

TCSU Open Meeting

Date: 14/03/2018

Chair: Molly O'Brien, TCSU President

Minutes: Becky Shepherdson, TCSU Vice-President

Quorum reached: 22 eligible voting members initially present

Minutes of the previous meeting

No amendments raised

Matters Arising

None

Committee Reports

Welfare: Frankie (*Male Welfare*): tea parties are held every Monday 11 - 12:30. Welfare formals are being arranged involving related staff. Signs in the toilets will be updated over Easter.

Junior Steward: the Junior Steward presents last year's grants for societies.

- Jovan Powar: questions the accuracy, noting that Magpie and Stump didn't actually apply.
- Junior Steward will follow up, she notes that this is probably now as the budget application was assume to be the same as last year.
- Jovan Powar asks for college protocol about reserves to be clarified and stronger guidance to be given. The Junior Steward agrees to follow with Jeremy Fairbrother and email societies. This may change the constitution.

Questions to the committee

Welfare names: Harry: asks about the progress of changes to the names of the Welfare roles. Kerem (*Computing and Publicity Officer*) informs the meeting that this is due to computing problems in creating an algorithm for voting.

Questions to the representative of CUSU

Becky (*Vice-President*): Informs the meeting that CUSU are still supporting strike and that new sabbatical officers have been elected.

Andrew Sellec: asks about the impact on exam period, what will CUSU do. Becky informs the meeting that CUSU will support strikes as mandated by CUSU council.

Motions submitted

- 1) **Motion to remain affiliated to CUSU and NUS** (Proposer: Molly *TCSU President*, Seconder: Becky *TCSU Vice-President*)

Molly (*President*) reminds the meeting of the benefits of remaining affiliated. This includes training, influence at CUSU councils, use of the online voting system, sexual health supplies. On the larger scale, this also gives us a more powerful voice

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to higher officials. The NUS trains our sabbatical officers and gives us the NUS discount.

The cost of affiliation is raised. Peta reminds the meeting that two years ago, the ACC was given £7000 to pay for affiliation. Toby reminds the meeting that if payment was cited as a reason to disaffiliate, college would pay as this is in line with their commitment to the colligate system.

The motion is passed: 26 for, 4 abstentions

- 2) **Motion for TCSU to support (direct and indirect) divestment from fossil fuels of the College's investments'** (Proposed: Mia Wanatabe, Seconded: Cameron *TCSU Green Officer*)

Mia raises that this issue has had coverage in student newspapers and Financial times and that JCRs and MCRs plan to divest. CUSU has been mandated to support divestment at college and university. There is student support for the issue.

The motion is passed: 29 for, 4 abstentions

- 3) **Motion for TCSU to support refugee scholarships** (see supporting documents) (Proposer: Molly *TCSU President*, Seconder: Becky *TCSU Vice-President*) Presented by Speaker, Sarah.

The motion revolves around changes from opt-out funding model for sustainability and legal issues. Passing this would make Trinity the 14th college JCR to do so.

Questions:

- Olivia: how is this publicized to relevant applicants?
 - o The meeting is informed of the outreach team with charities, which are already in contact through pre-existing networks. Ask to put a statement on the college website, however the motion is only to support the motion, not to advertise it.
- Liam: asks how the application process would work?
 - o Applicants have to be admitted to university, not lower standards. However, this also asks to take into account mitigating circumstances. Currently have home student fees.
- Areeg *TCSU International Welfare*: asks how they be supported while at Cambridge?
 - o This would be through a mentorship scheme and partnership scheme
- Liam: how to decide which ones get it?
 - o This would be following the Oxford model, where this is chosen by the Oxford Trust based on merit and need.
- Angus: what ways the university is already investing?
 - o One-off thing, want to create sustainable model.
- Angus: during negotiations with university, is the society still looking for student donations?
 - o Accepting, but currently lobbying for JCR support.

The motion is passed unanimously

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4) Motion to approve the budget (Proposer: Emily Song, *TCSU Treasurer*; Seconder: Molly O'Brien, *TCSU President*)

The budget is presented to the Open Meeting.

There are questions regarding the miscellaneous section of the budget, which may be over inflated. There is the question of last year's spending being included in the 2018/9 budget, which the Treasurer will verify before requesting again from college.

Questions regarding funding of societies are raised.

- Petra: asks how the ACC grants to societies are being prevented from going to societies who do not run events, or whose events are not advertised widely enough to prevent them from ghettoization.
- Computing and Publicity Officer notes that a Google Doc has been created and sent to societies to put events onto the weekly bulletin. There is a suggestion this should be made mandatory in order to justify the cost to the college and society.
- The Field Club Captain (David) notes that the Field Club could use the TCSU website to advertise contacts for sports teams in an online society prospectus.

29 for, 1 abstention: the motion passes

5) Emergency motion to move survey. Motion to hold a survey on college opinion on Scholar Benefits and create a report before handover to the 2019/20 committee (Proposer: Becky Shepherdson, *TCSU Vice-President*, Seconder: Molly O'Brien, *TCSU President*)

It is put to the Open Meeting that the previous Lent Open Meeting in 2017 had seen TCSU 2017/8 committed to hold a survey on college opinion on Scholar's Benefits before the end of Lent 2018. However, due to a lack of time and information, the previous committee had not fulfilled this. Becky asserts that the new committee is not in a position to fill this role. She proposes that the new committee are given the same amount of time to fulfil the commitment mandated at the Lent Open Meeting 2017.

The details of the survey are discussed with the following key conclusions. It should:

- Be anonymous
- Separate out the different issues of scholarships: financial reward, scholars ballot etc.
- Establish the opinions of scholars and non-scholars
- Be restricted to Trinity Students via an authenticated log-in
- Establish whether this has impacted on the well-being of students

It is concluded the most reasonable timeframe would be the same as was agreed for the previous committee. This avoids stress in Easter term and allows Freshers to have time to understand the system before responding.

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The motion is passed unanimously

Any other business

1) Supporting the LGBT+ college community

Molly (*TCSU President*) raises feedback from college staff level discussions of LGBT issues in college. She notes that the issue of the flag flying in Trinity needs to be addressed by students and pushed for by the student body.

She also notes that college staff are keen to implement other celebrations of the LGBT community. Steps that the college have suggested include:

- The perennial planting of flowers in a rainbow pattern to flower every February
- The lighting of Neville's Court in the rainbow colours

She welcomes any and all suggestions from the student body, and notes that the Senior Tutor, Catherine Barnard has specifically requested to hear ideas from students.

There is a request for clarification regarding the widely reported incident regarding an LGBT flag being taken out of a window.

- Molly (*TCSU President*) clarifies that the college has a rule against the displaying of anything on college windows. The flag was removed under this rule, but there was a miscommunication between Porters and the student when this occurred.
- She notes that the Head Porter has addressed all the Porters and clarified their actions.
- Becky (*TCSU Vice-President*) notes that this has now been used to personally attack the Porters and reminds the meeting of the need to respect the college staff. She notes that the Porters have also been upset by the incident.

The flying of the flag is raised. Alex asks if a survey on student opinion could be held. Anna (*TCSU LGBT+ Officer*) notes she has been in contact with other officers at different colleges to establish how support has been raised there. Tactics from Jesus included both a survey and collecting testimonies, both of which in tandem are deemed suitable.

2) JCR (Molly O'Brien)

Molly (*TCSU President*) informs the meeting that the pool table has suffered damage to the pocket holes and cues. She notes this was an investment by TCSU which has been abused. She has spoken to the Junior Bursar and Head Porter who have agreed to have the cupboard Salto locked, to be open with college card. If it is found broken, the last person will be held responsible.

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George (member of the *Trinity Pool team*) notes there is conflict between using the pool table as recreation vs used for pool team. There is discussion between the TCSU President and Field Club captain as to who would pay for a second pool table if one were to be put in Burrell's. All three students agree to discuss further at an ACC meeting.

3) Library (Molly O'Brien)

Molly (*TCSU President*) outlines suggestions from students she has raised with the Library staff. These include soft seating, plugs (which will be addressed by the Works Department), and heaters. Petra asks whether international adapters could be provided. Areeg (*TCSU International Welfare Officer*) asks whether a non-silent study space would be possible. Molly reminds the meeting that this was attempted last year, but College were not helpful.

4) Timing for breakfast during exam terms

It is raised that for exams, students have to arrive at 8:30, but the timings of breakfast in Hall does not allow enough time for this. Molly agrees to raise this at the Food Committee.

5) Lighting Burrell's Walk

Harry raises the issue of lighting down Burrell's Walk. Molly notes there is an official, lit, alternative path, but emphasises this is not the reality for the students living there. She agrees to raise this at College Liaison Meeting, emphasising danger to students and disability access concerns.

6) Lighting in Summer Term (Nina Vinther)

Ask to reduce amount of time that lights are on in summer term, noting much longer daylight hours. Cameron (*TCSU Environmental and Domestic Officer*) asks for this to be raised at accommodation working group.

7) Laundry

Paul Simm asks for a reconsideration of the laundry system. Molly notes this is often raised as a student complaint and agrees to push for a new system at College Liaison.

Supporting Documents

Motion to create scholarships for future refugee students at the University of Cambridge

This JCR/MCR/CUSU notes:

1. That the plight of refugees remains a matter of profound ongoing concern both in the United Kingdom and around the world;
2. That over half of the 22million refugees, leaving aside the number of people who are displaced within their own countries, are under the age of 18;
3. That many thousands of students are among those currently fleeing conflict zones and that these students have been deprived of the chance to pursue higher education in their home countries;
4. That the University of Cambridge has thus far no existing sustainable system of scholarships or support for refugee students whilst 59 UK universities, including the University of Oxford, have committed to funding scholarship places;
5. The existence of the Cambridge Refugee Scholarship Campaign (CRSC), which aims to work to provide scholarships for future refugee students at the University of Cambridge;
6. That CRSC has been endorsed from refugee related groups in Cambridge;
7. That there is an urgent need for these scholarships, clearly demonstrated by the fact that there have been 33 eligible - accepted - candidates in the case of Oxford during the 2016-2017 application cycle.

This JCR/MCR/CUSU believes:

1. That access to higher education should be based on merit, and not nationality, race or financial situation;
2. That the University of Cambridge has a responsibility to support refugee students;
3. That given that the University of Cambridge is one of the leading universities in the world, by supporting this cause, it has the potential to influence the policy pertaining to student refugees at an international level;
4. Such a scheme would not only change the lives of the refugee students, but also enrich the Cambridge community;

This JCR/MCR/CUSU resolves:

1. To endorse the Cambridge Refugee Scholarship Campaign as it calls on the University to:
 - a. Offer at least 10 scholarships that cover course and maintenance fees for refugees and individuals who have been granted international protection by the state in which they reside lawfully. "International protection" in this context means recognition as a refugee or a grant of complementary protection;
 - b. Publicise these scholarships so that potential students can easily apply;
2. To mandate the JCR/MCR president to inform the College Governing Body that this motion has been passed and request they endorse the Campaign.