

CUSU Council Michaelmas I
7pm, Monday 8th October 2018
Mill Lane Lecture Rooms, Room 1

AGENDA

1. Objections to the order of items on the agenda
2. Corrections to the minutes of the last Council Meeting
3. Matters arising from the minutes of the last Council Meeting
4. Date, time and venue of upcoming Council meetings:
 - a. To be confirmed via email and the CUSU Council Facebook page.
5. Announcements by Committees, Campaign Teams and the Executive
6. Questions to Committees, Campaign Teams and the Executive
7. Announcements by the Council
8. Discussions
9. Ordinary Policy Motions from Previous Council
10. Proposed Ordinary Policy Motions
11. Proposed Ordinary Action Motions
12. Any other business

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. OBJECTIONS TO THE ORDER OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

2. CORRECTIONS TO THE MINUTES OF THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING

4. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

To be confirmed via email.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY COMMITTEES, CAMPAIGN TEAMS AND THE EXECUTIVE

EVIE ASPINALL – CUSU PRESIDENT

[Evie Accountability Doc.pdf](#)

MATT KITE– CUSU EDUCATION OFFICER

[Matt Accountability Doc.pdf](#)

EMRYS TRAVIS – CUSU DISABLED STUDENTS’ OFFICER

[Emrys Accountability Doc.pdf](#)

CLAIRE SOSIENSKI SMITH - CUSU WOMEN’S OFFICER

[Claire Accountability Doc.pdf](#)

CHRISTINE PUNGONG– CUSU/GU WELFARE AND RIGHTS OFFICER

SHADAB AHMED - CUSU ACCESS AND FUNDING OFFICER

[Shadab Accountability Doc.pdf](#)

CUSU LGBT+ CAMPAIGN

To update at council

CUSU BME CAMPAIGN

To update at CUSU Council

CUSU DISABLED STUDENTS’ CAMPAIGN

To update at CUSU Council

CUSU INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS’ CAMPAIGN

To update at CUSU Council

CUSU WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN

To update at CUSU Council

CUSU ETHICAL AFFAIRS CAMPAIGN

To update at CUSU Council

6. QUESTIONS FOR THE COMMITTEES, CAMPAIGN TEAMS, AND THE EXECUTIVE

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE COUNCIL

Presented by CUSU President:

[The Board of Trustees response to the Inquiry into CUSU Finances.pdf](#)

8. DISCUSSIONS

Drinking Societies

9. ORDINARY POLICY MOTIONS FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL

Policy requires approval at two consecutive Councils. The approval of the 'starred' motion at the second Council will be deemed to be automatic unless this 'star' is removed by a single member at the second Council wanting to revisit the motion for further discussion.

Please find the starred policy motions that were passed at the last Council listed below:

(None)

10. PROPOSED ORDINARY ACTION MOTIONS

MOTION TO FUND A PORTION OF THE AFRO-CARIBBEAN SOCIETY AND CUSU BME CAMPAIGN'S "WINDRUSH AT 70: CARIBBEAN HISTORY, RESISTANCE, AND IDENTITY" FROM THE COUNCIL FREE BUDGET

Proposer: Howard Chae (Campaigns Officer, BME Campaign)

Seconder: Faria Tabassum (Vice President, BME Campaign)

CUSU Notes:

- That its own self-defined mission as set out in the Constitution is to "ensure that the diversity of its membership is recognised and that equal access is available to all Members of whatever origin or orientation", and to "pursue equal opportunities by taking positive action within the law to facilitate participation of groups discriminated against by society"
- That according to a report by the Financial Times in 2018:
- Six out of 29 undergraduate colleges had admitted fewer than 10 black or mixed white and black students between 2012 and 2016
- Some colleges have admitted no black or mixed white and black students or as few as one per year between this period
- That according to the Big Cambridge Survey 2018, of all BME students surveyed:
- 52% reported having been affected by racial prejudice

- 47% believe that Cambridge University is not a place free of racial prejudice
- 50% do not see Cambridge University as a healthy place to study
- That there are a number of ongoing efforts scheduled to take place during Black History Month that are intended to improve visibility of black students, including:
- “Black Cantabs: History Makers”, an exhibition run by the University based on research carried out by the Black Cantabs Society, whose President told Varsity that “[t]his exhibition shows the indelible mark that black alumni of the University of Cambridge have left here, and across the globe, and hopefully demonstrates to prospective black students that they do have a home in Cambridge”
- That the Afro-Caribbean Society and BME Campaign are organising programmes of events in celebration of Black History Month, including a panel discussion being run jointly by both societies entitled “Windrush at 70”, on the theme of “Caribbean history, resistance, and identity”
- That at the time of this motion’s submission on 2nd October “Windrush at 70” had gathered significant attention on social media, with over 180 people already having clicked interested or going on the Facebook event page
- That speaker fees for the event are estimated at £600, of which £340 will be covered by the Vice-Chancellor’s Diversity Fund, with the remaining amount of £260 to be covered by ACS and the BME Campaign

CUSU Believes:

- That black students are under-represented at Cambridge University find their experience at university alienating and isolating on the basis of their status as a marginalised group that is discriminated against
- That these are obstacles to “equal access” and “equal opportunities” as stated in Notes (1), and that furthermore visibility is an important part of ensuring inclusion as demonstrated by the University’s recent collaborative efforts
- That as a month dedicated to the celebration of black heritage and the contribution of black communities to the cultural, social, political, and economic life of the UK, Black History Month is the perfect chance for it to take the “positive action” stated in Notes (1) “to facilitate participation of groups discriminated against by society” and “ensure that the diversity of its membership is recognised”
- That given its popularity and content, the “Windrush at 70” panel event will be effective in helping to accomplishing this
- That the cost of £260 to pay external speakers as part of this is prohibitive given the limited and overstretched budgets of both societies

CUSU Resolves:

To use a portion of the Council Free Budget amounting to £260 to cover the rest of the speaker fees for the event

MOTION TO FUND A PORTION OF THE 2018 CAMBRIDGE ‘DISORIENTATION GUIDE’ FROM THE COUNCIL FREE BUDGET

Proposer: Howard Chae (Magdalene College)

Seconder: Stella Swain (Churchill College)

CUSU Notes:

1. That its own self-defined mission is to “cultivate a university community where students can motivate progressive changes to the educational experience that students have at Cambridge and to level the opportunities available to all wanting to study and achieve in their time here.”
2. That a number of students have founded a grassroots publishing group called ‘12 Pints Press’ as a platform for material that advances collective student power towards change-making in the University
3. That these students have published a ‘Disorientation Guide’ intended as a primer for (particularly incoming) students on some of the key issues in student organising in Cambridge, as well as an informal directory of a large number of active organising groups
4. That these organising groups are both affiliated with and independent of CUSU’s structures, but all generally associated with its broader objectives of progressive change-making and levelling opportunity
5. That the Disorientation Guide cost ~£1900 to produce in printing and other costs, and that the crowdfund set up to fund it has at last count (30/9/18) raised ~£1250 (once the 10% of the total that goes to the crowdfunding platform is subtracted).

CUSU Believes:

1. That its own objectives rely on the recruitment of student volunteers into a variety of roles and sectors in organising spaces
2. That the Disorientation Guide will be directly conducive to such recruitment, and contribute to students becoming more informed about and more engaged with many of the issues central to CUSU’s campaigning throughout this academic year
3. That part of its mission as stated in Notes (1) extends to material support for student groups who are themselves advancing similar aims, namely widening student involvement in motivating progressive change within the University

CUSU Resolves:

1. To use a portion of the Council Free Budget amounting to £250 to contribute to funding the Disorientation Guide

11. PROPOSED ORDINARY POLICY MOTIONS

MOTION FOR THE RENEWAL OF 2015-2016 POLICY “ENCOURAGE THE USE OF ACCESS STATEMENTS” WITH AMENDMENTS

Proposed: Emrys Travis

Seconded: Claire Sosienski Smith

CUSU Resolves:

1. To include a comprehensive access statement with all CUSU-organised events;
2. To require that all events to be publicised in the CUSU bulletin include a comprehensive access statement;
3. To implement a mandatory 'access' section in the Events part of the Societies' Directory on the CUSU website, thus educating societies about accessibility, providing access information, and ensuring that events without an access statement are not advertised on the CUSU website;
4. To mandate the CUSU Executive to consult with disabled students on any updates necessary to the Disabled Students' Campaign access statement generator (on the DSC website), with a view to ensuring it is a comprehensive tool that can be used to enable the above points.

Proposed change to CUSU Notes (5), due to being outdated, to be replaced with:

CUSU Notes:

5. That while all members of CUSU and of the CUSU Executive should take responsibility for ensuring the implementation of this policy, the irregularities in its implementation thus far (i.e. in the period between its original passing and its proposal for renewal) should broadly be mitigated going forward by the existence of a full-time CUSU Disabled Students' Officer, a position that did not exist when the policy was first passed.

MOTION TO ENCOURAGE THE COMMEMORATION OF BRITISH WAR VETERANS ON REMEMBRANCE DAY ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Proposer: Tohin Munshi, St.Catharine's College

Seconder: William Phelps, Corpus Christi College

CUSU Notes:

- 1) That the general valour, courage and heroism of serving or formerly-serving members of the British armed forces is deserving of our sympathy and recognition.
- 2) That the immense personal sacrifices undertaken by members of the British armed forces both during and after their period of service are considerable and worthy of appreciation.
- 3) That the commemoration of British war veterans is an apolitical civic mark of respect.

CUSU Believes:

- 1) The University of Cambridge and its constituent colleges dedicate inadequate effort to honouring British war veterans and should do more to this end.
- 2) Relevant college and faculty authorities should be more proactive in promoting the cause of Remembrance.
- 3) That raising awareness of this issue amongst the student population represents not only a positive demonstration of tribute towards British war veterans, but also gives students examples of inspiration from instances of human fortitude and gallantry, including that which was practised by undergraduates of this very University.

CUSU Resolves:

- 1) To lobby the University to take practical steps towards greater recognition of British war veterans, such as but not limited to asking for a minute's silence on Remembrance Sunday or sending email reminders to students about the availability of poppies.
- 2) To produce its own publicity material in promotion of Remembrance.
- 3) To use to the best of its ability, its power and resources to ensure that Remembrance Day becomes a well-established and well-marked event across the University in the future.

MOTION PROPOSING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN CUSU, THE GU AND CAMBRIDGE UCU

Proposer: Matt Kite, CUSU Education Officer

Seconder: Evie Aspinall, CUSU President

Supporting document- [Memorandum of Understanding.pdf](#)

CUSU Notes:

1. The last six months have seen a period of renewed and increased collaboration between CUSU, the Graduate Union, and the Cambridge branch of the University and College Union.
2. There has been a relationship of mutual support on campaign between the three unions during that period, most notably during the industrial action which took place during Lent 2018.

3. CUSU represents all students, the GU represents all graduate and postgraduate students, and UCU membership includes graduate students. The three unions therefore have significant overlap in their memberships.

CUSU Believes:

1. Cooperation, collaboration and communication between the three unions is vital to ensure both students and staff are well-represented to the university.
2. The three unions share strategic interests, since staff working conditions are the conditions in which students learn, and represent the current and future working conditions of many students.
3. Such cooperation increases the campaigning power of each union, and will allow CUSU to achieve more of its aims.
4. That Memoranda of Understanding are a commonly used and effective tool to enable and structure cooperation between organisations such as student and trade unions.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To adopt the Memorandum of Understanding between CUSU, the Graduate Union and Cambridge UCU with immediate effect.

12: AOB

Choosing Chair for CUSU Council

Election of the Elections Committee Members