# POLICY MOTIONS PASSED DURING MICHAELMAS TERM

## Michaelmas I (approved during Michaelmas II on Monday 22nd October 2018)

**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Proposed change to CUSU Notes (5), due to being outdated, to be replaced with: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 PROPOSING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN CUSU, THE GU AND CAMBRIDGE UCU**

Proposer: Matt Kite, CUSU Education Officer

Seconder: Evie Aspinall, CUSU President

**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.

## Michaelmas II (approved during Michaelmas III on 5th November 2018)

**MOTION ON DRINKING SOCIETIES**

Proposed by Evie Aspinall

Seconded by Claire Sosienski Smith

**CUSU Notes:**

1.A series of ‘Grudgebridge’ posts in Easter Term 2018 highlighted a significant number of issues associated with some drinking societies, including acts of racism, sexism and homophobia.

2.Drinking society practices have harmed the reputation of Cambridge, as a city and an institution.

3.Former CUSU President, Daisy Eyre, responded to the issue by proposing that drinking societies pledged to sign a code of conduct. To date, 28 drinking societies have pledged to make a code of conduct, though what precisely that entails remains vague.

**CUSU Believes:**

1.Sexual misconduct, misogyny, racism and other kinds of discrimination have no place at this University.

2.CUSU should play an active part in challenging any cultures in which these forms of discrimination exists.

**CUSU Resolves:**

1. To work alongside drinking societies to challenge misconduct by:

* Facilitating their attendance at Good Lad workshops
* Creating a code of conduct for drinking societies to sign which will be published widely in order to hold them to account
* Encouraging colleges to extend bystander intervention training to all of its current members

2. To produce resources for J/MCRS and liberation campaigns as part of a broader objective of informing students about the realities of being a member of a drinking society

3. To mandate the sabbatical officers to lobby colleges to challenge the unacceptable behaviour present at drinking society events, and acknowledge the presence of drinking societies within the student body.

## Motions from Michaelmas III (accepted in Michaelmas IV on 19th November 2018)

**MOTION FOR THE CREATION OF A NEW LIBERATION CAMPAIGN: CUSU CLASS ACT**

Proposer: Shadab Ahmed, CUSU Access and Funding

Seconder: Evie Aspinall, CUSU President

**CUSU Notes**

1)Reclaim’s Educating All report includes a survey of students from top Russell Group universities. It showed that over 70% of the respondents who identified as working class agreed or strongly agreed with the statement “your class was a barrier when integrating at university”, and 74.8% of respondents who identified as working class felt they did not fit in at university, compared to 27.6% of people who did not identify as working class.

2)Of the students admitted to Cambridge in the 2017 cycle:

a)11.4% reside in areas of Polar Quintile 1 or 2

b)10.3% were OAC flagged

These are measures of low participation based on socio-geographic data. Other measures of deprivation, such as IMD, show similarly low figures.

3)That the budget has been set for this academic year, and so no funding can be directly apportioned to CUSU Class Act as a Liberation Campaign during 2018/19.

4)That CUSU Class Act exists as an informal student group, but receives no funding from CUSU or voting rights.

**CUSU Believes**

1)That class barriers are present in the University community, and further disadvantage those from working class backgrounds.

2)That CUSU should provide a community for those who feel isolated, alienated or less integrated in the student population on the basis of being working class.

3)That CUSU should support a campaign which fights for equality in the provisions provided by colleges and university to ensure that class and wealth has no effect on the standards of living in Cambridge.

**CUSU Resolves**

1)That CUSU Class Act become an official Liberation Campaign, gaining funding and CUSU Council representation, from the academic year 2019/20, and to amend the standing orders as appropriate.

2)That CUSU Class Act be given £500 this year from the Council Free Budget, and to consider whether further funding is feasible after the mid-year review, for the academic year 2018/19.

**MOTION TO ENDORSE A REFERENDUM ON THE FINAL BREXIT DEAL**

Proposer: Luke Hallam, Trinity College

Seconder: Gabriel Barton-Singer, Trinity College

**CUSU Notes:**

1.That the result of the referendum on 23rd June 2016 was to leave the European Union (EU);

2.That this result was contrary to the wishes of the majority of UK students;

3.That representatives from unions at 60 UK universities and colleges, including the Cambridge Graduate Union (GU) and CUSU International Students’ Campaign (iCUSU), have endorsed a referendum on the final terms of our exit from the EU, in the hope of retaining the benefits of membership;

**CUSU Believes:**

1.That recent political developments have significantly increased the likelihood of a ‘no deal’ exit from the EU;

2.That young people in the UK are overwhelmingly opposed to a ‘no deal’ Brexit;

3.That a ‘no deal’ scenario would be devastating for universities, jeopardising research funding and our ability to attract and retain the best academics;

4.That it is regrettable that a ‘no deal’ situation would, after 2020, likely cut off funding the UK receives from the Horizon 2020 programme, as well as sever the grants and opportunities provided through Erasmus+;

5.That even if a deal is agreed, it should still be put in a referendum to the British people, over a million of whom have turned 18 since June 2016, because membership of the EU is the best deal for this country;

6.That it is nevertheless probable that in the event of a deal being agreed between the UK and the EU (subject to approval by parliament), it is far less likely that parliament will legislate for a referendum than if there is no deal;

7.That it should therefore be a government negotiating priority to maintain membership of the Single Market and the Customs Union if a final vote on the deal does not materialise, and that membership of these institutions is vital to peace in Northern Ireland;

**CUSU Resolves:**

1.To officially endorse holding a referendum on the final Brexit deal;

2.To lobby that such a referendum must include an option to remain within the EU;

3.To affiliate itself with non-partisan campaigns to bring about such a referendum, such as ‘For Our Future’s Sake’ and the ‘People’s Vote’ campaign;

**EMERGENCY MOTION TO SUPPORT THE FREE PETER BIAR CAMPAIGN**

**CUSU Notes:**

1. That Peter Biar Ajak, who completed his PhD in Politics at Trinity College, Cambridge last year, was arrested on unspecified charges on Saturday, July 28th 2018 in South Sudan, and continues to be held without charge at the notorious South Sudanese prison known as the Blue House.
2. That the South Sudanese constitution states that no one can be held without charge for more than 24 hours.
3. That Peter is a youth advocate for peace, encouraging peaceful dialogue between people of different ethnicities and politics in South Sudan.
4. That the majority of the Cambridge student body are unaware of Peter’s situation and are yet to take action.
5. That CUSU has a duty to protect and stand up for all members of the University.
6. That other universities that Peter is affiliated to have taken action, e.g. the marches in Washington and New York.
7. That Vice Chancellor Stephen Toope made a statement calling for Peter’s release on 4th September 2018, the University has also sent a formal request to the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention to intervene in Ajak’s case “as a matter of urgency” but since then no further University action has been taken.

**CUSU Believes:**

1. That freedom of expression, the right to protest and a fair trial, are fundamental human rights that must be respected.
2. That Peter is a political prisoner and should be released immediately, and should receive fair and transparent treatment in accordance with the law.
3. That the student body of Cambridge University is highly politically active, and that any commitment or encouragement of activism is significantly weakened if we fail to stand up for everybody’s right to protest, including those of our fellow students internationally.

**CUSU Resolves:**

1. To actively support the Free Peter Biar campaign, starting with a public statement to this effect, and affiliation with the Cambridge campaign.
2. To encourage college JCR and MCRs to support the campaign.
3. To lobby the University to continue supporting the campaign, and to step up the visibility of the campaign at the University.
4. To produce and support funding for campaign materials for the Free Peter Biar campaign
5. To maintain these efforts until Peter is released.
6. To publicise the campaign in each CUSU bulletin, including links to events, the change.org petition, and the gofundme for Peter’s lawyers.

## Motions passed in Michaelmas IV (pending approval in the following Council meeting to occur in Lent)

**MOTION TO EDIT C(9) IN DISABLED STUDENTS’ CAMPAIGNS CONSTITUTIONS**

"Quoracy for Open Meetings shall be 1/15 of the total number of votes cast in the most recent election of the Disabled Students Officer, or 1.5 times the current number of members on the executive committee, whichever is the greater, with a minimum of five and a maximum of twenty five." Replace with:

"Quoracy for Open Meetings shall be 2/3 of the total number of voting members present at the previous Open Meeting (judged by attendance as registered in the live minutes, i.e. minuted according to physically present members and self-reported remotely present members), or 1.5 times the current number of members on the executive committee, whichever is the greater, with a minimum of five and a maximum of twenty."

# FREE BUDGET REQUESTS DURING MICHAELMAS TERM

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| Motion | Amount | Date |
| MOTION TO FUND A PORTON OF THE AFRO-CARIBBEAN SOCIETY AND CUSU BME CAMPAIGN’S “WINDRUSH AT 70: CARIBBEAN HISTORY, RESISTANCE, AND IDENTITY” FROM THE COUNCIL FREE BUDGET | £260 | 8/10/18 |
| MOTION TO FUND A PORTON OF THE 2018 CAMBRIDGE ‘DISORIENTATION GUIDE’ FROM THE COUNCIL FREE BUDGET | £250 | 8/10/18 |
| 10. MOTION TO FUND A PORTION OF THE COST OF RUNNING CAMQUEERHISTORY’S EVENTS FOR LGBT+ HISTORY MONTH | £250 | 5/11/18 |
| MOTION FOR THE CREATION OF A NEW LIBERATION CAMPAIGN: CUSU CLASS ACT | £500 | 5/11/18 |
| Total | £1260 |  |