

TEMPORARY RENEWAL OF LAPSED POLICY

INCREASE STUDENT INPUT INTO CUSU'S BUDGET (04/05/15)

Proposed by Helen Hoogewerf-McComb (CUSU President) and Jemma Stewart (CUSU Coordinator)

CUSU Notes:

1. That a number of students' unions across the country are implementing 'participatory budgeting' which allows students to discuss and debate how funding should be allocated, rather than simply being presented with a fixed budget determined by officers;
2. That changes to CUSU's Standing Orders in February 2015 introduced Campaigns Officers to CUSU's executive structure;
3. That the budget prepared by the Coordinator for 2015/16 includes a reduction of Executive Team budgets and a significant expansion of the Council Free Budget.

CUSU Believes:

1. That CUSU's funding priorities should be set by the student body as a whole, not just by a small group of elected officers;
2. That Campaigns Officers, by their nature, are difficult to assign budgets to under CUSU's traditional funding system as it is unclear when CUSU's budget is drawn up which campaigns will be selected by students and what resources they will require;
3. That those outside of the CUSU executive should also have the opportunity to seek funds from CUSU for projects and campaigns which students support and which further CUSU's charitable aims;
4. That it is important to introduce a structure which allows the funds within Council Free Budget to be distributed to campaigns and projects responsibly and with maximum student input.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To hold CUSU's Michaelmas Term Open Meeting after the election of CUSU's Campaigns Officers, with allocation of Council Free Budget funds as the first agenda item;
2. To implement a bidding process by which students can submit funding bids and have them deliberated on by attendees, within the context of other bids submitted;
3. To aim to assign the balance of the Council Free Budget, minus £1000, to campaigns and projects through this bidding process;

4. To work with elected Campaigns Officers to determine the resource requirements of their campaigns and support them in developing their budgets and bids;
5. To advertise the opportunity for campaign funding to the student body, with clear guidelines for what sort of activities CUSU would be able to fund and support for those who wish to develop a bid;
6. To promote the Open Meeting widely to all students to ensure as many people as possible take part in decisions about the allocations of these funds.

WE SUPPORT WOMEN IN SPORT PROJECT (04/05/15)

Proposed by Brooke Longhurst & Anna Parker

CUSU Notes:

1. Sport is an integral part of the University of Cambridge community
2. The ability to participate in sport has been shown to benefit students in a wide range of areas, including physical health, mental health, community building, and retention rates in degree programs.
3. There are currently significant differences in funding, resources and attitudes toward women, transgender women and genderqueer in sport, that act as barriers to their participation and success.

CUSU Believes:

1. In the eradication of gender-based disadvantages at Cambridge.
2. All students should be given equal access to participate in College and University level sport.
3. It is important that equal access to sport is supported by the attitudes of members of the university community.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To support the We Sport Women in Sport campaign, by the amount of 100 GBP, in order for the campaign to purchase stickers that promote the campaign, to be included in pamphlets given out at varsity matches. This will allow the project to reach a wide variety of individuals already in the sporting community.
2. To look into the ways sport at Cambridge excludes trans women.

PROVIDE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES FOR ENDING ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS (16/02/15)

Proposed by Joanna M. Lawrence & Amelia Horgan

CUSU Notes:

1. That 1 in 4 women are victims of domestic violence, and men also can be;

2. That women ages 16-24 are at the highest risk for being victims of domestic abuse;
3. That misconceptions about the nature of relationship abuse are held by the general public, abusers, and especially victims;
4. That the University of Cambridge is lacking in readily available information for students or staff about recognising or seeking help for one's self or others in cases of abusive relationships;
5. That seeking help can be very difficult for victims both emotionally and physically;

CUSU Believes:

1. That no one should be victim to emotional or physical abuse;
2. That the University and Colleges have a responsibility to provide for the health and safety of their students;
3. That the University and Colleges are able to provide information and support that would help students avoid and escape abusive relationships;

CUSU Resolves:

1. To place posters in toilet stalls in all Colleges with information on recognising and seeking help for victims of abusive relationships;
2. To equip all college porters and tutors with information about how to support students who approach them for help, including how to access community services;
3. To provide training opportunities for porters and tutors in understanding and dealing with such situations.

FIGHT THE USE OF UNPAID INTERNSHIPS (16/02/15)

Proposed by Helen Hoogewerf-McComb & Rob Richardson

CUSU Notes:

1. That, despite the UK having a national minimum wage, there are around 15,000 people in the UK working as unpaid interns;
2. It is increasingly common for employers in certain sectors to demand a period of unpaid work experience in order to gain entry to paid employment;
3. More than 1 in 3 graduate interns are working in unpaid positions;
4. That the estimated cost of a 6-month internship is £5,556 in London and £4,728 in Manchester, exclusive of transport costs;
5. That 74% of Britons believe that a young person in their family could not afford to take up an unpaid internship.

CUSU Believes:

1. That paid internships can be a valuable experience for many students and graduates, while also providing significant benefits to employers;
2. That, by relying on interns having access to their own financial resources, unpaid internships favour the wealthy and prevent those who are less well-off from accessing work in many industries;
3. That current use of unpaid internships takes unfair advantage of minimum wage exemptions for voluntary positions;
4. That the current situation will prevent many Cambridge students from pursuing the careers they would wish, or leave them struggling to make ends meet as they attempt to enter the job market;
5. That change is needed to prevent exploitation of young people and recent graduates and to ensure fairness in entry to all sectors of the job market.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To provide information to students to help them understand their rights and options regarding unpaid internships;
2. To campaign for legislative change to prevent minimum wage exemptions for volunteers from applying to long-term internships;
3. To work with national organisers such as NUS and Intern Aware to lobby Parliament and political parties to adopt this stance.

REFORM THE STRUCTURE OF THE CUSU EXECUTIVE (02/02/15)

Proposed Helen Hoogewerf-McComb & Rob Richardson

CUSU Notes:

1. That, following consultation, with members of Council and the CUSU Executive, the Standing Orders have been redrafted to reform the structure of the CUSU Executive

CUSU Believes:

1. That the proposed changes will improve the functioning of the Executive.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To adopt the newly drafted Standing Orders, as amended at the previous meeting of CUSU Council.

VOTER REGISTRATION (02/02/15)

Proposed by Fred Jerrome & Seconded by Holly Higgins

CUSU Notes:

1. Changes to the way in which voter registration works has resulted in many people being removed from the Electoral Register without their knowledge, and thus denied the ability to exercise their vote
2. Particular social groups are worse affected by this change to Individual Electoral Registration (IER), one of them being students, due to the transient nature of their accommodation
3. The number of students in Cambridge who have disappeared from the electoral register is estimated at 2000 but is likely higher

CUSU Believes:

1. That students are not a homogenous bloc but there are common interests and experiences of the group that should be voiced ³²
2. That it is important for students to have the opportunity to vote (or not), rather than to be forced into disenfranchisement by a lack of awareness of procedural changes
3. That as a students' union representing the interests of its members, CUSU has a duty (i) to promote awareness of the changes to the registration process and (ii) to encourage students to register to vote and (iii) to exercise their vote in an informed manner ⁴. This duty also falls on JCRs and equivalent college-level representative bodies who have a regard for the welfare and responsibilities of their studentry

CUSU Resolves:

1. To run its own voter registration campaign
2. To support non-partisan and cross-party efforts to register students to vote
3. To work with Cambridge University and Cambridge City Council to this end
4. To provide funding of up to £750 from relevant budgets to enable student voter registration
5. To make its non-financial assets available, including but not limited to: computer equipment, publicity facilities, and representative capabilities, in order to increase student voter registration rates
6. To bring attention to National Voter Registration Day (February 5 2015) and the connected Meaning of Your Vote event (February 9 2015).

END WEEK FIVE BLUES (19/01/15)

Proposed by Adam Robertson and Seconded by Oscar Addis

CUSU Notes:

1. That the 'Week Five Blues' - a week of intense anxiety, worry, and often sadness - are seen as a regular and normal fixture of Cambridge undergraduate life.
2. That most universities allow their students a 'reading week' during the middle of term, to relieve pressure and give students time to rest and reflect.

3. That Cambridge has a very high incidence of mental health problems.
4. That the “End ‘Week Five Blues’” initiative seeks to draw attention to the unnecessary pressure put upon Cambridge students by encouraging students to refuse to hand in work during Week 5 Lent term.
5. That this wouldn’t mean students were encouraged to not do their work, but simply to not hand it in.

CUSU Believes:

1. That the way in which Cambridge terms are structured negatively impacts the mental health of some of its students.
2. That it is possible to have longer terms without any serious disruption to the functioning of the University.
3. That student mental health is an issue that needs to be taken more seriously by the University and its constituent colleges.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To support the #endweek5blues initiative.
2. To inform senior tutors at every college of the initiative.
3. To raise awareness of the goals of the project and related issues around student mental health.

REFORM THE STRUCTURE OF THE CUSU EXECUTIVE (19/01/15)

Proposed Helen Hoogewerf-McComb & Rob Richardson

CUSU Notes:

1. That, following consultation, with members of Council and the CUSU Executive, the Standing Orders have been redrafted to reform the structure of the CUSU Executive

CUSU Believes:

1. That the proposed changes will improve the functioning of the Executive.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To adopt the newly drafted Standing Orders, as amended at this meeting of CUSU Council.

CREATE A PART-TIME STUDENTS REPRESENTATIVES POSITION (19/01/15)

Proposed Helen Hoogewerf-McComb & Rob Richardson

CUSU Resolves:

1. To amend the redrafted CUSU Standing Orders to include the following under Article G.12(v):

- A. The Part-Time Students Representative, who shall be a part-time student and represent the interests of students within the University who pursue courses on a part-time basis.

CREATE A MATURE STUDENTS REPRESENTATIVES POSITION (19/01/15)

Proposed Helen Hoogewerf-McComb & Rob Richardson

CUSU Resolves:

1. To amend the redrafted CUSU Standing Orders to include the following under Article G.12(v):
 - B. The Mature Students Representative, who shall be a student who began their current degree after the age of 21 if an undergraduate student or 25 if a graduate student, and shall represent the interests of those within the University meeting this definition of mature students

CREATE A STUDENT PARENTS REPRESENTATIVES POSITION (19/01/15)

Proposed Helen Hoogewerf-McComb & Rob Richardson

CUSU Resolves:

1. To amend the CUSU Standing Orders to include the following under Article G.12(v):
 - C. The Student Parents Representative, who shall be a student with the responsibilities of parent or guardian of a child, and shall represent the interests of those raising children during their studies

AMEND THE FACULTY FORUM CONSTITUTION (19/01/15)

Proposed Helen Hoogewerf-McComb & Rob Richardson

CUSU Resolves:

1. To replace Article E of the redrafted Standing Orders with the amended Faculty Forum Constitution, subject to approval by the Faculty Forum

REMOVE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE MOTION TO BOYCOTT EDE & RAVENSCROFT, THAT WAS PASSED LAST COUNCIL, FROM CUSU POLICY (01/12/14)

CUSU Notes:

1. That since the motion to boycott Ede & Ravenscroft over their sale of fur was passed, it has come to light that the motion contained information that might be construed as misleading
2. That the initial motion implied that Ede & Ravenscroft imported farmed fur from abroad
3. That Ede & Ravenscroft have since repeatedly denied this

4. That once the legitimacy of the information concerned had become apparent, student media that had reported on the initial motion were contacted and asked to correct any pieces that reported the information concerned

5. That CUSU policy should be guided by clear facts wherever possible, and this potentially misleading information in the initial motion is likely to have influenced the decision made by Council

CUSU Believes:

1. That the issue raised by the inclusion of potentially misleading information in the motion should be highlighted to Council

2. That the decision to pass the motion at the previous Council meeting should no longer stand

3. That all recommendations passed by the motion in question should be removed from CUSU policy

CUSU Resolves:

1. To remove all 'Resolves' from the motion passed at the previous Council from CUSU policy

2. To continue to monitor student media and where necessary ask for any misleading information published based upon the motion in question to be corrected

3. To work with the initial proposer to manage any potential ramifications of this issue, and to offer support and advice in future campaigning

REVIEW SUPPORT FOR THE FREE EDUCATION DEMO ON NOVEMBER 19TH (10/11/14)

Proposed by Helen Hoogewerf-McComb (CUSU President), seconded by Amelia Horgan (CUSU Women's Officer)

CUSU Notes:

1. At the first meeting of Michaelmas term, Council passed the motion "Supporting the National Demo for Free Education";

2. At the time of passing the motion, NUS UK were in support of the demo;

3. On the 4th November, the NUS UK Full-Time Officers released a statement saying they were withdrawing support from the demo on the basis of an 'unacceptable level of risk' (<http://beta.nusconnect.org.uk/shape-our-work/articles/statement-from-the-national-president>);

4. On the 6th November, NUS UK released a further statement outlining their motivations for withdrawing support from the demo (<http://nusconnect.unioncloud.org.uk/shape-our-work/articles/statement-from-nus-president-to-students-unions>);

5. That NUS Scotland and NUS Wales both continue to support the demo;

6. That the plans for the event have been approved by the police.

CUSU Believes:

1. That, whilst there are inherent risks for those taking part in protests and demonstrations of this kind, it is important that students are protected from an unacceptable level of risk;
2. That students should have opportunities to demonstrate their support for Free Education without feeling unduly unsafe;
3. That the original decision of CUSU Council to support the motion was made without full awareness of NUS UK's safety concerns;
4. That it is important to evaluate CUSU's support of the event in light of these concerns;
5. That Cambridge students would likely continue to attend the event were CUSU to withdraw support but without the safety benefits that CUSU could provide.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To continue to support and provide transport for students to attend the Free Education Demo on November 19th;
2. To inform CUSU members attending the event of potential risks and, while not taking responsibility for individuals' safety during the event, to take steps to support students engaging safely with the demonstration;
3. To organise a complementary event within Cambridge for those who are unable to attend the National Demo or would not feel safe

POSTPONE PART-TIME EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS (03/11/14)

Proposed by the CUSU Sabbatical Team

CUSU Notes:

1. Elections for the Part-Time Executive are due to take place at the third meeting of CUSU Council in Michaelmas Term;
2. With the exception of the Ethical Affairs Campaign, many positions in the CUSU Part-Time Executive have remained empty for a number of years;
3. Despite increased publicity during 2013-14, a significant number of vacancies in the Part-Time Executive remained a serious problem.

CUSU Believes:

1. That the Part-Time Executive should be an effective way to become involved in the campaigning and representational work of CUSU;

2. That the current complicated structure of the Part-Time Executive presents a barrier to students getting involved with issues that they care about through CUSU;
3. That a restructure is necessary to maximise the effectiveness of the Part-Time Executive;
4. That it would be preferable to postpone the Michaelmas elections until after a restructure has taken place.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To postpone the elections of the Part-Time Executive until the second round of Part-Time Executive elections, held at the fourth meeting of CUSU Council in Lent Term;
2. To conduct research into the redevelopment of the Part-Time Executive, including consultation with students about what they would like from these roles;
3. To prepare a proposal for the restructure of the Part-Time Executive to be presented at the first CUSU Council Meeting of Lent Term.

SUPPORT OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE UNIVERSITIES SUPERANNUATION SCHEME (03/11/14)

Proposed by Rob Richardson (CUSU Education Officer), seconded by Amelia Horgan (CUSU Women's Officer)

CUSU Notes:

1. That proposals by Universities UK (UUK) to reform the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) will significantly diminish the value of pensions held by university staff, in addition to displacing risk onto individual employees;
2. That UCU members have voted in favour of an assessment boycott beginning 6th November 2014;
3. That the University of Cambridge is one of 69 universities that will be affected by the action;

CUSU Believes:

1. That university staff are entitled to a pension that both reflects their contribution to Higher Education and that does not have its conditions significantly altered mid-way through their career;
2. That in the long-term, proposed changes to USS will harm the university's ability to attract gifted teachers and academics, disproportionately affecting women and minority groups, and could damage the quality of the education students here will receive;
3. That the proposed changes will harm the prospects of many current Cambridge students who will hope to pursue a career in academia;
4. That although the assessment boycott may cause disruption to some students, the motivations of staff for taking industrial action are sound;

5. That UUK should reconsider its intentions to reform USS and, subject to further consultation, search for a solution which appropriately values the fundamental contribution of university staff to HE.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To promote discussions between UCU and UUK to ensure students are not adversely affected by any action taken by members of UCU;
2. To closely monitor the progress of the proposed changes to USS;
3. To communicate with appropriate figures where necessary in order to convey support for the rights of the staff who are fundamental to the education of Cambridge students.

SUPPORT SPORTS PROVISION AT CAMBRIDGE (03/11/14)

Proposed by Jemma Stewart (CUSU Coordinator), seconded by Helen Hoogewerf-McComb (CUSU President)

CUSU Notes:

1. That the University Council established a Review Committee to investigate University Sport in November 2012, which issued its report (*A review of the governance and management arrangements for sport within the University*, November 2013) that was later approved by University Council;
2. Some Recommendations of the report include:
 - a. Reforming the Sports Syndicate into a Committee which reports jointly to the University Council and General Board;
 - b. Devising a vision and strategy for sport in the University;
 - c. Determining what funding is required to deliver this strategy for sport and to bid for funding to meet this requirement from the University and Colleges;
3. That 27 members of the Regent House requested that the University Council's Report on the subject (which would begin implementation of the recommendations) be put to a vote at the Regent House, scheduled for the second half of November;
4. That, with sufficient signatures from certain CUSU and GU Sabbatical Officers and Presidents of JCRs and MCRs, students may submit a flysheet outlining their position to those voting;
5. That students engaged in sport have voiced support for the implementation of the Review's recommendations and the need for more to be done, notably in a series of articles in The Blue Bird (www.bluebirdnews.co.uk)

CUSU Believes:

1. That for many students at Cambridge, sport represents a significant contribution to their educational and personal development;

2. That a lack of overarching strategy has resulted in poor support for sport within the University, compared with other Higher Education Institutions;
3. That the implementation of the Review's recommendations would benefit students who participate in sport throughout the Collegiate University;
4. That further work will be required to ensure that students' interests continue to be at the heart of developments in sport provision at the University.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To circulate a redrafted 'placet' & 'non-placet' flysheet to JCR and MCR Presidents for them to choose which to sign;
2. To reach out to members of the Regent House encouraging them to vote 'placet' in favour of the report;
3. To provide support and resources to students campaigning for improved sports provision within the University.

SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL DEMO FOR FREE EDUCATION (20/10/14)

Proposed by Ben Platt, seconded by Johannes Woolf

CUSU Notes:

1. That a broad coalition of national student organisations – including the Student Assembly Against Austerity, the National Campaign Against Fees and Cuts and the Young Greens – have come together to organise a national demonstration on Wednesday 19th November under the banner of 'Free Education – No Fees, No Cuts, No Debt';
2. The Tory-led government have launched massive attacks on students – including the trebling of tuition fees, the scrapping of EMA and education cuts;
3. The Coalition government wants to deepen these attacks with plans to sell off the student loan book and further slash education budgets in the pipeline;
4. NUS National Conference 2014 voted to "oppose and campaign against all methods of charging students for education – including tuition fees and a 'graduate tax' which is nothing more than a euphemism for 'student debt'" and to launch a campaign for free education.

CUSU Believes:

1. There is an alternative to this failing experiment in fees and marketization: free education is the only way to tackle the student debt crisis and as Germany's decision to scrap tuition fees this year clearly shows it is entirely affordable – it's just a question of priorities.
2. The General Election (in May 2015) gives us a clear opportunity to raise the demands and concerns of students, and to put serious pressure on MPs over the months ahead, and that this national demo has a key roles to play in this.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To support the national student demonstration taking place on Wednesday 19th November;
2. To organise transport to the demonstration to ensure the maximum participation of students from our University;
3. To support NUS' new campaign for free education – as voted for at NUS National Conference 2014.

SUPPORTING THE 'GOOD NIGHT OUT' PROJECT (20/10/14)

Proposed by Amelia Horgan (CUSU Women's Officer), seconded by Helen Hoogewerf-McComb (CUSU President)

CUSU Notes:

1. That sexual harassment of LGBT+ people is a very serious and very common problem within night-time venues in Cambridge, as evidenced by the joint CUSU Women's Campaign and Varsity survey last year;
2. That the Good Night Out project, a national scheme founded by the NUS Women's Officer and Hollaback London, has recently launched;
3. GNO provides training for club and bar staff on how to deal with harassment, and encourages them to sign up to pledge promising to take sexual harassment seriously. It has successfully signed up and trained several large venues across the city.
4. That the cost of training and signing up to the scheme is £250 per year.

CUSU Believes:

1. That harassment should play no role in University life;
2. That CUSU should work to eliminate harassment and discrimination in all its forms;
3. That the GNO project offers a useful way of countering harassment and educating night-time venues about the difficulties and harassment faced by women and LGBT+ people at their events;

CUSU Resolves:

1. To sign up to the pledge ourselves, and ensure it is in place and relevant staff are trained, especially for any 'ents' events we may hold in the future;
2. To fund training for the Women's officer and relevant members of the CUSU Women's Campaign Committee and CUSU Executive, which would enable us to train bar and club staff (including college 'Ents' teams) on how to deal with sexual harassment;
3. To allocate £250 for the training from the Council Free Budget for this year, and to budget for this expense in future years.

4. To publicise the Good Night Out project, and to encourage local venues – both within colleges and within the town generally – to sign up.

Appendix:

GNO Pledge: “If something or someone makes you feel uncomfortable, no matter how minor it seems, you can speak to any member of staff and they’ll work with you to make sure it doesn’t have to ruin your night.”