

CUSU Council (Michaelmas I)

Monday 14th October 2019, 7pm

Mill Lane Lecture Rooms, Lecture Theatre 2

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Agenda

1. Objections to the order of items on the agenda
   1. **Proposal to move “Motion to boycott the Socialist Workers’ Party and its front organisations” to the top of the agenda (Emmanuel College SU)**
      * Colin Kaljee (Emmanuel SU) presented the proposal.
      * The proposal was passed. Yes received 32 votes. No received 3.
2. Motion to boycott the Socialist Workers’ Party and its front organisations
   * + Kate Litman (CUSU Women’s Officer) proposed the motion.
     + Kieran Heal (Churchill JCR) asked whether the group have used CUSU before?
       - * KL clarified that members have distributed material at different event. Ellie Brain (Fitzwilliam JCR) added that the group has tried to book rooms in a number of colleges.
     + Colin Kaljee (Emmanuel SU) spoke against the motion.
     + Henry Wright (Homerton US) spoke in favour of the motion.
     + Kerensa Gaunt (CUSU Part-Time Students’ Officer) spoke in favour of the motion.
     + Ellie Brain (Fitzwilliam JCR) spoke in favour of the motion.
     + Colin Kaljee (Emmanuel SU) responded to criticism of his support for the motion.
     + Kieran Heal (Churchill JCR) asked if CUSU had a conflict of interest? Also asked if there is precedent for acting this way in regards to political parties?
     + Edward Parker Humphreys (CUSU President) stated that there is not a conflict of interest. There is a precedent for doing so with regards to campaign groups.
     + Kate Litman (CUSU Women’s Officer) gave a summation in the motion.
     + The proposal was passed. There were 39 Yes votes. There were 3 No votes.
     + Tom Hinch (Robinson JCR) asked if CUSU could relay its concerns to Cambridge MP Daniel Zeichner over his attending Stand Up to Racism events?
     + Kate Litman (CUSU Women’s Officer) agreed to do this.
3. Matters arising from the minutes of the last Council Meeting
   1. **Approval of minutes from previous, non-quorate meeting**
      * Minutes approved. There were 37 Yes votes. There were 0 No votes.
4. Announcements by Committees, Campaign Teams and the Executive
   1. **Approval of sabbatical officer year objectives**
      * Edward Parker Humphreys (CUSU President) presented his objectives and updates.
      * Ali Hyde (CUSU Education Officer) updated on the upcoming Academic Forum and Regent House ballot on academic representation.
      * Jess O’Brien (CUSU Disabled Students’ Officer) updated on upcoming events to support a second referendum on EU membership.
      * Lily-Rose Sharry (CUSU Access & Funding Officer) updated on improved guidance for care leaver and estranged students, and upcoming event on the topic.
      * Stella Swain (CUSU-GU Welfare & Rights Officer) updated on decolonisation reading group coming up and asks for volunteers with work opposing Prevent.
      * Kerensa Gaunt (CUSU Part-Time Students’ Officer) asked why CUSU Education Officer’s objectives do not include working with Class Act, iCUSU and the BME Campaign? Also asked why objectives do not include working on issues affecting students from working class backgrounds? Also asks why nothing about Free Education is included in objectives.
      * Ali Hyde (CUSU Education Officer) says happy to work with any campaigns through CUSU Executive, but would not want to initiate on something he does know about. Agrees that study skills project should include access focus; is working with Lily-Rose Sharry on this. In terms of Free Education, CUSU Policy is even more important than manifesto objectives.
      * Kieran Heal (Churchill JCR) asks how Wednesday afternoons free can be plausible when Natural Sciences students have Saturday contact hours?
      * Edward Parker Humphreys (CUSU President) says that this work is part of a broader project into looking into student workload. Primary aim is to get the university to commit to some broader principles to lead towards it.
      * Kieran Heal (Churchill JCR) asks whether this could lead to Natural Sciences being excluded from sports?
      * Edward Parker Humphreys (CUSU President) says that these students already are excluded, and other universities do give Wednesday afternoons off.
      * Objectives approved. There were 41 Yes votes and 1 No vote.
   2. **Updates from Campaigns**
      * Jake Simms (CUSU Ethical Affairs Officer) delivered a report on the Campaign’s work on the Demilitarise, Fossil Fuel and Living Wage campaigns. Also updated on the “Political Freshers’ Week”.
      * Julia Yan (iCUSU) updated on iCUSU’s storage campaign and collaboration work with CUSU.
      * Jess O’Brien (CUSU Disabled Students’ Officer) updated on the work of the Disabled Students’ Campaign.
5. Discussions
   1. **Update and discussion on plans for a New Union**
      * Edward Parker Humphreys (CUSU President) presented on the plans for a New Union.
      * Aled Powell (Peterhouse JCR) asked whether the Access & Academic Affairs Officer role would come from an access background?
      * Edward Parker Humphreys (CUSU President) stated that there is no expectation for this regarding the current Access & Funding Officer role, but that something in the Standing Orders would specify the need to understand access work in Cambridge.
      * April Jakso (CUSU LGBT+) raised concerns about the impact on the LGBT+ campaign in not having a sabbatical officer and what the major benefits would be.
      * Edward Parker Humphreys (CUSU President) responded, highlighting that the LGBT+ Campaign are still free to decide the structure of their campaign and emphasised that liberation officers do not solely work on the work of their campaign. Updated on the staff support now available to the campaigns.
      * Henry Wright (Homerton US) asked about concerns raised on the Access & Academic Affairs previously?
      * Edward Parker Humphreys (CUSU President) responded stating that there is significant overlap between the work of the current officers, and that there will be 2 full-time officers with access in their remit. Also states that staff changes have also made officers freer from running CUSU access events and that education work is already spread throughout the team. UG and PG access are also very different issues.
      * Jake Simms (CUSU Ethical Affairs Officer) asks for more concrete detail on how better support would function?
      * Edward Parker Humphreys (CUSU President) responds that the new Welfare & Community Officer will be in a good position to support the Ethical Affairs Campaign on some issues, but does not want to impose on campaigns.
      * Cecily Bateman (Disabled Students’ Campaign) asks why self-identification would not be written down.
      * Edward Parker Humphreys (CUSU President) states that it will not be explicit but there will be more clarification than previously.
      * Emrys Travis (Disabled Students’ Officer) suggested CUSU give thought to not having Presidents.
      * Edward Parker Humphreys (CUSU President) concluded the proposals.
6. Ordinary Policy Motions from Previous Council
   1. **Motion to mandate CUSU to continue working with the GU on consultation on and development of proposals for a new single union**
      * Noted
7. Proposed Ordinary Action Motions
8. Proposed Ordinary Policy Motions
   1. **Motion to support Fair and Equal Pay**
      * Stella Swain (CUSU Welfare & Rights Officer) proposed the motion.
      * Tom Hinch (Robinson SA) asked if CUSU has any indication how likely strike action is?
      * Stella Swain (CUSU Welfare & Rights Officer) responded that it is very likely to tell, but a disaggregated ballot makes it more likely.
      * Tom Hinch (Robinson SA) asked when strike action might occur.
      * Stella Swain (CUSU Welfare & Rights Officer) said that the strikes could occur in November at the earliest.
      * **Amendment (Edward Parker Humphreys)**
        + Edward Parker Humphreys (CUSU President) proposed the amendment.
        + Stella Swain (CUSU Welfare & Rights) indicated that she accepted the amendment as friendly.
        + Tom Hinch (Robinson SA) asked for clarity on the amendment process.
        + Joe Foye (CUSU Council Chair) gave clarification.
        + The amendment was accepted. There were 43 Yes votes and 0 No votes.
      * **Amendment (Tom Hinch)**
        + Tom Hinch (Robinson SA) proposed the amendment.
        + Kieran Heal (Churchill JCR) asked whether he believes his motion successfully satisfies the concerns of students who felt pressured by CUSU to support the strike.
        + Tom Hinch (Robinson SA) responded arguing that he did.
        + Edward Parker Humphreys (CUSU President) spoke against the amendment.
        + Henry Wright (Homerton US) spoke in favour of the amendment.
        + Emrys Travis (Access & Funding PTE – proxy) argued against the amendment.
        + Jake Simms (Ethical Affairs) spoke against the amendment.
        + Ben Margolis (Education PTE) spoke against the amendment.
        + Tom Hinch (Robinson SA) delivered a summation on his amendment.
        + The amendment fell with 13 Yes votes and 28 No votes.
      * **Amendment (Luke Hallam)**
        + Luke Hallam presented the amendment.
        + Anna Ward (CUSU Part-Time Students Officer) spoke against the amendment.
        + Paul Heller (Arts & Humanities UG School Representative) spoke against the amendment.
        + Cecily Bateman (CUSU Disabled Students’ Campaign) spoke against the amendment.
        + Luke Hallam delivered a summation on his amendment.
        + The amendment fell with 7 Yes votes and 32 No votes.
      * **Amendment (Henry Wright)**
        + Henry Wright (Homerton US) presented his amendment.
        + Arinjay Butani (Selwyn JCR) spoke about the different impacts on international students.
        + Aled Powell (Peterhouse JCR) spoke against the amendment.
        + Henry Wright (Homerton US) delivered a summation on his amendment.
        + The amendment fell with 7 Yes votes and 33 No votes.
      * Becca Hunter (Murray Edwards JCR – proxy) asked whether CUSU would also support alternative arrangements for students who avoid lectures even when their lecturers are not striking?
      * Edward Parker Humphreys (CUSU President) clarified that this is part of the work on managing the impact on students.
      * Ollie Banks (Ethical Affairs – proxy) spoke in favour of the motion.
      * Stella Swain (CUSU Welfare & Rights Officer) delivered a summation on the motion.
      * The motion passed with 36 Yes votes and 3 No votes.
   2. **Renewal of 2016-17 CUSU Policy**
      * Edward Parker Humphreys (CUSU President) proposed the motion.
      * Cameron O’Connor (Downing JCR) proposed that the “Stop Funding Hate” motion be removed from the renewal policy.
      * Edward Parker Humphreys (CUSU President) agreed that this was satisfactory.
      * The motion was passed with 40 Yes votes and 0 No votes.
9. Any other business