

CUSU COUNCIL MICHAELMAS III MINUTES –22ND NOVEMBER 2018

# ATTENDANCE

Total voting members of CUSU Council present: Quorum reached

Procedural note from Chair: Raise name cards before speaking

**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**

Chair: reading a message on behalf of a student as every student should feel safe at meetings as an underlying principle. The following statement should be used as an example to make what happened in the last council meeting doesn’t happen again in following weeks:

**4. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS**

To be confirmed via email.

**5. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY COMMITTEES, CAMPAIGN TEAMS AND THE EXECUTIVE**

* **Evie, CUSU President**
* Main work has been on the living wage, dealing with press and the rent campaigns
* **Matt, CUSU Education Officer**
* Has an NUS Conference this week, has continued work on the education strategy and news announcement. UCU industrial action won’t be happening this time
* **Emrys, CUSU Disables Students’ Officer**
* Largely training and there’s a campaign forum on Wednesday 7-9

• **Claire, CUSU Women’s Officer**

* Continued talks on sexual harassment, womcam forums are every Wednesday as well as reading groups, film nights, panel events. Womcam elections have been extended by a week.
* **Christine, CUSU/GU Welfare and Rights Officer**
* Absent

• **Shadab, CUSU Access and Funding Officer**

* Updated proposal statistics, working on a class act proposal for next council.
* LGBT+ Campaign
* Michaelmas elections coming up, encourage colleges to run for president etc. Have been working with college representatives on dress codes, toilets, making event creating easier. Gender recognition act closed today.
* Ethical affairs Campaign
* Organising living wage work as well as sustainable consumption at May Balls

**6. QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEES, CAMPAIGN TEAMS AND THE EXECUTIVE**

None.

**7. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE COUNCIL**

Election rules- presented by Alex Russel:

In order for the rules to be used, must first be approved at council. There are some specific cases that cannot answer on without consulting the committee.

Questions:

Joe Foye: Can you clarify what is meant by point 2.3?

A (Emrys): The logic behind this is that it is difficult to monitor how people endorse in a position. There is a difference between JCR endorsement and that of sports societies compared to MP’s and other big figures as well as members of staff that have a stake in the outcome. It basically means that student bodies can’t seek or promote.

Tamzin Byrne: Regarding point 2 on social media- could someone use the MCR list to encourage students to vote and inform about candidates running from the college?

A: may have to confirm with the rest of the committee but it is fine to encourage students to vote.

Vote:

Election rules are passed, with majority in favour, 1 abstention and no votes against.

**8. DISCUSSIONS**

**9. ORDINARY POLICY MOTIONS FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL**

No objections were made and these motions were consequently passed.

**10A. MOTION ON REMEMBRANCE**

Presented by Evie, CUSU President:

Believe that the motion encapsulates CUSU’s position and encourages people to commemorate in any way they see fit. It is pertinent that CUSU clarify their position of allowing members choices and remaining involved in the university activities.

Speech against, Tamzin Byrne:

I'm speaking now in a personal capacity because that is the only appropriate way to discuss something as deeply personal as the horrors of war. In honour of my uncles whose bodies lie under poppies in France, I feel I need to speak. I've spoken in the last fortnight to many serving military personnel all have agreed this Council made the right decision – to vote against the motion proposed by CUCA and its amendment. Today's motion should not have been necessary.

The minutes show that Council didn't vote against remembrance day, and no one is trying to erase history. What this Council voted was to dismiss a motion which the British Royal Legion itself agreed was inappropriate. Everyone should be free to commemorate Remembrance Day – or not – in whichever way they feel fit. To do anything else is to submit to the sort of bullying that my ancestors fought to protect us from.

Remembrance is a personal matter and to compel any person to commemorate it in any particular style is antithetical to the cause of remembrance.

It has been noted already tonight that this debate is not about remembrance. It was a platform for bullying, forcing this meeting to take a position which allows people to take these words, to twist them, to use them for intimidation. My heart says we should dismiss this motion but my head compels me to vote in favour so that CUSU can get on with its work representing us, work which includes celebrating remembrance in the fashion this Union has done for 100 years – as a personal reflection and not as a political statement.

Speech in favour, Becky Shepherdson:

Happy to see CUSU continue to engage after last time and delighted to see them respond whilst taking into account both the amendment on the original motion and addresses concerns in the press. It should not have to be confirmed as already mentioned, however it is necessary in this situation.

Questions:

* Was this motion drafted with the original students involved?
  + A wide group of students were consulted with, from a variety of groups
  + Becky Shepherdson: Can attest that spoke to a wide variety of students.

Vote:

Motion passes with a majority in favour and 8 abstaining but no votes against.

**11A. MOTION TO ENDORSE A REFERENDUM ON THE FINAL BREXIT DEAL**

Presented by proposer, Luke Hallam:

The idea of this motion is to join 60 other student unions, including international students and the CUGU, to endorse a referendum. In 2016 upwards of 80% of students voted to remain. At the time there was a vagueness in the question and no distinction between a hard Brexit or a Norway style, softer Brexit. Some may be wary to et involved in political issues, particularly after recent events, but the matter is far from partisan, with the highest remain vote here in Cambridge. 1.5 million have turned 18 since the referendum. It is the job of members here to represent constituents, a diverse and outward looking population. Members should vote in a way which shows solidarity to those that may be threatened. Student issues include the Irasmus programme of which the UK is the largest taker of funding currently. Brexit will stilt the future funding. Personally, attended a march on Saturday at which there was a lowest estimate of 6 thousand present. Democracy is at stake and people should be able to have a say. I believe that CUSU should lead the campaign and restore sanity to British policy.

Speech against:

It is important that the motion is given a student basis before endorsing. Has spoken to a number of constituents at Downing college and cannot in good faith decide without properly asking. Would vote to endorse a people’s vote if it is about a people’s vote on the outcome but not if it is about remaining.

Speech in favour: Gabriel Barton-Singer

Some JCR ad MCRs have already spoken to their constituents, however, we are running out of time to have a vote before leaving. If the matter is kicked down the road then we will not have a settled decision. It is now a matter of urgency. Many are in a position to represent as have already consulted with their members.

Questions:

* Tamzin Byrne: A member of the GU but does not remember endorsing a statement as political as this. It was more in favour of supporting students affected.
  + Luke Hallam: Varsity reported that the GU signed an open letter alongside 60 other SU’s in July. It is a political statement and not partisan.

Speech against, Ali Hyde:

Spoke to students, not officially but found that it would alienate students who had supported leave. The motion is partisan rather than just political and seems to be a Lib-Dem stance.

Procedural question, Becky Shepherdson:

When can we propose amendments? (At any time)

Amendment:

Consulted at trinity and found that there was a strong response. Feel that Point 4 of CUSU resolves takes away from the motion as it makes the motion firmly non-partisan and firmly political. In order to make CUSU non-partisan, the point must be removed.

Speech against amendment, Gabriel Barton-Singer:

The point is not empathetical to point of view. We want CUSU to put pressure and the vote is because of the rise of the radical right and economic fall out. Would view as essential to ensure safety and economic stability, it is the position of the open Britain Campaign and most people involved.

Becky Shepherdson- At no point on their website do they mention the open market.

Speech in favour, Joe Foye:

Personally agree that we should stay in the single market and customs market but it is not a policy in the campaigns and is not what signing up means. It is a separate issue and neither proposer mentioned this and there is a risk that it is being snuck into CUSU policy under guise. It needs its own discussion and would support removing it to deal with the motion as one issue.

Speech against amendment, Gabriel Barton-Singer:

The point is there as a failsafe. Does not have that many evenings to spend at CUSU Council so would prefer to deal with as one.

Vote on amendment:

Majority vote approve amendment, with 12 abstaining and 3 voting against.

Speech in favour, Tom Mayer

Have informed constituents that I will be voting in favour. However, I feel that we should be wary of speaking as a city as the general people are not notably internationalist. Appears to be a flurry of Lib-Dem activity. Also, unsure how suitable it is to get involved in politics after last council.

Speech against, Jesus JCR:

It is not a matter of taking a stance, but cannot be a process that happens in 5 days. It is not enough time to represent and be informed on the issue. Here was misinformation about how student unions have committed. It is representatives not the collective that have endorsed the open letter, just like a sab endorsing is different to the CUSU Council endorsing. Cannot take a stance and risk alienating students without properly consulting.

Evie, CUSU president: procedural point- people that want more time consulting could motion to postpone until next council.

Procedural Motion: Joe Foye- postpone vote on motion until next Council

Speech in favour, Joe Foye:

Some people feel like they haven’t had enough time to consult, this is important so should be given more time.

Speech against, Aberdeen Powell:

The proposer has already mentioned that they do not want to have to turn up more, there is a chance that they won’t be here to attend and defend motion.

Vote on postponing:

Motion passes with majority in favour, 7 abstentions and 16 against.

**11B. MOTION ON DRINKING SOCIETIES**

Presented by proposer:

The discussion last week essentially decided what the motion is saying; we should try to make the situation better and not abandon. This is an opportunity for CUSU to tackle the drinking culture at Cambridge and hold into account members. It involves reproducing general resources which have been pulled together from those already made by JCRs. It encourages colleges to challenge unacceptable behaviour.

Amendment:

Not happy with the wording of the motion, particularly point 2, informing about realities- who decides what this is and what sort of material will be provided. Find this too wishy washy in terms of wording and who decides point 3- lobbying to challenge unacceptable behaviour. Point three paints everyone with the same brush and should be amendment to some drinking societies.

Will, Peterhouse JCR: by removing drinking societies it obscures the issue, it is the cultures that creates an issue not the act of drinking.

Friendly amendment: change point 2 so that the realities are described as ‘potential risks’

Vote to amend CUSU reolves to say ‘present at some drinking societies’:

Amendment does not pass, majority against, 7 abstain and 12 in favour.

Speech in favour of motion, Claire, Women’s Officer:

Presented the resolves to WOMCAM forum and found from extended discussion that freshers were scared by drinking society culture and not aware of what it entailed. Resources are valuable to challenging the entire culture.

Speech against:

Must be careful to not alienate student body members, it makes all societies that have no history of harassment be considered to have done something wrong, creates impression that they are horrible societies who have done terrible things whereas some are benign social groups. Agree that we should tackle the issue but it is not productive to put all in the same bucket.

Questions:

Becky Shepherdson: to address the person before, who came up with the realities described:

A: JCRs ad MCRs were spoken with to decide this

Jono Faver: Happy to see CUSU take up the cause, but curious about how many could be funded to go through the training?

A: meeting tomorrow so will be asked then.

Summary: It is really important to take action which has been a long term coming; it says drinking societies in general have a culture issue. The motion needs to say general culture has caused issues. Didn’t really talk about the issue before and there is an appetite now to make it as good as it can be.

Voting:

Motion passes with majority in favour, 4 abstaining and 1 against.

12. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Matt Kite: people asked about procedure, who would like an intro into how council works? It can be held just before next council at 6:30?- enough seem interested, will go ahead

Evie, CUSU president: Nominations for NUS delegates and execs close tomorrow. Council members are good voices for the students. Survey will be sent around about a democracy review this week, has been delayed due to recent events