Review, and it won't be looked at again for a long time.

Question: Is this a grace? Can we not just force another grace at Regent House?

Response: Not entirely sure if that can be done - especially of this scale.

Comment: Jemma Stewart: A reminder that both flysheets can be circulated.

Question: Obviously a lot of work has gone into the Review, but could it be revised?

Response: This has been tried, and recommendations were amended. But the committee has now unanimously agreed on the recommendations and so they cannot be revised.

Motion: Vote separately on the parts of the motion - the ballot at Regent House is not the be all and end all of getting more support for sport from the University.

Vote to split the motion passes with majority in favour. Parts 1 and 2, and Part 3 of CUSU Resolves will be voted on separately.

Point of Information: You need 50 members of the Regent House to force a Grace, propose and there would be a vote. **Amelia Horgan** comments that the results of student initiatives (not that this is one of those) via graces have historically been 'unspectacular'.

Question: Why are we only talking about this now?



Response: Last year's Coordinator brought his involvement in the Review up at Council in Sabbatical Updates last year, but there were no motions brought.

Comment: If we reject this motion, sports at Cambridge will get more expensive and exclusionary of people from low income backgrounds.

Comment: Anecdotes of people being great athletes at home but finding it too expensive to participate in at the University.

Question: How would this review guarantee more money to sports?

Response: It wouldn't necessarily, but currently money previously given to the Sports Syndicate from Colleges is being used to fund the new Sports Centre at West Cambridge, driving the Sports Syndicate funding into its reserves. The Review would allow for the Sports Syndicate to bid in the University's Planning Round.

Proposed amendment: To circulate a redrafted placet & non-placet fliersheet to JCR and MCR Presidents for them to choose which to sign.

Vote: Majority in favour, amendment passes.

Votes on the Motion (Parts 1, 2 & 2.5 of CUSU Resolves):

For: 14

Against: 2

Abstentions: 11

Motion passes

Votes on the Motion (Part 3 of CUSU Resolves)

For: 22

Against: 0

Abstentions: 5

Motion passes

Elections Committee Elections:

No-one standing

TCS Board of Directors Elections:

Candidates: Jack McConnel (absent), Jake Beech, Tim Adelani (absent), Amy Provan, Hazel Shearing, Siu Hong (Alfred) Yu, James Wand

Notes: Fiona Lin has pulled out of the election.



All candidates give a 2 minute speech on why they want to be on the TCS Board of Directors. Questions asked on their inability to be involved in other Student Newspapers in the future from constitutional obligations, what they think it's most important to do as an Editor and what qualities they think are useful in the role.

Votes: Votes were recorded on voting sheets, and STV voting was used.

Results: Hazel Shearing and Siu Hong (Alfred) Yu are elected to the TCS Board of Directors.