

CUSU Elections Committee

Wednesday 4th March 2020, 12pm

1. Welcome and apologies

* In attendance: Alex Roberts (AR), Edward Parker Humphreys (EPH), Emily Barker-Gibbs (EBG), Joe Foye (JF).

1. Minutes of last meeting

* Minutes approved with amendments.
* Minutes also approved for the meeting held 2nd March.

1. Complaints against Ben Margolis

* EBG: The post only refers to RCSA Officers, not RCSA as a whole.
* EPH: One complainant is wrong to say that the status is not from an RCSA member, though not a committee member. EC will inform all complainants that this is not a rule breach, but we will ask that the word “overwhelmingly” for clarity.
* JF: In response to the other complaint, we will clarify that posting in JCR groups is not a rule breach, but if evidence were provided of selective moderation in favour of a candidate, EC should be informed.

1. Complaint against Kerensa Gaunt

* JF: The criticism is entirely based on record in office.
* EPH: The statement does not seem to include personal attacks.
* AR: Candidates are allowed to refer to EC rulings and record in office.
* AR to reply rejecting the complaint.

1. Complaint against Freddie Poser

* EBG: Also, about his opponent’s record in office.
* JF: He is making his own value judgements based on EC rulings, which will always be subjective.
* AR to reply rejecting the complaint.

1. Complaint against Jess O’Brien

* EPH: Nothing to be done in an elections capacity; candidates are free to message voters individually.
* AR to reply rejecting the complaint.

1. Complaint against Aastha Dahal

* EPH: Candidates are allowed to campaign so long as they do not break election rules. It does not appear that any rules were broken here.
* AR to reply rejecting the complaint.

1. Request (Keir Bradwell)

* AR: It may be worth asking Cambridge Zero Carbon for minutes of their decision-making process.
* EPH: No harm in asking for proof of the democratic mandate.
* AR to request evidence from Cambridge Zero Carbon and reply to Keir Bradwell stating that this evidence has been asked for.

1. Complaint against Luisa Deragon

* EPH: EC should issue Luisa Deragon with a formal warning and ask that the post comes down within three hours. A campaign ban will be issued if the post is not removed.
* EPH to draft the formal warning.

1. Query

* JF: Given that candidates can buy food to give to voters within the current rules, this is acceptable.
* CM to reply.

1. Query

* EPH: There are no election rules preventing student trustees from endorsing. The appropriateness is not really within EC’s jurisdiction.
* AR to reply saying there are no rules against student trustees endorsing, but he is free to consult others on the board to make his own judgement.

1. AOB

* CUCA Endorsement posts
  + AR: A request has already been made to CUCA.
  + EPH: Its dangerous to start understanding societies as campaigners. We should discount clear satirical posts.
  + EPH: We should post a formal warning acknowledging that CUCA have failed to provide evidence of their democratic mandate for their endorsement.
  + EPH to draft a ruling.