

Committee Meeting

Minutes

Chair: Emily Song (*TCSU President*)

Minutes: Alex Patel (*TCSU Vice-President*)

Absences: Tiffany Chow (Treasurer), Benedict Springbett (Junior Steward) - all with apology.

Emily Song: President

Receipts for expenditure should now be sent to the TCSU Treasurer, and individual discussions over budget should be arranged directly with the Treasurer.

TCSU is looking to review the names of some of its welfare and liberation officers in relation to the TCSU constitution. The current procedure for this review is the proposal for reforms to be raised in an open meeting, whereupon a vote is held to take the reforms to referendum. Quorum for the vote on constitutional change is currently two-thirds of the college. The discussions over the various titles are detailed as follows:

BME: The college changed the name of what was expected to be called 'BME Formal' to 'Minority Ethnic Formal' at the end of last term, which has led to the question of what the officer title should be being raised. Although the CUSU campaign is titled 'BME', the name for the officer with JCRs differs across all colleges. A meeting on the subject was held last term, in which the decision that the BME Officer would conduct a survey for self-identifying students was reached.

TCSU's BME officer voices her concerns that a change of the name to 'Minority Ethnic' (ME) brings with it a worry of marginalising black students and highlights the value in raising the topic on a university level to try to ensure a consistent approach. The BME Officer also adds that the name of 'BME' is almost universally recognised at all levels, adding to the argument that name changes may create the issue of lack of clarity. The BME Officer is aware of counter-argument from non-black students that the current title creates a generalisation for other minorities while specifying 'black'. The BME Officer will conduct the survey as planned as the consensus is that gaining college opinion on the matter is beneficial. The president raises the alternative name of 'Ethnic Diversity Officer' as the fellow with the corresponding portfolio takes a position titled as 'Fellow for Ethnic Diversity', and states that it is appropriate to be consistent when representing the same body of students.

Welfare: The current titles for the two welfare officers seemingly create two distinct categories separated by gender. This creates the problem of making non-binary students choose who they go to for welfare support, and does not present a fair option for a non-binary student to run in election for either of the positions. TCSU Committee is currently the largest it can be so there is no option of adding in a separate 'Non-Binary Welfare Officer'. The various suggestions for a solution to these problems are as follows:

1. There would be two 'welfare' officers elected of any gender, and then a third elected thereafter if all genders were not accounted for in the original two. The third officer could not sit on TCSU executive committee because of the maximum number of officers currently on it.

2. There would be two 'welfare' officers elected of any gender and if all genders were not accounted for, students would also be directed to someone else within the welfare team. This poses the problem of a blurring of the role descriptions for each of the officers.
3. There would be two 'welfare officers'. In elections it would be specified that the two officers could not be of the same gender, with all candidates making the returning officer aware of their self-identified gender upon submission of their application to stand for election. The two elected shall be first and second placed and should they both be of the same gender, the first placed candidate will be elected and a by-election shall be held to ensure that another candidate of a different gender is elected.
4. The current system for electing officers would continue, but the title of 'welfare' would be elucidated ahead of the gender of the officers. The Female Welfare Officer raises the point that the role description is the same in terms of the provision of sexual health products and support. This would mean that the title would change from 'Male Welfare' and 'Female Welfare' to 'Welfare Officer' with the gender of the officer in parentheses. Information would be updated in the role descriptions to make clear that the role is the same, and that any student can go to either officer for the same thing.

Alternatively, the current system would continue. The general consensus on the committee was that option 4, with the updating of information and the prioritising of the role ahead of the gender of the officer was preferable. The matter will be raised in the next open meeting.

Women's: The CUSU campaign for women has incorporated non-binary since 2014. TCSU Women's Officer for many years has assumed responsibility for non-binary welfare as part of the role, and the Women's Officer raises that a change of the name to 'Women and Non-Binary Officer' is a small, but logical step. The Computing and Publicity Officer has offered to set up an email with a 'Non-Binary' handle for direct contact between students and the officer.

TCSU decides that a constitutional change will be implemented so that all students are eligible to vote for Mental Health and Disabled Students Welfare Officer, which is not currently legislated.

With Liaison approaching, certain agenda points will be taken by TCSU on the subject of:

- Non-silent working space: the idea to open up supervision rooms in college which are barely in use.
- Gym: The BA society has composed gym survey which will be sent to undergraduates by the President. The results of this will inform the agenda points for liaison.
- Scholars Benefits: Reduced rent for scholars out of term time seemingly illogical as other students are more likely to require rooms outside of term. This opinion is backed up by the findings of the survey from the last TCSU committee.

The committee meeting on the 2nd March will be on the topic of 2019 Fresher's Week, last year's calendar has been circulated for review.

Eliza Harry: Women's Officer

On the subject of gender neutral toilets, signs reading 'cubicle' or 'urinals' seem to be the preferable solution, which has been adopted at other colleges. Sanitary bins should be in all toilet with cubicles, with refuse bins next to them in an attempt to limit damage to them.

There are two items of clothing to be ordered by the Women's Officer, who requires sizes for both items to be sent to her as soon as possible.

Angie Doran: Ents

Handover Bop Feedback: No overriding problems raised to committee members. The only consistent feedback has been some mention of live music being preferable.

Facebook Page: committee to invited friends to Facebook page to increase social media following on it.

Movie Night schedule for Saturday 2nd March at 8pm

Welfare Bop: There will be a meeting between the Ents Officer and the welfare team on the subject of a 'sexual health' bop following from success of last year. Date and time tbc.