

Minutes from Michaelmas IV

19th November 2018

1. Objections to the order of items on the agenda

None

2. Corrections to the minutes of the last Council meeting

None

3. Matters arising from the minutes of the last council meeting

None

4. Date, time and venue of upcoming Council meetings

To be confirmed closer to the time

5. Announcements by Committees, Campaign Teams and the Executive

Evie Aspinall- CUSU President

2 main things: college inequality, connecting JCRs, rent forums, college review and pres conference, CUSU Connect- make sure everyone is part of the correct sub-group and mention any welfare events going on

Matt Kite- CUSU Education Officer

Doing a lot of work alongside Evie, part of a review on academic representatives, the last focus group is tomorrow at 11. The university is really interested in the outcome and will make changes accordingly, a good turnout would be helpful.

Emrys Travis- CUSU Disabled Students' Officer

Away at a DSC/ MedSoc/Kings panel on discrimination. Off work from the 26th and then distance working and part time. If you need anything talk to DSC and the sabs

Shadab Ahmed

Absent at a conference. Evie read message out on behalf

Claire Sosienski Smith- CUSU Women's Officer

Really encouraged by attendance at events, going to a launch party after this at Sydney Sussex, updates are in the document but also went to a rally.

CUSU Disabled Students' Campaign

Request for people put up posters in colleges and facilities

CUSU LGBT+ Campaign

Had Michaelmas elections, Liam is the new president. There is now a mostly full committee and upcoming events are: family scheme party, bar social. Also preparing for history month and deciding on events for February

CUSU Ethical Affairs Campaign

Meeting with the part time executive to plan to work as 4 of us, living wage coming up before end of term, broadened ideas of campaign, lots of time to get involved. Sharing events on Facebook, so feel free to promote.

6. Questions to Committees, Campaign Teams and the Executives

Can the names be written at the top of all accountability documents?

7. Announcements by the Council

None

8. Discussion- Democracy Review

EA- CUSU President: there has been a big review in CUSU and lots of consultation on the subject. There was a form sent out regarding the matter. Three questions to answer:

I) Reforming the procedural element of council and how it runs: how do we make it more engaging, get rid of the boring bits?

Discussions can be complex- PowerPoints to see and read amendments and points could help

Use parliamentary quality debate rules- they make sense, but discussions may be more nuanced than it allows, causing stilted discussion, better when more casual like Good Lad discussion.

Meeting duration- sometimes take too long and are not as productive

Accountability forms- a lot better than methods used previously, only need to mention events. Easier to feedback to students. Could be used to cut down talking so that sabbs speak in every few meetings or just take questions on the approach used.

Video updates before council? Used at Oxford and can be accessible to people outside of council

II) What should Council discuss- better representation of college levels or faculty level issues/ is the stuff already discussed important/ how do we discuss matters/ how can we encourage people to enter discussion points?

Lots of things CUSU do doesn't need to be discussed here, could be discussed in forums. Every time there is a free budget request, there is a lot of time taken up, a sub-committee could deal with it. Changes to liberation campaigns always have to go through council but are never controversial, just time consuming
Less councils is not necessary if there are shorter councils, it would mean more want to come as people don't mind if it is interesting and discussion based.

Better accountability for people attending- fine if people send a proxy but many people don't turn up. Could publish attendance in bulletin (e.g. 2x St John's College present).

Need to enforce council members as some have 2 or 3 votes in various positions, can get a proxy, needs to be enforced.

Chair- if you want a proxy, you must send an email in advance

Approve minutes online. Potentially allow people to attend discussion via online and get some people to get involved whereas otherwise couldn't.

III) Who is rep on Council- JCR and MCRs, usually 2/3 reps are JCR, NUS, 12 undergrad and post-graduate for each school?

Should be proportional. No one knows the schools/ faculty reps. The JCRs/MCRs should be 50/50 with an equal vote. Faculty rep review might help engagement.

9. Ordinary policy motions from previous councils

No points were raised. Motions have been accepted.

10. Proposed ordinary policy motions

a. **MOTION TO SUPPORT STUDENT CAMPAIGNS AND MOVEMENTS WORKING TOWARDS THE DEMILITARISATION OF THE UNIVERSITY**

Presented by Proposers (Ethical Affairs)

Amendment: to remove CUSU Resolves 1

Ties would have to be very official. Would this mean ties with companies that are both commercial and military? Could be considered vague. Point dropped as others felt the message was clear on what this point would be referring to.

Questions/ comments:

Tamzin Byrne: the resolves may need to be rethought and readjusted as they don't empower CUSU to take action, potentially could ask for CUSU to empower representatives on councils to question the nature of partnerships, giving a goal.

A: the motion is more about CUSU supporting campaigns than working n them. There is already a large campaign, this asks them to support it.

Carrington: Can it be clarified how the companies involved will be defined? Private companies may have applications in both commercial or military, will there be a distinction between those that deal with arms trade and those that provide equipment for peacekeeping?

A: the motion looks at the general principal and doesn't comment on exact companies
Matt Kite- CUSU would probably apply it like they do with fossil fuels, we advocate the matter. We are asked in meetings about the student opinion so reference policy, which is then taken into consideration.

Joe Foye- feel that the motion is vague, but the principle is good. Clear what the campaign involves but not what the motion wants from CUSU.

Procedural motion to have the motion redrafted: Tamzin Byrne

Speech in favour of deferring: Perhaps should defer as there are lots of questions about what this means, as it is a highly political topic, it will get picked up by press so should be certain what it is asking

Speech against: the CUSU resolves is very clear- to support current demilitarisation campaign and support as long as it is under the principle.

Vote- majority vote to defer motion.

b. **MOTION TO EDIT C(9) IN THE DSC CONSTITUTIONS**

Presented by Aberdeen Powell: there has been a lot of issue with reaching quorum over the last 2 years, making it difficult to pass decisions, policy will make it easier to reach quorum and allow decision making.

Vote- passed unanimously.

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

Has been minor changes to the class act document and as a constitutional change has to officially go through council twice.

Vote- unanimously passed.

11. Ordinary action motions

None

12. Any other business

Moving to coopt unfilled PTE places at council.

Only candidate to put themselves forward was Lara Parizotto. As candidate was unable to attend, their manifesto was read by Chair:

"I am running for the Welfare and Rights PTE position to campaign on the issue of financial support for students at Cambridge.

Financial support for students continues to be cut and the emotional impact and burden this is put on us continues to grow. For many students, financial pressure can sometime reach an unsustainable point. If our University and colleges are not prepared to help our students meet their financial needs, our welfare and academic success will be badly affected.

Maintenance loans for EU students have now been scrapped alongside grants for home students. The cost of university continues to go up before we even arrive as a consequence of moving in, purchasing course materials and more.

My campaign will focus on the hidden costs of university, looking at the disparities between colleges and how we can best address these. We already know that rent is a big issue in Cambridge and that colleges have different success rates in keeping costs low. It is time we start looking at some of the other 'hidden' and unexpected costs causing students added financial strains.

These include:

- Laundry costs
- Transport
- Social events like formas and May Balls
- Kitchen Fixed Charge
- College deposit
- Bike costs and maintenance
- Cost of meals
- Storage costs

My campaign will focus on mitigating the costs of university at every level. I will make use of current resources CUSU have from the Cambridge Survey to understand what are the experiences of students in this area and will fill any gaps with my own research.

To address these matters, I will:

- Encourage all JCRs to provide students with a '**funding guide**' on the sources of financial support available at college. Will aim to help by providing templates and informing them of University resources.
- Monitor the planned **changes to the Cambridge bursary system** to ensure that all students are accounted for in the provisions, including sufficient support for EU students, estranged students and disabled students.
- Work with JCRs and societies in coming up with effective strategies on how to ensure colleges provide **free sanitary products** to students.
- Work with JCRs in exploring options to **mitigate the cost** of living in college, such as campaigning for free washing liquid in kitchens.

- Encourage the setting up of **working groups** in college which can look into understanding the experiences of students and what can change to support them. I will make sure that JCRs are provided with resources for these groups.
- Work with JCRs in ensuring the **Tutors in college are prepared** and appropriately trained to support students dealing with financial issues. This means ensuring that the **emotional needs** of students are met as well as their **financial concerns**.
- Be an **point of information** to students who have exhausted other means with no success. I will aim to direct them to better sources of financial support from there.

I believe welfare is strongly dependent on student's ability to act independently though their time at University. Support for this must be available and CUSU can support colleges and staff achieving that. I want to make sure that no student is negatively affected because of financial strains at University."

Vote- majority in favour.