# Minutes from Lent II

## Monday 4th February 2019

1. **Objections to the order of items on the agenda**

None

1. **Matters arising from the minutes of last council**
   1. Election of the chair of CUSU Council

Role of CUSU Chair (presented by Evie): As chair you must turn up to council mostly know the rules and know how motions work. Often involves an hour session on Thursday to ensure the chair knows what is happening in upcoming meeting. Chair is unable to vote in council. Second place tends to become Deputy Chair.

3 nominations:

1. Joe- One of the longest serving members of council at over a year. Candidate feels that they have done enough talking and know the procedures and motions, meaning they can make sure councils run smoothly. During time in council, have seen at least 4 chairs, including the best and the worst. Aims to be welcoming and accessible, partly in way of the tone of council, ensures people don’t fear speaking just because they don’t have credible knowledge on a subject. Will provide guidance on how to submit motions/ make amendments and be available for questions and will help to ensure the democracy review gets put in place as best as possible and has got feedback on this already.
2. Matt- Has had less time here, which could be a good thing as a fresh perspective. Many great things have been done at council, but sometimes can get stuck. As chair would encourage more to speak and attend, looking at how we can increase vote turnout. Important that council is welcoming- if people don’t know how to write a motion, it can be hard to take part so will have sessions on how to draft a motion. More ways to include people, more time for opposition, questions and engage ordinary members in discussion.
3. Lewis: Three important factors to being chair: 1 experience, 2 balance and 3 general characteristics. If you’re chair you must work a room, ensure people re heard, be relatively pleasant and aware of what you are doing. Has been VC of Sydney Chair, which is a similar principal to CUSU council, in Sydney. Balance- not necessarily a good thing to be fully in alignment with the sabbs as represent all in council and must be neutral. As all in room, all have a voice, and all have a vote. Reps all have a mandate and will ensure the best possible opportunity for you to share your mandate.

Questions:

Q. How long would the chair serve?

A. Until Michaelmas, this may potentially change with the review.

Voting:

Joe- Chair

Lewis- Deputy Chair

1. **Announcements by Committees, Campaign Teams and the Executive**
   1. SUAS Annual Support

Presented by Lisa Dery (full notes in supporting documents)

* SUAS launched 8 years ago and regularly updated at council, however got to the stage where it was no longer needed except for the annual report. It helps keep everyone up to date on the issues and challenges service users bring.
* This year there have been 473 users- 444 were students whereas the others were friends or parents etc.
* Numbers have increased 107% since 2012, with significant increase since 2014-15. Drop in number of referrals from staff- 14% signposted from college staff, 26% from university staff.
* Top 5 colleges include 4 of the mature post grad colleges and the majority of service users are also post graduates, with issues including: exam issues, intermission, supervisor relations. Undergraduates shared many of these but had more focus on college issues and changing colleges than PG’s as well as exams, isolation, friendships and health.
* 132 of all users reported/ mentioned a disability, most of these being UG. 31% raised mental health.
* Approximately 50/50 between home and international students for concerns on finance. Issue for both UG and PG.
* Income shifted from affiliation fees to the college levy. Increased staff to 3 full time advisors. As provided by the union, work closely with the sabbs, using issues raised to help inform sabb work. Highlighted concerns with college transfer process intermittent issues and disciplinary procedure.
* This year: 277 users so far, more are PG. Launching workshops for mitigating circumstances for example and informed on issues that relate to student such as industrial action and Brexit. Pop-up events in downing sites, engineering etc to give advice and get tea. All students are welcome. Drop in service on Tuesday and Thursday at advice service- no need for appointment.

Evie: SUAS is very important so share with students as it is great for providing an external voice. There are leaflets to share the word.

Evie, CUSU president: the Facebook event for the council has videos from the sabbs with accountability information, as well as the documents included in the agenda. Prescon went well, interesting discussions and a chance to socialise. Brexit discussion occurred pre-council and there is an open meeting on the 19th, will be shared by email.

Matt: fortnight to vote for the student led teaching award. Boycott NSS

Shadab: hasn’t done a video as was working on the shadowing scheme. Would like volunteers to walk people to Emma. Admissions 101- chance to quiz admin office on outreach etc.

Emrys: 5:30 meeting in GU lounge for alternative families, looking at queerness and estrangement and making a mural.

Claire (and WomCam): Reading group tomorrow. WomCam is Thursday. Anti-valentines party at Newnham at 7pm. Disciplinary procedure open again soon for comments and closes on 28th February. The entire policy is reviewed after review consultation. Email thoughts to [Oscar@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:Oscar@admin.cam.ac.uk).

LGBT+: LGBT+ history month, great to see flags everywhere especially in colleges where it is harder to get agreement. Open meeting by those not on committee. Voting for committee opening soon.

Ethical affairs: Green week went well, events attended by over 100 people. Encouraging to see. Progress on green week becoming carbon neutral and working with green officers. Living wage meeting- information on facebook event. Divestment campaigns- workshop this weekend. Tally on Friday at 4:30 as revealed in the Guardian.

1. **Discussions**
   1. Democracy review

Evie: presented as a discussion point as there is a lot of different factors that require thought and want suggestions based on what has been said. Meant as a way to present key point and then for questions on logistics. Form will be sent out later to get further opinions on what has been discussed.

Council structure:

Some feel there is a lot of bureaucracy and not enough focus on college/ faculty concerns.

Formalise Prescon to talk about college level issues

FacultyCon- to work in same way as Prescon and then have a representative at council after forums.

Composition of Council:

People are unsure what NUS delegates do. Would help as they are expected to vote on policy

Have at large councillors? Positions where they would be just on council, not representing college etc. Idea of this is that they would be very passionate about council.

School reps or faculty reps? At the moment it is school reps, faculty reps would increase number to 60. Most in attendance currently are colleges. There are currently 3 per college and undergraduates are more represented- to resolve this could have 2 from each or 1 from each.

Representative could be an elected individual rather than the President and VP. Thy could then feed back to JCR/ MCR. Idea is that they would be more interested.

Questions:

Q. How would pres/faculty con work? How would they interact with council?

A. Would be independent and make their own decisions but present updates at council.

Q. If system devolved, who would sit on council?

A. Probably still have presidents and school reps but college talks would happen elsewhere. Imagine it would be less formal but similar to ensure matters discussed.

Q. Could Prescon deliver motions to council?

A. yes

Q. What difference would formalising Prescon have?

A. It has only been set up by sabbs. By making it formalised, it would ensure it continues in the future.

Q. Is the point of the reform to increase engagement or better represent students? Highest engagement appears to be when politicised.

A. The latter. High engagement doesn’t always mean representation.

Elections:

Part time exec position elections could run alongside sabb elections- if they are elected as a team they could work together more. Would mean students on a 1 year masters couldn’t run and may confuse people.

Council chair:

Make more of a position? Give higher validity and elect

Union Development Team:

Not clear what they do and a less clear mandate. Democracy steering group? CUSU would be more democratic and accountable but would mean president has less time to campaign.

Campaigns:

Make CUSU campaigns, with everything under a campaign e.g. ethical affairs to be made a campaign.

**Document open until Friday**, important to ask students for opinions as would affect council makeup, hopefully making it more democratic.

1. **Ordinary policy motions from the previous council**

Both accepted into policy. Standing orders changes have been implemented into the rules (see 6a)

1. **Proposed action motions**
   1. Motion to approve Lent elections rules

Presented by Alex Russel (briefly swaps as Chair in order to present motion): the real changes are the addition of the standing orders. The rules from Michaelmas and the amount of money used are the same. Campaign opening etc can be debated.

Vote:

All in favour. Motion passes.

1. **Proposed ordinary policy motions**
   1. Motion to support the provision of menstrual products

Presented by Elle Brain: JCR of Fitz and also works on the CUSU women’s campaign regarding poverty. When Elle leaves post, unable to guarantee work will continue and so wants policy to ensure it will. Whilst some work has been done, it can go further across university and departments. Attention to CUSU notes where ¼ have no provision. 47% spent less than £100 despite this been lower than the estimated cost per individual per year on sanitary products. Only department to offer menstrual products is the maths department, which is largely male. Period products isn’t really about cost but accessibility and currently they are very limited in accessibility. The scheme at Fitz has been met very positively and with genuine gratitude. Countless women officers have been asking how it happened at Fitz, it is clear the scheme needs to continue.

Questions:

Q. CUSU resolves- campaign to be freely accessible, who would fund this?

A. Individual colleges.

Q. There are larger campaigns that might support motion or make more change, have you considered involving these?

A. Yes, in a way they have thirded the motion and support it.

Vote:

All in favour. Motion passed.

1. **Any other business**

Evie: Quite a calm council tonight. Do bring/ encourage motions. If you need help you can ask or look at the guide to writing motions on the website.