



CUSU Council

Lent I

Small Exams Hall, 19th January 2015

Objections to the Order of the Agenda

No objections

Corrections to Last Meeting's Minutes & Matters Arising

No corrections or matters arising

Sabbatical Updates

Helen Hoogewerf-McComb (CUSU President) Campaigning for a reading week as part of a 9 week term as part of an ongoing issue with work-related stress - reading week is a good (but not the only) solution, has written a Tab article, and has met with the Pro-Vice Chancellor for Education about the reading week and work-related stress. Spoke with Senior Tutors about the 'End "Week 5 Blues"' Campaign so Senior Tutors should be aware of the campaign and have been asked to develop plans in college of how DoS' & students can work together. Students shouldn't be subject to disciplinary procedures. Will be producing guidance for students who are taking part and for JCRs and MCRs. Meetings with colleges to find out key collegiate concerns about the idea of a reading week. Working with Voter Registration. CUSU elections: if you're interested in running to be a sabb, get in touch!

Helena Blair (CUSU Access and Funding Officer) Biggest shadowing scheme ever - over 420 students from underrepresented backgrounds

Jack Wright (CUSU Welfare and Rights Officer) Disabled Students Campaign is being reinvigorated - hustings were last week, and you can vote online from Tuesday-Friday online. Like the Facebook page!

Amelia Horgan (CUSU Women's Officer) Last week: put on an alternative event about the history of transphobia and feminism and ran workshops relating to the living wage in Cambridge. Theme for this term's zine is 'Ugly'. Running an Anti-Valentine's Day party with the money going to Cambridge Rape Crisis. Women in Science Campaign: women in STEM face barriers in the University & beyond, and aren't involved in the Women's Campaign - two projects: top trumps cards of women in science and a campaign for The Eagle to credit Rosalind Franklyn. Planning Reclaim the Night - get involved with an annual protest against street harassment (two marches).

Rob Richardson (CUSU Education Officer) Helping with the University's plagiarism policy, finished writing a report of a survey on student experiences of racial harassment to present to the University's Equality & Diversity Committee, spent a



morning on the Downing Site with the Student Advice Service, holding Faculty Forum (a meeting of Faculty Reps to talk about their experiences and share ideas)

Jemma Stewart (CUSU Coordinator) Planning the National Voter Registration Day with political societies, more progress with sanitary products at cost-price sales - there'll be a survey released soon. Planning JCR & MCR funding research

Announcements by Committees, Campaign Teams and the Executive

NUS Conference: Taking part in NUS democracy. The NUS develops policy through delegates from affiliated SUs across the country voting at National Conference. Policy is proposed by Zones (the NUS Campaign Teams), and SUs can amend and propose new motions (deadline 6th March). Visit conference.nusconnect.org.uk for Zones policy proposals, as next Council we will be accepting motions to be sent to NUS National Conference or amendments to Zones motions. If you want to vote on NUS Policy, run to be an NUS Delegate. NUS is important - one of the main lobbying bodies for student interest to national government (e.g. changes to students being included in immigration legislation, fees and funding changes and PG Student interests). This year, there's substantial policy on PG Students, which is especially useful for us as a research intensive University.

Questions to Committees, Campaign Teams and the Executive

Question: There was an indication that Colleges might not be receptive to a reading week, do you have any idea why?

Helen: Not sure yet, as unsure what specifically held up the reading week last time, so will be getting in touch with colleges to find out and preparing a briefing document on college issues. There's the idea that colleges and fellows are very tied to the traditional notion of Cambridge, and can be quite resistant to change (whereas the Central University tends to have more progressive ideas, colleges often rather wait). There are also concerns about financial issues for students, and Colleges can be wary of extending Michaelmas into December as the interview process would be disrupted (we aren't proposing to extend term into the admissions period)

Question: If it came to a vote, would only the majority of colleges have to support the vote or do all?

Helen: A change of this order would include a vote of the Regent House (the top level body controlling the University, with fellows, academics, professors, etc. voting) and would need a majority vote. To make it work, lots of things would need to change, e.g. how Fresher's Week would work - each individual college may need to agree to these specific changes, so it might involve all colleges needing to agree. One individual college kicking up a fuss could mean it didn't come through, which is why the campaign needs to focus not just on a reading week but more broadly on work-related stress.



Question: At the Senior Tutor's Committee, was there general support? What was the mood?

Helen: Tricky - Senior Tutors were against the idea of the work boycott protest. Stressed that this wasn't a CUSU initiative, rather presenting the boycott for information and to protect students. Most of the pushback was about the nature of the boycott - senior tutors work hard to teach students, what would they do if students didn't work for a week. All still committed to the issues of work-related stress. The Vice-Chancellor indicated that whilst he might not agree with the boycott, it's a conversation that needs to be had and it's good that students are talking about it.

Announcements by the Council

Leonardo Buizza (Homerton JCR Welfare): Homerton is putting a sexual harassment policy in place!

Questions to Committees, Campaign Teams and the Executive (extended)

Question: Does King's have a sexual harassment policy?

Amelia: Most colleges have them, but might have been written in the early 90s and so not in line with the law. King's should have one now.

Ratification of the Motion to Reform the Structure of the CUSU Executive

Proposed: Helen Hoogewerf-McComb (CUSU President)

Seconded: Rob Richardson (CUSU Education Officer)

Speech proposing the motion: Last Council, you voted through a motion to amend the CUSU Standing Orders. The main change was that students can vote in a cross-campus election for Campaigns, changing the volunteering structure so that students aren't assigned to niche roles and are instead elected to campaigns roles related to areas of work. Students run for election with a campaign that they want to run. Fulfilling of Helen's manifesto pledge.

No speeches against

No questions

Votes on the motion

For: 22

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1



Motion Passes

Emergency Motion: Voter Registration

Proposer: Fred Jerrome

Seconder: Holly Higgins

Motion Proposed: The motion is getting CUSU to help register students to vote. Background: Colleges used to block register students to vote, but the Government changed the voter registration mechanism to Individual Voter Registration and students now have to register themselves. The Electoral Register is in chaos in many places - people who move around a lot (e.g. students) don't know they aren't *not* on the register, some are registered twice, etc. Would like CUSU to run in partnership with political societies and democracy campaigns to run events to increase voter registration, and the motion makes provisions for CUSU to share resources.

No speeches against

Question: Good campaign idea, but what has been budgeted for?

Response: £750 based on how much of the Free Budget is left (£1250 left of unbudgeted funds for Council to decide how to spend the money). This takes a big chunk, but not all, and is to be used for printing information cards, running the promotion scheme, etc. Probably won't spend all of the money, but would allow us to spend a lot if we wanted to.

Question: How important is it? Surely the Colleges & Government will be advertising

Response: Council & Colleges are working to send emails but this is of limited effect. We want to make all the effort possible to register students to vote, some areas of the city are heavily student populated. It doesn't look like what the Council and Colleges are doing is having much of an effect.

Question: Is this not just filling in for their failure?

Response: There's the issue of getting to students - CUSU publicity potential has the best opportunity to speak to students directly, and the motion mandates CUSU to work with the Cambridge City Council.

Question: What affiliation are you [the proposer]?

Response: Chair of CULC , but will be working with other student political societies in a non-partisan way.



Question: Do you think it would be possible to come into colleges and set up a registration computer base in a public zone for students to find?

Response: This is best done on a college-by-college basis, working with individual JCRs and MCRs, but definitely possible.

Question: How easy is it to find out if you're registered?

Response: Email your contact information and National Insurance Number to elections@cambridge.gov.uk and they'll get back to you within the day.

Point in support of the motion: Young voter turnout was the smallest before individual voter registration happened, this is an important time to be making sure students are registered to vote.

Question: Is there anything particular needed from JCRs and MCRs?

Response: Setting up registration stalls, looking at ideas of ways to get people registered

Votes on the motion:

For: 23

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion passes

Any Other Business

Helen: No more Domino's pizza, Thursday is National Voter Registration Day - if you'd like us to come to your college on Thursday or any time in the future, let us know.