

TCSU Open Meeting

Date: 15/06/18

Chair: Molly O'Brien, TCSU President

Minutes: Kerem Ergene, TCSU Computing and Publicity Officer

Quorum reached: 22 eligible voting members present

Minutes of the previous meeting

No amendments raised.

Matters Arising

None.

Committee Reports

Ruth (*Female Welfare Officer*) will look to set up book club in Michaelmas, and is considering having an extra Welfare Tea each week.

Amelia (*Ents Officer*) has been planning for the upcoming Garden Party.

Areeg (*Overseas Welfare Officer*) is currently trying to work on creating a Reflection Room in College.

Hamish (*Mental Health and Disabled Students' Welfare Officer*) has created a Trinity Welfare page on the Moodle, and is continuing to work on improving the site.

Naemi (*Junior Steward*) has been working on Freshers' Week as well as on improving formals for next term.

Cameron (*Environmental and Domestic Officer*) organised a Green Formal, and has been working on improving recycling around college with the Catering Department and the Housekeeping Department.

Anna Dimitriadis (*LGBT+ Officer*) has managed to get an LGBT+ Fellow on the Fellows' Committee.

Kiran (*BME Officer*) has been working on general access (including Target Oxbridge).

Lara (*Access Officer*) has also been working on Target Oxbridge. She has created a virtual video tour of college. In addition, Trinity may host the 2019 residential.

Kerem (*Computing and Publicity Officer*) has been generally managing the website, as well as sending out a weekly bulletin for events. He plans on using the summer to tidy and update pages on the website.

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Questions to the committee

None.

Questions to the representative of CUSU

None.

Motions submitted

- 1) **Motion to endorse CUSU's LGBT+ Gender Neutral Campaign** (Proposer: Anna Dimitriadis, *TCSU LGBT+ Officer*, Seconder: Becky Shepherdson, *TCSU Vice-President*)
 - a. See supporting documents

Anna summarises the supporting documents. The motion asks TCSU to push college to creating a less binary approach to gender. This includes: dress codes (potentially not applicable to Trinity), de-gendering toilets, pushing college to adopt a less binary approach to forms, and simplifying the admin for changing gender (supporting the CUSU scheme).

No opposing arguments are presented.

The motion is passed unanimously (22 votes).

Farzana Huysman asks what happened to the previous plans regarding gender neutrality.

Molly states that it will be easier and more powerful if we work with CUSU.

Other Matters

- 1) **JCR** (Molly, *TCSU President*)

Molly has received an email from Housekeeping stating that there has not been much improvement on before, and the JCR is still being left in a poor state. She reminds those present that glass should not be removed from the bar, and notes of an incident where smashed glass was left in the bin. The Dean has been informed, and is considering having a CCTV camera outside entrance to JCR. A serious incident in the JCR a few weeks ago encouraged the Dean to consider that CCTV may be a good thing. Molly asks for suggestions on what can be done to improve the situation.

Ruth (*Female Welfare Officer*) states that, worst-case scenario, the JCR could be shut when the bar shuts, However, this is obviously less than ideal.

Molly notes that empty threats aren't going to achieve anything. Molly also mentions that Becky (*Vice-President*) had the idea to have a tray for glasses that can be taken down. However, she notes that this seems to endorse taking glasses out of the bar.

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David Morris suggests that it might be a good idea to have the bar staff ask whether people are leaving or not, and to give plastic cups out as the default, instead of glasses. Kerem mentions that we also need to consider minimising waste on that front.

Gabriel Barton-Singer suggests introducing a 5p glass charge, which would be refunded when glasses are returned to the bar.

Kerem (*Computing and Publicity Officer*) also brings up the alarming rate at which PS4 controllers are breaking.

Molly states that the controllers will now be left in the cupboard with a SALTO lock. While this isn't 100% ideal, until a better way can be worked out, it makes sense to continue as present.

Hamish (*Mental Health and Disabled Students' Welfare Officer*) asks whether charging in the cupboard will be possible. David mentions that people will still be able to charge while playing.

2) **Querying college policy regarding letting other students visit Trinity** (*Richard Moulange, in absence*)

Molly (from Richard) states that Trinity is the only college that doesn't allow other members of the university to enter. However, Kerem notes that he believes the policy is similar to that of Kings College, where members of the university are allowed to enter during visitor hours (for free).

Molly will ask the Porters, and check with the Senior Tutor whether this is compliant with the university's policy.

3) **Kitchen Fixed Charge (KFC)** (*Richard Moulange, in absence*)

Lara (*Access Officer*) (from Richard) states that, in order to 'make back' the KFC, people must spend around £500 per term in Hall. She mentions that students from lower income backgrounds cook for themselves more, and are therefore subsidising hall food for other students. David agrees that there is not much gain for students on each meal.

Naemi notes that the KFC acts as a fixed income for Catering. Ruth mentions that the inconsistency over number of people in hall means people spend a lot more.

Kerem asks how does the KFC in other colleges, noting that some do not have them. Molly states that it is mixed, and that a CUSU document on the matter exists.

Gabriel asks whether there is a bursary rebate available on the KFC. Lara and Molly are both unsure whether this is available. Kiran notes that there is a big gap between those who are granted a bursary by college and those who eat in hall.

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Molly mentions that being vegan allows you to be exempt from the KFC, but will mention in the Freshers' Handbook that those who are vegan should get in touch with Cameron.

Kerem mentions that spending £500 per term is approximately equal to spending £9 per day in Hall. The KFC itself costs over £3 per day. He asks whether anyone actually spend that much in Hall in a term? Ruth endorses that not many people will be spending that much.

4) **Waste disposal in gyps** (*Richard Moulange, in absence*)

Cameron mentions that Catering have proposed bringing recycling to recycle centre in College. He notes that there are no recycling bins in gyps, as emptying them would not fit with the Bedders' routines. He has tried to look into allegations that some Bedders are mixing recycling and general waste. However, he was received no reply from Housekeeping. He will instead contact accommodation.

Molly notes that some gyps are too small to have an additional bin. Naemi mentions that some gyps do indeed have bins: it clearly is not an issue with some the routines of some Bedders.

Any Other Business

Molly mentions that Open Meetings are a great place to bring up matters, and that they often lead to changes within college.

Ruth notes that if there are any issues with committee members, they can be brought to any committee member. Molly confirms that all committee members will be happy to offer support.

Kerem asks whether there is a complaints procedure for Bedders. Molly says that, for now, people should send an email to Housekeeping.

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Supporting documents

Motion to support CUSU LGBT+ Campaign

Why Gender-Neutral JCR Motion (Endorsement of CUSU LGBT+ Campaign)

TCSU Notes:

- That in CUSU LGBT+'s 2018 Big Cambridge LGBT+ Survey, out of 400 respondents, 95.2% of the trans and non-binary students supported the introduction of more gender-neutral toilets, with a further 84.8% saying that the current provision is insufficient.
- That in the same survey, 18.3% of trans and non-binary students said their college does not provide any dress codes options they feel comfortable with, and 23.4% said they had decided against attending a formal or other function in the university because of that fact.
- That information regarding the University's procedures to change one's name, pronouns, gender marker and title is scarce and thinly spread out over different websites and documents.

TCSU believes:

- That, as a place of knowledge, tolerance, and diversity, the University - along with its colleges and faculties - has a duty of welfare towards its students and should learn to act on it when and where appropriate.
- That creating an inclusive environment for trans and non-binary students is a goal that falls under the University's access objectives
- That while the current provision of gender-neutral toilets in some areas of college is a laudable first step, it is not satisfactory - gender-neutral toilets need to be easily accessible, public, and visible regardless of where one is in college.
- That colleges, in their practices and traditions, should make a conscious effort to be inclusive of their trans and non-binary students, and both act on questions related to gender neutrality as well as anticipate potential issues.

TCSU resolves:

- To officially support and endorse the *Why Gender-Neutral?* Campaign, with the aim of working towards the full implementation of gender-neutral toilets, dress codes and admin across college with the help of the resources provided by the Campaign online (<https://www.lgbt.cusu.cam.ac.uk/why-gender-neutral/>).
- To lobby college administration to implement accessible, permanent gender-neutral toilets across the entirety of college, acknowledging that disabled toilets are not an appropriate option.
- To push for college dress codes to be degendered, both in terms of abolishing gendered requirements and making sure that guidelines consist of a list of clothes that can be mixed and matched rather than a binary suit/dress divide.
- To encourage the use of gender-neutral language across college, the provision of gender options beyond "male" and "female" in forms, and the creation of a guide with centralised information on how to change one's name, pronouns, gender marker, and title in the university's system.