

**Meeting of CUSU Council Lent 4, Wednesday March 16 2005,
LG17, The Law Faculty**

In the Chair: Sarah Kaiser
Secretary: Mark "Moz" Morris

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:25pm, and welcomed everybody present. She announced that during the meeting they would be raising funds in aid of comic relief

1) Corrections to Minutes of Last Council

There were no corrections

2) Matters Arising from the Minutes of Last Council

There were no matters arising

3) Date and Venue of Next Meeting

Wednesday May 11, 7.15pm, LG17, The Law Faculty

4) Announcements by the Executive

Wes Streeting, CUSU President, informed council that the CUSU elections were now over, the results could be found on the website, and that the Returning Officer's report would be brought to the first council meeting of the next term. He requested feedback from any members, and suggested he would be proposing changes to the election rules as some of them had been deemed quite prohibitive this year. The President also informed council that he had been in communication with the Pro Vice-Chancellor for planning and resources regarding the future of the union building, as well as the feasibility of the new university sports centre which looked set to be endorsed but must be prioritized as a fundraising initiative. He thanked everybody who helped with the recent elections, and congratulated everybody who ran including the eventual winners

Hannah Ford, CUSU HIV and Sexual Health Officer, announced that CUSU's first sexual health awareness week would be taking place during weeks three and four of the following term; this would coincide with the national condom week, and there were lots of events being planned. She asked for anyone interested in helping to get in touch

Laura Walsh, CUSU Target Campaigns Officer, told council that the yesterday and last Thursday had been the target open days, which had been very successful with one hundred and twenty sixth form students attending providing positive feedback. She also said that the target visits website was now up and running and asked for volunteers to visit schools throughout the country, offering a prize for the college that provided the most volunteers

Liam Wren-Lewis, Chair of the Development and Planning Committee, informed council that although the constitutional changes had been passed at the referendum, it had itself been inquorate, so the constitution would remain the same. He said that the Development and Planning Committee would be investigating this issue, and suggested another referendum would be held at a later date

Wes Streeting, CUSU President, said there would be elections for an observer to NUS Conference, which were open to anyone, and would probably be by means of electronic ballot

Jo Read, CUSU Women's Officer, said she had just returned from the women's conference in Coventry, had witnessed positive debates on the future of women's sports officers, women's health and equal pay issues, and would be compiling a detailed report shortly

Shreyas Mukund, Black Students' Officer, announced that the Black Students' Campaign was getting started again, that there would be a meeting held next term, and requested council to help publicize the event once the date was finalized

5) Questions to the Executive

Robin Sivapalan, Homerton College, asked if it would be worth asking those who stood for NUS Conference delegates but did not get elected if they were keen on acting as the observer?

Wes Streeting, CUSU President, said he would do this if it was okay with council, but the role of observer and delegate were very different and it would be unclear if people would be willing to shift from one role to the other

6) Objections to the Order Paper

There were no objections

7) Ordinary Motions

a. Changes to the TCS Constitution

Ruth Barnett, Churchill College, speaking for the motion, said the proposals were very logical changes to avoid conflicts of interest by having a member of Varsity, or a CUSU sabbatical on the board of directors, where confidential matters were discussed. She said there was nothing controversial in the motion

There were no other speeches or questions, so the Chair called for a vote.
The motion passed with forty two votes in favour, none against, and none in abstention

b. PGCE Top-up Fees

Dave Hawkins, Homerton College, speaking for the motion, asked people to vote in line with current CUSU policy on top-up fees although this would be specifically aimed at PGCE fees; he outlined the case by stating that a lot of students currently in the first and second years of an undergraduate degree would be hit by these new proposals should they choose to train as a teacher, and that this motion would mandate CUSU to work with students' unions around the country, and the NUS, in order to lobby against the proposals. He stated that potential teachers should not be asked to incur such large debts, and asked for council to support the motion

Rupert Myers, Emmanuel College, asked for an explanation of 'CUSU believes' point one, as to whether it was an extension of CUSU policy, if it was relevant, and how the motion would function if it were removed

Dave Hawkins, Homerton College, replied that it was a very specific issue; that teachers contribute to society by means of taxes, but are also responsible for shaping society by teaching children, and their work should be acknowledged

Mark Gettleton, King's College, asked if 'CUSU resolves' point three would require postcards to be pigeonholed across campus, and pointed out the short time scale with which to do this

Robin Sivapalan, Homerton College, speaking against the motion, said he felt 'CUSU resolves' point three was unrealistic, was wasteful, and that he was dubious as to how effectively this would be received

Wes Streeting, CUSU President, speaking for the motion, said he had not taken the timescale into account, but did not think it mattered and would have no hesitation in pigeonholing everybody

Robin Sivapalan, Homerton College, raised a point of information that everybody could have been aware of PGCE top-up fees when the Higher Education Bill came into effect, had it been investigated more thoroughly at the time

Following a speech in summation, the Chair called for a vote. **The motion passed with forty votes in favour, none against, and two in abstention**

c. Women's Representation

Rachel Spruce, Clare College, speaking for the motion, said they were keen on finding out how women were represented in the colleges and if they were happy or not, and investigate how the situation varies between colleges

Adam Watson, Jesus College, asked for explanation surrounding the resolution to petition the colleges

Rachel Spruce, Clare College, replied that they needed to obtain feedback from within a number of colleges

Rupert Myers, Emmanuel College, speaking against the motion, asked if women were not generally represented by the women's officers on JCR committees, and if this rendered 'CUSU believes' point two useless

Jo Read, CUSU Women's Officer, speaking for the motion, said that women were being oppressed, as the JCR committee may not realize that a particular motion affects women, and hence fail to seek input from the women's officer or women in general; this motion was the only way to ensure fair representation for women

Peter Parkes, Emmanuel College, asked for an answer to the previous question, in what form the petitioning would take place

Jo Read, CUSU Women's Officer, said that they would like to use the executive committee to email the JCR and MCR Presidents, to send a petition to all the JCR lists, in order to gain as much feedback as possible

Peter Parkes, Emmanuel College, said that he felt 'CUSU resolves' point two to be unclear

Jo Read, CUSU Women's Officer, said the results obtained from gathering the information would be passed on to the executive, and to council, so that JCRs can be informed and make sure the plans are followed thru

Rupert Myers, Emmanuel College, speaking against the motion, said that his College had previously had a female president who felt she was representative to men as well, as such all JCRs should be equally representative regardless of gender and that 'CUSU notes' point two and 'CUSU resolves' point two gave unnecessary power to women. He said he would like to see them removed from the motion

Olly Glover Fitzwilliam College, speaking for the motion, said that by that argument, education officers should only vote on education issues etc, which was just silly

Rachel Spruce, Clare College, raised a point of information that 'CUSU notes' point five dealt with the issue of men voting on women's issues and vice versa

Jo Read, CUSU Women's Officer, speaking in summation, said that she thanked everybody who had shown support for this motion. She said that the issue was not always intuitive and needed debate, that the debate should be constructive, and that College women's officers had a difficult job and needed respect and support

The Chair called for a vote, and **the motion passed with thirty-nine votes in favour, none against, and three in abstention**

8) Emergency Motions

a. Clubnights

Robin Sivapalan, Homerton College, speaking for the motion, said that he was unhappy with what had happened recently at the Ballaré night, that there had been a lot of discussion between people trying to decide on the most positive way to approach the situation rather than pulling the ents from these clubs. He said the plan was to mandate the Services Officer with a broader way of approaching the issue, and to allow both he and the LBGT Officer to enter meetings without conflict

Peter Parkes, Emmanuel College, asked how they were planning on resolving the problem of equal opportunities

Robin Sivapalan, Homerton College, replied that the motion would be a public document and as such would be more constructive that it was left open than trying to lay down specific tasks

James René, Peterhouse College, speaking against the motion, said he applauded the member from Homerton for bringing forth the motion, but that by trying to put too many issues in one motion it had become unclear. Regarding the incident that occurred two weeks previously at a Hawks' event, he said that action had been taken and did not want to strain the relationship with the club manager any further as there was a lot of pressure from other club promoters, and CUSU depended on funds from these clubnights for their campaigns and services

Ed Shattock, CUSU Services Officer, speaking for the motion, said that he appreciated the implications could be quite serious, but his interest was to rectify the incident and as such had met with the manager of Ballaré who had so far been fairly unreceptive. He said that the relationship with the club was important, and would like to take the issue forward in a productive manner

Steve Bernstein, Queens' College, asked for a full explanation of what has happened so far, and what the compromise is related to

Ed Shattock, CUSU Services Officer, replied that the compromise referred to CUSU pulling the clubnight from Ballaré and hence losing revenue

Olly Glover, Fitzwilliam College, outlined the recent events, in that a meeting had occurred between himself, the Services Officer and the Ballaré management who had given a conflicting story of the events. A second meeting had been arranged with the Jesus College welfare representative, a representative from the Hawks club and the Ballaré assistant manager, and that the homophobic incident could not be proved. He said they were working towards a compromise, trying to get Ballaré to release a positive statement about the issue, and that a full boycott would be financially destructive although they would be prepared to do so if necessary

Hannah Ford, Newnham College, asked who employed the door staff and would the policy filter down to them

Ed Shattock, CUSU Services Officer, replied that the club had a contract with Highline Security, and that the door supervisors must be fully trained, be licensed and display these at all times

Rachel Spruce, Clare College, asked if Ballaré had broken the law with this behaviour

Olly Glover, Fitzwilliam College, said that there were no laws to protect people who defined as LGBT with respect to the provision of goods and services

At this point the guillotine for debating the motion fell

Wes Streeting, CUSU President, proposed extending the guillotine for five minutes so as to propose striking the bracketed section in 'CUSU further notes' point one

Robin Sivapalan, Homerton College, said he was happy for that section to be removed

Following a speech in summation, the Chair called for a vote. **The motion passed with forty-one votes in favour, none against, and one in abstention**

Robin Sivapalan, Homerton College, then called for a procedural motion to challenge the Chair's ruling that two emergency motions submitted prior to the meeting had not been accepted

Wes Streeting, CUSU President, asked if they could vote separately as to whether each motion should be put, as he felt they were very different and should be taken on individual merits

The Chair agreed and called for a speech in favour of the procedural motion for hearing the 'CUSU elections' motion

Robin Sivapalan, Homerton College, speaking for the procedural motion, said that a lot of the electoral candidates had placed student services high on their agenda; this motion would investigate the service provision, and should be heard now so any actions can be carried out before the annual budget

Sarah Kaiser, Pembroke College, speaking against the procedural motion, said it was not an emergency, the details were known before the motion deadline

Council moved to a vote, the procedural motion fell with ten votes in favour and eighteen against. The motion was not heard

The Chair then called for a speech in favour of the procedural motion for hearing the 'sabbatical officers motion'

Robin Sivapalan, Homerton College. Speaking for the procedural motion, said that this issue really could not wait till the next meeting, and had to be heard before the annual budget in order to get the process moving

Sarah Kaiser, Pembroke College, said that the motion was not an emergency, and the resolutions it called for were not emergencies either

Council requested another round of speeches, to which the Chair agreed

Wes Streeting, CUSU President, speaking for the procedural motion, said he had been working for some time on this issue, that the Black Students' Campaign was gaining incredible momentum, and it was important that this motion should be heard

Sarah Kaiser, Pembroke College, reiterated that the motion was not considered an emergency under the constitution

Council moved to a vote, the procedural motion passed with twenty votes in favour and six against. The motion was heard

b. Sabbatical Officers

The Chair informed council that an amendment had been submitted and accepted to the motion to remove the words 'incoming and incumbent' from 'CUSU resolves' point one

Robin Sivapalan, Homerton College, speaking for the motion, said that there was a general feeling of need for sabbatical support for both the LBGT and Black Students' Campaigns, and that work done for these groups should be addressed properly without putting excess pressure on a part time member of the executive

Naveed Anwar, CUSU Access Officer, asked if the deadline for the Easter two council would give sufficient time

Robin Sivapalan, Homerton College, replied that the Development and Planning Committee, the Services Officer and the Black Students' Officer were happy with the timescale

Rupert Myers, Emmanuel College, speaking against the motion, questioned why there was no consultation process, suggesting there should be adequate discussion of the issue

Wes Streeting, CUSU President, speaking for the motion, said that he hoped all JRCs and MCRs could take the matter back to their colleges for full discussion and investigation

Ruth Barnett, Churchill College, asked why it had been limited to Black Students and was not concerned with a wider ethnic minority

Liam Wren-Lewis, Caius College, said that the definition of Black was a more general term, but he agreed there was an issue with the title and would be looking into the matter

Following a speech in summation, the Chair called for a vote. **The motion passed with thirty-eight votes in favour, one against, and one in abstention**

9) Any Other Business

Wes Streeting, CUSU President, announced that following the elections, this would be the last council for a number of members of the executive, and thanked them for their hard work over the past twelve months

Jo Read, CUSU Women's Officer, wished the best of luck to the President, Wes Streeting, and the member from Homerton, Robin Sivapalan, who were standing for election at NUS Conference

The chair closed the meeting at 8.45pm